
Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School

Annual Community Report

2016



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Annual School Community Report

OUR LADY OF LOURDES CATHOLIC SCHOOL, DEVONPORT

School History

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School is registered by the Schools Registration Board of Tasmania and is part of a recognised system of schools governed by the Systemic Schools Governing Council operating under the mandate of the Catholic Archbishop of Hobart. In 2014 Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School received their renewal and registration from the Schools Registration Board for another 5 years, and was mandated by Archbishop Porteous as a Catholic School in response to the Archbishop's Charter. The School is a Parish school and serves the Parish of Our Lady of Lourdes in Devonport. The school is one of a number in the Parish of Mersey Leven.

On Sunday November 2nd 1890, a meeting was held in the Star of the Sea Church. At this meeting it was resolved that the Sisters of St. Joseph be asked to start a Catholic school in the area. Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School officially opened in January 1891, when three Sisters took up residence in the sandstone cottage, which still stands at 81 Steele St. One room of the cottage became a schoolroom under the direction of the first Principal, Sr. Francis McCarthy.

On January 2nd 1893, Archbishop Murphy laid the foundation stone of a new school to be built on the present site. The East Devonport Catholic Church was brought across the Mersey River on a punt and was used as a church on the western side of the river until a brick church was built in 1914. It then became a classroom for the school.

The school continued in this limited accommodation until Fr. Donald Shaw was appointed Parish Priest in 1932. He immediately began planning a new building and, on February 5, 1933, a new red brick building with a red tile roof was officially opened.

This new building added four classrooms and an enclosed verandah to the school facilities and gave the school a striking appearance with its façade of arches and gabled porticos. The school continued to grow in both enrolment and the number of classrooms, until in 2000, a Kindergarten was established. This coincided with the Sisters of St. Joseph reluctantly relinquishing their active role in the school when Sr. Carmel Jones was

appointed Congregational Leader of the Order. A new era of lay principalship began. In 2000 Mr. Mark Workman was appointed the first lay Principal in the 110-year history of Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School. At the beginning of 2012 Mr. Clynton Scharvi became Principal and remains in this role. The School Board works in collaboration with the Principal in the planning for and bringing to reality improvements in all areas of function at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School.

At the beginning of 2009, the Grade Five classrooms underwent some refurbishment that included the demolition of a wall and the installing of bi-fold doors to the classrooms. In 2009, with the announcement of the Australian Government's Building Education Revolution, significant time, energy and resources were devoted to quickly organising and developing capital project plans. Early in 2011 the Capital Building Program was completed. The school received near 3 million dollars to build a Multi Purpose Learning Centre, 3 new purpose built classrooms with a shared flexible learning space with 3 refurbished classrooms. Our library was refurbished, our Kindergarten refurbished and a brand new entry and foyer area developed. In early 2015 planning took place for the Tasmanian Catholic Education Office Capital Building Project, with construction commencing in late 2015. This was completed at the end of Term 1 in 2016. This completed the overall building masterplan footprint with the current Prep, Grade One and Grade Two classrooms being refurbished, along with an upgrade to the Kindergarten external play space. A specific focus was placed on ensuring these spaces were open and flexible, ensuring they were conducive to collaborative learning experiences. All furnishings were flexible and designed to be moved around and re-shaped to suit the teaching and learning experiences.

Catholic Life and Mission

In 2016, Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School continued to live out the Vision and Mission Statements collaboratively developed in the previous year through a consultative and collaborative process involving the entire school community. The learning offered at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School is an invitation for each student to develop to his/her full potential as a person. The education program is delivered in a faith context and is therefore an invitation to a relationship with God.

The School's catholic identity is expressed in various ways: through class and whole school prayer, liturgical celebrations, religious symbols, the Religious Education Program, community service and the manifestation of Gospel values in the day to day happenings and interactions of the school community. The Junior Joeys student leadership group is founded on the Josephite charisms and is the cornerstone of our student leadership program. As a school community we endeavour to live out the Josephite charisms of dignity for all, humility, compassion, justice and trust in God. We are all custodians of these charisms but have a shared responsibility to live these in our everyday interactions.

Liturgy and Celebration

In 2016 the school continued to provide a variety of experiences to foster the students' spiritual and faith formation. Each term, Kindergarten to Grade Six classes took turns to celebrate a grade liturgy. Kindergarten to Grade Two students engaged in prayer liturgies in the Church, with Grade Three to Six students attending parish weekday masses. This structure was in consultation with Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Parish, and in particular, Father Mike and Father Alex, who led many of the liturgies. Advent, Lent, Easter, Holy Week along with significant events like Grandparents Day, Mothers' and Fathers' Days were liturgically celebrated with strong attendance by family and friends.

