

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School

Principal's Annual Report to the School Community



27TH NOVEMBER 2019

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 that 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 2019 Principal's report to the Our Lady of Lourdes community.

I begin by acknowledging the Wadjuk Noongar people and pay my respect to their Elders, past, present and emerging. We acknowledge their deep, ongoing spiritual and cultural connection to this Country – and to this land on which our school has been built.

We have spent the year focussing on our identified priority areas, consolidating our relationships and networks with parents and the broader community. I am incredibly proud to be Principal of this great school and so privileged to meet and work with so many wonderful students, staff and community members. Each year we are guided by our Strategic and School Improvement Plans and we continue our strong commitment to offering quality teaching and learning which draws on pedagogical practice that is data informed, evidenced based and aligned to the Western Australian Curriculum. 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.

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.

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.

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 2019 we fostered liturgical prayer and life through a wide range of experiences. These included:

- Whole School Masses throughout the year
- Class Masses in Years Three to Six
- Class liturgies in Pre Primary, Year One and Year 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
- Buddy Class Family Masses
- 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 2019. 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

BUDDY CLASS FAMILY MASSES

In 2019 we introduced Buddy Class Family Masses on Sunday mornings at the Our Lady of Lourdes Church. The buddy classes were rostered on to attend two Masses throughout the Year. At these Masses, the students that attended were involved in many aspects of the Mass including the First and Second Readings, Responsorial Psalm, Prayers of the Faithful, Offertory, Collection Baskets and Greeting the Parishioners as they arrived. These Masses were very well attended and the feedback from the parish was extremely positive. The Family Masses will continue in 2020.

EVANGELISATION PLANNING

In March of this year Mrs Connell, Mr Gray and I attended a three day course ran by Bishop Gerard Holohan on Evangelisation planning. A major part of this course was devoted to developing a new Evangelisation plan for the school. Below are the major focus areas and implementation strategies over the next three years.

1. WITNESS – Raising Awareness of the Presence of Jesus

Staff will undertake professional learning to create sacred spaces in classrooms & to develop an understanding of the Liturgical Seasons, their meaning and use of gestures reverently. A Prayer Booklet with Liturgical Seasons will be used in each classroom.

2. CALL TO FAITH

Staff will attend professional development with a focus on the miracles to help develop an understanding of the power of God.

3. CALL TO GROW IN DISCIPLESHIP

Mindful reflections on the Miracle Gospels will be a focus
We will use scripture for prayer following the Lectio Divina model:

- We Gather
- We Listen
- We Reflect
- We Pray

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	57.8%	53.4%
YEAR 3	57.5%	54%

EDUCATION

2019 SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

In line with our School Improvement Plan for 2019, the past year has seen the accomplishment of a number of significant milestones.

These include:

Enhancement of engagement and understanding of Aboriginal culture.

- Introduction of a GECKOS coordinator that leads the Aboriginal education at the school level.
- Aboriginal themed liturgical celebrations.

- Attendance at Project Compassion launch at Clontarf School.
- NAIDOC celebration at end of Term 2, including the creation of totem poles with aboriginal artwork placed in the garden near Flinders St.
- Enhancement of teacher pedagogy and integration into other learning areas

Improving teacher pedagogy and provision of differentiation to enhance student performance

- Our teaching staff and education assistants have undertaken Professional Development on differentiation and how this looks in each classroom. This is now incorporated into planning documents and is spoken about during planning meetings.
- Full implementation of Numeracy Dedicated Time across all year levels.

Promotion of student agency and effective use of outdoor space

- Students undertake units of study/ personal learning in areas of interest.
- Outdoor space is effectively utilised for learning purposes

Continued Marketing of the School

- A continued focus of the School Board for 2019 has been effective marketing of the school. We have achieved this in the following ways
- Greater exposure of the school through community events e.g. Catholic Performing Arts Festival
- New school banners
- Submitting a Capital Development Plan for Stage 7 – Upgrades to staffroom, administration area, IT room, library and outdoor area outside Year 1 to 6 classrooms.

