From the Principal

Thank you for your contributions to the Christmas Hamper Appeal and the Toy Appeal.

Donations will still be received until Thursday morning.

Merry Christmas and God’s blessings on all our families.

AN ADVENT PRAYER
The Jesse Tree helps us connect the custom of decorating Christmas trees to the events leading to Jesus’ birth. The Jesse Tree is named from Isaiah 11:1: “A shoot shall come out of the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.” Jesse was the father of King David. We adorn a Jesse Tree with illustrated ornaments that represent the people, prophets, and events leading up to the birth of Jesus. The ornaments of the Jesse Tree tell the story of God in the Old Testament, connecting the Advent season with the faithfulness of God across four thousand years of history.

The story of Jesse, the father of David, is told in Isaiah 11:1-10. David’s story is found in 1 Samuel 16:1-13.

During Advent, we not only prepare ourselves to celebrate the birth of Jesus, but we also check in with ourselves to see if we are doing all the things that will keep us ready to receive Jesus when he comes again.

God of Love,
Your son, Jesus, is your greatest gift to us.
He is a sign of your love.
Help us walk in that love during the weeks of Advent.
As we wait and prepare for his coming.
We pray in the name of Jesus, our Saviour.
Amen.
2015 STAFF CHANGES: On behalf of the College, I offer our sincere thanks to those staff members who are leaving at the end of the year. There are some very long serving staff members who are retiring and for all staff we offer our appreciation for their service and dedication to the school. They will always remain part of our community and we will remember them with great affection.

Mr Laird (Science), Mrs Towns (Ancient History), Mr Smollett (Mathematics) and Mr Knox (Maintenance) are retiring. Mrs Martin (Learning Support Coordinator) and Ms Tina De Souza (Assistant REC) are moving to new appointments. Mrs Withford (Year 6) will conclude her temporary role serving to replace staff on leave this year including Mr Simpson (Long Service Leave) and Mrs Barrett (Maternity Leave).

May God bless all these staff and we wish them every future success and happiness.

2015 GUIDANCE COORDINATORS: Due to a number of changes to the roles of staff for 2015 as well as leave applications, we have made some new appointments for the Guidance Coordinator’s Team for 2015.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Coordinator</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Mr Ticli</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Mr Yue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Mr Stollery</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Mr Pawlak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Mr Batchelor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Mr Masters</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The students are so well served by our Guidance Coordinators and I thank them for their contribution to the boys’ education.

NEW ROLES AND APPOINTMENTS: Mr Hopley has moved into the role of Resources Coordinator and Mr Brannan will be the Head of Student Services (a Pastoral Care role) from 2015. Br Rafferty continues on staff and will take an active role in managing Huntington House at Terrigal for which the College now has responsibility, as announced below. Br Rafferty will continue to reside in the Brothers’ community here at the school.

Mr De Silva will fill the new role of Outdoor Education Coordinator. Mrs Schuster will be the Assistant Science Coordinator and Mr Steinman will be the Assistant Mathematics Coordinator. Ms Proc has taken on the role of College General Coordinator and Mr Pembroke will continue in English/History/RE. Mr Wayne Burling is now the Head of Maintenance.

There are a number of new staff appointed for 2015 and I will announce them with a photo at the commencement of the 2015 school year. We are very fortunate to be attracting high quality staff to our school.

CHRISTMAS TWILIGHT CONCERT: A wonderful Christmas Twilight Concert was held last Friday evening in the Junior school playground, and on a beautiful evening we celebrated the many musical talents of our boys. The finale included the College Orchestra and a Massed Choir leading the community in Christmas Carols. Congratulations and thanks to Ms Bates and the Performing Arts teachers, tutors and conductors and special thanks to Mrs Jill Shadbolt (President) and the Performing Arts Parents Association for a great BBQ and raffle!

CHRISTMAS APPEAL AND ST VINCENT DE PAUL HAMPER APPEAL: The response to our Christmas Appeal and SVDP Appeal has been very generous and there is still the opportunity for families to donate to these collections right up until the end of this week. Thankyou once again.

HUNTINGTON HOUSE – TERRIGAL: The Christian Brothers have a small Retreat Centre at Terrigal which has been transferred to Edmund Rice Education Australia. CBHS Lewisham and St Pius X College Chatswood have been made joint managers of this property. Both Colleges will work together in utilising this facility for camps, retreats, staff formation and leadership opportunities as well as outdoor education for students and staff. The facility will undergo some refurbishment before becoming available to schools from approximately July/August 2015.

2015 SCHOOL FEES: The College Board has determined the school fees for 2015 and these have been approved by Edmund Rice Education Australia. As was the case last year there is a modest increase of 5.1% to the school fees. I thank all families for their attention to the school fees and their ongoing support of the College. Included in Woodchatta Extras is the letter outlining these fees from Mr Peter Hughes, Board Chair.

VOLUNTEERS’ MORNING TEA: This year we will be holding a Volunteers’ Morning Tea. This will take place on Monday 8 December in the Sarto Centre commencing at 10.30 am. This Morning Tea is to show the College’s appreciation to all volunteers who have assisted throughout the year either with cocurricular activities, in the classroom, in the canteen or uniform shop, or in any particular way in the College. For catering purposes please RSVP to Ann Brady (abrady@stpiux.nsw.edu.au) if you would like to attend.

John Couani
From the Assistant Principal – Teaching & Learning
YEARS 5 TO 10 SEMESTER 2 ACADEMIC REPORTS
Semester 2 Academic reports for students in Years 5 to 10 should be ready for posting towards the end of this week.

On receiving the report, should you wish to discuss specific aspects or issues, most teachers will be available to be contacted during our Staff Development Days on Monday 8th and Tuesday 9th December.

Please keep in mind that some teachers will be absent as they are accompanying our Year 11 Students on the Snowy Mountain Hike.

Please do not hesitate to contact me by email or telephone if you require assistance in this process: adamo@stpiusx.nsw.edu.au or 9414 4307.

Mr A Damo

From the Assistant Principal – Mission and Identity
Yesterday, Father Paul from Our Lady of Dolours Parish, spent the day with Jackson Allan, Ryan Attard, Tom Graziotto, James Langford, Keenan Smith, Eric Stuart-Jones and James White in preparing these Year 10 students to take on the important liturgical role of a Eucharistic Minister. Our young men were most impressive in their questions and responses throughout the day and will be commissioned at our End of Year Mass commencing at 10am on Friday, the 5th December in Our Lady of Dolours Church, Chatswood. Parents are most welcome.

Last week Ms Schuster along with Tom Bleasdale, Clay Henry, Liam Houlihan and Matthew Kennedy spent the week at St Mary’s Primary School Bowraville. The school is 20 kilometres inland from Macksville, on the North Coast of New South Wales and is made up of 90% indigenous students whose backgrounds are less fortunate than others. The Staff, led by their Principal Troy Baker, provide an amazing level of education that goes way beyond the classroom. We were able to work as Teacher’s Aides in the classrooms and prepare lunch for them all on Wednesday. The boys were privileged to be taken around by the locals and experience firsthand the aboriginal culture and especially bush tucker.

