



Our Lady of Mt Carmel School
Annual Report to the School Community for 2023
Presented for the Annual Community Meeting (held 23rd February, 2024)

Annual General Meeting of School Advisory Council for 2023

School Advisory Council Chairperson's Report
Mr David Tropiano

Thank you to everyone for coming tonight to our Annual Community Meeting. Firstly, on behalf of the School Advisory Council, I would like to thank our School Advisory Council members along with our Parents and Friends Executive who attend meetings and do the work behind the scenes to support our school. We thank Mrs Miki Keeffe who has left the position of Secretary on our School Advisory Council. Mrs Belynda Mills will be our P&F representative to the council and take on the role of Secretary.

Our Treasurer's Report will inform you that the school continues to sit in a sound position financially and we are committed to new projects for 2024. This year we managed to complete a number of projects under the guidance and hard work of Mr Dale Schulz. This work included: glass doors to the K/PP and hall, installation of new desks and cabinetry in Finance and teacher's work area, installation of safety mesh to shed and chemical storage area, tree removal and lopping. Major works we were fortunate to complete were the installation of the Funky Monkey climbing bars and climbing pyramid on the playgrounds. We thank the P&F again for their contributions toward the large car, train, mud kitchens and water trolleys for the playground. They have also committed to assisting with the cost of the new shade sails over the new climbing frames.

Thank you to Miss Jill and all of the staff at OLMC in 2023 who have continued to work hard to educate our children and keep them happy to come to school each day. We are very lucky to have and retain such experienced staff here in our small rural school. We are extremely thankful for the way in which all of the staff looked after our children in the event of the extremely sad passing of our long term staff member, Mrs Leonora Tunbridge. The staff continued caring for all the students and kept on with teaching and learning, all the while coping with their own grief and sadness.

We look forward to the next year working with our staff and students at OLMC and on behalf of the School Advisory Council, I would like to wish you all the best for 2024.

Kind regards,

David Tropiano



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Treasurer’s Report

Our budget for 2023 was set to run to a surplus. As per each year, the majority of our income was spent on staff wages, then the general areas of Utilities, Maintenance, Improvements, Furniture and Fittings, Plant and Equipment, Gardens and Grounds, Technology and provision of curriculum programs and resources. Our spending remained within budget for staffing and all general areas. Areas of spending in areas for 2023 included:

Refurbishment

- Installation of new desks and cabinetry in Finance and teachers work area
- New glass doors installed in Kindy/Pre-Primary and back of hall building
- Installation of safety mesh doors to shed and chemical storage area
- Installation of climbing pyramid on playground
- Installation of Funky Monkey playgrounds
- Playground equipment – large car, train, mud kitchens, water trolleys (with assistance from P&F)

Furniture and Fittings

- New furniture for library
- Extra tables for junior classrooms

Gardens

- Upgrade to school oval maintenance– reticulation dosing pump fitted with extra fertiliser etc
- New pods with fruit trees and herbs
- Extension of vegetable gardens
- Tree removal and tree lopping

Technology

- Continued Technology Plan with new computers for Library, Admin and Finance areas
- New school server purchased for control of all internet and IT in school
- IT infrastructure upgrade – installation of new data access points, switches in all rooms across school (wiring run through ceiling)
- Installation of security cameras around outside of school buildings

Total Recurrent and Capital Income for 2023	\$1 870 201.00
Total Recurrent Expenditure for 2023	\$1 448 210.00
Surplus before Amortisation and Depreciation	\$ 436 295.00
Surplus after Amortisation and Depreciation	\$ 342 532.00

Cash in Bank as at 31st December 2023

Operating Account	\$ 296 518.31
12 Months Term Deposit	\$ 95 418.76
Cash Management Account	\$1 133 323.17
Presentation Sisters (12 month deposit)	\$ 247 337.03
Total	\$1 771 597.27

Initial Budget for 2024

Our Initial budget for 2024 was submitted and is forecast to run to a slight deficit. The main reason for this will be all of the upgrades and refurbishment we would like to happen have been included; the premise being that securing tradespeople to complete all items will not necessarily occur. All items have been planned and will be attempted for completion. The school has a generous amount of money within its cash reserves to cover the costs associated with all items.

Forecast Capital Expenditure for 2024

IT	\$ 70 000
Improvements	\$110 000
Plant & Equipment	\$160 000

- Furniture and Fittings (Doors, cabinetry, carpet, blinds, windows, glass doors, student toilets)
- Plant and Equipment (Spray rig, playground, shade sail)
- IT (MacBooks, iPads, switches, wiring and data points)

We have continued to allocate enough money to continue with areas of improvements, ongoing maintenance and gardens and grounds across the school. The school will continue to complete maintenance work on the Presentation Sisters Convent building (Admin block).

Our biggest upgrades in 2024 will be:

- Improvement, upgrade to school oval
- Shade sails/domes for new playground
- K/PP Play equipment
- Outdoor tables
- Archive shelving to storage shed
- New locks/keys all doors
- Air conditioner replacements
- Replace glass and mesh screens to old windows in older classrooms/library
- Student toilets (refurbishment)
- Staff Kitchen (refurbishment)

Staff and student iPads now on a lease program with CEWA for turnover every 2nd year.

