



SCHOOL COMMUNITY REPORT 2021

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

ONDINE KOMNICK

Good evening everyone and thank you for attending our school AGM for 2021.

I acknowledge:

- Fr Sam
- Councillor James Ward
- The school Advisory Council President, Toni Fidele
- The school P&F President, Andrea Ludvick
- Our school Assistant Principal, Meagan Zanetti
- Our staff
- And our parents and caregivers.

You are all welcome here this evening.

I thank you too for taking the time to attend tonight's meeting. This school is important to all of us, and your presence here makes that very clear.

The responsibility we share as parents and teachers in the education of our young people is an important one. Our endeavours in partnership must always be focused on the care and development of every child at OLOM.

Our school should be a place of welcome where everyone feels they belong. It should be filled with the joy of learning and students should be empowered to achieve their personal best. Christ must be central to all that we do, and his presence should be a celebration amongst us. Prayer should be heard in our classrooms, and God should be spoken about.

Our staff have important work to do. For in their work, they have an influence on the future, they place an imprint on the children here and they build on the work that parents and carers as first educators have already begun.

Let's now take a journey back in time to the start of 2021 to reflect and celebrate on all that we have achieved this year under the four pillars of Catholic Education.

Catholic Identity

This year we developed a new Evangelisation Plan that sets out the following goals:

- community engagement in Catholic Identity through cultural Masses and bringing an understanding of the Gospel message through the Arts.
- engage staff to deepen their connection to the Scriptures through a new initiative called Coffee with Christ
- support staff to achieve their accreditation to teach or work in a Catholic school
- provide an opportunity for our families to gather to pray and read scripture once a term

- develop a social justice program for our students and staff to serve those in need in our community

We continue to grow a strong relationship with Our Lady of Mercy Parish and our leadership team regularly attends Parish council meetings. Our school works closely with the parish sacramental coordinator Jenny Watts in preparing Catholic children to receive their Sacraments and we work closely with staff from Mercy College too in the coordination of each Sacramental celebration. Our behaviour management plan was revised this year to provide children with the opportunity to reflect that each one of us has in us the power of the Holy Spirit to influence the behaviour choices we make. Even though children sometimes make poor choices, the human dignity of each child is at the forefront of our behaviour management process, and we endeavour to help children come to understand that they are loved by God and God stands ready to forgive them. We developed a Student Code of Conduct that encourages behaviours that align with our Mercy values.

We implemented a reward system to reinforce the display of Mercy values in our community. Children are recognised for showing a particular Mercy value with a special certificate at the final Mass of each term and then once a semester all Mercy value recipients have pizza with the principal and the priest to celebrate their active witness to Christ in our midst. We also introduced a Faction Token Mercy Value recognition system where the winning faction has a free dress day as a reward at the end of term. This system allows us to reward the positive Mercy values on display during recess and lunch times.

We have developed an online Faith Story and Witness program to induct new staff into the charism and history of our school. We implemented a free dress Friday for staff and the money raised from this initiative is donated to charity.

Last term, we sadly lost, Mrs Alison John-Lewis, our much loved, Auslan teacher. Alison's passion for her learning area was inspirational and she drew much strength in her final days from the love she felt from our community. Her family is being supported through a weekly meal drop off until the end of this term.

This year several school families have lost loved ones and we continue to keep these families in our prayers and provide the necessary support and care for those who are grieving. I ask that we silently reflect for a few moments to remember our lost loved ones.

Education

We began our Fogarty Edvance journey at the start of this year after having been one of a few select schools chosen to join this esteemed leadership program. The program aims to improve student learning outcomes through a school improvement journey. It provides us as leaders with the tools we need to ensure that the changes we make for school improvement purposes have every chance at succeeding. We started the year by developing a shared moral purpose statement which reads as follows:

We are collaborative Christ-centred community that educates, inspires and nurtures the whole child to allow them to achieve their unique potential.

We also developed a three-year strategic directions plan and have milestones and key performance indicators to measure our achievements. We have baseline data for both student learning outcomes

and a measure of the culture at our school and we will keep working to ensure that we continually grow and improve in both aspects. The 'Tell Them From Me' survey that staff, students and parents and carers undertook provided us with valuable information on areas to celebrate and to target improvements.

Our lead teachers together with teaching staff will be finalising an effective instructional model which will be rolled out over the course of 2022. The model of instructional practice will hold students accountable for their learning and engagement.

