

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School

Principal's Annual Report to the School Community



21ST NOVEMBER 2018

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

It is my privilege to present the 2018 Principal's report to the Our Lady of Lourdes community. Once again the level of involvement and support from our wonderful community has been outstanding. As usual, I have been impressed and very appreciative of the high level of support the P&F and Board members have shown towards Our Lady of Lourdes. There is a very genuine desire to work collaboratively to help make this a better school for everyone here.

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.

There have been a few changes that have taken place this year from a teaching, learning and staffing point of view. During the course of the year Mr. Dan Wood was appointed substantively to the role of School Improvement Advisor with CEWA and resigned from his position as Principal of Our Lady of Lourdes. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Dan for his vision, passion, dedication and leadership of this wonderful school during his five years of service. I also wish Dan the best of luck in his new position and whatever future challenges lay ahead.

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-centered 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 2018 we fostered liturgical prayer and life through a wide range of experiences. These included:

- 60th Anniversary celebrations and 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
- Daily classroom prayers
- Staff prayer
- Lenten and Advent reflections
- Our Lady of Lourdes Feast Day
- Ash Wednesday
- Easter liturgy

- Feast of the Assumption
- Feast of Saint Mary of the Cross Mackillop
- Sacramental Commitment Mass
- School Board and P&F Executive Commissioning Mass
- ANZAC Day Service
- Remembrance Day Prayer Service
- All Saints Mass
- Graduation & Thanksgiving Mass
- Sacramental Retreats
- 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 2018. As a result, significant support, both spiritually and financially, has been extended to the following Catholic charities and organisations:

- Caritas' Project Compassion
- Lifelink
- St Vincent de Paul
- Catholic Missions

60th ANNIVERSARY OF THE SCHOOL AND PARISH

This year is the 60th Anniversary of Our Lady of Lourdes School and Parish. Given the history of the school and our links to the Sisters of Mercy, it was important to the school community that this milestone was celebrated appropriately.

To celebrate this important milestone in the history of the school and parish a number of events were planned across the year. In partnership with the parish, a 60th Anniversary Mass took place on the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes (February 11). This Mass was combined with the Sacramental Commitment Ceremony and Commissioning of the School Board and P&F Executive for the 2018 school year. The Most Reverend Donald Sproxton was the main celebrant and members of the community shared a morning tea after Mass. Then on May 25, we had a Whole School Mass to commemorate this important milestone. The Very Reverend Peter Whitely celebrated Mass with Fr Stanislaw Bendkowski, Fr Lawrence Murphy and Monsignor Brain O'Loughlin as current and previous Parish Priests. We invited the Sisters of Mercy (foundation teachers of Our Lady of Lourdes) as well as previous Principals, School Board members, staff, parents and students. We had a fantastic turn out with people from as far away as Sydney joining in the celebration. The P&F arranged a morning tea and a history walk and school tours were organised for those that wanted to see how the school had changed over the years. A fun fair was arranged for students

after Mass which included bouncy castles, dunk tanks, tabloid sports and a silent disco. I contacted the Record Magazine who wrote an excellent article on our celebration and 60 Years of quality Catholic Education at Our Lady of Lourdes School. To further mark this occasion, a time capsule has been buried near the Mercy Cross and the P&F have put together a 60th Anniversary cookbook as a memento.

The 60th Anniversary of Our Lady of Lourdes has seen our school and parish communities work together to promote unity throughout. The work the staff have done in preparation for all events created a positive atmosphere around the school and the current students now have an increased knowledge of the history of Our Lady of Lourdes. It was also a wonderful opportunity to recognise and celebrate the valuable contribution made by the Sisters of Mercy, as we continue their mission of knowing God’s loving kindness and sharing it with others.

BISHOPS’ RELIGIOUS LITERACY ASSESSMENTS

Children in Year 3 and 5 sit The Bishops’ Religious Literacy Assessment each year. This year the test was administered online. Results of this test are used to inform teaching and learning from Kindergarten to Year 6. The summary data is as follows:

	OUR LADY OF LOURDES CLASS AVERAGE	ALL PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS AVERAGE
YEAR 5	66.1%	56.8%
YEAR 3	58.4%	55.7%

EDUCATION

2018 SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

In line with our School Improvement Plan for 2018, the past year has seen the accomplishment of a number of significant milestones.

These include:

Improving teacher pedagogy

- The Diana Rigg PLD literacy programme which began in 2017 has been further embedded by our staff through professional development and during professional learning community meetings.

- There has been a whole school focus of effective differentiation and how this looks in each class.
- Our Numeracy Team has been part of CEWA's Numeracy Pilot Project. The major focus of this has been the structure of numeracy dedicated time and having a more hands on approach to the teaching of numeracy.
- Our teachers have been using data and reflections to effectively plan for the individual needs of each student.

