



OUR LADY OF MT CARMEL SCHOOL

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Principal's Report – Annual Community Meeting

Monday 25th November 2019

OLMC VISION STATEMENT

“Here at Our Lady of Mount Carmel School, we seek to create a respectful environment, that enhances learning, nurtures our young, and empowers our whole school community to authentically live out the faith that we proclaim.”

Pope Francis when speaking about education tells us...

“Education cannot be neutral. It is either positive or negative; either it enriches or it impoverishes; either enables a person to grow or it lessens, even corrupts him. The mission of schools is to develop a sense of truth, of what is good and beautiful. And this occurs through a rich path made up of many ingredients.”

Good evening and welcome. I am pleased to present this report as we move towards the conclusion of the 2019 school year at Our Lady of Mount Carmel School.

Tonight we come together as a school community to reflect on the year that has been, to appoint a new Parents and Friends Executive, to listen to reports from the leaders of our Parish and Parent Groups in our school and to recognise the contributions of individuals and groups that exist within our community.

We have indeed had a busy year at Our Lady of Mount Carmel School in 2019. Every year I recognise that we in Catholic Schools walk in the footsteps of giants. All of us (students, staff, principals, priests and parents) follow and continue the legacy of those who came before us. So in this our 65th year, I stand before you tonight, respectful of those founding Sisters and those who built the foundations of the community in which we all stand today.

A theme for our staff this year has been...

“First: The Relationship. Next: The Learner. Last The Learning.”

I can say with confidence, that the dedicated and highly professional team at OLMC have embraced this quote as we ensure the balance between an excellent educational delivery and development of the whole person remains prevalent in all we do.

We conclude the 2019 school year with approximately 213 students and 160 families. We welcomed several new families during the course of the year. We especially welcomed our 30 Kindy students, and our 10 Three-Year-Old Kindy students and their families. All of whom commenced their education journey with us at OLMC School this year.

As a Catholic Parish school, our school is here because of God, and it is here for children. We are indeed an arm of the church and hold on strongly to that connection along with the spiritual, sacramental and faith dimensions that are so critical to our existence. In 2019 we have continued to receive inquiries and requests for enrolment, but recognise our school marketing and stronger enrolments remain a challenge for us as a school and larger Catholic system.

As an educational community we are continually reminded to keep the child at the centre of all we do. I believe we continue to be a school, that remains both child and Christ centred. As a 21st Century learning community we continue to seek innovative and engaging ways to prepare our students for the ever changing world that they will enter. For the third consecutive year we have once again received pleasing NAPLAN Results. Over the last few years at OLMC, we have implemented several key initiatives in the areas of Literacy and Numeracy which has resulted in improved student achievements in our annual NAPLAN Assessment results.

Subsequently, our school has been recognised at a national level with commendations from the Australian national body for curriculum and assessment (ACARA) commending our school for its significant achievement which is awarded only to schools whose results demonstrated above average growth.

In 2019, our NAPLAN results have once again delivered results and improvement rates that are higher in comparison to similar schools in both Western Australia and Nationally. For this we are most proud.

We as educators are indeed blessed to witness and play our part in continuing the work you have commenced and continue to do at home. The educational, spiritual and physical development of each individual and class cohort would provide further testament to this. As the first educators, I acknowledge and thank our parent community for your efforts not only in this role, but also for your contributions and strong partnerships that have been forged with the staff and school. In Catholic schools we share the responsibility in building and strengthening community, with our students being the true and deserving recipients of this aspiration.

I would now like to acknowledge, what I perceive to be some of the highlights of the 2019 school year.

2019 Teaching and Learning Highlights

- Creating a new Vision for Learning
- Implementation of Sound Waves – Whole school Spelling Program
- Transitioned all learning areas to 21st Century Learning Environments
- The Mini Lit and Multi Lit Programmes being offered as a means of student intervention, and subsequent student improvement (this intervention has provided).
- Consistent delivery of Student Support and Online Diagnostic Testing.
- Gifted and Talented Program - 21 Year 4/ 5/6 Participation in Opti-Minds Tournament with our Science Engineering Team receiving an Honours Award
- School Open Night (Learning Journey) and Art Exhibition that occurred in Term 3
- The continued profile of the position of Aboriginal Teaching Assistant at OLMC
- Continued implementation of “Highway Heroes.” Social and Emotional Wellness Program
- Continued implementation of ICT of 1:1 Device Implementation into Year 4-Year 6
- Our strong NAPLAN results is testament to the work our staff undertake
- P&F sponsored Art Spark incursion.
- School Speech Therapy – Kindy Screenings and ongoing therapy if required on site.
- Consolidation of Design and Technology and Digital Technology Curriculum

