



OUR LADY'S ASSUMPTION
SCHOOL

**Annual Community Meeting
9 November 2021**



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AGM 9 November, 2021 PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

**Vision is a destination – a fixed point to which we focus all effort.
Strategy is a route – an adaptable path to get us where we want to go.**

Simon Sinek

Good afternoon and welcome to our Annual Community Meeting.

At the conclusion of 2020, it was decided that 2021 would become a year of consolidation, as much has changed here in the last few years. It was time to not necessarily slow down, but to ensure that what we do, we do to the best of our ability. It was time to stop, take a breath and consolidate.

After the uncertainty of 2020, 2021 continued to have the possibility of lockdowns or other COVID-19 related implications hovering in the background of our school's planning, and no doubt in the planning of your families' work and activities. It is at this point that I would like to recognise the efforts, passion and care demonstrated by the staff of OLA who have continued to go above and beyond for your children.

In Greg's absence this year, I have become even more closely aware of how much love and care the staff demonstrate towards your children. This is not quantifiable in a school report, but I'm telling you now, that in my time here at OLA, I have seen this staff rise to every challenge and exceed expectations. I see it in the behaviour of our students, the empathy that they show to one another, the pride that they represent themselves, their school and their families with. I also want you to take into consideration that every staff member also has



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their own family and life that they have had to navigate through the last two years of COVID's impact, to me this makes our achievements even more profound and deserving of praise. Staff of OLA, on behalf of the Leadership Team, students, parents and the community of OLA, I thank you sincerely for all that you do, I see our RICE values alive in you all.

In 2021, we have been able to give our students what we could not last year, a 'near normal' year of schooling. To me the biggest standout has been our ability to gather as a community and celebrate at all opportunities.

In our Strategic Planning and CEWA's Quality Catholic Education model for our schools, there are four pillars that we address. I will now share those with you.

Catholic Identity (Discipleship)

Religious Education and faith formation 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 Church doctrine and traditions, through the Religious Education Units of Work, which are mandated by the Bishops of Western Australia and the Catholic Education Commission of Western Australia, are the resources from which all lessons are planned.

Throughout the year, the OLA students have supported a variety of charities, including the LifeLink program, Caritas, Project Compassion, and St Vincent de Paul. We will also soon be having our annual 'Wheels Day' supporting Brother Ollie, in his endeavour to provide wheelchairs for the needy. I'd not only like to thank the staff for their engagement in these initiatives but also to Mary Barclay and Rebecca Smith for their passion to nurture this vital aspect of our life at OLA.

After an invitation from Father Ken, many staff gave up their time on a Saturday to either coordinate, cook, serve or network with our parish at the monthly soup kitchen. This was a fantastic opportunity to participate in an act of service for our parish. It was humbling to participate in this activity, thank you to all staff who contributed in any way to this event, be it by cooking, setting up, serving, line dancing or cleaning up. Thank you, Julie, for taking on the role of staff liaison.

As you are all aware, the Sacraments are parish-based events, however, it is our responsibility to support the OLA parish with these celebrations. The sacramental preparation for Reconciliation, First Eucharist and Confirmation has been outstanding. Thank you to the Year Three, Year Four and Year Six teachers as well as Mary McAuliffe and other staff who spent countless hours coordinating the



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events, attending the Mass celebrations and for supporting Father Ken and the parish.

Bishops' Religious Literacy Assessment (BRLA)

- We were able to participate in the BRLA this year, however, we are still awaiting results to become available.

Priorities for 2022:

- *Further develop the link between the school and parish;*
- *Staff, parents and students will continue to be invited to take a more active role in their own faith development;*
- *Provide opportunities for parent faith development;*
- *Sacramental Interactive Family Workshops;*
- *Sacramental Reflection Days for Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation.*

Education (Learning)

Our primary focus for professional development this year, has been the refinement of the use of PLD (Promoting Literacy Development), our whole school approach to the teaching and learning of structured synthetic phonics.

