

OUR LADY OF LOURDES SCHOOL ANNUAL COMMUNITY REPORT (PRINCIPAL)

24 NOVEMBER 2021

INTRODUCTION

It is my privilege to present the 2021 Principal's report to the Our Lady of Lourdes community.

I begin by acknowledging the Wadjuk people of the Noongar nation 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.

I arrived at Our Lady of Lourdes at the commencement of Term 2 after finishing my principalship at Our Lady Star of the Sea in Esperance. Firstly, I would like to thank Mr Shaun O'Neil for Acting Principal during Term 1 and leading the school to commence the 2021 school year. Immediately, I felt at home as I was welcomed and embraced by the staff, students and their families, which is a testimony to the culture that has been created here in our school community.

During my first term at OLOL, the major capital development project (Stage 7) commenced. The project would include improvement works to the school admin building, the IT/Library space and the undercover area located between the junior and primary blocks. As work commenced, a reshuffle would see the school admin move to the back of the school, the library and staffroom move to the Hall and temporary fencing installed that would affect entry/exit points to the school and areas where the children eat and play. However, these changes only emphasised the adaptability and flexibility of our incredible community with a seamless transition to the new school set up. More explanation on the success of the project is to come later in this report.

Aside from the build, it has been a very busy year at OLOL. The remainder of my report will outline some of the highlights of our year's journey across the pillars of Quality Catholic Education - Catholic Identity, Education, Community & Stewardship.

CATHOLIC IDENTITY

First and foremost, thank you to Fr Stan who has done a fabulous job working with us, in partnership, to make our community the very special place it is. When I gained the position of

Principal at OLOL, I knew that I was coming to a place where the relationship between Parish and School is extremely strong and I feel blessed that I now get to experience this firsthand. Fr Stan has been very involved with all liturgical events we celebrate and has worked closely with teachers and students in sacramental years. He also takes a keen interest in school life and enjoys taking part in school community events. On behalf of the OLOL community, we thank you Fr Stan for your spiritual guidance.

I am a very passionate advocate for a program called 'Making Jesus Real' and wanted to introduce it to the OLOL community. Making Jesus Real (MJR) is a values-based program, however, I promote it as 'A Way of Life' - how we do things at OLOL. MJR is centred on the belief that we are all God's children and called to try to be like Jesus Christ in the way we live. We are Jesus' friends and he calls us into friendship with God and to imitate his way of living. I facilitated an introductory professional development with all OLOL staff and led MJR lessons in all classrooms. MJR seamlessly has fit into the OLOL school culture and the 'Spirit of Jesus' is alive through the way we 'Greet, Treat & Speak' to one another. In fortnightly school newsletters, brief explanations from MJR are added so parents can start speaking the MJR language at home too.

Staff were extremely fortunate to take part in a Mercy Pilgrimage where through immersion they would have the opportunity to understand the story of the women who forged Catholic Education 175 years ago. The Ursula Frayne Pilgrimage retraced Sr Ursula Frayne's steps from her arrival in Fremantle in early 1846, to her journey along the Swan River and her first impressions of the fledgling city of Perth. The pilgrimage was an opportunity to share the mercy charism and for staff to experience the story rather than merely 'hear' it. The mercy charism, that welcoming of refugees and care for our indigenous brothers and sisters, started with Sr Ursula Frayne and the Sisters of Mercy 175 years ago and it is now our mission to spread the mercy message with the students and families we encounter within our school.

To conclude Term 3, our school and parish partnered with the West Australian Catholic Migrant & Refugee Office to provide relief and support for people seeking asylum, international students and those in need in the Nollamara area.

Living our 'Making Jesus Real' ethos at OLOL, this initiative was designed to:

- Integrate faith, culture and life
- Promote Christian witness, proclamation and catechesis
- Assist the school and parish fulfilling aspects of our Evangelisation Plan and the new Archdiocese of Perth Parish Pastoral Constitution
- Foster the fundamental stance of Christian welcome towards others in terms of attitude
- Create an opportunity for an archdiocesan agency, Catholic school and parish to collaborate in a spirit of fraternal charity for the benefit of the Catholic community and broader society

The project would see students from OLOL donate food care package items while the parish would donate hygiene package items. To culminate the project, staff from OLOL created the packs and delivered them to CARAD - Centre for Asylum Seekers, Refugees & Detainees for distribution. Just under 100 packs were delivered that demonstrates the unbelievably generous school and parish community we have at OLOL.

This year would see our school construct a new Evangelisation Plan outlining faith formation opportunities over the next three years. Goals such as the introduction of MJR, structured weekly staff prayer and Christian outreach are just a couple of examples enacted from our new Evangelisation Plan. We look forward to offering many more opportunities that will enhance individuals own faith, our Catholic identity and school culture that is already strong within the OLOL school community.

EDUCATION

As outlined in our new Strategic Plan, our strategic priority is to strive to provide a broad, balanced and developmentally appropriate curriculum that utilises best practice where students are safe, respected and supported. Throughout 2021, staff have been offered professional development that meets this priority as we develop a shared understanding and commitment to a Catholic vision for all learning across our school.

