**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 tells us....

“Educating is not a profession but an attitude, a way of being; in order to educate it is necessary to step out of ourselves and be among young people, to accompany them in the stages of their growth and to set ourselves beside them.”

Good evening and welcome. I am pleased to present this report as we move towards the conclusion of the 2015 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 2015. 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 them. So in this our 61st 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 2015 school year with approximately 242 students and 159 families. We welcomed several new families during the course of the year. We especially welcomed our 29 Kindy students, and our 13 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 and 2016 already has enrolments full.

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 2015 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 were blessed again to be able to provide our community with a stable staff in 2015 and welcomed the return of Mrs Cox and Mrs Rijs who have served OLMC for some years. We also bid farewell to Mrs O’Kane at the conclusion of Term One who served OLMC and Catholic Education in both Victoria and Western Australia as she commenced retirement (Interestingly her love for teaching, students and OLMC has already seen her return for relief work in second semester!) Mrs Anna Cortese also departed in January for new opportunity at Fiona Stanley Hospital.

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 2015 can be found with the dedicated and regular delivery of both Student Support and Gifted and Talented programs that continued to be consistent features of OLMC School in 2015.

During the last twelve months I have been privy to many examples our boys and girls have providing us with many 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 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 2015 school year.

2015 Teaching and Learning Highlights

- The consolidation 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
- Gifted and Talented Program (Year One – Year 6)
- Participation in Opti-Minds Tournament
- The Learning Journey that occurred in Term 3.
- The whole school focus on Numeracy (Participation in PANLS – Principal’s As Numeracy Leaders)
- The continued implementation of ICT’s across the curriculum and introduction of Class Blogs.

**2015 Faith Life**

- Parish Sacraments
- The school visit of Trappist Missionary Priest Fr Louis
- Saint Vincent de Paul Hamper collection (Winter 2015 and Christmas Appeals 2014)
- Making Jesus Real – Including introduction of community member Merit Award
- Our Lady of Mount Carmel Week Activities (Christian Service Activities Year 3-6)
- Fr Tony Chiera Staff Faith Formation Professional Development Day

**2015 Extra Curricular Highlights**

- The Schools faction swimming, cross country and athletics carnivals
- The Year 5/6 Lightning Carnivals
- Hosting the regional Chess Tournament
- Three Day Year 5 Camp – Bickley
- Four Day Year 6 Camp – Forrest Edge
- Year 6 Sleep Rough Night and Year 4 Sleep Over
- School Choir Performance

**2015 Community Highlights**

- Dad’s Engagement Opportunity (Nature Playground Construction – Dad’s Nights)
- Variety of Parent and Friends Functions (Ladies Fashion Parade Night)
- World Teacher’s Day Celebrations (In our new Staffroom)
- Father’s Day Celebrations (Kindy – Year 2 Breakfats)
- The great variety of parent engagement/education opportunities
- Completing Stage One of the School Refurbishment
- Introduction of the community run, school supported “Get Fit and Learn Club”

**Insight School Climate Survey Summary 2015**

In 2015, Our Lady of Mount Carmel participated in the Insight School Climate Survey. Insight SRC Survey is a tool used for assessing the strengths, challenges and opportunities for improvement in our school. The survey summarises the views held by staff, a selection of students and parents at our school.
The biggest gains shown in the survey were with Staff Wellbeing – how staff feel whilst at school and the levels of enthusiasm they have for the job. Staff parents and students all feel supported; enjoy working or being here and all feel that they are listened to. Teachers, staff, parents and students have all recognised the huge improvement in Student Behaviour since the implementation of our school wide policy and consistent practice.

Our students and parents feel that they are welcomed, that teachers are energetic and provide interesting lessons and that our staff meet the needs of children with a stimulating learning environment. Looking across all our data, staff have identified that student engagement and motivations (while being strong and pleasing) is an area for continued growth and sustainable practice. This information will now be included into our whole school improvement plan and will be part of our learning focus for 2016.

**Quality Catholic Schooling 2015**

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

**307 Differentiated Teaching and Learning; 203 Wider Community Partnerships; 102 Integrating Catholic Faith, Life and Culture.**

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 2016 and beyond.

Some of the recommendations that came out of the reviews that will become part of our 2016 Annual School Improvement Plan include;

- Provide increased opportunities for staff cluster meeting to enhance teacher moderation of student work.
- Review and enhance our analysis of student data and systems for data storage and transferral (Year level to Year level).
- Develop an agreed understanding of what Christian Service is.
- Develop and implement a Christian Service program.

