Dear Families and Friends of the St Pius X Community,

**Bus Shelter Refurbishment Project**

As many parents and carers would be aware Stage 3 of the Master Development Plan for St Pius is the refurbishment of the Bus Shelter to provide a much needed PDHPE/Sports, whole-school Assembly & Dance area. Over recent months plans were drawn up and costed and tenders were called for. This project has been awarded to Kingston Building Australia who are currently undertaking our CBGA Factory Wing project.

The total cost of the Bus Shelter Refurbishment Project is $265,000. The school will pay $165,000 and the DF&SBL will pay $100,000. Work should commence on this vital project very soon. My sincere thanks go to Mr Chris Myors of the Catholic Schools Office Facilities Team for his expert and tireless work in getting this project off the ground.

This project is the major fundraising focus of the St Pius P&F Association at present and for the foreseeable future. Anyone who has novel, effective fundraising ideas is encouraged to pass their ideas onto the P&F.

**Snow Trip**

The St Pius Snow Trip was run at the beginning of August. It was, as always, a very exciting time for all who attended. Thank you to all staff who went and a special thanks to Mr Davis for his excellent organisation. From what I have heard from both staff & students it was a wonderful experience for all concerned.

It is timely to alert all parents and carers to the fact that the future of school snow/ski trips in this Diocese is being discussed by the CSO Leadership Team, the Diocesan Principals OH&S Working Party & the Secondary Principals Association. The focus of the discussion is the Coroner’s Recommendations for School Ski Excursions following the inquest into the deaths of two teenagers on separate ski trips in 2009. These recommendations were released in April of this year and are very specific. The discussion will also take into account changes to OH&S legislation that will occur from 1 January 2012.

Some of the major questions being debated are: (i) Can we ensure the safety of all students & staff on snow trips? (ii) Can our schools satisfy all of the Coroner’s recommendations to the extent necessary to ensure we manage all inherent risks? (iii) Are the Principals and Director prepared to accept the risk of criminal prosecution should a serious injury or death occur on a snow trip? I will keep you informed.

**Solar Panels**

Solar Panel installation is now almost complete – $50,000 worth of work thanks to the NSSP grant from the federal government. By producing its own power, our solar system will enable us to use less electricity from the grid. Our system will produce an average 14 MW of power per year for the next 25 years. A section of staff room roof has been covered by 52 panels, each of them being rated at 185 Watts. This adds up to a total output of 9620 Watts (9.62kW system). Our inverter changes the electricity produced by the panels, which is in Direct Current (DC), into the Alternating Current (AC) that we receive in our power points. During holidays, if we produce more power than we use, we will receive credits on our power bill.

A Web box monitoring system will collect data from the solar panels and from the electricity supply grid and will enable us to track our power production and usage live.
on our school computers. It will thus raise awareness of teachers and students to the significance of renewable energy solutions. This is another step down the road towards environmental sustainability here at St Pius.

**Increase in IT Levy for 2012**
Over the last three to four years there has been a large increase in the amount of technology used in schools. In that time at our school, we have seen an increase of over 220 computers and over 20 Smartboards added to our network. Until Term 4 2010 we had one specialist IT Technician, Mr Arnolda, employed by the school not the CSO, caring for a total of about 350 computers, 25 Smartboards and other assorted technology. By the end of 2011, we will have 650 computers on our network.

It became clear to me last year that we would need at least another specialist IT Technician on staff. To that end, I employed Mr Cooper, on a part-time basis for Term 4 last year and then full-time from this year onwards. The school has absorbed the cost of the extra IT Technician into the budget for 2011. Obviously, the school cannot continue to do so. Therefore, the IT Levy for 2012 will increase by $12 per student per term paid over three terms to cover most of the cost of this essential staff member. Having two excellent specialist IT Technicians working as a team ensures that we can provide students and staff with the very high standard of service in the ICT area that is essential in a modern school.

**Timetable Review**
We are currently reconsidering the structure of the timetable at St Pius. The reasons for this are:

- Concern that our existing 43 minute (on average) period length would be insufficient once 1:1 computer use commences. Booting up & shutting down of machines may require longer periods.
- It is prudent from time to time to evaluate existing timetable structures and gauge whether they are still meeting the needs of teachers & students.

