



OUR LADY'S ASSUMPTION
— SCHOOL —

**Annual Community Meeting
8 November 2022**



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AGM 8 November, 2022

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT



Good afternoon and welcome to our Annual Community Meeting.

In the last few years we have, as a school, worked tirelessly to ensure that the students and families in our care are given the best possible education. After a period of reshaping what education looks like at Our Lady's Assumption School it was decided that 2021 and then 2022 would become years 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.

This period of consolidation was somewhat perfectly timed with the uncertainty of the impact of COVID-19 through 2020, 2021 and the first half of 2022. We have lived under the continued possibility of lockdowns or other COVID-19 related implications lingering 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.

I look at our current Year 1 cohort who have only known COVID influenced schooling since Kindergarten, their introduction to schooling has been tainted by



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lockdowns, isolation periods, close contact tracing and an interruption to their face to face teaching experience.

This uncertainty has raised the baseline level of anxiety in our society as we navigated unprecedented and unpredictable times, the teachers, students and families of OLA have handled the last couple years amazingly well. We as a community should hold our heads high in how we have responded in these times. To see how we bounce back at events such as our camp, colour run and Sacramental celebrations should bring pride to us all.

Last year, in Greg's absence, I became 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. This year I once again have the privilege of conveying this message to you once again.

I again want you to take into consideration that every staff member also has their own family and life that they have had to navigate through the last three 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 wider community of OLA, I thank you sincerely for all that you do, I see our RICE values alive in you all.

In the second half of 2022, we have been able to give our students what we could not last year, a 'near normal' semester of schooling. To me the biggest standout has been our ability to gather as a community and celebrate at all opportunities. Being able to see our Year 6 students head to camp without having to log negative RAT's brought a smile to many, although we did have our COVID response plan and supplies of RATs, masks and sanitiser with us!

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



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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.

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 Miss Costello and other staff who spent countless hours coordinating the 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 to us.

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)

2022

Staff engaged in a Mathematics Professional Development Day looking at the Launch Explore Summarise Framework for a problem-based approach to Mathematics. Teachers investigated ways in which they can apply this model to their teaching and create open ended mathematics tasks for all concepts of Mathematics. Due to the interruptions faced during the end of Term 1 and 2, it has been decided Mathematics will be a continued focus for 2023.



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The continuation and refinement of our practises and knowledge of PLD (Promoting Literacy Development) has also been a focus of our Professional Learning Communities (PLC). As we enter our 3rd year of implementation, students are becoming increasingly familiar with the lesson structure and expectations resulting in pleasing results across the whole school which is a major benefit of having a program implemented across the whole school. Teachers are to be commended for their ongoing efforts with adjusting their teaching and groupings to suit the needs of the students and the commencement of each term.

We were very fortunate to be able to reschedule a Staff Development Day with Diana Rigg after our initial day was cancelled due to the passing of Queen Elizabeth II. Staff engaged in meaningful conversation aiming at bettering their delivery and execution of PLD.

Teachers also spent some time becoming familiar with the reporting requirements as SCSA will be collating student achievement to map growth over time. Our School Support Advisor from CEWA facilitated the staff in making fair and consistent judgements using the Achievement Standards that align with the Western Australian curriculum.

The foci in 2022 were

- Promoting Literacy Development (PLD)
- Mathematics – 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

2022 NAPLAN Results

Although we had an interrupted preparation in the lead up to NAPLAN, our students were confident and reassured during the testing window this year. This is due to the fact students were familiar with the format and appearance of the assessments and the varying styles of questions.

Our students in Year Three performed extremely well in all domains compared to other Catholic schools, other schools within the state and across the nation. The data from Year Five shows that they have achieved 5-10 units below the comparators in a few domains. The data also tells us that by having PLD implemented across the whole school we have achieved pleasing results in spelling which has a positive correlation our writing results.



