Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School

Principal’s Annual Report to the School Community

2ND DECEMBER 2015
VISION STATEMENT

“Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary seeks to offer excellence in education, enlivened by the life and teaching of Jesus Christ in a school community where the dignity of each person is valued.”

Our Lady of Lourdes Vision Statement encompasses the education and well-being of the “whole” child. It acknowledges the individuality of each child and the opportunities each child has to progress and develop. The curriculum needs to be broad and balanced engaging the children in activities that are appropriately challenging and in contexts meaningful to the students’ own lives.

Central to the philosophy of the Vision Statement is the emphasis on a strong Christian education which flows through all aspects of school life. Further to this, the strong relationship between home, school, parish and community ensures that shared values and beliefs create the best possible learning environment for students.

SCHOOL MOTTO, VALUES & MISSION STATEMENT

‘Honor Pretiosior Auro’ – ‘Honour is more precious than Gold’

Our motto reminds us to look to Jesus Christ, whose life and teaching inspire us to live with honour, seeking justice for all.

“Our Lady of Lourdes School seeks to provide educational excellence through the integration of Faith, Life and Culture.”

Belief Harmony Responsibility

Our Mission as a Catholic school founded under the traditions of the Sisters of Mercy is to empower all members of our community, especially the students entrusted to our care, to be active and fully informed citizens recognising the integration of our faith beliefs in an evolving and enriched multi-cultural society.
Our school values are witnessed through the following core principles:

- We believe that God made and loves each of us uniquely.
- We work and play in harmony with all members of the school community.
- We each accept our personal responsibility at all times.

SCHOOL GOALS

Our Lady of Lourdes’ School Goals were refined in 2014. They are established in order to demonstrate how our Vision, Mission, Motto, Values and Principles are enacted upon, and thus guide our decision making processes and strategic directions:

1. Provide an atmosphere which reflects Christ’s teaching and projects him as a life model through the integration of faith, life and learning.
2. Provide students with a positive outlook for the future through the development of their confidence and self-esteem.
3. Encourage parents to play an active role in their child’s education.
4. Affirm, respect, and develop the individuality and uniqueness of each child, staff member and school community member.
5. Provide a broad, balanced and developmentally appropriate curriculum that utilises the best practices of teaching and learning, making use of the latest technologies and educational research/development.
6. Developing our traditions and rituals along with a school culture which acknowledges events and celebrations.
7. To have sufficient infrastructure, facilities and equipment which support the strategic ambitions for teaching and learning, providing a safe and secure working and learning environment.
INTRODUCTION

As 2015 draws to a close all members of our community can reflect upon another rewarding and successful year. Our students continue to excel in their learning and demonstrate active citizenship in their positive relationships with others. The dedication of staff continues to provide the highest quality of education in the implementation of a broad and balanced curriculum across the Early Years’ Learning Framework and West Australian Curriculum. Similarly, staff are demonstrating the highest expertise and commitment to their various working roles. The work of students and staff is aided by the wonderful support of our families, parish and wider community. This year in particular has seen an enhanced participation from our families across all aspects of school life, thus achieving strong home-school partnerships and positive outcomes for our school. As we finalise the objectives of the first year of our Strategic Plan, we can reflect on some tremendous achievements across the domains of Education (Learning), Community (Engagement), Stewardship (Accountability) and Catholic Identity (Discipleship). This could not have been possible without the vocational work of our amazing staff, the endeavours of our proactive School Board and P&F, pastoral and spiritual support of Father Stan and the Parish and the engagement and help of all our families. Moreover, our successful achievements and celebrations throughout 2015 are ultimately achieved due to the enthusiasm and responsibility that students demonstrate across all aspects of school life. This report outlines some of the highlights of our year’s journey in the spirit of Belief, Harmony and Responsibility and in recognising the interconnectedness of faith, life and learning.