2019 Faith Life

- Parish Sacraments and the partnership between School and Parish – Staff supported parish by being part of the Children’s Liturgy roster.
- Parish and School Masses at start and end of term
- Mother’s Day liturgy (over 70 ladies attended)
- The Year 3, 4 and Year 6 retreats held at OLMC School
- Saint Vincent de Paul Hamper collection (Christmas Appeals 2019)
- Lifelink and Mission Fundraising I.e. Caritas, Bishops Mission Appeal, Soctober, Crazy Hair Day, Coin Wars and Free Dress Days
- Making Jesus Real Community Award
- Christian Service Professional Learning (see community highlights)
- Class Liturgies
- Implementation of new CEWA Religious Education guidelines.
- Year 6 Leadership Day (Hosted by St Pats)
- Combined First Communion Retreat Day (with St Patrick’s)

- Faith Development opportunities for our parents of sacramental students
- Faith Formation (Staff) Regional Professional Development
- OLMC Week Celebrations
- Year 5 students attended Catholic Youth Summit Leadership Program

2019 Extra Curricular Highlights

- The Schools faction swimming, cross country and athletics carnivals – despite weather setbacks.
- The Year 5/6 Interschool Lightning Carnivals
- Three Day Year 5 Camp – Bickley / Four Day Year 6 Camp – Forest Edge
- Year 6 Sleep Rough Night - Year 4 Sleep Over
- P&F sponsored Kindy – Year 2 Music Program (Term 1)
- “Dance Crew” participation at Catholic School Performing Arts Festival – We received an Outstanding Certificate.
- Year 5/6 Girls AFLW Carnival
- P&F sponsored New OLMC Netball Dresses and Singlets
- Homework, Coding and Cross Country/Athletics Clubs
- External Karate Club
- Year 6 Boys Schools Triathlon Competition
- Incursions – Harmony Week, Music, Wellness Week – Tinkering and Engineering Expo, Creepy Crawly Animals.
- Maurice Gleitzman visit as part of Book Week.

2019 Community Highlights

- Introduction of School Wellness Week Team and consolidated Wellness Week Activities - P&F partnered events.
- School Website upgrade and increased School Connected App Use.
- Implementation of OLMC Aboriginal Education Improvement Plan.
- Implementation of school Communication Strategy and use of School Connected App.
- Administration Office System (AoS) – Second CEWA school in WA to transition.
- Dad’s Engagement Opportunity – New Nature Play (**Special thanks to Justin Bajada, Patrick Vereker and Randall Tapp – Concluded late 2018**).
- Preliminary discussions around new Strategic Plan (2020 - 2023).
- Introduction of Kindy T-Shirt.
- Variety of Parent and Friends Functions.
- NAIDOC Celebrations and community involvement.
- Before and After School Care continues through our provider Camp Australia.

- Facilitating 12 Notre Dame Student Teacher.
- World Teacher's Day Celebrations / Recognition.
- Our Lady of Mount Carmel Week Activities (Christian Service Activities Pre Primary - Year 6).
- Introduction of before school Coffee Van on bottom oval each Tuesday morning.

Quality Catholic Schooling 2019

This year OLMC School continued its journey using the **Quality Catholic Schooling Component Reviews**, as a means of whole school improvement.

QCS: 304; Targeted Use of School Resources; QCS: 401; Staff Wellbeing.

The Quality Catholic Schooling component reviews provide us with a great source of self-reflection and informs our 2020 School Improvement Plan and Curriculum Plan.

National Schools in Partnerships Cultural Survey

This year all parents and caregivers of students at the school were invited to complete the PaCS (Parent and Caregiver School Survey). National Schools in Partnerships analyses the data and provided the school with a package of identified feedback that can be used as data that can both inform or celebrate school practices. When administered annually, data over time shows the effectiveness of school improvement efforts.

As this form of survey is new to CEWA and our school, we are not yet able to track this data over time. For data to be considered valid, an average return rate of 30% is required. OLMC received returns from 27 families (out of 157) or 17%. Although we needed 20 more responses to validate the data, we did have a good cross section of families respond and look forward to receiving further returns in the future.

