



## **Our Lady of Mount Carmel Primary School**

### **Board Chair Report – Nick Gvozdin**

**Monday, 26 November 2018**

Good evening and welcome fellow parents, teachers and friends to our OLMC Annual School Community Meeting for 2018. For those of you who don't know me, my name is Nick Gvozdin and I am the board chair, this being my second year in that position but fourth year on the board. Thank you for taking the time to attend at what is traditionally a very busy time of the year for all of us. Although we are required by our Constitution to have these annual meetings, in my view they provide a very valuable opportunity to find out about what has been happening in our school, understand and reflect in our achievements, and to find out about our future plans.

Insofar as the agenda for this evening is concerned, we do have a list of matters to get through. We will commence with the P&F AGM, Parish Report, my report as board chair, the Treasurer's Report in which the 2019 budget will be presented, the Principal's Report, and will conclude with a few presentations. There is a lot to get through, and I've set the rather ambitious aim of getting through it in between an hour and 90 minutes. I don't propose to have any questions taken during the meeting, but please come and see me afterwards if you would like to discuss anything.

- P&F AGM – Patrick Vereker
- OLMC Parish Report  
(Father Paul Raj)
- Board Chair Report

In tonight's report, I will provide the Community with:

- a brief update on the school's financial position;
- the OLMC Strategic Plan 2016 – 2019;
- an overview of what's next for our Building Program; and
- the School Board composition for 2019.

#### **School Finances**

I am pleased to report that OLMC continues to be in a strong financial position. Despite continuing to fund capital improvements and performing necessary maintenance works, and Kevin will provide more details of this in his Principal's Report, we have still been able to consolidate our financial position during 2018 and have again managed to ensure that there is still enough money in the bank to cover costs into the New Year prior to the receipt of the next portion of Federal and State funding. This continuous ability to have enough in the bank to cover costs over the summer holiday period is something we should all be proud of, and rightly so. To put this in perspective, many Catholic schools go into debt at this time of the year by using their bank overdraft facilities to cover costs leading into the

New Year. However, due to a combination of factors such as fundraising and the careful management of our finances and our continual efforts to spend our income wisely to try and get maximum bang for our education buck, we are able to be in the fortunate position we are.

I would like to thank Gaby Delborello for her continued efforts during the year as school Finance Officer. Things haven't missed a beat with Gaby Delborello stepping in and taking over from Karen Collins and quickly getting on top of the numbers, and Gabby together with our Board Treasurer, Ivan Jaksic, have managed to deliver the financial information required for the Board to make informed decisions, and most recently have been busy working on the school budget for next year, and you will see some of this financial information in the next presentation.

That presentation will give you an overview of our financial standing, and the financial picture for the next 12 months, including the approved increase in School Fees for 2019. I also want to thank Ivan for the hard work and professionalism he has put into the treasurer job. I know he puts a huge amount of effort and many hours of his time into the role and appreciate it can be a thankless task, this being despite his own work and family commitments. Ivan has done a tremendous job and managed to retain most of his sanity at the same time.

### **OLMC Strategic Plan 2016-2019**

What I say about this is very similar to what was said last year. Towards the end of 2015 an early into 2016, the OLMC staff and Board were involved in the compilation and ratification of the new OLMC Strategic Plan for 2016-2019. The plan was based on Catholic Education WA's four main points of focus – Learning, Engagement, Accountability and Discipleship – better known as the acronym LEAD.

A copy of the new Strategic Plan was issued to all OLMC families. The document itself only provides a summary and framework of what we hope to achieve over the next three years with regards to Learning, Engagement, Accountability and Discipleship. The “fleshing out” of the framework has been and will continue to be done progressively by the OLMC staff as they help to deliver what we have set out to deliver in the Strategic Plan.

If you are keen to get an understanding of what OLMC is planning to achieve in the four key areas, please take the time to have a brief read of the Strategic Plan if you have not already done so. It is a document we are proud of and one that very much sets out the course from now until 2019. Obviously, next year work will start on our next Strategic Plan and we will be seeking input from all relevant stakeholders as we start engaging in that process.

### **Building Program**

In recent years we have funded and executed significant improvements to the school buildings and facilities. The most recent building program commenced in 2015 during which we saw a remarkable change to our Early Learning Centre, Administration and Staff facilities. In 2016 we conducted general maintenance works and dealt with the remaining defects from the 1<sup>st</sup> Stage of the Building Program and consolidated our position both financially and from a construction point of view.

In late 2016 we engaged a painting contractor on a long term contract who has given the entire school a brand new coat of paint and who will maintain this over the next few years.

This has given the school a new and fresh appearance which will be refreshed and maintained on an annual basis.

The school toilets were refurbished last year. This addressed an area of concern since we first commenced the Building Program and we are all happy with the result, and achieved it within budget. We are currently in the planning phase with respect to future class refurbishments going forward, in particular in redeveloping the outdoor area of Grade 6 and Science and with the aim to complete those works by the beginning of the next school year, depending on our budget and ongoing costs of maintenance and repairs that we are anticipating.

We are not content to rest on our laurels in this respect. We are constantly looking for ways to improve our buildings and facilities for the benefit of not just our children, but all stakeholders. In particular, our plan for continual revitalisation of existing facilities will continue to improve the learning environment that we provide for our children and also the working environment we provide for our staff.

