Dear Families and Friends of the St Pius X Community,

**St Pius Excellence Recognized**
The Called to Serve Mass was celebrated on Tuesday 8 February at the Sacred Heart Cathedral. This Mass was an inspiring and powerful start to the school year. Diocesan staff were commissioned and sent forth to serve their school communities to the best of their abilities in the name of Jesus Christ. It was wonderful to see so many of our Diocesan staff present at this uplifting celebration.

At the Called to Serve Mass, two of our staff received Monsignor Frank Coolahan Awards for excellence. These awards are the highest honour that can be bestowed upon staff of our Diocesan Catholic Schools. Mrs Patricia Jennison, Finance Officer, received the Award for Support Staff and Mr John McLoughlin, PDHPE Studies Coordinator, received the Award for Excellence in Teaching. Both of these awards are extremely well deserved and I am sure everyone joins with me in congratulating Patricia and John on this wonderful recognition of their excellence.

Also at the Mass, a further five of our staff were recognized for 25 years service in Catholic Education. This is a wonderful milestone and my congratulations go to: Mrs Willis, Mr Vitnell, Mr Drinkwater, Mr Davis and Mrs Doherty.

We have great staff here at St Pius. Your children are in very good hands.

**The Importance of Sustainability**
One of the goals in our Strategic Plan 2011-2013 is to work towards environmental and ecological sustainability here at St Pius. The importance of this goal cannot be emphasized enough. It goes way beyond doing a couple of simple things like keeping the school clean or having a paper recycling scheme.

Becoming a sustainable school is a moral obligation and involves a change in culture across all facets of school life. As educators, especially in a Catholic School, we have a moral obligation to teach students by word and action the theological and logical reasons as to why sustainability is essential.

A quick brainstorm of major issues directly affecting our own Australian way of life includes the following:

- **Water** - We need to get smarter about how we manage water — that means everything from replacing our ageing infrastructure to ensuring we capture rain water when it does fall.
- **Climate Change** – We must address climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Professor Will Steffen, executive director of ANU’s Climate Change Institute has said that: "Of all the wealthy countries, we're probably the most vulnerable. What we do between now and 2050 is crucial for the magnitude and rate of climate change later this century and beyond.”
**Energy** – Australia has the capacity to be world leaders in solar, wind, marine and geothermal energies. People need to actively encourage politicians to make it so.

**Overpopulation** – Most Economists seem to believe that to increase wealth we must continually increase the population. They seem oblivious to the obvious limitations that natural resources place on any population. With Australia's population projected to reach 35 million by 2049, we need to determine what our carrying capacity is and how can we achieve a sustainable population.

**Sustainable Cities** – Our water & energy use per person is higher than that of most other developed countries in the world. We need to rethink how we live in and develop cities.

**Mining of non-renewable resources** – Non-renewable resources will eventually run out. A New Scientist article entitled “Earth Audit” in 2007 pulled together research from many different sources to paint an alarming picture of how soon some of our “essential” metals will run out. Platinum, used in catalytic converters in cars and in many other important applications could be mined out within 15 years. Indium, a vital component in iPads, mobile phones and LCD screens could be all gone by 2020. We need to minimise waste, find substitutes where possible and recycle all metals, especially those used in electronic equipment.

Our use of coal & export of it, overuse of cars, overfishing of our oceans, fertilizer & chemical damage to the Great Barrier Reef, downward pressure towards extinction on the numbers of many species of plants & animals and people’s apathy and general lack of understanding are also serious problems facing our Australian community.

Schools are in a fantastic position to lead by example. We can teach students the importance of sustainability and demonstrate by many examples within the school just how sustainability can be achieved. We can teach students to be proactive and confident in contacting members of parliament and leaders of commerce and industry to express their concerns and to put forward their suggestions. Parents and families can be involved by supporting the school in this educative process and by making their homes sustainable as well.

Stay tuned! Much will be happening at St Pius in this vital area over coming months and years.

Have a great week!

Robert Emery  
Principal

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**From the Accounts Office**

When parents require a change to an account, e.g. an account to be divided between parents we require the arrangements in writing from both parties. These details should be sent directly to the Accounts Office.

**Home Learning**

When students first received their new Student Planners, they were shown some of the useful resources it included and reminded how using it could help them with their learning. Part of the process we will follow this year is take some class time every now and then and then to teach them some of the skills used by effective learners.

All English classes recently took a lesson to explore the value of evaluating previous performance and setting goals for this year. Students were asked to rate their own performance
in terms of their preparation and attitude to school, how they approached taking responsibility for their own learning and their own well-being. The aim was to assist them to identify areas for change that would help them to become better “students” i.e. someone who takes greater control and responsibility for their own learning. They have been encouraged to set goals, to keep them SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, Timebound) and to plan how to achieve them.

