Dear Families and Friends of the St Pius X Community,

Welcome to the 2012 school year. I do hope you had a wonderful Christmas and also had an opportunity to have at least some time relaxing with family and friends over the holiday period. 2012 is shaping up to be a very busy and exciting year: continuation of our journey towards environmental and ecological sustainability; Year 10 will use their 1:1 laptops at school; preparation for the National Curriculum; consideration of further new VET Courses; the completion and hand over of our new facilities in the Factory Wing; and commencement of Stage 2 of the Master Development Plan for St Pius – TAS Workshops, Science Labs and more.

**New Appointments**
This year we have a number of new appointments to St Pius. It is my pleasure to welcome:

- **Bonnie Tranchini**
  HSIE (full-time, permanent)

- **Sarah Watson**
  TAS/Religious Studies (full-time, permanent)

- **Peter Courtney**
  HSIE (0.5 part-time permanent)

- **Cherie Borger**
  TAS (full-time, temporary)

- **Laura Gallagher**
  HSIE/Religious Studies (full-time, temporary)

- **Bill Robson**
  Mathematics (0.8 job-share with Gillian Cahill)

- **Peter Richards**
  Science (0.2 job-share with Mick Lee)

- **Amanda Mohr**
  PDHPE (0.4 job-share with Megan Edwards)

- **Toni Bailey**
  Lab Assistant (12 Hours)

- **Louise Dawson**
  Support Staff (18 Hours)

- **Catherine Edman**
  Support Staff (12 Hours)

Note also that for 2012, Simone Kelly has taken on the role of Acting Religious Studies Coordinator and Amanda Mohr has been appointed Acting Ministry Coordinator.

**Uniform**
It was very pleasing to see 99.9% of students in correct uniform on their first day. I wish to highlight one point. The old-style sports shorts ARE NOT part of the uniform of St Pius. Students who choose to wear these shorts are out of uniform and will be issued with Uniform Detentions. Repeated offences will lead to suspension.

**Communication**
I ask all parents/carers to read the “The Lion” each fortnight to keep up with school news and events. Besides being sent home with the youngest member of each family, the Lion is also available on the school website under “News & Events”, “Newsletters”. During this year we will attempt to phase out hard copies of The Lion in favour of an emailed link to the website copy. I also encourage parents to contact the school whenever the need arises. We strive to ensure that all concerns and questions are attended to promptly and professionally.
School Fees
Please ensure that your school fee account is paid by the due date shown on your account each term. By doing this, you greatly assist the smooth operation of the whole school. This in turn helps us to provide your sons and daughters with the high quality Catholic education which you expect. Term 1 fee accounts will be posted before the end of Week 4. They are payable by BPay, Direct Debit, Credit, EFTPOS or cash.

♦ If you pay your fees by Direct Debit, please check that the instalment size is such that by the end of the year you have paid your fees in full. If you need to adjust your DD please contact the Accounts Office.

♦ If you do experience genuine difficulty in paying your fees, make an appointment with me to come and discuss the situation. This includes anyone who had a special Fee Agreement in 2011 and wishes to continue it into 2012. **It is necessary to re-apply for the extension of such agreements into 2012. Please make such appointments as soon as possible after you receive your fee account.**

♦ For those parents/carers with a Health Care Card or Pension Card, a discount is available on the Tuition Fee component of your school fee account. To access this discount for 2012, complete and return the appropriate form available from the Accounts Office. This will save you the time and effort of coming in to see me. If you require more assistance than just the Tuition Fee discount available for Health Care and Pension Card holders you will need to come in for an interview.

♦ Parents and carers are reminded that the 2012 Curriculum Levy which was due for payment in Term 4 of last year must be paid in full before text books for 2012 can be issued to students.

♦ Anyone who still owes fees from 2011 but has not seen me to discuss the situation has ten days from the date of this newsletter to either pay these in full or arrange and keep an appointment to speak with me. Otherwise, I will have no alternative but to send the names of these people to the CSO for further action.

P&F Meetings
These are usually held in the Sr Marie Hall on the second Tuesday night of each month starting at 7.00pm. In order to avoid a clash with the Diocesan “Called To Serve” Mass, our first P&F Meeting for 2012 will be held on Tuesday 14 February starting at 7.00pm. Please come along. Our P&F is a very active group. The P&F provides parents with an opportunity to hear up-to-date news about the school, to discuss and have input into issues that arise and into projects that are proposed and enables parents to play an active role in fundraising and support of the school.

I think that is more than enough to take in for the moment. I look forward to working with you this year to ensure that the young people in our school receive the best in Catholic education.

“I have chosen you from the world”, says the Lord, “to go and bear fruit that will last.” Jn:15

All the best for a great year!

