Dear Families and Friends of the St Pius X Community,

Welcome to the 2011 school year. I do hope you had a wonderful Christmas and also had an opportunity to have at least some time relaxing with family and friends over the holiday period. 2011 is shaping up to be a very busy and exciting year. We are beginning our journey towards an environmentally and ecologically sustainable school; there is the continuation of the Digital Education Revolution; the preparation for the National Curriculum; implementation of new VET Courses; and the refurbishment of the Factory Wing, just to name a few of the major areas of priority.

New Appointments – This year we have a number of new appointments to St Pius. It is my pleasure to welcome:
- Justine Quarello - English/Religion (full-time, permanent)
- Phil Humphrey - Mathematics (full-time, temporary)
- Peter Richards - Science (0.4 job-share with Michael Lee)
- Bonnie McKinnon - HSIE (full-time, temporary)
- Amanda Mohr - HSIE (0.5 job-share with Nancy Battiston)
  - PDHPE (0.4 job-share with Megan Edwards)
- Cherie Borger - DAT/FT (0.6 job-share with Bea Moncrieff)
- Dale Cooper - IT Support Officer (30 hrs/wk, permanent)
- Louise Dawson - Support Staff

National Solar Schools Program Grant
In the last week of school last year I was informed that our school has been successful in obtaining funding from the Australian Government's National Solar Schools Program. We will be using this to install solar panels to the value of $50,000. Over 2,000 schools submitted an application in the 2010-11 funding round and approximately 1,200 schools were successful. Applications were competitively assessed against three criteria: value for money, environmental benefit and educational benefit. The grant will give our school a head start in tackling climate change and conserving Australia's precious non-renewable resources.

Parent-School Partnership – The challenge of secondary schooling today is an exciting one and requires a truly co-operative effort between parents, students and staff. I draw your attention to three key elements of this partnership.

(i) Communication: I ask all parents/carers to read the “The Lion” each fortnight to keep up with school news and events. Besides being sent home with the youngest member of each family, the Lion is also available on the school portal. The address of the portal is towards the top of the first page of each newsletter. It can also be accessed via our Website. I also
encourage parents to contact the school whenever the need arises. We strive to ensure that all concerns and questions are attended to promptly and professionally.

(ii) School Fees: Please ensure that your school fee account is paid by the due date shown on your account each term. By doing this, you greatly assist the smooth operation of the whole school. This in turn helps us to provide your sons and daughters with the high quality Catholic education which you expect. Term 1 fee accounts will be posted before the end of Week 4.

♦ If you do experience genuine difficulty in paying your fees, make an appointment with me to come and discuss the situation. This includes anyone who had a special Fee Agreement in 2010 and wishes to continue it into 2011. **It is necessary to re-apply for the extension of such agreements into 2011. Please make such appointments as soon as possible after you receive your fee account.**

♦ For those parents/carers with a Health Care Card or Pension Card, a discount is available on the Tuition Fee component of your school fee account. To access this discount for 2011, complete and return the appropriate form available from the Accounts Office or from the School Forms folder on the School Portal. This will save you the time and effort of coming in to see me. If you require more assistance than just the Tuition Fee discount available for Health Care and Pension Card holders you will need to come in for an interview.

♦ Parents and carers are reminded that the 2011 Curriculum Levy which was due for payment in Term 4 of last year must be paid in full before text books for 2011 can be issued to students.

♦ **Anyone who still owes fees from 2010 but has not seen me to discuss the situation has ten days** from the date of this newsletter to either pay these in full or arrange and keep an appointment to speak with me. Otherwise, I will have no alternative but to send the names of these people to the CSO for further action.

(iii) Support of school rules and expectations: When I spoke to the students at Assembly this week, I spoke about the five basic expectations that I have of students – excellent attendance, excellent punctuality, excellent uniform, excellent work ethic and the highest respect for all people. I ask for the full support of all parents/carers in assisting students to live up to these expectations.

♦ **Uniform** – The uniform requirements are clearly stated in the 2011 School Planner and are also set out in the Student Handbook that all students receive upon enrolment. If there is an unavoidable problem with uniform on a given day, the student must carry an explanatory note signed by a parent/carer to cover this. Such uniform variations will only be allowed for very short periods of time. Thank you to all parents/carers in advance for your cooperation in this matter. The only way we can maintain a high uniform standard all year is if the school and parents/carers work together.

