Principals Report 2015
Luke Godwin – Acting Principal

Great schools are built with strong foundations. Foundations are created by hard-working groups and hard-working groups are filled with determined, passionate and highly skilled people with a similar goal – the development of children. Our Lady of Lourdes is a great school and continues to go from strength to strength with collaborative efforts from numerous groups, the staff, school board, P&F, Parish, parents and links with the wider community.

Recently, and in conjunction with our current Strategic Plan, we underwent a review of the Annual School Improvement Plan. Over the past year, our identified main objectives were to:

Firstly, improve our capacity to differentiate learning with a particular focus on establishing a consistent pedagogy to the teaching of Numeracy – To achieve this we developed a scope and sequence for all areas of numeracy, identified ‘not negotiable’ concepts in each year level and structured opportunities for peer sharing of numeracy teaching practices.

Secondly, to explore the Aussie Optimism program with the goal of enhancing effective social skills for all students through an involvement in a program that is based on the concept of Positive Psychology. This goal is to be further explored in 2016 with the introduction of programs for all classes. Recently we drew on the experience of Nola Marino who presented a parent education session on Cyber safety, and then to students in Years 4 – 6.

Our third objective was planning for and making changes for early childhood classroom and playground facilities. The development of the Early Childhood playground was extensive and had many people involved and the result was fantastic. Earlier in the year we hosted a parent education workshop that involved staff, speech therapists, Occupational Therapists and the school nurse. Thanks to Natalie Dillon for her leadership of this event and the Early Childhood staff for the considerable time and effort put into the presentation.

Our fourth objective was the implementation of the Making Jesus Real program in our school, providing greater opportunity for students to reflect upon their faith development around the belief that we are the image of Jesus to all those around us. Thanks to Mr Luke Skehan and Mrs Addy Godwin for introducing the program to our school. The program will continue to be explored in 2016.

Building on the objectives from 2015, we recently reviewed our School Improvement Plan for 2016 and identified the following as goals for 2016:
* To continue to collect and analyse data and establish regular time for leaders to work with their teams to review data and development strategies.
* To continue to strengthen relationships with families in our community
* To review the IT plan including how, into the future, the school will provide technical support for maintaining IT infrastructure and provide in class learning support; and
* To review and update the school Evangelisation plan
Our major curriculum goal for 2015 was ‘How do we improve student achievement in Numeracy?’ Through discussion at regular Professional Learning Community Meetings, teachers researched, discussed and implemented a number of strategies designed to improve student achievement. We were able to provide Shared teaching opportunities for teachers to share practices and reflect on best practise – led by Joanne Leach, who was a state recipient of a National Excellence in Teaching Award this earlier this year.

Looking to 2016, our curriculum goal is to explore how we can systematically analyse and discuss school-wide data to improve student outcomes in Numeracy?

We will:

- Engage in Professional Reading to further teacher knowledge in this area.
- Provide opportunity for all staff to contribute expertise into the investigation.
- Collaboratively develop a shared understanding of the value of differentiated curriculum, explicit and intentional teaching, in improving student outcomes; and
- Collect and analyse data to inform us of student progress and understanding

As most of you would be aware, this is my final year at Our Lady of Lourdes as I have accepted an Assistant Principal position at St Anne’s in Harvey beginning next year. Over the last 8 years my teaching role and leadership role has been varied. From sharing teaching roles in classrooms from Year 2 – 7 and teaching computer skills to all students from Pre-Primary to Year 7. Each role has come with its challenges but the rewards far exceeded these. My role as Assistant Principal and recently Acting Principal were the first of such opportunities in my career, and again the rewards far exceeded to challenges during this time.

We are fortunate at Our Lady of Lourdes to have such positive involvement and leadership from our parents, in particular the School Board and P&F. In the absence of Victor, Chris has outlined in detail the considerable work of the Board this year. Following this meeting, we will hear reports from Anthony and Tania, outlining the outstanding support of the P&F in our school.

On behalf of the community I would like to thank Victor Rodwell for his leadership of the Board. Thanks also to Vicki Dewar for her work as secretary and Leith Johnston for support and expertise as Treasurer. I would like also to take this opportunity to thank Chris Mangano who will be retiring from the School Board this year. Chris has been serving on the Board for many years and has more than ably represented the board on numerous occasions presenting reports and attending information sessions. His contributions are greatly appreciated. Thanks also too to all serving members for your support, encouragement and patience during this period.

I would like to acknowledge and thank the P&F under the leadership of Anthony Congdon – president, Cindy Barbetti – Vice President, Sonia Stenhouse – Secretary, Tania Barnes – treasurer, for their continual hard work and outstanding support of our school. The events they organise and contributions they make across all school grades for the benefit of all students is exceptional. This year, after many years of service, we farewell Sonia Stenhouse from her role as secretary – Thanks to you Sonia for all your hard work over the years.
I would also like to thank Fr Joseph for his ongoing pastoral, sacramental and supportive work in our school. My thanks to Miss Dillon for working with Fr Joseph to continue the sense of collaboration and teamwork between the school and parish that is so important in our school. We wish Father Joseph all the best when he moves to Lake Grace.

To my colleagues – the staff at Our Lady of Lourdes. Each one contains a wealth of knowledge and skills applicable to their role that helps the students to strive to achieve their potential. I would like to thank all of our staff for their dedication in supporting and promoting the work of our school so that all students thrive.

And finally, I would like to thank Des Wilkie for his continual support over the past 11 years – and 2 schools. I acknowledge his expertise and experience as a Principal, and called on his wisdom a lot during this time. I wish him all the best as he embarks on a new challenge at Our Lady of the Cape. He continued the excellent work of past principals to help OLOL go from strength to strength. To Lynda, Leanne and Clair in the office – I am so grateful for the support over the past eight years, but especially in the last semester. You have been very patient, and I have drawn on your wisdom many times – thank you.

As we look to 2016, Our Lady of Lourdes will welcome Mrs Angela Hegney as the new principal and Father Wayne Bendotti as Parish Priest for the Dardanup/Boyanup Parish. I wish them well as they embark on a new challenge and I know they will continue to help Our Lady of Lourdes grow and develop their:

- **Vision of being a welcoming community**
- Of
  - **Many Minds and One Heart in Christ**
  - And mission to provide a high quality education that will inspire an ongoing love of God which embraces the values of:
  - Integrity, Respect, Compassion, Justice and Courage

Luke Godwin
Acting Principal 2015