Robert Emery
Principal
Learning Support Department
Here at St Pius, we are proud to provide a number of programs beginning in Term 1 with regard to supporting student’s individual needs:

Lexia Reading Program
Specific students who have learning difficulties can benefit from a software program called the Lexia Reading Program. The school has purchased a number of licences which allows students to work on computer based literacy programs aimed to develop specific areas such as word identification, phonics and decoding skills, sight words and basic reading comprehension skills. A number of students have been selected to participate in this program which is due to begin next week (Week A Tuesday/Thursday, Week B Tuesday/Wednesday). Please return the signed permission slips to the Learning Support Centre if you wish your child to be part of this program. Limited positions exist for this program.

Curriculum Support Program
The Curriculum Support Program is aimed to assist students with organisation, preparation, homework and beginning Assessment tasks. This program is a small group activity supervised by Mrs Liz Mason, the Learning Support Teacher. Targeted students are nominated one period per week where they can come to the Centre to gain extra support and advice. Students have been selected and permission notes have been sent home. Please return the signed permission notes to Mrs Mason or the Learning Support Centre as soon as possible as there are limited positions within this program.

Aboriginal Education Program
Last year a group of students participated in the Aboriginal Education Program. They received support in a number of areas; technology, creative arts, literacy and numeracy. This year, the school has been again awarded government funding to continue this program into 2012. Permission notes to participate in this program have been sent home. Please return the signed notes to Mrs Mason or the Learning Support Centre as soon as possible.

Aboriginal Artist Workshop
St Pius held a Creative Arts Workshop in Term 4 2011 for Indigenous students. Students worked in a small group situation with local Aboriginal artist Colin.
Wightman. The students designed and created three paintings on canvas. Each canvas links to the next, telling a story of “The Gathering of the Tribes”. The story links traditional Aboriginal culture, story telling and painting techniques with our current students and includes their own heritage and their present journey as part of the St Pius diverse community. Colin shared stories of his life’s journey with the students, giving valuable insight into their Aboriginal culture and history. A creative, informative and enjoyable day was had by all. The artworks will be displayed in the new factory wing of the school.

Sue Price
Learning Support Coordinator

Ministry News
I hope that all the families that belong to the community of St Pius X had a happy and holy Christmas, and a well-deserved break. As we return to another busy school year I would like to inform you that in 2012 I will be acting as the Ministry Coordinator. I can be contacted via:
- Email: amanda.mohr@mn.catholic.edu.au
- Phone: 4957 1023 Ext 421

Any students in year 10 who have not paid a deposit for retreat but would like to attend, please see me by the end of the week or pay a deposit to the bursar. This includes any student who might need a payment plan or other assistance. I can be found in office 421.

Amanda Mohr
Ministry Coordinator

Canteen Roster

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mon 13 February</th>
<th>Tues 14 February</th>
<th>Wed 15 February</th>
<th>Thurs 16 February</th>
<th>Fri 17 February</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mary Jennings</td>
<td>Robyn Donnelly</td>
<td>Kate Cousins</td>
<td>Tracey Blore</td>
<td>Cathy Graham</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gina Pringle</td>
<td>Adrienne Rice</td>
<td>Amanda Smith</td>
<td>Tina Wilson</td>
<td>Vicki McSpadden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Anthea Burke</td>
<td>Janine Linsley</td>
<td>Julie Bowen</td>
<td>Jann Mazalo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Alison Greenwood</td>
<td>Karen Burai</td>
<td>Annette Murray</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Angie Moylan</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mon 20 February</th>
<th>Tues 21 February</th>
<th>Wed 22 February</th>
<th>Thurs 23 February</th>
<th>Fri 24 February</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tracey Rogers</td>
<td>Kathy Adam</td>
<td>Megan Edwards</td>
<td>Rachael Gapps</td>
<td>Marina Bernard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leanne Haberl</td>
<td>Sharon Hart</td>
<td>Donna Houston</td>
<td>Kim Simmons</td>
<td>Michelle Curtin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jodi Cassaniti</td>
<td></td>
<td>Vicki Koina</td>
<td>Belinda Oke</td>
<td>Rebecca Smith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Jodie Pfeiffer</td>
<td>Ann-Louise Leffoof</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Term 1 Representative Sport
Term 1 is always very busy in the representative sport calendar.
There are four types of rep sport in Term 1:

1. Friday Rep Sport
- A round robin held against local Catholic High Schools during Friday sport.
- Selection trials are being held for the following sports during school lunch breaks and during Friday sport.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPORT</th>
<th>VENUE</th>
<th>COACH</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7/8 Basketball</td>
<td>B'Meadow Basketball Stadium</td>
<td>Mrs Tranchini</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/10 Basketball</td>
<td>B'Meadow Basketball Stadium</td>
<td>Mrs Healey</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Watch daily notices and the notice board outside the PE staffroom for selection trial dates and times.