At this same time Max Magee, Josiah Lising, Jacob Saunders and Jordan Smith accompanied by Mr Byrne ventured to St Joseph’s School Walgett for our Immersion experience with our fellow Christian Brother school. Our boys similarly enjoyed the interaction with the children at St Joseph’s with half the students being Indigenous. The twelve hour trek by train and car to Walgett from Sydney on Monday, certainly highlighted the isolation of this area. Our boys learned much of the struggles the children face as well as the different challenges that life in the bush presents. The contributions that Pius have given over the years are greatly appreciated and our College is well known to both the Bowraville and Walgett children.

Our third Immersion experience was with St Edmund’s, Wahroonga. Our four boys Tom Benson, Kane Eden, Harry Heaney and Angus O’Donovan worked closely with the students and assisted the Staff in duties in a very full four day program, sharing with the students their skills and equalling coming to know about the gifts and vast array of talents of the students at St Edmund’s.

These immersion experiences are a truly wonderful opportunity and life changing experiences for our young men and all twelve of Year 10 gentlemen were outstanding in all they did. Mr Pawlak, Mr Byrne, Ms Schuster and I have received constant praise of these young men’s involvement, initiative and kindness that gained our College, their families and themselves the greatest respect and admiration.

Many thanks for the contributions to our three Christmas Appeals. The area under the Christmas tree and around the crib were bulging in our foyer on Monday morning due to your many generous donations. If you would like to contribute to the Giving Tree for the children of Walgett, it would be greatly appreciated if you can label the present with gender and age (5-12).

Our non-perishables goods contributions for our St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal hampers also continues to grow and finally, any of the following items are greatly appreciated for the Men of the Matthew Talbot Hostel:

- Toiletries (in particular deodorant and shaving foam)
- Keyring torches
- Small packets of lollies
- Packets of playing cards and puzzle books
- Inexpensive wallets (e.g. from $2 shops or Woolworths)
- Mens handkerchiefs
- Mens underpants and socks (various sizes)
- Small writing pads and pens
- Caps
- Environmentally friendly shopping bags to put the gifts in (e.g. the green ones)
All collections are gathered tomorrow, so please feel free to send any final donations by tomorrow morning, Thursday, 4th December. Thank you so very much for your very generous contributions.

Our final Monday College Assembly was led in Prayer by Mr Ticli’s Year 8 RE class who explained the Season of Advent sharing the significance of LOVE, FAITH, JOY and HOPE as we prepare to celebrate not only the birth of Jesus but also his presence in our lives.

May the message of Christmas reverberate with all our families as we continue through this Season of Advent as we prepare for the celebration of the Birth of Christ. As the second purple candle is lit on this coming second Sunday of Advent, may our prayer be:

O King of all nations, Jesus Christ,  
only joy of every heart,  
come and save your people.  

Mr M Casey

MATTHEW TALBOT HOLIDAY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED URGENTLY

Since earlier this year, SPX has volunteered the Wednesday afternoon dinner shift at Matthew Talbot (a men's shelter in Sydney's Kings Cross). Over the Summer holidays we will need a minimum of TWO volunteers each week. Volunteers will 'waitress' for the men and allow the serving of some 200 men to be fed. Volunteers will need to be at Matthew Talbot from 4pm-5.30pm on a Wednesday evening. Dates are: 10/12, 17/12, 7/1, 14/1, 21/1, 28/1 Please contact Ms De Souza (TDeSouza@stpiusx.nsw.edu.au) for more information/to volunteer!

Movember

A huge thank you to the wider St Pius Community for supporting this worthwhile cause. Mental illness and cancer touch the lives of many of our staff and students. Like most charities, Movember seeks to raise funds for R&D, treatment and support services. Through collections, raffles and morning teas we have raised $2300 to date. However, it is raising awareness that provides a relevant and worthwhile framework for Movember to operate at SPX. If our students are more aware of their personal health needs and how/where to get help, and if they are looking out for their friends and family, then we are in a good space.

On behalf of the team here at St Pius, thanks once again for your support.  

Mr G Virgona

Camp Gallipoli

Camp Gallipoli preparations continue with our Student Leadership Group launching the initiative to the students at Monday’s Assembly. A trybooking site http://www.trybooking.com/110052 has been established to collect the $110 per person payment so that we can attend as a St Pius X College Contingent, departing school Friday 24th April 2015 for Centennial Park and what should be an a significant occasion on the Centenary of the Gallipoli Landings. More details on the event are available on the Camp Gallipoli Website - http://www.campgallipoli.com.au

Students from Years 5 – 7 will need to be accompanied by an adult family member.  

Mr S Brannan
MindMatters for Families

As the end of the school year fast approaches, can I take this opportunity to wish every SPX family best wishes for the festive season. I trust that the holiday period will be a wonderful opportunity for rest and relaxation and to enjoy quality time with members of your extended family.

I wish to acknowledge and thank Ms Carolyn Hartevelt and Ms Joe McCarthy for their positive contribution in providing support for our families through their professional expertise in our counselling team. I look forward to another productive and rewarding year in 2015 as we continually strive to promote positive health and wellbeing for all our families.

Merry Christmas!

TEN TOP TIPS TO MAKE THE MOST OF THE END OF YEAR SCHOOL REPORT
(Please see Woodchatta Extras for the full article.)

1. Before the report arrives home, a useful exercise would be to ask your son to write their own school report. Make up a grid for all subjects, and ask your son to pretend to be the teacher and write about themselves.
2. Read your child’s report with your child.
3. The report should be viewed as a vehicle to move forward, and not be perceived as a final judgment of a child’s ability - because it is not. It’s a “screenshot” and not the whole story.
4. Compare the yearly report to the Semester 1 report and last year’s report.
5. Don’t just look at grades, focus on effort also.
6. Consider the “year average” mark or grade.
7. The teachers’ comments are valuable when discussing the report with your son. Ask him if he agrees with the comment, or why, if he doesn’t. Encourage your son to consider the teachers’ comments.
8. TALK to your son about the report, and LISTEN.
9. Grades varying between subjects, and compare exam results with assessment results. Identify specific subjects where grades were ‘low’ and where others were ‘high’. It is not uncommon for students to have strengths in some subjects and weaknesses in others. Few children excel across all subject areas.
10. Establish goals for next year and consider a holiday review program (even if only 1 hour a week).

LASTLY, if you are very concerned about your son’s report, you should contact the school.

Mr R Russo – College Counsellor

Your P&F In Action!

YEAR 5 TENNIS FUN
Lob your lad into this very popular Tennis Day Camp. Running from 9.00am until 3.00pm next Monday 8 December at Belrose Tennis Club, it is game set and match for fun! Please see the flyer in Woodchatta Extras or contact Cathy Dixon if you have any questions cathmdixon@yahoo.com.au otherwise Click Here for TryBooking Link

YEAR 5 RYDE AQUATIC CENTRE
If the tennis doesn’t wear him out, a day at the fantastic Ryde Aquatic Centre on Wednesday 17 December will do the job. $17.50 per child. Please see the flyer in Woodchatta Extras or contact fi_tatts@hotmail.com for information if you need it, otherwise bookings and details are below. TryBooking Link Flyer

THANK YOU
Thank you to all the very busy Social Co-ordinators and Class Parents who sacrificed their time and effort to make so many successful events for the boys and Mums and Dads happen this year. You are a wonderful group of people.