STRATEGIC PLAN

2020 will see the implementation of the third and final year of our current Strategic Plan, this will again be addressed through the School Improvement Plan and the Quality Improvement Plan for Early Years. Our target areas for 2020 include:

- Data being used effectively to inform the teaching and learning process and improve student performance
- Teaching strategies implemented that promote student choice, problem solving and deep understanding
- Student needs identified and differentiated curriculum opportunities exist
- Improved ability for all students to problem solve
- Resources purchased according to analysis of data and need
- Maintenance Plan actively followed and reviewed regularly

- Teachers embed social justice themes in relevant curriculum contexts

PERFORMING ARTS FESTIVAL

This year we again entered the Catholic Performing Arts Festival in the Christian Dance section. The Christian Dance Group performed their dance at the Mercy College Chapel on Tuesday August 6. Their performance on the day was excellent and they were definitely not over awed by the situation. I am very proud to say that we were awarded an excellence award as a result. This is a fantastic achievement and I would like to thank Mrs. Cruttenden, Mrs. Versaci, Mrs. Cumbo and the students involved for their efforts. Overall, it was a fantastic experience for our students and something that we will look to continue in 2020.

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. This year all assessments except for Year 3 writing was done online for the first time. Our school experienced some technical difficulties as did many schools Australia wide. I was very proud of our students and the way they coped with these difficulties to produce some very pleasing results.

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. 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:

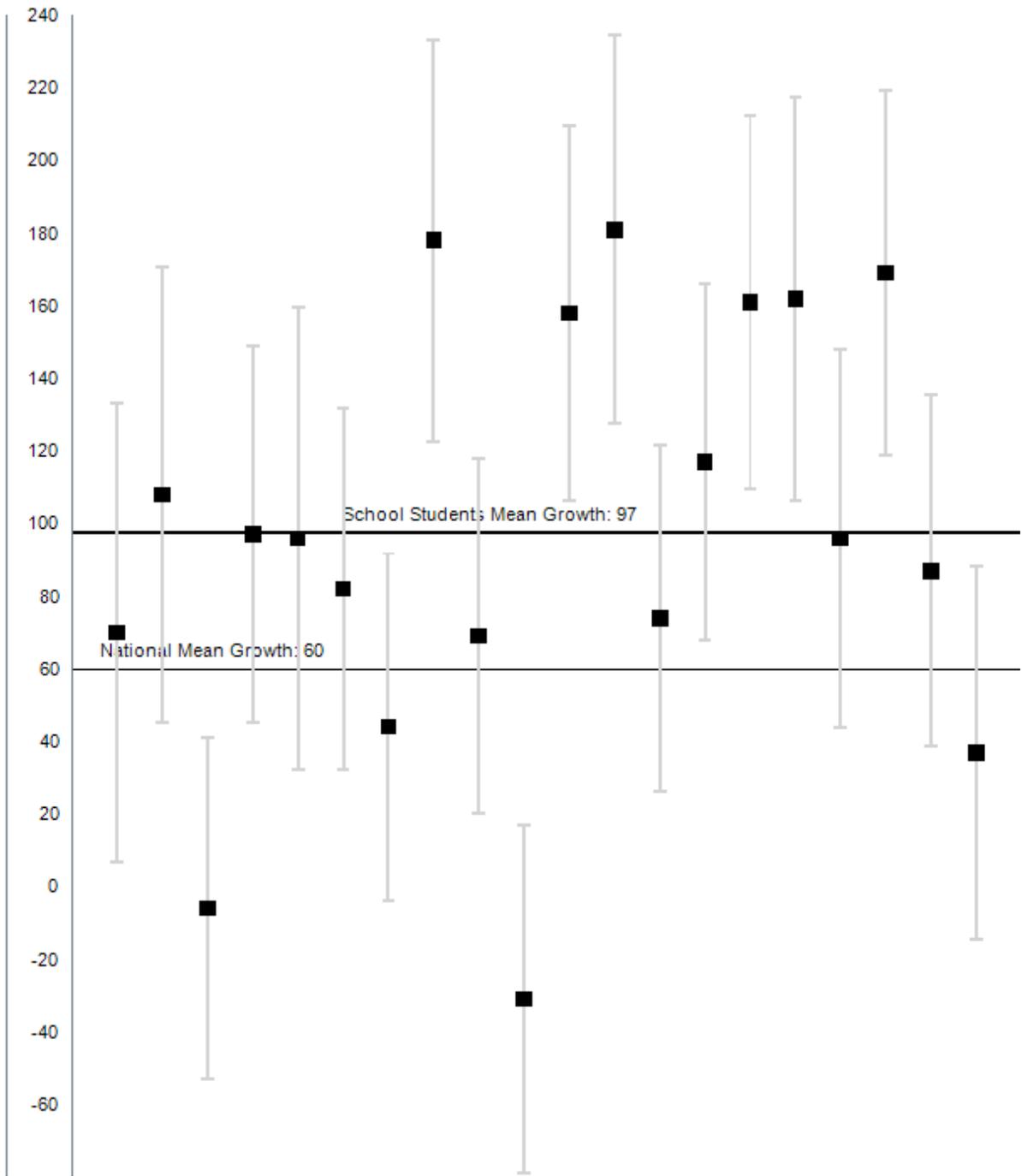
YEAR 3, 2019	OUR LADY OF LOURDES MEAN	% OLOL AT OR ABOVE NATIONAL MINIMUM STANDARD	CEWA LIKE SCHOOLS MEAN	ALL AUSTRALIAN SCHOOLS MEAN
READING	451.8	100%	424.5	432.3
WRITING	446	100%	424.2	423.1
SPELLING	455.1	100%	410.2	418.7

