"A Catholic school is a place where students live a shared experience of faith in God and where they learn the riches of Catholic culture...Catholic schools must help students to deepen their relationship with God and to discover that all things human have their deepest meaning in the person and teaching of Jesus Christ.” - His Holiness Pope John Paul II.

"Do all you can with the means at your disposal and calmly leave the rest to God." - Saint Mary MacKillop

The above quote from Pope John Paul II so eloquently summarises our mission here at St. Pius X. In fact, our recently re-written School Vision states that “the values lived by Jesus Christ are the foundation for everything we do”. In 2015, a major focus for the school community has been the implementation of our School Values program (service, excellence, authenticity, relationship, courage and hope). I have also included a wonderful quote from Saint Mary MacKillop, as when we talk about the values of our school, we must always acknowledge our wonderfully rich Josephite tradition.

2015 has been another busy, but immensely rewarding year for our community. Our many accomplishments this year are a result of the ongoing commitment of our students, teachers, parents and parish. Working together, we continue to make St. Pius X a community of ‘faith and friendship’.

THE SCHOOL BOARD
The School Board continued to work tirelessly in 2015 to ensure that St. Pius X continues to be a school of choice in an increasingly competitive environment. It was particularly exciting to have members of our School Board join together with certain staff and parents to complete a new Strategic Plan. This document will act as our guide for the next three years, to ensure that St. Pius X remains at the forefront of education, providing the best possible experience for your children.

One of the major achievements of the School Board this year has been over-seeing the production of a Capital Development Plan, which should see our facilities at the school continue to be a great source of pride. One of the major challenges we face at the school is a lack of physical space. Our current building plans allow for the extension of the library and some classrooms, as well as the creation of more small-group learning spaces. Our toilet facilities for students will receive a much-needed update, while the staffroom and staff work-space will also be expanded to a more functional size and layout.

We continue on our journey towards introducing elements of a 21st Century teaching and learning style and our School Board has been integral in providing new furniture in the Year 5 and 6 classrooms this year to accommodate this. We continue to enjoy I.T. resources which would be the envy of many other schools, with the school Board helping to provide new laptops for teaching staff and students, interactive LED screens in junior primary and an increasing bank of i-Pads. I can honestly say that this Board has been outstanding in supporting the teachers in their essential role as educators, by ensuring that their work environment continues to be exceptionally well-resourced.
The School Board has also tackled the challenges brought by the implementation of a new school funding model. Through their diligence and wisdom, I am confident that the Board will continue to guide the school financially to ensure that we provide the best possible education.

I wish to thank the School Board for their commitment to St Pius X Catholic School. These individuals freely give their time and effort to support the Principal in the running of our wonderful school and have been a pleasure to work with this year. I would like to especially acknowledge the our School Board Chairperson, Mr. Nick Sertis, for his ongoing support, as well as our four retiring members of the Board, Mr. Graham Moore (treasurer), Mr. Clive Bingwa, Mr. Peter Hopfmueller and Mr. Steve Logan (Parish rep). The community will always be grateful for your contributions.

PARENTS AND FRIENDS’ ASSOCIATION

At St. Pius X, we are fortunate to have an energetic and dedicated group of parents making up our Parents and Friends’ Association. Led by Mrs. Lidia Pino, our P&F have once again been able to raise a significant amount of money for the school. All of this money raised goes into resources that will benefit our children. The P&F have worked particularly hard in fundraising for the planned new nature-based playground, which we hope to make a reality in 2016.

At the same time, our P&F have added so much to the community spirit of the school, holding a number of well-received parent events throughout the year. From Quiz Nights and Movie Nights for the children, to Bingo Nights and Sundowners for the parents, our P&F do so much to help create the wonderful community feel that St. Pius X continues to enjoy. I am extremely grateful for the essential role that the P&F have once again played in our school in 2015 and look forward to their contributions again in 2016.

PARISH - SCHOOL

The St. Pius X Parish and School continue to enjoy a close relationship. It was very exciting to welcome a new Parish Priest to our community this year, Father Blasco, who has shown a genuine interest in strengthening the bonds between school and parish. I thank Father Blasco for his spiritual guidance throughout the year and we look forward to continuing our relationship into the future.

