



2023 Annual Community Meeting

Principal's Report
Tuesday 14 November

Good evening parents, staff and community members. Tonight, I welcome you all to the Our Lady of Fatima School Annual Community Meeting, held in conjunction with the P&F and School Advisory Council.

2023 has been a very special year for our school and parish in our centenary year. I find it quite remarkable to consider that 100 years ago, this bush block would have remained untouched, and that the suburb of Palmyra would have been in its early stages of development. I imagine the challenges of Sisters Mary Lawrence and Mary Modwena, from the Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions, who travelled to the rented hall in Tamar Street via tram from Fremantle in 1923. I think of all the Sisters and staff since, who operated the school in challenging circumstances, with many families not able to pay school fees. I contemplate all the changes to the school and parish buildings, which continue to this day! I reflect on all the families who have chosen Our Lady of Fatima for their schooling across the years, some of whom we have been able to reconnect with through our celebrations this year.

However, commemorating the centenary of the school is not just a focus on the past, but rather needs to celebrate our present successes and point forward to the future- what will the next 100 years look like? While I cannot answer this last question, tonight, I want to celebrate the recent achievements of our beautiful little school. This report will be presented based on the four areas of quality Catholic Education: Catholic Identity, Education, Community and Stewardship, which aligns with our mission here at Our Lady of Fatima.

In 2023, our improvement goal in Catholic Identity was to enhance and share our understanding of the history of Our Lady of Fatima School and Parish in the centenary year. Plans for the celebrations began in late 2022, in collaboration with the School Advisory Council, Parents and Friends Association (P&F) and Parish committee. Collectively, we sought to rediscover and engage with the stories, history and charism of 100 years as a faith and education community. Some of the ways that we have worked towards this include:

- In December 2022, our graduating Year 6 cohort restored the Our Lady of Fatima grotto as their leaving gift.
- Through two student-led initiatives, our devotion to our Holy Mother and her message of Peace at Fatima has been represented and celebrated in our 2023 Year 6 Leavers Shirts and a commemorative hoodie.
- Supported by our P&F and led by our Visual Arts teacher Amanda Bennetts, an artwork was created to meaningfully share our Catholic faith tradition, which is at the front of the school.
- On 12 May, we celebrated our Centenary Mass as a school and parish community.
- During our Feast Week celebrations, our community gathered to form a '100' for a drone photo shot.
- Also during our Feast Week celebrations, the entire school gathered at Our Lady's grotto to bury a time capsule.
- We coordinated a Feast Day mini-fair to raise money for LifeLink, also during our Feast Week celebrations.
- We planted a tree to honour the charism of the Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions in June.
- At the start of the Term 2 school holidays, the school and parish invited ex-students, families and staff to visit us for our Centenary Open Day.
- To connect our students with our ongoing story, each year level investigated an aspect of the life of the school in their '100 Year Projects'.
- We invited Father Ted, an ex-student and priest to provide an incursion for students and a professional development afternoon for

staff, to share his intimate and extensive knowledge of the history of the parish and school.

- Finally, Miss Kiera More attended World Youth Day in Portugal and walked the Camino de Santiago. I was privileged to visit Fatima in September to experience the 106th anniversary celebrations of the visitation of Our Lady to the three children.

This goal has been achieved with gusto! Our Lady of Fatima School's centenary celebrations were recently included in *The Record*, which is the Perth Archdiocese's news agency and they have also been shared through Catholic Education WA's media. Our achievements in this improvement goal were also the focus of our Quality Catholic Education nomination in Catholic Identity.

In the recent school climate data survey and Quality Catholic Education School Review, results from all data sources identified that Catholic identity is a strength of our school. When people walk into the school, they know it is a Catholic school, through the symbols throughout the school environment, and in the liturgies, Mass and prayer that are inherently experienced. Our sacramental program is led with expertise by Mrs Lorraine Szefczyk and connects the parish and school beautifully. As we move into the future, we aim to reconnect more with the Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions and their charism of 'contemplation, communion and mission'.

