



Annual Community Meeting Leadership Report

"Be the change that you wish to see in the world."

Mahatma Gandhi

As the Principal of Our Lady's Assumption School (OLA), I am proud to say that as educators and servants to this wonderful community, we strive to instill the RICE values of respect, integrity compassion and excellence. What sets us apart, from other schools, is the focus to academic excellence and the value added to everything we do.



At OLA, we **don't just educate** students in the nine learning areas, in a strong catholic community, we work towards providing them with a caring and friendly environment that is conducive to learning. We aim to give them experiences that they will treasure forever and instil in them the attributes that will make them respected members of our community, now and in the future when they graduate from OLA.

I usually wait to the very end to thank people, but on this occasion, I will be doing it at the very beginning. Having worked with many staff members as a teacher and leader, over 35 years, I can honestly say I am proud to be associated with OLA and work with a great Parish Priest (Fr Ken) and group of teachers, educational assistants, administrators, groundsperson, canteen, school councillor, library technician, cleaners and Assistant Principals - every person employed at OLA.

Over the last six years as the leader of OLA, one of the many strengths we have managed to develop at OLA has been our strong sense of community and values-based education. Rooted in the Catholic tradition, the school fosters a culture of RICE (as mentioned previously). With Religious Education being the core learning area at all catholic schools, students are encouraged to explore their faith, engage in community activities, and develop a deep sense of social responsibility. This commitment to character development not only enhances the students' overall well-being but also prepares them to become responsible and caring citizens.

The school's vision is centred around preparing students for a rapidly evolving world. We, at OLA, understand the importance of adapting to the changing educational landscape. With a forward-looking approach, the school embraces innovative teaching methods and technology to keep students at the forefront of their education. By fostering a growth mindset and a love for learning, the school aims to empower students to meet the challenges of the 21st century. This is one of the reasons why we have appointed a teacher to specialise and teach Digital Technologies in 2024.

As we continue to grow and value add at OLA, we are dedicated to fostering a diverse and inclusive environment. We endeavour to recognize the value of different perspectives and backgrounds and actively seek to create a welcoming space for all students, ensuring that every individual can thrive and feel a sense of belonging. This vision of inclusivity helps students appreciate the richness of diversity and prepares them for a globalized world.

Finally, OLA's strengths lie in its commitment to academic excellence, values-based education, forward-thinking vision, and dedication to inclusivity. These qualities come together to create an environment where students are not only well-prepared for academic success but also for a life characterized by respect, integrity, compassion and excellence in readiness to face the challenges of the future.



Catholic Identity (Discipleship)

As mentioned previously, Catholic education and faith is undeniably the core learning area at OLA. This emphasis on faith-based education is deeply intertwined with the school's strategic plan. OLA recognizes the importance of instilling a strong foundation in Catholic teachings and traditions. Working closely with the OLA Parish, the school ensures that students have the opportunity to grow in their understanding of the Catholic faith through religious education lessons, sacramental preparation and celebrations, and participation in Mass and other religious activities such as supporting various community groups e.g. St Vincent de Paul appeals, **Archbishop's LifeLink**, Wheelchair for Kids, Caritas (Project Compassion), Jeans Friday and many more.

The partnership between OLA School and the OLA Parish is a unique and vital aspect of the school's identity. This collaboration with Fr Ken allows for a seamless integration of faith into every facet of a student's educational experience. Students benefit from the guidance and spiritual support from Fr Ken, and the parish community, providing them with a nurturing environment in which to develop their faith and personal values.

Through this close partnership, OLA School not only imparts religious knowledge but also fosters a deep sense of spirituality, morality, and community. Students learn to embrace the core tenets of Catholic faith, including love, compassion, and service to others. They are encouraged to put these teachings into practice in their everyday lives, making faith an active and tangible aspect of their education.

As part of the staff faith development, all staff attended a PD on the parts of the mass earlier this year. The presenter talked about the different parts of the mass and their meaning. It gave the staff, especially the younger staff, a great understanding of why certain practices have been included in the mass and what they mean.

In essence, Catholic faith is not just a subject at OLA School; it is a way of life and a guiding force that shapes the character and values of the students. The strong connection with the OLA Parish ensures that faith remains at the heart of the educational experience, providing a solid foundation for students to live purposeful and spiritually fulfilling lives.