CATHOLIC IDENTITY

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, SACRAMENTS & LITURGY

Religious Education and faith formation are central to our Catholic school. We are blessed as a community to have wonderful support, spiritually and pastorally, from our Parish Priest, Father Stan. In partnership with parents and parish, the school works to assist students to develop knowledge of the Catholic faith. Religious Education Units of Work, mandated by the Bishops and the Catholic Education Commission of Western Australia, are taught in each class. Additionally, all curriculum areas have a religious dimension. As such, our beliefs and values are reinforced across all aspects of school life. Moreover, the fostering of our catholic ethos, particularly in regards to the explicit teaching of Catholic Church teachings, enables our Mission of integrating faith, life and learning to be delivered across all aspects of the school.
In 2015 we fostered liturgical prayer and life through a wide range of experiences. These included:

- Harmony Day Parish Mass
- Whole school Masses throughout the year
- Class Masses in Years Three to Six
- Class liturgies in Years One and Two
- Reconciliation services
- Rosary recital in May and October
- Weekly prayer assemblies
- Daily classroom prayers
- Staff prayer
- Lenten and Advent reflections
- Our Lady of Lourdes Feastday
- Ash Wednesday
- Easter paraliturgies
- Feast of the Assumption
- Feast of Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop
- ANZAC Day Service
- Remembrance Day Prayer Service
- All Souls Mass
- Graduation & Thanksgiving Mass
- Celebration of the Sacraments of Confirmation, Eucharist and Penance

YEARS OF MERCY

Pope Francis earlier in 2015 announced the Holy Year of Mercy, centring on the mercy of God. The focus of the Extraordinary Jubilee is on how the Church may render more clear her mission to be a witness to mercy, with Pope Francis explaining that we all have to make this journey, renewing our commitment to living in the light of the word of the Lord: “Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful” (cf. Lk 6:36). The Holy Year of Mercy will commence on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception (December 8th) and will conclude on Sunday, 20 November 2016, the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe and living face of the Father’s mercy. As a school founded in the traditions of the Sisters of Mercy, there is added significance as to how we can celebrate the catholic ethos of the school in the Year of Mercy. Therefore, a range of spiritual and pastoral experiences will assist in our reflection and celebration of the Year of Mercy throughout 2016.
PARISH BASED, SCHOOL SUPPORTED SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME

The parish based Sacramental Programme continues to be enhanced with an effective and developmental range of experiences offered to students as they prepare to receive one of the sacraments. The Sacramental Programme is led by our parish priest, Father Stan, and supported by our Religious Education Coordinator, Mr. Gray, and the Catechist Team from the parish. Year level teachers take a very proactive role in the implementation of the Sacramental Programme. Leading up to the celebration of the sacraments a comprehensive programme of learning assists in building students’ and parents’ faith and knowledge of Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation. As well as specific curriculum content, retreat days and parent workshops are facilitated. Participation in our parish through the Sacramental Programme has provided students with an awareness of a worshipping community beyond school. As such, our Sacramental Programme helps to encourage the link between home, school and parish.

MISSIONS & CHARITIES

Our outreach to support communities in need has seen the overwhelming generosity of our school community throughout 2015. As a result significant support, both spiritually and financially, has been extended to the following charities and organisations:

- Caritas’ Project Compassion
- Lifelink
- Cancer Council of WA
- St Vincent de Paul
- Gold for Chloe
- MS Lottery
- E’Co clothes fundraising

STAFF RETREAT

Staff recognise the importance of fostering a personal commitment to enhancing faith, knowledge and spirituality in our promotion of the catholic ethos of the school. Therefore, each year a professional development day is allocated to the Catholic Identity domain. In 2015, staff joined together for a day of reflection as we participated in a retreat. The retreat was facilitated by Mr. Gray and focused on the following aspects:

- LEADing in Catholic Identity
- Leadership of Pope Francis
- Five Essential Marks of the Catholic School
RELIGIOUS LITERACY ASSESSMENTS