In 2022, one of our goals under the area of Education was to develop a whole school approach to the teaching of spelling. After much research, a decision was made to implement the PLD program from Kindergarten to Year 6. When a decision is made, it does take time to review data to see the impact of the program on student results. Our Curriculum Teacher Leader, Mrs Katie Closey, has been analysing our PLD and spelling data and it has been pleasing to see the significant growth that most students have made in this area. A general rule of thumb is that we aim for one year's learning growth in one school year. As one example of this improvement, in Year 2, the majority of students have made over 2 years growth in their spelling age in 2023, which is a remarkable achievement.

This year, our focus in Education has been to develop a coherent whole-school approach for the teaching of reading, to continue our wider strategic intent of adopting contemporary whole-school educational approaches that cater for learner diversity and fosters creativity, engagement and achievement. The *PLD* program that has been implemented for spelling also has a reading component, in that it focuses on the development of phonics and decoding skills. However, learning to read is a much larger skillset and again, through the leadership of Mrs Closey, staff have explored current practices, set goals, monitored progress and engaged in professional learning with an organisation called *Five by Five*, which shares evidence-based best practice in the science of reading. To support those readers who need more assistance, Our Lady of Fatima School has comprehensive literacy support programs, with Mrs McCarthy running *SoundsWrite* for some students in Years 1 to 4 and Mrs Romagnolo supporting some students in Years 5 and 6 with the *MacLit* program.

Improving staff understanding of engagement has been another school improvement goal in 2023 and Mrs Romagnolo has assisted staff to explore this concept by focusing on student agency, intentionality and behaviour engagement. Next year, this focus will continue with our whole staff being trained in the *Berry Street Education Model*, which enables schools to support students' self-regulation, relationships and wellbeing to increase student engagement and significantly improve academic achievement. In 2024, we will also continue to embed the key areas of reading: fluency, comprehension, oral language, vocabulary and phonics. We will also focus on the exciting area of grammar and punctuation!

The curriculum we offer at Our Lady of Fatima School is inspired by Pope John Paul II's vision for Catholic education to focus on meeting the needs of the 'whole' child. Since 2022, we have offered a specialist teaching program to foster interest and talent in the areas of Italian, Physical Education, Science, STEM, Performing Arts and Visual Arts. As part of our wider offerings, the school engages with *Keyed Up Music*, who offers individual and small group piano and guitar lessons for those who are interested. In 2023, some staff have been offering extra-curricular activities in the following areas: sports training, choir, art club, wellbeing club, and

Latin American culture and language club. As a school, we compete in a regional Interschool sporting competition in traditional areas such as swimming, cross country and athletics, but also our Year Five and Six students participate in the following interschool carnivals: cricket; modcrosse and league tag; and AFL, soccer and netball. Since 2021, Our Lady of Fatima School has entered in the *Performing Arts Festival* in the areas of choir and choral speech. In 2023, the school had submissions shared as part of the *Angelico Art Exhibition*. We were involved in the *Speak Up Awards*, *Creative Edge* problem solving competition and an interschool spelling bee most recently. This only happens because of the extraordinary generosity and expertise of staff, and I am very grateful for the gifts that each staff member brings to the school to support the development of all our students.

In the area of Community, our school improvement goals in 2023 were to establish a coordinated school-wide marketing and communication plan and to develop partnerships with the local community. As a school, we have seen a large improvement in social media engagement, and we have worked with the marketing committee to review schoolwide communication. We have participated in outreach opportunities in our local area, particularly with St Patrick's Community Support Centre and the parish, as well as connected with Seton Catholic College and other regional schools for a range of different reasons, such as the pantomime performance of Seton students on Friday this week and the newly established sibling discount scheme. Again, our centenary celebrations have fostered opportunities to connect with past and present staff, students and families. Additionally, the number of community building activities coordinated by the P&F, including the welcome event, Mothers' Day, Fathers' Day, disco and Bogan Bingo have created opportunities for parents and families to connect with one another, which helps create the wonderful community we are part of.