Continuing (Priorities) in 2024:

- Sustain/Maintain the connection/ link between the school and parish;
- *Adults (staff and Parents) to take a more active role in their own faith development;*
- Provide opportunities for parent faith development **students'/parents'** religious workshops;
- Sacramental Interactive Family Workshops;
- Sacramental Reflection Days for Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation;
- Sacramental Celebrations;



- Learn more about the charism of the Dominican Sisters Order and the role they played in Catholic Education at OLA.

Education (Learning)

OLA achieved pleasing results in 2023 across all domains. The school performed above the CEWA, state and national benchmark for all assessments in Years 3 and 5. In particular, our Year 3 cohort performed well above CEWA, state and national norms and are to be commended on their efforts. Our Year 5 group performed above expectations as well, surpassing CEWA, state and national norms across all assessed areas.

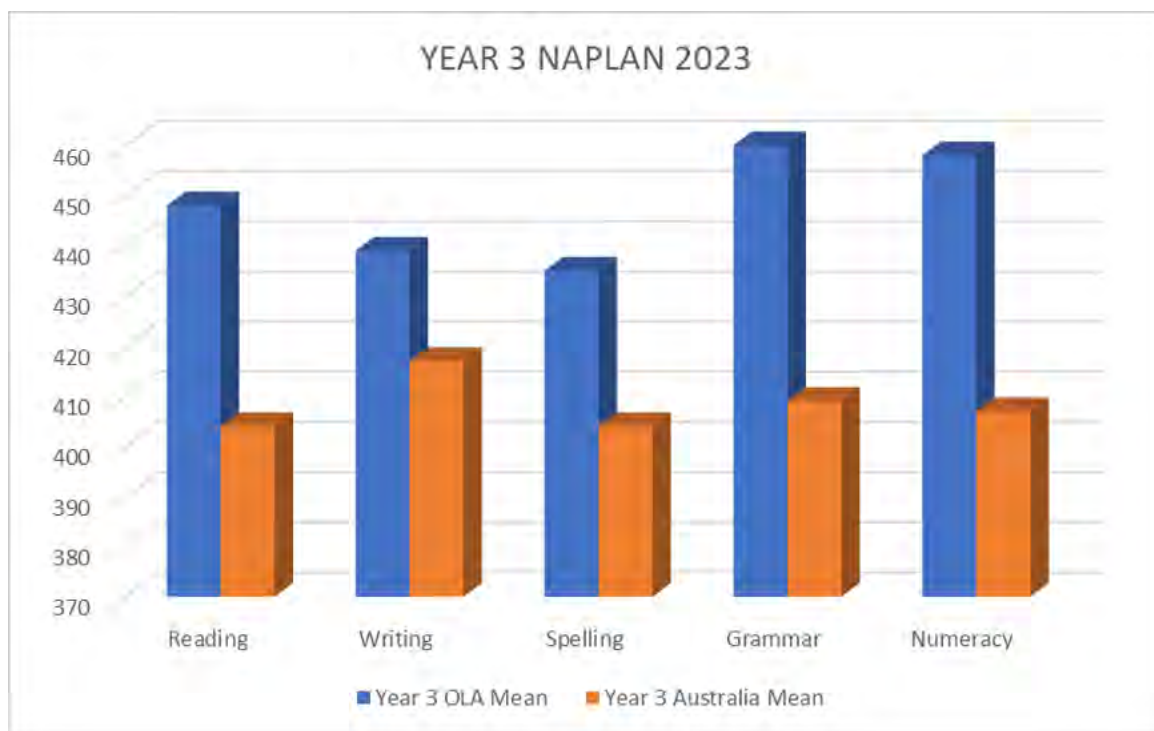
Year 3 Data – Compared to CEWA, State and National NAPLAN Data





OUR LADY'S ASSUMPTION
SCHOOL

	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar	Numeracy
Year 3 OLA	448	439	435	460	458
Year 3 CEWA	400	413	401	400	401
Year 3 WA	394	411	399	400	401
Year 3 Australia	404	417	404	409	407
Plus / Minus over WA	+54	+28	+36	+60	+57



