Dear Families and Friends of the St Pius X Community,

Decision on Use of Insurance Money
Mr Mowbray, Assistant Director of Catholic Schools and Mr Whitnall, Head of the Facilities Team at the Catholic Schools Office (CSO) attended the P&F Meeting on Tuesday 3 December to announce the decision on how the insurance money from the Sr Marie Hall fire would be best spent.

Mr Whitnall outlined the community consultation process that was undertaken, the suggestions that were made and the analysis of and research into the various options. The community consultation included a meeting of the P&F Executive and a sub-committee with the Director of Catholic Schools, Mr Collins. Briefly, the main options for use of the insurance money were:

1. Rebuild a school community hall of the same size as the one lost.
2. Use the funds to do some classroom refurbishment and some infrastructure improvements – roadways & car parks.
3. Enclose & upgrade the existing Bus Shelter to create a Hall space large enough to seat the whole school.
4. Erect a demountable-style Hall large enough to seat the whole school.
5. Build a substantial and aesthetically appropriate Hall large enough to seat the whole school.

The brief comments that follow are meant only to summarise the main ideas expressed about each option. The brevity of the comments should in no way be taken as an indication of the amount of consideration each option was given.

No.1 above maximizes funding from the Insurer, Catholic Church Insurances (CCI). It gives us back what we lost – a space for form liturgies & meetings, community days and parent meetings.

No.2 above would certainly provide facilities – roads & car parking – that will never be funded by any grant.

No.3 above would be possible with the money but would forever look like a half-baked job – we would have a whole-school hall with no toilets, no kitchen, low roof, no covered walkways for access in poor weather and so on.

No.4 above would be possible with the money but was considered inappropriate for a secondary school in this Diocese. What we would get is a shell with limited internal fittings. The school would then have to fund improvements over a period of years and in the end would still finish with a barn-like structure of inferior quality.

No.5 above is not possible with the insurance money. Such a structure would cost around 2 to 3 million dollars. We will get $600-$700 thousand dollars from CCI. The school does not have the difference sitting in the bank. The school is not allowed to borrow the difference and if we did borrow parents would then be slugged a large annual fee – a hall levy – on top of all other fees for years to come in order to pay off the loan.

The options the school was given to choose between were options 1 & 2. We have gone with option 1 because that
regains what we have lost. Option 2 was not one that was supported by many in the community.

The CSO will now go ahead and plan a new hall of similar size to Sr Marie Hall that we can use as a school community space. It will be designed in such a way that it will be appropriate and easy to use as a school chapel as well as for student/parent/staff meetings and activities. It will be sufficiently large to seat 250-300 people.

The exact location of the new hall on our campus will be determined in consultation with the architect, Justin Hamilton (the same architect currently planning our Stage 2 works). The area currently fenced off will be landscaped and beautified.

The timeline for this planning and works is probably around 8 months.

I think it will be a very good result to regain a hall space like Sr Marie Hall. It will enable our school community once again to do many of the things we have struggled to do since losing Sr Marie Hall.

Class of '72 Special Award
The St Pius X & St Anne’s Class of ’72 were together recently for their 40th reunion. At that reunion there was much discussion around the state of the Catholic Church at the moment and in particular the amount of negative publicity around St Pius X HS. The media paint such a dark and dismal picture of life at St Pius back in the 70’s.

On the night, the feeling was strongly expressed that in spite of the bad things that are now known to have happened, the vast majority of students at St Pius had a good experience of school. Certainly, the members of the Class of ’72 have extremely fond memories of their time at school. These ex-students have gone on to enjoyable and successful careers in a myriad of different fields but what unites them still as a group is a very real sense of having shared a positive, inspiring and life-giving education. They still share a deep sense of connectedness and family.

Out of this discussion came a desire to donate a monetary prize of some kind to current students of St Pius X. After discussions with the school it was decided to donate a monetary prize to a Year 10 student who has faced adversity and triumphed. At the Year 10 Graduation Liturgy this week a prize of $200 will be presented to Samuel Beal-Attwood who is certainly a most deserving recipient.

Thank you on behalf of the school to the whole Class of ’72 from St Anne’s & St Pius X for your kind and thoughtful donation and for your continued support of St Pius X.

Acknowledgement of Staff
I want to make special mention of all the staff of St Pius at this time. I want to acknowledge and thank all staff for their tireless efforts and good humour throughout this year. It has been very tough. The building program and fire have added much complexity to this school year. Conditions have been less than perfect but staff have taken this in their stride and continued to provide quality teaching and learning experiences for their students. I offer a huge well done and my heartfelt thanks to all staff for your professionalism, dedication and support of each other throughout this year.

Reports
Semester II Reports will be included in the Award Folders presented to students at the Awards Ceremonies on Wednesday 19 December. Should your child miss this day, Reports can be collected from the school on Thursday 20
December. Any Reports not collected by 3.10pm on Thursday 20 December will be available to your child in Morning Care Group on their first day back next year.

