Dear Families and Friends of the St Pius X Community,

The Joy of Easter
Easter is a joyous time of year. Jesus’ resurrection fills us with courage and hope for the future. It allows us to live lives that are positive and uplifting regardless of what happens to us or around us. It challenges us to create communities built on friendship, acceptance and love. It challenges us to live in accordance with Jesus’ teachings and to be the face of Jesus to all people we meet. It challenges us by word and deed to spread the good news that Jesus who was dead, lives again!

“As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” (John 20:21)

Parent/Teacher Interviews
I encourage all parents and carers to take advantage of the opportunity to meet with your child’s teachers this week. It is important to speak with teachers about ways in which you can best help your child to make the most of their education. Time at school is limited. Children spend only 13% of their time at school. Studies show that children whose parents or carers are actively involved in their education perform much better than would otherwise be the case. In order to make the most of their education, children must spend some of their time outside school on school work and study. This time can be used most effectively, when parents and carers are attuned to the best ways of helping their children with school work and study.

New St Pius Website
If you have not yet visited the new St Pius Website, I invite you to do so and have a good look around. The site has been completely re-designed and updated and contains much information about our school community.

http://www.adamstownsp.catholic.edu.au/

e-Waste Recycling
For too long, metals such as mercury and lead found in computers and other e-waste have been buried in landfill, leaving the toxins to leach into the ground and waterways. Other rare and precious metals present in electronic equipment may not poison the soil & ground water to the same extent but still end up buried in landfill. These metals will run out sooner rather than later. We are talking tens of years not hundreds for most metals. Put simply, dumping e-waste in landfill cannot continue if we wish to maintain our standard of living.

I encourage all members of the St Pius community to ensure that e-waste is recycled rather than dumped in landfill. E-waste includes nearly anything that plugs in or has a battery. Many City Councils hold “drop-off” days for e-waste. Dates for these days in 2011 can be obtained from your local council office or by visiting the “Hunter Resource Recovery” website at:


Lake Macquarie City Council has introduced a permanent free drop-off site at Awaba Waste Management Facility for residents of the city.
There are also companies that recycle e-waste for business and industry for a fee. These can be found via a Google search.

The school already runs a mobile phone recycling program. Please make use of this program when the need arises to dispose of a mobile phone.

**Complaints Resolution**
I remind parents and carers that the school has policy and procedures in place to ensure that disputes or complaints can be resolved fairly. A copy of the policy and procedures can be obtained from the Main Office or on the School Portal (Main Page, School Documents folder) or on the School Website (Our School tab, School Policies).

**Education Tax Refund**
The Education Tax Refund (ETR) is a government initiative which aims to help families with children undertaking primary or secondary school studies to meet the costs of school education through assistance with certain eligible education expenses.

Please see the two pages of information on this scheme that are contained within this edition of the Lion.

Have a fun week!

*Robert Emery*
Principal

**NAPLAN (National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy)**
This year NAPLAN will be held between Tuesday May 10 and Thursday May 12 with a catch up day on Friday May 13. All students in Years 7 and 9 will participate.

- **Tuesday 10 May** Language Conventions test (Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar) and a separate Writing test.
- **Wednesday 11 May** Reading test
- **Thursday 12 May** Numeracy test (Number, Algebra, Function and Pattern; Chance and Data; Measurement and Space)

The tests will be held in the morning with a break between tests on the Tuesday and Thursday. Both years will complete their tests in the class they normally have for Religious Studies.

In the Numeracy tests students do not require any measuring tools such as rulers or protractors. However, both Years will require the calculator they currently use at school.

*Stephen Dunn*

**Stations of the Cross – Kilaben Bay**
On Sunday 10 April we accompanied Mrs Kelly to Kilaben Bay where we took part in a Stations of the Cross ceremony along with many other schools from the Diocese. We had the opportunity to converse with some of the church leaders, teachers and students from other schools. Each school re-enacted a station of the cross through drama, reading and singing. St Pius X High School was selected to represent the twelfth station where Jesus dies on the cross. The drama and reading for St Pius X High School was performed by Zachary Hook, Andrew Hopkins, Tori Hill, Holly Harrison, Dylan Sullivan, Lily Ryan and Lachlan Young. Following our station, a reflection was given by Mawa, a representative of the refugee community of Newcastle. He spoke about how privileged we are to be in the religious society that we are in today and that we should be grateful for the sacrifices Jesus made for us, especially in the period of Easter.