Year 5 Data – Compared to CEWA, State and National NAPLAN Data

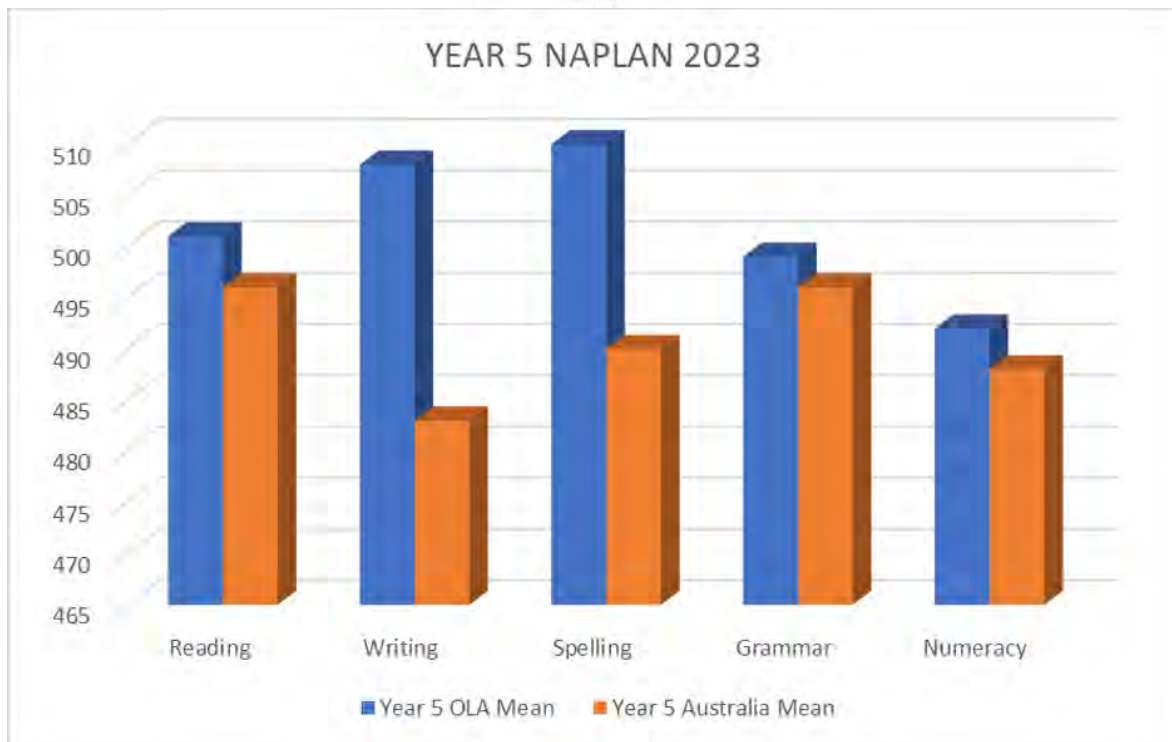
Reading	Writing	Spelling
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OUR LADY'S ASSUMPTION
SCHOOL



	Reading	Writing	Spelling	Grammar	Numeracy
Year 5 OLA	501	508	510	499	492
Year 5 CEWA	495	484	491	490	483
Year 5 WA	490	478	488	491	484
Year 5 Australia	496	483	490	496	488
Plus / Minus over WA	+11	+30	+22	+8	+8

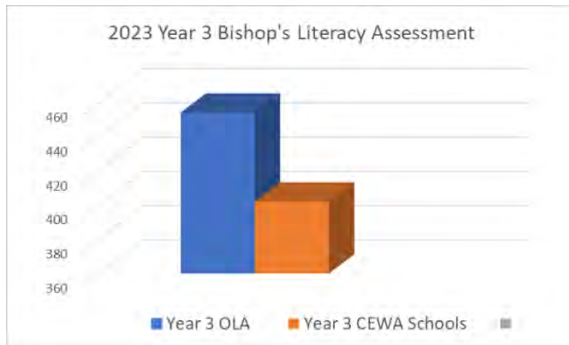


Staff have explored the data in detail with our school support consultant during a PLC and will continue to use the data plan in 2024. As the style of assessment was different this year, schools are unable to determine growth in student achievement. The assessments were adaptive, that is each student receives a different set of questions based on the accuracy of their answers provided. The assessment is tailored to their level of achievement. With time and support, we will continue to decipher the data so that we can give our students to improve in all areas of literacy and numeracy. Assessments in the Progressive Achievement Tests (PAT) will continue to be included in our testing, in the early years and will used to plan and cater for the needs of the students.