The school also continued with Monday morning prayer. Parents have continued to support this prayerful beginning to our week. Each class rotated responsibility for the organisation of a brief prayer/reflection focus. The procession of the key symbols, gathering music and maintaining the same structure provided a consistent approach and celebration to the beginning of each school week. Parents and friends were invited to join their children in all the liturgical celebrations.

Religious Education is the foundation of our school and is an integral part of our Curriculum. The formal Religious Education Program is drawn from the Curriculum Framework for Religious Education, 'Good News for Living'. Under the guidance of Mrs Mary Sherriff, Assistant Principal, and Religious Education Consultants from the Catholic Education Office, our teachers implemented the program with a high level of success during 2016. This was supported through the RE Project led by Mrs Sherriff at school.

In terms of staff spirituality, Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School continued to provide opportunities through Courage to Be Retreats, Josephite Colloquiums at State and National levels as well as Christian Meditation. Spirituality evening sessions were held for staff lead by Mr Peter Douglas.

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School celebrated 125 years in 2016. This occasion was marked in August with a whole school Mass lead by Archbishop Julien Porteous. We celebrated Founders Day as a school community and had a Cocktail Evening which was attended by over 150 people. The Sisters of St Joseph were invited back to school and opened a Josephite Prayer Garden outside the student entrance to celebrate the Sisters of St Joseph involvement over the last 125 years and into the future. We also produced a 125 Year Anniversary Book detailing our school history which can be accessed at: <http://olol.tas.edu.au/our-learning.html>

In 2016, Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School continued with a whole school approach to the Making Jesus Real Program. This was initiated in 2009 and has gradually become part of the 'language' we use with our students. Each year, the Grade Six students participate in this program, which is designed to promote Christian leadership and to foster a

relationship with Jesus that is real to the students and applicable to their daily lives. The Parish also worked with the school in identifying students eligible to receive sacraments. The Parish Sacramental Team worked with parents/carers to prepare a number of our students for the Sacraments of Confirmation, First Eucharist and First Reconciliation.

The Parish coordinates sacramental programs with parents taking a greater responsibility in their preparation. This is a shift from school based sacramental preparation of the past.

Our Learning Community

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School is committed to providing the best possible education for its students. The School aims to develop the whole child, spiritually, intellectually, physically, socially, emotionally and morally. The Australian Government mandates eight learning areas. In 2016 Specialist Teachers taught Physical Education, Music and Drama.

In 2016, all classes implemented a comprehensive approach to Literacy through a designated 90 minute literacy focus. Prep to Grade 2 maintained a focus on the basic building blocks of literacy, whilst Grade 3-6 classes maintained sound structures that provide a clear pathway for students to develop literacy skills. Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School continues to provide Daily Physical Fitness sessions facilitated by Aussie Sports Leaders from Grade Six. Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School is a Move Well Eat Well school, embedding the components of healthy eating and lifestyle choices as part of our curriculum. Our School was involved in local soccer, basketball, touch football, AFL and netball competitions.

Educational Programs

2016 was the eighth year of being involved in the KidsMatter Program, a nationally supported mental and emotional health focused program. The school has worked through and completed the final modules of the four-module implementation process in 2014. Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School became an official KidsMatter school, receiving formal accreditation late in 2014. The school continued to offer Physical Education, Music, Drama and Library lessons on a weekly basis.

Physical Education has always been an important part of the curriculum at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School. Apart from daily fitness and weekly Physical Education lessons, students participated in AusSwim Learn to Swim Program. This caters for all students from Kindergarten to Grade Six and involves water awareness, buoyancy, stroke development, surf life saving skills and boating. Students also participated in annual Swimming, Athletics and Cross Country Carnivals. Selected students from Grades Three to Six also received an opportunity to compete against other students at the North West Catholic Primary Schools Sports Association Carnivals and All Schools Cross Country as well.

Targeted Programs

The funding for these programs allows the school to fund significant staffing support in our classrooms, particularly in the early childhood classrooms. This continued in 2016 with each early childhood class having a designated Teacher Assistant each day for four days a week until 12.00pm. In 2016 the school invested in a Co-Teacher model. This saw an additional teacher working across Prep (3 days), Grade 1 (3 days), Grade 2 (3 days), and Grade 3/4 (5 days). This provided additional intervention and enhancement opportunities for students. The Co-Teacher model responded to data needs and provided right time intervention to support student need.

The school continued with a whole school approach to speech with a trained Teacher Assistant working with funded students and developing programs that both school and home are encouraged to support. This developed a clear and direct program for students who have specific speech needs.