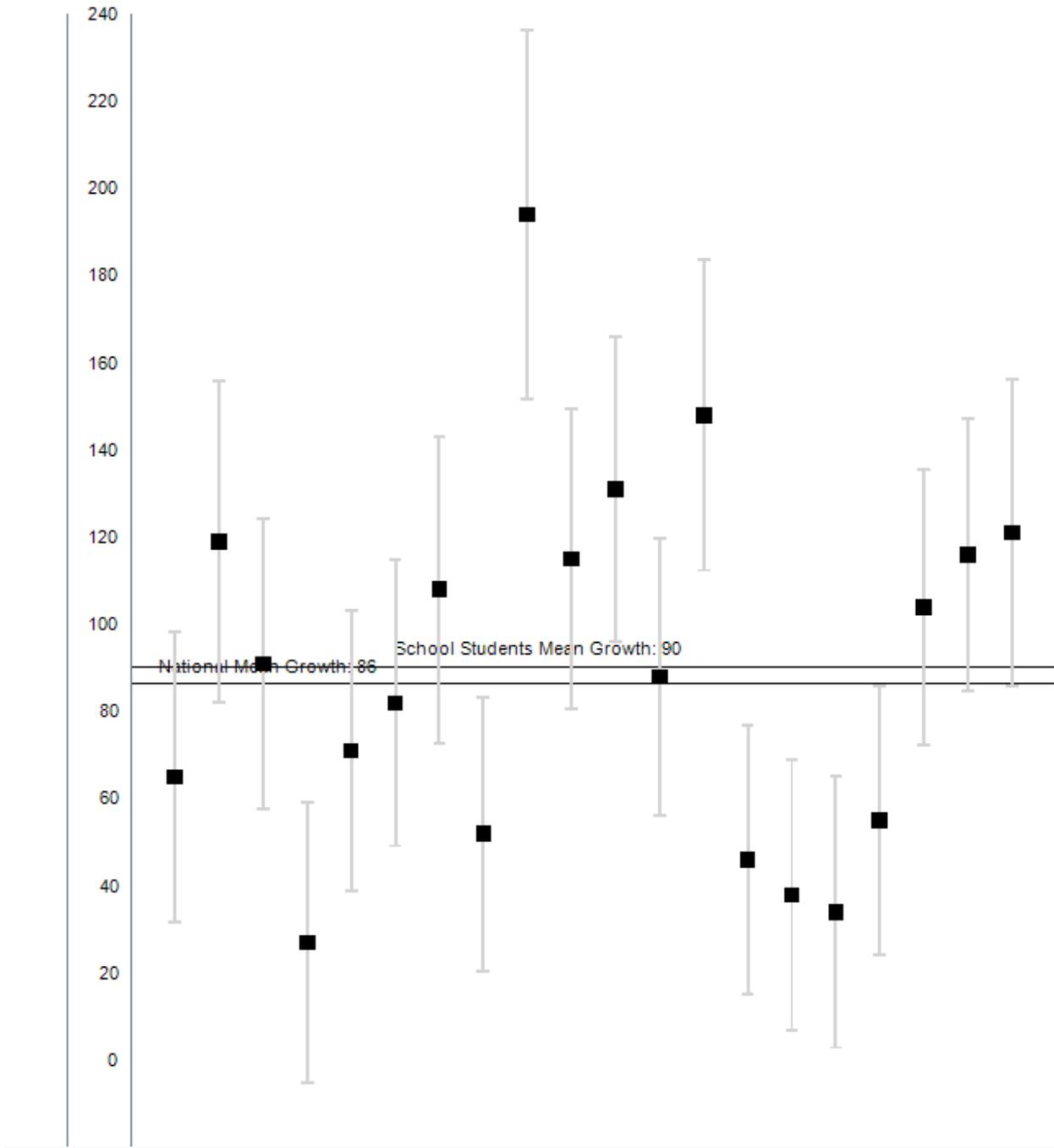
GRAMMAR & PUNCTUATION	473.1	100%	436.7	439.8
NUMERACY	432.9	100%	401	408.1