During Term 2, all OLOL staff attended professional development on the 'Talk for Writing' (TfW) program. This writing based program is being implemented around the world and has now found its way into many CEWA and Government schools. Talk for Writing was already implemented in our Year 1 and Year 2 classrooms, however, it didn't take long to see all classes programming and teaching Talk for Writing in their classrooms. Thanks to Liana Magri and Danielle Wardrope, we now have a TfW scope & sequence to follow, and we are hoping to visit another CEWA school in 2022 who has been using the program for some time and observe how the program is implemented and taught.

According to 2021 data, 15% of CEWA students speak a language or dialect other than standard Australian English (SAE) at home and an additional 9% of students speak English at home but have at least one parent speaking a language or dialect other than SAE. This data reflects our school population as we sit within the top 10 CEWA schools with enrolments with English as an additional language or dialect (EAL/D). We have worked closely with Marisa Schiavi (EAL/D Consultant) from CEWA in this space, focusing on what we can do to assist EAL/D families entering our school. This year saw our first use of interpreters at parent/teacher interviews and at family workshops and the collection of language data that we hope to use as evidence to

gain funding in 2022. Our message is that we value our diversity at OLOL and encourage families to continue to speak their native language as it is essential in the development of their child's literacy skills and identity. We look forward to continuing our EAL/D journey in 2022.

As we strive to enhance student engagement and best prepare our students to live and work in a digital age, equipping the students and staff with the best possible tools is essential. With the assistance of Louise Baldock, our teachers started to integrate aspects of their teaching and learning program with the digital technology specialist area with wonderful results. We continue to utilise the SeeSaw application and from next year, all classes will use this platform as their 'one stop shop' for communication between home and school. From next year also, Year 3-6 will have access to their own 'one to one' Ipad and junior years 'one to two' with these devices leased by the school.

COMMUNITY

2021 was a true indication that at Our Lady of Lourdes School, we provide a nurturing learning environment where students feel happy and safe and that our school encourages all people to participate within the school community.

From the beginning of Term 2, I wanted our school to gather more often to celebrate as a whole community. To achieve this goal, Prayer Assemblies were added to the existing Class Performance Assemblies during the term. These assemblies begin with a class leading the school in prayer, followed by celebrating award winners. At all assemblies, students can not only receive a Merit Award, they also can receive our new OLOL Making Jesus Real Award! The additional gatherings have been a wonderful success.

After being approached by the Principal of St Lawrence Balcatta and St Denis Joondanna, OLOL would join a wonderful initiative that would form our Network Professional Learning Community. This year, OLOL teachers joined their respective grade level teachers from these two schools for an afternoon of rich conversation. Writing moderation would be a focus, however, having the opportunity to see what other schools are doing and the sharing of knowledge, expertise and resources would be the most beneficial. The feedback from all schools involved has been so positive that our Network PLCs will now occur each term in 2022. Also, sticking with the single stream commonality, St Gerard's Westminster will be joining the initiative in 2022.

The P&F Executive and their helpers have worked extremely hard throughout the year donating their time and talents with a genuine love for our students and our school. To Karla, who is completing her final year as P&F President, thank you for all your organisation and efforts in

leading P&F initiatives this year. From coordinating dinner for families on Open Night, to a pumping disco to celebrate the school year (with many events & initiatives in between), the ever-reliable P&F team have been a pleasure to work with due to your passion and leadership. As a result of their continuous efforts, the P&F were in a position to contribute \$40 000 towards furniture for our new Library space and Staffroom. A tremendous achievement that we are extremely grateful for. I would also like to thank Tina Iemma who will be finishing her time as Secretary of the P&F and look forward to working with you who are remaining on the team in 2022. Our school relies upon the good grace of all of its members. We can't accomplish the things we do without people volunteering their time and expertise. Please consider how you can help and give service where you can, especially with P&F activities.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Karen White, our School Advisory Council Chair, and the remaining members of the School Advisory Council Fr Stan, Christina Giorgio, Holly Sansalone, William Edison, Sarah Hardy, David Barras, Nadine White and P&F Representative Katie Menchetti for their continued support since I arrived earlier this year. I would also like to make a special mention to Nadine and William who conclude their time on the School Advisory Council. Nadine, after being cooped for a further 12 months at the conclusion of 2020 and William after serving his two-year term. Both Nadine and William are huge advocates for our school and I am extremely grateful for their ongoing support in my first year here at OLOL.

STEWARDSHIP

As mentioned in the introduction to this report, a major event for our school this year was the commencement and completion of the Stage 7 Capital Development Project.

Under very interesting and sometime trying times in the building world, I am very proud and grateful to our CDP Team for working together to get the job done within a tight timeframe. On behalf of the OLOL community I would like to formally thank Chun Chong from Santelli Architects, Nick McRae from Metrocon and Suzie Richards from the CEWA Capital Development Team for being on the journey with us.