The general Teacher Assistant role is to assist the Teacher with intervention programs for students in the area of literacy and numeracy. Teacher aides play a significant role in supporting teachers with the implementing of Individual Education Plans for students with special needs. The professional relationship which exists between Teachers and Teacher Assistants has contributed in a significant way to the enhancement of student outcomes at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School.

Civics and Citizenship

Our commitment to development of people as well as students, continued to be at the forefront of our teaching and learning in 2016. The KidsMatter Commonwealth Initiative continued to grow and develop into an integral component of our school, in particular focusing on the social, emotional and mental wellbeing of our students.

The Kidsmatter Program along with Making Jesus Real, School-wide Positive Behaviour Support (SWPBS) and the use of Circle Time formed the key jigsaw pieces of our approach in this area in 2016.

I.C.T.

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School in 2016 continued to provide opportunities for students to enhance I.C.T. skills and competencies. Students in Grades Three to Six worked 1:1 with iPads and achieved outstanding results. The iPad is only ever designed to be a tool for learning, but provided greater connectivity, collaboration and capacity to share student understanding. The role of our I.C.T. Technician Aide continued to evolve and enhance support to class teachers and to the I.C.T. Coordinator. Significant professional learning time was provided to staff on effective use of ICT as a learning tool. An increase of resources enabled Prep to Grade Two students to access iPads at a ratio of 1:2. This enhanced the capacity for

for these grades to share student understanding in a variety of forms and provided creative opportunities for collaboration and connectivity, making it a successful device to enhance student learning opportunities. We were also able to pilot Creative Cafe which was offered at lunchtimes and allowed students opportunities to experience and use ICT, eg drone and 3D printer, to enhance their understanding of a variety of student interest topics.

Student Leadership

The school continued to provide opportunities for students to develop capacity in the area of leadership. All students had an opportunity to be on the Student Representative Council during the year. This was a shift from the previous top/down leadership approach we had. Grade Six students were exposed to leadership experiences through Junior Joeys, Aussie Sports Leaders, School Captains and House Captains.

Professional Development of Staff

Staff focused on the Australian Curriculum and continued collaboratively planning using the backward design process in professional learning communities with Kinder/Prep, One/Two, Three/Four and Five/Six. Significant time was given to explore the enhancement of collaborative planning into Professional Learning Communities (PLC). The Principal and Assistant Principals met with other school leaders across the North West of Tasmania on developing our skills in leading the implementation of professional learning in our schools. This 'train the trainer' model proved very successful in OLOL. Inter and intra moderation processes assisted us in developing a shared and moderated understanding of student achievement in grade levels.

Assessment and Reporting

Fundamental to improving student outcomes is determining where students are and monitoring their progress carefully. At Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School a whole school literacy and numeracy assessment timetable is maintained, producing a more coordinated approach to the identification and diagnosis of learning needs. This enabled appropriate early intervention strategies and programs to be put in place to assist students in their literacy and numeracy development.

A variety of assessment tools, tests and screeners are used. Assessment in the early grades is now comprehensive and includes:

- ✓ Auditory Processing Assessment.
- ✓ Phonological Awareness Screen.
- ✓ Expressive Language and Articulation Screen.
- ✓ P.I.P.S.

- ✓ Kindergarten Developmental Checklist.
- ✓ YARC (Reading Comprehension)
- ✓ PAT Assessments

Reading Comprehension and Mathematics are tested regularly at all levels. The assessment includes both teacher made assessment tasks as well as standardised tests. The above program for assessment is in addition to the most reliable and insightful formative assessment. All forms of standardised student assessment is recorded in a Cumulative Record, allowing greater student monitoring and tracking throughout their schooling at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School.

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School formally reports to parents in the mid-year and at the end of the year using an A - E rating to report achievement of its students. This form of reporting is in accordance with a mandate of the Australian Government.

Parents were formally invited by the School to attend Parent/Teacher Interviews following the issue of the Mid-Year Achievement Reports. Students in Prep began and finished the 2016 year with Performance Indicators in Primary School (PIPS) screening to assess progress in their first formal year of schooling. These results showed incredible growth that saw us start below the state cohort at the beginning of the year but exceed the state cohort at the end. The key to this success was identified through the planning structures and Co-Teacher model.

NAPLAN 2016

The National Assessment Program in Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is administered to all Australian students in Grades 3, 5, 7 and 9 in May each year. Our average scores were above that of State and National averages, as well as all of the 'similar schools' in most of the areas. More pleasing was:

- ✓ The Grade 3 cohort achieved above the National and Similar schools average across all NAPLAN areas. Grammar and Punctuation and Writing were the strongest areas.
- ✓ In Grade 3 an impressive 80% of students achieved results in the top two bands in Writing and 67 % in Reading.
- ✓ The increase and further growth for Grade 5 across all areas. Reading was a particular strength, where 46% of the Grade 5 students achieved results in the top two bands.
- ✓ The data highlighted the positive approach and support structures our school has in place to students who are struggling to meet grade standard. The data also highlighted the need for Our Lady of Lourdes

Catholic School to continue to review the use of resources and approaches with students at risk including those above benchmark but still in need of support.