2. School Carnival
- Our school swimming carnival will be held on Thursday 23 February at Lambton Pool.

3. Diocesan Sport
- The Diocese of Maitland Newcastle will hold the following events during Term 1:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SPORT</th>
<th>VENUE</th>
<th>DATE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dio Basketball</td>
<td>Broadmeadow B’ball</td>
<td>Tues 21/2/12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dio U16 Girls Hockey</td>
<td>The Manning Valley Hockey Centre Taree</td>
<td>Fri 17/2/12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual Selection Trial</td>
<td>Maitland</td>
<td>Thurs 8/3/12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dio Swimming</td>
<td>Lambton Pool</td>
<td>Tues 6/3/12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dio Girls Open Football</td>
<td>St Pius X Playing Fields</td>
<td>Wed 21/3/12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dio U16 Rugby Union</td>
<td>Marcellan Park Lorn</td>
<td>Fri 23/3/12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gala Day</td>
<td>St Pius X Playing Fields</td>
<td>Thurs 22/3/12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In all of the above events a Maitland / Newcastle Diocesan team is selected from performances on the day. (Excluding Basketball)

4. NSW CCC events
St Pius X is a member of the NSW Combined Catholic Colleges (NSWCCC) and a detailed list of all individual and team pathway events / carnivals can be viewed at [www.csss.nsw.edu.au](http://www.csss.nsw.edu.au)

David Pitfield
Sports Coordinator
### School Executive:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Principal</td>
<td>Robert Emery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant Principal (Dean of Students)</td>
<td>Stuart Roff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant Principal (Dean of Studies)</td>
<td>Stephen Dunn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acting Religious Studies Coordinator</td>
<td>Simone Kelly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office Manager/Principal’s Secretary</td>
<td>Frances Bowen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acting Ministry Coordinator</td>
<td>Amanda Mohr</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Studies Coordinators:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Creative Arts</td>
<td>Gabriella Smith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>Greg Struck</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ESL (English as a Second Language)</td>
<td>Carmel Martin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HSIE (Human Society &amp; Its Environment)</td>
<td>Anthony Chapman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learning Support Coordinator</td>
<td>Sue Price</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learning Technology</td>
<td>Jace Davies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LOTE (Languages Other Than English)</td>
<td>Gabriella Smith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>Dianne Hickey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PD/H/PE</td>
<td>John McLoughlin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>David Millen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TAS (Technological &amp; Applied Studies)</td>
<td>Gary Atherton</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### House Coordinators:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>House</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chisholm – (Blue)</td>
<td>Carmel Wright</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deane – (Yellow)</td>
<td>Leon Davis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fahey – (Orange)</td>
<td>Mandy Willis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helferty – (Green)</td>
<td>Helen Davies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perry – (Red)</td>
<td>Kieran Kelly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polding – (White)</td>
<td>Tim Howes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Positions of Special Responsibility:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Careers Advisor</td>
<td>Helen Wilks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Librarian</td>
<td>Sheila Doherty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Counsellor</td>
<td>Maryanne Paisley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Band</td>
<td>Amy Burrage/Tahnee Elgar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Choir</td>
<td>Asha Lunarzewski</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Representative Sport</td>
<td>David Pitfield</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Sport</td>
<td>Kerrie Sellers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
General Teaching Staff:

Daniel Austin    Peter Gabrysiak    Amanda Mohr
Rachael Bartley  Sharon Gibson    Karlene Newman
Nancy Battiston   Laura Gallagher  Fiona O'Donoghue
Cherie Borger    Colin Griffin    Maureen Porter
Daniel Brennan   Robyn Harris    John Pryor
Amy Burrage      Scott Harrison  Justine Quarello
Gillian Cahill   Julie Healey     Therese Rankin
Peter Courtney   Helen Heuston   Peter Richards
Michael Curk     Tania Hough     Bill Robson
Caroline Daniel  Elisa Hart      Paul Smyth
Rodney Dean      Michael Lee     Anthony Snaddon
Felicity Doyle   Asha Lunarzewski Richard Southwell
Brian Dunn       Michael Maher   Greg Vitnell
Megan Edwards    Fenette Martin  Sarah Watson
Tahnee Elgar     Elizabeth Mason Pamela Wynn
Michelle Foot    Bonnie Tranchini

Support Staff:

