

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Primary School

Principal's Annual Report to the School Community



25TH NOVEMBER 2020

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 2020 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.

With the COVID 19 pandemic it has been an unusual year to say the least and where possible we have tried to keep the routines as normal as we could in order to facilitate positive learning experiences for our students. In the second half of this year we have also managed to focus on our identified priority areas and consolidating our relationships and networks with parents and the broader community. I have been incredibly proud to be Principal of this wonderful school for the last four years and so privileged to meet and work with so many wonderful students, staff and community members. I have learnt so much here from so many people and I will be forever grateful to each and everyone I have met. The school is in a great position with increased enrolments and a wonderful staff who provide high quality teaching and learning opportunities for all students. With changes to the Leadership Team and a building program starting, 2021 will be an exciting year for the Our Lady of Lourdes community.

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 in a year like no other 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 continue the efforts to ensure a strong and vibrant community spirit.

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 2020 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 October
- Daily classroom prayers
- Lenten and Advent reflections
- Our Lady of Lourdes Feast Day
- Ash Wednesday
- Feast of the Assumption
- Sacramental Commitment Mass
- School Board and P&F Executive Commissioning Mass

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

MISSIONS & CHARITIES

Although many in our community have had their challenges this year, the generosity of our school community throughout 2020 to support those less fortunate has been amazing. As a result, significant contributions, 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

Due to COVID 19 restrictions we were unable to have our Buddy Class Family Masses in 2020. They will recommence in 2021 if restrictions are lifted and can be held safely.

BISHOPS' RELIGIOUS LITERACY ASSESSMENTS

Due to the COVID 19 pandemic the Bishops' Religious Literacy Assessments were not conducted in 2020.

EDUCATION

COVID 19 REMOTE LEARNING

At the end of Term 1 and for the first 4 weeks of Term 2 we offered all students the opportunity to learn through either online activities (Seesaw or TEAMS) or hard copy work packs. Our staff have worked extremely hard in organising the learning activities for both platforms. We learnt some lessons along the way and our practise evolved as this situation progressed. This form of teaching and learning was totally new to our staff as it is not something that was part of their university degree when training to be a teacher. I am very proud of the way they adapted to the situation and catered for all students in our school at the time.

2020 SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

In line with our School Improvement Plan for 2020, the past year has seen the accomplishment of a number of significant milestones.

These include:

Evangelistaion Plan Focus: Nourishment of our personal relationship with the Risen Jesus through prayerful communication with God.

- Mindful reflections on the Miracle Gospels.
- Using scripture for prayer following the Lectio Divina Model.
- To nurture a social environment where the staff and students are safe, respected & supported and their social/emotional wellbeing is being fostered.

Aboriginal Education Plan Focus: Increase in teacher practice and pedagogy.

- Establishment of an Aboriginal Education Team.
- Meeting with Aboriginal Education Officer and School Support Consultant from CEWA to develop a school Aboriginal Perspectives Plan. This will be continued in 2021.

Early Years Focus: Outdoor spaces are used effectively for learning purposes.

- Students undertake units of study/ personal learning in areas of interest.
- Use of Educational Assistants.
- Evidence of use of outdoor spaces in planning documents.

Wellbeing Focus: To effectively monitor and support the wellbeing of all staff and students

- Wellness week in the calendar each term for students, staff and families.
- Undertake activities that promote wellness.
- Wellness Professional Development day for staff.

STRATEGIC PLAN

2021 will see the implementation of the first year of our new 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 2021 include:

- To provide a broad, balanced and developmentally appropriate curriculum that utilizes best practice.
- To continue to implement well-being programmes that build student resilience.

- To upgrade classrooms, playgrounds and school facilities as needed to ensure they are contemporary, attractive and conducive to learning.
- To lead people to develop a better understanding of their faith; strengthening who we are as a Catholic community and as our role as Christian people.

NAPLAN DATA

Due to the COVID 19 pandemic there were no NAPLAN assessments conducted in 2020.

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. Due to COVID 19 2020 saw limited Professional Development opportunities arise. The following is a snapshot of the development undertaken;

- Seesaw
- TEAMS
- Digital Technologies
- Faith Development – Lectio Divina
- Staff Wellness
- Meditation / Lectio Divina
- Reading Recovery Professional Learning
- Assistant Principal and Principal AGM’s
- 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 2020 were limited but included the following:

AQUA

Sacramental Retreats

Book Week Incursion

Perth Zoo

Adventure World

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.

MOTHER'S DAY & FATHER'S DAY RAFFLES

This year the P&F ran Mother's and Father's Day raffles. This came about due to COVID 19 and were very well received. I thank our P&F team for organising this for our community. It certainly lifted community spirit during a very difficult time.

OPEN NIGHT

It was great to welcome back our families to school and the classrooms on Open Night after a long break due to COVID 19. I would like to thank our community for making sure the physical distancing and hand sanitising measures in place were adhered to. There was a real buzz in the air with many excited children taking their family members on a journey around the school. Each of the classrooms, the IT room and library really looked the part. I would like to thank our hard working staff here at OLOL for their work in making sure Open Night was a success. I would also like to thank our P&F for feeding our community.

COLOUR RUN

In Term 4 this year, the P&F again 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 \$. 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 again in 2020. It was a great afternoon that was enjoyed by all who attended.