♦ **Shoes** – We have gone to a great deal of trouble to inform parents and students of the types of shoe that can be worn to school. This action was taken out of concern for student safety. Wearing the correct footwear is not an optional extra. It is mandatory and will be enforced.
Sports Uniform – All students **must** wear the sports shorts available from the Uniform Shop as part of their Sports Uniform. No other shorts are permitted. No student may wear the old style cotton interlock shorts.

P&F Meetings – These are usually held in the Sr Marie Hall on the second Tuesday night of each month starting at 7.00pm. In order to avoid a clash with the Diocesan “Called To Serve” Mass, our first P&F Meeting for 2011 will be held on Tuesday 15 February starting at 7.00pm. Please come along. Our P&F is a small but very active group. The P&F provides parents with an opportunity to hear up to date news about the school, to discuss and have input into issues that arise and into projects that are proposed and enables parents to play an active role in fundraising and support of the school.

I think that is more than enough to take in for the moment. I look forward to working with you this year to ensure that the young people in our school receive the best in Catholic education.

> “I have chosen you from the world”, says the Lord, “to go and bear fruit that will last.”
> *Jn:15*

All the best for a great year!

Robert Emery  
Principal

2010 School Certificate Results  
I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the students from Year 10 2010 for their outstanding results in the School Certificate. The school has always performed well with most students achieving results that placed them in Band 4 or above. This has again been a feature of the results in 2010 with a large number of students being awarded marks in or above the Band 4 range.

A few of the points worth noting include:

- the results in both English and Science saw over 50% of the students awarded a Band 5 or Band 6, representing marks over 80/100. (This would jump to 90% if Band 4 results were included)
- students also performed well in Mathematics with results in Bands 4, 5 and 6 above state averages.
- in HSIE the Australian Geography results were particularly pleasing with a strong performance in Bands 5 and 6.

Special mention must be made of three students who achieved the top results for a particular subject in the Diocese of Maitland-Newcastle. Marcus Cherry (Australian Geography), Madison Groves (Computing Skills) and Thomas McCallum (English) will all be recognised at a special school assembly for their achievement.

Given the current emphasis on the HSC, it can often be a challenge to motivate students to do their best in the School Certificate. However, the candidates from St Pius X in 2010 have certainly made it clear that they saw value in achieving results that reflected their abilities.

Congratulations to the students, their parents and their teachers.
**Year 9 Elective Classes**

Students in Year 9 will have commenced their elective classes this week. It is hoped that they enjoy the selection that they have made and will be able to achieve to the best of their ability.

Of course, some students may find that the subject is not quite what they thought it would be or have had a change in interest since last year. It is for this reason that a “settling in” period applies during the first 5 weeks of term 1. If a student would like to change an elective, they can go to Student Services to collect and complete a change of Elective Form. This must be given to Mr Dunn. Where possible, changes will be made in this period. However, please note that classes have minimum and maximum numbers and changes cannot always be made.

Several parents requested changes to electives towards the end of last year and these have not been able to be made because of class sizes. Please be assured that requests that cannot be accommodated are kept and a waiting list is generated. If a place in a class becomes available, then the first student on the waiting list is offered the position.

No changes should be expected after five weeks as subjects will be completing core work or skills and assessment tasks. With the exception of moving into VET subjects, students should expect to stay with an elective until the end of Year 10.

**Year 7 Curriculum Information Evening**

The Curriculum Information for the parents of Year 7 students will be held at the school on Tuesday 22 February. It will be held in Sr Marie Hall between 7.00pm and 8.00pm.

This is your opportunity to find out more about Assessment Tasks, class requirements, resources, expectations and ways to help your son or daughter with the subjects they are studying.

The Studies Coordinators will be present and will be able to answer questions relating to specific subjects.

All are welcome.

**School Certificate Information Evening**

The School Certificate Information Evening for parents will be held at the school on Tuesday 1 March in Sr Marie Hall between 7.00pm and 8.00pm.

This evening provides parents with an overview of the requirements for successfully completing the work required to be awarded a School Certificate and an opportunity to have any questions about the School Certificate answered by the members of the Studies Team.

Parents of Year 10 students are encouraged to attend.
**Newsletter Planner and Home Learning**

**Home Learning**

During 2010 we conducted a survey of students in every year group to get a better picture of the time spent by students completing homework, study, assessment tasks, sport and cultural commitments, employment etc. The results, based on responses from three Care Classes in each year, provided evidence of what many had suspected: there is a need to help students better organise themselves and to have explicit instruction on how to become better learners.