We at the P&F wish all College families and friends a wonderful, safe and happy Christmas and New Year. See you in 2015!

YEARS 5,6,7 NEW PARENTS’ MORNING TEA 2015
Do you know someone whose boy is joining St Pius X in 2015? Please forward this message and let them know all about the First Day Parents Coffee Event. It is a big event, and lots of parents attend.

Is your boy starting in Years 5, 6 or 7 in 2015? This is a must-attend event for you, too! Come and meet the parents of your boys’ new friends and help them to navigate the College.

Venue Lid & Jar Cafe in the Concourse, right next to the College
Year 5 Parents from 10am 28 January 2015
Years 6 & 7 Parents from 10.00am 29 January 2015

For details please see the flyer here or contact Helen Mortimer 0400 550 540 mortsquad@optusnet.com.au Cathy Dixon 0402 030 970 cathmdixon@yahoo.com.au

Steve Johnson - SPX P&F Secretary / Communications
Performing Arts News

TWILIGHT CONCERT: There are many people to thank for making this fantastic night such a memorable experience:
Performers: Senior, Intermediate and Junior Percussion Ensembles; Vocal Ensemble; Senior and Junior Choirs; Senior Guitar Ensemble; Senior and Junior String Ensembles; Senior, Intermediate and Junior Jazz Bands; Senior, Intermediate and Junior Concert Bands; the College Orchestra; Ensemble Directors: Mrs Stella Talati, Mr Jonathan Dollin, Mr Geoff Power, Mr Shane Cranney, Mr Ian Talati, and Ms Natalie Rawle; Accompanists: Ms Stephanie Gan and Ms Stella Waddington; Teaching Staff: Mr Joshua Combos, Ms Natalie Rocca and Br Chris Rafferty; Performing Arts Captain Adam Melzer and Vice-Captain Tyler Jarvis; Cultural Prefects: Ben John, Francis Phillips, Chris Keyes and Hans Lee; Stage Crew: Year 12 Music 1 and Music 2 Students; Sound Engineers: Mr Pete Clark and Mr Geoffrey Swan; Support Staff: Mrs Cathy Jellema and Mrs Maxine Hunt; Maintenance Staff: Mr Pat Knox, Mr John Moscato and Mr Mark Harvey; Photographers: Mr John Couani and Ms Julie Ingram; and last but by no means least the Performing Arts Parents Association!

I’M WITH CUPID: This is the next exciting production to be staged at the College in 2015. Please read Woodchatta Extras for further information and audition details.

CONCERT BAND PLACEMENTS AND REHEARSALS 2015: Thank you to all students who auditioned for positions in the Concert and Jazz Bands. Lists will be placed on the window of the EMR (Elective Music Room) on the first day of Term 1 next year. With the exception of the Senior Choir and College Orchestra, rehearsals for all ensembles commence in Week 2. Senior Choir, you will rehearse on the FIRST day of term and Orchestra on the first Friday of term. Audition days and times for Guitar and Percussion Ensembles will be in the first Woodchatta for next year and the Student Daily Notices.

DIGITAL MUSIC ENSEMBLES: These new ensembles will be offered in 2015 for students who are interested in furthering their experience and work in Music Production. They will run across three lunchtimes (TBA) at Junior, Intermediate and Senior levels. Further information will be available at the start of Term 1 next year.

HOLIDAY PRACTICE: All students are reminded to take their instrument(s) home on Friday afternoon, so that practice can continue during the holidays!

AMEB RESULTS: Congratulations to Samuel Walters (Year 6) on achieving a credit in his recent Grade 1 Flute Examination.

AND FINALLY…….: Thank you to all students who have participated in the Performing Arts Program at the College this year. There have been some truly amazing and inspiring performances. I wish everyone a happy, holy and safe Christmas and look forward to seeing you all in 2015.

Ms T Bates – Performing Arts Coordinator

Careers News

Mr D Blake – Acting Careers Adviser

Delegate RSL Visit to SPX

Last Friday the College hosted Mr Phillip Pope, President of Delegate RSL Club, for whom our senior students raised $4000 from the Poppy Appeal on Remembrance Day, which will go towards upkeep of the Anzac Memorial and RSL Charitable works.

Delegate is a tiny town on the NSW-Victorian border from which the Men from Snowy River recruitment march originated in 1916. Their War Memorial bears the names of hundreds of men from this small district, and Phil drove to Sydney to express the gratitude of his small community.

Phil, ex Royal Australian Navy, now also works at the Canberra CSIRO Deep Space Exploration Communications Centre. He informatively guest lectured to both our Year 7 and 8 History students and to our HSC Physics and Maths students on his areas of expertise and interest.

We thank Mr Pope for his generosity of time and hope to continue our mutually beneficial relationship with him, the Town of Delegate, NSW RSLs, and the CSIRO and NASA Deep space exploration communication facilities in Canberra.

Mr Brannan - Kokoda Expedition Leader and Physics Teacher.
Senior Students Support Community Event

Friday’s assembly also featured recognition of our Senior Students who gave up the first Sunday of their September holidays to support the Willoughby Community Running For Rowie Festival. The boys ran the BBQ and Childrens’ Activities along with a number of Monte students at the Willoughby Bowling Club. The Running for Rowie festival is a charity fund raiser for children’s grief counselling, in honour of a Willoughby father of four young boys. Rowie tragically passed away while running training several years ago.

All of our students were commended on their efforts and community mindedness in support of this most worthy event.

Mr S Brannan - Head of Student services

Year 10 ABW

Our Year 10 students have just completed their Australian Business Week program for 2014. Our keynote speaker, Mr Phil Cameron, set the tone for a great week and we thank him for that.

The week involved teams of ten boys forming, running and analysing companies which manufacture a range of sports equipment. The week also involved a series of team-based tasks that included advertisements, report writing, a trade display, a website and a final oral presentation.

ABW is a student centred program in which SPX has participated for the past 14 years. Our EBGC teachers facilitated the program but were ably assisted by mentors from Rotary Chatswood, past students and current parents.

Mr S Quilty – Commerce/Economics/Business Studies/Geography Coordinator

Kokoda Track Expedition Students

Congratulations to the Kokoda Track Expedition students who lead a social justice session for the whole school at The Founder’s Day Festival. The presenters included Hayden Tutill, Tom Coyne, Liam Houlihan, Hamish Book, Harry Heaney, Tim Abbott, Laurie Wesley and Matt Fragiacomo.

Mr S Brannan

Homework Help

Homework Help has concluded for 2014 and will begin again in Term 1, 2015.

Mrs K Martin – Special Education Teacher

Junior School News

REPORTS

The reports will be mailed by tomorrow so you should receive them by Friday or Monday. If you have a query and wish to speak to a teacher, we do have two staff days on the Monday and Tuesday when teachers are in various meetings but you can arrange to speak/meet a teacher. Hopefully, you know your son and this report is either telling you what you already know or is a pleasant surprise.

JUNIOR SCHOOL PRIZE GIVING

The ceremony will commence tomorrow, 4th December, at 12 noon at Oxford Falls. We will be acknowledging the award winners for academia, chess, debating and sports that haven’t already had a presentation ceremony this year. All boys extra curricular efforts will be acknowledged as will the fact that for the Year 6 boys this is the last year of their primary schooling. As this is a large award ceremony we will have a short interval in the middle and we envisage it will be completed shortly after 2 pm.

