Dear Families and Friends of the St Pius X Community,

Lent already! Yes, indeed it is. This Wednesday is Ash Wednesday. Each Care Group will take part in a special Ash Wednesday prayer service to mark the beginning of the Lenten Season. Lent, the 40 days before Easter Sunday, is a season of the Church calendar set aside for Christians to prepare for the celebration of the most important event in history – the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Lent is clearly a very important time and we should all make a concerted effort to prepare for Easter Sunday. So, where can we get some inspiration that may help us to make a real effort this Lent?

Traditionally, at Lent, the Church presents us with the three penitential activities of prayer, fasting (self-denial) and almsgiving (charitable works) as essential elements to help us prepare for Easter. I encourage everyone to engage in these practices throughout Lent. Prayer helps to develop our relationship with our God. Fasting and almsgiving helps us to build solidarity with the poor and the hungry and in so doing also builds a closer relationship between ourselves and God.

Local Parishes run Lenten Programs. Contact your Parish and ask how to get involved. These programs are excellent!

If you are not a Mass attendee, why not make a special effort over Lent to get along to a weekend Mass in your local Parish. You will be most welcome!

Go online and read the Pope’s Lenten Message for 2012 – just Google “Pope’s Lenten Message 2012”. This message calls us to be concerned for one another and "not to remain isolated and indifferent" to the fate of others. Pope Benedict XVI reminds us that materialism and a sense of self-sufficiency are obstacles to a Christian life of charity. Instead of looking first to God and then to the well-being of others, people often have an attitude of "indifference and disinterest born of selfishness and masked as a respect for 'privacy.'"

Take the time out of our busy lives to read some scripture. Reading small sections of the Gospels and then reflecting upon what we have read and how it speaks to us is very uplifting and motivational. This is a form of prayer in itself and can lead us to pray more frequently and deeply than perhaps we are normally inclined to do.

Lent is an excellent opportunity to try some family prayer. This takes a great deal of determination and persistence to achieve in this modern, busy, secular world, where families often do not even have meals together. The benefits, however, in terms of family bonding and role modelling from parents can be well worth the effort.

Lent is a season of challenge. It is a challenge to that comfortable feeling lots of us develop that our relationship with God is OK just as it is. If we make the effort to respond to the challenge by actively participating in Lent, we open our lives to a stronger relationship with our God.
Minimum Lenten Obligations for all Catholics in Australia:

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday
Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fasting and abstinence from meat. All who have completed their 18th year and have not yet begun their 60th year are bound to fast. All who have completed their 14th year are bound to abstain (Canon 1252).

Fridays of Lent
On all other Fridays, we are required to perform any one of the following:
Prayer: for example, Mass attendance; family prayer; a visit to a church or chapel; reading the Bible; making the Stations of the Cross; praying the Rosary; or in other ways.
Self-denial: for example, not eating meat; not eating sweets or dessert; giving up entertainment to spend time with the family; limiting food and drink so as to give to the poor of one's own country or elsewhere; or in other ways. Project Compassion is a great means of expressing our self-denial in Australia.
Helping others: for example, special attention to someone who is poor, sick, elderly, lonely, grieving or over-burdened; or in other ways.

Safety Online
It is timely at the start of a new school year to remind parents of the necessity to be very aware of what your children are doing online. Be aware of the "Tumblr Website". It is not new but it is yet another online source of potential cyber-bullying. Tumblr lets kids share anything – post text, photos, quotes, links, music and videos from their browser, phone, desktop, email, etc. The site itself is not the problem. It is the use the site gets put to that can be a problem.

Enjoy the week!

Robert Emery
Principal

From the Curriculum Desk
Assessment Handbooks
The Assessment Handbook for each Year will be distributed shortly. Each handbook contains the rules and procedures governing Assessment at St Pius X, a summary of the tasks for each subject and a calendar outline of the weeks in which students can expect the tasks and exams to be completed.
Please ask your son or daughter to show you the handbook. It is a valuable resource when used to plan home learning.
A copy of each handbook is always kept on the school portal.