It may be no real surprise to some to learn that the survey indicated that Year 7 did the most work at home and Year 8 did the least. By the time students reached Year 10 they had almost returned to the levels completed by Year 7. This in itself is of concern in terms of Year 10 being prepared for the rigours of senior study. Whilst it was common for students to have other commitments for sport, music, dance etc the results also suggest that little time is spent revising or studying the information.

We have decided to tackle this issue in a number of ways:

1. We have developed a program of explicit instruction on revision techniques and organisation. In the past the “Let’s Get Organised” program ran for 6 lessons for Year 7 during Term 1. Now we will have a revised program that has at least 16 lessons that will be completed over the course of the year and will involve all faculties and teachers. Students in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 will complete the lessons. In this way we hope to target specific skills at times that are most relevant to students.

2. We have purchased a new student diary or planner. In many ways it functions the same way as previous planners, however, the new version offers a few extra features. This new planner will be the “textbook” for much of the material covered in the new study skills program thus providing a consistent approach across the school and a guide for students that will always be close at hand. The planner has a web site that has students and parent access. On it you will find a range of articles that deal with the skills covered and students will find copies of some of the information provided in the planner.

3. We will review some of the time requirements for Assessment Tasks and make adjustments or recommendations where necessary.

I would encourage you to have a look at the website for the new planner. It can be found at [www.learningcurveplanner.com.au](http://www.learningcurveplanner.com.au)

The aim is to encourage students to become more aware of their learning and to take greater responsibility for how they go about their learning at school and at home.

Stephen Dunn

Assistant Principal – Dean of Studies
Bright and early on Monday 6 December, 53 science enthusiasts embarked on a journey through time and space to Canberra for three days. We were greeted by Allan, our coach driver who claimed he had never been to Canberra, but knew his way around quite well. We arrived at the National Capital Exhibition which was …. interesting to say the least. We then retired to our accommodation at Gold Creek Tourist Resort. We then headed out to the CSIRO Discovery Centre, where we met a friendly Austrian tour guide named Markus.

The next day after minimal amounts of sleep we trudged to breakfast. We then departed to Geoscience Australia, where we met Reid, who cracked the occasional funny joke and enriched us with his knowledge about the earth. On our departure we “rocked” and made an earthquake. We then treked to the National Museum where we managed to set off the alarm in the overly large elevator which turned out to be the only fun part. We then journeyed into the ‘city’ to shop and indulge on fast food cuisine. When the bus arrived it took us to the highlight of the trip, Questacon, where we had a hands on science experience. We all took a bit of scientific knowledge away whilst having fun. The next stop on our itinerary was The National Dinosaur Museum within walking distance of the motel. At this moment we met Ben, a dinosaur enthusiast with the lifelong dream to work at the museum. He showed us all the replica skeletons and expressed his passion for dinosaurs. That night, out the front of Room 40, the Jack Johnson Sing Along was initiated soon to be broken up by Mr Davies’ life story.

On Wednesday, we woke up, packed all our belongings and ventured off to Telstra Tower where we took more photos than the rest of the trip. We took a long bus ride to Gunning and Cullerin Range where we went to a wind farm which could power 15,000 homes each year. We got a look inside the turbine and were blown away. On Mr Emery’s insistence, we took the test before allowed to lunch in Goulburn.

And just like that our science adventure was over.

Many thanks to the following staff who accompanied us: Mrs Healey, Mr Davies, Mrs Gibson and Mrs Bone.

Matthew Newman and Zoe Corcoran
Aurecon Bridge

In Term 3 last year, a group of Year 9 students, Jordan Velich, Grace Cousins and India Rose, won the Aurecon Bridge Building Competition. As well as winning $400.00 in individual prize money and $3000.00 for the school, the students won an opportunity to spend a ‘day in the life of an Aurecon Engineer’. On 26 October, the students travelled to the Aurecon Office in Sydney to experience a range of activities associated with Aurecon Engineering. The students were able to see the different stages of engineering and the variety of skills involved. The day was enjoyable and very informative. A big thank you to Mrs Healey, who accompanied the students on the train to Sydney on the day.

Grace Cousins

Newsletter Survey
This year we would like to introduce a ‘new look’ newsletter. We would like to get some feedback from parents as to what you would like to see in the newsletter. If you would like to share your ideas please either send them in via email to frances.bowen@mn.catholic.edu.au or with your child to the student services.