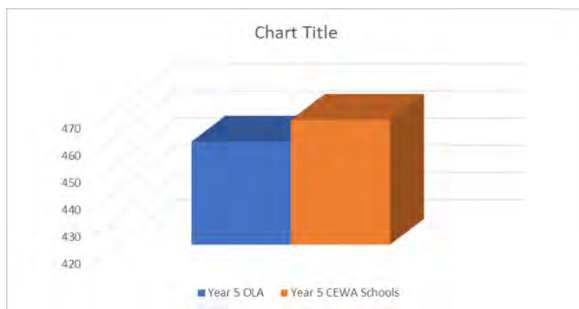
As communicated to all community members recently (teacher placements for 2024), and the new Enterprise Bargaining Agreement (EBA) for Teachers being implemented in schools in 2024, we continue to value add to OLA and at the same **time look at ways to reduce the teachers' workload (as part of their EBA agreement)**. In 2024 we have decided to appoint a Digital Technologies Teacher (PP-Year 6) who will be the coordinator and teacher of Digital Technologies from Pre-Primary to Year 6. Since arriving at OLA, we have value added by introducing HaSS teachers, Science and now a Digital Technology Teachers. Combined with the Music, Italian and Physical Education teachers, we continue to diversify and explore many different ways to provide the best possible education for our students.

Very good results in BRLA (Religious Education) can be credited to the teaching, engaged students, and a strong RE program. Students are not only acquiring

knowledge about the Catholic doctrine, but also developing critical thinking skills, ethical awareness, and a deeper understanding of the cultural and historical contexts of their faith. Further analysis will be conducted, in the new year, of the Year 5 results and support will be offered to these students in Year 6.



	Year 3
OLA	454
CEWA	402



	Year 5
OLA	458
CEWA	466

Continuing (Priorities) in 2024:

- Continuing with Literacy Development (PLD);
- Continuing with Mathematics development by providing students with launch, explore, summarising approach during Mathematics lessons;
- Sustaining and consolidating current practises and procedures;
- Effectively incorporating the achievement standards to assist with making fair and consistent judgements about student achievement;
- Introducing new specialist area in Digital Technologies;
- Introduce Berry St Care Program

Bishops' Religious Literacy Assessment (BRLA)

- Continue to support the children as they travel through their catholic faith.
- Analyse the Year 5 results and assist these students in gaining a greater understanding of the Catholic Doctrine in Year 6.



Community (Engagement)

Community building events and celebrations at OLA, such as like Mother's Day, Father's Day, Grandparents Day, ANZAC Day, NAIDOC Week and Remembrance Day play a crucial role in strengthening social bonds and honouring different aspects of our society and culture. Over the last few years the staff have worked tirelessly to build our community and have organised and coordinated these events. With the new EBA being implemented in 2024 and beyond for teachers, and in reference to the reduced teacher work hours, moving forward parents will be encouraged and invited to coordinate and assist at some of these events.

A huge thank you to all staff members who have taken on extra responsibilities in supporting the parish as well as external agencies. Staff have worked tirelessly to support Caritas (Project Compassion), LifeLink Appeal, St Vincent de Paul (Winter/Summer and Food Drives), Jeans Friday and Wheelchair For Kids organisations, as well as supporting the students with altar serving training for our parish and clubs. We are not separate to our church and our beliefs and ideals are one. Thank you to everyone in this wonderful community who supported these initiatives with donations and allowing their children to be active members within our parish.

The inclusion of wellness programs at OLA, over the last few years, reflects a growing recognition of the importance of both mental and physical health in the overall well-being of students and staff. These programs contribute significantly to the holistic development of students, fostering a positive and supportive environment that goes beyond academic achievements. A huge thank you to the staff who have taken on this initiative at OLA and have made it enjoyable occasions at OLA. This initiative will continue in 2024 and beyond.