Curriculum Information Evening for Parents of Year 7 Students
There will be an Information Evening for parents of Year 7 students on Tuesday 28 February in Sr Marie Hall beginning at 7.00pm. The focus of the evening is to explain what is taking place in class and to assist parents help with this aspect of the transition into high school. Topics discussed include use of textbooks and technology, Assessment Tasks, exams, homework, study and the assistance provided.
The Studies Coordinators will be present to answer subject-specific questions.
The evening will conclude at 8.00pm.

Information Evening for Parents of Year 10 students
The School Certificate may be gone but ROSA has replaced it. This evening will outline for parents what the Record of Student Achievement means for students in Year 10. It will also cover the requirements of the Assessment program here at St Pius X, because this aspect of Year 10 has not changed.
Some discussion of the changes to education that have resulted from the 1:1 computer program will also take place.
The evening will be held in Sr Marie Hall on Tuesday 6 March beginning at 7.00pm. It will conclude at 8.00pm.
Home Learning
More than just a catch-phrase, Home Learning is an attempt to have everyone recognise the importance of what is done at home. Here at St Pius X we are encouraging students to take greater responsibility over their own learning. In doing so, it is hoped that students move away from a “pupil” mentality (Tell me what to do and when to do it) to a “student” mentality (I need to do this and I will prepare in this way).

The student planner has a significant role to play. We use it as a resource and each subject teaches lessons from it. By now, students would have completed an evaluation of their performance last year, done some goal setting and will soon be preparing study timetables. Later in the semester they will evaluate their progress and the focus will become preparing for exams.

The Assessment Handbook describes three different types of Home Learning which is particularly useful for parents of students in Years 8, 9 and 10. The results of a survey I conducted within the school two years ago highlighted how time spent on work completed at home dipped significantly in Year 8 and by Year 10 was only starting to return to levels common among Year 7 students. This was no way to prepare for the rigours of senior high school.

Our aim is to help the students acquire the skills and attitudes that will enable them to see “no homework” as an opportunity to deepen their understanding of the material covered in class.

You might like to have a look at the student planner. Just ask your daughter or son to get it out of their bag!

Stephen Dunn
Dean of Studies

Ministry Update
Commissioning of Leaders
St Pius X School Leaders will be commissioned on 1 March at a special ceremony attended by CSO delegates and local parish priests. Parents of our leaders should have also received their invitation and are encouraged to RSVP as soon as possible.

Year 10 Retreat
This year the Retreat will run from 21 – 23 March. Information was sent out via Australia Post to parents last week regarding the experience. If you did not receive the information overviewing: payment, packing, behaviour contract and other special details please email me as soon as possible. It is a rewarding experience for all involved and we appreciate your ongoing support. Please call or email if you foresee the payment schedule becoming a problem.

A typing error exists on the information package sent home. The total cost of Year 10 Retreat remains the same: $220.00. However, there was a deposit of $50.00 and a balance of $170.00 due on 2 March. This was to reduce the strain on families in the lead up to Christmas. We apologise for any inconvenience this misinformation may have caused.

Taree Leadership Day
School and House Captains will be attending a Leadership Day focusing on social justice issues at St Clare’s High School on Wednesday 7 March. The CSO is covering the cost of transport for the day and a late decision has been made to provide a BBQ lunch for the students. The school’s canteen will also be available on the day. All Captains are expected to attend and enough seats have now been reserved on the bus for this to happen. Please return the permission note by Friday 24 February.
St Vincent de Paul
All students are encouraged to join this exciting group of movers and shakers. It is going to be a great year and the first official function, the Project Compassion Launch at St Patrick’s, Swansea, will be attended by a selection of Year 9 and Year 10 representatives.

Year 7 Community Day
A note went home with students last week regarding the Community Day on Monday 5 March. The day will be facilitated by Mr Chris Doyle of KARIS Ministry who provides unique and memorable programs using very creative, active and enjoyable strategies. A BBQ lunch will be available for purchase on the day for a small cost.