In 2021, we had a curriculum focus in Mathematics. We continue to grow our teaching skills and knowledge in this learning area and our Lead Teachers, developed a Mathematics Scope and Sequence to ensure continuity and consistency in our teaching of this subject. In 2022 we will continue to place our focus in the area of Mathematics and we look forward to seeing good student growth in this learning area.

This year we trialed a support program in Mathematics and we thank Mrs Brown for sharing her love of Mathematics with her students. Mrs Brown also ran a Numero club every Wednesday during lunch with about 15 Year 5 and 6 students attending to develop their Mental Mathematics skills. In 2022 we have purchased a program which will assist teachers to provide targeted and differentiated learning opportunities for students in Mathematics.

We also implemented a new whole class literacy program in Year 2 which is a continuation of the literacy program called InitiaLit taught in PP and Year 1. This provides a consistent approach for literacy from Kindergarten with the Pre-Lit program through to Year 2.

This year we were asked to trial MultiLit's oral language program in Pre-Primary and Year 1. We received feedback on the results from this program today and there was some great growth for our students. We will discuss continuing this program in 2022 with our education staff. We thank our wonderful Education Assistants, Mrs Rosa Heise, Mrs Sue Di Marco, Mrs Leah Bowring and Mrs Michelle Sadlow for running this initiative and for giving our students the gift of a firm foundation in oral language.

In Sport, our students had many opportunities to keep active through initiatives organised by our phenomenal sports teacher Ms Millen. We had Little Athletics, Netball, AFL, Basketball, NRL and Gymnastics clinics during the year. Our students participated in Interschool Cross-Country, Netball, Soccer, Basketball, Badminton, Rugby Tag, Cricket and Volleyball and we had our most successful ever Interschools Athletics Carnival which Ms Millen says can in part be attributed to how thrilled the students were to represent OLOM in their new P&F sponsored OLOM sports shirts. I think our Athletics success can be attributed to Ms Millen's explicit teaching of sporting skills and her passion for physical activity and wellbeing that she inspires in our students. Throughout the year students were also able to participate in before school run club, before school soccer training and after school badminton, as well as the Footsteps dance program.

Ms Millen also introduced a system for tracking and keeping account of sports equipment and has upskilled students to run and manage the Sports Shed and sports equipment at lunch times, developing in our students some important life and leadership skills.

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Our choir students participated in external Music events like One Big Voice Choral Spectacular and the Catholic School's Spirit of the Arts Opening concert. Our choir students practice twice a week giving up their lunch time on a Monday and before school on a Friday to rehearse. Our thanks must be extended to these dedicated students and to the wonderful Ms Agnello, our Music teacher who goes above and beyond for our students, sharing with them the joy that Music brings to our lives.

Our resident Scientist, Mrs Alviani, inspires inquiring minds in our children. She has arranged incursions from the Water Corporation, and Science Alive incursions on chemical science, Earth and Space and Physical science. National Science week is also celebrated with many fun activities like cooking. Thank you Mrs Alviani for all you do to engender in our students a love of Science.

This year we participated in the Jump Jam competition. We had 12 students from Years 4 and 5 participate and came 4th place out of 12 schools. The students committed to practice from mid Term 1 until the first few weeks of Term 4. This was a great effort and a very big thank you must go to Ms Mikulich for organising this opportunity and for rehearsing the dance with our children. Once again here is an example of our teachers going beyond their duty statement to provide unique experiences and opportunities for our students.

This year, our Aboriginal Playgroup, Koorda Moort Waabiny which means Friends, Family, Playtime, was born. We began playgroup with one child and this group has now grown to 7 children. Mrs Billy-Rooney our Transforming Lives Education Officer, who facilitates playgroup is to be congratulated on the birth of this wonderful community initiative. We know it will grow from strength to strength in 2022.

2021 saw the commencement of our Sensory Integration Program, 'SENSE-ational Kids'. A huge thank you must go to Mrs Thomas, our school social worker for implementing this wonderful initiative. Mrs Thomas has been ably assisted by Mrs Sadlo, Ms Mikulich and Mr Marks to run the program. SENSE-ational Kids helps support our students' mental health and wellbeing through self-regulation. The program will continue next year but during a new time slot.

