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# Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School

Annual Community Report

2020

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# Annual School Community Report

## OUR LADY OF LOURDES, DEVONPORT

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### **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 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. In 2017 Our Lady of Lourdes was validated to operate as a Catholic School until 2022.

In 2018 Our Lady of Lourdes responded to the Archbishop's Charter and was mandated to operate as a Catholic School until December 2022.

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 remained in this role until the conclusion of the 2017 school year. 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. Mrs Carol Seagar became the Principal in 2018.

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. In 2017 the netball courts had a complete refurbishment with an artificial surface. In December 2018 the Ausplay equipment was decommissioned and pulled out with the start of a new Sturdybilt play area in the same space next to the newly refurbished courts. In 2020 a renewed Kindergarten playground was installed and completed. In 2020 the 'Ship' playground was reconstructed as the ship was deemed to be unsafe after decades of use. This playground was redesigned with climbing frames and walls, boulder walks, a flying fox and tunnels.

### **Catholic Life and Mission**

In 2020, 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.

Throughout 2020 the staff continued to live out the OLOL Vision and Mission Statements:

#### OLOL VISION STATEMENT

At OLOL we are moved by the life and love of Jesus Christ and the Sisters of St Joseph to give of ourselves to ensure the flourishing of each member of our community.

#### OLOL MISSION STATEMENT

At OLOL we are a Christ centered, child focused learning community that lives out our Josephite Charism in all that we do.

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 charism 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, simplicity, justice and trust in God. We are all custodians of these charisms but have a shared responsibility to live these in our everyday interactions. These charisms were a focus for the RE project within the teaching and learning of each classroom in 2020.

The RE project planned by staff was on the Framing paper for Religious Education in Schools and the elements in the GNfL that linked into this paper that allowed for deep, transferrable learning with rich and authentic assessment tasks.

### **Liturgy and Celebration**

In 2020 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 in 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, who led many of the liturgies. Advent, Lent, Easter, Holy Week. Other significant events like Grandparents Day, Mothers' and Fathers' Days were postponed in 2020 due to the Coronavirus Outbreak. OLOL presented these days as via a live Facebook feed where possible.

The school also continued with Monday morning prayer. Parents have continued to support this prayerful beginning to our week until March and then we continued these via the internal PA system, in classes and near the

end of the year in the McCarthy Centre, due to Coronavirus and the need for social distancing. 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 of the beginning of each school week. These were also recorded and shared 'live' through our school Facebook site for more global connection.

Each Tuesday at 3:20 staff prayer is lead each week in rotation by the class teachers. This time allows for a focus on prayer and space for each staff member to hear the word of God, respond and go forth back into their community of students and colleagues with renewed faith and spiritual nourishment.

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 Belinda Downward and Stewart Farr, Assistant Principals, and Religious Education Consultants from the Catholic Education Office, our teachers implemented the program with a high level of success during 2020. This was supported through the RE Project led by Mrs Downward at school with a close at the Framing paper for Religious Education in Schools and the elements in the GNfL that were difficult to teach and planned a unit on that.

In terms of staff spirituality, Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School was unable to provide opportunities for travel or professional learning outside of school due to the Coronavirus. Courage to Be Retreats, Josephite Colloquiums at State and National levels as well as other Spiritual Development experiences are on hold until 2021. A Spirituality day was held on site for staff in July lead by Belinda Downward with special guest Aunty Dawn?, and 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 2020, Our Lady of Lourdes 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. This year, the Grade Six, Five, Four and Three, students participated 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 but again this was held over until 2021 due to the Coronavirus. The Parish Sacramental Team will work with parents/carers to prepare a number of our students for the Sacraments of Confirmation, First Eucharist and First Reconciliation in 2021.

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 identifies eight learning areas. In 2020 Specialist Teachers taught Physical Education, Music and Drama through the Performing Arts and Wellbeing. Science was a focus for a specialist teacher over a 3 year project. Science knowledge, skills and understanding will be evaluated at the end of year 2 and 3 of the project through PAT Science testing

In 2020, all classes continued 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 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 when they were permitted due to Coronavirus.

