



# OUR LADY OF MT CARMEL SCHOOL

82 Collick Street, Hilton WA 6163  
Telephone: (08) 9269 2000 Facsimile: (08) 9314 6005  
Email: [admin@olmchilt.wa.edu.au](mailto:admin@olmchilt.wa.edu.au)  
Website: [www.olmchilt.wa.edu.au](http://www.olmchilt.wa.edu.au)

## Principal's Report – Annual Community Meeting

Monday 23<sup>th</sup> November 2020

### 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 describes the present moment as a “propitious time” to be open to the Spirit, who can “inspire us with a new imagination of what is possible”. He recalls that the spirit does not allow itself “to be closed in or manipulated by fixed or outmoded methods or decadent structures” but rather moves us to “make new things”.

Good evening and welcome. I am pleased to present this report as we move towards the conclusion of the 2020 school year at Our Lady of Mount Carmel School. A year like no other and my final as principal of this special Catholic 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 2020. 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 66<sup>th</sup> 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 continued to be ...

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

I can say with confidence, that the dedicated and highly professional team at OLMC embraced this quote as we ensured the balance between an excellent educational delivery and development of the whole person remains prevalent in all we do. A year where connection and connectedness proved critical, as for a while it was removed from us in ways many of us had never experienced.

We conclude the 2020 school year with approximately 213 students and 154 families. We welcomed several new families during the course of the year. We especially welcomed our 22 Kindy students, and our 20 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 school, our school is here because of God, and it is here for children. We are indeed one Parish, made up of a school and a church. We hold on strongly to that connection along with the spiritual, sacramental and faith dimensions that are so critical to our existence. In 2020 we have continued to receive inquiries and requests for enrolment, but recognise our school marketing and stronger enrolments remain a growth opportunity 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 Christ centred and child focused. 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.

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 2020 school year.

### **2020 Teaching and Learning Highlights**

- Implementing our new Vision for Learning
- Consolidating Sound Waves – Whole school Spelling Program
- Transitioned all learning areas to 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Environments
- Consistent delivery of Student Support and Online Diagnostic Testing.

- Gifted and Talented Program - Year 4/5/6 Participation in Opti-Minds Tournament with our Science Engineering Team receiving a Schools Award.
- School Open Night (Learning Journey) Inquiry Learning and Design Thinking focus
- Continued implementation of “Highway Heroes.” Social and Emotional Wellness Program
- Introduction of Zones of Regulation in our junior classrooms.
- Continued implementation of ICT of 1:1 Device Implementation into Year 4-Year 6
- P&F sponsored Edu Dance program.
- Science Week Celebrations.
- School Speech Therapy – Kindy Screenings and ongoing therapy if required on site.
- Consolidation of Design and Technology and Digital Technology Curriculum

### **2020 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
- The Year 3, 4 and Year 6 retreats held at OLMC School
- Saint Vincent de Paul Hamper collection (Christmas Appeals 2020) Sleep Rough Night (Year 6)
- Lifelink and Mission Fundraising I.e. Caritas, Bishops Mission Appeal, Soctober, Crazy Hair Day, Coin Chain and Free Dress Days
- Making Jesus Real Community Award
- Christian Service Professional Learning (see community highlights)
- Class and whole school Liturgies
- Implementation of new CEWA Religious Education guidelines.
- Year 6 Leadership Day (Hosted by OLMC)
- Faith Development opportunities for our parents of sacramental students
- OLMC Week Celebrations
- Introduction of Godly Play (Gospel focus)

### **2020 Extra Curricular Highlights**

- The Schools faction and interschool cross country and athletics carnivals – despite COVID setbacks.
- The Year 5/6 Interschool Lightning Carnivals
- Three Day Year 5 Camp – Bickley / Year 6 Camp – Forest Edge (combined with St Pats and OLF)
- Year 6 Sleep Rough Night - Year 4 Sleep Over
- School Choir participation at Catholic School Performing Arts Festival
- Homework, Coding, Gardening and Choir Clubs
- External Karate Club

- Student participation at WA Primary Schools Invitational Track and Field Championships
- Excursions and Incursions – Including; Book Week, Caritas, Arts, Science, Sporting, Author and Illustrator, and Environmental
- Book Week and Book Fair.

## **2020 Community Highlights**

- Consolidation of School Wellness Week Team and consolidated Wellness Week Activities - P&F partnered and sponsored events.
- Implementation of OLMC Aboriginal Education Improvement Plan.
- Administration Office System (AoS) – Second CEWA school in WA to transition.
- Dad’s Engagement Opportunity’s.
- Completion of new Strategic Plan (2021 - 2024).
- Variety of Parent and Friends Functions.
- NAIDOC Liturgy.
- Before and After School Care continues through our provider Camp Australia.
- Facilitating 9 Notre Dame Student Teacher.
- Facilitating Notre Dame Digital Technology students visit and collaboration.
- Student placements from Corpus Christi and Seton Catholic Colleges.
- World Teacher’s Day Celebrations / Recognition.
- Our Lady of Mount Carmel Week Activities (Christian Service Activities Pre Primary - Year 6).
- School Assemblies / Class Assembly Items / Parent Morning Tea’s.
- Combined Father’s Day Breakfast.
- Introduction of online Canteen and Uniform Shop ordering.

## **Catholic Education Western Australia School Cyclic Review Summary**

In Term Three this year, four representatives from Catholic Education undertook a School Cyclic Review. This occurs every five years and involves the panel effectively looking at our school’s improvement processes under the headings of Catholic Identity, Education, Community and Stewardship.