**Before I get onto the School Board composition for 2019, I would like to acknowledge some of the contributions made by special individuals and groups in 2018:**

#### **OLMC Parish / Father Paul**

Once again, Father Paul and our teaching staff have been instrumental in preparing our children for receiving the sacraments and celebrating Community Masses. I would like to thank Father Paul for his tireless effort in continuing to enrich the lives of our children and for his continued guidance to the Board in ensuring that our decisions are inclusive of our Parish. Father Paul was reappointed to OLMC Parish last year for another 6 years, so we look forward to continuing working with Father Paul and the Parish in the future.

#### **P&F Committee**

The P&F Representatives under the very able leadership for a second year of Patrick Vereker have worked tirelessly to coordinate the various fundraising activities that continue to provide the school with the opportunity to purchase valuable resources for our children's education. To Patrick and all the hardworking P&F Representatives, thank you for your continued effort and dedication, and we look forward to your ongoing contribution in the coming year.

#### **Teachers**

As for the teachers and the Leadership Group, late last month was World Teacher's Day and as I did the year before I asked Kevin to pass to the teachers on behalf of the Board and the wider school community a message. It's probably enough for me to simply read out that message.

*"This Friday 26 October 2018 is World Teachers Day and it is an opportune time to convey on behalf of the Board and the wider school community our gratitude and appreciation for your efforts during the year. We acknowledge the tremendous contribution made by all teachers during the year in all areas and aspects of our children's learning and development. We are indeed fortunate to have such a talented and caring team who continually not just meet but regularly exceed our high expectations and who lay the basis for the wonderful learning and faith-based environment created for our children. We are blessed to have a wonderful mix of teachers with varying levels of experience and different skillsets from which our children and wider school community are able to benefit. Our children thrive due to*

*your tremendous efforts not just in the classroom but in all aspects of their development. We continue to recognise and appreciate your efforts, and although this message is conveyed to coincide with World Teacher's Day, please be aware that we recognise, acknowledge and appreciate all your efforts during the course of the entire year. Please accept our thanks for all your efforts, and we are proud to have such a talented and hardworking team at OLMC. Congratulations!"*

### **School Board**

Finally, I would like to thank all the members of the School Board for their time, effort and their valuable contribution throughout 2018. We all have different skills and bring different things to the table, and everybody has made their own contribution. Their continued commitment to good governance has been greatly appreciated by both Kevin and myself.

### **Board Composition for 2019**

Save for one exception which I'll speak about in a moment, I am pleased to say all present board members are continuing on to next year. Ivan Jaksic, Carmel Elkins, Karina Tedesco and Patrick Vereker will remain in their respective roles of Treasurer, Secretary, Parish Representative and P&F Representative respectively. Natalie Giles and Jo Arnauphie will also remain on the Board as Committee Members. However, Leo Surjan will not be continuing on the Board due to work and family commitments, and of course his family's journey at this school ends this year in any event. I have personally thanked Leo for his valuable contribution to the Board, and I'm sure I speak for everyone when I say that we wish him and his family all the best for the future.

I am also very pleased to welcome Racheal Visser onto the board from next year as a Board Member. Racheal will have 3 children at school next year in Year 6, Year 4 and 4 year old kindy. Racheal attended our last Board meeting to get a feel for what we do and we are excited to have Racheal join the team.

I would welcome anyone who may have an interest in nominating for a School Board position to contact myself or Kevin Duffy. We are always looking to welcome some new faces onto the team and add to our skillset. Criteria for membership:

- (a) possession of special skills that will be an asset to the Board;
- (b) a deep interest in the welfare of all students and staff;
- (c) a desire to give service to the Catholic School Community;
- (d) a keenness to promote Catholic Schooling;
- (e) an ability to work cooperatively and constructively with all other members of the Board; and
- (f) a sufficiency of time to devote to Board duties.

We always have an eye on succession planning, so if you are interested please do not hesitate to contact me for a chat.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Carmel Elkins for her tireless efforts as our Board Secretary. Her supreme organisational skills are highly valued and she is a vital cog in the machine that keeps us as a Board chugging along. I also want to acknowledge and thank Kevin Duffy, our Principal, for his continued support and assistance during the last 12 months. Kevin has gone out of his way to keep me apprised of all developments and there has yet to be a question that Kevin has been unable to answer. I think I speak for all board members when I say that the board has had a really positive synergy this year

and we always work together constructively and collaboratively, and the results speak for themselves.

- OLMC Treasurer Report – Ivan Jaksic
- Principal's Report – Kevin Duffy

Couple of presentations

Can you please come forward:

**Ivan Jaksic** – Treasurer

**Karina Tedesco** – Parish Representative

**Natalie Giles** – Committee Member

**Joe Arnauphie** – Committee Member

**Father Paul** – Parish Priest

**Carmel Elkins** – Secretary

**Patrick Vereker** – P&F Representative

**Nicholas Gvozdin** – Committee Member

**Kevin Duffy** – Principal

P&F Presentation

Thank you all for attending this evening's Community Meeting and I wish you all a very safe and Merry Christmas and I look forward to seeing you all again in 2019.

Declare the meeting closed.