Wellbeing has continued to be a focus at Our Lady of Fatima School, with key initiatives being led by Miss Kiera More, our Wellbeing Teacher Leader. This year, we have been part of a trial of the *Smiling Minds*

mindfulness program, to help support our *Fatima Way*, and to supplement other school programs such as the *Highway Heroes* social and emotional learning program and the *Keeping Safe Child Protection Curriculum*. From the school climate data survey results, the area of protective and risk factors was strong for most cohorts, with different areas of strength including resilience, wellbeing and moral identity. However, having a strong wellbeing approach and using evidence-based programs ensures that teachers can target areas to meet the needs of the students. With additional funding from the Australian government, Our Lady of Fatima School will continue to focus on supporting student wellbeing in 2024, with the purchase of additional resources and staff training to support our key approaches. Next year under the area of Community, we will also aim to engage with local Whadjuk Nyoongar people to explore the Aboriginal history and connections to land in the Palmyra/Melville area.

Under the area of Stewardship, our 2023 improvement goal was to improve indoor and outdoor learning spaces and facilities. With enormous thanks to our P&F, all classrooms have had the furniture replaced, in line with our contemporary classroom upgrade (we are just waiting for the new furniture to arrive for Kindy and Pre-Primary!). Items picked have been designed to support student engagement and learning and students love their new learning spaces. Our P&F have also supported new playground items for the Pre-Primary, and we thank them and Mrs Sandra Leavy, our Early Years Teacher Leader, for bringing this plan to life. New student iPads have been provided across the school and our capital development is currently happening to remediate issues with our roof and windows, as well as providing a new staffroom and student toilets. I thank the School Advisory Council, architects and builders for their work to significantly improve facilities at our school.

We strive always to live out the *Fatima Way* and offer a high-quality educational experience for all within our community. Parent and student feedback from the school climate data survey consistently highlights the welcoming nature of the school, the support provided by teachers and

overall satisfaction with the school. This was also supported through the recent Quality Catholic Education School Review, in which Alison and I were told to make sure we celebrate the successes and recognise the wonderful achievements of what happens each day at Our Lady of Fatima School.

As I conclude this report, I would like to express my gratitude:

- To our parents, grandparents and all within our Fatima Community- as Principal, I feel blessed to lead such a community. When I was away on leave, I could not believe how much I missed seeing our beautiful students. How lucky we are here and each day, I am thankful for the strong partnerships between home and school.
- To the P&F Executive, all class representatives and members of the P&F- once again, you have done an extraordinary job in your aims of 'fundraising' and 'friendraising', and the whole community benefits from your efforts. Emma, Natalie and Felicity, you all work so hard behind the scenes and we cannot express our thanks enough. Your nominations in the Catholic School Parents WA awards were well deserved!
- To the School Advisory Council- it has been a joy being in your presence at each meeting. The open and important conversations have been beautifully balanced with humour and kindness. Rob, thank you once again for your leadership and to all the members, I appreciate what each of you brings with the common goal of supporting the school. I would like to make special mention of Luisa Marrows, who leaves the School Advisory Council this year. Luisa has been secretary, on the marketing committee and this year also as part of the P&F. We are sincerely grateful for the organisation and generosity that Luisa so quietly provides.
- To Father Benedict and the parish- this year has been an important one for our school and parish. Fr Ben, we have loved getting to know you and thank you for your active engagement with the school. A big thanks to Philip Boon for representing the parish on the School Advisory Council and to the Centenary Committee for the wonderful work achieved in celebrating 100 years as a community.

- To the teachers and education assistants- we are so grateful for everything you do to provide our students with a 'Christ-centred, child-focused' learning environment. Alison and I thank you for the enthusiasm and flexibility you have shown, particularly in relation to our centenary celebrations, school reviews and being a live building site! We extend our sincere gratitude to Mrs Sandra Leavy and Mrs Pauline Burwood, long term members of staff, who will be moving on at the end of this year and we recognise the significant contribution they have made to our school. We also farewell Mrs Jane Dorey, Miss Keely Palmer, Miss Dara Kieran, Miss Tammy Moroney, Miss Renee Tromp and Mrs Zoe Gardiner and thank all these members of staff for the gifts they have brought to Our Lady of Fatima School. We also wish Mrs Rita Crooks 'bon voyage' as she takes off on her worldwide travelling adventures in 2024.
- To Gaynor, Amy and Jemma, our administration team, thanks for the laughs, dedication, support and kindness you show not only me, but our whole community. I am so grateful for this each day!
- To Alison, our Assistant Principal- thank you sincerely for everything you do to support me in the leadership of the school community. Your ability to be agile, open-minded and complete everything with a sense of humour is held in high regards by me!