**IMPORTANT DATES for your Diary**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday 4 March</td>
<td>Pupil Free Day – Staff Spirituality Professional Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 18 February</td>
<td>Commissioning Ceremony School Leaders St James Primary School Hall Kotara South</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 1 March</td>
<td>Year 7 Community Day Karis Ministry St James Primary School Hall Kotara South</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 9 March</td>
<td>Ash Wednesday Care Class Liturgies – Out of Uniform Day</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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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 24 August</td>
<td>Pupil Free Day – Staff Pastoral Care Professional Development</td>
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Term 1 Representative Sport
Term 1 is always very busy in the representative sport calendar. There are four types of rep sport in Term 1.

1. Friday Rep Sport
- A round robin held against local catholic high schools during Friday sport.
- Selection trials are being held for the following sports during school lunch breaks and during Friday sport.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPORT</th>
<th>VENUE</th>
<th>COACH</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7/8 Basketball</td>
<td>St Pius X Bball Courts</td>
<td>Miss Hart</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/10 Basketball</td>
<td>San Clemente M Bball Courts</td>
<td>Mrs Healey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/8 Touch</td>
<td>National Park</td>
<td>Mrs Rankin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/10 Cricket “8’s”</td>
<td>Richardson/Smith Parks</td>
<td>Mrs Edwards</td>
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- Students should watch daily notices and the notice board outside the PE staffroom for selection trial dates and times.

2. School Carnival
- Our school swimming carnival will be held on Thursday 24 February at Lambton Pool.

3. Diocesan Sport
- The Diocesan of Maitland Newcastle will hold the following events during Term 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPORT</th>
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<th>DATE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dio Basketball</td>
<td>Broadmeadow Bball</td>
<td>Tues 15/2/11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dio U16 Girls Hockey</td>
<td>The Manning Valley Hockey Centre Taree</td>
<td>Fri 18/2/11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dio U15 R League</td>
<td>Maitland</td>
<td>Wed 2/3/11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dio Swimming</td>
<td>Lambton Pool</td>
<td>Tues 8/3/11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dio Touch</td>
<td>Wallsend Touch Fields</td>
<td>Thurs 17/3/11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dio Girls Open Football</td>
<td>St Pius X Playing Fields</td>
<td>Wed 23/3/11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dio U16 Rugby Union</td>
<td>Marcellan Park Lorn</td>
<td>Wed 23/3/11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dio Boys Open Football</td>
<td>St Pius X Playing Fields</td>
<td>Thurs 24/3/11</td>
</tr>
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In all of the above events a Maitland / Newcastle Diocesan team is selected from performances on the day. (Excluding Basketball)

4. NSW Combined Catholic Colleges Events
St Pius X is a member of the NSW Combined Catholic Colleges (NSWCCC) and a detailed list of all individual and team pathway events / carnivals can be located at www.cecnsw.catholic.edu.au/sport/index.htm
Super 15 Rugby Excursion
On Saturday 26 February St Pius X will be taking part in a Schools March Past before the start of the Waratahs and the QLD Reds Rd 2 match at ANZ stadium.
Two chartered buses have been arranged to travel down on the night.
(A student bus, which is full and a supporter’s bus.)
The cost is $50.00 which includes entry into the game and transport to and from St Pius X. (Very cheap). If any parent / guardian/ friend of St Pius would like to attend please pay $50.00 to our school bursar ASAP.

A raffle has been organised with over $1000.00 in prizes to be won on the night.

If you have any questions regarding Representative Sport or the Super Rugby excursion please contact me during school hours in the PE dept.

Mr David Pitfield
Rep Sports Coordinator

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Calling all budding young artists
To enter the Newcastle Show Art Competition
Students between the ages of 14-19 can submit pieces in the form of painting, drawing, water colour, sculpture, print or mixed media in any subject and medium.;
Prizes include $200 prize pack at Ekersleys and a 1 year membership of the Newcastle Gallery Society.
To enter see your art department for an entry form or visit newcaslteshow.com.au to download a form.

Entries close Thursday 3 March 2011.

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New Lambton Football Club -2011 Registration
(Formerly New Lambton Junior Soccer Club)
Registration Dates:
Saturday 5 February  9.00am to 11.00am
Wednesday  9 February  4.30pm to 6.30pm
Saturday 12 February  9.00am to 11.00am
Wednesday  16 February  4.30pm to 6.30pm

Registration will take place at
Novocastrian Park, New Lambton