The Executive and Management Teams have proposed some alternative daily timetable structures. At last week’s Staff Meeting, staff discussed the pros and cons of these structures. From this meeting, advantages & disadvantages of each alternative and of our existing structure will be collated to enable further discussion by the Management Team in order to discern the structure to be adopted for 2012 onwards.

The alternative daily structures considered include: 5 x 60 min periods, 6 x 50 min periods and 7 x 43 min (average) periods (our existing structure). The 6 period day alternative could also be composed of 52 min periods.

Have a great week!

*Robert Emery*
Principal
The final year of the School Certificate

I am certain that by now many of you have read or heard about the state government’s decision to discontinue the School Certificate beyond 2011. After a lengthy period of consultation, it was decided that the School Certificate no-longer meets the needs of the community.

The two most important points to note about this decision are:

1. That there is NO change to any of the requirements for Year 10 students in 2011. They will complete their courses and are still required to sit the external examinations in the week November 7 – 11.
2. What will replace the School Certificate is yet to be determined but a period of consultation has already begun.

There are many questions about what the new credential will record and how it will present the information. The Board is preparing a submission for the government. The review of the School Certificate did reveal several key points of discussion for the new credential.

There is a strong desire that what replaces the School Certificate will be a cumulative record of student achievement. How results will be recorded and moderated so valid comparisons between schools can be made is one of the major elements to be determined. However, an external exam seems unlikely at this time and there may be a push to make greater use of each student’s NAPLAN results.
Year 7, 8 and 9 Alternative Program for Retreat:
Wednesday 7 Sept to Friday 9 Sept
A significant number of teaching staff will facilitate the annual Year 10 retreat. An alternative program has been organized to keep Years 7 to 9 working productively during this time. A full timetable of activities appears below. It is vital that your child attends school on all these days as they include practical examinations and assessment tasks. All material is directly relevant to the curriculum. Should you need to contact your child, the school office will know where each group is located. Normal school or sports uniform is to be worn. Thanks in advance.

Simone Kelly
Ministry

Wednesday 7 September:
NORMAL LESSONS WITH WORK LEFT TO GO ON WITH BY USUAL CLASS TEACHER.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Thurs 8 September</th>
<th>Yr 7</th>
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<td>AM</td>
<td>DAT excursion</td>
<td>Sport</td>
<td>Science Practical Exam (Labs)</td>
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<td>MID</td>
<td>DAT excursion</td>
<td>English assessment task. (classrooms)</td>
<td>HSIE, “Gallipoli” for Assessment Task SMH</td>
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<td>PM</td>
<td>Creative Arts SMH Polynesian performance “Mana”</td>
<td>Environmental DVD and worksheet (classrooms)</td>
<td>HSIE written assessment task. (classrooms)</td>
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<td>AM</td>
<td>Science Practical Exam (Labs).</td>
<td>Maths: Luna Park</td>
<td>X Line: Helen Wilks Careers Talk SMH Y: Line English Assessment Task</td>
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<td>Sport</td>
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Year 10 Retreat
Around 200 students have chosen to attend the annual Year 10 Retreat from Wednesday 7 to Friday 9 September 2011. A purple sheet detailing what to bring should be located on your fridge or family notice board. The yellow contract and medical information sheet should have been fully completed and returned to a box in student services. The white and mauve sheets were for parent information.

Everything was due at the school by Thursday 21 July. Many items remain outstanding. If you have any further questions please contact me at school, preferably by e-mail.

Simone Kelly
Ministry Coordinator
simone.kelly@mn.catholic.edu.au
Diocesan Athletics Carnival
We took a 40 student team out to Glendale Athletics track on Thursday 11 August and luckily we were blessed with a beautiful day. Students performed incredibly well and the school spirit was high, considering we lost many of our female athletes to the State Futsal Final. A big thank you must go to our year 10 helpers at the carnival as they did a great job and helped the day run smoothly. The following students will now progress to NSW Combined Catholic Colleges carnival on Friday 16 September.
Hannah Simmons 13 Yrs 400m
Samantha Miller 15 Yrs 400m
Connor Lynch 12 Yrs 100m, 200m
Sam Harrison 12 Yrs High Jump
Ryan Bailey 15 Yrs 800m
Kaden Ramplin-Smith 14 Yrs 100m
Tyler Kelly 14 Yrs Long Jump
Good Luck to all those students!