Boys are to wear their normal school uniform (shirt and tie) tomorrow. They will be at Oxford Falls so they need to bring morning tea, lunch and please make sure they have a water bottle for the ceremony. If you can attend, that would be wonderful. You may take your son home after the ceremony. Please be aware that the boys catching the bus will not get back to school until 3.30pm.

Please be careful on the roads over Christmas - remember you have precious cargo, yourselves and your families.

May the true peace of the Christ Child be with you and yours at Christmas and beyond.

Best wishes for a happy and holy Christmas.

Mr T Long – Head of Junior School
Senior School Sport

SARTO GYM HOLIDAY SESSIONS

It is with great pleasure that I can announce the opening of the Sarto gym throughout the Holiday period. The gym will be staffed by Francis Cullimore and Adam Fulepp to allow all boys access to our fitness facilities throughout the break.

The opening has been facilitated by the generous funding received from our outstanding P&F association and I thank them on behalf of all the boys who will benefit from the gym facilities.

The sessions are open to all boys from Year 9 through to 12.

They are not sport specific, however boys should be aware that they will be under instruction from Francis and Adam who will be acting in the capacity of staff members. Boys who are not acting appropriately will be asked to leave.

The opening days and times are as follows:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>December</th>
<th>January</th>
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<td>8th, 10th, 12th</td>
<td>5th, 7th 9th</td>
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<td>15th, 17th, 19th</td>
<td>12th, 14th, 16th</td>
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<td>19th, 21st, 23rd</td>
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On each of these days the Gym will be open from 9.30am – 11.00am.

I would encourage boys to take advantage of these sessions and wish everyone a Merry Christmas as we head into the break.

Mr M Stearn – Senior School Sportsmaster

CRICKET

Last week the cricket community worldwide lost a popular and dynamic player and man, Phil Hughes. SPX Cricket has equally shared this loss. Included in Woodchatta Extras is a tribute to Phil Hughes from SPX Cricket. The creator of this tribute, Mr Danny John, is arranging for this publication to be forwarded via Cricket Australia to the Hughes family.

Thank-you Mr John. Please click here to see the tribute.

Player of the week: Phil Hughes (Australian test player #408).


SPX Cricket wishes all players, parents and supporters as holy Christmas and a Happy New Year 2015.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Results (29/11/14)</th>
<th>06/12/14</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SPX White U13 MWJCA</td>
<td>SPX White 72 &amp; 1/34 defeated by Peninsula Tiger Sharks 9/167</td>
<td>Collaroy Plateau Thunderbolts Collaroy Plateau Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPX Green U14 MWJCA</td>
<td>SPX Green 52 &amp; 8/50 defeated by Peninsula Vipers 6/168 (A Veldic 2/22)</td>
<td>Collaroy Plateau Neutrons Griffith Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPX Red U14 NSJCA</td>
<td>SPX Red vs St Ives Johnson 2 day game in progress</td>
<td>St Augustines White Watkins Oval, Oxford Falls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPX Yellow U16/18 MWJCA</td>
<td>SPX Yellow 160 (T Ventura 49, a Graffeo 37, O Sheehan 29) defeated by St Augustines Red 7/232 (L May 3/8)</td>
<td>2 day game, St Ives Johnson Buffalo Creek Reserve</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPX 2nd XI ISA</td>
<td>No match</td>
<td>Chevalier College Bowral - 31 Jan 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPX 1st XI ISA</td>
<td>No match</td>
<td>All Saint’s College Oxford Falls - 31 Jan 2015</td>
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Mr D Reay - Convenor
Boxercise is available for all students every Thursday and Friday morning at 7.30am in the Blue Room. Please contact Mr Russo if you have any queries.

Regular attendees at Boxercise were awarded with certificates at last Monday’s Assembly.

Junior School Sport

**Thursday Sport:** No Sport tomorrow. The Junior Sport and Academic Awards Ceremony takes place in lieu of Sport. Boys will depart school at 9am and the afternoon’s ceremony will conclude around 2.30-3pm (see Jnr School Newsletter for full details).

**Uniform return:** There are some items of borrowed uniform still outstanding. This service is provided to assist parents, especially in the case of boys trying a sport for the first time and unsure of continuation in the future, and also in sports with a short competitive season, such as Athletics. Please return any borrowed items of clothing before term’s end (Basketball singlets, Athletics singlets, Football goalie jersey etc.).

Thanks once again to all for another huge year of Junior School Sport. The involvement and sportsmanship displayed by all students was superb and I acknowledge our cohort for this. I especially thank the House Captains for their energy and leadership over the year, especially at the Major Carnivals. We once again had much success but more importantly we developed our boys holistically and gave them an opportunity to form closer ownership of the College culture. I must sincerely thank parents for their support over the year. Have a happy and safe Christmas period and I look forward to doing it all again in 2015!

Mr G Virgona – Junior School Sportsmaster

Uniform Shop

**TRADING HOURS – MONDAYS, TUESDAYS & WEDNESDAYS 8.00AM – 1.30PM**

The Uniform Shop has now closed for 2014. It will reopen in 2015 as follows:

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 21st January</td>
<td>9am to 1.30 pm</td>
<td>Tuesday 27th January</td>
<td>8am to 1.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 22nd January</td>
<td>9am to 1.30pm</td>
<td>Wednesday 28th January</td>
<td>8am to 1.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 23rd January</td>
<td>9am to 1.30pm</td>
<td>Friday 1st February</td>
<td>8am to 1.30pm</td>
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A [price list](http://www.spx.nsw.edu.au/facilities-resources/dsp-default.cfm?loadref=83) is available on the College website.

Mrs D Muirhead – Co-ordinator

Canteen Roster

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term 1, 2015</th>
<th>2/2 – 6/2</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>28/01 – 30/01</td>
<td>Mon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>S Twohill, J Watts, K Jubian, T Gaughan, E Leach, E Lee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thurs</td>
<td>P Thornton, A Stewart</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>I Janssen, M Miles, A Herrera-Bond</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>D Speedy, L Princi, A Wesley, C Sweeney</td>
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<td></td>
<td>P Scaiff, S Roberts</td>
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<td>2/2 – 6/2</td>
<td>Mon</td>
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<td></td>
<td>S Twohill, J Watts, K Jubian, T Gaughan, E Leach, E Lee</td>
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**College**

35 Anderson Street, Chatswood NSW 2067 P(02) 9411 4733 F(02) 9413 1860

**Treacy Complex**

Dreadnought Road, Oxford Falls NSW 2100 P(02) 9451 7375

E admin@spx.nsw.edu.au www.spx.nsw.edu.au

A CATHOLIC BOYS’ COLLEGE IN THE EDMUND RICE TRADITION
WOODCHATTA EXTRAS
Issue No 38 ● 5 December 2014

The following information is contained within this week’s Woodchatta Extras.
Click on the link below to take you straight to that section.

