Dear Families and Friends of the St Pius X Community,

National School Chaplaincy and Student Welfare Program
On Thursday 20 October 2011, the Minister for School Education, Peter Garrett, announced the opening of applications for the National School Chaplaincy and Student Welfare Program. This program will begin in 2012 and expands on the current school chaplains program which some of our Diocesan schools have participated in over the last couple of years. The new program provides funding up to $20,000 per year to schools to access the services of a School Chaplain or Student Welfare Worker. If we received this maximum level of funding, we would be able to employ a School Chaplain at St Pius for two days each week.

While the exact role the School Chaplain would perform here at St Pius is still to be determined it would certainly include the following aspects:
* Working closely with the Student Welfare Team to plan for and deliver student resilience and wellbeing services.
* Providing students, their families and staff with support and or appropriate referrals, in difficult situations such as during times of loss and grief or when students are facing personal or emotional challenges.
* Supporting students in the development of their spirituality. This may include providing guidance about spirituality, values and ethical matters and/or appropriate referral of questions of faith/spirituality.
* Mentoring students finding school difficult for various reasons.
* Facilitating activities connecting students with other members of the community.

I see this program as an excellent addition to the services provided by the school to students, parents/carers and staff. As part of the application process for funding we need to supply evidence that we have consulted the school community and that the school community are in favour of the school providing this service.

Could I please ask you, if you think the employment of a School Chaplain at St Pius would be a worthwhile service, complete the return slip at the bottom of the last page of this edition of the Lion and return it to the school via your child’s Care Group Teacher as soon as possible. Alternatively, you can simply email me to express your support for this service. We need your support.

The school’s possible participation in the National School Chaplaincy and Student Welfare Program will be discussed and voted upon at our next P&F Meeting on Tuesday 8 November starting at 6.15pm.

School Website
I take this opportunity to remind parents & students of the enormous amount of useful information about our school available on the school website:

http://adamstownsp.catholic.edu.au/Pages/Home.aspx

The site is extremely well organised and very easy to navigate. It is divided into six main categories of information: Our School, Parents, Teaching & Learning, Student Support, News & Events and
Contact Us. Each of these categories has its own tab under which are further sub-categories (pages) of information. Parents, for instance, will find information on Enrolment, Fees, Parental Involvement and Publications under the Parents tab. To return to the homepage from anywhere in the site just click on the St Pius crest at the top left of the page you are on.

There are a host of other features on the site. Upcoming events are noted down the left hand side of the homepage, as are links to useful school related sites. There is an RSS News Feed from the Board of Studies at the bottom of the homepage providing up to the minute information from the Board. Also at the bottom of the homepage is the Latest News from the school. Galleries of photographs are available under the News & Events tab, as are links to all the year’s newsletters (The Lion). Check out the latest photos showing the Factory Wing building works.

I encourage parents and students to use the website and to make themselves aware of what is available on it. The website has been designed as an information access point for the whole school community on all things to do with the life of the school.

Sunny Portal
Our new solar panels & system are working well. With our installation comes access to a web portal that should be extremely interesting & useful for us, especially for use in various classes.

The Sunny Portal, as it is called, provides a host of information on our system, our energy use & savings, our carbon dioxide savings, etc. I encourage parents to have a look. I think you will like it. It should be very useful in various aspects of the Science & HSIE courses but I am sure people will think of uses in other classes as well.

Our school’s public pages are accessible via the Sunny Portal link on the left hand side of the homepage of our school website.

Have a wonderful week!

Robert Emery
Principal

St Pius X High School Australian Mathematics Competition

Results
St Pius X High School entered 53 students this year. One student received a Prudence Award; three obtained a Distinction; 13 achieved a Credit and 26 received a Proficiency Certificate.

Prudence Award - Brooke Varnum
Distinctions - Jordan Velich
Phillip Mujic
Amy Marks

Credits - Joshua Donnelly
Sean Straiton
Alexandra Seldon
Isaac Reeves
Jordan Thorley
Jessie Smith
James Seldon
Lucy Cook
Christopher Chapman
Matthew Blore
Maxine Beh
Brook Varnum
Christopher Hendry

All other students who competed will receive a Certificate of Participation and every entrant is provided with an individual performance report. All students benefit from the experience.

Di Hickey
Maths Coordinator
Italian Trip 2011

We arrived in Venice after a very long flight, though we were very well looked after by Emirates Airlines. Venice was in the middle of a heat wave, but we quickly adjusted and made the most of visits to the Piazza San Marco and the beautiful islands of Murano for its glass and Burano for lace. We were fortunate to be able to update people at home thanks to the efforts of Marney and Mrs Greenwood, who set up a blog of our travels.

Florence was action-packed with visits to the Uffizi Gallery, a morning tour including the beautiful Santa Croce church and of course Il Duomo—the cathedral. Sasha will never forget her 15th birthday in Florence. There was a day visit to the historic towns of Pisa and San Gimignano, with the shop selling the world’s best gelato! Siena was a highlight, a lovely walled town accessed by escalators, and the contrade, the different sections of the town, entertained us with their colourful costumes and flag-waving.

Rome was more frenetic with lots of traffic and people and our hotel there was so welcoming and hospitable. We had some memorable visits to Il Vaticano. Piazza Navona and Il Colosseo and some delicious meals and we won’t forget the historical ruins of Pompeii.

