Good evening and welcome. I am pleased to present this report this evening as we move towards the conclusion of the 2014 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 in Catholic Schools walk in the footsteps of giants. With the exception of foundation schools, students, staff, principals and parents follow and continue the legacy of those who came before them. So in this our 60th 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. I would also recognise the sound and thorough planning of previous Principals and School Boards, who have planned for, and provided the facilities and resources our current students, staff and families enjoy today.

At the conclusion of tonight’s AGM, School Board Chairman Mr Jason Gavranic and myself, will provide further insight into an exciting initiative that we have spent much of 2014 preparing for and will indeed see our community continue to grow and flourish as we move into the schools 61st year.

We conclude the 2014 school year with approximately 247 students and 154 families. We welcomed several new families during the course of the year. We especially welcomed our 21 Kindy students, and our 17 inaugural Three Year Old Kindy students and their families. All of whom commenced their education journey with us at OLMC School this year. We envisage that the commencement level for a large number of our families into the future will be upon enrolment as Three Year Old Kindy students.
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 2014 we have continued to receive inquiries and requests for enrolment with most classes being full and waiting lists required. Our reputation as a school of choice remains strong! We will commence 2015 with 30 Kindy students and 10 Three Year Old Kindy Students.

We warmly welcomed and embraced the professionalism, gifts and experience of several new staff in 2014. For the first time since 2011, a leadership team of three rather than two evolved after the appointment of Julie Kay (From the Catholic Education Office) and Jason Tyrrell (from St Pius X). Appointments of Karen Collins (School Bursar), Analeese Small, Marianna Fiannaca, Karen Melville, Bianca Proctor, Todd Smith and Steven Carrabs to our Teaching Staff, further enhanced and complimented the amazing OLMC staff.

As a flourishing 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. Strong evidence of this occurring in 2014 lies with the dedicated and regular delivery of both Student Support and Gifted and Talented programs that became consistent features of OLMC School in 2014.

During the last twelve months I have been privy to many examples of this. Our boys and girls have provided us with many opportunities in 2014 to be proud; proud of who they are; proud of where they have come from; proud of what they have achieved. The educational, spiritual and physical development of each individual and as class cohorts would provide further testament to this. 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. As the first educators, I acknowledge and thank the parent community for your efforts not only in this role, but also for your contributions and strong partnerships that you have forged with the staff and school.

It is indeed when this strong partnership between school and home occurs that we truly optimise our student’s full potential. It is my belief that this is a key ingredient to a highly successful learning community.

I would now like to acknowledge, what I perceive to be some of the highlights of 2014 school year.

2014 Teaching and Learning Highlights

- The commencement of our Three Year Old Kindy Programme
- 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
- Introduction of a Gifted and Talented Program (Year One – Year 6)
The Learning Journey that occurred in Term 3.
The continued teaching of Science as a Specialist Subject
The whole school unit of work on Sustainability undertaken by all classes in Term 3
The continued implementation of ICT’s across the curriculum and the use of Ipad (K-6), laptops and Apple TV (3-6) to assist student learning and engagement.

2014 Faith Life
- Staff Commissioning Mass in Term 1
- Parish Sacraments
- Saint Vincent de Paul Hamper collection
- Making Jesus Real (not a programme, but a way of life!)
- Year 6 Social Justice – Sleep Rough evening

2014 Extra Curricular Highlights
- The schools NAIDOC Celebrations
- The Schools faction swimming, cross country and athletics carnivals
- The Year 5/6 Lightning Carnivals
- Hosting the regional Chess Tournament
- Inaugural Three Day Year 5 Camp – Bickley
- Inaugural Four Day Year 6 Camp – Forrest Edge
- Book Week Celebrations
- Introduction of the School Choir

2014 Community Highlights
- Variety of Parent and Friends Functions (Start of Year Sun Downer)
- The Parents and Friends Association Disco Trivia Night
- World Teacher’s Day Celebrations (Combined with St Patrick’s)
- The great variety of parent engagement/education opportunities.
- 60th Anniversary Celebrations

Insight School Climate Survey Summary 2014
In 2014, Our Lady of Mount Carmel did not participate in the Insight School Climate Survey. We will participate in this survey in 2015.

Quality Catholic Schooling 2014
This year OLMC School continued its journey using the Quality Catholic Schooling Component Reviews, as a means of whole school improvement.

S2.01 Engagement with Families; S1.02 Evangelisation and S3.02 Curriculum
These reviews coordinated by the school Leadership Team and involving input, leadership and participation by all staff, provided us with a framework and list of achievable and realistic aspirations to reflect on and guide our ongoing commitment towards school improvement for 2015 and beyond.

Some of the recommendations that came out of the reviews this year include:

- Providing increased opportunities for parent education to assist parent helpers in the classroom
- Enhance staff capacity in providing a differentiated curriculum in a 21st Century learning environment
- Introduction of Harmony Day activities to celebrate our rich cultural diversity
- Providing an opportunity for staff professional development on Scripture and Catholic Practices
- Evaluate how we provide opportunities for our students to provide service for others

**Appreciation and Acknowledgement**

The 2014 school year should be reflected upon as a year of many positive changes. With the arrival of many new staff, a new Board Chair and new Parents and Friends President, OLMC School found itself in an exciting position in which much opportunity was born.

The school leadership team has worked tirelessly to ensure quality Teaching and Learning Occurs at every juncture. The subsequent development of a Teaching and Learning Vision in Term One has been a strong platform and source of solidarity amongst a staff who remain committed to optimising educational outcomes for all our students. Further support can be found in the work of our School Counsellor Mrs Rebecca Rowland and the individual and whole class instruction and support she continues to provide our community. The aspiration of building a safe and friendly school gave rise to a review and subsequent implementation of the Positive Behaviour Management Plan that was adopted and implemented by every staff member. Thanks to Julie and Jason for their work in promoting the profile of this Management Plan this year.