The continuing of the teaching pedagogy and methodology, adopted and implemented by staff members, over the last few years, continues to be refined and consolidated. The real impact of the improved use of data in our school is reflected in the growth of our students and the magnified impact that a teacher has in class. Again, I come back to thanking the staff in their adoption of the initiatives that have been implemented here, for without your efforts, we would not see the growth in our students.

At OLA, we were well equipped to deal with the home learning that occurred in 2020, the staff's use of technology has become embedded in their pedagogy, with our students being engaged and able to access content wherever there is internet access. The transparency that this creates through the use of TEAMS, Class Notebooks and Seesaw gives parents a window of connection to what is being taught, which strengthens the home/school connection.

Our foci in 2021 were:

- *Brightpath – Moderation of students' writing;*



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- *Promoting Literacy Development (PLD) – Evidence-based program focusing on teaching Structured Synthetic Phonics (SSP), in conjunction with motor & movement & oral language skills, to help children achieve broad level literacy skills.*

The 2022 Curriculum Plan is currently being formulated, with emphasis being on sustaining and consolidating what we have implemented over the last few years, continuing our effective use of data, refocussing on our use of technology and introducing a numeracy focus.

2021 NAPLAN Results

After not having the NAPLAN assessments delivered in 2020 due to COVID, our students once again confidently tackled the week of testing. I believe that this confidence comes from the preparation that even begins the year before in some instances, helping students adjust to the style and format of questions that they will encounter. Reducing any anxiety attached to the testing experience only goes to improving a student's opportunity to perform at their best, which is all we ask of them.

Our school, once again, 'batted above average' giving us another celebration point with our Year Three and Year Five students performing above the average when compared to other Catholic schools, the rest of the state combined and all schools across the country. This is by no means a reason to rest on our laurels, as these results are the product of those who have come before us, the programs, intervention and extension that exists at OLA.

NAPLAN 2021									
Year Three				Year Five					
Mean Score Comparison for selected Year Level					Mean Score Comparison for selected Year Level				
Year	School	CEWA	State	National	Year	School	CEWA	State	National
2021					2021				
Reading	463	438	426	437	Reading	515	516	505	512
Writing	459	435	426	425	Writing	522	493	481	480
Spelling	442	418	410	421	Spelling	528	513	503	505
Grammar	475	429	421	433	Grammar	517	504	497	503
Numeracy	429	399	395	403	Numeracy	490	494	489	495



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Priorities for 2022:

- *Sustaining and consolidating what OLA has implemented;*
- *Continuing with our whole school approach to the explicit teaching of concepts;*
- *Regularly using and analysing data, to differentiate the curriculum, to cater for the needs of the children;*
- *Continuing with our networking opportunities to be coordinated with neighbouring Catholic schools;*
- *The 21st Century Learning concept, which includes incorporating contemporary learning environments, to continue in 2022 to ensure students are engaged in their learning and to cater for a variety of learning styles;*
- *Continue to further develop and review our curriculum programs within the school;*
- *Exploring numeracy as an area of improvement.*

Community (Engagement)

OLA has seen a resurgence in its image and reputation both within the school and the local communities. Enrolment applications have again increased significantly in 2021. Our Kindergarten classes for 2022 were already full in Term 3, with only a few places to spare in our Pre-Kindergarten program. In an area with a lot of good schools, it is great to see OLA where it belongs, as a school of choice. As Greg said at this time last year, we are not perfect in what we do, we do make mistakes, but we always endeavour to rectify issues and all decisions are made in the best interests of the students.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the outstanding efforts of the Parents & Friends' Association. We were able to finally have our fete, we were blessed with the fine weather that we had and set the scene for a very successful day. In addition to the Parents and Friends' Association, I'd like to extend a huge thank you to the multitude of volunteers who gave up their time or resources to either donate to, prepare for, set up, run or pack away our fete. Our unity and commitment to our children were on display, it is this that separates us from other schools.