*Lily Ryan and Lachlan Young*
Information and Software Technology News

Students in the Year 10 Information Software Technology class have completed their website designs and are now working on their websites proper. All students have produced good designs but several designs stood out. These were produced by Eamonn Mayo, Patrick O’Donoghue and Phillip Johnson. This will provide them with a great platform on which to base their websites. There are a lot of talented students in this group and the finished websites should reflect this. The best websites will be published when completed.

*Col Griffin*
Teacher

TAS Department - Hospitality News

Year 10 students have had a very busy first term settling in and have made excellent progress towards developing their competencies. The focus in theory lessons has been Health and Safety and Security in the workplace. Further to this, students will be required to undertake an offsite course in OH&S. This will give them a qualification to work across a number of industries.

In practical lessons we have been working on a unit: *Organise and Prepare Food*. This is focussed towards developing basic skills with knife handling and cutting techniques. Each week in practical lessons, students are required to organise workflows that enable them to multi-task elements of each dish in order to serve them in the required timeframe. Presentation at this stage is not the key focus, rather it is their ability to prioritise jobs and work in a team environment that is important. As the student’s skills develop, food presentation becomes more significant.

Not be forgotten is flavour. Each practical, we have a “flavour award” given to the best tasting meal. So far winners have been Zoe Joyce, Justice Bower and Sara Curzi for their potato salad; and James Dawson for his fabulous pumpkin soup and crispy croutons.

Year 10 Students have also undertaken their first formal competency assessment where they had to prepare two elements. There are multiple opportunities given to students to achieve competency and all of them are well on their way towards achieving the industry standard that is expected.

Year 9 students have commenced their course by studying the Food Technology elective and will transfer to VET in 2012. This will be a very exciting prospect for them, as they will be the first students at St Pius X to have the opportunity of working in the commercial kitchen. This will be a state of the art facility, built to industry specifications.

Lastly, both groups visited Euro Patisserie in New Lambton. Students had the opportunity of experiencing the retail shop front of the business and then were taken through to the bakery section. They saw the process from raw product, mixing, baking, and decorating to completion for shop front. Euro Patisserie makes all their own products and employs 35 people.

*Helen Davies*
Hospitality Teacher


Last term St Pius X entered the Regional Chess Competition for the first time in many years. The competition is held between secondary schools and each school is represented by a team of four students. Teams play each other in a knock-out competition with the winners progressing onto Round 2 and the others moving into a second tier knock-out.

When I asked students who might be interested in trying out for the team I was astounded by the response. Registrations filled quickly and over 30 students attended the first day of play. Word soon got around and in the end over 50 students attended matches. Students were keen to play and regularly came to matches held during lunch.

With this level of interest and only 4 places in the team I suggested an internal competition be held during Term 2. The suggestion has been met with enthusiasm so I’ll need to buy some more chess sets.
Selecting the team was quite a lengthy process and saw some great matches being played. The team selected was Patrick Harper (10.2), Kieran Quadrelli (8.2), Keiran Palmer (8.4) and Jack Miller (8.11).

The First Match - St Pius X v Kotara High
St Pius drew Kotara High School for the first round match of the Regional Chess Competition. The game was played at Kotara on Wednesday 30 March. The team members were nervous but had their game faces on and they needed them for when we entered the room there were several Year12 students waiting to do battle. Undaunted, the team set about their business. There were no easy victories to be had and the balance of play on each board shifted several times. However, after about three quarters of an hour the final king succumbed to a skilful manoeuvre from the Kotara High School Captain. We had lost.

Regardless of the 4-0 loss, the entire experience has been a positive one. Kotara outplayed us and were gracious in their victory. We wish them well in Round 2.

Congratulations must go to our team members who played well but were unable to defeat their opponents. We will move into the second tier competition and play another school some time this term.

