

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School

Principal's Annual Report to the School Community



23RD NOVEMBER 2016

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School

Principal's Annual Report

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

Good evening everyone. I am delighted to present to the School Community of Our Lady of Lourdes my first report as Principal. 2016 has seen a number of significant changes to our School. Significantly, Mr. Dan Wood was seconded to Catholic Education WA as a School Improvement Advisor. He started this role in Term Three and it will run through until the end of 2017. Mr. Matthew Gray took on the role of Principal for the last six weeks of Term Three and did a wonderful job of running the school and making sure all was in place for Term Four. I sincerely thank them both for their work during their time as Principal at our school, in particular, thank you to Mr. Dan Wood for his hard work in leaving OLOL in such a strong position that I have been able to pick up the reigns and run with what has already been put in place. I hope I am able to continue to build upon the great foundations already laid in 2017.

A great strength of Our Lady of Lourdes is the on-going commitment of our teachers, assistants, admin staff, parish and school community. It is that willingness to ensure that students are exposed to many wonderful experiences that creates the great spirit that Our Lady of Lourdes can be proud of.

Our purpose is to compliment the work of parents, as the first educators of their children and recognise the primary role played by the family and the parish in the faith development process. The full benefit of our school occurs when the school, the family and the parish work in harmony to create a loving environment with each child as the primary focus.

The relationship between our Parish and School is an extremely strong one. This strong alignment is led by Fr. Stan who takes a keen interest in school affairs and makes himself available to advise, support and encourage. He is a great asset to our community and he brings the human and pastoral face of our God to all.

Our Lady of Lourdes continues to maintain and further develop educational standards and initiatives in all learning areas, which reflect best teaching and learning practices, and cater for the individual needs of students. All we do aims to cater for and enhance the spiritual, pastoral, educational, physical, social, emotional and cultural needs of all children entrusted to our care.

This report outlines some of the highlights of our year's journey across the domains of Education (Learning), Community (Engagement), Stewardship (Accountability) and Catholic Identity (Discipleship).

CATHOLIC IDENTITY

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, SACRAMENTS & LITURGY

Our Lady of Lourdes School is a place where every individual is welcomed, cherished, respected and valued. Our Catholic ethos ensures that a Christ-centred approach is at the heart of all we do. We live and learn within a community that is caring, loving, compassionate and forgiving. Meaningful relationships form the basis of all our interactions.

Prayer is an important part of school life at Our Lady of Lourdes School. Opportunities are provided for staff, children and parents to nurture our Catholic Faith through meaningful Class Prayer, Liturgies, Assembly Reflections, Whole School and Class Masses. Staff Prayer is held on a regular basis and provides active witness to our community of the importance of our faith. Overall, our aim is to provide prayerful experiences for the community in order to give opportunity for each person to further develop their personal relationship with God.

The school implements the Archdiocesan Religious Education Curriculum. In addition to developing children's knowledge and faith through strong curriculum, the school demonstrates an active partnership with the local parish and is enthusiastically involved in the broader life of the Church.

I sincerely thank Father Stan for the support and guidance he offers to the staff, students and the community of Our Lady of Lourdes. I extend my personal thanks to Father Stan for his support and efforts in maintaining such a positive and healthy parish/school relationship.

In 2016 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 paraliturgy
- Feast of the Assumption
- Feast of Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop
- ANZAC Day Service

- Remembrance Day Prayer Service
- All Saints Mass
- Graduation & Thanksgiving Mass
- Celebration of the Sacraments of Confirmation, Eucharist and Penance

MISSIONS & CHARITIES

Our outreach to support communities in need has seen the overwhelming generosity of our school community throughout 2016. 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
- Dress like a pirate for children's cancer
- MS Lottery

RELIGIOUS LITERACY ASSESSMENTS

Children in Year 3 and 5 sit The Bishops Religious Literacy Assessment each year. Results of this test are analysed by staff and are used to inform teaching and learning from Kindergarten to Year 6. The summary data is as follows:

YEAR THREE	OUR LADY OF LOURDES CLASS AVERAGE
RELIGIOUS LITERACY	69.86%

YEAR FIVE	OUR LADY OF LOURDES CLASS AVERAGE & MEAN SCORE	ALL PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS AVERAGE & MEAN SCORE
RELIGIOUS LITERACY	64%	61.8%
	499.0	478.8

EDUCATION

2016 SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

The Annual School Improvement Plan for 2016 contained a number of key objectives relating to our Strategic Plan. They are summarized below.

