

Chairpersons Report – Tuesday, 29th November 2016

Welcome

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome everyone to the School Board AGM for 2016 and thank you for your attendance. Once again it has been a very busy year for our school and with Angela Hegney taking over at the beginning of the School year, we have had a smooth transition from Mr Luke Godwin and Mr Des Willkie and I feel that Angela has shown the reason that she was chosen to lead our school forward in many ways.

This last year has shown that a committed group of people, not only the Board but our PF and more importantly the extremely dedicated and passionate teachers that guide our children daily and thankfully under the great leadership of Angela we have had another great year. As for 2016 it has been a year of consolidation and change with planning in place to ensure the Direction of the school is strong given the challenges that we may face in the future.

One of our big changes during the year was Lynda Ursino retiring and heading off travelling, we wished her and Jim all the best with a big send-off attended by many current and past Principals and teachers, it was a wonderful tribute to Lynda for her many years of commitment to Our Lady of Lourdes.

With those big shoes to fill Leanne Depiazzi stepped in and did an admirable job with supporting Angela and successfully preparing her first budget for 2017. Thank you, Leanne .

We also had long-serving Education Assistant, Colleen Lewis, retire this year. Colleen assisted students in their learning over many years, and the impact she has had on the lives of students is very much appreciated. As part of a change of direction for our school in 2017, after more than 10 years of having specialist teaching areas in Library and Sport, next year the focus will change to History and Science. We farewell and thank Otto VanKampen, who has been a Sport specialist teacher for many years, and wish him well for his future endeavours.

With Fr Joseph leaving to Lake Grace in at the end of last year we have been lucky to welcome Fr Wayne. He came to our school and Parish bringing with him in his jovial way his great depth of faith and Committed passion for our children at OLOL and the Parish community.

I will take this opportunity to highlight a few areas that the board and the school has focused on in the past 12 months.

Capital and Infrastructure

- As part of our Information Technology Plan, upgrades to infrastructure and existing equipment has supported our IT teaching and learning and overall school management. With the installation of three interactive projection systems into our senior classes, replacing the older interactive whiteboards and projectors, these classes have been able to integrate this new technology into their daily learning. The purchase of 15 Chrome Books, to add to our existing computer lab and Ipads allows flexibility and diversity for students, to be able to choose which device best meets the needs of different learning opportunities, and seeks to prepare students for the changing world in which they live. New computers in the Admin

and Leadership offices allows staff to be efficient in their work. A new server to ensure security of all our school data was a necessary purchase this year.

- This year, the Board investigated the parking situation around the school. As a short term solution, the Prayer House car park was properly marked and designated for 'Staff Only' parking. This has reduced pressure on the main car park and is safer for our students. Also, the introduction of a morning 'Kiss and Drop' in the same area as the afternoon 'in-car pick up' area, has also assisted to make parking safer.
- A new school entry statement sign has been designed, with planning approval, awaiting building approval, due for completion in January. Special thanks to Board member Anthony Harris for all his work towards this project, and acknowledgement to Clair Panetta in the office for her work towards the design and lettering of new directional signage shortly to be installed around the school.
- A working party has been established to investigate a Nature Play space for students. This committee is working with student and staff suggestions to design and create an area for students to learn through engaging in creative play.
- The Board saw a need for some public artwork around the school, and as a result, the production of a mural highlighting our school values is almost complete. All senior students have played a part in the painting of the mural, which was unveiled today in the undercover area.

Curriculum Development

During 2016 we have been working on achieving the priorities outlined in our Strategic Plan under the areas of Learning, Engagement, Accountability and Discipleship. Progress towards achieving our school goals in all areas has been made, and will continue in 2017 and through 2018 which is the term of our Strategic Plan. Next year will see a focus on STEM, which is Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths, with a view to preparing students for future careers.

Words of Appreciation

I would like to thank each of the Board members for giving their time freely and their professional manner in providing guidance and support for Angela in her first year with the school. We have two retiring Board Members – Leith Johnston and Tim Giumelli and Mel Birrell completing her term of service as P&F representative on the Board. We sincerely thank Leith, Tim and Mel for their support and commitment to the school and the board.

Thanks to members of the Parish who support our school, in various ways such as supporting Sacramental programs and training Altar servers. We look forward to continuing to work together to support each other as a faith community.

We are fortunate to have a very active P&F within our school and I thank the P&F executive and committee members for all their work. Anthony Congdon, Cindy Barbetti, Tania Barnes and Jasmine White who have been instrumental in the leadership of the P&F this year, enabling parents to attend evening and daytime meetings.

Thank you to the Canteen Leaders – Clare Clements, Julie Pelusey, Jasmine White, Denise Rodwell, Danni Barbera, Louise Brookes and Graham Parton and – and the helpers who assisted.

Thank you to our uniform co-ordinators, Jenelle Comisso and Briony Page

Thank you also to Clare Clements for administering our student Bookclub this year.

Thanks to Emma Reynolds, Abby Thomson for running the **Kindy Café**. Without parent help we would not be able to offer some of these wonderful services that prepared our pre-kindergarten students for the kindergarten experience.

Finally, on behalf of the Board I would like to thank Angela and all the Staff of Our Lady of Lourdes for the wonderful environment they provide for our children to grow – both educational and pastoral in their Primary School journey.

VICTOR RODWELL
CHAIRMAN