On behalf of the Fatima community, I wish everyone a holy, safe and wonderful Christmas and we look forward to seeing everyone back in 2024!



2023 Annual Community Meeting

P&F Chair's Report

Tuesday 14 November

Good evening everyone. At the beginning of 2023 it took me well out of my comfort zone. Rolling into my third year as our P & F's Vice Chair I became the 'accidental' acting chair for the year of 2023.

As a newbie I stumbled my way through chairing meetings and trying to fill the very big shoes that Zanda had left. With the new website up and running, which Zanda had a huge part in creating and a whole new executive moving forward, there was a lot of learning to be done.

I wanted to start my report by saying that I am proud of what the P&F has achieved this year. I would also like to give a massive shout out to Natalie O'Sullivan who is our new treasurer. Natalie works in the banking industry and is a very pragmatic, organised and hard-working person. The school is extremely lucky to have someone give their time as she has done this year. The other executive member who I would sincerely like to thank is Felicity Barr. Felicity has taken on the role as the P & F secretary. She has always made the effort to be at every meeting in some form even if on Zoom trying to get her kids to bed. She also makes her role on the P & F super smooth. Nothing is too hard for her and we really thank her for her time.

We have so many big hearted, generous and enthusiastic parents. At our meetings usually at least one class representative comes to take back information to pass on to the class. They also plan dinners, play dates and work to gather volunteers for our fundraisers and social events. Our school is all about community and it thrives because of our wonderful class reps, so thank you to everyone from each year group for all your efforts.

I have thanked all the parents now and as you can tell I think they are amazing. The P & F have achieved a lot of work around the year to raise funds, however none of our efforts could have been accomplished without the support of the staff at Our Lady of Fatima. The staff are always happy to lend a hand with all our events and fundraising and some have even made an effort to come out on the weekend with us- the poor things. I'd like to say a special to thank you to Jacinta, Alison, Amy and the super hard-working Gaynor. Nothing has been too much trouble, and we are sincerely grateful for their help, guidance and continued effort to support and help our P & F flourish.

We are seriously blessed as a tiny Catholic school to have such a beautiful community. It's our community that makes Our Lady of Fatima special. I will now give a brief recap of our year and will thank everybody as I go for their amazing contribution and hard work. I really hope I don't forget anyone!

Term One

- Welcome ice-cream event which had a great turn out- thanks to Felicity and Nat, the P & F also welcomed new families with a welcome gift.
- Kids Easter Raffle was a hit as usual with also family donations and raffle prizes organised by Jess and Di.
- Footy Tipping was popular too- thanks Alysia for running it solo for the second year running.
- Two Rice Days that the children loved thanks to all the ladies who gave their time to help especially Rach and Cath.

Term Two

- Fatima Care meals were fully under way with donations of single serve meals donated by our generous community to our less fortunate.
- The Mother's Day stall was a beautiful way to spoil the Mums, where the students could purchase a gift- thanks Rach, Nat and Cath for your time.
- The Fatima school disco was a hit with a huge effort from the wonderful Sam and Courtney from Year one and the dancefloor donation from the Daniel's family.

Term Three

- Bogan Bingo- our friend raising event was a fun night out- thanks to all the parents and staff that attended, a special thanks to all the beautiful ladies that helped me organise.

- Father's Day Daddy donut morning organised by the lovely Genivieve, Dale and all the ladies who helped on the day.
- Parent Cocktail event for the 100-year celebrations at Little Fire thanks to Lisa, Jess Di and Jacqui was hugely successful social event.
- Athletics Carnival cake stall was a favourite and very gourmet! With all the baked goods provided from our community- thanks to all who donated and a special mention to the organisers Laura, Louisa and Anna.

Term Four

- World teachers' day thanks to Agnes for all her preparation and all the families who contributed on the day to our amazing staff who are well deserving for this wonderful day.
- Preparing for the Christmas silent auction.

In brief.

We are all here to support our amazing school.

I am blessed to be here tonight .

As I have mentioned it takes a community to create memories and make the most out of our children's experience at primary school so bring on 2024 and a great year ahead.