As in previous years, our Year 3 and Year 5 students completed the Bishops’ Religious Literacy Assessment in August. The results of these assessments are very positive and are one reflection on the strength of our Religious Education curriculum provision. Similarly, the data highlights opportunities for school to enhance aspects of the teaching of Religious Education. The results from Year Five are externally marked whilst school attends to the evaluation of Year Three assessments. The summary data is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR THREE</th>
<th>OUR LADY OF LOURDES CLASS AVERAGE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RELIGIOUS LITERACY</td>
<td>60.28%</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR FIVE</th>
<th>OUR LADY OF LOURDES CLASS AVERAGE &amp; MEAN SCORE</th>
<th>ALL PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS AVERAGE &amp; MEAN SCORE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RELIGIOUS LITERACY</td>
<td>64.6%</td>
<td>61.8%</td>
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<td></td>
<td>497.3</td>
<td>478.5</td>
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2015 SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

We had a number of key objectives regarding the implementation of the first year of our new Strategic Plan. These are summarised below with core achievements outlined.

- **Enhancing teaching and learning in the Numeracy area**

The school made a significant investment in the promotion of effective pedagogy and challenging learning opportunities for students in the area of Numeracy. Building on the strengths that already existed in Numeracy teaching and learning, the school worked alongside an external curriculum consultant throughout 2015. Mrs. Di Rundus supported individual and networks of teachers in undertaking reflective pedagogical practices and the integration of meaningful learning tasks for students. Likewise, the Mathematics Department of the University of Notre Dame’s Education faculty provided a number of school based professional learning experiences. The strategies utilised included professional development days, rich learning tasks, reviewing curriculum documentation and planning, data analysis, focus on assessment practices, sharing of teacher expertise, professional reading and application, peer observations, moderation of students’ work and resource allocation. Mrs. Kerry Roberts, Miss Alison Casey and Mrs. Elise Cruttenden coordinated the implementation of the process, together with the school’s Leadership Team.

In addition to the teaching and learning focus in the classrooms, student engagement was supported by the continuation of the Maths Mix-Up strategy. Furthermore, opportunities to share best practice with parents was achieved through a number of parent workshops.

- **Reviewing teaching and learning in the Religious Education curriculum**

The school continued to fully implement the Religious Education (RE) units of work as Mandated by the Bishops of Western Australia. The integration of religious educational themes was promoted across learning areas. Teachers focused on the application of the achievement standards in RE both within the Planning-Teaching-Learning-Assessing and Reporting cycle. Further work will be prioritised in 2016.
• **Promoting parents as partners in the students' learning experiences**

A major celebration of the 2015 academic year has been the increased parental interaction within the school day. A growing number of parents and families are offering their time and skills in the promotion of learning goals for students. This has included helping in the classrooms, increased attendance at school events, assisting on excursions and with incursions. Two significant events saw a large number of parents participating in the life of the school. These were the Numeracy parent workshops and the busy bees for the Early Childhood nature play environment.

• **Further embedding collaborative learning experiences utilising ICT**

Mr. Barns continued to coordinate the ICT learning area. This included specialised lessons in ICT and the integration of relevant learning experiences in the daily classroom programme. Students were engaged in a variety of meaningful and collaborative tasks that promoted knowledge, skills and understanding across all learning areas. ICT will continue to be a focus throughout 2016.

• **Catering for the personal, social and emotional needs of students**

With the support of our Educational Psychologist, Mrs. Wendy Richards, the school reviewed its delivery of a curriculum and school wide processes in catering for the personal, social and emotional needs of students. This strategy incorporated an evaluation of the Quality Catholic Schooling (QCS) Tool component covering the pastoral needs of students. The overwhelming feedback being that school very much takes a holistic and proactive approach to addressing the wellbeing of students. This includes pastoral initiatives across the school as well as the specific teaching of themes in the classroom. There is good alignment with the General Capabilities of the West Australian Curriculum, particularly in relation to Personal & Social Capability and Intercultural Understanding. A detailed scope and sequence for personal, social and emotion curriculum will be devised in order to provide breadth, balance and continuity to this aspect of the curriculum, with our Catholic Identity and ethos at the heart of such programmes.
2016 SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

