



## PRINCIPAL'S REPORT 2019

### AGM - MONDAY 25 NOVEMBER 2019

I have great confidence in you to do what you think best. State your opinion and always act with courage.

Catherine McAuley

The 2019 school year has once again been a time of excitement at Our Lady of Mercy Primary School, Girrawheen. There is no doubt that the words of Catherine McAuley set the foundation for who we are as a community. It is in this spirit of acting with courage that we are who we are. We achieve what we achieve through the many blessings we have received throughout the school year.

In reflecting upon 2019, I continue to be grateful for the opportunities that are created for committed members of our community to work together to create a place of belonging. This sense of belonging is what I hear mentioned often when speaking with parents and staff. There is something about the spirit of Catherine McAuley that permeates our existence here at OLOM.

#### THE SCHOOL BOARD

It has once again been another successful period in the life and times of Our Lady of Mercy Primary School and the School Board. In 2019, the work of the School Board has been of the highest order and I thank them sincerely for their hard work and sharing of their talents for the good of the children of our school. Decisions are always considered with diligence and consideration of the impact on our students. Their commitment to the children, parents and staff is outstanding.

School Board improvements have included the following:

- New flooring in the Year 1 to 4 classrooms
- School oval maintenance
- Pirate ship in the ECE playground
- School exterior painting
- IT infrastructure and fibre optic cabling
- New interactive whiteboards to enhance the teaching and learning programs. Year 3 and 5 classrooms have had these installed last holidays
- Development of the new school website.

On behalf of the community, I wish to take this opportunity to thank Jayne Ross who will be resigning from her position at the end of the 2019 school year. I wish to thank Jayne for her

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significant contributions of time and energy during her many years, serving on our Board and P&F. A positive and affirming member of the Board who has cared deeply for our school and its people.

I wish to sincerely thank all members of the Board for always being willing to support us in our role as leaders of this community. The support of them as both people and professionals has been a constant source of 'energy' for me. I especially thank Jayne for her committed leadership as chairperson. Thanks also to other executive members, Sharon Muir [Treasurer] and Andrea Ludvik [Secretary] who have both worked closely with us in 2019 along with Lucia Ricciardo, Toni Fedele and Mark Lancaster. Special thanks to Sue McPhail for her professionalism and dedication as the finance officer to the Board. Your commitment has been quite exemplary during a year of constant demand and change.

Can we please acknowledge these people:

### THE PARENTS AND FRIENDS ASSOCIATION

I would like to acknowledge the work of Sharon Muir, Andrea Ludvik, Olive Wingco, Lucia Ricciardo, Lucy Burns, Kerrie Haines, Barbara Peters and Mark Lancaster, who have led this group of wonderful parents. Our parents have worked quietly in the background to continue to build community spirit within the school. As a group they have been quite remarkable in how smoothly they have worked with our families in continuing many of the past traditions within the school. The team of parents have done this with one focus, and that has been on the wanting to do it for our children. We thank you all sincerely for the time and commitment to the people within our school and the fundraising events throughout the year that have resulted in the upgrading of many resources across the school. A fabulous year of working tirelessly for our school and its people. Can we please acknowledge these people.

I would like to acknowledge the efforts of Lucy Burns for her time and on the Board and P&F. Each time I spoke to Lucy it was evident she wanted to make OLOM the best school ever. Her care for our students and staff was second to none and we thank her for all she has brought to OLOM.

To all our parents of Our Lady of Mercy Primary School, I wish to thank you for your support and encouragement. Strong parent/school relationships assist in shaping the culture of our school environment. We continue to be encouraged by the support of our parents in what we are focused on at OLOM. Our goal is to continue to meet the needs of our children and assist them in their development as confident young people who are excited by their learning.

### PARISH SCHOOL CONNECTION

Our Lady of Mercy Parish and school maintain a very close relationship. We continue to build relationships between the parish and school as part of our on-going commitment to keeping the values of our Catholic school alive within our students, staff and parents. We have been blessed to have Fr Sam as our parish priest. Fr Sam's kindness and gentle manner allows for the building of close relationships with our staff and our families. We wish to acknowledge Fr Sam's calmness and

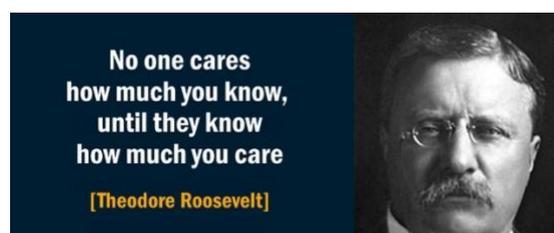
accommodating manner throughout all special liturgies, especially in the year levels who have received the sacraments of Confirmation, Eucharist and Penance. We also thank Jenny Watts for her commitment to our students in our Sacramental Program.

There are many OLOM families attending Masses on the weekend. This is a credit to our parents. Further to this, we now have altar servers who have been trained by the parish and continue to give their time and be of service.

We thank all members of our parish especially our parish choirs, the pastoral committee, other parish groups and our catechists. The support of the parish for our school is significant and widely appreciated here by all involved in our school. We look forward to continuing what is a very special relationship.

### STAFF

We are fortunate at Our Lady of Mercy Primary School to have committed staff members who enjoy working together to ensure students' educational needs are met. Their support for each other is something that creates strong bonds and unity. Thank you for your high standards and professionalism. It is about 'one-in, all-in attitude' to what we are establishing in our support for each other as a professional organisation, but also one strongly focused on positive relationships. I wish to thank all our staff for their contributions to making the students the number one focus and for the unwavering commitment to providing the very best education for the students in your care. To all our staff, thank you for what you bring to the life of our school community. Never waiver from the quote shown from Theodore Roosevelt because this is what our students here at OLOM need each and every day.