Vietnam
Staff and students are busy getting organised this term for the trip to Vietnam in Term 2. There are fundraisers, preparation days and lots of training to be done! Please be supportive of these members of our school community as they work toward a life changing immersion and experience of social justice work. The compulsory overnight training expedition for all participants is from 9.00am Sunday 29 April to 4.00pm Monday 30 April 2012. This is a great opportunity to impart skills and check that our equipment and clothing are adequate. It will include trekking in the Benowie Regional Park, Hornsby (The Great North Walk). Keep that weekend free in your diary. The Monday is a school day in the second week of Term 2.

Recycling
Over the next few weeks recycling bins will be getting rolled out in our school playground. They are co-mingled bins the same as a yellow lidded bins currently used by Newcastle City Council residences. Students need to follow correct usage instructions for these bins to avoid contamination of this recyclable waste. Cans, plastic bottles, paper and cardboard can all be placed in the bin but NO FOOD OR DRINK IS EVER TO BE PLACED IN THERE!

Sustainability
Two staff members will be attending a School Sustainability Workshop at the Wetlands Centre on 1 March. These staff members will be learning about Integrating Sustainability and the Quality Teaching Model. School case studies and local initiatives will also be presented and these will be of benefit to us here at St Pius X as we continue in the pursuit of becoming a more sustainable community.

Swamp
The school swamp area has undergone part one of its transformation, with the removal of truckloads of invasive trees and weeds. We are now looking for any members of our community who might have access to a long reach excavator to remove any remaining waste from the depths of the area. If you have any contacts or information please email me (see below). The next step will be to begin planting local and indigenous plants and grasses.

New Appointment
We welcome into our school community Mrs Helene O’Neill who has been appointed Parish - Family Liaison Officer by the Catholic Schools Office. Together we will work on strengthening the bonds of families in our community with local parishes and already we have several great ideas to execute this year. Any members of the school or local parish communities who are looking for more involvement please email me.

Life Teen
Please read the advertisement in this Newsletter and get involved in this great initiative.

Clean Up Australia
Students from our school will be participating in this event on Friday 2 March.

Amanda Mohr
Acting Ministry Coordinator
amanda.mohr@mn.catholic.edu.au
Learning Support

**Department**

**Irlen Syndrome**

There are a number of students within our school who have been diagnosed with Irlen Syndrome. These students have significant difficulty accessing any print material. These students often require specific adjustments and support such as wearing tinted glasses and utilising coloured paper. A letter has been sent home to the parents of these students whom we have on record as requiring these adjustments. The letter has a return slip requesting additional information. Please return these to me within the next two weeks if possible, so that teachers have the most up-to-date information. If you do not receive the letter within a week and your child has a diagnosis of Irlen Syndrome, please contact me on 40132636 or email me.

Susan Price
Learning Support Coordinator
susan.price@mn.catholic.edu.au

Japanese Sister School Program

As many of you are aware, in the past (since 1990) St Pius X High School has conducted a successful exchange program with Uminohoshi Secondary School in Hamamatsu, Japan. This exchange program is a wonderful opportunity for our students to immerse themselves in the language and culture of Japan. It has great potential to benefit our students both academically and socially. This year we have invited Year 9 students to participate in the program.

The program involves a ten to twelve day trip to Japan with students being hosted by the girls of Uminohoshi High School in Hamamatsu for approximately five days. The trip would take place in the last weeks of Term 3. I have called for students to collect an expression of interest letter from me this week so that I can make further enquiries regarding itinerary and most importantly costing. I may be contacted at school or by email if you have any further enquiries.