Thank you



2023 Annual Community Meeting

School Advisory Council Chair's Report

Tuesday 14 November

Good evening everyone. On behalf of the Our Lady of Fatima School Advisory Council, I would like to welcome you to the Annual Community Meeting for 2023. My name is Rob Haddrill, and I am the current School Advisory Council Chair. Regarding my report tonight, I thought long & hard about what I would say. It was a great exercise in reflection; a look back at the year not only in a practical sense, but also in a philosophical sense, which I'll touch more on later.

Last year, being my 1st year as Chair, my report was very on script and I simply listed the things we did as an Advisory Council. I will again cover off what the Advisory Council got up to this year, our involvement with Jacinta and the school etc, but the fact of the matter is, our role as members of the School Advisory Council looks a lot different to what it used to be, when it was a School Board. A lot of the higher-level decision making, monitoring and reporting that a school board used to be involved in, has somewhat been taken up by CEWA. The Terms of Reference for the operation of School Advisory Councils states that our over-arching commitment as members is to provide advice and support to the principal and school leadership team, helping them plan for the present and future operations of the school.

So, in basic terms, we provide a sounding board to Jacinta & Alison, offering feedback & advice on school related matters. We also provide a parent voice or aspect to the meetings, which I think is important. Further to that, we get an

insight into the operation of the school, the challenges & successes it endures & a deeper understanding in how things run. This helps build advocacy for the school within the community.

This time last year, I stood here talking about how the ongoing impact of COVID remained quite disruptive in 2022, especially on our school community. So, as I stand here today, 12 months on, it is pleasing to see life as we knew it pre-COVID seems to have returned. While most of us still copped that 2nd or 3rd dose of COVID this year, the impact on our everyday lives seemed a little less dramatic. Cue the school assemblies, parent get together's, school camps, excursions, incursions, the various sports carnivals, discos, spelling bees, school choir, speak up awards, creative edge, Fatima's got talent (they were just the things I could remember off the top of my head) and our OLOF school community was up and running again.

But all these things just don't happen. It takes a lot of planning, time & effort. So, on that front, I'd like to say a huge thanks to all OLOF staff for your continued hard work, care & dedication in 2023. The environment & opportunities you create for our kids is fantastic & I am grateful for everything you do for the school.

In regard to the School Advisory Council this year – we welcomed some new members, in Claire Robertson, Zanda Cameron, James Newcome & Mike Pickford, who joined existing members Luisa Marrows, Mads Jensen, Jacinta, Alison and I. As you all know, Father Francis retired at the start of this year and Father Ben became our new parish priest. We welcomed Father Ben, along with Philip Boon as the Parish Rep, to our meetings & they have been active participants in the School Advisory Council this year.

We started the year by distributing, discussing & completing the necessary documents & training required. These included the Terms of Reference for the operation of School Advisory Councils, the Catholic School Advisory Council

Guidelines, the Our Lady of Fatima School Code of Conduct, plus the Mandatory Reporting & Child Protection Procedures Training. This compliance is extremely important & aligns with the school's concerted effort to promote & educate parents about the code of conduct required.

Other documents distributed & discussed as a council throughout the year included the school's Strategic Intents 2022-2024 document, the School's 2023 Improvement Plan and the School Performance and Compliance Data. These documents are readily available on the school's website and I would encourage everyone to read through them when time permits.

Last year, an important school compliance task was completed, that being the Non-Government School Registration Audit, which the school achieved an excellent result, with no recommendations provided. This year, some members of the advisory council and I joined other staff, students and parents in participating in the Quality Catholic Education School Review, where an external panel visited OLOF for a 2-day review of the school & Jacinta. The official report is yet to be received, but the panel noticed there was a clear sense of community amongst the school, a strong Catholic identity, improvement of facilities and positive whole school curriculum initiatives. These audits & reviews are an important way for the school's leadership team to gather feedback and data for continual improvement. It's also a great way for everyone involved to reflect, assess and challenge how the school is progressing.