1. CAREERS NEWSLETTER

2. 2015 SCHOOL FEES – LETTER FROM THE COLLEGE BOARD

3. YEAR 5 HOLIDAY TENNIS FLYER

4. YEAR 5 AQUATIC CENTRE EVENT FLYER

5. PERFORMING ARTS PRODUCTION 2015

6. MINDMATTERS: Top 10 Tips to make the most of the End of Year School Report

7. OLD BOYS NEWS

8. CRICKET CLUB NEWS

9. TRIBUTE TO PHIL HUGHES
Dear Parents and Guardians,

On behalf of the Board, thank you for your continuing support of the College for the education of your sons. St Pius X College is a Catholic learning community in the Edmund Rice tradition with a vision to help your sons strive for “personal best” and to make a positive difference in life in the 21st century.

The College Board works collaboratively with the Principal and Edmund Rice Education Australia (EREA) to provide quality stewardship aimed at offering the best possible learning environment for the students at the College. It is responsible for governance of Mission & Vision, Strategic Planning & Review, Policy, Finance & Risk Management as well as support to the Principal and the College Leadership Team.

This year, the College continued the successful implementation of its 2012-2016 Strategic Improvement Plan for its mission of Catholic life, pastoral care, teaching and learning. The Strategic Plan also sets the College’s intentions for improvement in other areas of school life such as curriculum and co-curricular programs, human resources and development, ICT, facilities and resources.

The College is very much dependent on Commonwealth and State Government funding to help keep fees affordable. In 2012, the NSW Government decided to cap funding for the next 4 years at the 2012/2013 levels. On the other hand, funding from the Commonwealth Government has been maintained. However, the Education Price Index (CPI Group) has increased by 5.1% over the last year. The College is budgeting for increased expenses consistent with this as well as increased renovation costs. Taking this into account, the Board of EREA has approved a tuition fee increase of 5.1% for 2015. Overall, we believe that the College continues to compare very favourably with other independent Sydney metropolitan schools.

We thank the Principal, Mr. John Couani, and the College Staff for their commitment to providing a Catholic education in the Edmund Rice tradition, striving as they do to promote the spiritual, intellectual, social, cultural and physical growth of the boys. We wish the Year 12 boys well as they wait for their HSC results and look forward to them going forward to make a positive difference in our world.

In closing, the Board congratulates the College on a very successful year and we are very confident the College will continue to thrive and succeed into the future. Thank you again for supporting the College and, on behalf of the Board, I wish you and your families a happy and holy Christmas, safe holidays and a fulfilling year ahead.

Yours sincerely

Peter Hughes
Board Chair
Year 5 – Game on!
Tennis Holiday Fun
Monday 8th December

Belrose Tennis Club
behind Glenrose Shopping Centre
9.00 am – 3.00 pm
(supervision from 8.30 am – 3.30 pm)
$36.00 per child includes
sausage sizzle lunch
Bring a racquet
(or borrow one from venue),
hat, drink bottle & morning tea

Bookings essential by 1 December
www.trybooking.com/111408

Limited places!  Don’t miss out!!

Contact: Cathy Dixon  cathmdixon@yahoo.com.au
Year 5
Get cool in the pool
Wednesday 17th December
Ryde Aquatic Centre
Victoria Road, Ryde

Try the SurfRyder and enjoy the super slide, wave pool and swimming for as long as you like!

Two sessions of SurfRyder available
(includes instructor and supervision)
11 am or 12.00 pm

All for only $17.50 per child

No supervision after instruction on SurfRyder.
Parent supervision required for this event
Kiosk available for lunch and snacks

Limited spots
Bookings essential by 1 December!

www.trybooking.com/111406

Contact Fiona Felice: fi_tatts@hotmail.com
Students from Years 5 – 11 are invited to audition for the 2015 Performing Arts production – “I’m With Cupid!”, written and directed by Mr Joshua Combes. The story is based on the characters of William Shakespeare’s “Much Ado About Nothing.”

Auditions will be held in the first few weeks of Term 1, 2015. Days and times will be in the first Woodchatta for 2015 and in the Student Daily Notices.

Rehearsals will take place every Monday afternoon from 3:30pm – 5:30pm in the Sarto Centre for all of Semester 1.

Ben, who is full of macho bravado, thinks that showing feelings and falling in love makes a man weak. He is not shy about making his friends Don Pedro, the prince, and Claudio feel foolish if they do so. When Ben and his friends come to stay at the Cupid’s Arrow Resort, he meets his match in Beatrice Cupid. Beatrice is the staunchly single and opinionated niece of the owner. Ben and Beatrice have had a brief past. Whenever they come together a loud, public argument occurs, much to the embarrassment of the audience around them. Don Pedro begins to view this volatility as passion. After all, the opposite of love is not hate, it is indifference. Don Pedro enlists Ben’s friends and Beatrice’s family in a mission to trick them into revealing their true feelings and their love. Hilarity ensues as Ben and Beatrice become susceptible to the ingenious trap. Will Ben learn that being authentic with his feelings and acting through love is what true strength is really about? Or will he forever remain a coward, choosing to hide behind the inauthentic mask of machismo?

“Sometimes Cupid uses arrows but for special occasions he uses traps!”

Actors and singers will be required for this production. An audition package can be obtained from Mr Joshua Combes, in the Performing Arts Staffroom.

We will be auditioning girl students from affiliated girls’ schools in the area. However, there may be sisters of students at the College who would like to audition for what promises to be a great adventure. The lead female roles are as follows:

BEATRICE – Female - niece of the famous trillionaire and hotelier, Leonato Cupid. Nemesis of Beatrice. A song writer with no interest at all in: writing love songs, falling in love, being beholden to a man or marriage. (Comedic acting and lead vocals. Preferably ability to proficiently play rhythm guitar.)

HERO – Female - daughter of the famous trillionaire and hotelier, Leonato Cupid. One of the most eligible bachelorettes in the Tri-Colonies. (Acting and lead vocals.)

MARGARET – Female – the headlining Cupid’s Arrow Resort entertainer. Best friend to Hero Cupid. (Acting and lead vocals.)

URSULA – Female - wife to Antonio Cupid, sister-in-law to Leonato Cupid, mother to Leander Cupid, and mother figure to Hero and Beatrice. (Acting and support vocals.)

We also warmly welcome members of the St Pius X College community who would like to offer their services in regard to costuming and/or production design assistance.

Please contact Ms Tracey Bates T Bates@stpiusx.nsw.edu.au
Ten Top Tips to Make the Most of the End of Year School Report

1. **Before the report arrives home**, a useful exercise would be to ask your son to write their own school report. Make up a grid similar to this (below) for all subjects, and ask your child to pretend to be the teacher and write about themselves. You could also create a grid that simulates your child's previous school report.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Grade (A-E)</th>
<th>Effort (A-E)</th>
<th>Teacher’s comment</th>
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<td>English</td>
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<td>Maths</td>
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   This gives your son the opportunity to reflect on his/her own performance at school. It can provide parents with a useful insight and can be a reference to compare the teachers’ perspectives with your child’s viewpoint. It is also a good discussion point when the school report arrives home. And a discussion should take place to help your son reflect and evaluate the report with you.

2. **Read your son's report with your son.** This immediately indicates openness, and provides direct encouragement and support to your son. Wherever there are positives, in either comments, grades, effort and so on, point them out to your son first. Most students will have areas to commend and should be acknowledged by the parent.

