"The Catholic school’s proper function is to create for the school community a special atmosphere animated by the Gospel spirit of freedom and charity, to help youth grow according to the new creatures they were made through baptism as they develop their own personalities, and finally to order the whole of human culture to the news of salvation so that the knowledge the students gradually acquire of the world, life and man is illumined by faith."
- His Holiness Pope Paul VI, October 28, 1965

The 2014 school year has been another year that has simply gone too fast and one that has been a time of wonderful growth for our community. There are many individual and class and school achievements throughout the year, and none of these are possible without the partnership between school, home and the parish community.

THE SCHOOL BOARD
St Pius X and the School Board have been very proactive in ensuring that the school develops in the right path…the St Pius X Path. The School Board has assisted with the development of a School Improvement Plan formalising school priorities, upgrading IT internal networks and cabling, upgrading of school fencing, exploring possibilities of future building development, playground and grounds development, upgrading of classroom technology and assisting with new teaching resources. The School Board has been very proactive in catering for the learning needs of students in the 21st Century and will look to explore these further in 2015.

Two of the most significant issues that have confronted the School Board this year have been around the Australian Curriculum, which teachers were to implement in 2015, however is under review and the second major item has been the funding model and how this looks for future years. Currently we are in a hybrid model of funding as we move towards our new model for implementation in 2016. This means 3 models in 4 years, which makes it difficult for staffing, school fees projection and future development and resourcing within the school.

The School Board assisted with the appointment of a new Assistant Principal to replace the wonderful Miss Mac Callisto who leaves us after 10 years and the finalisation of her employment contract, with Mrs Tiffany Johnson. Mrs Johnson joins us in 2015.

I wish to thank the School Board for their commitment to St Pius X Catholic School. The support and collaboration of the School Board, along with their generosity of time, is appreciated as is their willingness to be involved in such a vital role within our school community. However, I must mention the retiring members and in particular Gavin Walton our School Chair who steps aside and fellow member Dana McGrath who leave the school board in better place due to their involvement. Thank you.

PARENTS AND FRIENDS’ ASSOCIATION
I would like to acknowledge the outstanding efforts of the Parents and Friends’ Association. Once again, they have continued to work together as a group throughout 2014. They have achieved many targets in both their fundraising capacity and in building community spirit. In fact, over the past 2 years the P&F has fundraised and donated to the school approximately $48 000 for the benefit of your children which has included, Reading Series, Lights on the Oval, IT equipment, donations to classes, camp and leavers shirts.

The generous donations of funds from the Parents and Friends’ Association have targeted resources within the school. The contribution towards the education of our children is greatly appreciated. I wish to thank Peter Hopfmueller and all of the
committee and all their supportive class helpers for their outstanding efforts throughout this year. The strength of the Parents and Friends is built upon their commitment to assist the children in our school. I wish the incoming committee all the best and look forward to working with Lidia and her team.

PARISH - SCHOOL
St Pius X Parish and the school maintain their very strong relationship. Father Thomas has many commitments, and we sincerely appreciate his efforts towards our school. Father has been fantastic in the preparation and assistance with all the children’s sacraments and has been ever so flexible in our school and staff requests. I would also like to thank Father for his flexibility and willingness to work with the ever changing school environment and the modern societal needs.

Father Thomas plays an integral part in the enrolment of new families into our community and I thank him for his ever-discerning eye over the faith development of our families. We thank you Father for all you have done for us and wish you all of the blessings as you move onto your next journey and know that you are always more than welcome at St Pius X.

To Steve Logan, thank you for your ongoing commitment towards liaising between school and parish as the Parish representative on the School Board.

STAFF
There are many elements within a Catholic school and administration processes that are undertaken to ensure the school runs effectively. At St Pius X we have a very dedicated team that work together in the office. I would like to thank Margaret, Brett and Mac for their continued support and willingness to go the extra mile for the school and community. I would also like to acknowledge a new initiative that we created this year with extending our Leadership Team to include Jo Pitt and Tonia Poggioli to assist with the teaching and learning development across the school. Thank you.