Gabriella Smith
Studies Coordinator
Gabriella.smith@mn.catholic.edu.au

Careers

‘Careers in Mining’ Dinner

If you are a student in Year 10 who is interested in working in the Mining Industry you may like to attend one of the NSW Minerals Council’s ‘Careers in Mining’ Dinners. This is an informal and interactive evening which provides an appetiser for those considering enrolment in minerals related tertiary courses, or indeed for those who are undecided about their careers and/or university options. You will hear first-hand from undergraduates and graduates from mining related courses about their chosen career pathways, their experiences, both
at university and in the industry as well as the variety of career opportunities available in the minerals industry, both in NSW and globally. There will also be a chance to speak one-on-one to university staff and representatives from local mining companies and ask your questions. For more information please email education@nswmin.com.au or contact Chrissie Clarke on 02 92741423.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>When:</th>
<th>Monday 19 March 2012</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Where:</td>
<td>Noah’s on the Beach</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Cnr Shortland Esplanade and Zara Street, Newcastle</td>
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<td>Time:</td>
<td>Please arrive by 5.50pm. Presentations commence at 6.00pm sharp. Evening concludes at 9.15pm.</td>
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**Work Experience**

Any Year 10 student hoping to start an apprenticeship next year rather than going to Years 11/12 may wish to take part in the Work Experience program this year. Please collect an Information Sheet/Permission Note from Ms Wilks in the Careers Room or Student Services. Notes are due back 24 February.

**Defence Talks for interested Year 10 Students**

The Navy, Army and Air Force are recruiting for a range of positions in TRADES and ENGINEERING. So if great pay, travel and professional development opportunities, the chance to work in a focused team environment and a whole lot of adventure sounds like a task you need to accept, then come to the next Information Session to see where your skills could take you. You can also take the opportunity to come along if interested in finding out further information, education requirements and recruiting process. For further details please contact Crystal Norman – cnorman@dfr.com.au.

Presenters on the evening: Lt Stephen Miller, Marine Engineer – Specialist Recruitment and Warrant Officer 2 Shane Hahesy – Technical Trades and Apprenticeships Specialist.

**School Defence Talks**

On Monday 2 April (last week of term), members of the Defence Force are coming to the school to talk about career and education opportunities and entry to the ADF. Year 10 students interested in attending can contact Ms Wilks at school every Tuesday and Wednesday or via e-mail.

**Tax File Number Applications**

Don’t forget that students can apply for the Tax File Number through the school. The process is easier than applying through the Tax Office and students then have their number ready for when they need it- casual job, youth allowance etc. Applications can be collected from Student Services and must be returned to me at school. I process and send in applications every Monday when I am at school. This number doesn’t ever expire so I encourage all students to complete an application now and store it in their portfolio for when needed.

Thanks
Helen Wilks
Careers Adviser
helen.wilks@mn.catholic.edu.au
Phone: 0409 326961

**LIFE-TEEN**

Next Life Teen Night: for high school teens in years 8-12
Wednesday 29th February
6.30pm Food
7.00 – 8.30pm Life Night
St Philip’s Parish Hall Kotara

Life Teen Youth Masses:
Sunday 19th February and
Sunday 4th March 5.45pm
St Therese’s Church, New Lambton
Followed by Tea and Biscuits served by the youth
From the Canteen
St Pius X High School caters for over 1000 students, on a day to day basis we struggle to staff the canteen. It is often the case that during lunch and afternoon tea break students are missing out or have to be turned away from the canteen as there is not enough staff to serve the students.
Volunteers are desperately needed to help in the canteen, if you could spare even an hour please contact Mrs Helen Mulligan or Mrs Janelle Oliver at the school on 49 57 1032.

Canteen Roster
If you are unable to attend your allotted day please contact either Helen Mulligan or Janelle Oliver on 4957 1032.