3. **The report should be viewed as a vehicle to move forward,** and not be perceived as a final judgment of your son’s ability - because it is not. It’s a “screenshot” and not the whole story. It is important students know they have the ability to modify and change their work ethic or study strategies, and they can improve. Reinforcing that the report is an opportunity to highlight strengths and weaknesses, which will happen throughout their working life through appraisal or performance reviews, can help the student develop goals for next year.

4. **Compare the yearly report to the Semester 1 report and last year’s report.**
   This can be useful to identify specific subject areas where there has been an improvement or a decline. If grades improved, celebrate this achievement. If the grades declined, ask your son why this may be the case. For example, Semester 1 report grades may have been based on assignments and not exams. This could flag that exams were either not fully prepared for and study skills should be reviewed, or your son needs exam practice as they are a very different mode to demonstrate knowledge, or perhaps new concepts were introduced in Semester 2 and these could be weaknesses to work on!

5. **Don’t just look at grades, focus on effort also.**
   A child’s performance is not measured solely by grades. Not every child will receive an A or B, in fact the average child would mostly like achieve a C grade (which typically represents the middle 60%). Effort grades however can reflect the teacher’s perspective on how hard your son worked, his commitment to fulfill homework, assignments and contribution in class. A child who achieved a C grade, or 55%, yet gained an A for effort should be congratulated. Again, as the report should be viewed as a discussion and evaluation, if the effort grade is lower, ask your son why this might be the case, and make a note of this to form one of the goals for next year.
6. **Consider the “year average” mark or grade.**
Many schools will include the year average grade as well as your son’s grade. This is important to consider. If your child attained a 75%, and the year average was 62%, then your son is well above the average. Celebrate this.

7. **Teachers’ comments.**
The teachers’ comments are valuable when discussing the report with your son. Ask him if they agree with the comment, or why, if he doesn’t. Encourage your son to consider the teachers’ comments. Obviously if there is a consistent thread from multiple teachers, this needs to be addressed. For example, if many teachers comment on your son’s lack of concentration, or need to focus on answering the question, then the comments suggest a specific area of weakness. Similarly, if multiple comments commend your son on commitment, determination and diligence, it suggests your son’s attitude to school is solid.

8. **TALK to your child about the report, and LISTEN.**
Help your son not to blame someone or something that resulted in a disappointing report. Blame does not lead to action. If there are extenuating circumstances for a disappointing report (such as a difficult family situation like parents separating, or relocation or demanding co-curricular activities etc), acknowledge these may have affected your son’s focus and give understanding. However help your son accept that they perhaps did not put in the effort, or had not established an effective revision program, or had not given the required commitment. Asking your son what they could do next year to improve or maintain excellence is a good start. Again, it would be worthwhile jotting down your son’s comments to establish goals. Reinforcing that a yearly report is a vehicle to move forward is vital.

9. **Grades varying between subjects, and compare exam results with assessment results.**
Identify specific subjects where grades were ‘low’ and where others were ‘high’. It is not uncommon for students to have strengths in some subjects and weaknesses in others. Few children excel across all subject areas, particularly in Years 7 – 10 when they have not yet been able to refine their academic program to areas of interest or strength. Talk to your son about why grades may vary, as there could be good reasons. For example, if your son’s report grades range from 98% to 62%, ask why? Most students would be able to articulate the divergence and it could be simply that they did not study for a subject at all, or had misread a heavily weighted question. Again, make a note of your son’s comments, to form goals or strategies for next year. Similarly compare exam grades against assessment grades. If your son’s exam marks are noticeably less than the assessment grades, it could easily identify a weakness in exam technique and/or revision, and not be a reflection of ability or understanding. Remember, examinations are just one medium for determining a child’s knowledge.

10. **Establish goals for next year and consider a holiday review program (even if only 1 hour a week).**
The report can, and should, be read as an instrument to create goals for next year, and possibly plan a holiday review program. As students in December typically focus on the long summer holidays, freedom and unstructured days, it’s natural for school work to wane. However, now is the time to create goals for next year, whilst the academic year remains in their recent memory. It is more difficult to establish goals in February. Goals are best determined by the child, yet parental input after discussing a yearly report is prudent and can provide direction. Identify 3 – 5 goals for Semester 1, 2015. The goals should be in response to you and your son’s discussion of the report, and teacher recommendations. Some goals could be:

- Focus on reading the question in assignments/exams carefully to ensure the question is answered.
- Ensure I make summary notes when I finish each topic.
- Do at least 30 minutes reviewing what I learned at school each day, in addition to homework.
- Ask the teacher if I don’t understand a concept.
- For example, if Maths is a weakness, spend 1 hour a week doing extra Maths practice.
When the goals are listed put them in a prominent place – fridge, bedroom wall, notice board etc.

It would also be prudent to develop a holiday review program if there are specific subjects or areas of subjects that are weak. This does not need to be extensive, in fact, shouldn’t, however regular practice of specific subjects that will be required for cumulative learning next year can make an enormous difference.

Examples of subjects where knowledge learned this year would be assumed knowledge for next year can include Maths, Science, English and Languages – as well as many others!

Holiday review programs can easily be incorporated into your son’s vacation plans. For example, if your son sees a movie, they could write a review, or analyse the film techniques. If your son reads a newspaper or magazine or internet site, they could write a short paragraph about bias, purpose, persuasive techniques etc.

LASTLY, if you are very concerned about your son’s report, you should contact the school.

Learn more this year about how to set goals and be more efficient and effective with your schoolwork by working through the units on www.studyskillshandbook.com.au. You might like to work through a few units over the holidays.

Username: spx
Password: 25 success

Mr R Russo – College Counsellor
OLD BOYS NEWS

VALE TONY RUWALD ’70
We learned last week of the sudden passing of Tony Ruwald ’70. Please remember Tony, his family and friends, in our thoughts and prayers.

On behalf of the SPX Old Boys’ Association, I wish the entire SPX community a happy and safe Christmas and holiday season.

NEW OLD BOYS WEB SITE
The new Old Boys web site is currently under construction and it is hoped that it will be launched at the start of 2015. Stay tuned!

OLD BOYS NEWS
If you have some news for the old boys that you would like included in this section, please let us know at: info@oldboys.spx.nsw.edu.au

SPX OLD BOYS RUGBY – BROTHERS RUGBY CLUB SYDNEY

BROTHERS RUGBY – SEASON 2014:

CHRISTMAS DRINKS – THIS FRIDAY 5TH DECEMBER, 6PM AT THE WILLOUGHBY HOTEL
After what can be described as highly successful season, by taking out the Club Championship and joint Premiership in 1st grade (Barraclough Cup), Brothers now look forward to a season in 1st division in 2015. Brothers have not been in this division since the early 1980’s and preparations for the season ahead are already underway.

Brothers Colts have announced the appointment of Matt Ryan, former Wallaby, Qld Reds and Brothers Brisbane player.

Touch footy will be starting early in the new year, all are welcome, please come along. Preseason training details can be found on our web site. To get involved with your old boys club, go to: www.brothersrugby.com.au or go to our face book page.

2014 was definitely a great season, congratulations to all involved. See you in 2015!