Promotion of student agency

- Our teaching staff and education assistants have undertaken Professional Development with Fran Italiano (CEWA Early Years Team Leader) on agency and how this looks in each classroom. This is now incorporated into planning documents and is spoken about during planning meetings.
- We have a new school philosophy which was written by our staff with the assistance of Fran Italiano.

Effectively using the Leading Lights Microsoft suite of products

- The staff have undertaken professional development on the use of Teams, SharePoint and the Office 365 set of tools for effective use in the school environment.
- During digital technologies lessons and during class time, the students have also been shown how to use the Office 365 set of tools for effective participation.

Marketing of the School

- A major focus of the School Board for 2018 has been effective marketing of the school. We have achieved this in the following ways
- Directional sign installed on corner of Morley Drive and Marda Way
- Greater exposure of the school through community events e.g. Catholic Performing Arts Festival
- Promotion of school on 'Shopper Dockets' at local shopping centers
- Advertorial in the Education Section of the Eastern Reporter
- 60th Anniversary article in 'The Record' magazine
- New school banners
- Improving the aesthetics of the school
- Creating a common brand throughout the school and community by having one crest

STRATEGIC PLAN

2019 will see the implementation of the second year of our Strategic Plan, this will again be addressed through an Annual School Improvement Plan and a Quality Improvement Plan for Early Years. Our target areas for 2019 include:

- Students needs identified and differentiated curriculum opportunities exist
- Consistently implement requirements of the National Quality Standards (NQS) across Kindergarten to Year 2
- Improved ability for all students to problem solve
- Whole school approach to data analysis reflecting an upward trend
- Staff, students and parents demonstrate a deeper understanding and commitment to Catholic faith and culture
- The number and consistency of Christian service opportunities for staff and students increases

PERFORMING ARTS FESTIVAL

This year we entered the Catholic Performing Arts Festival for the first time in quite a few years. We entered into two sections, those being Christian Dance and Choral Speech. The Christian Dance Group performed their dance at the Mercy College Chapel on Thursday August 2nd. They were the first performance of the day and were definitely not over awed by the situation. They danced extremely well and I am very proud to say that we were awarded the Catholic Education Commission Shield for Primary Christian Dance as a result. This award was presented at the Festival Concert, which was held at the Perth Concert Hall on Monday 10th September. This is a fantastic achievement and I would like to thank Mrs. Cruttenden, Mrs. Versaci, Mrs. Cumbo and the students involved for their efforts. Well done also to our Year 4 class and Mrs. Cruttenden for receiving a Merit award for their participation in the Choral Speech section of the festival. Overall, it was a fantastic experience for our students and something that we will continue in 2019.

COMPUTER UPGRADE

Over the course of 2018 Mrs. Baldock, Mr. Gray and I looked at many options to replace the 5 year old MacBook Air Computers that were being used in the library. While the MacBook's have been great, we wanted to replace them with something that fitted into Catholic Educations Leading Lights strategy and our own needs more seamlessly. Keeping this in mind we have leased 32 new HP Pro Book x360 computers which will be imaged at the end of 2018 and ready to use at the start of the 2019 school year.

LEARNING CONVERSATIONS

In 2018 the teachers 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 2019.

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 narrative 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. The summary data for Year Three and Year Five for our school is as follows:

YEAR 3, 2018	OUR LADY OF LOURDES MEAN	% OLOL ABOVE NATIONAL MINIMUM STANDARD	CEWA LIKE SCHOOLS MEAN	ALL AUSTRALIAN SCHOOLS MEAN
READING	471.1	96%	417.4	433.8
WRITING	416.5	100%	406.5	407.2
SPELLING	457.2	100%	410.4	417.8
GRAMMAR & PUNCTUATION	459.8	96%	405	431.7
NUMERACY	396.2	96%	395	407.7

YEAR 5, 2018	OUR LADY OF LOURDES MEAN	% OLOL ABOVE NATIONAL MINIMUM STANDARD: 2 exempt	CEWA LIKE SCHOOLS MEAN	ALL AUSTRALIAN SCHOOLS MEAN
READING	540.6	100%	500	509
WRITING	480.6	96%	462.3	464.6
SPELLING	532	96%	505	502.5
GRAMMAR & PUNCTUATION	545.5	100%	496	503.6
NUMERACY	513	100%	482.1	494.2

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:

