



OUR LADY OF MT CARMEL SCHOOL

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Principal's Report – Annual Community Meeting

Monday 21st November 2016

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 a recent school visit stated....

“Today we want to keep dreaming. We celebrate all the opportunities which enable you (children), and us adults too, not to lose the hope of a better world with greater possibilities. ... I know that one of the dreams of your parents and teachers, and all those who help them ... is that you can grow up and be happy.

When we all come together to educate our children, we will be one step closer to creating a world of good.”

Good evening and welcome. I am pleased to present this report as we move towards the conclusion of the 2016 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 2016. 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 them. So in this our 62nd 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 2016 school year with approximately 246 students and 164 families. We welcomed several new families during the course of the year. We especially welcomed our 24 Kindy students, and our 19 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 2016 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 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 2016 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 2016.

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 2016 school year.

2016 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 move towards Online Diagnostic Testing in Second Semester
- Gifted and Talented Program (Year One – Year 6)
- Participation in Opti-Minds Tournament
- The Learning Journey that occurred in Term 3
- Appointment and profile of the position of Aboriginal Teaching Assistant/s at OLMC

- Implementation of “Highway Heroes.” Social and Emotional Wellness Program
- The increased implementation of ICT delivery across the curriculum and Planning for 1:1 Device Implementation

2016 Faith Life

- Parish Sacraments and the partnership between School and Parish
- The Year 4 and Year 6 visit to the Mary Mackillop centre in South Perth
- Saint Vincent de Paul Hamper collection (Winter 2016 and Christmas Appeals 2015)
- Lifelink Fundraising Appeal
- Making Jesus Real – Regular presentation of community member Merit Award
- Christian Service Professional Learning (see community highlights)
- Regional Staff Professional Development Day facilitated by Fr Kevin Long

2016 Extra Curricular Highlights

- The Schools faction swimming, cross country and athletics carnivals.
- The Year 5/6 Interschool Lightning Carnivals
- Hosting and winning the regional Chess Tournament
- Year 6 Girls Cricket Team making the WA State Final at the WACA
- Three Day Year 5 Camp – Bickley / Four Day Year 6 Camp – Fairbridge
- Year 6 Sleep Rough Night and Year 4 Sleep Over
- Establishment of Coding Club

2016 Community Highlights

- Implementation of the new Strategic Plan (2016-2019)
- Variety of Parent and Friends Functions (Rock Qwiz Night)
- EduDance Concert (Kindy to Year 6)
- NAIDOC Celebrations and community involvement
- Increased Indigenous student enrolments
- Facilitating 12 Notre Dame Student Teacher and 3 Education Assistant practicums.
- World Teacher’s Day Celebrations / Recognition
- Our Lady of Mount Carmel Week Activities (Christian Service Activities Year 3-6)

Insight School Climate Survey Summary

In 2016, Our Lady of Mount Carmel did not participate 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. OLMC undertakes this survey every second year.

Quality Catholic Schooling 2016

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

QCS: 306 Systematic Curriculum Delivery; QCS: 308 Effective Pedagogical Practices; QCS 402 Pastoral Care of Students.

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.

Some of the recommendations that came out of the reviews that will become part of our 2017 Annual School Improvement Plan include;

- Explore the process of Inquiry Learning / Problem Solving
- Embed Higher Order Thinking Skills across the curriculum
- Continue to develop our whole school curriculum scope and sequence
- Continue to implement meaningful and relevant online pre and post testing regimes
- Revise school processes for monitoring and recording playground incidents (both positive and negative)

Appreciation and Acknowledgement

The 2016 school year has again offered us many opportunities to grow and develop as a community.

The school leadership team has worked tirelessly to ensure that equally as important to the school's 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 positive.