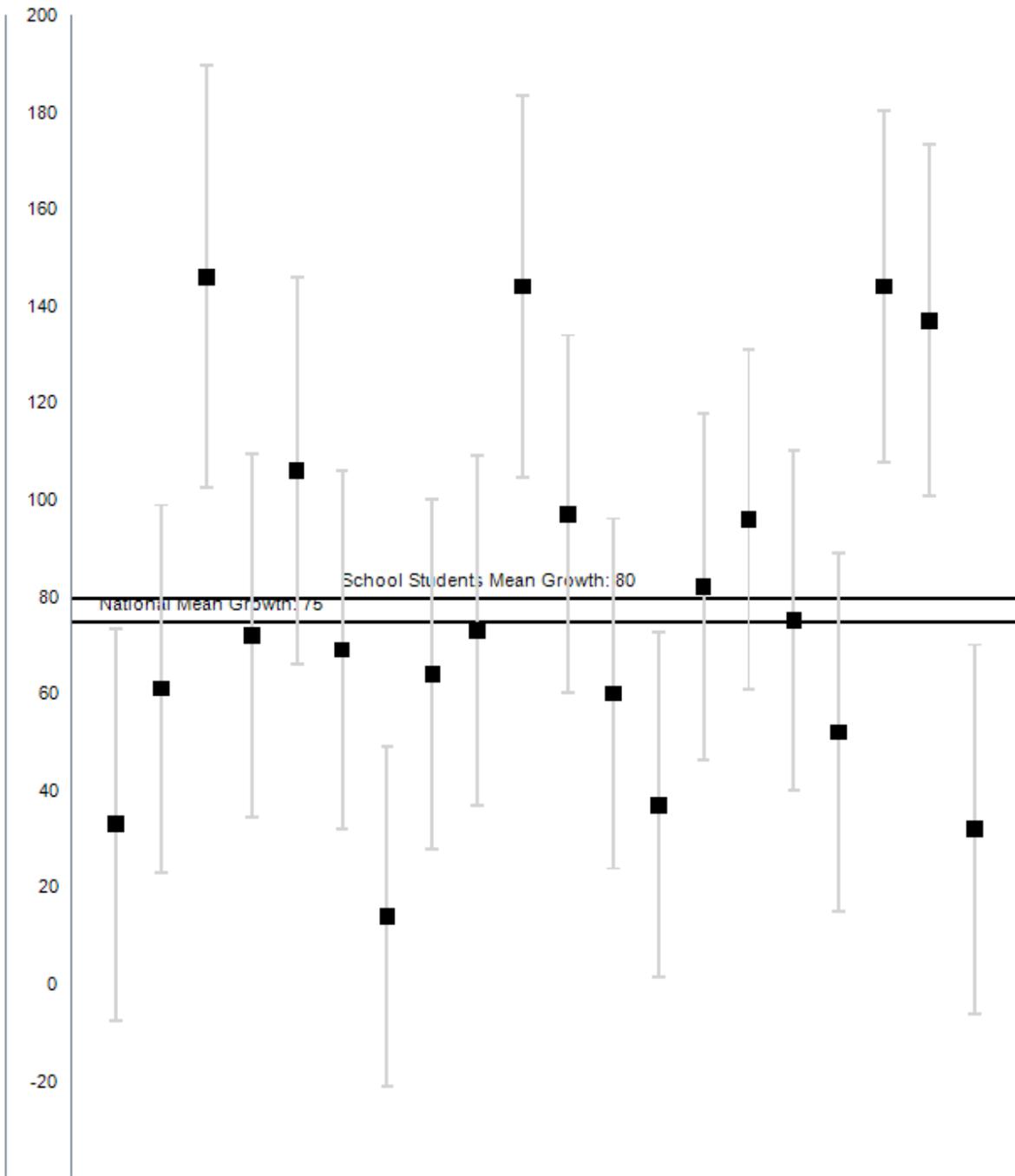
YEAR 5, 2019	OUR LADY OF LOURDES MEAN	% OLOL AT OR ABOVE NATIONAL MINIMUM STANDARD	CEWA LIKE SCHOOLS MEAN	ALL AUSTRALIAN SCHOOLS MEAN
READING	484.3	95%	512.1	506
WRITING	482.1	95%	489.3	473.9
SPELLING	501.2	90%	511.3	500.7
GRAMMAR & PUNCTUATION	481	95%	508.1	499.1
NUMERACY	462.1	100%	494.7	495.8