Stephen Dunn
Coach

Volunteers at St Pius
Any parent/guardian wanting to undertake volunteer work at St Pius is required to fill out a Volunteer Declaration for working with children, e.g. working in the Canteen, helping out at the School Dance. This form will then be sent in to the Catholic Schools Office for verification. Accompanying the declaration you must produce 100 points verification, original documents will need to be sited upon lodgement of the form. The forms of identification that can be used are as follows:

- **70 points**
  - Birth Certificate, Citizenship Certificate, Current Australian Passport, Current Passport from another country or diplomatic documents

- **40 points**
  - Current drivers licence issued by an Australian state or territory
  - Name of preferred applicant verified in writing, signed by both the person giving it and the applicant, from either a financial body certifying that the applicant is a known customer or an acceptable referee under AUSTRAC Guideline 3 (www.austrac.gov.au/files/guileline_3.pdf)

- **35 points**
  - Council rate notice
  - Document from current employer
  - Land Titles Office record
  - Credit Reference Association of Australia document

- **25 points**
  - Current credit card or account card from a bank, building society or credit union
  - Current telephone, water, gas or electricity bill
  - Foreign driver’s licence
  - Medicare Card
  - Electoral roll notification
  - Lease/rent agreement
  - Current rent receipt from a licensed real estate agent
**Entertainment Books**

Entertainment books will be handed out to the youngest child in the family on Monday 9 May. The cost for the entertainment book is $60.00. If you do not wish your child to bring one home and you haven’t already done, so please let the school know by emailing admin@adamstownsp.catholic.edu.au. This year we have introduced a new method for payment via credit card online at [www.entertainmentbook.com.au](http://www.entertainmentbook.com.au), otherwise payment can be made by cash, credit card or cheque (made out to Entertainment Publications).

Please take the time to have a look through the book when you receive it, as many of the area’s best restaurants, attractions, cinemas, sports and hotel accommodation have valuable offers of 50% off, 25% off and 2-for-1 offers.

**All Schools Touch Football**

**Year 9 and Year 10 Boys**

Our Year 9 and Year 10 Boys Touch team represented the school at the NSW All Schools tournament at Wallsend recently. Our team won their pool with convincing wins over Tomaree High School (6-2), Merewether High (5-2) and Wallsend Campus 2 (6-2).

They then defeated Wallsend High 3 in the round of 16 (8-0) and defeated Wallsend 1 in the quarter final (3-1). Unfortunately, we ran into a very strong Singleton High team in the semi-final and went down (2-4). Singleton High went on to win the final.

I would like to commend the boys on the level of skill and sportsmanship they displayed throughout the day. Playing six high quality games of touch in a single day was demanding but the players did themselves and their school proud in their performances.

The team consisted of: Joshua Sims, Benjamin Poole, Patrick Vaughan, Ryan Glanville, Thomas Smith, Samuel Dorman, Christian Mulley, Dinh Do, Kaden Ramplin-Smith and Jesse Back.

*John McLoughlin  
Coach*

**Year 9 and Year 10 Girls**

The following girls were in the 9/10 team that competed at Wallsend Touch Fields on Friday 1 April: Holly Harrison, Chantelle Graham, Grace Salter, Biance Smith, Chelsea Slater, Selina Borrelli, Georgia Graham, Alexandra Murray, Airlie Davis, Adriana Jones, Samantha Miller and Olivia Rodgers.

The girls started with a hard game against Tomoree High, who went on to play Hunter Sports High in the Grand Final, with a loss 5-3. They then won a tight one against Singleton High 1-0 and played the best touch of the day to defeat Lambton High 4-2. We need a win in the next game to progress to semi-finals but unfortunately, had a draw 3-3 with Lambton High, which put us out of contention. Thanks to the Year 10 girls who have played touch for the school the last four years and we have some promising Year 9s coming through for next year.

*Kerrie Sellers  
Coach*

**Cricket**

Congratulations to Hannah Linsley Year 7 on her selection in the NSW Emerging Breakers Squad for girl’s cricket.
## IMPORTANT DATES

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date Range</th>
<th>Event Details</th>
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<td>Catholic Schools Week</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 5 May</td>
<td>Dio X Country Aberdeen Parent Teacher Interviews - Evening</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 6 May</td>
<td>Parent Teacher Interviews – No classes</td>
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<td>Tuesday 10 May</td>
<td>NAPLAN Tests</td>
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<td>Tues 17 to Thurs 19 May</td>
<td>Food Technology Excursion</td>
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<td>Wednesday 18 May</td>
<td>Knights Knockout Under 13 and Under 15</td>
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<td>Thursday 19 May</td>
<td>Careers Expo Year 10 Compulsory Excursion</td>
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<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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### 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 4013 2629.

