



OUR LADY OF MT CARMEL SCHOOL

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Principal's Report – Annual Community Meeting

Monday 20th November 2017

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 on Vatican Radio, made the following suggestions on how to guide our lifelong learners to success;

“You must not teach just content, but the values and customs of life. There are three things that you must transmit; how to love, how to understand which values and customs create harmony in society.... Teachers must aim to build an educational relationship with each student, who must feel welcomed and loved for what he or she is, with all of their limitations and potential.”

Good evening and welcome. I am pleased to present this report as we move towards the conclusion of the 2017 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 2017. 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 63rd 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.

We conclude the 2017 school year with approximately 234 students and 144 families. We welcomed several new families during the course of the year. We especially welcomed our 25 Kindy students, and our 17 Three-Year-Old Kindy students and their families. All of whom commenced their education journey with us at OLMC School this year. We continue to see growth of Three-Year-Old Kindy and envisage that the

commencement level for a large number of our families into the future will be upon enrolment in the Three-Year-Old program.

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 2017 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!

As a thriving 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.

During the last twelve months I have been privy to many examples of our boys and girls providing us with opportunities 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 class cohort 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 our parent community for your efforts not only in this role, but also for your contributions and strong partnerships that has been 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 the 2017 school year.

2017 Teaching and Learning Highlights

- Continued transition towards 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 the Online Diagnostic Testing that occurred again in 2017.
- Gifted and Talented Program
- Participation in Opti-Minds Tournament
- The Learning Journey 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
- Implementation of ICT of 1:1 Device Implementation into Year 4 and Year 5
- Our strong NAPLAN results is testament to the work our staff undertake

2017 Faith Life

- Parish Sacraments and the partnership between School and Parish
- The Year 4 and Year 6 retreats held at OLMC School
- Saint Vincent de Paul Hamper collection (Winter 2017 and Christmas Appeals 2016)
- Lifelink Fundraising I.e. Caritas, Bishops Mission Appeal, Soctober
- Making Jesus Real – Regular presentation of community member Merit Award
- Christian Service Professional Learning (see community highlights)
- Year 6 Leadership Day (Hosted by OLMC)
- Combined First Communion Retreat Day (with St Patrick’s)
- Faith Development opportunities for our parents of sacramental students

2017 Extra Curricular Highlights

- The Schools faction swimming, cross country and athletics carnivals.
- The Year 5/6 Interschool Lightning Carnivals
- Year 6 Girls Cricket Team making the WA State Final at the WACA
- Three Day Year 5 Camp – Bickley / Four Day Year 6 Camp – Forest Edge
- Year 6 Sleep Rough Night and Year 4 Sleep Over
- “Dance Crew” participation at Catholic School Performing Arts Festival
- Homework Club
- Continued involvement in Coding Club
- Year 4/5 Wizard of Oz Play

2017 Community Highlights

- Continued implementation of the schools Strategic Plan (2016-2019)
- Variety of Parent and Friends Functions (Big Night In)
- Completion of student toilet refurbishment
- Purchase of new hall audio and sound system
- NAIDOC Celebrations and community involvement
- Facilitating 12 Notre Dame Student Teacher.
- World Teacher’s Day Celebrations / Recognition
- Our Lady of Mount Carmel Week Activities (Christian Service Activities Year 3-6)
- Nomination for a CEWA LEAD Award

Quality Catholic Schooling 2017

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

QCS: 101; Systematic Evangelisation Planning; 303: A Culture that Promotes Learning; 305: An Expert Teaching Team.

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 2017 and beyond.

The Quality Catholic Schooling component reviews provide us with a great source of self-reflection and informs our 2018 Annual School Improvement Plan and Curriculum Plan.

Some of the recommendations that came out of the reviews that will become part of our 2018 Annual School Improvement Plan include;

- Embed the process of Inquiry Learning
- Develop our whole school curriculum scope and sequence for Problem Solving and Numeracy
- Implemented Brightpaths writing in a relevant and purposeful way.
- Fully implemented whole school Reading Comprehension scope and sequence
- Assess and evaluate our current Spelling Program.
- Increase participation and attendance at liturgies
- Continue to implement the new curriculum of The Arts and Digital Technology

Appreciation and Acknowledgement

The 2017 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 strive for excellence in Learning, Engagement, Accountability and Discipleship.

Finally, a source of great personal pride lies in the cohesion and balance of the professional and supportive team we have at OLMC School.

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, Yvette Kelly for her work alongside Rebecca Rowland (School Counsellor) in organising guest speakers and parent education/engagement opportunities; Veronique (Jo) Arnephie for her contributions and support of Tanya Pisano in the school library; the parents who have volunteered alongside Sandy Holloway in the school Canteen – especially Naomi Baron; 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 Tuesday 5th December.** 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 etc.

Parish Priest – Father Paul Raj / Fr Greg Donovan

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 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.