For a full breakdown of NAPLAN results, please visit:

<https://www.myschool.edu.au/ResultsInNumbers/Index/103663/OurLadyofLourdesCatholicSchool/40009/2016>

Pastoral Care

In 2016, students at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School were recognised for their efforts and achievements at individual, class and school level. Recognition awards included:

- ✓ Student of the Week Awards
- ✓ Good Decision Awards
- ✓ Afternoon Tea with the Principal
- ✓ Class celebrations for whole class success.

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School makes every effort to communicate with parents as partners through the weekly newsletter, class newsletters, special letters home, homework diaries, the Annual School Report, the enrolment package, teacher/parent contact, parent information sessions, report interviews and collaborative planning meetings initiated by school or parents. The school also uses Facebook, Twitter and YouTube as vehicles to connect important school information to parents.

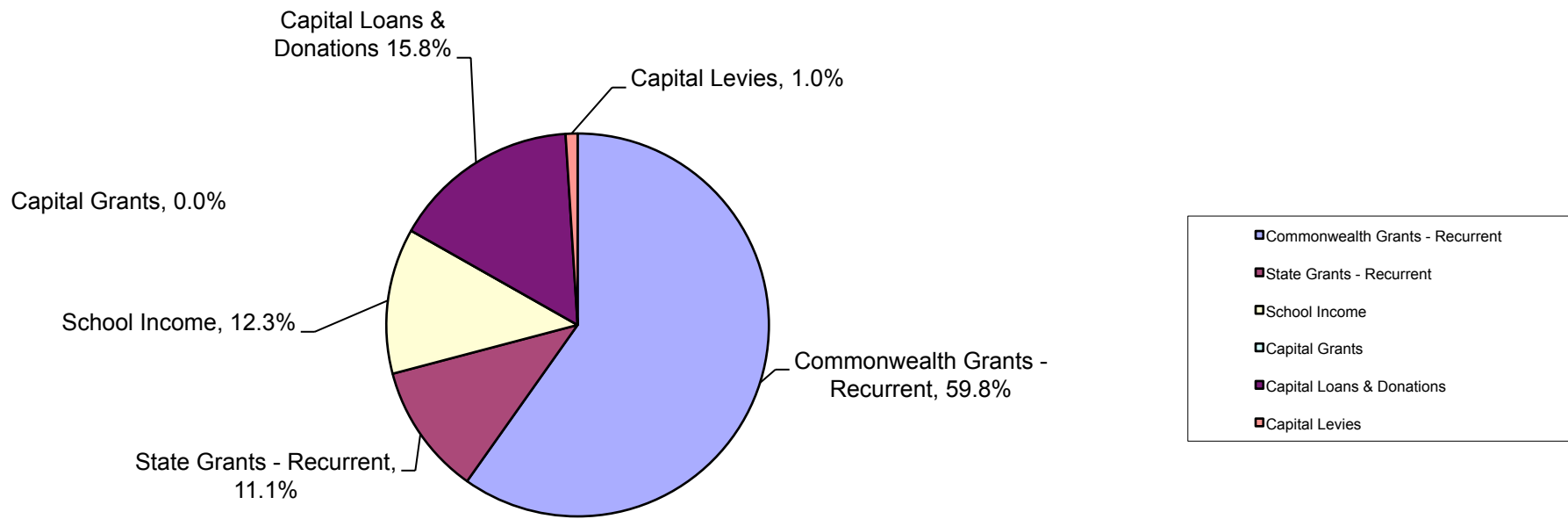
Programs designed to meet pastoral care needs of the students included the Making Jesus Real Program, Program Achieve, KidsMatter, ParentsMatter and Move Well Eat Well. Apart from these wellness programs, the staff at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School is deeply committed to caring for each child and recognises the uniqueness of each.

Financial Income and Expenditure 2016

Enrolment in classes from Prep to Grade Six in 2016 was 409 with two straight classes in each grade. Of this number 204 were boys and 205 were girls. There were also 56 Kinder students. 8.3% of the student population identified as indigenous.

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School Sources of Income and Expenditure for 2016 are summarised in the following 2 pie charts:

**OUR LADY OF LOURDES CATHOLIC SCHOOL
SOURCES OF INCOME 2016
Total Income \$6.0 million**



**OUR LADY OF LOURDES CATHOLIC SCHOOL
EXPENDITURE 2016
Total Expenditure \$6.2 million**