Some of the recommendations that came out of our community, staff and student feedback that will become part of our 2020 school improvement plans include;

- Develop our agreed processes for Inquiry Learning to ensure students voice/agency.
- Investigate a whole school curriculum scope and sequence for Problem Solving and Numeracy.
- Consolidate use of Brightpaths assessment tool and 7 Steps for Writing Program.
- Implement and refine our new school Spelling Program – ‘Sound Waves’ and continue our intervention processes for Spelling using ‘Sounds Write’.
- Implement our schools newly developed Vision for Learning (formally Teaching and Learning Beliefs Statement).
- Increase participation and attendance at liturgies with a specific focus on Prayer.

- Review and implement revised Behaviour Management Plan – Consolidate use of SEQTA for recording pastoral notes.
- Provision for external providers of The Arts - Edu Dance, Footsteps Dance Academy and continued involvement in the CEWA Performing Arts Festival.
- Utilise the local Aboriginal community to enrich our learning and teaching.

Appreciation and Acknowledgement

The 2019 school year has again offered us many opportunities to grow and develop as a community. The school leadership team in partnership with School Board and Catholic Education directions has worked tirelessly to ensure that equally as important to the school's physical improvements, that quality Teaching and Learning occurs at every juncture. We continue to be a school that strive for excellence in all we do.

We continue to aspire to be a place not only of quality Catholic education but also of quality positive relationships. I would like to recognise the significance of the many groups and indeed volunteers that ensure OLMC School remains the collaborative and thriving community it is.

School Volunteers

On behalf of the community, and myself personally, I wish to acknowledge and thank; Sharon McGunnigle for her work as uniform shop manager and Katherine Beeson for her work with the uniform shop. Veronique (Jo) Arnephie for her contributions and support of Tanya Pisano in the school library. We also thank Sally Ann Smith for her coordination of Book club.

This year, the staff will be once again hosting a special volunteer's morning tea on Monday 9th December at 11.00am. This will be our opportunity to thank not just the above mentioned, but also those parents and volunteers who have assisted our school e.g. reading roster, swim club, laundry roster, coached a team, set up a sports day, assembled a table, attended an excursion, helped at a school function, assisted/ supported fundraising events.

Parish Priest – Father Paul Raj

A special thank you to Fr Paul for all that you have brought to our school. Your faith and spiritual leadership is highly valued by the school, parish and wider community.

Thanks for your ever accommodating presence, celebration of liturgies, preparation of sacraments, training altar servers and support of the School Leadership Team and Staff.

Your involvement and presence in the wider community and work on the School Board are also noted. Your presence, support, prayers and attendance at community and staff functions is another aspect of your ministry, leadership and indeed friendship that are much appreciated.

The School Board

In 2019 the School Board, continued to play an instrumental role in assisting the School Leadership Team in ensuring our school is well placed for the future. Implementing the final year of our Strategic Plan and financial management, visioning for current and future generations of OLMC School, navigating the new funding mechanisms are just some of the functions and tasks the School Board undertakes.

I wish to thank Nick Gvozdin in his position of Board Chair. To Ivan Jaksic in his role as Treasurer, in what remain interesting financial times for us all in Catholic Education with new funding conditions being transitioned this year alongside the deployment of AoS office software package, your work and support as Treasurer is valued. To Carmen Forde and Katherine Beeson in their role as Parents and Friends Association Presidents and Board Representative, Fr Paul Raj our Parish Priest, Karina Tedesco (Parish Representative), Carmel Elkins (Secretary) and to fellow Board Member's, Natalie Giles, Veronique (Jo) Arnephie, Rachael Visser, Patrick Vereker and Randall Tapp; thank you all for your contributions this year. Special thanks to Nick who is consistent and measured in providing stability, succession planning, strategic direction, community perspective and leadership in his role as Board Chair. Thanks Nick for your support of not only our wider school community, but also the support, wisdom and guidance you continue to offer me in this position. We also thank Randall Tapp, Rachael Visser and Patrick Vereker whose time on the Board concludes.

A great deal of the Boards work this year involved supporting the school in its transition to AoS and compliance with our new School Auditors (Deloitte); our continued partnership with Camp Australia (Before and After School Care provider), implementation of School Connected App alongside a wider communication strategy, implementation of new CEWA funding arrangements. This year we continued our next stage of the digital transformation and had stake holders from CEWA present the Leading Lights Vision for all CEWA Schools. Thanks once again to Ivan Jaksic, Nick Gvozdin and Gabby Del Borrello (Senior Finance Officer) for their support as members of the OLMC School Financial Committee.