Another highlight was our inaugural Story Slam, which was a resounding success, thank you parents, staff and wider community for supporting such a worthwhile initiative. Seeing the students being so excited about reading was a highlight for me.



Deanna and team, you have done a wonderful job supporting our community, people often forget that you are all volunteers and could all be doing more 'fun' things with your family, but no, you choose to be here making OLA a better place. I'd also like to recognise the efforts of Narelle Roberts, who steps down as the P&F representative to the School Advisory Council at the end of this year.

Priorities for 2022:

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

Stewardship (Accountability)

There are many elements within a Catholic school and administration processes that are undertaken to ensure the school runs effectively. At OLA, we have a very dedicated team that work together in the office. I would like to thank Karen Meleca, Judith Hille, Chris Balen and Jane Sloss for their continued support and willingness to put in the extra hours for the school and community.

I wish to highlight the professionalism of all the staff at OLA. We are very fortunate to have such committed staff, that enjoy working together, and ensure student educational needs are met. I'm grateful and appreciative of every single staff member of OLA. I'd also like to acknowledge the efforts of Rebecca Smith, who in Greg's absence has continued to excel in her role.

This year we have some movement within our staffing;

Staff Leaving

- Stephanie Figueira – (Mel Maria – Attadale)
- Michelle Symmons – (Whitfords Catholic Primary School – Whitfords)
- Maree Musca – (returning to St Columba's – Bayswater)

Secondment

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

On Leave

- Miss Smith (2022)
- Mr McIntyre (2022)
- Mrs McAuliffe (Semester 1, 2022)
- Mrs Meyerkort (Weeks 1-7 Term 1, 2022)
- Mrs Barclay (Week 9 Term 2 – Week 3 Term 3, 2022)



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- Mrs Dean (from May onwards, during 2022)
- Mrs Galipo (from March onwards, during 2022)

The above staff will be farewelled at our end of year celebration, sadly missed at OLA and we wish them all the best for 2022 (and beyond for those not returning).

Conversely, we will have staff joining us for 2022. It is at this point that I would like to welcome Mrs Johanna Carbone, Mrs Elena Capolingua, Miss Liana Anastasio, Miss Madison Hunter, Miss Jessica Ianetta, Mr James Ryan, Miss Sophia Carbone, Miss Sophie Costello and Miss Emily Coffey to our staff.

OLA School and the OLA School Board (now known as the OLA School Advisory Council) have been very proactive in ensuring that the school is well resourced. The members have assisted with the development and implementation of the new Strategic & School Improvement Plans, formalising school priorities, continuing the leasing and upgrading of ICT and maintenance and assisting with the purchasing of the new teaching resources. The School Advisory Council has been very proactive in catering for the learning needs of students.

I wish to thank the OLA School Advisory Council for their commitment to our school. The support and collaboration of the Council, along with their generosity of time, is appreciated, as is their willingness to be involved in such a vital role within our school community. I especially would like to thank our Chairperson, Amanda Cipriani, for her attention to detail and drive to improve. The countless hours she puts into the school is amazing, and we are so fortunate to have her as council leader. Having said that, the Advisory Council as a whole have put in many hours of voluntary time, researching initiatives, seeking quotes and lending their expertise. On behalf of our school community, I extend our thanks to each and every one of you. It is also at this point that I would like to recognise the contributions made by those OLASAC members who have reached the end of their terms this year. Dani Wares and Brooke Tran, the school is indebted to your commitment to our school. We also lose Dr Nathan Leber, as he relocates his family to South Australia. Nathan, thank you for your efforts as the Finance Officer as well as our source of reflection through your contributions to our newsletter and spiritual guidance for our students in their sacramental preparation. Dani, Brooke and Nathan, thank you.