Technology
Year 8 Computers
In my classes this week Year 8 has been busy putting the final touches to their Personal Space models. This assessment allowed them to spend the past 10 weeks creating a dream room with an environmental focus. They have researched and planned their room with all of their work presented in an extensive folio. The models look very detailed and impressive, and the students are to be commended for their perseverance and dedication to the subject. We may have our next wave of interior designers amongst this group! Thank you to all parents for your support in helping your child find materials and create their scale model.

Year 7 Food Technology
It was impressive to see the planning and cooking skills of the Food Tech class this week as they planned and executed their own healthy Brunch meal as part of their assessment task. The students worked well to create meals such as omelettes, wraps, muffins, pizzas, smoothies, frittatas, pancakes and even a pear galette. We obviously have some keen Masterchefs in the class! Parents will be happy to know that they all cleaned up well afterwards. Congratulations!

Jasmyn Garay 8.1  Jean Flegg 8.7  Abby Clipperton 8.7

Tuna omelette wrap
Bridget Whitnall

Vietnamese Rice Paper Rolls
Daniel Allsop

Cherie Borger
Teacher
Saturday 20 August to Sunday 4 September
Excursion to Italy

Wednesday 24 August
Pupil Free Day – Staff Pastoral Care Professional Development

Thursday 25 August
Entertainment Excursion

Wednesday 31 August
Primary School Sports Day Year 10 PASS involved

Friday 2 September
Drama Music Performance 9.00am – 12.30pm Sister Marie Hall
Drama Performance 7.00pm – 9.00pm Sister Marie Hall

Monday 5 September
Music Performance 7.00pm – 9.00pm Sister Marie Hall

Tuesday 6 September
eConference

Wednesday 7 September to Friday 9 September
Year 10 Retreat

**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.*

The canteen fully operational and we require volunteers every day to maintain this service to the students.

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<tr>
<th>Mon 29 August</th>
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<th>Wed 31 August</th>
<th>Thurs 1 September</th>
<th>Fri 2 September</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sue McLean</td>
<td>Adrienne Bice</td>
<td>Megan Evans</td>
<td>Rachael Gapps</td>
<td>Sonya Simpson</td>
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<td>Maree Jarrett</td>
<td>Robyn Donnelly</td>
<td>Donna Houston</td>
<td>Kim Simmons</td>
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<td>Mary Jennings</td>
<td>Anthea Burke</td>
<td>Tracy Tennant-Baker</td>
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<td>Jodie Pfeiffer</td>
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<th>Wed 7 September</th>
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<td>Patsy Maher</td>
<td>Kathy Adam</td>
<td>Janice Vandenburg</td>
<td>Louise Ptolemy</td>
<td>Kerry Walker</td>
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<td>Leanne de Groot</td>
<td>Tina Rebellato</td>
<td>Leah Horton</td>
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<td>Di Davis</td>
<td>Sharon Hart</td>
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<td>Helen Askie</td>
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<td>Jenny/Michael Hurst</td>
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**Vietnam Expedition 2012**

Over 40 Year 9 students have committed to the Vietnam trip next year. This far exceeded our expectations and is a very exciting phase in the history of our school culture. Planning is already underway. Students will travel for three weeks, the last week of term two and the end of semester vacation. They will be involved in trekking, social justice work at a Church agency and enjoy some rest and relaxation before they return home. The first World Challenge “Launch Meeting” took place on Tuesday 23 August after school. Students will soon be fundraising and planning their itinerary and budgets. Thanks for all your support.

*Simone Kelly*

*Ministry*
Over the past few weeks, Climate Cam students have been working on posters aimed at educating our school community to ‘Buy Recycled’. We have entered into the 2011 Australian Recycled Packaging Competition, which has a grand prize of $10 000 for the best posters advertising brands that use recycled packaging.