Because so much of this involves help from home, they have been encouraged to take some time to discuss these things with you. You might like to discuss what goals they have set for the year and how you might be able to help them achieve them. I would also encourage you to make an occasional check of the Student Planner to see if it is being used effectively.

At the end of each month, Care Group time will be used to review and adjust goals or plans where appropriate. The aim is to encourage everyone to regularly reflect on how they are going. Minor adjustments at a regular interval are often easier to manage than significant ones when a deadline is fast approaching.

In coming weeks, sessions look at the different ways people learn and how to set up an appropriate home learning environment. These will be discussed in the next newsletter.

Stephen Dunn
Assistant Principal – Dean of Studies

Australian Geography Competition
This year’s Geography Competition will be held late March but entries must be in by 23 February.

- Open to Year 7, Year 8, Year 9 and Year 10
- 40 multiple choice questions
- Cost $2.50 - name and money to Mrs Battiston by 23 February.
- Participation in the competition can be used towards a Silver Award.
- See Mrs Battiston ASAP if you have any questions.

Year 7 Community Day
Year 7 will participate in a Community Building Workshop at school on Tuesday 1 March. The day will be facilitated by Mr Chris Doyle of KARI Ministry. Chris provides unique and memorable programmes using very creative, active and enjoyable strategies. The experience will support students in developing a healthy, confident self image and build positive. Students will need to wear **sports uniform**. The day will cost $6.00. This needs to be paid to the accounts office by Wednesday 23 February. Canteen facilities and recess / lunch breaks will be as per a normal school day.

Learning Support Team
Lexia Online Reading Program (Thursday A/Tuesday B/Thursday B)
The Lexia Online Reading Program is to begin next Thursday. All parents whose child has been selected to participate in this program would have received a letter giving details of the program. The program runs three times per cycle for Terms 1 and 2. Students have been given timetables which highlight when their lesson is scheduled in. Students come directly to the Library to access the program through the computer system. Privacy is important and every effort is made to assist these students with increasing their literacy skills. Please return the permission slip as soon as possible to the Learning Support Centre on Level 4 near the St Pius foyer.
**Curriculum Support** (Tuesday A and B)
Students in all years who are currently funded under SWD (Students with Disabilities) government funding will have the opportunity to be part of a small focus group which will meet one lesson each Tuesday with Ms Mason in the Learning Support Centre. Students will have the opportunity to gain assistance with assessment tasks, class work or homework during this time. There are a few places left and some students are being approached with assistance being offered. Letters to students and parents who wish to utilise this time have been distributed. Please return permission slips to the Learning Support Centre as soon as possible.

**Special Provisions for the School Certificate for 2011**
Any student who wishes to apply for Special Provisions for the School Certificate this year must contact Ms Susan Price (Learning Support Coordinator) as soon as possible. Students must have a history of learning difficulties or Medical Certificates for health conditions if they wish to apply for Special Provisions through the Board of Studies.

Susan Price
Learning Support Coordinator

**Student Services**
A reminder to students to carry their ID Cards with them every day. The cards from previous years can still be used to swipe in late or leave early.

**PD/H/PE Faculty Healthy Food Slushies**
All classes have started the year enthusiastically, given the extreme weather conditions. We are fundraising this year to help speed up the refurbishment of the Bus Shelter into an undercover learning area for PE classes especially during hot or wet weather. PE staff give up their time to sell slushies each lunchtime and after sport on Friday. All profits from this go into the fundraising for the PE faculty. The slushies are 99% fruit with added vitamins and no added sugar and zero fat, they are registered with the Healthy Kids Association. They sell for $1.50 and we see them as an alternative to soft drinks. Your support of the slushies is appreciated.

**Uniform Shop**
Uniform Shop Hours during school terms – Monday 8.00am – 10.00am
Wednesday 1.00pm – 4.00pm
Phone: 49577651
Located in the Room between Room 603 and Room 604

**Cash and Credit Card Only**

The Uniform Shop can be contacted outside business hours by email – stpius@alinta.com.au

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**Lambton Jaffas Junior Football Club**

**REGISTRATIONS 2011**
Any person wishing to play football at Lambton Jaffas Junior Football Club in 2011 will need to apply online at www.myfootballclub.com.au and follow prompts for 2011 registrations. Once completed and invoice received via email please contact the club registrar Steve Wright by email at lambtonjaffas@hotmail.com or by phone 0409 567 178 to arrange a suitable time to pay the registration.

Games fees will be collected each week for all age groups.
Payment of fees must be fully paid before registration accepted.

**FEES:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Fee</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5-6 years</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 years</td>
<td>$105.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>11-18 years</td>
<td>$110.00</td>
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You are invited to attend

The Annual Ecumenical Way of the Cross

The Way of the Cross follows the Liturgies of Hope and Healing led by Bishop Michael Malone throughout the diocese during Lent, and looks forward to the celebration of Easter.