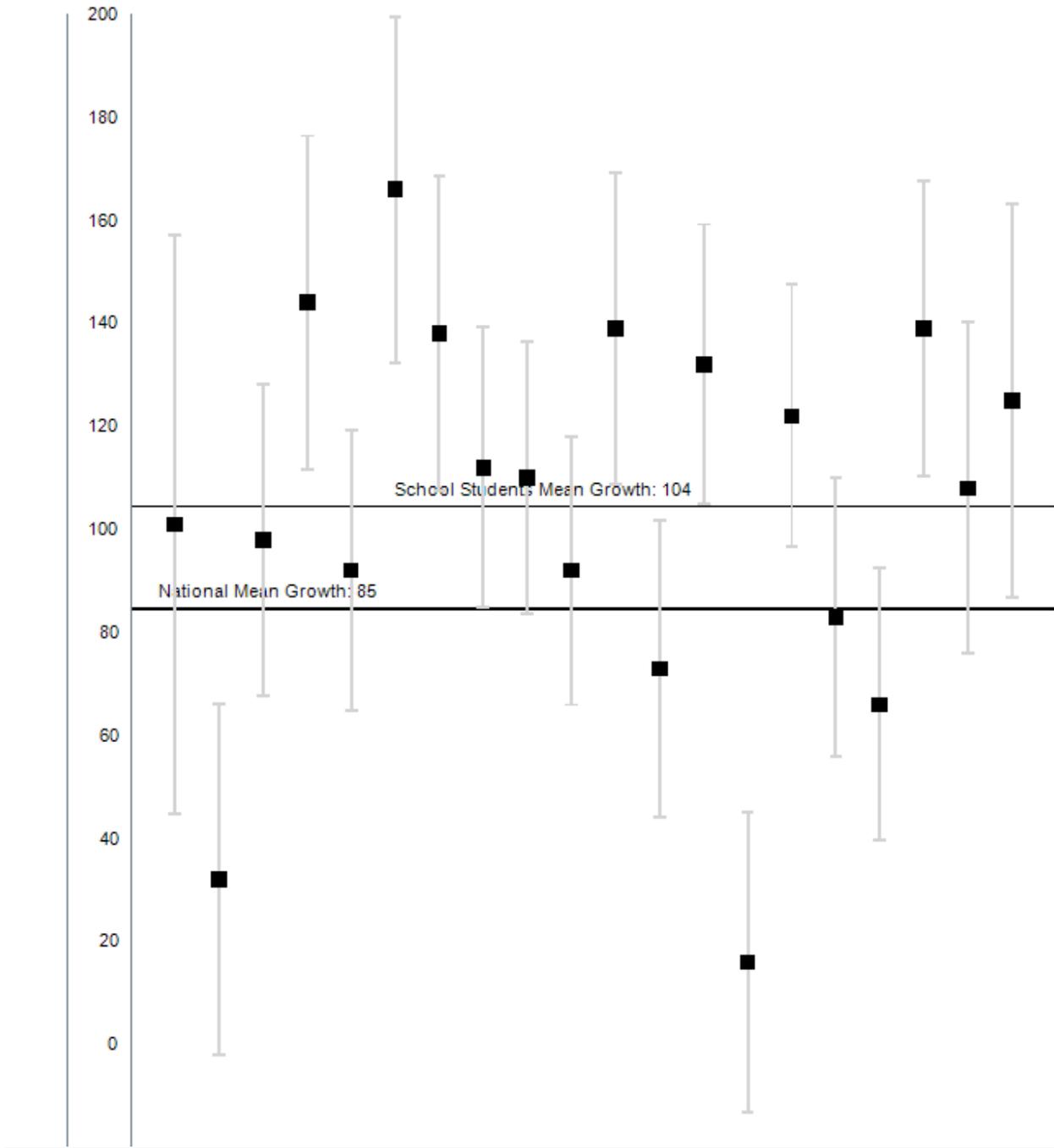
Yr. 5 GROWTH 2017 to 2019

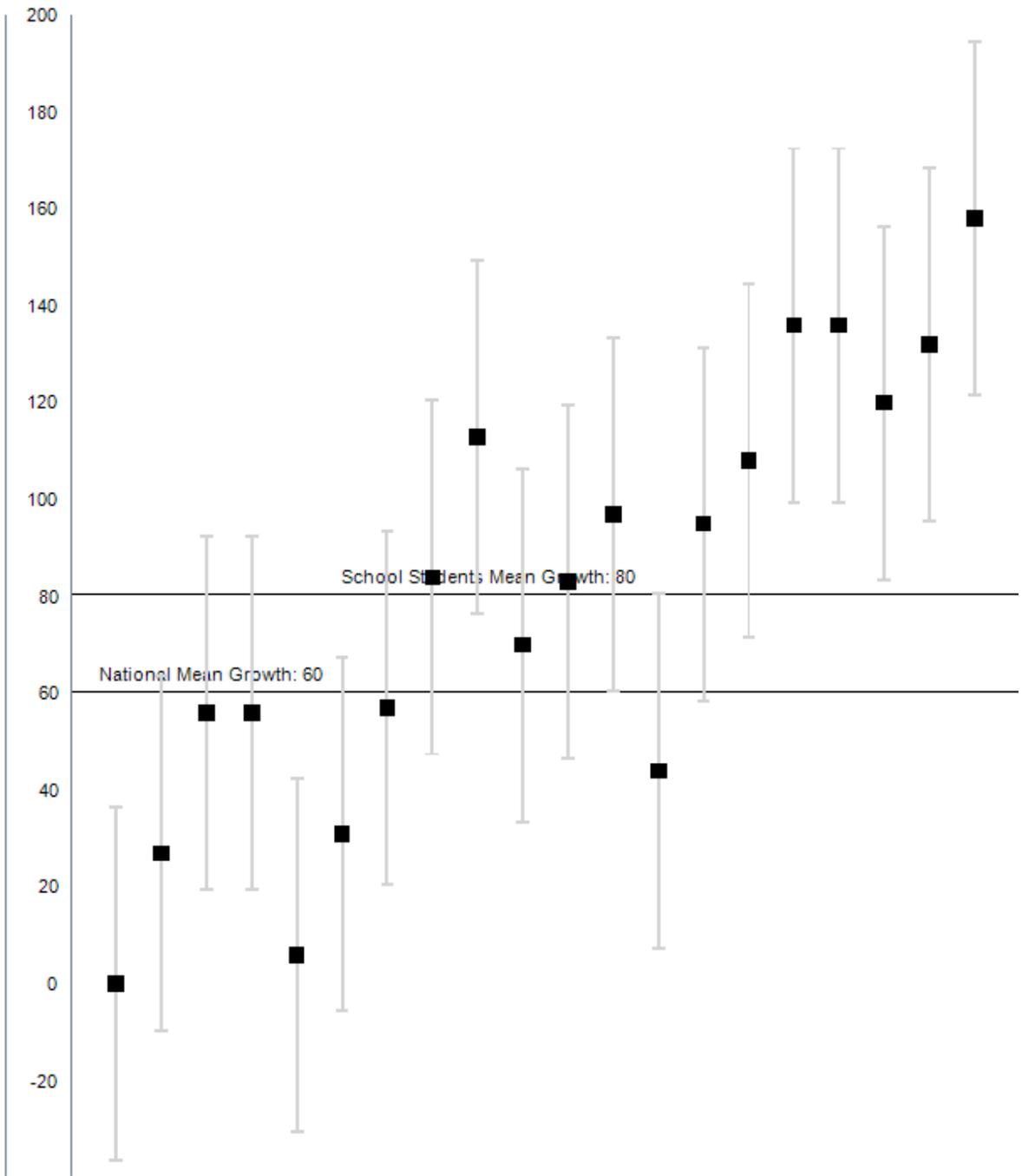
1137	Our Lady of Lourdes School (Nollamara)
2019 Grammar & Punctuation Year 5 students	2019 Grammar & Punctuation Year 5 students











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 – Walker Learning
- Faith Development – Richard Leonard
- Moderation
- Finance Officers’ Workshop
- Administrative Officers’ Workshop
- AP RE Network Meetings
- Staff Wellness
- Administration of Schools
- 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 2019 included the following:

Scitech

Sacramental Retreats

Bike Education

World of Math

Gymnastics Incursion

WA Museum

Perth Zoo

Maritime Museum

Funky Fitness

Adventure World

Constable Care

Fremantle Literature Centre

Browns Dairy

Government House

School Camp

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.