Finally a source of great personal pride lies is the cohesion and balance of the professional and supportive team we have put in place to serve this community in 2014 and beyond. As the year draws to a close, it is difficult to distinguish between the newly arrived and longer serving staff. It would be my biased observation that we have the best and most balanced staff of any single stream Catholic School that I am aware of.

I would like to recognise the significance of the many groups and indeed volunteers that ensure OLMC School remains the collaborative community it is.
School Volunteers
On behalf of the community, and myself personally, I wish to acknowledge and thank, Sharon Berkovic – for her work as book club coordinator; Sharon McGunnigle for her work as uniform shop manager; Veronica Vinci for her work with the uniform shop, Yvette Kelly for her work alongside Rebecca Rowland (School Counsellor) in organising so many guest speakers and parent education/engagement opportunities; Veronique Arnephie for her contributions and support of Tanya Pisano in the school library; Eliza Gonsalves for her support of Anna Cortese in the Canteen; Angeline Gavranic with the school banking; We also thank Marcelle Coakley for feeding the chickens all year. **This year, the staff will be once again hosting a special volunteers morning tea on Tuesday 9th December.** This will be our opportunity to thank not just the above mentioned, but also those parents and volunteers who have assisted in 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 a school function etc, etc.

Parish Priest – Father Paul Raj
A special thank you 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 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. Leading the staff Golf Team and your support and attendance at all staff functions is another aspect of your ministry, leadership and indeed friendship that are much appreciated.

The School Board
In 2014 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. Strategic planning, financial management, and ‘visioning for current and future generations’ of OLMC School, are just some of the functions and tasks the School Board undertakes.

I wish to thank Jason Gavranic for his role as new Board Chairman in 2014. Jason not only provides strong leadership in his role as Board Chair, but also has been a supportive and professional resource to the leadership team this year. To Fiona Ryan in her role as Treasurer, Megan Mentz in her role as Secretary and Parish Representative, Samantha Kerlin in her role as Parents and Friends Association Representative, Fr Paul Raj as our Parish Priest and to fellow Board Member’s, Matt Buggins, Maria Cadzow and Aaron Crees thank you for your contributions this year.

A great deal of the Boards work this year involved developing a process to bring OLMC School’s facilities into the 21st Century. Schools visits, appointing a new school Architect, developing a School Master Plan /
Capital Development Plan were added responsibilities of the Board in 2014. Thanks to Jason Gavranic and Matt Buggins for their continued work and guidance as members of the Building Committee and to Karen Collins (Bursar), Fiona Ryan (Board Treasurer) and Jason Gavranic for their due diligence as members of the Financial Committee.

I wish to acknowledge and thank Maria Cadzow who will conclude her service on the School Board at the conclusion of the year. I would also like to thank and acknowledge Megan Mentz, who has agreed to continue in her role as Parish Representative despite not having children left at OLMC School in 2015.

**The Parents and Friends Association**

A huge thanks to all members of our Parents and Friends Association in 2014. Special thanks go to our Parents and Friends Association President Samantha Kerlin for her leadership this year. To the P&F Executive; Treasurer – Natalie Giles, Secretary – Carmen Forde, Fundraising Coordinator – Grace Cikara, I also extend my thanks and appreciation on behalf of the entire community. This dedicated team have worked collaboratively in providing a great deal of community engagement opportunities for our school whilst also generating significant funds for the immediate benefit of our learners.

Thanks also to our 2014 Parent Representatives. Your job of communicating to families and support of Parents and Friends Association initiatives is a great attribute of our school.

I have once again been most impressed with the engagement opportunities afforded to our students and families in 2014. I offer our newly elected Executive my full support as they continue the legacy and community engagement opportunities our Parents and Friends Association provides us.

I would also like to formally take this opportunity to promote participation and involvement in this group for next year. We are always on the lookout for new members and contributors to this important parent group and community building organisation. Whilst hard work is required, a great sense of fun and contributing to welfare of all our students is the overriding theme of this dedicated group.

**The Staff**

I wish to personally and publically acknowledge the professionalism, dedication and work ethic of all OLMC staff members.

To our **Teaching Staff**, Analeese, Todd, Steve, Julie, Jason, Jessica C, Nicole, Helen, Jessica H, Cecilia, Bozana, Bianca, Elisa and Robert. We thank them for their work as classroom and specialist teachers this year.
To our **Educational Assistants**, Vicky, Sandra, Lee, Fatima, Marianna, Mary, Karen and Pauline thank you for your support, dedication and care of the students you serve.

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

I wish to also recognise Todd Smith on his marriage to Renee earlier this year; Mary Poletti (and her husband Kris) on the birth of their daughter; and Miss Vicky Brennan who completed her formal Teaching Qualification during the 2014 school year and will conclude the 2014 year teaching the Year One class.

I believe all 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 2015 team which I will announce in the Week 8 Newsletter.

This year we have farewelled the following staff members.

- Miss Vittoria Brennan (Year 1 EA) who has graduated as a qualified teacher and will commence her new profession in 2015
- Mrs Mary Poletti (Pre Primary EA) who became a mum for the first time in 2014.

In 2015 we will welcome back John Rijs (12 Months Leave) and Amy Cox (Maternity Leave)

The 2014 school year, has been a year of great personal learning and satisfaction. We have much to be thankful for as a school community, and much to look forward to as we embark upon the 2015 school year.

Thank you staff, parents and wider community members for your attendance and support of this evening’s Annual Community Meeting – I wish you and your families a happy and peaceful Christmas season.

**Kevin Duffy | Principal | 2014**