

# PRINCIPAL REPORT 2019



**LORETO**  
N E D L A N D S

*"We should be such as we appear and appear such as we are."  
Mary Ward*

Living with sincerity was something Mary Ward always envisaged. Her ideal was that “we should be such as we appear and appear such as we are”. In this 2019 Loreto year of Sincerity we have endeavoured to encourage our students to be themselves; to be authentic and to recognise that God has created them quite perfectly, just as they are. Our school community has displayed the value of “sincerity” as we have reached out to others to ensure a sense of belonging for all, as valued members of the Loreto family. We are proud of our diverse community and of the acceptance and welcome that is demonstrated to newcomers. During the year I have observed many examples of sincerity, most often demonstrated by our students as they have the courage to reach out to others, especially the poor and the marginalised, with love.

The Loreto Nedlands community has witnessed faith in action as the community has continued to raise money in support of Loreto Vietnam. The students have had numerous fun-raising initiatives during 2019. In addition, the Parents and Friends have generously donated to Loreto Vietnam to support the efforts of the students. A new initiative this year has been the assistance of the community to the Perth Homeless Support Group. Staff have generously given their time to support the group with work at the depot. The student Mini Vinnie’s Club has cooked for the Perth Homeless Support Group, raised money and organised food appeals. Parents have supported the group with regular donations of baked goods. Once again, the Parents and Friends Association have offered their support with the purchase of valuable food items to be provided to the group as they feed the Perth homeless on the weekends.

Religious Education, as the first learning area has been a focus for our curriculum improvement during 2019. The teaching staff have focused their lessons on ensuring the students’ content learning in Religious Education is rigorous. A significant component of the program has been the teaching and learning of the Sacraments. Loreto students have received the Sacraments of Reconciliation, First Eucharist and Confirmation during the year. We are most grateful to the ongoing support of Fr Gavin Gomez, Parish Priest of Holy Rosary Parish, Nedlands. The students have embraced class visits by Fr Gavin. A highlight during the year has been a visit by Archbishop Timothy Costelloe SDP. Archbishop Costelloe visited the Year Six class before celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation with the students.

The wider Loreto Network in Australia was fortunate to have a visit from Dr Elaine McDonald from Dublin City University. Dr McDonald is a proponent of the vision of Mary Ward and the educational legacy of the work of the Loreto Sisters. The Loreto Nedlands staff enjoyed a conversation morning with Dr McDonald to discuss our role as educators in a Loreto School in keeping the vision of Mary Ward alive. Dr Elaine McDonald delivered a well attended public lecture at Loreto Nedlands where she encourage the audience to reflect on the parallels between Mary Ward’s life and our lives as ‘bearers of a dangerous memory.’

For the past few years planning has been underway for the Loreto Parents and Friends Autumn Fair. The Autumn Fair, held in March this year, was the culmination of countless meetings and preparation by a dedicated group of parents. The Fair was a wonderful day for the entire Loreto community. The event encapsulated all that is positive about our school. The Loreto spirit was evident in particular with the large number of parents who volunteered to assist in a variety of capacities during the day. The Parents and friends Association, under the leadership of Mrs Toni Cairns, has raised money to support the refurbishment of the multipurpose court facing Webster Street. Works on the court will commence in January 2020 with an opening anticipated in Term One 2020.

The Loreto Nedlands music program continued to thrive during 2019. The Senior Musical took a slightly different approach this year with the inaugural Loreto Pop Up Musical, facilitated by Perth Youth Theatre Company. The Year Five and Year Six students attended musical preparations each day for a two-week period. At the conclusion of the two weeks the students entertained a full house audience with an evening performance of "What a Knight." The production was of an outstanding quality with excellent performances by the students and a high standard of set and costume design. Loreto students participated once again this year in a variety of solo, duet and ensemble performances in the annual Catholic Schools Performing Arts Festival. The Jubilee Strings, under the direction of Mrs Kathryn Horton, performed the original composition, "A Sorrowed Heart; A Mary Ward Reflection." The orchestral piece, composed by Mrs Horton, told the story of the courage, determination and hope of Mary Ward. We were delighted that the Jubilee Strings had the opportunity to perform the piece at the festival concert at the Perth Concert Hall.