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<tr>
<th>Monday 27 February</th>
<th>Tuesday 28 February</th>
<th>Wednesday 29 February</th>
<th>Thursday 1 March</th>
<th>Friday 2 March</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Francine Webber</td>
<td>Helen Farrell</td>
<td>Catherine Ryan</td>
<td>Michelle Smith</td>
<td>Zelica Batkovic</td>
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<td>Louise Gow</td>
<td>Rachel Soars</td>
<td>Janice Ryan</td>
<td>Clare Howlett</td>
<td>Melinda Cook</td>
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<td>Tamasella Consani</td>
<td>Vanderburg</td>
<td>Kelly Branois</td>
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<td>Louise Noonan</td>
<td>Janine Trappel</td>
<td>Sandy Mantach</td>
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<td>Leanne O’Leary</td>
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<td>Di Davis</td>
<td>Anne Marie Sheridan</td>
<td>Linda Curk</td>
<td>Louise Ptolemy</td>
<td>Sue Morrissey</td>
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<td>Deanne March</td>
<td>Vicki Scuilli</td>
<td>Amanda Best</td>
<td>Patsy Maher</td>
<td>Rebecca Smith</td>
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<td>Leanne de Groot</td>
<td>Christine/Fran</td>
<td>Ala Marks</td>
<td>Leanne Haberl</td>
<td>Kerry Walker</td>
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<td>Tracey Brinkman</td>
<td>Kay O’Rouke</td>
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Important Dates for your Diary

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<tr>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>23 February</th>
<th>School Swimming Carnival</th>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>2 March</td>
<td>Students participating in Clean Up Australia Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>5 March</td>
<td>Year 7 Community Day</td>
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Uniform Policy
At St Pius it is expected that students wear the uniform correctly at all times. There are very good reasons for this. The uniform creates a common ground so that students and families should not feel pressured into having to provide or wear items of clothing that are considered to be the “must have” pieces of the current trend. Having a uniform should be a symbol of equality, an identification that we all belong to this community on equal grounds. There are also safety issues relating to various subjects where certain items are required for safety. This is why we have closed-in black leather shoes as they are durable for everyday wear and also meet OH&S standards for practical subjects such as metal work. In PDHPE, shoes need to cover the whole foot, be supportive, and have leather or similar uppers so that students are able to participate comfortably and with a reduced risk of injury.

Wearing the uniform correctly is not an onerous or unreasonable expectation. Our children do it all the time as part of sporting teams, in part-time jobs and as members of community groups. We seem to readily accept rules, for example if our children play soccer, they are not permitted to take the field if they are not wearing the playing strip and have protective equipment such as shin pads. In fact we take pride in being identified as part of a chosen club and appreciate that it helps keep our children safe.

The majority of our students do wear the uniform correctly and are neat and well presented. There is a minority, however, who do not, and some of these students are habitual offenders. It is not equality when some students constantly choose to work outside the rules. It creates a disincentive for those who do, especially when it’s the older students who set a poor example. It tends to have a very quick ripple effect on the rest of the student body.

Below is the Uniform Referral Policy. You will see that it gives students multiple chances to correct uniform issues. It also allows for some flexibility if there are extenuating circumstances. We believe the policy is fair, sets reasonable expectations and is accessible to all of our families. We ask that you support this; however, if there is a genuine problem in meeting these expectations, please do not hesitate in contacting your child’s House Coordinator.

A description of the uniform is available on pages 14 and 15 of the Student Planner and is also explained on our website. The Uniform Shop is opened:
- Monday 10.30am to 12.30pm
- Wednesday 2.30pm to 4.30pm
Orders can also be made online at www.alintaapparel.com.au
Contact details are:
- Phone: 49577651
- Email: stpius@alinta.com.au

Infringement Process
First 3 infringements:
If students present in the incorrect uniform without a written and dated note from their parent/carer, they will receive a lunchtime detention. It is expected that a note is a short term arrangement and that every effort is made to address the matter in a reasonable timeframe. At the third unexplained infringement, the House Coordinator will make a courtesy phone call to parent/s to determine if:
- The parents are aware of the issue
- There is a genuine reason that the student is unable to be in uniform. If it is determined there is a valid reason, no further action will be taken at this point.

Fourth Infringement:
An afternoon detention (red slip) will be issued.
Fifth Infringement (where there are no underlying issues of hardship or a medical reason that the student can’t wear the correct uniform):

A suspension warning letter is generated. This is to notify parents/carers that the problem is not being addressed and any further refusal to comply with the uniform policy may result in a suspension.