The suitcases were much heavier on our return to Sydney but I think most students have thrown their coin into the Trevi fountain and will fulfil their wish to return one day.

Those who travelled to Italy were: Kymberley Cawdell, Kyle Croese, Elliot Crooks, Elizabeth Curk, Brigid Clancy, Nathan Delizzotti, Julia Dintino, Ashley Ffrost, Sasha Galli, Marney Greenwood, Georgia Johnson, Phillip Johnson, Penelope Kempe, Megan Koster, Victoria Parr, Ellie Pullman, Nicholas Roberts, India Rose, Kathleen Ryan, Georgia Smith, Samantha Smith, Layne Wiseman, Mrs Porter, Mrs Price and Mrs Greenwood.

Mrs Porter and Mrs Price

Teachers

Anti Poverty Week Fundraiser for Oz Harvest

A big thank you to all who purchased a sausage sizzle lunch on Thursday 20 October. We raised $260.00 for OzHarvest—a community based organisation in Newcastle that supports people who do not have enough food to eat. They collect food that would otherwise be wasted and distribute to local charities. They currently deliver 14,000 meals per month in this area. To find out more about the fantastic work of OzHarvest visit their website http://www.ozharvestnewcastle.org/

A huge thanks to the students from the Vinnies group who cooked the BBQ – Emily Kilpatrick, Dylan Sullivan, Ruby Buller, Natarsha Hopson, Eammon Mayo, and Jessica Chapman.

Cherie Borger
Teacher
Big Plans for Adamstown school’s old mine shaft

Students at St Pius X High School will get their gloves out for one of the school's biggest fights - transforming an overgrown mine shaft into a sustainable wetland.

The project will involve diverting stormwater through a patch of swampland to improve the area and reduce the amount of water that runs into the nearby open drain.

The school has started the first stage of the project, removing weeds and trees that have taken over the area.

Teacher David Pitfield said the swamp's water quality had been steadily declining over the years.

"It used to be crystal clear water you could go swimming in, but now it's all overgrown," he said.

The area, about 25 by 25 metres, is a former mine ventilation shaft. The rehabilitation project was the brainchild of teacher and former student Amanda Mohr.

On behalf of the school she won a $5000 grant from Hunter Water for the project.

It is expected to be completed by July.

The above article was published in The Star.

By Lauren McDermott
Journalist – The Star Newspaper

State Champion for Motorcycling

Shaun O’Connor (Year 9) competed in the State Championships for Motorcycling over the weekend - Minikhana State Championships at Sutherland.

It was a two day event with 9 events. Shaun was awarded NSW State Champion in the premier grade - Junior Combined Big Wheel - A Grade.

Shaun is a member of the Junior Trials Mini Cycle Club and has competed in this event for 7 years now. He has been runner up once before. This is the first time he has been crowned State Champion.

St Pius X High School P & F Mothers’ Dinner

On behalf of the St Pius P & F and the newly appointed Mother’s Dinner Committee, a belated thank you to all the Mothers and staff who attended this year’s St Pius X Mothers’ Dinner. The night was a great success, with lots of fun, laughter and socialising accompanied by an inspirational presentation by a St Pius Mum and guest speaker, Cassie Mowbray. The night wouldn’t have been as successful without the help of the following businesses who very generously donated prizes for the night. Thank you for supporting them in return.

Essential Moves - Pamela Power
The Bennett Hotel Hamilton - Dave and Jacque McCoy
MPC Consulting Engineers - Peter and Deanne March
Lee Grant
Jayne Brogan
Moonshadow Cruises Nelsons Bay
Kotara Bowling Club
Curves Charlestown
Niks and Kutz, Adamstown Heights
Jillian’s Essence of Beauty, Lambton
Jenda Lambton
Amore’ Hair Design, Lambton
Canteen Roster - Mrs Helen Mulligan, Mrs Janelle Oliver
URGENT!!!! Helpers are needed every day except Friday. Any one 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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Next Life Teen Night:
for high school teens in years 8-12
“Outside - In”
Wednesday 9 November
6.30pm Food
7.00pm - 8.30pm Life Night
St Philips Parish Hall Kotara
Next Life Teen Youth Mass:
Sunday 6 November at 5.45pm
St Therese’s Church, New Lambton
Followed by Tea and Biscuits served by the youth

Young drivers are three times more likely to be involved in casual ty crashes. That’s why the RTA has introduced a new licensing scheme, with more supervised driving practice for learner drivers.
To help parents and supervisors of learner drivers, The City of Newcastle has set up a FREE 2 hour workshop for parents and supervisors, to offer practical advice on how to help learner drivers become safer drivers.
This FREE workshop will be held on Tuesday 8 November at the Adamstown RSL Club from 5.30 ® 7.30pm. Please find enclosed a poster advertising the workshop.
Early bookings are essential, so parents and supervisors are urged to phone (02) 49742667 or 0411873684 to reserve their places now.

Please return to Student Services via Care Group.

I ...................................................think the employment of a School Chaplain at St Pius
Parent’s Name
would be a worthwhile service.

Signature ........................................... Student’s Care Group ..........
Keeping your child safe online

St Pius X Adamstown P&F would like to invite you to a presentation on

Tuesday 8th November at 7:00pm

Guest Speakers will be:
Linda McNeil CSO Parent Liaison Officer
and Cheryl Fahey CSO Education Officer Learning Technologies

Discussion will focus on strategies to keep your child safe online