

Principal Report AGM 2015

2015 has been another very busy and productive year at OLOR.

We have continued into 2015 with strong directions in our focus areas of Catholic Mission, Teaching and Learning and Pastoral Care.

Educationally our professional learning at the beginning of the year saw us unpack the new Science Syllabus with all grades developing units around the new outcomes. We also looked at our Creative Arts syllabus ensuring that all strands were covered more thoroughly with teachers reporting on the students' enjoyment in greater emphasis on drama and dance. As a staff we have done lots of PL around the writing process and will continue to work on this into 2016. We continue to work on problem-solving in Mathematics and are becoming acquainted with the History syllabus that will be introduced next year. Our Stage 3 grades have attended PL on Project Based Learning and integrated that into some of the units taught throughout the year. We are at the stage of having to replace old laptops and have done that across all classes with each class now have 5 ipads that are used primarily in the English Block.

Our Pastoral Care has seen the Kidsmatter Initiative, a wellbeing program enhancing our mental health and relationships with students grow in strength and confidence. We had a schoolwide focus on Anti-Bullying, a performance for all students by the 'Power of One.' The notion of being a bucket-filler and having a lid on your bucket are schoolwide understandings teaching responsibility, respect and resilience. We have had police visits around cybersafety for our senior students. Sr Katherine continues to be an integral part of the team running programs 'Goodbye Mr Scary' and 'Seasons for Growth'. Our Multicultural Day and celebration remains for me one of the highlights of our year where we have the opportunity to celebrate the wonderful diversity within our community.

In Catholic Life and Mission students have developed their understanding of what it means to care for others through our Social Justice initiatives. We have supported the Women's Shelter, Caristas Peru.be a disciple with our Mercy values being a strong focus of our living. Students and staff have valued opportunities to be renewed in their faith through mass, meditation and prayer liturgies with a special focus on The Joy of the Gospel. As part of our Outreach program our Year 5 students have visited McQuoin Park building connections with the old folk who live there. Our Year 6 students have also been part of the Mercy 150 year celebrations.

Grades have had incursions and excursions throughout the year. As a school we have been involved in many activities such as Da Vinci Decathlon, Diocesan Public Speaking, Musica Viva, Book Parade, Maths Olympiad, Maths Challenge and HSFOL Maths Challenge to name a few. As a school we were involved in many sporting events such as our Swimming Carnival, Cross Country and Athletics with many students going onto representative levels. Our primary students also had great fun taking part in Gala Days across a range of sports. It is wonderful to be able to really utilise TLOCC for our PE lessons.

Music continues to build in strength with the Band and Choir groups sounding magnificent. Our Band students joined with St Leo's College for a special Band workshop and performed at our Open Day, assemblies, for grandparents and at our Carols evening. Our choir have had another busy year entertaining the elderly at McQuoin Park and showcasing their talents throughout the year at

various functions. Our Year 5 and 6 students have performed a spectacular musical last week with two wonderful performances. We look forward to our Carols evening on December 4th.

One of the highlights of 2015 was the celebration of the Anzac Centenary with our special ceremony remembering fallen soldier and ex-student Jason Brown as we unveiled an Anzac memorial in the lower playground. A very moving ceremony with Jason Brown's parents and sister attending as well as the Governor of NSW, The Honourable David Hurley.

One of the highlights of our year has been our Fair held every 2 years. Many people worked tirelessly for months in the organisation and with a very warm spring day it was a wonderful bringing together of our tremendous community. Special thanks to Sarah and Lisa for superb co-ordination. We all had a wonderful day. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Cathy and all the staff for their efforts at the Fair. We are very fortunate with the calibre of teacher we have at our school.

My thanks too, to our P&F Executive in 2015 for all their wonderful efforts. To David, Linda, Alison, Courtney, Kat, Helen, Narelle, Jackie and Anne Marie and Lisa and Sarah - my sincere appreciation for all you do to support the school community. There is much work that is done behind the scenes and for these people there is never anything they can't do.

We had many successful community events throughout the year with Welcome BBQs, Blokes and Buddies BBQ, Mothers' and Fathers' Day events and the Trivia Night, all were well attended and fabulous community occasions. A special thank you to our Cuppa Crew who on many occasions served refreshments and offered hospitality to visitors. There are so many other ways parents give their time and generous spirit to all that they do for their children and the school. The Dish is one of the many ways that our parents show support and it always heartens me to see the depth and involvement in this initiative. Thanks to Sue-Ellen Rixon for her co-ordination for the last year.

My sincere thanks to all the parents of OLOR for your contribution to our great school. We very much value the partnership we have with you in doing the best for the students in our care.