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
- Raffles

- Sports Carnivals
- Colour Run
- Messy Play Day

STEWARDSHIP

CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN – STAGE 7

Over the past year I have been working very hard with the School Board on identifying and planning for some key improvements in our school that will benefit our community. In August I received notification that we are now in a position to move forward with these improvements. I am very pleased to announce to the community that the following school improvements will be taking place during 2021:

- A new undercover area will be constructed in the middle section of the school between the Year 1, 2, 3 and 4, 5, 6 classrooms. This will be multi-purpose and be used for a variety of learning activities
- The Library and Digital Technologies rooms will be remodelled into contemporary learning spaces
- The Staffroom will be extended
- The Administration Block will be refurbished which will include a sick bay and new bursars office

I am very excited about these improvements and what they will add to our community. I would like to thank the 2019 and 2020 School Boards for their advice and assistance with this project. There are exciting time ahead at Our Lady of Lourdes.

STRATEGIC PLAN 2021 – 2025

This year, with the assistance of the School Board, a new Strategic Plan was developed for the next 5 years. This can be found on the school website. I would like to thank the school Board as well as Miss Casey and Mr. Gray for their hard work in ensuring this document accurately reflects our priorities as the school moves into the next phase of its journey.

NEW SOFTFALL

This year we had new softfall installed underneath the playground next to the Kindy classroom. The replacement is part of our maintenance plan and ensures that we are catering for the safety

needs of our community. I would like to thank the P&F for their contribution towards the cost of the new softfall.

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 an extremely difficult year needs to be congratulated. The generosity of our families, as members of the Parents and Friends Association, always amazes me and I am grateful to every person who has contributed in some capacity to support the school. I thank Karla Correa who, has taken on the role of Parents and Friends Association President this year. Karla has done a fantastic job in leading her team and enthusiastically supporting community involvement. I would also like to thank Katie Menchetti (Vice President), Vanessa Palma (Treasurer), Sanella Kristic (Secretary) and Christina Giorgio (P&F Representative to the School Board) for their commitment to the P&F and giving 100% in fundraising and community events this year. Sanella will be stepping down from her role as secretary at the end of the year and I would like to thank her for all the work she has done for P&F over the past couple of years. We will require a new P&F secretary next year. If you would like to take on this role next year please come and have a chat. Next year promises to be another exciting year for our P&F and I encourage the community to actively support them in their fundraising and community building endeavors.

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 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. It is with appreciation that I also thank Ruza Foster (Board Treasurer), Karen White (Secretary), Christina Giorgio (P&F Rep), Holly Sansalone, Tina Iemma, William Edison and Fr Stan 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 Mrs. Nadine White, Mrs. Ruza Foster and Mrs. Tina Iemma who will step down from the School Advisory Council at the end of the year. Nadine has completed 6 consecutive years on the School Board/Advisory Council and according to the constitution is not able to re-nominate. Ruza has spent two years on the Board/Advisory Council and will end her immediate connection with the school this year. Tina joined the Board/ Advisory Council two years ago and has decided not to renominate. I thank Nadine, Ruza and Tina for their time, effort, energy and commitment to Our Lady of Lourdes School during their tenure on the School Board/Advisory Council. The School Board is now known as the Advisory Council to reflect CEWA Ltd's new governance structure. The existing CECWA Catholic School Board Constitution is currently under review by CECWA to ensure appropriateness and consistency with CEWA Ltd's

new governance structure. It is due to be implemented in 2022. 2021 is a year of transition. The existing CECWA Catholic School Board Constitution remains in place, with some modifications to reflect CEWA Ltd's new governance requirements.

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, Miss Alison Casey 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 2021

Our school has an established and dedicated staffing composition that provides a wealth of knowledge and skills and thus ensures continuity for our community. The staffing composition for 2021 is as follows:

Principal

Assistant Principals

Josephine Vivante & Matthew Gray

3YO & 4YO Kindy

Joanne Quesnel

Pre Primary

Alison Casey

Year 1

Liana Magri

Year 2

Jenni Brown

Year 3

Elena Fraser

Year 4	Danielle Wardrope
Year 5	Elise Cruttenden
Year 6	Matthew Gray & Steven Mammoliti
Learning Support	Josephine Vivante & Sonia Jenaway
Reading Recovery	Grace Valli
Music	Mary Happ
Physical Education	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
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

I would like to wish Miss Kate Burns and Mrs. Judy Russo all the best as they begin their leave for the duration of 2021. I hope you both come back to Our Lady of Lourdes refreshed and reenergised in 2022.

QUALITY CATHOLIC SCHOOLING COMPONENT REVIEWS

The components reviewed in 2020 will be:

- Engagement with the School Community
- Effective Pedagogical Practices
- Pastoral Care of Students

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, Quality Improvement Plan for Early Years and the School Improvement Plan.

In 2021, the following QCS components will be reviewed:

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

CONCLUSION

As this very unusual 2020 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 **Ms Gayle Connell**, who retires and the end of the school year. Thank you for the many significant contributions you have made to Our Lady of Lourdes School over the past 27 ½ 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 the school is evident in all you do. Your experience, ideas and advice will be greatly missed by everyone at Our Lady of Lourdes. I wish you all the best in your future journey and know that you will enjoy your grandmother duties and future travel plans. You deserve the rest and relaxation that your retirement will bring but we all know you will be a welcome visitor in the years to come.

Our school is indeed very fortunate to have so many people who have contributed to our many achievements during 2020 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 2021.

Mark Ryan

Principal