2016 will see the implementation of the second year of our Strategic Plan, which will again be addressed through an Annual School Improvement Plan and a Quality Improvement Plan for Early Years. Our summarised target areas relate to:

- Appropriate opportunities to celebrate the Year of Mercy
- Review and update the school’s Evangelisation Plan
- Update the Pastoral Care policy and introduce a community wide network of support
- Continuing established priorities in enhancing teaching and learning in the Numeracy area
- Refinement and implementation of comprehensive assessment and reporting cycles
- Development of Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation across all year levels
- Implementation of a personal, social and emotional wellbeing programme
- Integration of ICT in classroom learning experiences
- Enhance the implementation of the Early Years’ Learning Framework, particularly in fostering outdoor learning and sustainability themes
- Redevelopment of the play structures on the main oval

LEARNING CONVERSATIONS

The professional integrity of staff is demonstrated by their overwhelming commitment to ongoing learning. Teachers participated in the Learning Conversations coaching strategy throughout the year. This involved rich discussion, peer observations in the classroom and the review of professional learning goals. As such a commitment is made by teachers to celebrate and enhance practices through a Professional Learning Plan, aligned with the AITSL Standards for Teachers. The dedication of teachers in this regard is highly commendable, as is the wider collegiality of all staff working at the school.

NATIONAL QUALITY STANDARDS FOR EARLY YEARS

The Early Years’ Learning Framework which guides our provision of quality educational experiences from Pre-Kindergarten to Year Two, is supported by the National Quality Standards for Early Years (NQS) evaluative tool. A comprehensive audit of our Early Years’ area was undertaken in 2015. Mrs. Connell and Miss Casey, together with the dedicated staff in the Early Years, coordinated this important process. Of the seven Quality Areas within the NQS, our school functions extremely highly in each. In addition to the many strengths, a number of areas for development have been identified. These priorities form part of our Quality Improvement Plan (QIP) which aligns with our Annual School Improvement Plan and broader Strategic Plan.
NAPLAN DATA

In May of this year, national literacy and numeracy assessments were administered to students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. The assessments in literacy covered: Reading, Writing, Language Conventions- Spelling and Grammar & Punctuation. The Numeracy test covered mathematical concepts. The Writing assessment was based on the persuasive writing genre.

Individual and detailed reports are provided to the parents of children who undertook the national assessments. Furthermore, school receives detailed evaluation of the whole school and class cohorts, which allows for ongoing school improvement. The data provided to school also allows teachers to examine individual and class performance on each of the questions. Contrasts can also be made between national and state results, including “like school” comparisons. It is important to remember that the national assessments are only one source of evidence of student achievement, gained on one particular day. Similarly, comparisons from one cohort to another can be remarkably different. Nevertheless, I’m pleased to say that the data fulfils the expectations that teachers had for individual and class cohorts. The summary data for Year Three and Year Five for our school is as follows:

Percentage of students At or Above National Minimum Standard

YEAR THREE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OUR LADY OF LOURDES</th>
<th>STATE</th>
<th>NATIONAL</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
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<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>READING</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WRITING</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>98%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LANGUAGE CONVENTIONS- SPELLING</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LANGUAGE CONVENTIONS- GRAMMAR &amp; PUNCTUATION</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NUMERACY</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>97%</td>
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## YEAR FIVE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>OUR LADY OF LOURDES</th>
<th>STATE</th>
<th>NATIONAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>READING</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WRITING</td>
<td>95.2%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>92.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LANGUAGE CONVENTIONS-SPELLING</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>96.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LANGUAGE CONVENTIONS-GRAMMAR &amp; PUNCTUATION</td>
<td>95.2%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>96.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NUMERACY</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>95.5%</td>
<td>92.3%</td>
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### Comparison of School Mean to All Australian School Mean