- Key Teacher Numeracy
- Early Years – Philosophy and Agency
- Faith Development – A journey through the Sacraments
- First Aid
- Finance Officers’ Workshop
- Administrative Officers’ Workshop
- AP RE Network Meetings
- Office 365
- Staff Wellness
- Leading Lights
- Learning Support
- Reading Recovery Professional Learning
- Australian Primary Principals’ Conference
- Assistant Principals’ Members Day
- 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 2018 included the following:

<i>Scitech</i>	<i>Sacramental Retreats</i>	<i>Seven Weather</i>
<i>Parliament House</i>	<i>Kings Park</i>	<i>WA Museum</i>
<i>Perth Zoo</i>	<i>Fremantle Prison</i>	<i>Elizabeth Quay</i>
<i>First Aid</i>	<i>Constable Care</i>	<i>60th Fun Day</i>
<i>Yokine Open Play Space</i>	<i>Government House</i>	<i>School Camp</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.

READ-A-THON

In Term 3 this year the P&F ran Read-a-thon across the school. The aim of the Read-a-thon was to promote that love and enjoyment of reading amongst our student population. There was also a fundraising aspect that raised \$4000 to purchase new books for our library. This was a wonderful effort by our students and families and a great initiative by the P&F.

60th ANNIVERSARY COOKBOOK

Another fantastic initiative by our P&F was to organise an Our Lady of Lourdes cookbook to coincide with our 60th Anniversary. The cookbook contains over 110 recipes submitted by our community with some wonderful photos and drawings from our students. I would really like to thank our P&F and Sarah Hardy in particular for her hard work in getting this cookbook together. Sarah has put in many hours of planning, editing, formatting and fundraising and the end result is truly wonderful.

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
- Canteen
- Library
- Classroom learning
- Social events
- Sports Carnivals
- School Discos

STEWARDSHIP

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS AUDIT

In May of this year the school was involved in the Executive Directors and National Quality Standards Audit. This audit process was conducted by Michael Ciccarelli from the Catholic Education Western Australia. This audit is a check of our policies and procedures. I am pleased to say that Michael was very happy with our school and gave us the following recommendations to action.

- Complete First Aid Training for more staff
- Upload current maintenance schedule to delineate requirements from longer term maintenance items
- Ensure classrooms can be locked from internal doors
- Develop a clear process for dealing with students complaints
- Ensure classrooms have a clear line of sight at all times
- Camp and excursions reports to include risk considerations

All recommendations have been actioned.

UNIFORM AND CREST

Over the last couple of years, there have been discussions at School Board Meetings about our school crest. We have a few different versions and want to have one consistent crest that we will use on uniforms, banners, newsletters, websites and any correspondence. The School Board decided that the crest below will be the one used from now on.



This should not cause any problems with families, as students will be able to wear their existing uniforms until they require a new one. Simply put, once all current uniform stock is sold, new items ordered will have the new crest.

SCHOOL BOARD/ PARENTS & FRIENDS ASSOCIATION

Before moving into next year, it is important to acknowledge all families as members of the Parents and Friends Association. I thank you for your fantastic efforts in fundraising and supporting all the activities of the school. You have continued to enhance the children's education and support the community in so many wonderful ways. I am grateful for the leadership of Leah Wagner (President), Ruza Foster (P&F Rep to the School Board), Sarah Hardy (Secretary) and Justin Radici (Treasurer) over the course of 2018. Leah in her first year as president has done a wonderful job in leading our P&F in their fundraising and community building ventures. The P&F have had a busy but very productive year by adding the 60th Anniversary Celebrations, Read-a-thon, Open Night Sausage Sizzle, Bunning Sausage Sizzle and OLOL Cookbook to compliment the events they annually organise such as the Welcome Picnic, Easter Raffle, Mother's Day, Father's Day, Athletics Carnival, School Discos and Nativity. Your support in building community, providing for school initiatives and empowering parents is invaluable. We couldn't do it without you!

To members of our school Board, Donna Gow - Chairperson, Vicki Paolo - Treasurer, Shankar Louis – Secretary, Fr Stan, Nadine White, Ruza Foster (P&F Rep) and Luke Credaro. Thank you all most sincerely for your generosity of time, good humour, forward thinking, expertise, confidentiality, positivity, genuine support, care and concern and for staying composed, astute and measured through the various issues and developments we have been working through this year. My sincere thanks must go to Donna Gow, Vicki Paolo and Shanker Louis who will step down from the School Board at the end of the year. Thank you for your commitment to our school. It is particularly sad as Donna and Vicki are both leaving our school next year. Thank you both for your outstanding contributions to Our Lady of Lourdes over the years.