WELLNESS WEEK

This year in our school calendar we introduced Wellness Week. Wellness Week is where students and families have a break from homework and instead focus on using that time to play some games, go for a walk, read together or watch a movie. Staff too shared in this week by limiting the number of meetings and making sure that they also spent quality time with family and friends. The benefits (especially in terms of mental health) we reap from ensuring that we have some time to rest are countless! This initiative will continue in 2020.

WALK SAFELY TO SCHOOL DAY

On May 17 this year, we participated in Walk Safely to School Day for the first time in a while. Approximately 70 staff, students and parents met at Des Penman Reserve and walked to school. It was a great way to learn about road safety while keeping active and enjoying time with friends. I thank everyone that helped make Walk Safely to School Day such a success. We will continue to run this event in 2020.

COLOUR RUN

In Term 4 this year, the P&F ran a colour run in the school. The aim of the Colour Run was to promote fun and fitness across the school. There was also a fundraising aspect that raised \$11 200. This was a wonderful effort by our students and families and a great initiative by the P&F. I thank Sanella Krstic for her efforts in getting this up and running. It was a great morning that was enjoyed by all who attended.

MOTHERS' DAY MORNING TEA

We had an excellent turn out of parents at our Mother's Day Morning Tea this year. It is growing every year and a great opportunity to spoil the mums and mother figures in our community. Thank you to Mrs. Connell, Mrs. Versaci and Mr. Gray for setting up and decorating the hall. Thank you also to Pauline Miranda (our canteen manager) for making the yummy food.

FATHERS' DAY BREAKFAST

We had another fantastic turn out at our Fathers' Day Breakfast on August 30. It was great to see so many dads and granddads at school enjoying a bacon and egg roll with the kids. It was also great that the weather was good enough to get out on the oval and basketball court for a run around. I would like to thank the hard working and dedicated staff at OLOL for being at school at

6.45am to make sure everything was ready to go for a 7.30am start. I really appreciate the extra time given to ensure our community are looked after. Speaking of giving, I would also like to thank to P&F for running the Fathers' Day Stall. There were some great gifts on offer which I am sure our dads were very happy with. Our P&F do a wonderful job and this was no exception.

PAUL LITHERLAND PARENT PRESENTATION

On Tuesday October 29, we were lucky enough to secure the services of Paul Litherland to do a Cybersafety session with our Year 5 and 6 students and parent presentation in the evening. Paul is an ex police officer and presents to around 280 schools each year. During the sessions he gave our students and families tips and insights into how to keep safe when accessing the internet and using social networking sites. The parent session was well received by those parents that attended but it would however have been nice to have seen more families in attendance. Paul will again be presenting to our community in 2021.

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
- Easter Raffle
- Sports Carnivals
- School Discos
- Colour Run
- Messy Play Day

STEWARDSHIP

PRINCIPAL REVIEW

In May of this year (my third year in the school), a Principal Review took place in accordance with my contractual obligations. Maureen Tully (CEWA Representative) and Paul Hansen (Peer Principal) conducted this review. Maureen and Paul interviewed staff, members of the P&F Executive

and School Board, students, the leadership team and myself. It was a thorough process that delved into all aspects of my leadership. It focused on what was working really well and gave me recommendations to continue my growth as Principal of Our Lady of Lourdes. The review concluded with a meeting with the Executive Director of Catholic Education, Debra Sayce, to discuss the review report. As a result of the review I have been appointed by the Bishops of WA as Principal for a further 5 year period. I am very grateful and excited at this opportunity to lead this school and community into the next stage of its development.

NEW BLINDS

This year we had new blinds installed in the Kindy and Pre-Primary as well as outside Years 1, 2 & 3. These blinds give our teachers and students more flexibility when organising and undertaking learning activities. The blinds will also ensure the weather conditions don't have an impact when these areas are in use. I would like to thank the P&F for their contribution of \$10 000 toward the blinds and Miss Casey for doing the hard yards in getting it organised. They look fantastic and really add to the aesthetics of our school.

