

Chair persons Report 2017



Good Evening everyone and thank you for attending the 2017 Our lady of Lourdes, Annual General Community Meeting for the school board and P&F association. Our school continues to go from strength to strength, aided by our leadership team and outstanding parent involvement.

I would like to thank the passionate and dedicated teaching staff that guide our children throughout the year. You create a safe, and secure environment that allows our children to explore the world we live in.

We will be welcoming a new assistant principal into our school community. Mr Luke Vine joins us from St Augustine's in Rivervale and will also be moving to the southwest for the first time. Thank you to Miss Natalie Dillon for her dedication and leadership during her tenure as assistant principal. I wish you well in returning to your teaching passion next year.

Thank you to Mr Luke Skehan for 9 years of service with our school. Your energy and passion for the school sports day will be hard shoes to fill. I wish you well in your future endeavours with St Mary's in Donnybrook.

Earlier this year I attended the Catholic School Board Chair Persons Conference in Perth. The event is held every two years and was attended by representatives from all over the state. The conference outlined the role of the school board to be the strategic management of the school, with all the decisions made, optimising the student outcome and well being of our kids. The event was a great opportunity to talk to people from other schools and I thank Angela for sending me along.

I would now like to take the opportunity to outline a few areas that the school board has been working on during the year.

1. The School Code of Conduct has been updated and accepted. The code not only defines the roles of our educators at the school but also our involvement with the wider community. The code has been developed by the staff and everyone has backed its implementation.
 2. Our school participated in the cyclic review this year. The review is held every 5 years and is made up of a CEWA appointed panel, including teachers and CEWA staff members. The panel highlighted that our school was welcoming, had strong leadership and identity. The panel noted the way that the school engages with the greater community via social media and local newspapers. The highlight of their visit was the meeting with the year 6 student leaders. They were asked to rate their school, a very considered response of 9.5 was given from one child, however the next to respond gave a score of 9.6. The pride they portrayed in the school is simply outstanding.
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3. The Nature Playground has been a major project for both the P&F and school board this year. A risk assessment was conducted by the board at the start of the year. After careful consideration the risk was found to be acceptable and the project was aligned with our current strategic plan. The Goal of the Nature play area was to create an interactive and creative space for students. A massive thankyou to Vicki Noonan for her outstanding work. From Design, organising, directing, sourcing materials, hard work and many smiles and laughter, your enthusiasm and level of engagement has been great. The community involvement that we experienced has been awesome. The Area is looking fantastic and will continue to grow over the next few months. An opening and blessing of the area is planned for early next year.

4. A change in the sports days lead to the re-organising of the sport factions. The four factions were named after OLOL historical figures creating a link to our schools past.
COLUMBA: Sister Mary Columba was one of the first sisters of Mercy to teach in Dardanup in 1914.
FINNEGAN: Father Peter Paul Finnegan was the first priest in Dardanup in 1914 and setup the school at Prinsep Park.
CLANCY: Mr Clancy was the first head master of the school.
THOMAS: Thomas Little was a Catholic layman in Dardanup who gifted a large portion of land to the Catholic church and school.

5. The specialist learning areas of Science and History have been intergrated into the school curriculum. The creation of the science room has been fantastic. Largely lead by those fun coloured stools. Thankyou to Mrs Heelan for her dedication and passion towards the STEM specialist learning area. Next year will see a continuation of science with Design and technology being integrated into the learning outcomes.

6. The school board is currently investigating the design and construction of two new sets of toilets to replace the ageing toilet block to the south of the playground. One set will be located in the junior school area next door to year one, the other located in the senior school area next to the science lab. The project is currently under review with CEWA and more information will be available next year.

7. Finally the “new” school classrooms will be turning 25 years old next year. A working group is exploring ways that we can celebrate the milestone next year. Please let me know if you are interested in helping out to create a memorable event.

I would now like to take the opportunity to thank the members of our school board, you give your time freely and are passionate about our school. Your help and guidance towards Angela and the school is invaluable, and I humbly thank you for allowing me to be the chair person. We have four retiring members this year. Victor Rodwell after 5 years of service, Vicki Dewer with 4 years, Monika Strutka 4 years and Linda Davern with 1 year. Also Ebony Harris will be re-tiring from the Board P&F rep position. Earlier in the year we had Kirsten Italiano and Kate Bovel retire from their board positions due to moving away from our school community. I would like to extend a formal thankyou to their respective service.

We have a very active and extremely energetic P&F within our school. Thankyou to the executive committee for your leadership this year. The group created a vast array of fundraisers that have added some amazing resources to our school, however I will not steal their thunder. Thankyou to all the helpers in all areas that the P&F are involved in.

Thankyou to Father Wayne for his continued pastoral care and guidance for our school. Father Wayne is always an active and willing participant in our schools life.

In conclusion I would like to Thank Angela, the teaching staff and admin staff at Our Lady Of Lourdes. You all help to create a wonderful and safe environment for our children to grow, both educationally and pastorally.

Anthony Harris
OLOL Board Chairperson