Effectively integrate ICT into Numeracy lessons

- The Mathematics programme was used to promote the proficiency strand through teaching and learning.
- Show and tell sessions of appropriate mathematical applications and programmes were built into meeting times.
- Laptops and iPads were timetabled into Numeracy lessons.
- Key staff attended the Mathematics Pilot Programme facilitated by CEWA and fed back relevant information during PLC and Cluster meetings.

Implement a sustainable Numeracy intervention programme

- Maths Mix was timetabled on Fridays during Terms 1,2 and 3.
- Numeracy programmes were shared during staff meetings.
- A whole school Mathematics Scope and Sequence, including vocabulary, was created.

Identify core principles within the Curriculum and Assessment Policy and relate to planning teaching and consistent assessment of Numeracy

- Moderation of student work samples was undertaken at Cluster and PLC meetings.

Implement a consistent, comprehensive assessment and reporting cycle

- Formative and summative data has been used to track students progress via a data wall.
- Student work samples have been collated and provide meaningful data for future learning goals.

Review the teaching, learning and resources of numeracy, spelling, grammar and punctuation

- During meeting times staff reviewed the resources used and a consistent approach has been agreed for 2017.
- Textbooks are now used to assist in the consolidation of curriculum content.
- Consistent proof reading symbols are now used across all year levels.

Evaluate the effectiveness of IEP and CAP documentation, their implementation in classroom learning and their review

- Daily work pads now reflect students on IEP's and CAP's.
- Effective and relevant learning goals are reflected in IEP's and CAP's.

Enhancing of collaborative learning and use of graphic organisers to foster meaningful learning experiences

- Collaborative learning structures has been outlined and demonstrated during meeting times and class visits.
- Graphic organisers and their use have been shared during PLC and Cluster meetings.

2017 SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

2017 will see the implementation of the third 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 target areas for 2017 include:

- Updated First Aid Training for all staff
- Review and update of the school's Evangelisation Plan
- Development of an ICT Scope and Sequence across the school
- Updated school website and communication channels
- Development of a policy review schedule in line with CEWA
- Resurfacing of play areas
- Developing wider community partnerships
- Social Justice themes embedded into the curriculum

LEARNING CONVERSATIONS

In 2016 the teachers here at Our Lady of Lourdes continued to use the learning conversations coaching strategy. This again involved rich discussion, peer observations in the classroom and the review of professional learning goals. A Professional Learning Plan, aligned with the AITSL Standards for Teachers, is created and discussed with a member of the Leadership Team. This strategy has been extremely useful in promoting reflective practice amongst staff and will continue in 2017.

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

	OUR LADY OF LOURDES					STATE					NATIONAL				
	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012
READING	100%	100%	100%	100%	97%	93.8%	92.9%	91.8%	94.1%	91.8%	95.1%	94.6%	93.6%	95.3%	93.6%
WRITING	100%	100%	96%	100%	100%	95.8%	94.6%	93.2%	94.5%	94.7%	96.4%	95.5%	93.8%	95%	95.3%
LANGUAGE CONVENTIONS- SPELLING	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	93.29%	91.9%	91.5%	92.6%	92.3%	94.3%	93.1%	92.8%	93.9%	94.0%
LANGUAGE CONVENTIONS- GRAMMAR & PUNCTUATION	96.2%	100%	100%	100%	100%	94.3%	93.1%	91.5%	93.6%	89.8%	95.4%	94.5%	93.5%	95.3%	92.9%
NUMERACY	100%	100%	96%	100%	97%	95.1%	93.6%	93.8%	95.4%	92.5%	95.7%	94.4%	94.7%	95.8%	93.9%