Our wonderful improvements under Stage 7 would include:

- A new undercover area constructed in the middle section of the school between the Year 1, 2, 3 and 4, 5, 6 classrooms. This will be a multi-purpose area with a main function of providing a break out space for classes to utilise the outdoor environment as an extension to their classroom
- The Library and Digital Technologies rooms were amalgamated and remodelled into contemporary learning space. This space includes an open classroom where the

specialist areas of Music and Digital Technology will be facilitated as well as a contemporary Library for all our students to enjoy. As mentioned, the contemporary fit out of furniture for this space (coming early in 2022) has been purchased by our P&F.

- The Administration Block was refurbished which included new flooring, the addition of a sick bay and bursars office. The staffroom also received a makeover being extended and opened up in alignment with Code of Conduct guidelines

As project completion and handover occurred on Monday 22 November, we now eagerly await the date where temporary fencing comes down and we get to enjoy our new spaces. As it is so late in the year, Admin will not move in until the conclusion of the year. Our furniture has been ordered and hopefully it will not be too long until we see it installed as it will put the finishing touches on the project. I have mentioned it many times throughout the project, however, I again want to say thank you to the entire OLOL community for being so flexible and adaptable. Now we all get to reap the rewards!

STAFF

Aside from parents, there is no other group of people who have a greater influence upon the overall education of our students than the people who work with your children daily. I would like to publicly congratulate all my staff for their dedication, time and energy in ensuring our students develop in an environment that not only meets & exceeds their learning needs, but also instils values that our children can take with them into their everyday lives. The staff, collectively, are an exceptional group of people who support each other and more importantly, genuinely enjoy teaching your children. From a personal point of view, thank you for believing in me and supporting me in my role as Principal.

I would like to also make special mention and acknowledge our wonderful office administrators, Janet Harris & Anne Fusco, who are the first face many people see when they walk into our school. To Margy Reeler, I extremely grateful that you are on my team. The Finance Officer is such a crucial cog to any school, however, if you are fortunate enough to have a highly skilled person like Margy, not only the Principal but the entire school reaps the benefits. To the three of you, your dedication, expertise and generosity enable our school to run smoothly and I am forever grateful for your wisdom, organisation, support and encouragement.

To my fabulous Assistant Principals Jo Vivante & Matt Gray, my personal thanks go to you both. Without question, OLOL is a better place for Jo and Matt's dedication, expertise and genuine love for the teaching vocation and our school. Thank you again for your patience in working with me, your support and encouragement throughout the year.

The school has been incredibly fortunate to have many people jump into a range of positions to help us out as a school community this year. A special thank you to Jess Geiles, Kate Burns,

Janet Callaghan and Gabby Piccininni for covering longer stints while teachers and other staff have taken their respective leave.

We farewell three long serving staff members this school year, Mrs Mary Happ, Mrs Judy Russo and Mrs Mireinne Cumbo. All three ladies have contributed significantly to Our Lady of Lourdes and we are forever grateful for their service. On behalf of the entire community, we wish both Mary and Judy all the best in retirement and Mireinne, who has only recently been successful gaining a teaching position at Immaculate Heart School.

STAFFING COMPOSITION 2022

The staffing composition for 2022 is as follows:

Principal	Steve Blake
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	Heather Welch
Year 4	Danielle Wardrope & Jess Giorgio
Year 5	Elise Cruttenden
Year 6	Matthew Gray & Steve Mammoliti
MacqLit	Josephine Vivante
Reading Recovery	Grace Valli
Music	Louise Baldock
Physical Education	Steve Mammoliti
Digital Technologies	Louise Baldock
Italian	Grace Valli
Science	Sonia Jenaway
Social Worker	Donia Clews

Educational Assistants

General Support/Library/Art	Pina Versaci	
Pre-Primary	Teresa Erceg	Anne Fusco
Kindy	Marie Ferrone	Josie Frost
General/Special Education Support	Veronica Bayer	
General/Special Education Support	Anne Fusco	Cyril Narra

Office Staff

Finance Officer	Margy Reeler	
Administration Officer	Janet Harris & Anne Fusco	

Ancillary Staff

Uniform Shop	Bernadette Dyblik
Canteen Manager	Pauline Miranda

I would like to wish Miss Kate Burns all the best as she continues personal leave for the duration of 2022.

CONCLUSION

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

To our fabulous Year 6 students, I hope you all hold on to the many fantastic memories made here at OLOL and the teachers that have helped mold you into the people you are today. Good luck for the future, enjoy High School and don't ever forget to continue to 'Make Jesus Real' and pursue your passions in life.

2022 is shaping to be another fantastic year at OLOL. Many school-based initiatives that came to life this year like MJR, Talk for Writing and shared numeracy pedagogy, will continue in the hope of further improving teaching & learning, Catholic identity and community relationships throughout the school. We will also move to CEWA's approved child protection curriculum 'Keeping Safe' and embark on designing a new and improved website to promote our brilliant school. Very exciting times ahead!

As the curtain draws on the 2021 school year, I would like to thank our wonderful staff for their passion and dedication, the students for their hard work and always displaying a WEST attitude

and you, the OLOL families, that make this school community such a wonderful place to be a part of.

Have a safe and Merry Christmas everyone and see you all in 2022!!

Steve Blake

OLOL Principal