Dear Families and Friends of the St Pius X Community,
Welcome to Term 4. It’s hard to believe that it is already here but there you go! As always Term 4 presents as a very busy time for all. So, let’s get into it with energy and enthusiasm in all we do!

Term 4 Focus
Parents, carers and staff, we need to keep Year 10 focussed on doing their best in the School Certificate Examinations. This is a time when they can be easily distracted. Many look forward to being finished. Some are very distracted by Year 11 Interviews at SFX – have they made the right subject choices? Is Year 11 the right choice? Some just want to get the whole thing over and done with so they can take up job offers or apprenticeships. For some, Year 10 no longer matters at all.

I ask our whole school community to please keep Year 10 students in our prayers. Subject teachers are keeping the work coming and are encouraging each student to prepare in the best possible way. Staff, parents & carers can work together in ensuring that students maintain expectations in terms of uniform, good grooming, attendance, behaviour, punctuality and concentration. Parents & carers can add their gentle encouragement and genuine interest in students’ exam preparation and performance.

Year 10, prepare well for your School Certificate. Finish Year 10 well with good behaviour, attitude and commitment. Remember that there are other stakeholders in your education. You did not do it all on your own. Many people have given you love, support, guidance and education over many years to help you grow into the young men and women you are today. You owe it to yourselves, to your parents, grandparents and carers, to your teachers and to God to do your best in the coming exams and to finish in a way that makes everyone proud of you. Having done this, the celebrations at the end will really mean something!

Students in Years 7, 8 and 9, also need to focus on academic performance. Just as for Year 10, preparation for exams is absolutely essential. Your exams may be a little further off than Year 10’s but use this to your advantage. Instead of relaxing now and waiting until just before your exams, start studying now. Lots of regular short bursts of study over a long period of time add up to great preparation for your exams.

Bluetooth Safety
I strongly urge all parents and carers to speak with your children and to warn them about Bluetooth safety. Bluetooth is, of course, an open wireless technology for exchanging data over short distances. It is commonly used to exchange files between two mobile phones or between a mobile phone and a computer. Like all modern communications technology used by children today, security is not of great concern until it is too late.

For Bluetooth to work, devices need to see each other and then connect. Therefore, it is best to leave Bluetooth off until you are using it or to put your phone in undiscoverable (hidden) mode so that it is only visible when you specifically need other people or devices to see it. This means that hackers cannot see your mobile phone and they cannot connect to
it unless they already have your Bluetooth address. Clearly, not sharing your Bluetooth address with anyone else is also a good security measure. When connecting using Bluetooth, do so in private, uncrowded areas only. Use the security features of your phone to ensure that your phone always asks you if you wish to accept a Bluetooth transfer or not. These basic steps will greatly reduce the chances of you receiving unwanted or nuisance Bluetooth transfers or even worse of losing control of your phone to a hacker.

The Australian Government’s [Cybersmart Website](http://www.cybersmart.gov.au/parents.aspx) is an excellent source of advice on how to safely use online & mobile phone technology. See the link below:

Road Safety!!!

The roads outside the school are very busy at the best of times and even worse at school start & finish times. I need to remind parents & carers who drop off & pick up children along Park Avenue or in Fletcher Street to take great care when doing so. Please insist that your children use the crossing if they need to cross Park Ave. Please remind your children to be alert when making their way to & from your car. Please take care to obey the road rules and to be courteous to other drivers. Also, the Staff & Visitor Car Park off Fletcher Street is **not** to be used as a drive through drop-off & pick-up zone. These simple things will keep all people safe & will greatly facilitate the movement of both people & traffic at the start and end of each day.

I wish everyone a safe, happy and productive term.