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, Sally-Anne Smith – for her work as book club coordinator (She will conclude at years end); 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 Michelle Fulgaro in the school Canteen; Angeline Gavranic for coordinating the school banking; We also thank Marcelle Coakley for feeding the chickens for many years and will conclude as a parent at years end. **This year, the staff will be once again hosting a special volunteer’s morning tea on Tuesday 6th 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

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. 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 2016 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, 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 Jason Gavranic in his final year as Board Chairman and Sam Kerlin who will also conclude. To Ivan Jaksic in his new role as Treasurer, in what is interesting financial times for us all in Catholic Education with new funding conditions being transitioned this year and our involvement in a CEWA trail school for a new office software package, your work and support as Treasurer is valued. To Natalie Giles in her 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 and Nick Gvozdin; thank you all for your contributions this year.

A great deal of the Boards work this year involved completing and “fleshing out” our 2016-2019 Strategic Plan; we also undertook a major ICT Audit and Strategic Plan. This year we commenced the next stage of the digital transformation with the implementation of 1:1 Devices in Years 4 and 5 to begin in 2017; continued planning to bring OLMC School’s facilities into the 21st Century. Some of this planning and commitment to school improvements will be evident upon the students return in February 2017 which will also include internal and external painting of the school. Having traversed significant building works in 2015, 2016 was also a time to financially consolidate as we began our debt servicing. Thanks once again to Ivan Jaksic, Jason Gavranic and Karen Collins (Finance Officer) for their support as members of the OLMC School Financial Committee.

I wish to formally thank Jason Gavranic who will conclude his service firstly as School Board member and more recently as School Board Chair for the last three years. Jason has worked tirelessly in providing stability, succession planning, strategic direction, building advice and community perspective in his time on the Board. We also acknowledge the fact that his youngest is only in Year 2, so his knowledge and skill set will remain in our community for some time and trust he can be called upon if required. Thanks Jason for your support not only of our wider school community but also the support, wisdom and guidance you have offered me personally.

The Parents and Friends Association

A huge thanks to all members of our Parents and Friends Association in 2016. Special thanks go to our Parents and Friends Association President Natalie Giles for her leadership this year. To Natalie’s P&F Executive; Vice President – Patrick Vereker, Treasurer – Brooke Alford, Secretary – Rhian Moss, Class Rep Coordinator – Carmen Forde. 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 2016 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 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 take the opportunity to formally thank and acknowledge Natalie Giles for her tireless effort as Parents and Friends Association president. I am most grateful for the leadership you have offered this dedicated group of parents and support you have offered the wider parent community, students and staff of OLMC.

The Staff

We were blessed again to be able to provide our community with a stable staff in 2016. We farewelled Mrs Cecilia Jan at the conclusion of Term One upon her retirement. Mrs Jan served OLMC and Catholic Education (in the Northern Territory and Western Australia). She amassed some 39 years of dedicated service to OLMC! She leaves a proud legacy, having taught generations of students.

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, Todd, Steve, Julie, Kate, Jessica C, Nicole, Helen, Jessica H, Cecilia, Bianca, Elisa, John, 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 Toby 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 for her school leadership and added support she offers 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 Mrs Kay for her time spent this year in the role of Acting Principal in my absence and on her highly successful Assistant Principal Review and second contract appointment.

I wish to also celebrate Mr Steve Carrabs and his wife on the birth of their twin boys. We also recognize Mr Millar for his work as Aboriginal Teacher Assistant (and appointment as Primary Teacher at Don Bosco in 2017) and Ms Jacinta Taylor-Foster who commenced work in this important student support and community liaison role in second semester.

I would also like to publically thank and acknowledge the work of Karen Collins and Linda Yates. These ladies have been part of a CEWA System Office Finance trial which has created a great deal of added work and responsibility this year. The outcome of this trial has led to CEWA not proceeding with full implementation to other schools based on the learning and feedback OLMC provided.

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 2017 team which will be announced in the Week 8 Newsletter.

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

- Mrs Cecilia Jan (Retired)
- Mr Todd Smith (Resigned – Will commence work in his family business)
- Mr Toby Millar (Resigned as ATA – Employed as qualified Teacher at Don Bosco College)
- Mrs Michelle Fulgaro (Resigned)

The 2016 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 2017 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 | 2016