Book Room Supervisor - Rosalie Tindall
Bursar - Patricia Jennison
Assistant Bursar - Annette Hamilton
Canteen Supervisors - Helen Mulligan
- Janelle Oliver
Cleaners - Gail Moy
- Tony Moy
- Debra Punshon
ESL Assistants - Joyce Alwoch
- Marcello Urube
Food Technology Assistant - Pat Barnett
Hospitality Assistant/Receptionist - Helen O'Donoghue
General Office - Fiona Swan
Groundsmen/Maintenance - Tony Fraser
- Dan Ryan
Information Technology - Chinthaka Arnolda/
- Dale Cooper
Library Assistants - Narelle Heard
- Annie O'Donoghue/Corrine Taylor
Printing - Mark Pearce
Receptionist/General Office - Julie Barnes
Science Laboratory Assistants - Helena Kitley/Toni Vitnell
Special Needs Aides - Jenny Bone
- Karen Cullen
- Catherine Edman
- Lanai Elbourne
- Linda Erzetich
- Silvana Parr
- Cheryl Smith
Student Services - Christine Ausburn
- Louise Dawson
- Rosalie Tindall
- Catherine Edman
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 student 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 your child plays 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 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 if it’s the older students who set a poor example. It tends to have very quick ripple effect on the rest of the student body.

Below is the Uniform Referral Policy. You will see that it gives student’s 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. At present the Uniform Shop is opened:

- Monday 8am to 10am
- Wednesday 1pm to 4pm

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 a student presents in the incorrect uniform without a written and dated note from their parent/carer, they will receive a lunchtime detention. It would be expected that a note would be a short term arrangement and that every effort will be 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 parent is aware of the issue
► There is a genuine reason as to why 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 as to why 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 the student 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.
**Newcastle City Council - FREE workshops for parents and supervisors of learner drivers**

Young drivers are three times more likely to be involved in casualty crashes. That's why the Roads and Maritime Services has introduced a new licensing scheme, with more supervised driving practice for learner drivers.

To help parents and supervisors of learner drivers, The City of Newcastle has set up a **FREE 2 hour workshop** for parents and supervisors, to offer practical advice on how to help learner drivers become safer drivers.

Early bookings are essential, so parents and supervisors are urged to phone (02) 49742667 or 0411873684 to reserve their places now.

This FREE workshop will be held on Tuesday 21 February 2012 at The Adamstown Club from 5.30 - 7.30pm

---

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

- **Wednesday 15th February**
- Life Night 6.30pm – 8.30pm
- St Philips Parish Hall Kotara

**Note: This is a Social Night**

**Please bring a plate to share**

**Life Teen Youth Masses:**
- Sunday 5th February and
- Sunday 19th February 5.45pm
- St Therese’s Church, New Lambton

Followed by Tea and Biscuits served by the youth

---

**“Be My Valentine”**
The Waratahs Junior Rugby Union
Now Registering Players turning 6 to 18 years of age
Come along to our “Recruitment Day” and learn Rugby Skills from our Grade teams

Friday 10th February- 6.30pm
Waratah Oval - Harris St, Waratah

Come and enjoy a FREE sausage sizzle and a drink on us and meet your child’s coach and other parents.

For more information call Deb on 4952 9161 or just turn up on the night.

Kotara Bears JRLFC
Under 6’s to Under 18’s

Registration Days at
Hudson Park:
(Behind Westfield Kotara)

Sunday 5th February 2012
11am to 4pm
and
Sunday 12th February
11am to 4pm

For further details contact
Kotara Bears on 0401251237

New players need to bring their Birth Certificate.
Conor Ashleigh's passion for social justice was ignited at the age of 16 when he spent time volunteering in Cambodia and was struck deeply by his experience. At 18 years of age when living in India Conor's love for photography was established and the medium for conveying stories was found. As a documentary photographer and multimedia storyteller Conor is primarily interested in working on stories that aren't covered in the mainstream media.


Conor believes in the power of visual stories to inform audiences and he regularly works as a speaker and workshop facilitator.

**CONOR ASHLEIGH**  
PHOTOGRAPHIC STORYTELLER  
www.conorashleigh.com

---

**WORKSHOPS LOCATION**

Newcastle Region Library  
Lovett Gallery, Level 2  
Laman Street Newcastle  
Ph 49 745300  
Email: Library@ncc.nsw.gov

**Workshops**

Students will explore the people and places featured in the exhibition Our world unseen. Students will have a hands-on opportunity to interact with Conor’s photographic stories from around the world and will leave with a broader knowledge of our global village. This workshop is relevant to Visual Arts, Society & Culture, Geography, Studies of Religion and English.

**Workshop dates:** Mon 21st Feb - Friday 3rd March  
**Time:** 9:30AM, 11AM, 1PM  
**Cost:** $300 per session

Bookings are essential and groups are limited to 60 students.

---

**CONTACT**  
Conor Ashleigh Phone: 0431 455 792 Email: conor@conorashleigh.com