David Bullard (’82) – President SPX OBA & Brothers Rugby
info@oldboys.spx.nsw.edu.au
0407 864 357
MWJCA U12 Division 2 – 22/11/14 & 29/11/14 – Round 5, Oxford Falls
St Pius X Blue 5/132 (R Kennedy 38, C Hughes 32*, L Chang 11*) defeated by Peninsula Pacers 7/247 (R Kennedy 3/15, G Bullock 1/14, L Chang 1/18)

Day one, St Pius Blue won the toss and elected to bat. Against a formidable Pacer’s attack the Blues batsmen struggled to achieve a defendable run rate. Once again a middle order partnership by R Kennedy (38) and C Hughes (32no) steadied the scoring and pushed the tally beyond 100. The end of the innings saw The Blues at 5 /132.
The start of the second day saw the Pacers batting. St Pius achieved early success with L Chang taking a wicket in the first over of the innings at 1/1. The next wicket fell to R Kennedy in the ninth over, making the Pacers 2/35. The Pacers then stamped their mark scoring 126 runs before the next dismissal. There were several dropped catches which cost the Blues dearly. The Blues tally was passed in the 27th over, and the Pacer’s coach elected to continue batting. The tail end of the innings saw some success in the field but by then it was all too late.

Special mention is made of:
❖ Matthew Bradley for a great catch in the field and a run out as keeper.
❖ Tom Wunsch for a great catch.
❖ Riley Kennedy 3/15 including a caught/bowled.
❖ George Bullock with another PB of 1/14.
❖ The whole team for the encouragement they gave each other throughout the game.

Thank you to all the players and parents for respectfully observing a minutes silence for Phil Hughes.

Richard Boxall

NSJCA U14PM Division 1 - 29/11/2014 & 06/12/14 - Round 7, Buffalo Creek Reserve
Day 1 St Pius X Red 259 (T Colgan 48, J Rayner 46, J Robinson 35, T McLachlan 34) v St Ives Johnson

It was a day tinged with sadness. Both teams showed great respect for the memory of Phil Hughes, forming a guard of honour on the wicket before the match and observing a minute’s silence. They also added their own special tribute by forming the words “FOREVER OUR HERO, PHIL HUGHES” as a message from admiring and saddened young cricketers.

Both coaches then asked the boys to play-on, as Phil would likely have wanted, and to do so in the true spirit of the game - and to have fun.
We went into bat on the ‘not-so-wide-open-Prairie-sized’ Buffalo Creek Reserve. There were runs to be made with controlled batting, without the need for big hitting. For a while, Coach Colgan was shaking his head, wondering why his message had missed its mark. We lost some early wickets through unnecessary impatience and the innings was starting to take on the shape of a pear.

Thankfully, the ‘ship’ soon steadied and the good news started to roll in. Lukas Papangelis (24) turned in his best knock of the season with some solid hitting and a long stay at the crease. Then, Tim McLachlan (34) added his contribution with impressive shot-making all around the ground. Next-up, Josh Rayner (46) put on a glorious display of front-foot power hitting, with a sprinkling of elegant sweeps to complete his knock. Laurence Sheehan (24) was a bit more cautious, but added plenty. Tom Colgan (48) was back to his imperious best, playing a mix of his trade-mark cut-shots and adding some straight drives over the bowler’s head to round-out his hitting display. One of the special performances came from James Robinson (35), who hit 5 fours in a knock that lasted more than 10 overs.

While these were the stars of the day, other batters made good contributions in our total of 259, one ball short of the day’s 60 overs. We only got 26 ‘extras’ in our total on a ground that could go against any loose play, so we still have plenty of work to do next week.

MWJCA U16-18 – 22/11/14 & 29/11/14 – Round 5, Melwood Oval
St Pius X Purple 122 (Kelleher 28, R Beattie 24, S Dixon 14) defeated by St Augustines Gold 186 (T McKern 4/22, W Roser 2/21, L O’Neill 1/8, R O’Connell 1/27, A Halliday 1/24, R Beattie 1/44)

Round 5 saw SPX Purple up against the undefeated St Augustines Gold. SPX’s homework on their opposition had determined they were up against a team capable of a big innings. The other challenge would be matching up against a much older team.

SPX Purple won the toss and decided that bowling first was their chance to set the tone of the match. SPX were caught a little short with only 9 players available, however a big thanks to Rory O’Connell (Year 6) for helping out at late notice, to make it 10. Rory not only helped out in the field but was also tossed the ball for four overs and took a wicket (bowled) and did very well against players 5 years his senior.

The match started off with a superb opening spell by Will Roser (2/21 off 7) and Rory Beattie. Roser regularly just missed the outside edge, however once again it seemed as though luck may not be on our side. Beattie (1/44) made the important first breakthrough in the 6th over when he took out all three stumps (Impressive!!).

St Augustines kept the run rate ticking at 1/40 off 8 overs. The first change was due so captain Brendan Plummer brought on Alex Halliday (1/24) who bowled well again and then decided it was also time for some spin to change things up. Tom McKern put on a great display of well flighted spin, taking a fantastic 4/22 off 6 overs (all caught), including the all-important scalp of St Augustines very talented opener Nicholas Hidas, who was caught behind by Ryan Kelleher for 47. Liam O’Neill also had a great day with his spin bowling taking 1/8 off just 3 overs. Will Roser returned to deservedly take some great wickets, both clean bowled.
Despite the opposition’s regular big hitting and flow of boundaries, SPX stuck to a game plan. They kept up their enthusiasm and talk, bowled accurately and kept the fielding tight. Eventually it paid off as wickets began to fall regularly as they ripped into the opposition. SPX Purple took their catches and kept extras to an absolute minimum. It was a superb team effort in the field with 8 players being involved directly in the 10 dismissals. The team were well led by captain Brendan Plummer with great support from Tom McKern who helped set the field and kept the team talking and enthusiastic. The lads put in a top effort to dismiss St Augustines Gold all out in the 35th over, limiting their big hitting to 186 on a quick outfield. It was particularly good considering we played one player short and with our bowling stocks a bit depleted.

SPX Purple’s innings began with a full hour left to play on day one. Sam Dixon (14) opened the batting and continued his good batting form from the previous week. After loss of some early wickets, Ryan Kelleher at No.4 steadied the ship with solid defence for the last 7 overs, scoring just four runs. Day One closing at 3/41 off 14 overs.

The events of the week leading up to Match Day Two are now sadly known to us all, with the very shocking and tragic news of the death of much loved Australian Cricketer Phillip Hughes. The SPX cricket community were all in deep shock, as was the whole nation and the entire worldwide cricket community, who were all mourning the loss of a fantastic young cricketer and great role model. St Pius X and St Augustines players delivered an emotional tribute to Hughes, through two minutes silence while lining each side of the pitch and putting out their bats to honour the memory of Hughesy.

Following the respectful tributes to Phil Hughes, Day Two started positively for SPX with Ryan Kelleher (28) and Rory Beattie (24) moving the score along to 96 in a solid 64 run partnership and it looked like a the target was within reach. Beattie had yet another good innings and was part of another excellent partnership, similar to the week before. Kelleher at the other end looked in control and batted well to remain in for so long and play the occasional excellent drive to the boundary. Scoring quickly proved a little difficult against his older opponents but he remained for a total of two hours (33 overs) to keep us in the game, similar to some previous innings, before falling to an excellent swinging delivery in the last over before drinks.