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, the students participated in AusSwim Learn to Swim and Water Awareness Programs. This caters for all students from Kindergarten to Grade Six and involves water awareness, buoyancy, stroke development, surf life saving skills and boating. Students unfortunately this year were not able to participate in an annual Swimming (cancelled), Athletics (cancelled) and Cross Country Carnivals (cancelled). 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. Most of these were cancelled in 2020 due to the Coronavirus.

Wellbeing was introduced to OLOL in 2018 with two staff being trained in 2017 and has had another successful year of teaching and learning. Personal and Social Capabilities is part of the Australian Curriculum, which we are, in part addressing through our Wellbeing and Mindfulness approaches at OLOL. We are using the 'Peaceful Kids' program is a Mindfulness and Positive Psychology based program to lessen anxiety and stress and increase resilience in children from Prep through to Year 12. This program helps children to build their emotional resilience so they are better equipped to deal with the day to day stresses that life can bring. Peaceful Kids is in hundreds of schools across Australia as well as now internationally.

Performing Arts (music and drama) offers the students time to develop both their musical skills and awareness of their body movements, speech and communication in drama. Students practice and enter the local Devonport Eisteddfods to experience real audiences for their small productions yearly.

### **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 2020 with each class having a designated Teacher Assistant each day for four days a week until at least 1:00pm. In 2017 the school invested in a Grade Teacher model. In 2020 this model was continued with an extra teacher for all grades. This provided additional intervention and enhancement opportunities for students. The Grade 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.

### **Digital Technologies**

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School in 2020 continued to provide opportunities for students to enhance ICT skills and competencies through the implementation of the Digital Technologies Curriculum. Students in Grades Four to Six worked with 1:1 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 Digital Technologies Key Teacher. The increase of resources to expand Prep to Grade Three with iPads at a ratio of 1:2, enhanced capacity to share student understanding in a variety of forms, creative opportunities for collaboration and connectivity make it a successful device to enhance student learning opportunities. We were also able to continue the use of other digital technologies, such as the 3D printer, to further extend student thinking by creating endless possibilities in construction tasks. Staff use of Cubelets, Dash Robots, Edisons, Microbits, Lego Mindstorm and Bee Bots enhance the teaching of Technologies.

### **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. Grade Six students were exposed to leadership experiences through Junior Joeys, Aussie Sports Leaders, School Captains and Sport 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, Grades One, Two, Three, Four, Five and Six. Significant time was given to explore the enhancement of collaborative planning into Professional Learning Communities (PLC). In 2020 staff consolidated their practice in PLC and enhanced the regular use of Agile Sprints for targeted learning for identified students in short blocks. The Leadership Executive lead professional learning for staff on PLCs and Agile Sprints. Further professional learning was incorporated on student diversity and our response to the NCCD. Moderation processes assisted us in developing a shared and moderated understanding of student achievement in grade levels. Our Team Leaders all participated in the Growth Coaching Course over 2 days in order to continue to develop their leadership skills, behaviours and dispositions. Through out the year during PLC and Staff Meetings the focus was on High Impact Teaching Strategies in the classroom with an emphasis in particular on Literacy and Numeracy. This was lead by the Leadership Team and supported by the use of an Education Officer from Catholic Education Tasmania for Literacy.

### **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 approach 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. Our comprehensive assessments include:

- ✓ Auditory Processing Assessment.
- ✓ Phonological Awareness Screen.
- ✓ Expressive Language and Articulation Screen.
- ✓ Kindergarten Developmental Checklist.
- ✓ YARC (Reading Comprehension)
- ✓ PAT Assessments
- ✓ AGAT
- ✓ PM Benchmarking
- ✓ ENI Maths Interview
- ✓ A wide variety of Student Support Screeners for language disorders, cognitive processing, working memory, auditory processing and dyslexia.

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 programs for assessment are in addition to the most reliable and insightful formative assessment. All forms of standardised student assessment is recorded 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. This year the reports were delivered in July well after school had recommenced following the lockdown of March and April.

Parents were formally invited by the School to attend Parent/Teacher Interviews following the issue of the Mid-Year Achievement Reports. This occurred via phone call due to the Coronavirus. Students in Prep began and finished the 2020 year with Performance Indicators in Primary School (BASE) screening to assess progress in their first formal year of schooling. These results showed growth that saw us start above the state cohort at the beginning of the year and continue to maintain this difference throughout the year. The key to this success was identified through the planning structures and Grade Teacher model.