The panel relished their opportunity in seeking context from all community stakeholders; including; the leadership team, staff representatives, Parish Priest, Catholic School Advisory Council (CSAC) Parents and Friends Association and students.

The final part of this process was the panel validating their review of the community and offering insight based upon their review and our future aspirations – “Looking Forward”. I was extremely proud of how CEWA perceived our community and the positive observations and anecdotes they made across all four

domains. Further evidence of this will be evident in the launch of the new OLMC Strategic Plan (2021-2024) which will be launched at the commencement of 2021.

### **Appreciation and Acknowledgement**

The 2020 school year has again offered us many opportunities to grow and develop as a community. The school leadership team in partnership with Catholic School Advisory Council (CSAC) 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 strives 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 Mc Gunnigle and Katherine Beeson for their work managing the uniform shop – Both ladies will conclude their time volunteering in this position at OLMC at years' end following many years of service. 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, we will host a special volunteer's morning tea on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December at 8.50 am.** 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 Catholic School Advisory Council 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.

## **Catholic School Advisory Council (Formally The School Board)**

In 2020 the School Board became known as the Catholic School Advisory Council (CSAC) as part of CEWA's direction in becoming incorporated. The CSAC continued to play an instrumental role in assisting the School Leadership Team in ensuring our school is well placed for the future. Preparing a new Strategic Plan (2021-2024), undertaking a School Cyclic Review, Principal Review and new Principal Appointment (ongoing), thorough 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 CSAC undertook in 2020. With the added financial risks associated with COVID-19, the work and financial management and modelling required, the work of our Finance Committee was critical. Thanks once again to Ivan Jaksic, Nick Gvozdin and Gabby Del Borrello (Senior Finance Officer) and Deanna Protic for their support as members of the OLMC School Financial Committee in 2020

I wish to thank Nick Gvozdin in his position of Chair. To Ivan Jaksic in his role as Treasurer, in what remain interesting financial times for us all in Catholic Education with new funding and governance conditions being transitioned 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, Kelly Wigget, Deanna Protic and Clayton Pritchard; 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 Chair.

Thanks Nick for your support of not only our wider school community, but also the support, wisdom and guidance you have continued to offer me in this position. We also acknowledge Ivan, Karina, Carmen, Katherine, Carmel, Natalie and Clayton whose time and service on the CSAC concludes tonight.

## **The Parents and Friends Association**

A huge thanks to all members of our Parents and Friends Association in 2020. Special thanks go to our Parents and Friends Association Co Presidents Carmen Forde and Katherine Beeson for their leadership this year. To our P&F Executive; Vice President and Mission Coordinator – Carmel Ozanne; Treasurer – Lynne Carter; Secretary – Deb Goodwin and Class Rep Coordinator – Monica Fistonich. 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.

Thanks also to our 2020 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 prayers and best wishes as they continue the legacy and community engagement opportunities our Parents and Friends Association provides OLMC.

I would like to formally take this opportunity to promote participation and involvement in this group for 2021 and beyond. 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 in 2020 and for the support you have offered the wider parent community, students and staff of OLMC.

## **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**, Nadia, Suzann, Tahnee, Alex, Julie, Yasmin, Maria, Nicole, Helen, Jessica H, Jess C, Kate C, Kate P, Caitlin, 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 and Pauline, thank you for your support, dedication and care of the students you serve.

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

Thanks to Julie Kay for her unwavering support, commitment and continued school leadership at OLMC school. She has offered our community (and myself personally) unconditional support and loyalty. This year we implemented a leadership model that was made up of one Assistant Principal (Julie Kay) and two Senior Teacher's (Maria Bradshaw and Jessica Harrison). I wish to also thank and acknowledge both Maria and Jessica for their added leadership responsibilities and support of myself and Julie in 2020. I have been blessed to be part of the 2020 Extended Leadership Team. The diverse and complex tasks expected of these

three ladies each and every day in 2020 (special mention to our COVID-19 Pastoral and Remote Learning Delivery) made our school a better place in 2020.

In 2020 we celebrated the exciting news of three of our staff members becoming engaged and /or married; Congratulations to Sabrina Galipo (nee Massessi), Tahnee Rutigliano and Alex Lerede and their partners.

I also wish to acknowledge Yasmin George who has completed a fantastic first year of teaching at OLMC. Whilst I often say you always remember your first class, I dare say you will also remember your first class teaching during a pandemic!

This year we welcomed Diann Kerr, Kate Price, Caitlin Caputi, Jesse Martin and Molly Fox and welcomed back Jess Cullen.

We farewelled Nadia Hunt and Jessica Harrison (maternity leave). We thank these ladies for their contributions and offer our prayers on their pending new arrivals early in 2021.

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 2021 team which will be announced in the Week 8 Newsletter.

The 2020 school year, has been a year of great personal learning, challenge and satisfaction. A year like no other! I am so glad I got a chance to play my part in walking with and serving the community over the last eight years and particularly in such an extraordinary 2020 – We generally witnessed the best in our community with the vast majority of the community offering the staff and myself their support, encouragement and appreciation for the complex and essential work the OLMC Team delivered. We have much to be thankful for as a school community, and much to look forward to, as you and your new school principal embark upon the new year and next exciting chapter at OLMC.

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

**Kevin Duffy | Principal | 2020**

