

Dear Parents & Carers

P&F School Infrastructure Levy

As you would be aware there is a great deal of capital works expenditure in the Diocese at this time related to the building of two new schools and the refurbishment of two others which are going 7 to 12. We at St Pius have been very successful over the last seven years in securing three Government Capital Grants for our three major stages of refurbishment so far. Stage 3 began in Term 4 2016 with work commencing on the new Staff Room facilities. A new Library, Learning Centre and various other refurbishment & landscaping projects will follow.

You could be forgiven for thinking that everything we need to be renewing is being attended to currently. Unfortunately, that is not the case. Our basketball court area is old and tired. It needs to be resurfaced, which if we take the cheapest option and do it with bitumen will cost around \$100,000. We also need to cover the court area to enable it to be used in inclement weather by our PE classes, by our students and rep teams during Sport, by students at break-times and as a gathering area for the whole school for assemblies and special school events such as St Pius Feast Day among others. This will cost a minimum of \$500,000.

We need to start on the basketball court project now. To leave it for a few more years and wait until we have no other projects in progress is not good forward planning. If we leave the resurfacing for much longer we will not be able to use the courts.

The problem is sourcing funding for this project. We will not be given government grant money for such a project. Also, at present St Pius is receiving its fair share of Diocesan Family and School Building Levy (DF&SBL) money in support of our current Stage 3 project. We will not be granted more funds from that source at present. We may be granted some more funds from the DF&SBL after our Stage 3 project concludes.

The above issues have been the topic of discussion at the last two P&F Meetings and several school Executive Team Meetings. The school and P&F have decided to charge a **P&F School Infrastructure Levy to raise funds to put towards the Basketball Court project**. The Levy will be collected by the school on the school fee account in Terms 1, 2 & 3. **The amount of the Levy is \$14 per term per family for each of Terms 1, 2 & 3 (or \$1.40 per week per family)**. As always, any family struggling to pay their school fee account may arrange a meeting with me to discuss their fee situation. St Pius X High School will always assist families in genuine need.

The plan is to do this project in stages and to try to do a stage each year over the next several years until the project is finished. That way parents and students can see each year some return for the money paid.

The School and the Parents and Friends Association firmly believe that the Basketball Court project is a vital project that needs to be started now so as to provide essential facilities for our students now and into the future. I thank you in advance for your understanding of and support for this levy.

Robert Emery
Principal