#### YEAR THREE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>OUR LADY OF LOURDES MEAN</th>
<th>ALL WA SCHOOLS MEAN</th>
<th>ALL AUSTRALIAN SCHOOLS MEAN</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>READING</td>
<td>462.6</td>
<td>412.7</td>
<td>425.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WRITING</td>
<td>428.2</td>
<td>408.0</td>
<td>416.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPELLING</td>
<td>447.8</td>
<td>400.4</td>
<td>409.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRAMMAR &amp; PUNCTUATION</td>
<td>466.8</td>
<td>423.8</td>
<td>432.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NUMERACY</td>
<td>379.3</td>
<td>387.8</td>
<td>397.8</td>
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#### YEAR FIVE

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>OUR LADY OF LOURDES MEAN</th>
<th>ALL WA SCHOOLS MEAN</th>
<th>ALL AUSTRALIAN SCHOOLS MEAN</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>READING</td>
<td>506.0</td>
<td>489.2</td>
<td>498.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WRITING</td>
<td>474.2</td>
<td>470.9</td>
<td>478.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPELLING</td>
<td>522.4</td>
<td>492.9</td>
<td>498.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRAMMAR &amp; PUNCTUATION</td>
<td>496.0</td>
<td>496.0</td>
<td>503.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NUMERACY</td>
<td>515.6</td>
<td>484.5</td>
<td>492.3</td>
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PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Our dedicated staff continue to engage in professional development. This ensures that our staff are at the forefront of the latest developments in the Catholic Identity, Educational, Community and Stewardship domains. A snapshot of professional development this year has included:

- Pre-Primary Online Assessment
- Maths 300
- Numeracy Curriculum
- Authentic Assessment in Numeracy
- Finance Officers’ Workshop
- Administrative Officers’ Workshop
- Pre-Primary Curriculum
- Putting Faces on the Data: What Great Leaders Do
- SEQTA Management Tool
- ICT Masterclasses
- Kindergarten Guidelines and Curriculum
- Critical Conversations & Positive School Climates
- National Quality Standard for Early Years
- Accreditation modules
- Learning Support
- Reading Recovery Professional Learning
- Catholic Principals’ Conference
- Assistant Principals’ Conference
- Leader’s Forums

INCursions & Excursions

To enrich curriculum delivery teachers organise a number of incursions and excursions. These activities help to broaden the learning experiences for students. Some special events in 2015 included the following:

- Cuddly Farm
- Fremantle historical sites
- Constitutional Centre
- Parliament House
- Kings Park
- WA Museum
- Mundaring Weir
- Smartstart Financial Literacy
- Constable Care
- First Aid
- Whitman Park
- Waterwise
- Chinese Cultural Experience
- Library visits
- School Camp
- SciTech
- Fired Creative Cafe
COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

The establishment of the Community Committee of the School Board in 2015 has reaped significant benefits, especially in regards to the planning and delivery of nature focused play environments. The work of the committee covers aspects of the school’s operation in regards to fostering our catholic identity, pastoral needs of the community and the building of relationships with all associated with our school. The committee is an important link therefore, to the P&F, staffing composition and the wider school community. As outlined, a major focus of the committee this year has been in the researching, planning and installation of new play and learning structures in the Early Years Area and on the main oval. In 2016, the committee will be heavily involved in further fostering the strong community bonds that exist at our school, particularly focusing on the Year of Mercy celebrations.

FLAGPOLE PROJECT

In 2014 new flagpoles, garden bed and a Values Statement were installed outside of the school’s library. This year Mrs. Versaci has been coordinating our continuation of the flagpole project in readiness for the celebration of the Year of Mercy. All students and staff have designed a tile which highlights our faith, values and school life. An important design consideration was the integration of aboriginal themes in recognition of the traditional custodians of the land. School received a significant financial grant from PALS to assist with the project. The completion of the project is anticipated for the start of 2016.