Priorities for 2022:

- *Continue the renewal of furniture (Year Five and Year Four), learning areas and play areas;*
- *Continue to focus on the execution of the maintenance plan;*
- *Begin the transformation of the Veritas Library;*



- *Continue to develop community and look for opportunities to connect with the wider community.*

Conclusion

I'd like to take this opportunity to wish all our departing staff and families all the very best at their new schools, you will always be welcome as part of this community.

In 2022, we look forward to welcoming Mr Martin back, even if it means uncovering the Collingwood items in his office. With deepest sincerity, it has been an honour to stand here before you today, and to have had the privilege of stepping in to lead our school this year. I know that along the way at some point, I may not have been able to please every one of you for whatever reason, I do hope that if this was the case, that you understand that I've only ever tried to make what I believe is the best call for our community.

I wish you all a safe and holy Christmas.

Yours sincerely


Michael Morris
PRINCIPAL
9 November, 2021



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Dear Community Members

Please be advised the placements listed below are not finalised and staff may still be redeployed to other positions before the commencement of the new school year (2022). Community members will be advised if changes are made to the staffing list below.

Staffing 2022

Teaching Levels/Roles	Names
Principal	Greg Martin
Assistant Principal	Michael Morris
Pre-Kindergarten (G & M)	Johanna Carbone
Pre-Kindergarten Education Assistants	Thursday: Nicoletta Arace and Julia Tamigi Friday: Afrodiyi Bolzonella
Kindergarten G	Elena Capolingua Colette Meyerkort (Wednesday mornings)
Kindergarten Education Assistant	Denice Lombardo
Kindergarten Education Assistant	Janelle Shine
Kindergarten M	Kristen Dempster Luisa Durkin (Wednesday mornings)
Kindergarten Education Assistant	Michele Carr
Kindergarten Education Assistant	Lucy Coniglio
Pre-Primary G	Liana Anastasio
Pre-Primary M	Sabrina Saraceni
Pre-Primary Education Assistants	Bernadette Leatherland & Michelle Griffiths
Year 1G	Simone Taylor
Year 1M	Madison Hunter
Year 2G	Jessica Ianetta (Mon-Wed) Jodie McCarthy (Thurs-Fri)
Year 2M	Maree Noonan
Year 3G	Mary Barclay
Year 3M	Vanessa Knight
Year 4G	Dianne Scoble
Year 4M	James Ryan
Year 5G	Bruno De Pietro
Year 5M	Sophia Carbone
Year 6G	Tiana Versace
Year 6M	Julie Pilatti
Music	Semester 1: Sophie Costello Semester 2: Mary McAuliffe
Physical Education Specialist	Ciaran Allsop
Italian	Paola Pizzo
Science (PP-6)	Term 1 Weeks 1-6: Emily Coffey Colette Meyerkort



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Teaching Levels/Roles	Names
HASS (PP-Year 1) & Intensive Intervention	Tina Ravi
HASS (Years 2-6) & Library	Luisa Durkin
Intensive Intervention & REACH	Anella Tollis
Intensive Intervention	Term 1: Lauren Dean
Intensive Intervention	Term 1 Weeks 1-5: Ella Galipo
Intensive Intervention Team Member (EA)	Lidia La Rosa
Intensive Intervention Team Member (EA)	Julia Greay
Intensive Intervention Team Member (EA)	Julia Tamigi
Intensive Intervention Team Member (EA)	Paola Pizzo
Intensive Intervention Team Member (EA)	Jacinta Crabb
Intensive Intervention Team Member (EA)	Genevieve Orton
School Counsellor	Nicole Leach
Executive Assistant	Karen Meleca
Finance Officer	Judith Hille
Administration Officer	Jane Sloss
Library Officer	Claire Dale
Canteen Manageress & Assistant	Maria & Anisha Giangilio
Groundsman/Maintenance	Franco Arace
Outside School Hours Care Nominated Supervisor	Kristen Ruffo
Outside School Hours Care Educator	Santa Ruffo