### Volunteers Needed

The **Red Shield Appeal** is The Salvation Army's annual fundraising doorknock Appeal at the end of May. This year the Doorknock will take place over the weekend of **May 28-29** and we need volunteer collectors to help make the doorknock a success! When you volunteer, you help raise vital funds for the running of The Salvation Army’s vast network of social services. It may mean a roof to someone without a home, or education support for a child at risk of dropping out of school.

It involves:

- 2-3 hours of your time on the weekend of May 28-29
- getting a team of 2,3 or 4 friends or family to help out

If you are interested in being involved, give your name to Mrs Kelly (Ministry Coordinator) at school or contact Captain Scott Allen on 0416 133938 or register online at salvos.org.au/get-involved/volunteering/red-shield-doorknock.
WANTED HOST FAMILIES FOR A STUDENT FROM FRANCE

Homestays for 3 ½ weeks – Students from France – aged 14 to 17
I am looking for families who would like to host these students who will become part of your family as well as attend school at St Pius during their stay.
The dates are as followed:
Arrive on Sunday 10 July and depart on Friday 5 August 2011
Arrive on Monday 1 August and depart on Thursday 25 August 2011
I am happy to discuss the programme with you and send details about the students.
Looking forward to hearing from you.

Contact in Newcastle: Laure de La Condamine Terre des Langues
E : lauredelacondamine@yahoo.fr
W : www.tdl-homestays.com
Ph. 0419 242 419
National eConference

The Holy Spirit
GIVER OF LIFE

Keynote Educators
Fr Denis Edwards and Sr Janette Gray rsm
with Fr Chris Ryan MGL and Mrs Jan Heath

THURSDAY 19 MAY 2011
Venue: St Laurence Centre, Broadmeadow
Morning Tea: 10.00am - will be provided
Please bring your own Lunch
eConference: 10.30am-3.00pm
Facilitator: Tony Worner – Education Officer Primary
RE & Spirituality CSO Maitland-Newcastle
RSVP: 16 May to Jennie Nolan on 49791382 or jennie.nolan@mn.catholic.edu.au
National Survey of Young Australians 2011
Information and Guidelines

About the project

• The National Survey of Young Australians is conducted by Mission Australia, a national community service organisation. The survey has been conducted annually since 2002. Last year, around 50,000 young Australians took part.

• The survey captures the views of young Australians aged 11 to 24 on a range of topics, including what they value, their issues of concern, who they go to for advice and support, what activities they are involved in and how they feel about the future. A range of demographic information is also collected, such as age, gender and location.

• The information gathered will be used to produce a report which is distributed widely each year to schools, community organisations and policy makers. The results of the survey assist with the development of programs and services that meet the needs of young people as well as being a key resource document for policy makers. They are also a valuable resource for young people, their families and those who support them.

Participating in the project

If young people are interested in taking part in the project, they are asked to complete the survey questionnaire. The survey is available in both paper and online format. The paper survey is one page (front and back). The online survey is available at www.MAYouthSurvey.com.au. The survey should take approximately 20 minutes to complete. It is open to any young person in Australia aged 11 to 24.

Voluntary consent

Participation in the survey is voluntary and the young person must consent to take part in the research. When a survey is completed and returned to us we will infer that the young person has given their consent to take part. Young people can be encouraged to complete the survey by outlining the aims and benefits of the research, but cannot be forced or coerced into completing it. They may change their minds about completing the survey at any time and may also decline to answer any questions or parts of questions.

Anonymity and confidentiality

The survey is anonymous and the responses to the surveys are confidential. Young people should not provide their names on the survey form and surveys should not be read by anyone other than the researchers.

Contact us

If you have any queries or comments about the survey, please do not hesitate to contact Hannah Buckley, Project Manager, National Survey of Young Australians on (02) 9219 2022 or at youthsurvey@missionaustralia.com.au.
Education Tax Refund

The Education Tax Refund (ETR) is a government initiative which aims to help families with children undertaking primary or secondary school studies to meet the costs of school education through assistance with certain eligible education expenses.