Robert Emery
Principal

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**New Date**

for the

**Year 10 Graduation Liturgy**

at Panthers Newcastle

**Thursday 24 November.**

Students need to be there at 6.40pm. The formal Entrance Procession is at 7.00pm.
**School Contact Details**
St Pius X High School  
Park Avenue Adamstown 2289  
Reception: 02 4957 1032  
Student Office: 4013 2634  
Fax: 02 4957 5088

**email:** admin@adamstownsp.catholic.edu.au  
**web site:** http://www.adamstownsp.catholic.edu.au

P & F Meetings: 2nd Tuesday each month at 7.00pm  
School Portal: http://intra.adamstownsp.catholic.edu.au

**Parent/carer user name:** adp.homeshare  
**password:** adp9822

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**Accounts Office Hours**
8.30am to 2.30pm Monday to Friday

**Message from the Student Office**
Students are required to carry their ID cards to school at all times. They may require them at the Library, Book Room or to sign in late or out early from the Student Office.

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**ATTENTION YEAR 9 AND YEAR 10 PARENTS**
If you are attending the 1:1 Laptop Program Meeting on November 16 you need to RSVP by 7 November.

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**Rio Tinto Big Science Competition**
15 St Pius students competed in the recent Rio Tinto Big Science Competition and were awarded the following certificates for their achievements:

- **High Distinction** - Connor Graham (Year 8)
- **Distinction** - Lydia Frazer (Year 8) Lachlan Young and Phillip Johnson (Year 10)
- **Credit** - Daniel Willis (Year 7) Alyce Young, Brooke Varnum and Harrison Brake (Year 8), Georgia Johnson and Joseph Bradshaw (Year 9), Lily Ryan and Grace Cousins (Year 10)

**Year 9 Leadership Days**
On Wednesday 26 and Thursday 27 October 2011 Year 9 will be participating in two Community Days focused on Leadership. The total cost of these days is $15.00 which should be paid to the accounts office by Monday 24 October. On Wednesday, students will rotate between leadership workshops facilitated by Conor Ashleigh and Matt Kershaw of Y-Lead. Thursday is run by our pastoral care team and entitled **Mission Impossible.**

For students who are currently in the process of applying for/receiving their Silver Award, there is the option of attending a Y-Lead “Altitude Day” at Panthers Club on Monday 31 October from 8.30am till 2.00pm. Students need to make their way to and from Panthers Club. The cost for this day is $14.00 also to be paid to the accounts office. Full information is available on the portal.

**Year 10 Retreat 2012**
As published earlier in the Lion, the Year 10 Retreat has been moved forward to Term 1 2012. This is to alleviate the pressure of preparing for final exams and to create a stronger sense of community amongst the year group while they are still students at our school. The Year 10 Retreat is optional. Should your child choose to participate, please secure their place by paying a $50.00 deposit to the accounts office by Friday 18 November, 2011. Please contact me personally if you need an extension of time or make other arrangements to pay. It will take place from Wednesday 21 to Friday 23 March 2012 at the Salvation Army Centre, Collaroy Beach. The cost is $220.00 in total. The balance of $170.00 should be paid by Friday 2 March 2012.
Vietnam Challenge Year 10 2012
Almost 50 Year 9 students are participating in the trekking/cultural immersion experience to Vietnam in June – July 2012. In preparation, they joined hundreds of other students from the diocese in the Catholic Mission Solidarity Walk to Blackbutt last term. They carried backpacks filled with rice, firewood and drinks which were subsequently donated to Penola House. Catholic Mission was overwhelmed by the generous donations. Photos of the event will be published on the school portal and in the next edition of the Aurora.

Fundraising
A Trivia Night will be held on 18 November 2011 at 7.00pm at Kahibah Bowling Club to raise much needed funds for the trip. A separate flyer will be sent home shortly. I urge the whole school community to support this function which will assist our young people to make a contribution to social justice projects in the developing world. It is hoped that this experience will be offered to Year 10 students in future years and of course depends on the support they receive in this inaugural year.

Water Polo
Matthew Newman and Nicholas Kelly (Year 10) are members of the Under 16 Hunter Hurricanes Water Polo Team. During the October holidays they competed at the National Championships in Melbourne. They placed second and came away with the silver medal! Matthew previously participated in the Hawaiian International in August where the Under 16 Hunter Academy of Sport team placed 6th. Well done boys!