STAFF

We constantly recognise that all members of our staff – regardless of position or qualification - are teachers - as their influence on the education of our children is insurmountable. Teaching is not always fun or easy, and is certainly not an 8.30am to 3pm job. The staff of Our Lady of Lourdes are sincere, passionate people and this drives them to put so much energy into everything they do. Their passion helps them to keep going when faced with difficulties and motivates them to continue to look for ways to improve their abilities – regardless of their experience and expertise. You cannot be a great teacher without a very real and obvious love of and passion for learning. Our children are fortunate to have great role models that instill a love of living life fully and a true hunger for learning. Our staff work hard and are always willing to do whatever it takes to ensure the best outcomes for all. As individuals, and as a team, they strive for the common good and understand that it is through consistent effort and endeavor that we truly succeed. Our staff care about our children. They show our children they believe in them, and their abilities, and know the importance of challenging them to excel while supporting them to do so.

Thank you to Mrs. Gayle Connell and Mr. Matthew Gray who, as Assistant Principals over the year, have carried out their leadership responsibilities with professionalism and amazing energy. Their passion and commitment to the vision and purpose of our school is endless, and their support is greatly appreciated.

STAFFING COMPOSITION 2019

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 2019 is as follows:

Principal	Mark Ryan
Assistant Principals	Gayle Connell & Matthew Gray
Kindy	Joanne Quesnel
Pre Primary	Alison Casey
Year 1	Liana Ottobrinio
Year 2	Sonia Jenaway & Jo Davis
Year 3	Elise Cruttenden
Year 4	Kate Burns

Year 5	Jessica Giorgio	
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	
Digital Technologies	Louise Baldock	
Italian	Grace Valli	
Educational Assistants		
General support/Library/Art	Pina Versaci	
Pre-Primary	Teresa Erceg	Anne Fusco
Kindy	Marie Ferrone	Josie Frost
Special Education Support	Mireinne Cumbo	Veronica Bayer
Special Education Support	Anne Fusco	Cyril Narra
Office Staff		
Finance Officer	Margy Reeler	
Administration Officer	Janet Harris (Mon – Thurs)	Anne Fusco (Fri)
Ancillary Staff		
Uniform Shop	Bernadette Dyblik	
Canteen Manager	Rosie Samuels	

QUALITY CATHOLIC SCHOOLING COMPONENT REVIEWS

The components reviewed in 2018 will be:

1. Systematic Curriculum Delivery
2. Targeted use of School Resources
3. Wider Community Partnerships

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 new Strategic Plan (2018-2020), Quality Improvement Plan for Early Years and Annual School Improvement Plan.

In 2019, the following QCS components will be reviewed:

1. A Culture that Promotes Learning
2. An Expert Teaching Team
3. Integrating Catholic Faith, Life & Culture

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. In 2018 work has been undertaken in regards to:

- Instillation of 65inch TV's into Kindy & Yrs. 1,2 & 3
- Contemporary Learning Furniture in Yr. 2
- New garrison fence along Parish carpark
- New gate on Parish drive through
- Speed humps constructed in Parish drive through area
- Painting maintenance of indoor areas
- New cubby house in junior primary

In 2019 work has been identified for improvements as follows:

- Resurfacing of Parish/School carpark
- Parking bays marked in Parish/School carpark
- IT/Library redevelopment
- Staffroom redevelopment

CONCLUSION

As 2018 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.

Finally, to **Mrs Maria Gaudoin**, who is retiring at end of the school year. Maria has been in the teaching profession since 1967. Her first job was teaching at St Columba's School in what was then known as Madras in India. One and a half years later Maria was off St George's School in India where she taught for 1 year. It was in 1970 that Maria arrived in Australia and started her association with Catholic Education WA. She taught at St Mary's in Donnybrook for 1 year before moving to St Brigid's in West Perth. It was after this in 1973 that Maria started her association with Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School. In her time at OLOL she has seen many changes in the physical nature of the school and education as a whole. With the main changes being the playground space the students now enjoy and the technology. Maria has taught many classes at the school and has even taught her own children. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Maria for the many wonderful and meaningful contributions she has made to our School over the past 45 Years. Maria has had a great impact on the many students she has taught, colleagues she has worked with and the school community as a whole. Her 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 valuable contributions to all aspects of our school. We wish you 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.

Our school is indeed very fortunate to have so many people who have contributed to our many achievements during 2018 and for this we have a lot to be thankful for. Our school continues to follow the tradition and practices of Catholic Education which for 60 years has offered an outstanding and personalised primary education to the children of Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School. Our children have been involved in wonderful faith, sporting, cultural and academic pursuits and have thrived through the support of teachers, teacher assistants, parents and the parish coming together as one. In conclusion, I thank everyone involved in making our school the vibrant place that it is.

May God bless all members of our community with the spirit of peace, hope and joy, this Christmas season, and may we all be blessed abundantly in 2019.

Mark Ryan

Principal