We continued to embed Mindfulness and Meditation practice in our school at both a classroom and whole school level. Mindfulness practice was also incorporated into our Behaviour Management process. Next year we will have a more targeted focus on Health and Wellbeing with two specialist teachers teaching in this learning area and championing wellbeing practices across our school. They will teach an integrated program which will include the West Australian Health Curriculum, the Keeping Safe Child Protection Curriculum, Aussie Optimism our new resiliency program and our Mindfulness and Meditation practices. The children at OLOM will be given every opportunity to build and develop a range of tools and strategies that will benefit them for the rest of their lives. Ms Brown will teach Health in Years 1 and 2 and Ms Millen will teach Health in Years 3 to 6.

In 2021, we introduced clubs at lunchtime. Clubs facilitated positive social interactions between our students and provided children with an opportunity to engage in creative activities during their break time. Our heartfelt thanks to Mrs Thomas and Mrs Billy-Rooney who run this program twice a week.

In 2021 we introduced two new Year 6 leadership positions – headboy and headgirl. We congratulate Achieu and Deng as headgirl and headboy and all the other Year 6 leaders on setting a high standard for those who follow. We plan to expand the leadership roles further in 2022. All Year 6 students will have opportunities to grow their leadership skills and capabilities whether they have a formal

leadership role or not. This year we introduced leadership speeches and nominations for Year 6 leadership positions at the end of Year 5. This will ensure that our Year 6 leaders are ready to engage in their roles from the first day of school in the new year.

We aim to roll out a class representative system in Years 4 and 5 to provide students with the opportunity to gain leadership experience. This leadership system was successfully trialled in Year 4 this year.

After surveying the students, seeking feedback from our teachers and discussing the pros and cons of homework with our P&F, we decided to trial a new homework procedure for Term 1, 2022. Students in Years 1 to 6 will have daily reading homework. Students in Years 5 and 6 will have project homework to complete. If parents want additional homework, children will have access to Mathletics to practice Mathematics skills taught in class. A copy of the Homework proposal was attached to our Newsletter in Week 6 of Term 4. After Term 1, parents, staff and students will be surveyed to see whether we continue with the proposed homework structure.

Our teachers dedicated 20 hours of time learning about English as an Additional Language or Dialect students in 2021. Tracking, assessing and reporting EALD students on progress maps has now become embedded practise in our school. A big thank you to Ms Mikulich who has been our EALD leader and champion.

Classes from Years 4 to 6 trialled a Data Management System, which will be fully implemented across the school from Years 1 to 6 to track student growth next year. This system ensures that data is used to inform teaching practice and will provide us with the structures to track how school improvement initiatives are impacting student learning outcomes.

Community

This year we commenced our before and after school care program, Camp Australia. Enrolments have steadily grown and we now have on average 5 children attend before school on a Wednesday and 9 children attend after school on a Wednesday which is the busiest Camp Australia day of the week.

Our P&F must also be recognised for their efforts in building our community. This year we trialled allocating an event to a year group, asking for parent volunteers from a particular year to support just one event in a year. This system has proved to be most effective and will continue in 2022.

We also launched our Facebook year group pages and every year group now has a parent rep who administers the year group page. This has proved to be an effective form of communication and friend building. A special thank you to all our parent reps.

A considerable amount of money has been raised for our school from the efforts of our dedicated team of P&F parents. A group of 10 people on average meet twice a term to discuss friend and fund raising events. The hard working and dedicated P&F team commit many after-hours work for the benefit of our school community and we must thank every member for their outstanding efforts and the generosity of their time this year.

Our P&F have sponsored the purchase of OLOM shirts for interschool sports events and shirts for music events too. They have purchased sport equipment and have generously gifted each class \$250

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to purchase resources or experiences for our students. Recently the P&F donated money to the purchase of a portable sound system for the school. These are just some of the initiatives they support and sponsor.

In 2021, we formed a uniform committee tasked with the mandate to review our school uniform. A survey to parents, staff and students will go out in the new year.

We changed our parent information night to a meet and greet the teacher on the same evening as our school sundowner. This proved to be a successful initiative as many more parents popped in to meet the teacher than we have previously had at stand-alone parent information nights. We will continue this format in 2022.

This year we held our first two inaugural cultural morning teas for our Vietnamese and Sudanese families to provide them with the opportunity to network and connect with other families and to share some school information that had been translated into the Vietnamese and Dinka languages. A very big thank you to Ms Mikulich who initiated and organised these community building events.

