

SCHOOL BOARD CHAIRPERSON REPORT 2019



Thank you for attending the Our Lady of Lourdes Annual General Community Meeting for the school board and P&F Association, 2019. We welcomed back Angela at the start of our school year and we continue to see our school do well during a more challenging year.

Our school is here to teach our children and develop their understanding of the Catholic Faith, we could not do this without our outstanding teaching staff. Thank you again for another year of dedication and hard work.

At the end of this year we will say goodbye to several excellent teachers who are leaving to continue to grow their educational careers. A heart felt thankyou to Mrs Jo Leach, Mrs Kylie Maddafari and Miss Kate Weston. You have all had the best interests of our students at the core of everything that you do. We wish you well in your next steps.

This year we welcomed 2 new board members. Thank you for your dedication and giving of time to the school. Your continued support, ideas and contribution is greatly appreciated. The school board along with a teacher based working group have developed the 100 year anniversary celebration details nicely. We are all looking forward to celebrating this massive milestone next year with an open day, gala night and memorial garden. This occasion will not only mark the past but will help to springboard the school into the future.

The board has been busy with several projects that I will outline next:

1. Budget:

The school has had a challenging year in terms of budgeting, reduced funding from the federal government has lead to a lot of work being done to reduce our overheads. This work is often very hard and I thank the finance team members for their valued contributions. One example of this is the change to managing and mowing our lawns in house. This lead to a big cost saving and a more routine approach.

2. The Maintenance Program:

We renewed our contract for school maintenance this year with "Programmed". The buildings will soon be enjoying a full repaint and the continuation of the contract will lead to a more in-depth knowledge of the school by the contractors. We explored other options but ultimately continued with the existing team.

3. Bushfire Assessment and Plan;
An assessment was conducted at the start of the year. This led to recommendations that have been implemented and endorsed by the board. We were already well versed in the plan and this only strengthens our commitment to the safety of the students.
4. Three Year Old Kindy Program:
The school applied for a change of license to include a three year old kindy program. The program receives no funding from the government and must be fully funded by those who use the service. We were granted the change to the school and opened with 20 students in semester two. The program has been a huge success both financially and academically for the children. Angela has commented to me on many occasions how much of a joy it is to spend time with the little ones.
5. School reporting moved to the online system at the end of semester 1, allowing parents to access the reports as soon as they were available. This in turn has led to a win in terms of costs and ease of access.
6. The school carpark lines were re-painted in the semester break. A small thing that has had a huge impact in terms of ease of use.
7. Catholic Education Western Australia became an incorporated company this year. The 4 diocesan bishops are shareholders and this reaffirms the strategic governance and direction into the future of catholic education in WA.
8. The Thomas Little Hall Restoration:
Although not a project run by the school, it has still had a large impact. The Hall is in the process of being fully restored as close as possible to original. The old school toilets have been taken over by the Hall and are also being renovated. This in turn led to the removal of the last Asbestos on school property.
9. January 2020:
There is a major planned upgrade by the Shire of Dardanup for Ferguson Road next year. The school has been consulted and I am pleased to say that we will benefit greatly from the works. The entry to the teacher's carpark will be more clearly defined along with new and improved access for the buses. The roller coaster ride will finally be gone, so "enjoy it" whilst you can.

We have had a new Executive Team take on the P&F this year. Congratulations on the amazing work that you do for the school. From running events through to fundraising, the team is always willing to help out and lead the parent group. Thank you.

Four members of the school board are retiring this year. Thank you to Angela Brett for two years of service and Chris Mangano for his second term after a short rest. Chris will be stepping down from the parish representative role which will now be the responsibility of Father Wayne. Emma Tyrell will also be stepping down as P&F rep. And finally, I will be retiring from the board after my family leaving the school community. This will leave one vacancy for next year. I would like to formally welcome Emma Tyrell as a full member of the board for 2020.

So in conclusion, Thank you to Angela for your Leadership, the Assistant principals and the dedicated teaching staff. Without you all our school is just a group of buildings. Your passion helps define this school within the wider community. Finally, thank you to our parents for placing their trust in the school.

Anthony Harris
OLOL Board Chairperson

A final word from Me:

Thank you for all the support I have received in my role as board chair. I only hope that I have offered some advice and helped out where I can. I have really enjoyed my time at the school and wish only the best for the future chair and the future of the school.