A major achievement for the school and parish this year has been the initial steps towards the implementation of the Parish-Based Sacramental Policy. It has been very rewarding to see the school and parish collaborate more fully to provide the most meaningful Sacramental experience possible for our children. I would particularly like to thank our newly appointed Sacramental Co-ordinator at the Parish, Mrs. Charito Paulino. Charito has worked tirelessly to ensure the success of our Sacramental program.

STAFF

There is no doubt that schools are becoming increasingly complex environments and strong leadership is required to ensure success. We are very fortunate at St. Pius X to enjoy a very cohesive and efficient administration team. Mrs. Margaret Tatasciore continues to go above and beyond the call of duty to ensure that our school runs smoothly and we are all very grateful for her efforts. It has been very exciting to have introduced Mrs. Marni Nichol to the office this year. Marni has quickly settled into her new admin role and has already proved to be an invaluable member of the team. I would like to thank Mr. Daine Burnett, Principal, for his strong and focused leadership and his continuing mentoring that he provides to the leadership team. I would also like to acknowledge Mrs. Tiffany Johnson, who has joined us this year as Assistant
Principal, for her ongoing loyalty and support, as well as Mr. Kim Hughes, who has taken on the Assistant Principal role in Term Four. I can honestly say that it is rare to have such a cohesive leadership team that helps to steer the school community in a clear direction.

I wish to also acknowledge the energy, effort and skills that our wonderful staff bring to this school. We are staffed by some wonderfully talented and caring individuals, who consistently put the needs of their students first. I would like to 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 you continue to bring your own unique gifts and talents to enrich the lives of our students.

STUDENTS
At St. Pius X, we are blessed to be given the opportunity to care for such amazing students. Our students show such a love of learning and nowhere are our school values more evident than in the way our students conduct themselves and interact with each other. It is truly a privilege to interact with such wonderful young people each day. The students are to be commended on maintaining the high standards of manners and respect that we have come to expect from students at St. Pius X.

I would like to make special mention of our graduating Year 6 class, as they take the next step in their schooling. There is no doubt that while many challenges will lie ahead for them, the friendships and values nurtured during their time at St. Pius X will hold them in good stead, no matter where their paths might lead.

PARENTS
Any effective school can only succeed in partnership with parents. The children in our school come from such beautiful families, where they are loved unconditionally and assisted in their learning. I would like to personally thank the parents for your support this year. There have been numerous times where parents have put their hands up to assist with classroom rosters, P&F events, carnivals and student activities. Your efforts have not gone un-noticed or unappreciated.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
Religious Education and evangelisation 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 Catholic practices and knowledge, through the Religious Education Units of Work, is an integral part of our mission as a school. It is mandated by the Bishops of Western Australia and the Catholic Education Commission of Western Australia that we fulfil this role through the Units of Work. The Year 3 and 5 students participated in the Bishops’ Literacy Assessment once again, with pleasing results. As parents, you play an essential role in guiding your children throughout their faith journey.

EDUCATIONAL
St. Pius X continues to enjoy excellent results in NAPLAN, ACER and other standardised testing throughout the year. We continue to perform well in literacy and numeracy, not only in comparison to national averages, but also in comparison to ‘like schools’. This year, we had a particular focus on the areas of Grammar and Punctuation. Our assessment results indicate encouraging gains in these key areas.

Also this year, we were able to introduce Visual Arts as a specialist area, which has added more breadth to our curriculum as a school. We have also had success in
implementing individual instrumental lessons through our relationship with ‘Keyed-Up Music’, a relationship we hope to continue into the future. Considering our small size, we can be very proud of the extensive curriculum offerings at St. Pius X.

In 2016, our key focus areas will be Numeracy; and in particular mental mathematics strategies and developing a common knowledge around mathematical concepts. We also look to fully implement our whole-school Diana Rigg approach to Spelling in 2016.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank staff, parents and the wider community for their involvement in ensuring that 2015 was a wonderful year for St Pius X Catholic School. We are truly blessed to be involved in such an authentically Christian community.

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

Kindest regards

Brett Wilkie
Acting Principal
Term Four 2015