SCHOOL BOARD/ PARENTS & FRIENDS ASSOCIATION

The Parents and Friends Executive of our school needs to be thanked for their magnificent efforts in securing funding, supporting school activities, enabling extra opportunities and in building a strong school community. Their planning and commitment in ensuring this year would be successful needs to be congratulated. The generosity of our families, as members of the Parents and Friends Association, never ceases to amaze me and I am grateful to every person who has contributed in some capacity to support the school. I thank Ms. Leah Wagner who, as the Parents and Friends Association President for the past two years, will be finishing her tenure this year. Leah has done a great job in leading her team and re-structuring the way things are run. I would also like to thank Mrs. Sarah Hardy who will also be standing down from her role as P&F Secretary at the end of the year. Sarah has been secretary for the last three years and has done an amazing job in taking minutes, arranging fantastic experiences for our community and keeping us on task. Finally, thank you to Justin Radici for the job you have done as P&F treasurer over the past two years. Justin is also standing down at the end of the year as his work commitments have grown. Justin took on the role after a period of searching and did a wonderful job in looking after the finances of the P&F. Next year will be a changing of the guard for our P&F and I am excited to see what the future holds.

We are very fortunate to have School Board Members who willingly share their skills, wisdom and desire to see our students and school flourish. Our School Board, ably led by our new Board Chair Nadine White, has continued to work diligently in supporting the school vision and ensuring that school facilities match the needs of our children. The School Board has engaged Santelli Architects to develop a clear masterplan of staging future renovations to our buildings, learning

spaces and school security (fencing). This will ensure a strategic approach to future school refurbishments and maintenance. It is with appreciation that I thank each Board Member for the hours spent in planning for the financially sustainable future for our school. You are a great team to work with and help to make the school what it is today. My sincere thanks must go to Mr. Luke Credaro who will step down from the School Board this year.

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. I would also thank Miss Alison Casey and Mrs. Elise Cruttenden who both took on the Assistant Principal role for certain periods during Gayle’s leave. You both did a fantastic job and assisted greatly in the running of the school.

STAFFING COMPOSITION 2020

Our school has an established and dedicated staffing composition that provides a wealth of knowledge and skills and thus ensures continuity for our community. Our staffing composition for 2020 is as follows:

Principal	Mark Ryan
Assistant Principals	Gayle Connell & Matthew Gray
3YO & 4YO Kindy	Joanne Quesnel
Pre Primary	Alison Casey

Year 1	Liana Magri	
Year 2	Jenni Brown	
Year 3	Elise Cruttenden	
Year 4	Kate Burns	
Year 5	Jessica Giorgio	
Year 6	Matthew Gray & Judy Russo	
Learning Support	Gayle Connell & Sonia Jenaway	
Reading Recovery	Grace Valli	
Music	Mary Happ	
Physical Education	Steven Mammoliti	
Digital Technologies	Danielle Wardrope / Louise Baldock	
Italian	Grace Valli	
Educational Assistants		
General Support/Library/Art	Pina Versaci	
Pre-Primary	Teresa Erceg	Anne Fusco
Kindy	Marie Ferrone	Josie Frost
General/Special Education Support	Mireinne Cumbo	Veronica Bayer
General/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	Pauline Miranda	

QUALITY CATHOLIC SCHOOLING COMPONENT REVIEWS

The components reviewed in 2019 will be:

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

Each of these components will be 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 (2018-2020), Quality Improvement Plan for Early Years and the School Improvement Plan.

In 2020, the following QCS components will be reviewed:

1. Engagement with the School Community
2. Effective Pedagogical Practices
3. Pastoral Care of Students

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 2019 work has been undertaken in regards to:

- Resurfacing of Parish/School carpark
- Parking bays marked in Parish/School carpark
- New outdoor blinds installed
- Painting maintenance

Future improvements have been identified as follows:

- IT/Library redevelopment
- Staffroom redevelopment
- Creation of sick bay
- New undercover area
- Permanent stage and lighting on oval
- New fence line and security gate on Marda Way
- Classroom upgrades

CONCLUSION

As 2019 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 Joanne Davis, I thank you very much for teaching our Year One's in 2018 and Year Two's in 2019 on a Thursday and Friday. It has been fantastic to see your commitment to your students over the last two years. There are many benefits from teaching the same students in consecutive years and this has shown in their growth and development. I wish you all the best in your future journey and know that you will also enjoy your grandmother duties and future travel plans. We no doubt will see you back at Our Lady of Lourdes in a relief capacity.

Our school is indeed very fortunate to have so many people who have contributed to our many achievements during 2019 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 over 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 2020.

Mark Ryan

Principal