## **NAPLAN 2020**

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. NAPLAN was cancelled this year due to the Coronavirus.

## **Pastoral Care**

In 2020, students at Our Lady of Lourdes 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.
- ✓ Charism Cards ( introduced 2019 after the discernment on our Vision and Mission Statements in 2018. The aim is to embed our charism with our students.)

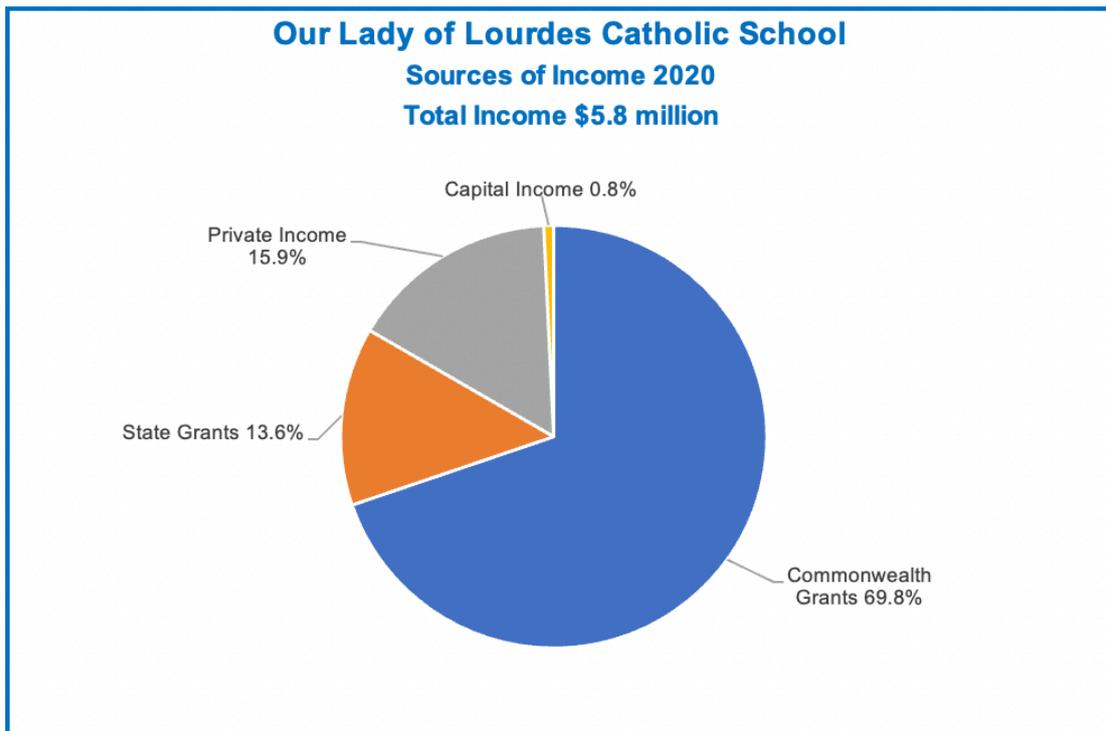
Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School makes every effort to communicate with parents as partners through the weekly newsletter, class newsletters, special letters home, homework diaries, the Annual School Report, the enrolment package, teacher/parent contact, parent information sessions, report interviews and collaborative plan meetings initiated by school or parents. The school also uses Facebook and email as vehicles to connect important school information to parents. The introduction of a new student information portal, Compass, began late in the year and will be used in 2021 to communicate out from classes on a weekly basis. This portal is also used for attendance and communication out to parents for many other matters.

Programs designed to meet pastoral care needs of the students included the Making Jesus Real Program, 'Move Well Eat Well', and Wellbeing/ Mindfulness. 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. We also have a Wellbeing Team comprised of 2 school counsellors, a Chaplain, the School Learning Support Teacher and the Principal.

## **Financial Income and Expenditure 2020**

Enrolment in classes from Prep to Grade Six in 2020 was 408 with two straight classes in each grade. Of this number 209 were boys and 199 were girls. There were also 60 Kinder students. 10% of the student population identified as indigenous.

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School Sources of Income and Expenditure for 2020 are summarised in the following 2 pie charts:



# Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School

## Expenditure 2020

Total Expenditure \$5.8 million