SPORTING EVENTS

Students’ understanding of health and physical activity was embedded throughout the year through various sporting events including swimming, dance, athletics, cross country, soccer, football and netball. There is great interest and enthusiasm towards sport from all students, participating in a variety of sporting skills, team games and fitness activities. The wide range of sports offered at school allows the students to have the opportunity to express their unique skills and talents creating confident participation. Combining this with a positive and nurturing environment means students are able to gain the necessary interpersonal skills to effectively build relationships and create for themselves an active, healthy lifestyle in the future. All of the students displayed great sportsmanship, team and school spirit in interschools’ sports with
rewarding results. Our provision and celebration of all sporting experiences at school would not be possible without the proactive coordination of Mr Barns. Similarly, our delivery of a broad and rich sporting culture would not be possible without the expertise and dedication from our teachers and coaches.

PARENTAL PARTICIPATION

The commitment of our parents in supporting school is greatly appreciated by all staff and students. Along with assisting on excursions, parents have been actively involved in a range of activities across the school including:

- School banking
- Scholastic books
- Busy bees
- Canteen
- Library
- Classroom learning
- Social events

_The staff and students of Our Lady of Lourdes’ School express their greatest appreciation to all parents and friends who have assisted so generously throughout the year!_
WEBSITE & COMMUNICATION SERVICES

A number of technological initiatives has seen an improvement in the timely and efficient delivery of information to families and the wider community. A new website was launched for the commencement of the year. Further to this, direct messaging is achieved with the utilisation of the SEQTA software. CONEQT-P has assisted in improved delivery of student reports with the creation of a parent portal.

NATURE PLAY ENVIRONMENTS

Research evidences that children who spend more time outside doing activities tend to be more physically active; play in more diverse, imaginative and creative ways, show improved language and collaboration skills and develop their gross motor strength and agility skills. It was with this set of objectives that the Community Committee of the School Board established plans for the implementation of fun and educational play spaces in the Early Years’ outdoor learning space and on the main school oval. The energetic and detailed work of the committee has delivered outstanding outcomes for the Early Years with a range of multi-sensory play experiences established. Whilst there is still work to complete in early 2016, nevertheless, the children are already utilising these nature play opportunities. The committee has been supported by amazing help from parents and staff members, with all of the work achieved by busy bees. The commencement of 2016 will see the installation of new play equipment on the main oval.

CLASSROOM UPGRADES

The programme of classroom modernisation continues to be implemented as part of the school’s strategic focus on creating contemporary learning spaces. In addition to the installation of Smart TVs, Year Four and Year One received new classroom furniture for the commencement of the year. As the year draws to a close, Pre-Primary and Year Three classrooms will receive new furniture.
SCHOOL BOARD/ PARENTS & FRIENDS ASSOCIATION

I offer my sincere thanks to all 2015 School Board members. Each has made a valuable contribution to the work of the Board and showed great dedication and support. Their commitment to the growth of Our Lady of Lourdes is very much appreciated. I thank Father Stan, Mrs. Bosevski, Mrs. Van Gent, Mrs. Gow, Mr. Anthony, Mr. Callery, Mrs. Millington, Mrs. White, Mr. Gray, Mrs. Connell and Mrs. Shreeve most sincerely for their work and guidance.

Likewise, I wish to thank and acknowledge the outstanding effort and contribution of the members of our 2015 P&F Executive who organised many successful events which significantly added to our positive community spirit. The dedicated work of Mrs. Wood, Mrs. Conduit, Mrs. Foster, Mrs. Burns and Mrs. Gow is a great source of direction and support for school initiatives. Similarly, I thank all parents for their support of the P&F’s work, especially the parents who undertook class representative roles.

STAFFING COMPOSITION 2016

Our school has an established and dedicated staffing composition which provides a wealth of knowledge and skills and thus ensures continuity for our community. Our staffing composition for 2015 is as follows:

Principal          Dan Wood
Assistant Principals Gayle Connell & Matthew Gray
Kindy/ 3 Year Old  Leonie Forrest
Pre Primary        Alison Casey
Year 1             Sonia Jenaway
Year 2             Janet Callaghan
Year 3             Jessica Giorgio & Maria Gaudoin
Year 4             Elise Cruttenden & Judy Russo
Year 5             Kerry Roberts
Year 6             Matthew Gray & Judy Russo
Learning Support/Special Needs  Gayle Connell
Reading Recovery  Grace Valli
Music  Mary Happ
Phys Ed/IT/G&T  To be appointed