YEAR FIVE

	OUR LADY OF LOURDES					STATE					NATIONAL				
	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012
READING	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	91.3%	92%	91.4%	96%	89.7%	93.1%	93.1%	92.9%	96.2%	91.6%
WRITING	100%	95.2%	100%	92.3%	100%	92.8%	91%	89.8%	90.8%	91%	93.3%	92.3%	90.3%	91.7%	92.1%
LANGUAGE CONVENTIONS - SPELLING	95.5%	100%	100%	96.2%	100%	92.2%	92.6%	91.7%	92.5%	91.3%	92.9%	93.4%	92.8%	93.1%	92.8%
LANGUAGE CONVENTIONS - GRAMMAR & PUNCTUATION	90.9%	95.2%	100%	96.2%	96%	92.7%	91.5%	91.2%	94.1%	87.6%	93.8%	93.1%	92.9%	94.8%	90.5%
NUMERACY	90.9%	100%	95.5%	92.3%	96%	93.4%	94.5%	92.1%	92.8%	91.7%	94.6%	95.1%	93.3%	93.4%	93.3%

Comparison of School Mean to All Australian School Mean

YEAR THREE	OUR LADY OF LOURDES MEAN	ALL WA SCHOOLS MEAN	ALL AUSTRALIAN SCHOOLS MEAN
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READING	461.5	416.8	425.7
WRITING	442.5	414.2	420.5
SPELLING	471.4	412.4	420.1
GRAMMAR & PUNCTUATION	458.8	425.4	436.3
NUMERACY	418.8	395.1	402.2

YEAR FIVE	OUR LADY OF LOURDES MEAN	ALL WA SCHOOLS MEAN	ALL AUSTRALIAN SCHOOLS MEAN
READING	498.2	494.7	501.7
WRITING	485.9	469.9	475.4
SPELLING	504.5	488.1	492.9
GRAMMAR & PUNCTUATION	479.5	498.5	505.0
NUMERACY	464.8	485.5	492.9

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:

- Mathematics Pilot Program - CEWA
- Waterwise WA
- Making Connections Workshops
- NCEC Conference
- Finance Officers' Workshop
- Administrative Officers' Workshop
- Protective Behaviours
- Characteristics of Effective Instruction in Reading
- SEQTA Management Tool Training
- Characteristics of Effective Instruction in Comprehension
- Ursula Frayne Pilgrimage
- 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 2016 included the following:

<i>Life Education</i>	<i>Sacramental Retreats</i>	<i>Constitutional Centre</i>
<i>Parliament House</i>	<i>Kings Park</i>	<i>WA Museum</i>
<i>AQWA</i>	<i>Smartstart Financial Literacy</i>	<i>Captain Clean</i>
<i>First Aid</i>	<i>Herdsmen Lake</i>	<i>Waterwise</i>
<i>Beach Safe</i>	<i>Library visits</i>	<i>School Camp</i>
<i>SciTech</i>		

COMMUNITY

OUR COMMUNITY

At Our Lady of Lourdes School we provide a nurturing learning environment where students feel happy and safe. Our students respect themselves and others in a non-judgmental manner and show tolerance and respect toward all cultures, both within the school and in the wider community. We ensure that all within our community are treated with dignity and respect. Our school encourages all people to participate within the school community. All classrooms are open, welcoming and include all children regardless of needs.

COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

The Community Committee of the School Board met regularly throughout 2016. The major foci of their work were the new Nature Play Area on the main school oval and continued improvements in Junior Primary. I'm sure you'll agree both areas look fantastic and the students have really benefitted from the improvements to our school. I thank the Community Committee for their work in this area.

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.

STEWARDSHIP

SCHOOL BOARD/ PARENTS & FRIENDS ASSOCIATION

Our Lady of Lourdes School is indeed very fortunate to have so many people who have contributed to our many achievements during 2016.

The School Board continues to play an instrumental role in assisting our Leadership and Finance Teams to manage the school finances so that we can all enjoy an aesthetically pleasing environment to work and learn within and quality resources and programs for our students to access.

The Board also serves as a wonderful 'sounding board' - discussing various funding implications and other issues that impact on the smooth running of our school or at policy level.

A special thank you to Donna Gow as Board Chairperson – your openness, genuine warmth, pastoral approach and willing to help out wherever possible make you an excellent and very valuable leader in our school.

To all our 2016 serving Board members - Thank you all for your incredible generosity of time, great ideas, expertise, confidentiality, positive and proactive approach and genuine support through the many issues and developments that have been discussed throughout the year.