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Moving forward, we need to look at how we address the needs of the 'middle range' of the cohort and bring Cs up to Bs and Bs up to As. This has been a topic of discussion at PLCs. As the Year Fives did not participate in NAPLAN in 2020, we are unable to determine or report on their academic growth. What we do have however, is an extensive suite of data that tracks not only the Year 5s but the whole school over time.

A point that has been reiterated numerous times throughout the year, ALL teachers are to be credited for their dedication, commitment and hard work as every teacher contributes to the education and development of the students.

NAPLAN 2022									
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
2022					2022				
Reading	475	437	428	439	Reading	507	513	505	510
Writing	456	427	419	423	Writing	507	490	480	485
Spelling	450	419	414	418	Spelling	522	509	505	505
Grammar	462	431	424	433	Grammar	493	500	496	499
Numeracy	432	397	395	400	Numeracy	481	490	487	489

Priorities for 2023:

- Sustaining and consolidating what OLA has implemented;
- Continuing with our whole school approach to the explicit teaching of concepts;
- Addressing the needs of the 'middle' of each cohort;
- Regularly using and analysing data, to differentiate the curriculum, to cater for the needs of the children;
- The 21st Century Learning concept, which includes incorporating contemporary learning environments, to continue in 2023 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 continued to see a resurgence in its image and reputation both within the school and the local communities. Enrolment applications have again increased significantly in 2022. Our Kindergarten classes for 2022 were already full by mid-year, with only a few places to spare in our Pre-Kindergarten program.

In an area with a lot of good schools and hence competition, it is great to see OLA where it belongs, as a school of first choice. This resurgence is the product of a multi-pronged approach, but at the core of it is the educational program delivered by the dedicated staff of our school.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the outstanding efforts of the Parents & Friends' Association. I was truly astounded at our inaugural Colour Run. I have seen several colour runs before and our OLA version was by far the most engaging for the children of OLA. To see not just the colour part, but the ninja warrior course that was all assembled by hand was amazing. Another highlight of this day was that we had over forty volunteers, again testament to our community.

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. We thank you for everything you do!

Priorities for 2023:

- *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 and Jane Sloss for their continued support and willingness to put in the extra hours for the school and community. I'd also like to acknowledge the external support we have received from CEWA through the



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input of Catherine Cutrona our Special Needs consultant, Keith D'Sa our Accountant, Carma DeGroot our Curriculum Consultant and Kelly Smith our School Improvement Advisor.

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.

This year we have some movement within our staffing;

Staff Leaving

- Rebecca Smith – (Santa Maria College)
- Grace Smith
- Emily Coffey

Secondment

- Belinda Mitchell – (St Mary's College, Broome)
- Maree Noonan – (Our Lady of the Cape, Dunsborough)

On Leave

- Colette Meyerkort (Long Service Leave, 2023)
- Dianne Scoble (Long Service Leave, Term 1 2023)
- Lucy Coniglio (Long Service Leave, 2023)
- Janelle Shine (Maternity Leave, Semester 1 2023)

The above staff will be farewelled at our end of year celebration, sadly missed at OLA, and we wish them all the best for 2023 (and beyond for those not returning).

Conversely, we will have staff joining us for 2023. It is at this point that I would like to welcome back Mr Brian McIntyre after a years leave, Mr Mac will be returning from Ireland ready for the commencement of Term 1. I'd also like to welcome James Marthins and Chelsea D'Arachy to our staff.

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.



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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 our Advisory Council chair. Having said that, the Advisory Council as a whole, 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, we farewell Amanda Cipriani and Laura Ocello as their terms conclude. On behalf of our community I thank you both for the journey you have walked with us at OLA.