We have also been promoting the Hunter Climate Challenge, which is an initiative organized by the Nature Conservation Council of NSW and Companion Credit Union. It is designed to be done at home and you can win some great prizes whilst reducing your carbon footprint! Entry forms are available from the school foyer or you can register online at www.companion.com.au/environment.

The next step in achieving our Climate Cam goals is to develop a School Environmental Management Plan (SEMP). This has already been done on an executive level but students will be working on a plan that they can achieve more independently and with a sense of ownership and responsibility. This is planned to be completed over the next few weeks, ready to be implemented soon after our St Pius X Day celebrations! Publication details to follow.

Lastly, a retraction needs to be issued from our last issue. One of our star Climate Cam-ers, Clare Cummings (Yr 10) was misspelt Claire. My apologies.

Until next time ……
ST PIUS MUSIC AND DRAMA FUNDRAISER 2011

Drama, Music and Entertainment Elective Students would like to invite you, your family and friends to:

A Drama Night and a Music Night

FRIDAY 2 SEPTEMBER: DRAMA PERFORMANCE by Year 10 Drama Students – “Malice in Wonderland” @ 7.00pm in Sister Marie Hall (no intermission; performance is about 1 hour)

A famous theatre practitioner of the 20th century, Jerry Grotowski, pioneered a form of entertainment that became known as ‘poor theatre’: he shunned extravagant sets and technology believing that they were a distraction from what is important: the actor’s performance and their connection with the audience. His performers quite often presented without any set requirements or technology … Amidst the renovations that are happening here at St Pius this year, which has meant that many of our resources are hibernating in storage, we Creative Arts teachers have been praising the virtues of ‘poor theatre’ to our students. They are not convinced. Nonetheless we have soldiered on, all of us, with our doubts, worries, feelings of inadequacy and lack, to hopefully put together two shows that will delight you!

MONDAY 5 SEPTEMBER: MUSIC PERFORMANCE

“You’re the Voice” @ 7.00pm in Sister Marie Hall (performance is about 2 hours, including an intermission)

Year 9 and 10 Music Elective students will be presenting musical pieces from various genres; also special guest performers from years 7 and 8, who have presented excellent works at Open Microphone this year, will have a chance to be part of this quality evening. Do not miss this special event!

There are a limited number of 180 tickets available for each of the one-off performances: Ms Bartley and Mrs Daniel are selling tickets here at school for the Drama night at a cost of $10.00 ($5.00 conc) each; Mrs. Lunarzewski and Rachael Scott (Year 10 Entertainment student) are selling tickets for the Music night at the same price. All monies raised will go toward resources for our new facilities that are opening next year! BE QUICK- tickets will not be sold at the door.
Keep collecting those Coles and Woolworths Vouchers
St Pius is still collecting vouchers and receipts for both the Woolworths and Coles promotions. Please encourage your children to bring these into Student Services. At present the Woolworths promotion is looking a little dire so we really need a big effort so we can gain extra FREE resources for the school. If you don’t want to send your whole receipt to school you can just tear off the code at the bottom. Your efforts in supporting the school are greatly appreciated.

The Branxton/Greta Parish Community
cordially invites anyone wishing to attend
the closing of its Parish Schools.

The closing ceremony for St Brigid’s, Branxton will be held on Sunday 28 August commencing 11.30am followed by lunch in the school grounds while St Mary’s Greta will hold their closing ceremony on Sunday 18 September commencing 11.30am followed by lunch in the school grounds. Lunch will be provided. We look forward to seeing many ex-students, teachers and families on these days.

LIFE TEEN

Next Life Teen Night: for high school teens in years 8-12

Wednesday 31 August  
6.30pm  Food
7.00pm – 8.30pm  Life Night
St Philips Parish Hall Kotara

Next Life Teen Youth Mass:
Sunday 28 August at  5.45pm
St Therese's Church, New Lambton
Followed by Tea and Biscuits served by the youth
14th Annual
Special Needs
Mass

Wednesday
7:00pm
31 August 2011
Our Lady of Lourdes Church
Beresfield

The Special Needs Working Party of the Federation of P&F Associations invites all diocesan parishioners and families especially those who have children with special needs and those who support

For further information, please contact Linda McNeil, Parent Resource Officer Phone: 4979 1303 or Email: linda.mcneil@mn.catholic.edu.au