**Professional Development Days**
Thursday 20 December and Friday 21 December will be **pupil free** Staff Professional Development Days. Staff will complete their First Aid & CPR updates and participate in Faculty planning for 2013 on these days.

**Start of School 2013**
Tuesday 29 January – Staff Professional Development (pupil free day)
Wednesday 30 January – Year 7 and Year 10 Peer Support Leaders
Thursday 31 January – Whole school returns

**Merry Christmas**
I offer to all staff, parents, carers and students, my thanks for your efforts throughout this year. In spite of some obvious difficulties, this year has been a very exciting and productive one. I wish each of you a happy and holy Christmas and a safe, relaxing and refreshing holiday.

Robert Emery
Principal

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**Year 10**
Graduation Ceremony
Thursday 13 December 6.30pm for a 7.00pm start
Griffith Duncan Theatre

**Presentation Day**
Wednesday 19 December
In the Theatre
(Please park in the top carpark)
Year 7 – 9.00am to 10.30am
Year 8 – 11.30am to 1.00pm
Year 9 – 1.30pm to 2.30pm

**St Francis Xavier’s College**
Second Hand Uniforms
We offer a parent to parent contact through our website
www.hmltn.mn.catholic.edu.au

**Step 1**
Click on the ‘Product Catalogue’ link on the website (bottom left).

**Step 2**
To view items, login. Click on ‘Login Here’ (blue after the 3rd paragraph)
Username: hml.homeshare
Password: hml3032

**Step 3**
Click on the second hand clothing icon (left under Categories).

**Step 4**
Phone or email the parent from the list.

If you have any problems please contact the College on phone number 4961 2863.

*This is not a school managed initiative!*

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**Year 9 Parents**
Please ensure you return page 11 of the 1:1 Laptop Agreement to your child’s Care Group Teacher as soon as possible and certainly before the end of the school year. This agreement must be signed by both parents and students.
Pastoral Care
The grateful child – Can we teach our kids the art of gratitude?

Probably one of the more difficult lessons to teach our children is the art of gratitude. Can we in fact teach them to sit back, take stock of all they have and be grateful? Can it come only from having little and gaining more, or can we in fact be grateful even when we have always been blessed with so much?

We ply our children with every new toy, gadget and experience, leave them wanting for very little, then wonder why they have little real empathy for those who have less. Is it any wonder that constant exposure to adults and role models who are always wanting or needing that little bit extra, that our children find it difficult to differentiate between material wealth and inner contentment? Can we blame them when they are so often privy to statements such as, “when I get a new car, house, handbag, necklace, job, dress or ipad....I will be much happier.” Sure, there is nothing wrong with having goals and desires, even material ones, for these are the objectives that can help keep us motivated. It is when all the other things that we do have are forgotten about, that the less glamorous and often destructive notion of ‘ungratefulness’ creeps in.

For children who are blessed with loving parents, a comfortable lifestyle and access to an array of support, resources and opportunity, it is important that we grab any moments that we can to remind them of all they have. By this however, I do not mean simply a constant referral to the poor kids and all those less fortunate than them, as this can be a difficult concept, particularly for the very young. So what else to do then to teach our children to be grateful?

We can get them to write gratitude diaries to focus on all they have to be thankful. This could also be a simple point form note at the end of the day or week to remind them of all the great things in their lives. We can assign them chores so that they understand the value of work and hence they appreciate the work others do for them. We can get them to volunteer for organisations or for people less fortunate. We can have them write thank you notes for people who have given them a gift or somehow made an impact on their lives. And we can act as a role model by always showing gratitude ourselves.

But probably the most effective way of teaching our children the art of gratitude is to just say “no.”

Sometimes even when it is possible, even when we have the means to give them what they want, we need to say “no” just because.

Jacqui Hindmarsh
Pastoral Care Worker
Source: themodernparent.net
Careers

Thanks to the following Year 10 students who represented the school so well last Friday on the Careers ME Excursion. Thanks to Ben Balcomb, Josh Brooks, Lachlan Deverell, Kade Hancock, Thomas Hawes, Shaun O’Connor, Joel Oliver, Jess Swain and Isaac Slater for being great ambassadors for St Pius. This year St Pius has been involved in the ME (Manufacturing and Education) Program which saw students undertake training in programming production lines using pneumatic and relay logic, industrial grade sensors and pneumatic actuators. The program is funded by Defence Material Organisation and aims to encourage students’ interest in Maths, Science and Engineering Careers. On Friday students visited THALES at Garden Island Naval Base in Sydney to see how maths and science is used in actual career settings. The students have all enjoyed the 2012 Program of the TTIM Project at Maitland along with Friday’s excursion. The program will run differently in 2013 so watch for information early in the new year.