In late 2022, the idea of a service dog at OLA was put forward to me. Since deciding we would proceed with a service dog, we were given Snoopy as a gift **and we haven't looked back. With all his service training during the year, Snoopy has been an exemplary 'staff member' at OLA. Snoopy has looked after** children who have anxiety (they visit him regularly), upset about leaving their parents in the morning and on many other occasions. He seems to have the ability be able to pick those children who need the greatest support. As he spends time in the classrooms, he has been trained to sit quietly and interact with children when he is given permission.

Continuing (Priorities) in 2024:

- Continue to develop community and a connection with the wider community;
- Continue the Wellness Program for students and staff.



Stewardship (Accountability)

As we reflect on the year 2023, we cannot help but express our heartfelt gratitude for the incredible achievements and progress we have made at our school. The success and growth we have experienced could not have been possible without the unwavering dedication and support of the School Advisory Council (SAC) and the Parents and Friends (P&F) Committees.

Their commitment to our school's mission and their tireless efforts have been nothing short of remarkable in ensuring there were sufficient funds to landscape the oval and different areas, resurface the basketball courts, resurfacing the Goretti Hall and new basketball rings (still coming), new soccer, football, netball and athletics uniforms, teacher and student resources as well as other resources purchased throughout the year.

The enhancements in our educational programs, the maintenance and improvement of our facilities, and the overall well-being of our students and staff have all been greatly advanced by their guidance and financial support. These achievements are a reflection of their unwavering commitment to ensuring that our students receive the best possible education.

Moving forward we have been able to implement exciting new initiatives, support our teachers and staff, and create a nurturing and vibrant learning environment, all thanks to the **SAC's** strategic vision and the P&F Committee's fundraising and community-building efforts. The collaborative spirit between these two essential groups has been instrumental in driving the positive changes we've witnessed this year.

In the most recent school audit review, OLA emerged as an exemplary model of educational excellence, with some minor areas to work on. The comprehensive assessment highlighted the school's commitment to fostering a conducive learning environment, characterized by dedicated school, innovative teaching methodologies, and sound student support systems. The audit commended the school's emphasis on holistic development, encompassing not only academic achievement but also extracurricular involvement. The auditor also highlighted the commitment to maintaining high standards of transparency, accountability, and continuous improvement throughout the evaluation process.

The exemplary status attained in the audit reflects the collective efforts of the entire school community, educators, students, and parents who work collaboratively to uphold and enhance the quality of education provided. CEWA have stated because of our high standing in our recent audit, they will be using our school as a model for other schools.



It is with deep gratitude that we thank the SAC and the P&F Committee members for their dedication to the advancement of our school and the opportunities they have made available to our students. I especially would like thank Nigel Swavley, Mark La Cava, Deanna Marocchi and Lina Brunini for their support and efforts over the last few years, in their various roles. These wonderful people will be stepping down from their positions on the SAC and P&F Committees **at the conclusion of today's meeting.**

As we look forward to the future, we do so with great optimism, knowing that with the SAC and P&F continued support and guidance, our school will continue to thrive and provide an exceptional education for our students. The achievements of 2023 stand as a testament to what can be accomplished when a community comes together with a shared vision and unwavering dedication. We are excited about the opportunities that lie ahead and the continued success of our school.

Staff Leaving

- Lucy Coniglio
- Michele Carr
- Emily Coffey
- Daniel Gonzales

Secondment (2024)

- Belinda Mitchell – (St Mary's College, Broome)

On Leave (2024)

- Bruno De Pietro
- Mary Barclay (LSL) – Term 2 (Weeks 6-11)
- Vanessa Knight (LSL) – Term 4
- Janelle Shine (LSL) – Term1 (Weeks 1-5)
- Karen Meleca (LSL) - Term 2 (Weeks 2-6)

Continuing (Priorities) in 2024:

- Redevelopment of ECE (Pre-Kindy/Kindy Playgrounds);
- Shade cover near library and outdoor volleyball areas;
- Goretti Hall resurfacing and electronic basketball rings (was scheduled for 2023).

I wish you all a safe and wonderful Christmas break and all the best for 2024.