Another way of achieving this is through the School Climate Survey, where feedback was provided during the year by parents, students and staff. This provided some valuable data to analyse and discuss as an Advisory Council. On all fronts, it was pleasing to see such positive feedback. The School Climate Survey data showed significant improvement in the perception of the school since the 2021 survey, with growth in many key areas including student and parent experience, catholic identity, leadership, staff engagement and

satisfaction. It was also important to see where improvements can be made. Wellbeing was identified as one such area for improvement. From this, Jacinta and the leadership team have put together a School Wellbeing Plan for 2024, which was presented to the Advisory Council recently. The overall aim is to build capacity with staff & increase resources for them to support the wellbeing needs in our school community. The plan reinforces the understanding, commitment and care Jacinta and the school are dedicating to such an important area of our children's lives.

Other school initiatives the School Advisory Council has actively contributed to throughout the year include the improvement in digital technology infrastructure, marketing and capital development.

The capital development plan has been the main item worked on intensively over the past couple of years. The School Advisory Council worked with Jacinta & CEWA to create a plan for addressing some of the maintenance & capital development issues that the school was facing, namely significant remedial works to the school roof & the proposed building of a new school toilet block & staff facilities. Further to this, the windows across the school were identified as very thin and a potential hazard, so replacing them was added to the capital development task. The student toilet block has not been upgraded since the 1970's and was deemed to be in an unsatisfactory location. In regards to the roof, our former Advisory Council Treasurer, Lucy Backhouse, said at last year's ACM, that the school roof was a gift that just keeps on giving. If you don't know the history of the roof, the gift she was talking about was leaks, lots of leaks, which meant money, lots of money. The focus in years gone by had been on patching and temporary fixes to the roof.

So, finally being able to address that alone is an amazing result for the school, but the new toilet and staff blocks will further enhance the flow of the school. This is important, as we recognise that the school needs to be presented in an attractive way, not only for prospective enrolments, but for our current school

community. As it is clear to see, capital development works are in full swing and will have a dramatic improvement on the school. We hope it'll be completed for the start of 2024.

As part of my role on the advisory council, I've been privy to how much work went into getting the capital development project off the ground. I would like to acknowledge the tireless efforts of previous & current Advisory Council members, but mainly our Principal, Jacinta, and the considerable amount of time she spent meeting with CEWA, architects, builders and the like – it really wouldn't have got to this stage, and so quickly, without her hard work and time committed.

From a school marketing perspective, the joint marketing committee formed with members of the school P&F and Advisory Council in 2022 continued in 2023 and a marketing action plan was developed, focussing on improving OLOF's social media presence and promoting key school initiatives through new communication channels and connections. Regarding communication, more emphasis was placed on the school newsletter, Seesaw and social media. The school's website has also been discussed as an area for potential improvement going forward. Jacinta has also been influential in continuing to develop a strong working relationship with the local Member of Parliament, Lisa O'Malley. Lisa is a local resident and strong advocate for our community and school. She engages with many OLOF events and promotes our school through her communication channels. She even borrowed the OLOF marquees this year for one of her fundraising events! I had the privilege to join Jacinta and Lisa for lunch at Parliament house this year, where I got to see first hand the passion Lisa has for her community and how open she is to helping the school where she can. I am also pleased to report I controlled myself at lunch and showed exquisite table manners.

Finally on marketing, it's hard to find a more powerful marketing tool than celebrating a 100 year anniversary. This provided some important marketing

opportunities, both within our school community and beyond. A joint parish-school committee planned numerous events throughout the year to engage past and present students, staff, parents and parishioners. But marketing aside, if nothing else, I believe these Centenary celebrations at OLOF has given the community and kids a newfound sense of gratitude and opportunity to learn more about the journey our school and parish have been on, which I think is great.

In regard to digital technology infrastructure upgrades, Jacinta and the leadership team have done a great job in engaging with CEWA to investigate the school's digi tech requirements. With a low number of old iPad's, an aging computer lab and staff computers, CEWA agreed to assist the school to improve its facilities and bring OLOF up to standard with others in the area. Jacinta sought input from the Advisory Council and discussions were had regarding the current and future digi tech requirements for the school. This will be a significant area of improvement for the school going forward.