Helen Wilks, Peter Wall- TTIM Trainer and Rita- Mechanical Engineer from Portugal working in Australia with THALES in the Reliability and Maintenance Section. Rita emphasised the importance of Maths and Science study at school level to produce effective and creative engineers for the future.

Lachlan, Joel, Isaac and Jesse with one of the Engineers at THALES Garden Island.
I would like to take this opportunity to bid farewell to the 2012 Year 10 cohort. It has been delightful to work with such mature young people this year. Quite a few students are moving to employment and I wish them the best of luck for their future careers. I also wish the students continuing their studies into Year 11/12 the very best. I hope they get great satisfaction from studying their specific subjects. The HSC offers students the ability to concentrate their studies on their interests and prepare themselves for further studying at TAFE or University. As they study their specific subjects their ideas and view of the world expand helping make them insightful leaders of tomorrow. I have really enjoyed getting to know all the Year 10 students. They are open and truthful, with wonderful empathy for others.

Helen Wilks
Career Development Practitioner- Newcastle Junior Catholic High Schools
President- Hunter Valley Careers Advisers Association
0409 326961
helen.wilks@mn.catholic.edu.au

T20 Cricket Competition

Fun, fast and exciting is how the kids are describing the local T20 Cricket Competition! Grab some mates and come and join the exciting new 20/20 competition. Haven’t played cricket before? Doesn’t matter! T20 is all about maximum fun and participation for all players in batting, bowling and fielding.

Played Wednesday evenings from 5.00pm at Adamstown Park, Adamstown.
Game time: Approx. 2 hours
No uniform required - all cricket gear supplied at the venue.
Ages 9 to 17
8 players per team on the field, but you can have more players in your team.
Team or individual registrations welcome.
Starts second week in February.
Cost - New players $50, returning players $20
For registrations or further information please call Sharyn Beck on 0400 724491 or email administrator@newcric.org.au
**Sporting News**

**Athletics**

Rose Davies recently travelled to Hobart to compete at the Australian All Schools Athletics Championships in the U14’s 1500m event. She finished 3rd with a personal best time of 4.38 - 2 seconds behind the winner from Victoria.

Rose qualified by winning the NSW ALLschools event with a new record 4.42. Rose will now be travelling to Perth next March after qualifying for the Australian Junior Championships. Well done Rose!

*David Pitfield*

Representative Sport

**Music Department**

“*The Factory*” is alive with the sound of music........

Over the last week, our new Theatre, “The Factory”, has been used to its full potential by the many talented musicians and performers of our school.

On Friday night, 30 November, our Music and Performing Arts students presented “*One Love*” – a collection of musical items. From amazing vocals of soloists and vocal groups, the melodious sounds of violins and piano to the thunder of drums and rock bands, the students truly entertained their parents, relatives and friends. Our champion cheerleaders also presented their routine, leaving many of us hanging on the end of our seats as they demonstrated their many skills and talent.

The VET Entertainment students who ran the front and back of house duties, canteen and raffles, are also to be congratulated on their professionalism and this helped with the smooth running of the concert.

All students are to be congratulated on the hours of preparation, dedication and cooperation they demonstrated. We, at St Pius, are very proud of you.

Special thanks goes also to our teachers who dedicated many hours in rehearsals and sharing their many talents with the students. Mrs Lunarzewski and Mrs Elgar-Roberts are to be congratulated on their efforts which are much appreciated by the St Pius community. Thanks also to the talented Ms Quarello for coaching our champion cheer team. We need to also thank our tutors, Nicole Cox (violin), Josh Holliday (drums) and Jim McIntyre (guitar). Thanks to Ms O’Donohue for help in the canteen.
All proceeds from the night, including a successful raffle the students organised, will help with payment for a beautiful grand piano that we took delivery of just recently.

On Wednesday 5 December, the Year 10 Elective Music class had an opportunity to perform their end of year performance items to some of our Year 7, 9 and 10 students. These very talented students amazed us with a mixture of original compositions and cover music, displaying their skills with a variety of instruments as well as captivating vocals.

Thank you to Year 10 for being part of the St Pius X Music Department. We wish you luck in all your future endeavours. Thanks also to their teachers Ms Burrage and Ms Elgar-Roberts.

Some photos from “One Love”.

A Big Thank You to Nicole Cox from Newcastle Suzuki Violin who donated the proceeds from her yearly concert to St Pius X. Nicole this week presented a cheque for $4690.00. The St Pius Community is truly thankful to Nicole and her students for this very generous donation. These funds will go towards payment of our beautiful new grand piano.