Sixth Infringement:
The student will be referred to the Dean of Students or the Principal for suspension. If the suspension is deemed appropriate, it will be immediate and the student will be withdrawn from class. Parents will be asked to come and collect their child.

It should be emphasised that students will be welcomed back to school once they are wearing all aspects of the uniform correctly.

Following a suspension:
Upon returning to school, the students will be placed on a “Monitoring Card” for ten school days. During the monitoring period, The “Exclusion Policy” applies. The relevant House Coordinator will notify staff of any suspension and the timeframe of the monitoring period. Students on the Monitoring Card must report to their Student Coordinator each morning before Care Class.

Exclusion Policy
This applies for a ten school day period once a student has returned from a suspension. During the monitoring period, students are not permitted to participate in school activities such as:

- Extra Curricula excursions.
- Representative sporting events / fixtures.
- School dances
- Cultural performances and events
- Leadership positions
- Friday sport including rep sport.
ST PIUS X HIGH SCHOOL – SHOE POLICY FOR 2012

Dear Parents/Carers

Please give due consideration to the shoes that you purchase for your children to wear to school. It is very important that the shoes meet both the uniform standard and safety requirements laid down by the school.

♦ **School shoes** for use with main school uniform must:
  - be black polishable leather shoes – not boots, joggers or sneakers
  - not extend over the ankle or have a platform
  - cover the whole upper foot for safety
  - have lace-ups, buckles or Velcro straps

  See example photographs following of appropriate shoes:

  ![Example of appropriate school shoes](image1)

♦ **Sports shoes** for use with school sports/PE uniform must:
  - cover the whole upper foot for safety
  - be supportive of the feet during exercise
  - have laces or Velcro straps
  - have leather or similar tough uppers & rubber soles

  Examples of correct sports footwear follow:

  ![Example of appropriate sports shoes](image2)

Canvas shoes, Slip-ons, Gym or Basketball boots, low cut casual leather shoes, Converse, Vans, Skate Shoes and similar shoes are not appropriate for use in sport/PE. **They MUST NOT be worn!** The PDHPE Studies Coordinator is the final arbiter on permissible footwear in PE/Sport.

♦ In Science Labs and TAS Workshops & Kitchens, students must wear their black leather school shoes or sturdy sports shoes that provide appropriate protection for the feet. **Canvas shoes & slip-ons are NOT allowed.** The Science or TAS Studies Coordinator is the final arbiter on permissible footwear in specialist practical rooms.

♦ **Shoes in the following photos & similar shoes are NOT allowed.**

![Example of inappropriate shoes](image3)

Mr R Emery
Principal

Adopted 2009
Revised & Updated for 2012
Calling all budding artists to enter the Newcastle Show Art Competition.

There are 5 categories to enter, including the ‘Young Artist’ category for students between the ages of 14-19. Categories include painting, drawing, water colour, print, mixed media and sculpture.


Proudly sponsored by

Interested students are to see the Art teachers for more information.

GET IN2 BASKETBALL IN 2012

MON - LEARN TO PLAY - AGED 5-12 (GIRLS & BOYS)
TUES - LEARN TO PLAY - AGED 5-12 (GIRLS & BOYS)
WED - JUNIOR COMPS - UNDER 12 & 19 (GIRLS & BOYS)
THUR - ROOKIES - UNDER 8 & 10 (GIRLS & BOYS)
FRI - JUNIOR COMPS - UNDER 14 & 16 (GIRLS & BOYS)

ALL GAMES PLAYED AT NEWCASTLE BASKETBALL STADIUM, BROADMEADOW.
GO TO NEWCASTLEBASKETBALL.COM.AU OR CALL

GARY CRAIG
0422 259 200

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A SPORTING CHANGE?

BASKETBALL REGISTRATIONS NOW OPEN

MGA PREMIER  NEWCASTLE HERALD  NEWCASTLE HUNTERS

www.newcastlebasketball.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.

2. These details will then be advertised in a special ‘Second Hand Uniform’ section which will be on the back page of each 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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