Likewise, I wish to thank and acknowledge the outstanding effort and contribution of the members of our 2016 P&F Executive who have organised many wonderful events which considerably added to our community spirit. The dedicated work of Joanna Wood, Ruza Foster and Suraya Bin Talib 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 2017 is as follows:

Principal	Mark Ryan
Assistant Principals	Gayle Connell & Matthew Gray
3-Year-Old Kindy	Jessica Giorgio
Kindy	Leonie Forrest
Pre Primary	Alison Casey
Year 1	Sonia Jenaway & Sandra Murgia
Year 2	Janet Callaghan
Year 3	Jessica Giorgio & Maria Gaudoin
Year 4	Elise Cruttenden & Sandra Murgia
Year 5	Kate Burns
Year 6	Matthew Gray & Judy Russo
Learning Support/Special Needs	Gayle Connell & Louise Baldock
Reading Recovery	Grace Valli
Music	Mary Happ
Phys Ed	Steven Mammoliti
ICT	Louise Baldock
Italian	TBA

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 2016 were:

1. Analysis and Discussion of Data
2. Staff Wellbeing
3. Differentiated Teaching & Learning

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 2017, the following QCS Tool components will be reviewed:

1. Systematic Evangelisation Planning
2. Explicit Improvement Agenda

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

- Introduction of new Nature Play area on the main oval
- Classroom modernisation programme
- Replacement windows to classrooms

In 2017 work has been identified for improvements as follows:

- Upgrade of play surfaces
- Beginning of painting maintenance programme
- Continuation of ICT hardware procurement
- Continuation of classroom modernisation programme

BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL CARE PROGRAMME

OSH Club continues to provide quality before and after school care at our school. The partnership is a strong one and we are in regular contact with Mrs. Jackie Hayes who is the programme's coordinator. OSH Club will continue to function in 2017.

CONCLUSION

In closing, I would like to thank the Our Lady of Lourdes community for the way in which I have been welcomed into the school. I have enjoyed getting to know and working with the staff and value the way they have welcomed me into the school. I would like to thank the Assistant Principals, Gayle Connell and Matthew Gray for the way they have supported and assisted me in my transition into the school. The office staff of Janet Harris and Margy Reeler have been vital to my survival and helping me get a handle on how the office works and I thank them for their patience, support and understanding. Our school is fortunate to have a dedicated, hard-working, professional and supportive staff and I thank every one of you for your contribution to the education of the wonderful children in our care. We are very blessed to have such a group who enjoy each other's company, support each other, have fun and more importantly enjoy being with the children and are prepared to go the extra mile for their good.

As 2016 comes to a close, sadly there are some farewells for members of our community whose immediate connection will draw to a close this year.

To our families that are leaving us this year we hope and trust your time at Our Lady of Lourdes has been a rewarding and positive experience for you and your family. We wish you all the best as you embark on the next chapter in your journey.

To our Year Six students, we wish you well as you journey onto high school. Your time with us has been very special, no matter how long, and with the help of all staff you are now ready to take the next step. We are proud of you and hope that you come back and share your new adventures with us with us. Thank you for your contributions to our school and good luck on the next chapter in your life. Remember to embrace all challenges that come your way and do your best in everything you do. You will be missed.

To **Mrs Kerry Roberts** who retires at the end of the school year. Thank you for the many wonderful and meaningful contributions you have made to Our Lady of Lourdes School over the past 27 Years. You have had a great impact on the many students you have taught, colleagues you have worked with and the school community as a whole. Your professional manner and genuine care and support for the students in your class is evident in all you do. Your experience, ideas and advice will be greatly missed by everyone here. I know I have only been here for a short period of time but I am certainly going to miss your wit and valuable contributions to our discussions at staff meetings. I wish you and Bill all the best in retirement. 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.

To **Mrs Cyril Narra** who has been working as an Education Assistant in Kindy for Semester Two. Thank you for your hard work and dedication to Our Lady of Lourdes School over the past six months. The staff and school community as a whole has really appreciated your efforts. Good luck for whatever the future may hold.

On behalf of all members of our school community, I hope everyone has a wonderful holiday and a happy and Holy Christmas. Looking forward to seeing all our returning students and families happy and healthy in 2017.

God bless,

Mark Ryan

Principal