Priorities for 2023:

- In recognising the impact of COVID over the last couple of years and the recent increases across the board to the cost of living, reflected in our rapidly increasing inflation rate the decision has been made under consultation with CEWA to reduce school fees by 5% in 2023;
- Continue the renewal of furniture (Year Three), learning areas and play areas;
- Continue to focus on the execution of the maintenance plan, focussing on the replacement of air conditioners and reinvigoration of our school facilities.
- Continue to develop a cohesive redevelopment of our outdoor areas and long term vision through initial consultation with environmental architects.
- Redevelopment of the 'oval' with the establishment of the grassed area and surrounds;
- The resurfacing and remarking of the basketball court and Goretti Hall;
- Exploring the option of roof mounted basketball systems and large display screens in the Sr Goretti Hall;
- Installation of several basketball backboards hanging into the basketball court to meet the needs of the students;
- Installation of another outdoor chess board in the rear play area;
- The continued solid management of our school finances;
- Introduction of the 'Schoolstream' app as our primary means of communication
- Continue to develop community and look for opportunities to connect with the wider community.



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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 2023, we look forward to welcoming Mr Martin back, even if it means uncovering the Essendon and 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. I look forward to our OLA community continuing to work closely together to provide the best opportunities possible for the kids of OLA.

I wish you all a safe and holy Christmas.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Morris".

Michael Morris
PRINCIPAL

8 November, 2022



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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 (2023). Community members will be advised if changes are made to the staffing list below.

Staffing 2023

Teaching Levels/Roles	Names
Principal	Greg Martin
Assistant Principal	Michael Morris
Assistant Principal	Anella Tollis
Pre-Kindergarten (G & M)	Melinda Stepanek
Pre-Kindergarten Education Assistants	Nicoletta Arace (Thursday) Afroditi Bolzonella (Friday)
Kindergarten G	Stephanie Taddei Luisa Durkin (Tuesday Morning)
Kindergarten Education Assistant	Jess D'Orazio
Kindergarten Education Assistant	TBC (Sem 1) Janelle Shine (Sem 2)
Kindergarten Education Assistant Special Needs	TBC
Kindergarten M	Johanna Carbone Kristen Dempster (Tuesday morning)
Kindergarten Education Assistant	Denice Lombardo
Kindergarten Education Assistant	Michele Carr
Kindergarten Education Assistant Special Needs	Julia Tamigi
Pre-Primary G	Liana Anastasio
Pre-Primary M	Sabrina Saraceni
Pre-Primary Education Assistants	Bernadette Leatherland & Michelle Griffiths
Year 1G	Simone Taylor
Year 1M	Chelsea D'Arachy
Year 2G	James Marthins (Wednesday -Friday) Jodie McCarthy (Monday - Tuesday)
Year 2M	Jessica Iannetta
Year 3G	Mary Barclay
Year 3M	Vanessa Knight
Year 4G	Taylah Ackland (Term 1) Dianne Scoble (Terms 2-4)
Year 4M	James Ryan
Year 5G	Bruno De Pietro (Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri) Luisa Durkin (Wed)



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Year 5M	Sophia Carbone
Year 6G	Tiana Versace
Year 6M	Brian McIntyre
Music	Sophie Costello
Physical Education Specialist	Ciaran Allsop
Italian	Paola Pizzo
Science (PP-6)	Kristen Dempster
HASS (Years 2-6) & Library	Luisa Durkin
HASS (PP-Year 1)	Melinda Stepanek
REACH	Michael Morris
Intensive Intervention	Anella Tollis
Intensive Intervention / Reading Recovery / Students With Disabilities	Tina Ravi
Intensive Intervention Team Member (EA)	Lidia La Rosa
Intensive Intervention Team Member (EA)	Paola Pizzo
Intensive Intervention Team Member (EA)	Michelle Griffiths
Intensive Intervention Team Member (EA)	TBC
Intensive Intervention Team Member (EA)	Jacinta Crabb (special needs EA Yr 1)
Intensive Intervention Team Member (EA)	Genevieve Orton (special needs EA Yr 1)
Executive Assistant	Karen Meleca
Finance Officer	Judith Hille
Administration Officer	Jane Sloss
Library Officer	Claire Dale
School Counsellor	Nicole Leach
Canteen Manageress	Maria Giangiulio
Canteen Assistant	Anisha Giangiulio
Groundsman/Maintenance	Franco Arace
Outside School Hours Care Nominated Supervisor	Kristen Ruffo
Outside School Hours Care Educator	Santa Ruffo