Eligibility

Those entitled to Family Tax Benefit (FTB) Part A in respect of children undertaking primary or secondary school studies may be eligible to the ETR. Eligibility is also extended to families with school children who would be an eligible child for FTB Part A purposes, but for the fact that the child receives certain payments or allowances, such as for example Youth Allowance. Please refer to the websites noted below for further information on the eligibility criteria.

How much can be claimed

You can claim 50% of eligible education expenses up to the maximum amounts. For the 2010-11 financial year the maximum amounts are:

- **Primary school student**: if you spend up to $794 on eligible education expenses, you can claim a maximum refund of $397 for each primary school child you have.

- **Secondary school student**: if you spend up to $1,588 on eligible education expenses, you can claim a maximum refund of $794 for each secondary school child.

Eligible Education Expenses

**WHAT ITEMS CAN I CLAIM?**

Eligible education expenses, for the purpose of the ETR include the cost of buying, establishing, repairing and maintaining any of the following items:

- Laptops and home computers,
- Computer-related equipment such as printers, USB flash drives, disability computer equipment aids for students with special needs,
- Computer repairs
- Home internet connections,
- Computer software for educational use, including word processing, spreadsheet, database and presentation software, internet filters and antivirus software,
- School textbooks and other paper based school learning material, including prescribed textbooks, associated learning materials, study guides and stationery, and
- Prescribed trade tools for secondary school trade courses
WHAT ITEMS CAN’T I CLAIM?
You cannot claim:

- School uniform expenses (uniforms purchased after 1 July 2011 will be claimable in the 2011-12 financial year, subject to legislation)
- School fees
- Student attendance at school-based extra-curricular activities such as excursions and camps
- Tutoring costs
- Sporting equipment
- Musical instruments
- School subject levies – for example, payment for consumables for particular subjects such as woodwork, art or home science
- Building levies
- Library book fees
- School photos
- Donations
- Tuck shop expenses
- Waiting list fees
- Transport
- Membership fees, and
- Computer games and consoles

Claiming the ETR
The ETR can be claimed at item T8 in your Tax return for individuals 2011. If you don’t have to lodge a tax return you can claim using the Education tax refund for individuals 2011 form, which can be downloaded from the Australian Taxation Office website www.ato.gov.au. Remember to keep your receipts.

Further Information
Parents are encouraged to refer to the Government website www.educationtaxrefund.gov.au or Australian Taxation Office website www.ato.gov.au for information in relation to the ETR. The Australian Taxation Office can also be contacted on 13 2861.

If after referring to the above websites for information, parents believe they are eligible to make an ETR claim, please contact the School Office to obtain further information in relation to which school fees may be eligible for inclusion in an ETR claim.

Please note the school is not qualified to offer advice to individuals about taxation matters and recommends that independent professional tax advice from a registered tax agent should be sought to determine any eligibility for an entitlement to the Education Tax Refund
Dear Parent or Carer

Re: Measles in secondary schools

Measles is currently circulating in NSW and outbreaks have recently occurred in high school students. I am asking for your assistance in helping the school prepare in the event that someone in the school develops the infection.

NSW Health recommends that:
➢ Children should be fully immunised against measles. Two doses of measles, mumps, rubella (MMR) vaccine are needed for full protection. The vaccine is free from GPs and is usually given at 12 months and at 4 years. If your child has not received two doses of MMR or you are not sure, please see your GP to get vaccinated.

➢ If parents are unsure whether their child has received two doses of MMR as scheduled, they should call Medicare Australia on 1800 653 809 or check with the child’s general practitioner.

If measles is detected at the school
Children who are not immunised are at risk of infection or may be incubating measles and outbreaks in schools can continue infecting other susceptible children. Therefore, if there is a case of measles in a high school, the public health unit may recommend that unimmunised children stay home from school until the outbreak has been contained.

Measles - background information
Measles is a serious viral infection and spreads easily. The first symptoms are fever, tiredness, cough, runny nose, sore red eyes and feeling unwell. A few days later a rash appears. The rash starts on the face, spreads down to the body and lasts for 4-7 days.

About a third of people with measles develop complications including ear infections, diarrhoea and pneumonia. About one in every 1000 develop encephalitis (inflammation of the brain).

MMR vaccine is extremely effective in protecting against measles mumps and rubella and is usually given at 12 months and at 4 years of age. Two doses of vaccine will usually give lifelong protection against measles. MMR vaccine is available free from your general practitioner.