Stewardship

Under the very capable leadership of Ray, with his able assistant Roy, our school grounds and buildings are meticulously maintained and improved. This year we installed patios outside Pre-Primary and in the Kiss and Drive to protect children and families from the weather. We will be installing bollards in Kiss and Drive in December for the safety of our students.

Our new front wall and entrance gate were installed at the beginning of the year, together with a carpark upgrade. Ray's pride and joy is the bowling worthy green grass strip at the front of our school, which puts a smile on my face every morning that I drive through the school gates.

Three dangerous trees were chopped down and replaced and branches trimmed on the remaining trees on our grounds. 15 air conditioning units will be removed off the rooves of our classrooms in December. New cabinets have been fitted in all classrooms from Years 2 to 6.

We will take ownership of the land at 6 Wade Court, on the 8th of December, a contract that has taken two years to finalise. This land will provide our school with much needed additional space. The land will be fenced in the new year and once our change of use application has been processed with the City of Wanneroo, we will be able to grass the new land and let the children play.

We received approval from CEWA to undertake some minor self-funded building works. We are extending a passage way in our Administration block through to the new sensory room we created this year. We will also be turning a storeroom in the library into a comfortable and cosy teacher work space and will be extending windows in the library that will bring in a view of the oval and a glass door that will allow access from the oval to the library. We will also be fitting high desk work benches for teachers and students to sit at in the library space. We want the library to be a well utilized room, where children and staff have a place to work and relax. I would like to thank Mrs Mahar for transforming our library over the course of 2021 into such an inviting and welcoming room in our school. Mrs Mahar's passion for literature and inspiring in our students a love of reading is evident in the way she so lovingly looks after the library space. Our sincerest thanks to Mrs Mahar.

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Our school is enjoying a very strong enrolment pattern, and our sincere thanks goes to Sue Griffin our marketing guru for all the work she does in promoting our wonderful school. We employed a professional videographer who will produce some promotional videos as well as drone footage of the school grounds. Keep looking at our website and Facebook page for the upload of this new material.

Our Sustainability Committee has done an outstanding job at raising awareness of the impact of our plastic footprint on our planet. The children have been educated throughout the course of the year on recycling practices and the success of this program was evident at our P&F Outdoor Movie event, where plastic bottles and cans were collected in a separate bin for recycling. Lunch procedures were changed to allow children to play first and then eat. This has resulted in less food being thrown away and wasted. Our sincerest thanks to Mrs Catalano and Ms Pirozzi for leading change in the sustainability space, in our school.

This year we turned our teacher workroom into a sensory room, which has been well utilised by many of our students under the supervision of an educator. This room assists children to regulate their emotions in a calm space. My thanks to the visionary Ms Zanetti who championed this initiative.

Other projects around the school included the installation of a new server in the library, the purchase of 240 new iPads to be rolled out in 2022 for a 1:1 program for our students in Years 3-6, the installation of a new shed for P&F resources, the construction of an audiovisual cupboard in the undercover area, and the roll out of new Macbooks for all staff.

In 2021 we streamlined our internal communication processes with daily notices and the development of an online staff handbook and induction.

In 2022 we will have a distributed leadership model, with many staff taking on advocate roles for specific areas of focus in the school. We thank these staff for their commitment and undertaking. I would also like to thank our Lead Teachers for the tireless commitment to our school improvement initiative and for supporting us wholeheartedly on this journey. Ms Arfuso, Mrs Fernandez, Ms Pirozzi and Ms Ryan you have been outstanding Lead Teachers and we look forward to continuing our journey together in 2022.

We will have several new staff join our amazing team in 2022:

Mrs Sarah Cragg will teach Auslan, Ms Jessica Taylor will join us as a Pre-Primary teacher, Mrs Alison Fitt will be a Special Needs Education Assistant in Years 1 and 2, Mrs Laurie Joseph will be working with Mrs Young in the front office for one day each week, Mrs Casale has been appointed as a Kindergarten Education Assistant and Mr Mark Rafferty joins our teaching staff as a Year 3 teacher. We warmly welcome all these new staff members, we know God has especially sent them to us.

We also thank and farewell Mrs Pat McCabe, our Kindergarten Education Assistant and we wish her well in her future endeavours. We thank and farewell Ms Mikulich too and congratulate her on her appointment to Catholic Education Western Australia as an EALD consultant for the Perth Metro Region.

Farewell

Tonight we need to farewell two Advisory Council members and acknowledge their contributions to our school.