Swimming
Meg Bailey (Year 9) has recently been crowned “Outstanding Female Swimmer of the Year” by the NSW Union of Old Swimming. The prestigious award is issued to a male and a female swimmer who have excelled in the pool over the past year. Recent performances include:
State Age (U14’s) – Homebush
5 gold (200IM, 400IM, 100 Fly, 200 Fly, 200 Back), Silver (200m Free) & a Bronze (100, BrSt).

Meg was selected into the NSW National Short Course team who then competed in Canberra at the AIS.
4 gold (400IM, 200IM, 100 Fly New NSW record, 200m Fly), 3 bronze (200 Back, 50 Fly, 400m Free – New NSW record)
A recipient of the Hunter Academy of Sport 2011 Youth Sport Scholarship, Meg will now be focusing on Olympic Trials held in Adelaide next March.

Cheerleading
This year the cheerleading team has moved to a whole new level. With more members than ever, the team improved out of sight in Semester One after an intense period of training. After working in their stunt groups they were ready to master their dance and motions. Once all elements were assembled, they had a routine that was the envy of other teams and impressed everywhere they went. At the NSW State Titles the team placed first, ahead of the largest field St Pius have ever competed against. This was followed by several stressful weeks preparing for the Grand National Cheerleading Competition to be held in Sydney during the school holidays. The team was a huge credit to the school and were crowd favourites to take the crown after impressing with an exciting display of skill, teamwork and a flawless routine. After a long deliberation the judges’ decision placed the team third, ahead of some tough competition from selective sports high schools and independent girls schools across Australia.

The 2012 team will be selected following four weeks of workshops during Friday sport this term; both boys and girls from all years are encouraged to try out as we gained special mention for having a male member of our team.
Congratulations to all the 2011 team members:
Nicholas Daskalovski
Molly Walker
Eliza Martine
Laura Kelly
Eilish Fitzgibbon
Olivia Power
Abby Dorman
Nikita Silcock
Julia Davis
Kathryn Steyn
Abbey Dockrill
Mikaela Walker
Victoria Parr
Deni Wroe
Sarah Campion
Alyssa Hiscox

Gemma Newcombe
Penelope Kempe
Lily Ryan
Gemma Furuhashi
Lauren Hardman
Emily Lewis
Maddison Callinan
Emma Young
Bridgette Tonkin
Olivia Willoughby
Jessica Woodward
Carly King
Aimee Jordan
Nicola Mazalo
Gabrielle Callinan
Faith Lee
Marie-Lee Ramplin

IMPORTANT DATES for your Diary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 19 Oct</td>
<td>Catholic Mission Week – out of uniform</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 25 Oct</td>
<td>Hospitality Lunch Task 1.00pm to 2.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 26 Oct</td>
<td>Year 10 Elective Exams</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 26 Oct</td>
<td>Year 9 Leadership</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 27 Oct</td>
<td>Year 9 Leadership</td>
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Canteen Roster - Mrs Helen Mulligan, Mrs Janelle Oliver
URGENT!!!! Helpers are needed every day except Friday.
Anyone who would like to assist one day per month please contact Helen or Janelle.
If you are unable to attend your allotted day please contact either Helen or Janelle on 4957 1032.