Allocation of money for purchase of new school vehicle

Initial Budget Figures for 2024

Total Recurrent Income	\$1 856 819.00
Capital Income	\$ 33 873.00
Total Recurrent & Capital income	\$1 890 692.00
Total Expenditure	\$1 889 790.00
Surplus before Depreciation	\$ 902.00
Amortisation & Depreciation	\$ 87 605.00
Surplus/Deficit after Depreciation	- \$ 86 703.00

Fees

There has been no increase in fees for 2024 in line with CEWA's recommendations.



**Our Lady of Mt Carmel School
Annual Community Meeting for 2023
Principal's Report**

It was wonderful to begin the 2023 year with a complete return to usual operations within the school, albeit learning to operate with safe practices around the spread of COVID. Our school chose to continue with COVID practices that were manageable and enhanced the safety of the school including promoting students remaining at home when unwell, wiping of surfaces throughout the day and hand washing for all students at meal breaks and playtimes. During COVID, our parent community continued to trust the judgement made by OLMC staff and allowed us to carry on with our most important task of teaching and learning. A special thank you to all the parents and families who allowed the school to get on with their most important task; quality learning and the children's health and wellbeing remained at the forefront at all times.

We enjoyed our Annual Community Meeting and Welcome Dinner as well as visits within the community, Mass Rock, Morawa Ag College, our Faction Swimming Carnival, Cross Country and Faction Athletics Carnival in Terms Two and Three. It was so pleasing to see every single family represented at our carnivals; all children could see someone there watching and supporting them. Running the jumps and throws on the same day as the racing and team games brought a real carnival atmosphere to the day.

Our students continued to work and play together under their Student Code of Conduct and guided by our school values of the Fruit of the Spirit. All staff were involved in the Berry Street Education Model of training that is grounded in creating and maintaining a safe, predictable, supportive and orderly school environment so students can enter their classrooms each day ready to learn. This remains a focus of our Catholic School Improvement Plan for 2024 along with the establishment of the role of Health and Wellbeing Coordinator taken on by Mrs Penny Critch. Penny's links to outside health agencies and community groups were invaluable throughout 2023 and this will continue to be a focus for 2024.

As our SAC Chairperson outlined, we continued with our refurbishment and maintenance plans across the year with the support of our groundsman, Mr Dale Schulz, who has worked tirelessly to produce a beautiful school setting for the students to enjoy and appreciate along with the creation of a flourishing fruit, vegetable and herb garden. The new playground equipment is enjoyed fully every day. Our Early Years classroom was given a fresh refurbishment creating a safe, modern environment for the students. The support of our P&F Association in donations to make this happen is very much appreciated, as is the commitment of our parents to keep it running, albeit with far less number of families in our school.

Father Robert continued to lead us with the Sacramental life of the school and has always been fully supportive of adapting our Catholic practices to suit our remote and small school context, always in a liturgically correct way. We celebrated a wonderful Confirmation Mass with Bishop Michael for our Year Five and Six students.

Again, we were one of the few Catholic schools in our diocese to retain a completely stable staff for 2024 and this says a lot about our school environment and the students and families

within our community. In one of the worst times we had experienced as a community, with the passing of Mrs Leonora Tunbridge, the support of all parents made our job of focusing completely on the wellbeing of our students, so much easier. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the parents, as well as the fortitude of our staff who put aside their own grief during that difficult time.

We finished the year with 53 students; nine of whom were Year 6's who headed off to various secondary schools in both Perth and Geraldton armed with the special skills and ability to adapt to situations they gained from their time at OLMC. Happy students are what we always aim for, underpinned by our drive and desire to be a school that is flourishing; where children are not just being, but feel a sense of belonging to a school community they care about, and are involved in.

OLMC Review of 2023 Catholic School Improvement Plan

Area Focus	Goal	Outcomes
Catholic Identity	Students will be rewarded for demonstrating the Fruit of the Spirit behaviours, in order to promote and support the Student Code of Conduct and Positive Behaviours for Learning.	Every three weeks throughout the year, starting in term 1, students received Fruit of the Spirit rewards (sheep tags with the Fruits of the Spirit written on them and fruit of the Spirit bands.) This promoted the Fruits of the Spirit throughout the school and reinforced positive behaviours. This could be improved with more individualised rewards.
Education	All staff will learn strategies to keep students engaged and learn how to support them to have an improved capacity for school achievement.	Most staff participated in professional development on the Berry Street Education Model (BSEM). Two classes implemented a morning sharing circle and use brain breaks throughout each day.
Community	The school will have a health and wellbeing coordinator in the school to promote staff and student mental health and wellbeing.	A health and wellbeing coordinator has been employed and her role and responsibilities have been clarified. A timetable was established and followed for the officer to meet with identified students in need. Allowance was made in the budget to pay for the position. Students have demonstrated a strong desire to spend time with the officer and participate in her activities.
Stewardship	Refurbish the playground and create a contemporary outdoor play area in order to utilise the physical environment.	Two new playground structures were purchased and installed. Students are using them regularly although not in the middle of summer with the extreme heat.