We acknowledge and say thank you to Toni Fidele. Toni has served 6 years on the School Board and Advisory Council. Toni we thank you for the time you have committed to the School Board and Advisory Council and we are grateful for all the wisdom and experience you have been so willing to share with us. Please accept this gift and flowers as a token of our appreciation. Sharon Muir has also been on our School Board and Advisory Council for the last 6 years. Sharon thank you for monitoring the financial activity of the school and for presenting a monthly report explaining the schools financial position to the Board and Advisory Council members. As a token of appreciation please accept these flowers and gift from us. I would also like to acknowledge Sue McPhail, our Business Manager and Finance Officer for her support and contribution to Sharon's responsibility as Treasurer.

In Closing

In closing there are a few more people I must thank. The team of Sharon Young, Sue McPhail, Ray McPhail and Rob Zoontiens deserve a separate mention for their commitment and diligence in caring for the parents, staff, students and our school grounds and buildings.

As a team they are the Ministry of First Impressions! Sharon and Sue always greet everyone with a smile and go above and beyond to attend to any question or request asked of them. For Ray and Rob, nothing is ever too much trouble, and we are consistently complimented on the impeccable state of our school and grounds.

To our wonderful canteen staff, Jeanetta and Di, who are always willing to lend a hand and run the most efficient kitchen around, our sincerest appreciation to both of you for all you do.

And second last but certainly not least, to the amazing, passionate and dedicated teachers and Education Assistants of OLOM. I am constantly in awe of your commitment to your calling in education. There is no doubt in my mind that your work provides a welcoming, pastoral, and educationally stimulating learning environment for every child here. You deserve to be acknowledged and thanked for all that you do and the difference you make in the lives of all children at OLOM. I can confidently say there are no unseen children in your classrooms. You may never know or see the outcomes of the profound impact you have on the lives of the children here, but it is important to remember that your work impacts the future. You will never know where your influence stops, and what an amazing privilege that is!

To my colleague and partner Meagan - your counsel, advice and the generosity of time is integral to the effective leadership of this school community. I am incredibly blessed to journey the triumphs and challenges of each and every day in partnership with you.

OLOM is a very special place and to all our families who contribute to making this community such a vibrant one, I thank you and I ask that God bless you abundantly for your commitment and partnership with us.

Finally, I wish you all of you and your families, the very best over the Christmas season. May the birth of the Christ child bring peace and joy to you and your loved ones.

God Bless.

SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL CHAIR REPORT

Welcome everyone to Our Lady of Mercy's Annual General Meeting and thank you for being here tonight. I am extremely grateful for your generosity of time and commitment at this very busy time of year.

I would like to start by thanking Father Sam, who continues to lead out Catholic Faith, this is central to our community and critical to our school's future. Father Sam, thank you for your ongoing support and encouragement here at Our Lady of Mercy.

This year the Advisory Council has supported and endorsed the school budget and other financial matters along with Mrs Komnick. Financially Our Lady of Mercy is in good shape and we were able to purchase the land at 6 Wade Court (for those who are unsure of where this is it's the empty land adjacent to both sides of the basketball courts) this will, over years ahead, be redeveloped to suit the growth of the school.

The Advisory Council would like to thank Mrs Komnick, Miss Zanetti and the entire staff of Our Lady of Mercy for their professionalism and hard work they have displayed to make our school the wonderful school community it is. We are lucky to have such dedicated staff that care for our children.

This year we have two members leaving the Advisory Council. One is our Treasurer Sharon Muir. Thank you Sharon for what you have done over the years to keep us up to date and informed (with Sue McPhail's help of course) with the school's finances.

As this is my last year on the Advisory Council, and at the school, I want to take this opportunity to thank all the Teachers and Staff that have helped not only Natalia and the Year 6s graduating this year but all the students from Pre-Primary through to Year 6. As I said earlier your dedication to helping and supporting our children through their primary school years is greatly appreciated. May God Bless you all and help you to continue the great work you all do.

Since we had two people nominate for the two memberships being vacated on the Advisory Council, we will not have to go to the vote. We welcome Rachel Sunderland and Andrea Ludvick to the Advisory Council as our new members for 2022. The members will get together at the end of this AGM to discuss the roles they will be taking and this will be advised once completed in the newsletter next week.

Lastly, I would like to wish everyone a very happy and safe break. May you all have a Merry Christmas. Stay safe and I wish you all a healthy 2022.