I wish to acknowledge the professionalism of all staff at St Pius X. We are fortunate at St Pius X School to have a committed staff that enjoy working together to ensure student educational needs are met. We say goodbye to Mac Callisto, Ben Will, Karen Gonsalves and Victoria Paino-Povey. We wish Mac and Ben all the best as they journey onto new leadership positions within Catholic education and know they go with wonderful credentials. Mac in particular has been an enormous part of the St Pius X community and one we are sure will be very difficult to replace – thank you Mac. We thank you for the dedication and commitment that you have given to our school community and we wish you all the best for the future.

Next year we look forward to welcoming Mrs Tiffany Johnson who has been appointed our new Assistant Principal for 2015. We also welcome the new staff members for 2014, Mrs Donna Newman, Mr Alex Mancini and Mr Kim Hughes. We wish them all the best as they join the St Pius X Community.

I personally thank the staff for their dedication and ability to get the best out of the students. Your support of the school and the journey we are on this year has been unwavering and the fact you have been willing to go that extra step is greatly appreciated.

STAFF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT 2014

- National Quality Standards
- Emotional Student Well-Being
- Sacramental Program Development
- Western Australian Curriculum
- Knowledge Development – Meaning of Sacraments
• National Quality Standards in Early Childhood
• Literacy Development
• Staff Well Being and Health development
• School Climate and Culture Change
• Emotional Development within Schools
• Differentiation in Schools
• Quality Catholic Schools
• Various IT sessions and ongoing Use of iPads
• MyMART Reporting Training
• SEQTA and MAZE Training (School Administration ad Data Recording)
• Early Years Learning Framework
• Accreditation Modules for all staff
• Teacher Assistant Roles and Personal Development.

STUDENTS
One of the blessings at St Pius is the wonderful students that we encounter each day. Their attitude to learning is first class and allows us as teachers to engage them in a high level of skills and variety of learning experiences. Throughout the year we have done many things and been to many places and I can honestly say not once have they let the school down. The behaviour, respect and manners have been outstanding and it is always great when I get the positive comments back. We truly are blessed to have such a fantastic group of students.

I wish the Year 6 Graduating class all the best, as they take the next step in their schooling. They now go on their separate paths as young adults into an educating world that will challenge and prepare them for the future.

PARENTS
Thank you to the many parents who tirelessly support the school. You have been fantastic in the support and education of your children. The fact that we can call on you at a moments notice to assist with volunteering at carnivals, social events for parents and organising student activities. A big thank you.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
Religious Education and Faith formation are the primary purpose of Catholic schools. In partnership with all parents, the school and parish work together to assist the children to develop knowledge of their Catholic faith. The explicit teaching of Church doctrine and traditions, through the Religious Education Units of Work, which are mandated by the Bishops of Western Australia and the Catholic Education Commission of Western Australia, are the resources from which all lessons are planned. The Year 3 and 5 students participated in the Bishops’ Literacy Assessment with pleasing results and it is good to know that the parents who are on their own faith journey support their children.

Congratulations to all who participated in or assisted with and then celebrated the sacraments – this is truly a wonderful occasion for all. However, we experienced difficulty with the high number of students coming to St Pius X for the Sacramental Programs this year and the communication that exists between the staff at school and students making these celebrations. This will need to be an area for future development in 2015 with separate celebrations a possibility.

EDUCATIONAL
Our educational testing program has again shown that we are directing our efforts in the right path with all students at St Pius X making significant progress according to the results undertaken from these testing processes. All staff should be very proud of these achievements, with exceptionally pleasing results in our RE Testing, WAMSE and NAPLAN that were consistently above the national and state averages.
In 2015, we look forward to directing our efforts towards the concepts of Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation and Numeracy. These will be our targets through the next 12 months. This combined with the development of our Early Childhood Program, IT, specialisations in Music, Arts, Gifted and Talented, and Science Programs gives us plenty to look forward to.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank staff, parents and the wider community for the support given to the on-going development of the children at St Pius X Catholic School. We are truly blessed to be active members of such a community.

Best wishes and may God bless you in all you do.

Kindest regards

Daine Burnett
Principal 2014