**Appreciation and Acknowledgement**

The 2015 school year should be reflected upon as a year of many positive changes. The most obvious of which included the completion (on time and budget) of our refurbished Administration, Kindy / Pre Primary Early Learning Facility and Staff Resource and Staffroom.

The school leadership team has worked tirelessly to ensure that equally as important to the physical improvements, that quality Teaching and Learning Occurs at every juncture. Our *Teaching and Learning Vision* remains a strong platform and source of solidarity amongst our staff that 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. Our Positive Behaviour Management Plan continues to be implemented by every staff member and community feedback around this remains strong and positive as was reflected in our InSight Survey data.

Finally a source of great personal pride lies is the cohesion and balance of the professional and supportive team we have at OLMC School. 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 will conclude at years end); Sharon McGunnigle for her work as uniform shop manager; Veronica Vinci and Katherine Beeson for their 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; the parents who have volunteered alongside Michelle Fulgaro in the school 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 volunteer’s morning tea on Tuesday 8th 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, built a Nature Playground 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 once again and your support and attendance at staff functions is another aspect of your ministry, leadership and indeed friendship that are much appreciated.

**The School Board**

In 2015 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, ‘visioning for
current and future generations’ of OLMC School and Principal Review Process, are just some of the
functions and tasks the School Board undertakes.

I wish to thank Jason Gavranic for his role as Board Chairman once again in 2015. 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 particularly offering leadership and professional experience during the building
program. To Fiona Ryan in her role as Treasurer, in what is interesting financial times for us all in Catholic
education with new funding conditions being transitioned this year as well your work as Treasurer is valued.
We offer Megan Mentz our thanks and recognition in her role as Secretary and Parish Representative
(Megan’s youngest daughter graduated in 2014 and we thank Megan for staying on the Board despite not
having a child in the school in 2015), Samantha Kerlin in her role as Parents and Friends Association
Representative, Fr Paul Raj as our Parish Priest and to fellow Board Member’s, Carmel Elkins, Matt
Buggins, Aaron Crees and Nick Gvozdnin; thank you all for your contributions this year.

A great deal of the Board’s work this year involved bringing OLMC School’s facilities into the 21st Century.
Implementing and completing the first stage of our schools Capital Development Plan, thorough financial
planning and due diligence in a changing/transitional funding arrangements were added responsibilities of
the Board in 2015. 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 support as members of the Financial Committee.

I wish to also acknowledge and thank Aaron Crees, Megan Mentz and Matt Buggins who will conclude their
service on the School Board at the conclusion of the year.

The Parents and Friends Association
A huge thanks to all members of our Parents and Friends Association in 2015. Special thanks go to our
Parents and Friends Association President Sam Kerlin for her continued leadership this year. To Sam’s P&F
Executive; Treasurer – Natalie Giles, Secretary – Rhian Moss, Fundraising Coordinator – Grace Cikara, I
also extend my thanks and appreciation on behalf of the entire community. I would thank and highlight Mrs
Carmen Forde (Parent Representative Coordinator) and Pat Vereker (Dad’s Engagement Coordinator) 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 our learners.

Thanks also to our 2015 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 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 (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.

**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. A building program can create a lot of added stress and disruption to learning and our usual service delivery expectations. I was most proud of how all our staff ensured a consistent education and office delivery despite the refurbishment that was going on around us and the added demands that this required of our staff.

To our **Teaching Staff**, Analeese, Todd, Steve, Julie, Jason, Jessica C, Nicole, Helen, Jessica H, Cecilia, Bozana, Bianca, Elisa, John, Amy and Robert. We thank them for their work as classroom and specialist teachers this year.

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

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

Thanks to the Mrs Julie Kay and Mr Jason Tyrrell for their school leadership and support to me and the entire school community. The diverse and complex tasks these two leaders complete each and every day makes our school a better place. Special thanks also to Mrs Kay for her time spent this year in the role of Acting Principal in my absence.

I wish to also recognise Miss Bianca Proctor on her engagement to Andrew earlier this year (She will return to us in 2016 as Mrs Holyoake); To Mrs Amy Cox and her husband on the pending arrival of baby number four; and to Mr Steve Carrabs and his wife of the pending birth of their twins.
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 2016 team which I will announce in the Week 8 Newsletter.

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

- Mrs Bozana O’Kane (Retired)
- Mrs Anna Cortese (Resigned)
- Mrs Amy Cox (Maternity Leave)

The 2015 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 2016 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 | 2015