St Augustines continued the pressure and after the first hour they made the important breakthrough of Beattie and eventually began to take regular wickets. SPX were eventually dismissed for 122, falling 64 runs short. Despite the loss a lot of positives can be taken out of the game once again. The team bowled and fielded brilliantly. It will not take much change for the first win to come their way. It might just require that one special innings, some quicker run scoring and a bit of luck might help too.

A big thanks must go to our umpire Gerard Plummer and to Brendan Roser and Paul Beattie for scoring.

Mark Kelleher
“Old and young players, we all share this terrible loss”

David Reay, SPX Cricket Convenor

PHILLIP HUGHES
1988–2014

INSIDE: #putoutyourbats tributes; a cricket hero looks on
Amid the silence, a cricket hero looks on

By Danny John

For 63 seconds at Oxford Falls and grounds around the north shore of Sydney where St Pius’ district teams were playing on Saturday, there was a palpable silence. No shouts of expectation or excitement; no sounds of leather on willow; no thud of ball into a wicket’s gloves; no exclamation of a near-miss or a knock; no shout for how’s that. This was a silence of grief. A silence of remembrance. A silence of loss, a silence of no more. Of a young man, not much older than many of our recent graduates of Year 12, who will never again score a graceful ton on grounds around and for Australia. But as we struggle with the realization and understanding that Phillip Joel Hughes has died, this was also an expression of peace; a recognition that while he is gone he will never be forgotten; a standing tribute to a truly talented cricketer by young and old; a sign of respect for what one individual can achieve through his actions and his words. Hughes’ story was an inspiring one and not just for or because of his undoubted abilities, particularly with the bat. If anything, his gritty fight to play at the highest levels of Australian and world cricket and once he got there, to stay there was the truly inspiring side of his character. Hughes played 26 test matches for his country. In just the second of those, he made twin centuries against the South Africans in South Africa. He was just 20 years of age and had played a mere 17 first class matches before his test debut. As the former Australian captain and cricket great Steve Waugh reminded us, he didn’t score his first century for his country until his 26th test. “There was something about him,” Waugh told the Sydney Morning Herald. “He knew how to make runs, he loved batting and had that fire in the belly, you could see it in his eyes; he loved playing Test match cricket. He was destined for greatness.” But as we all know, destiny doesn’t always translate into long-term success. Hughes was dropped five times from the national team in his short career, partly a casualty of his idiosyncratic batting style but primarily because of impatience and frustration amongst the selectors who never persevered with him to give him the time in the national squad he needed to develop. That is what Steve Waugh believed and he should know. “He (Hughes) certainly wasn’t the finished article,” Waugh said. “But he was a finished article in terms of his skillset and in terms of his potential.”

Hughes was destined for greatness. By the time he was out of form and dropped when he was in form, it was very difficult for Phil to establish himself in the side.” There is a lesson in that for all of us. It was also one that Phil Hughes was able to teach us. For all the heartache that getting dropped caused him, he continued to fight back and push his claim for what many considered to be his natural place in the test team. That he was on the cusp of wearing the Baggy Green again when he died underlined his dedication, commitment and devotion to a game he loved so much. It was those skills, that effort, that determination which were at the forefront of the tributes that St Pius cricketers and thousands of others around the country paid him this weekend. But let us also remember the other reason why he played the game. He loved the sport and in doing so brought so much enjoyment and fun to those who watched him or were lucky enough to know him. Let us never forget therefore what’s important about this game. No matter how serious it gets or how hard it becomes, we play it for fun. I’m reminded exactly of that from a Pius 2nd XI match a few weeks ago. Having given his team a “good” talking to a couple of batsmen when it comes to the truth - made the point to our batsmen when our backs were against the wall to also go out there and “have fun”. Phil Hughes knew that only too well and he would have thoroughly endorsed those words.

Rest peacefully, young man.

Danny John edits Stumped! the weekly fanzine of the St Pius X College ISA cricket 2nd XI.
The word tragedy gets used far too often in sport but this freak accident is now a real-life tragedy. Just shy of his 26th birthday, Phillip Hughes has been taken from us far too young. As a cricketer, Phillip was an incredibly talented and dearly loved member of the Australian, South Australian and Adelaide Strikers squads and a former NSW representative. He also played county cricket in England and IPL in India. Without doubt he was a rising star whose best cricket was still ahead of him. As a cricket community we mourn his loss and extend our deepest sympathies to Phillip’s family, friends and team mates at this incredibly sad time, and of course to the Australian cricket family and the State Associations. We are thinking of you right now. I’d like to thank you and our club community around the country for the wonderful show of support given to Phillip and his family. From social media to phone calls to our front desk, the support has been tremendous and I want to thank you on behalf of Australian cricket. We know that Phillip would encourage you to celebrate the game of cricket with your mates over the weekend. We ask you to do that in tribute to Phillip Hughes. Whether that’s getting creative with writing his player number 408 on the outfield, wearing a black arm band or having a moment’s silence after the toss. Celebrate his great achievements and the contribution he made to our game. Phillip Joel Hughes played 26 Test matches for his country. He will be sadly missed and forever remembered.

James Sutherland is the chief executive officer of Cricket Australia. This is an edited extract of a letter sent to all cricket clubs around the country through the partnership of CA and Weetbix MyCricket last Thursday announcing the passing of Phil Hughes.
Saturday November 29 St Pius Red and St Ives Johnson Buffalo Creek Reserve

Saturday November 29 ISA 1st 1X, West Pymble

Beattie Family backyard cricket match tribute

Gone, but never to be forgotten

From backyards to bowlo’s, cricket fields to front doors, Pius teams, families and individual players made their feelings known about the loss of Phil Hughes. SPX Red and St Ives Johnson came together in a moving show of commemoration by displaying the words “Forever our hero Phil Hughes” before their Saturday afternoon game at Buffalo Creek Reserve. A few kilometres away the College ISA 1st XI had gathered for what had been planned as a mid-season and pre-Christmas celebration at West Pymble bowling club. Instead captain Nick McCamley asked them to bring their caps and bats as part of an impromptu farewell to Hughes, which they spelt out on the bowling green. And not far from there, a group of Pius boys met at the Beattie family’s home where 1st XI spinner Dermott and his brother U-16-U18 SPX Purple all-rounder Rory led their mates in a backyard game that Hughes would have loved.

A little battler who was thrilling to watch

“Phillip Hughes was an unforgettable cricketer, a personality cricketer, a little battler who was also thrilling to watch, a low-key country boy who expressed himself on the field with a uniquely flamboyant style. His countrymen always wanted him to succeed, sometimes desperately so, as if he were a puzzle that surely had a solution. There was no way a man with so much talent, and such a sweet temperament, could fall short of his potential. He would turn 26 this Sunday. We thought he had so many more years to find his way.”

Malcolm Knox, sports columnist, Sydney Morning Herald

#Putoutyourbats

Two caps placed on a bat outside their home was the way the John family chose to honour Hughes’ memory. The Mosman CC baggy blue belonging to Danny signified the club’s connection through Hughes’ brother Jason who plays first grade while the SPX cap represented former SPX 1st XI player Ben and current 2nd XI bowler Sam.