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<tr>
<td>Maree Jarrett</td>
<td>Adrienne Bice</td>
<td>Megan Evans</td>
<td>Rachael Gapps</td>
<td>Sonya Simpson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mary Jennings</td>
<td>Robyn Donnelly</td>
<td>Donna Houston</td>
<td>Kim Simmons</td>
<td>Angie Moylan</td>
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<td>Anthea Burke</td>
<td>Tracy Tennant-Baker</td>
<td>Belinda Oke</td>
<td>Leanne Buckingham</td>
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<td>Jodie Pfeiffer</td>
<td>Vicki McSpaddon</td>
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<tr>
<th>Mon 31 Oct</th>
<th>Tues 1 Nov</th>
<th>Wed 2 Nov</th>
<th>Thurs 3 Nov</th>
<th>Fri 4 Nov</th>
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<tr>
<td>Patsy Maher</td>
<td>Kathy Adam</td>
<td>Janice Vandenburg</td>
<td>Louise Ptolemy</td>
<td>Kerry Walker</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leanne de Groot</td>
<td>Sharon Hart</td>
<td>Leah Horton</td>
<td>Leanne Haberl</td>
<td>Sue Morrissey</td>
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<td>Di Davis</td>
<td>Fran Short</td>
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<td>Angela Jeffs</td>
<td>Rebecca Emerton</td>
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<td>Catherine Ryan</td>
<td>Joanne Bogaerts</td>
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<td>Helen Askie</td>
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<td>Jenny/Michael Hurst</td>
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Well, the Climate Cam team has been very busy since the last issue. We held a team day at the end of Term 3 and worked hard on a number of activities and did some planning for events and programs to run into next year….

- We completed a School Environmental Management Plan, which outlines the goals of the Climate Cam team and lists ways in which students wish to see their school environment change and improve in regards to sustainability. It looks very promising and includes many initiatives that students can take charge of.
- Planning started to perhaps hold an annual ‘Green Day’ that can coincide with St Pius Day next year to educate and raise awareness about our carbon footprint within the school community.
- Our entry into the ARC Recycling Poster Competition was completed and sent away- fingers crossed that we can win the $10 000 prize money!
- Students brainstormed ideas about how we can make the new renovations as environmentally friendly as possible- students looked at our current recycling program and began planning some changes to make this more prominent in our day-to-day classrooms.
- Our application for 12 Council recycling bins was accepted for use in the playground- hopefully, with correct use, this will almost halve our playground waste going into landfill!

Thank you to the students who have helped out- we are definitely starting to make progress!

Mrs Tranchini

Water Saving Ideas for Home

- Thaw frozen foods before you need them or use the microwave instead of placing them under running water.
- It’s best to wait until you have a full load in your dishwasher before using it. This saves water and energy, and reduces the amount of detergent entering the wastewater system.
- Washing fruit and vegies in a half-filled sink instead of under running water is a great way to cut back on water wastage.
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Mrs Tranchini
Next Life Teen Night: for high school teens in years 8-12

Wednesday 26 October
6.30pm Food
7.00pm - 8.30pm Life Night
St Philips Parish Hall Kotara

“All for One, One for All”

Next Life Teen Youth Mass:
Sunday 23 October at 5.45pm
St Therese’s Church, New Lambton
Followed by Tea and Biscuits served by the youth

Celebrate Love

If you are looking to advance your marriage, think about joining hundreds of couples who have attended Celebrate Love. In two packed days, learn some of the most up-to-date ideas and skills on offer and, in the process, rediscover the joy of being a man and woman in love. This will be held at Hamilton on 12 & 13 November.

For information and bookings, contact Ree & Ray O’Brien ph 4987 4933 or visit www.celebratelove.com.au.
Early Bird ends October 30.
Seasons for Growth is offering a 2 day group
“Exploring the Seasons of Grief”

Although we usually link grief with death, it is in reality the process by which we make a healthy adjustment to any significant loss in our lives.

This educational program provides an opportunity for you to:

- Better understand and manage your particular loss experience
- Draw on the imagery of the seasons as an effective way to think about your experience of grief
- Explore important issues such as feelings, memories, forgiveness, choices and support networks
- Recognize the value of your story and that life, like the seasons, is always changing

**Date:** 22—23 November 2011  
**Time:** 9.30am—3.00pm  
**Where:** Catherine McAuley Building  
Rear 841 Hunter Street  
Newcastle West

**Cost:** $55 (includes GST)

Members of the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle are subsidized for this group.

Price includes journal, resources & morning tea

Numbers are limited and bookings are essential.  
Ph: 4979 1355  
E: seasonsforgrowth@mn.catholic.org.au