Sunday 10th April 2011
3.00 pm

In the grounds of the Conference Centre, near St Joseph’s Church and School, 140 Wangi Road, Kilaben Bay.

For further information, please contact Sarah Lonsdale on 4979 1111.

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Master Chef meets
Bishop Michael and Director Ray Collins
at Family Fun Day
Sunday 20th February
St James’ Primary School, Vista Parade Kotara
12:00 noon

You asked for it – so here it is!
You told the Federation you wanted the chance to meet Bishop Michael and Catholic Schools Director Ray Collins - now you can at the

Family Fun Day

Hosted by St James’ P&F: Gathering commences at 12:00 noon followed by a ‘Master Chef’ style cook off to be judged by 3 judges: Bishop Michael, Ray Collins and celebrity chef Bart Connors of Cathedral Function Centre Café & Catering.

There will be musical performances by students from St Pius X High School and games and activities for children of all ages.

Proceeds of the day will be donated to the Queensland Bishops Flood Appeal

This day is open to all families and staff in our schools and diocese. You are most welcome

Thanks go to St James’ Primary school principal Peter Bowen and P&F Association for their generosity in hosting the day.

FEDERATION GENERAL MEETING AT 10:30
Come along if you are interested in finding out more about your Federation

Linda McNeil, Parent Resource Officer Ph: 4979 1303 Fax: 4965 4214
Email: linda.mcneil@mn.catholic.edu.au
http://mn.catholic.edu.au/go/parents
YOUR ENTRY FOR THE

BEST EVER RISSOLES’

MASTER CHEF COMPETITION

Enter your P&F or school in the ‘Best Ever Rissoles’ Master Chef Cook-Off at the Family Fun Day at St James Primary School Kotara.

Here are the rules:

12:00  Competitors arrive to set up
12:30  Welcome by Karen Christie, Federation President
12:45  MC Rebecca Connors explains the rules of the competition which are:

☺  You must bring your own ingredients
☺  Your rissole mix cannot be pre-mixed, it has to be mixed in full view of the judges
☺  Vegetables such as carrots and onions must be whole not chopped
☺  Bring your own chopping boards, mixing bowls, knives, barbeque utensils, there will be barbeques available for use
☺  Sauces or relishes can be pre-prepared
☺  Need to have a list of ingredients for judges

There will be 20 minutes mixing time and 10 minutes cooking time
Rissoles must be ready for plating when MC calls TIME
Judging commences based on taste, texture, the W factor!
(Wow us with your style, pizzazz, creativity, personal flair)

Minimum donation of $10 Entry fee
(donated to the Queensland Bishops Flood Appeal)

There will be great prizes for the top places
To enter please email your details to linda.mcneil@mn.catholic.edu.au
Or post to Federation of P&F Associations, P O Box 714, Newcastle 2300

Your school: ________________________________________________

Town: _____________________________________________________

Contact name: ______________________________________________

Contact phone Number: _______________________________________

Contact email: ______________________________________________

Please email these details to me at the above address or post in. The sooner you can submit the better. Just bring your entry fee on the day (for donating to Flood Appeal).
**IMPORTANT DATES**

**for your Diary**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday 18 February</td>
<td>Commissioning Ceremony School Leaders at <strong>St Pius X High School</strong></td>
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<td>Year 9 and Year 10 9.00am to 11.00am</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Under 16 Girls Diocesan Hockey</td>
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<td>Tuesday 22 February</td>
<td>Year 7 Curriculum Information Evening - 7.00pm in Sister Marie Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 24 February</td>
<td>Swimming Carnival at Lambton Pool</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 1 March</td>
<td>Year 7 Community Day Karis Ministry at <strong>St Pius X High School</strong></td>
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<td>Wednesday 9 March</td>
<td>Ash Wednesday Care Class Liturgies – Out of Uniform Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 4 March</td>
<td>Pupil Free Day – Staff Spirituality Professional Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday 17 April</td>
<td>Palm Sunday – World Youth Day Way of the Cross Kilaben Bay</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 25 May</td>
<td>Pupil Free Day – Staff Curriculum Professional Development</td>
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<td>Wednesday 24 August</td>
<td>Pupil Free Day – Staff Pastoral Care Professional Development</td>
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**Newsletter Survey**

This year we would like to introduce a ‘new look’ newsletter. We would like to give all parents the chance to contribute some fresh and new ideas. Any submissions can be sent via email to frances.bowen@mn.catholic.edu.au or complete the section below and send in with your child to the student services. All submissions will be confidential.

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Please return to Student Services

Name: .......................................................... 

Suggestion:

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