We also thank and recognise Fr Greg for his support, interest and presence in our school community during Fr Pauls sabbatical.

The School Board

In 2017 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 a new Strategic Plan and financial management, '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 Nick Gvozdin in his first year in the position of Board Chair. To Ivan Jaksic in his role as Treasurer, in what is interesting financial times for us all in Catholic Education with new funding conditions being transitioned next year and our involvement as a CEWA trail school for a new office software package, your work and support as Treasurer is valued. To Patrick Vereker in his role as Parents and Friends

Association Representative, Fr Paul Raj as our Parish Priest, Karina Tedesco (Parish Representative), Carmel Elkins (Secretary) and to fellow Board Member's Leo Surjan, Natalie Giles and Veronique (Jo) Arnephie; thank you all for your contributions this year. Special thanks to Nick who worked tirelessly in providing stability, succession planning, strategic direction, community perspective and leadership in his role as Board Chair. Thanks Nick for your support not only of our wider school community but also the support, wisdom and guidance you have offered me in this position.

A great deal of the Boards work this year involved engagement with **Perrotts Painting** (whole school painted in January 2017) and the completion of the student Toilet Block refurbishment. Investigation and engagement with Camp Australia Before and After School Care provider (to commence in 2018). Support and involvement in the Assistant Principal Appointment process (2018) was also appreciated. This year we continued our next stage of the digital transformation with the implementation of 1:1 Devices in Year 4 and 5. In 2018 our Year 4-Year 6 be 1:1. We continued planning to bring OLMC School's facilities into the 21st Century with furniture upgrades (including Science Room Upgrade- In readiness for 2018) throughout the school. Thanks once again to Ivan Jaksic, Nick Gvozdin, Karen Collins and Gabby Del Borrello (Finance Officer/s) for their support as members of the OLMC School Financial Committee.

I wish to formally thank our Graduating Class of 2017. A unique feature of this group is that so many of the parents have undertaken both formal and informal positions in our Parents and Friends Association and School Board – I make mention of this as we generally are finding in schools, sporting and other community groups that service in and leadership is perhaps not shared as much as it once was. So to the parents of our departing 2017 Graduating Year 6 Class, thank you for your contributions (and continued contributions) to OLMC School.

The Parents and Friends Association

A huge thanks to all members of our Parents and Friends Association in 2017. Special thanks go to our Parents and Friends Association President Patrick Vereker for his leadership this year. To Patrick's P&F Executive; Vice President Katherine Beeson, Treasurer –Brooke Alford, Secretary – Anna Sharpe, Class Rep Coordinator – Carmen Forde, Fundraising Coordinator – Emma Tapp and Naomi Pryer, and Dad's Coordinator – Darren Nock. 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 2017 Parent Representatives. Your job of communicating to families and support of Parents and Friends Association initiatives is a great attribute of our school.

Sometimes in schools we can focus and acknowledge the events that return large profits and strong attendance, however I personally value and acknowledge the contributions and work done behind the scenes to engage families and support the school community. 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 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 (both mums and dads) to this important parent group and community building organisation. 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 would like to formally thank and acknowledge Patrick Vereker. I am most grateful for the leadership you have offered your Executive 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.

I wish to pay particular mention to our staff for their flexibility and willingness to go above and beyond expectations for the benefit of our students

To our **Teaching Staff**, Analeese, Chanel, Steve, Alex, Julie, Kate, Jessica C, Nicole, Helen, Jessica H, Bianca, Elisa, John, Margaret, Emma and Robert. We thank them for their work as classroom and specialist teachers this year.

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

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

Thanks to the Mrs Julie Kay for her commitment and continued school leadership at OLMC school. Julie is a real asset to our community and continues to offer strong leadership and support to me and the entire school community. The diverse and complex tasks she completes each and every day makes our school a better place. Special thanks also to Julie for her time spent this year in the role of Acting Principal in my absence.

In 2017 we celebrated the exciting news of two staff members commencing families with Analeese Small (Term 2) and Jessica Cullen (Term 4) both accessing Maternity Leave.

I wish to also celebrate Miss Chanel Livesey and Mr Alex Lerende who have both commenced their careers in this their graduating year. You have both made exceptional transitions into the teaching profession and we are blessed to have had you as part of the OLMC team and community in 2017 and again in 2018.

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 2018 team which will be announced in the Week 8 Newsletter.

This year we have farewelled and will farewell the following staff members.

- Elissa Cogliandro (Study commitments)
- Emma Bibra (Resigned)
- Kate Dunstan (Moving to Holy Cross)
- Karen Collins (seconded to CEWA for twelve months)

The 2017 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 2018 school year.

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

“May the feet of God walk with you, and his hand hold you tight.

May the eye of God rest on you, and his ear hear your cry.

May the smile of God be for you, and his breath give you life.

May the Child of God grow in you, and his love bring you home”

Kevin Duffy | Principal | 2017