I would personally like to thank you all for the last two years and know that I am going to miss you all dearly and thank you for your dedication to our students.

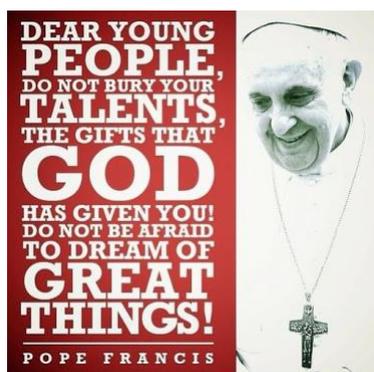
### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Religious Education and Evangelisation are the primary purpose of Catholic schools. In partnership with all parents, the school and parish work together to assist the children to develop knowledge of their Catholic faith. The explicit teaching of Catholic practices and knowledge, through the Religious Education Units of Work, is an integral part of our mission as a school. It is mandated by the Bishops of Western Australia and the Catholic Education Commission of Western Australia.

The Year 3 and 5 students participated in the Bishops' Literacy Assessment once again, with well above average results. Year 3 CEWA schools scored 409 and OLOM's 418. Year 5 CEWA schools

scored 486 and OLOM's 506. As parents and staff, everyone plays an essential role in guiding our children throughout their faith journey. This has been shown and supported through the many events and sacraments that have been held this year.

## CURRICULUM



The 2019 school year has seen our teachers focused on their individual practice and the engagement of students within their classrooms. As Pope Francis' quote above reminds us, bringing out the gifts and talents of our students needs to be at the front of our thinking. This engagement of students through their interests, will allow their learning to shine and their gifts to be brought to surface and celebrated.

## 2019 NAPLAN RESULTS ACROSS YEAR 3 AND YEAR 5

NAPLAN is a test held nationally assessing numeracy and literacy. These are one-off tests that give a snapshot of how schools are tracking in these areas. As with all standardised tests that are one-off in nature, the results must be taken in the context of all other assessments a school may do. This includes the everyday teaching and learning program, plus the many varied assessments that may take place.

I wish to commend our students for their efforts during the national testing and the positive approach from parents during the weeklong tests. In the table shown, performance against the national average is provided. As staff, we will continue to focus on engaging our students in their learning and creating excitement around being the best they can be within our classrooms. I would also like to acknowledge the work of our staff in supporting our students in their learning and development as well-rounded young people.

In 2019, we have continued to focus on our teaching of Writing through Talk for Writing. Our assessments indicate some encouraging gains across NAPLAN results, standardised testing and in-class assessments. Numeracy will be the curriculum focus in 2020 within our teaching programs.

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YEAR LEVEL	READING	WRITING	SPELLING	GRAMMAR & PUNCTUATION	NUMERACY
YR 3 OLOM MEAN	412.9	439.1	415.2	411.5	388.3
YR 3 NATIONAL MEAN	432.3	423.1	418.7	439.8	408.1
YR 5 OLOM MEAN	521.5	519.9	537.9	499.1	502.6
YR 5 NATIONAL MEAN	506.0	473.9	500.7	518.5	495.8

### ANNUAL SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN REVIEW 2019

<u>CEWA Strategic Intent</u>	<u>Success Criteria</u>	
Evangelisation	To develop staff awareness of basic Church teachings, prayers and etiquette.	Met
Aboriginal Education Plan	For Teachers to include Aboriginal Perspectives into their programs.	Ongoing
Curriculum Plan Focus	To use assessments in Maths before moving students on and differentiate in mathematics lessons according to three levels, below, achieved and mastered.	Ongoing
Early Years Focus	Incorporate more inquiry-based learning into early years (K-2).	Ongoing

### ANNUAL SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN KEY PRIORITIES 2020

<u>CEWA Strategic Intent</u>	<u>Key Priorities</u>
Evangelisation	In 2020 the school is setting up health and wellbeing projects for the students.  The vision is that every learning community is positive, inclusive and resilient.
Aboriginal Education Plan	For Teachers to include Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Perspectives into their programs.

Curriculum Plan Focus	To use assessments in Maths before moving students on and differentiate in mathematics lessons according to three levels; below, achieved and mastered.
Early Years Focus	Upskill early years staff (teacher and TAs) on balance between EI, Inquiry and play in indoor and outdoor classroom

Our key priorities for 2020 have been drawn from conversations and workshops with staff and parents, but also from various data sources such as the NSI survey, staff surveys and NAPLAN data.

### THANK YOU!

I wish to acknowledge staff and P&F and Board members that are moving on from OLOM at the end of the year and thank them for their service to our community. We wish them the very best for their future endeavours. We invite the following people forward to accept a token of our appreciation.

- Jayne Ross
- Lucy Burns
- Sarah Williams
- Pat McCabe
- Emily Du Toit

### STAFFING 2020

We are pleased to present our draft Staffing for 2020. We acknowledge the following people joining the OLOM community in 2020:

- Ondine Komnick (Principal)
- Jasmine Ziino (Year 4)
- Jordan Challis (Year 5)
- Dani Canfora (Kindy TA)

In conclusion, I wish to take this opportunity to thank staff, parents and the wider community for the support given to the on-going development of our children at Our Lady of Mercy Primary School. We are truly blessed to be members of such a beautiful community. I sincerely wish all members of our school a peaceful and joyous Christmas. May we all appreciate the significance of this time of rest and renewal as we gear up for a bright and exciting 2020.

All blessings to you

Clinton Payne  
Assistant Principal