Educational Assistants
General support/Library/Art  Pina Versaci
Pre-Primary  Teresa Erceg  Anne Fusco
3 Year Old Program  Anne Fusco
Kindy  Marie Ferrone  Josie Reitano
Special Education Support  Mireinne Cumbo  Veronica Bayer
Special Education Support  Anne Fusco

Office Staff
Finance Officer  Margy Reeler
Administration Officer  Janet Harris

Ancillary Staff
Uniform Shop  Bernadette Dyblik
Canteen Manager  Rosie Samuels

QUALITY CATHOLIC SCHOOLING COMPONENT REVIEWS
The components reviewed in 2015 were:
- Engagement with the School Community
- Effective Pedagogical Practices
- Pastoral Care of Students
Each of these components were rated and evidenced with data that supported the recognition of school strengths and the identification of areas for development. Areas for continual improvement are closely aligned with the school’s Strategic Plan, Quality Improvement Plan for Early Years and Annual School Improvement Plan.

In 2016, the following QCS Tool components will be reviewed:

- Analysis and Discussion of Data
- Staff Wellbeing
- Differentiated Teaching & Learning

SCHOOL CAPITAL & MAINTENANCE PROJECTS

A key aspect of the schools’ Strategic Plan was in the establishment of a detailed Capital Development Plan and Maintenance Programme. The School Board established a Finance, Capital & Maintenance Committee in 2015 in order to better coordinate the infrastructure needs for Our Lady of Lourdes. Significant works have been addressed already or have been identified for future years. Major work has been undertaken in regards to:

- Occupational Health & Safety Audit
- Annual Maintenance Programme
- Investment in outdoor play environments
- Installation of a new bore
- Classroom modernisation programme
- Flagpole project

In 2016 work has been identified for improvements as follows:

- Replacement windows to classrooms
- Decommissioning and removal of old gas heaters
- Introduction of new play equipment on the main oval
- ICT hardware procurement
- Continuation of classroom modernisation programme
BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL CARE PROGRAMME

OSH Club continue to provide quality before and after school care at our school. Mrs. Jackie Hayes is the programme’s coordinator. This year, the service was audited as part of the National Quality Standards for Early Years. The judgement was that the programme achieved “Meeting Standard” in its overall rating. Moreover, it was deemed to be exceeding in both Quality Area 5 – ‘Relationships with Children’ and in Standard 3.3 – ‘The service takes an active role in caring for its environment and contributes to a sustainable future.’ OSH Club will continue to function in 2016.

CONCLUSION

Everyone in our community can take great pride in our achievements throughout the year. Our school community would not be the special place that it is without the significant contributions of all members of Our Lady of Lourdes. The delivery of a quality catholic education has been witnessed through the contributions of staff, parents, Father Stan and parish, School Board, P&F, wider community and most importantly our students. In a spirit of trust and partnership we have provided a holistic education that caters for the uniqueness of each child fostering spiritual, pastoral, personal, academic, social and emotional learning. In summary, our school is a place in which children are encouraged to contribute to their world and excel in their learning. This is possible due to the great dedication of staff, enthusiasm of students, trust and participation of our families, support of our parish and wider community. As such, I thank all members of our community for their tremendous endeavours and congratulate everyone on the achievements and positive outcomes gained throughout the year.

As we conclude 2015, sadly there are a number of farewells for members of our community whose immediate connection will draw to a close this year.

To Miss Renata Scaturro, Miss Jacinta Erceg and Miss Ivana Kezic. We thank you for your wonderful contributions to our school during 2015. Whilst your time with us has been brief, you nonetheless have ensured that our school can continue to flourish. We wish you well as you continue your careers.