Gabriella Smith
Creative & Performing Arts Coordinator.
The Uniform Shop
(02) 4957 7651
stpius@alinta.com.au

JANUARY SHOP OPENING TIMES

Monday 21st January 2013 8.00am – 12.00pm
Wednesday 23rd January 2013 8.00am – 12.00pm

Normal shop hours resume
Wednesday 30th January 2013: 2.30pm – 4.30pm

To help keep your trip to the Uniform Shop in January as short as possible, and to avoid long queues and delays, we recommend that January only be used for pick-ups – please make your fitting appointments for December.

Uniform price list & online shopping available at:
www.alintaapparel.com.au
# St Pius X High School Uniform Shop

**Shop Convenor: Kylie Delaney**  
**Phone:** (02) 4957 7652 (shop hours)  
**E-mail:** stpius@alinta.com.au  
**Web:** www.alintaapparel.com.au

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**OPERATING HOURS**  
- **School Term**  
  - Monday 10:30am – 12:30pm  
  - Wednesday 2:30pm – 4:30pm

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### BOYS UNIFORM: 7 - 10

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<tr>
<th>Item</th>
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<tr>
<td>S/S Formal Shirt</td>
<td>All Sizes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Formal Shorts</td>
<td>All Sizes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Formal Trousers</td>
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### GIRLS UNIFORM: 7 - 10

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### WINTER UNIFORM

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<td></td>
<td>18 - 28</td>
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<td>Polar Fleece Top</td>
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### ACCESSORIES

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<td>School Socks - long blue</td>
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<td>Microfibre Tights - grey</td>
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<td>Leather Belt</td>
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### SALE

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<tr>
<td>Girls Fitted Pants</td>
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<td>$20.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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### SHOES

**School Shoes** — to be black lace-up, able to be polished leather school shoes which do not extend over the ankle or have a platform. The leather should cover the whole upper foot for safety. Boots, joggers and sneakers are not permitted.

**Sports Shoes/PE Practical** — to be predominantly white, and should have laces or velcro straps, and be supportive of the feet during exercise.

### PLEASE NOTE

- Sizes available:  
  - Primary School: Boys J4 – XS & Girls J4 – LB  
  - Secondary School: Boys J10 – 3XL & Girls J10 – L20
- Sizes not carried are available by order, however, production time (usually 90 days) must be allowed, and a 50% non-refundable deposit made upon order.
- For sizes 4XL and L22 and over, a $10 surcharge will apply

**Payments can be made with Cash, Credit Card or Debit Credit Cards only.**

Please contact your bank regarding individual access and availability of these facilities.

3/09/2012  2:33 PM  
Prices subject to change without notice
The Uniform Shop
(02) 4962 4423
stfrancisxaviers@alinta.com.au

JANUARY SHOP OPENING TIMES

Thursday 24th January 2013 8.00am – 4.00pm
Tuesday 29th January 2013 8.30am – 12.30pm
Wednesday 30th January 2013 8.30am – 12.30pm
Thursday 31st January 2013 8.00am – 12.30pm

Normal shop hours resume
Tuesday 5th February 2013: 8.30am – 12.30pm

To help keep your trip to the Uniform Shop in January as short as possible, and to avoid long queues and delays, we recommend that January only be used for pick-ups – please make your fitting appointments for December.

Uniform price list & online shopping available at:
www.alintaapparel.com.au
Second Hand Uniforms

A large number of parents have expressed the need to have second hand uniforms available. St Pius X High School will be running a new service which will enable all parents to buy/sell second hand uniform items. The service will work in the following way:

1. Parent/s will fill out a form with the details of the item/s required to buy/sell and supply a contact number. This form will be available from reception, or alternatively you may email your details to admin@adamstownsp.catholic.edu.au.

2. These details will then be advertised in a special “Second Hand Uniform” section which will be on the back page of each newsletter, which commences with this Newsletter.

3. The advertisement will run for a month or two editions of the newsletter.

4. Parent/s will simply contact the number supplied and deal direct with the person buying/selling.

Please note that no second hand uniform items will be kept by St Pius X High School.

For any further information regarding Second Hand Uniforms please contact reception.

Second Hand Uniforms

Name (optional):...........................................................................................................

☐ Buy  ☐ Sell (please tick)

Item:........................................................................................................................................
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Contact Number:.............................................................................................................
## Second Hand Uniforms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<th>Items</th>
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<td>Jenny</td>
<td>0413 756 705</td>
<td>Jumper</td>
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<td>Sell</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Jumper</td>
<td>Size 12</td>
<td>Sell</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Girls Shirt</td>
<td>Size 14</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Girls Skirt x 2</td>
<td>Size 12/14</td>
<td>Sell</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Boys Shirts</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Trackpants</td>
<td>M &amp; L</td>
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<td>2xS, J14, 1xS</td>
<td>Sell</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
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<td></td>
<td>Sports Shirts</td>
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<td>Justine</td>
<td>0432 119 657</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Jumper</td>
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<td>Jumper</td>
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<td>0409 952 321</td>
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