A very important aspect at OLOF is developing relationships within our school community. The school P&F play a huge role in this space and work tirelessly for the betterment of the school. They continuously raise funds, which this year went again to supporting contemporary classroom and playground upgrades, as well as facilitating connections within the community. Their goals of 'friendraising' and 'fundraising' are crucial to the strong school community we have. I would like to say a huge thank you to the P&F for all of the school community events you organised in 2023. My personal highlight was Bogan Bingo, as it unleashed my inner bogan and brought upon a newfound inner peace I never knew I could get by wearing footy shorts, a flannel shirt, thongs and a blonde mullet wig. Volunteering can at times feel like a thankless task, especially after hours and on weekends, given we all have busy lives. But please know it does not go unnoticed and your efforts are thoroughly appreciated by the whole school community.

Coming back to the School Advisory Council - something I started at our meetings this year was designed to get to know each other on a deeper level.

Basically, I would choose a topic each meeting and we'd all share something about ourselves. Topics ranged from preference of sweet or savoury snacks, your 1st job or car, your favourite music or song and so forth. While slightly trivial by nature, it was an enjoyable way of getting to know each other a little more, which I feel helps with group productivity and cohesion.

So, to the parent members of the School Advisory Council – Luisa, Mads, Claire, Zanda, James and Mike, thanks for sharing this year and being such a supportive group and strong advocates for the school within the community. The time you have given up this year to be involved is much appreciated, so thank you. I would also like to thank Father Ben & Philip Boon who represented the Parish at our meetings and play an important role in the School Advisory Council. The school and parish connection has been strong for 100 years and it was great to discuss with you how we can look to connect the parish and school even further going forward.

A special mention to a departing Advisory Council member, Luisa. I wanted to publicly thank you for the time and hard work you have given over the last 3 years. Your involvement in discussions and willingness to participate in different committees was fantastic, plus your minute taking skills were elite! I very much appreciate the time and work you put in, so thank you.

I would also like to say a sincere thanks to Jacinta & Alison, for allowing us to help you and the school in a small way. The passion, drive and care you both bring to your roles is outstanding and as parents, we are lucky to have you as the leaders of our school. You both actively seek input from the School Advisory Council about many current and future school initiatives and your communication and openness with us at meetings is much appreciated.

In closing and circling back to the philosophical part of my report that I mentioned at the start - please know I am only speaking for myself here, but at times I think we are all guilty of thinking a little too much about what we don't

have or what could be done better. This can at times take us away from reflecting on what we do have and celebrating the good things in our lives.

As parents we all want the best for our kids, I know I do. But maybe that can have the capacity to make us focus a little too much on the not-so-good, like what is lacking, what needs to be better, what we are missing out on. Don't get me wrong, being able to improve and strive for better is important, but countering this with being able to reflect on the good in our lives, like what is working well, what has been improved and simply getting involved in your community, in my view is just as important.

So, my message tonight was upon reflection of what's happening in different parts of the world today and looking at what we actually have in our lives and being grateful for it. Nothing is perfect, but I look at our school community and feel lucky to be involved in it - we have amazing, supportive parents, we have caring and hard-working teachers and fantastic leadership. Combine that with our wonderful kids and it makes me feel extremely grateful to be a part of this school community. There's so much to be proud of and so much to celebrate, so let's reflect on the good.

Reflection is a powerful tool and so is gratitude. In writing this report it's helped me think about what's important in my life and what I am truly grateful for - family, friends, community. It made me reflect on how lucky I am to live where I do and give my family the opportunities many in the world cannot. And from a schooling point of view, to be able to give my children a good education in a safe and happy environment.

As a member of the School Advisory Council, I've been privy to a lot of the change Jacinta, Alison and the wonderful staff have put in place over the last couple of years and I am very grateful and thankful for the hard work they have put in. There have been some real positives created, which are aimed at continually improving the school. The capital development works, upgraded

digital technology infrastructure, contemporary classroom and playground layouts, a detailed school improvement plan and a structured wellbeing approach, will all vastly make the school better. Add in a supportive parent community and the future for OLOF is bright.

I have thoroughly enjoyed working with the School Advisory Council members in 2023. I look forward to working together again next year to continually develop and support our school community.

I again thank you for your attendance and on behalf of the School Advisory Council, we wish all teachers and families an enjoyable end to the school year and a safe festive period.

Thank you.