To Mr Michael Barns and Miss Laura Quinn. Your dedication to our school over a number of years has resulted in the celebration of learning and allowed children to make contributions to our community. Michael, your expertise in the sporting and ICT portfolios have ensured many moments of celebration and the delivery of best practices. You have been a great support for students and staff. Laura, your positive and passionate delivery of outcomes in the Early Years
has ensured that our students get the best possible start to their school life. You provide an inclusive, caring, safe and celebratory learning experience for all students allowing them to shine. Thank you both for your contributions to our school.

To Mrs Derral Shreeve who retires at the end of the school year. Thank you for the lasting legacy you have ensured will continue to enhance our school for many years to come. Your contributions since 1994 have enriched the lives of so many members of our community: staff, students, families and parishioners. Along with the professional, caring and confidential way in which you have undertaken your role as Finance Officer, you have participated in so many extra elements of the school’s life. Your passion and contributions to our school in the delivery of its vision and mission is of the highest capacity. You deserve the rest and relaxation that your retirement will bring but we all know you will be a welcome visitor and contributor to our school for many years to come. Thank you for all that you have helped build at our school in the pursuit of Belief, Harmony and Responsibility.

The School Board has been blessed with the significant contributions of all its members. Over many years we have benefitted as a school community from the gifts, talents and service of Mrs Sarah Bosevski, Mrs Linda Van Gent and Mr Paul Callery (co-opted). Sarah has been a tremendous School Board Chair; Paul an analytical Treasurer and Linda an efficient Secretary. Moreover, they have all had a huge impact in proactively promoting the financial, capital and maintenance of our school in their membership of the relevant committee.

There are a number of our dedicated P&F Executive members whose immediate association with our school will come to an end this year. I wish to sincerely thank Mrs Elena Burns for her tireless support in all P&F activities over many years and more recently as Secretary. Both Elena and her husband, Michael have made long lasting contributions to our school by way of parent help, P&F and School Board membership. I would also like to express our deepest gratitude to Mrs Genny Conduit who has been such an enthusiastic and proactive parent representative, both in her role as P&F Executive Vice President and previous Secretary, along with many examples of involvement across all aspects of the school. Genny, her husband Paul and her children are always actively involved in all school events. On behalf of our school community I thank Elena and Genny for their support of school over many years.

To our Year Six students. You graduate from our school having grown in faith, academia and personality. Throughout your time with us, you have made contributions to our school that have brought many gifts and times for celebration. Your roles as student leaders has been highly beneficial and supported school in so many ways. The enthusiasm and commitment you have shown to your school work and the positive example you show in establishing respectful friendships has been admirable. Therefore, you have all contributed to making our school a safe, happy and fun place to learn and play. We will miss you all greatly but recognise that you are
ready for the new opportunities that high school will afford you. I know that you will continue to make excellent contributions to your new schools and to the communities to which you belong. I thank you all for your contributions to our school and I wish you every success for what I am sure will be a very bright future. God bless and good luck!

To those families who will be departing us at the end of the year, or have done so during the duration of 2015, I express our sincere well wishes for your future. It is especially sad to see so many families leaving us as their last child finishes primary schooling. For some of our families this ends 10+ years of being a part of our school community. I thank all of our departing families for your support and involvement in our school throughout your time with us. We look forward to your return visits as friends of the Our Lady of Lourdes community.

In conclusion, we have much to be pleased with as we end our school year. Similarly, we can confidently look forward to the challenges of a new school year in 2016. With the ongoing implementation of our Strategic Plan, we will endeavour to pursue our vision and mission in the delivery of a quality catholic education whereby excellence can be achieved in the celebration and integration of faith, life and learning. We will continue to celebrate, value and encourage all members of our community to actively serve the community in the pursuit of Belief, Harmony and Responsibility. Thank you all for being on the journey with us and for all of the richness you bring to our community.

On behalf of all members of our school community, I extend God’s blessings to you all for a holy, safe and enjoyable Christmas with family and friends. May the celebration of Christmas bring peace, joy, faith and love to you all and may you find health, wellness and opportunity as we move into 2016.

God bless,

Dan Wood
Principal