The Parents and Friends Association

A huge thanks to all members of our Parents and Friends Association in 2019. Special thanks go to our Parents and Friends Association Co Presidents Carmen Forde and Katherine Beeson (following Patrick Vereker's need to relinquish this position) for their leadership this year. To our P&F Executive; Vice

President – Carmel Ozane; Treasurer – Lynne Carter; Secretary – Anna Sharpe, Class Rep Coordinator – Monica Fistonich, Fundraising / Event Coordinators – Emma Tapp, Naomi Pryer, Natalie Giles and Mission Coordinator – Carmel Ozane. I also extend my thanks and appreciation on behalf of the entire community. I would thank and highlight the important leadership role the executive plays in a school. This dedicated team have worked collaboratively and led others in providing a great deal of community engagement opportunities for our school whilst also generating significant funds for the immediate benefit of all our learners and community members.

Thanks also to our 2019 Parent Class Representatives. Your job of communicating to families and support of Parents and Friends Association initiatives is a great attribute of our school.

I offer our newly elected and returning Executive Members my full support as they continue the legacy and community engagement opportunities our Parents and Friends Association provides us all.

I would like to formally take this opportunity to promote participation and involvement in this group for 2020 and beyond. We are always on the lookout for new members (both mums and dads) to this important parent and community building arm of the school. Whilst hard work is required, a great sense of fun and contribution to the welfare and greater good of all our students remains the overriding theme.

I am most grateful for the leadership Carmen and Katherine have offered our Executive and for the support you have offered the wider parent community, students and staff of OLMC in 2019.

The Staff

I wish to personally and publically acknowledge the professionalism, dedication and work ethic of all OLMC staff members. We have a dynamic and professional team at OLMC who continue to strive for excellence each year, with a focus on the quality of relationships being a cornerstone in our service delivery.

I wish to pay particular mention to our staff who regularly go above and beyond expectations for the benefit of our students

To our **Teaching Staff**, Suzann, Danielle, Tahnee, Chanel, Alex, Julie, Maria, Nicole, Helen, Jessica, Kate, John, and Robert. We thank them for their work as classroom and specialist teachers this year.

To our **Education Assistants**, Sandra, Lee, Fatima, Marianna, Sabrina, Karen, Jacinta, Pauline, Jesse and Kim thank you for your support, dedication and care of the students you serve.

To our **Support Staff**, Rebecca, Gabby, Julio, Tanya, Jo, and Linda thank you also for your ongoing contributions you each make to OLMC School.

Thanks to Mrs Julie Kay and Miss Danielle McEwen for their commitment and continued school leadership at OLMC school. I am most fortunate to be part of a Leadership Team who offer strong leadership and support to the entire school community. The diverse and complex tasks expected of these two ladies each and every day makes our school a better place. In 2020 we will implement a leadership model that will include one Assistant Principal (Mrs Julie Kay) and two Senior Teacher's (Mrs Maria Bradshaw and Mrs Jessica Harrison). I look forward to working with both Maria and Jessica in their new capacity.

In 2019 we celebrated the exciting news of three of our staff members becoming engaged; Congratulations to Miss Sabrina Massessi, Miss Tahnee Rutigliano and Mr Alex Lerede and their respective fiancées.

I believe our staff are respected and valued by our community and appreciate that this has been well earned through their hard work and commitment to the students and families they serve. I trust in moving forward, that this will remain a feature of our new and returning 2020 team to be announced in Week 8 Newsletter.

This year we farewell the following staff members. We thank each member for their contribution and trust the experiences and opportunities they have gained at OLMC will serve them well in the next part of life's journey. We make special mention of Mrs Karen Melville who will retire at years end after many years of service in Catholic Schools.

- Miss Danielle McEwen (University of Notre Dame)
- Miss Chanel Livesey (Dance Teaching)
- Miss Kim Wood (Education Assistant at St Vincent's Catholic Primary School)
- Mr Jesse Pigram (Aboriginal Teaching Assistant at Aranmore Catholic Primary School)
- Mrs Karen Melville (Retirement –Karen can you please come forward to receive a small gesture of our appreciation)

The 2019 school year, has been a year of great personal learning, challenge and satisfaction. We have much to be thankful for as a school community, and much to look forward to as we embark upon 2020.

Thank you staff, parents and wider community members for your attendance and support of this evening's Annual Community Meeting your ongoing support is valued.

Kevin Duffy | Principal | 2019