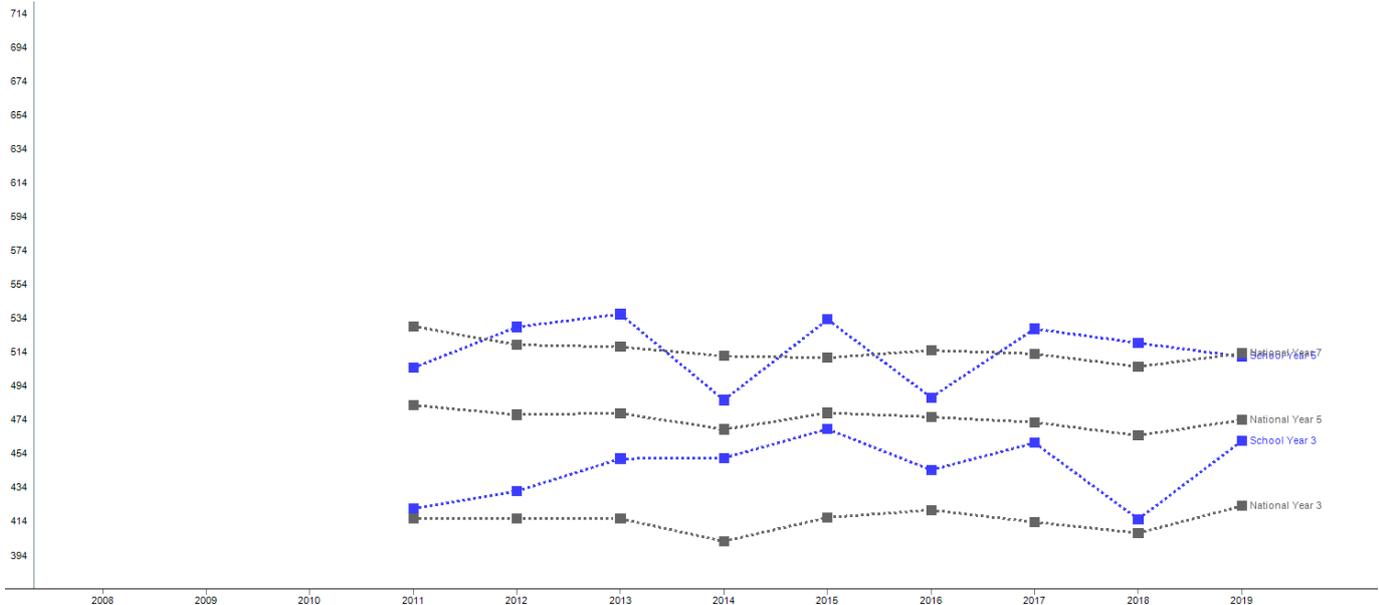
The visual arts came alive at Loreto during the year with the Artist in Residence Project, made possible with a generous donation from the Parents and Friends Association. Ms Carolyn White, artist in residence, facilitated large mosaic works depicting each of the Loreto values. The students worked in class groups, with the assistance of Ms White and parent volunteers to complete the mosaic works, which are proudly displayed around the school.

I am most grateful for the work of the Loreto Nedlands School Board for their support of the school during the year. The Board, under the leadership of Ms Cressey Wallwork, have completed a significant project in 2019, with the renovations of the staff areas. The Board were pleased to complete the first stage of the Master Plan with the capital works project. The staff facilities and veranda has have been completely refurbished and renovated to create bright and attractive spaces for the staff and parents to enjoy.

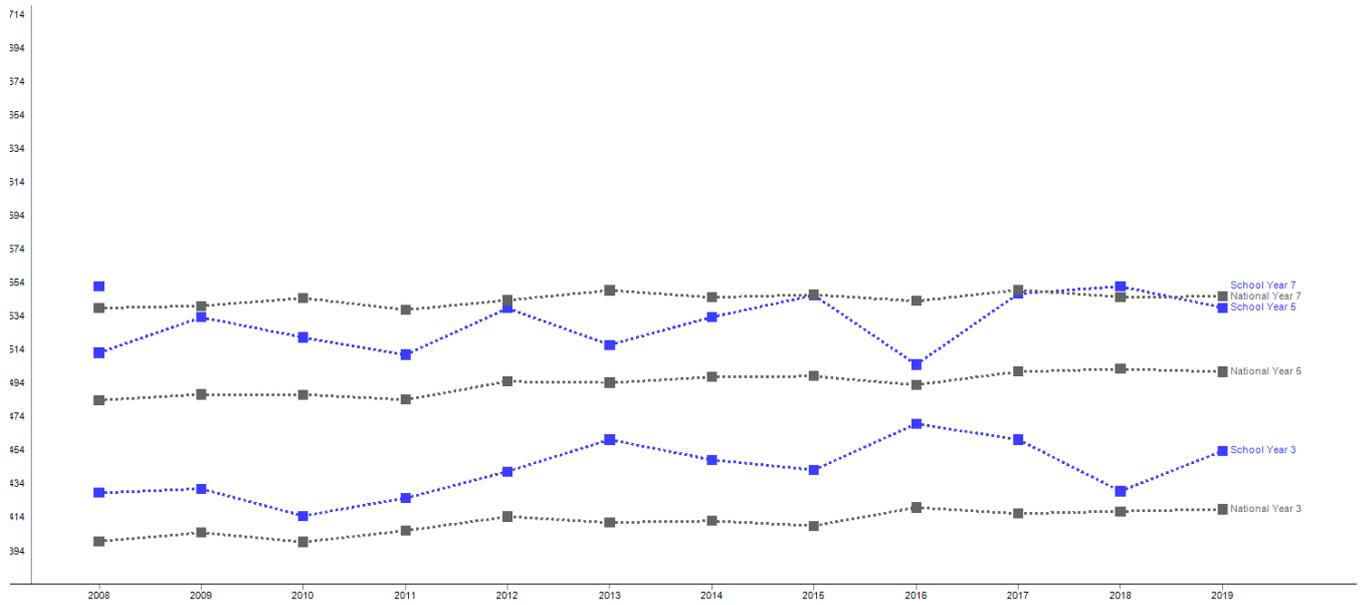
Teaching and learning at Loreto Nedlands has continued to see our students strive and achieve outstanding results across all areas. In particular, we have been pleased to receive excellent results in both internal and external assessments. NAPLAN results for our Year Three and Year Five students saw significant improvements, with both year levels receiving average scores well above the national mean. In some cases, the Year Three mean was above the National Year Five mean and the school Year Five mean equal to or above the National Year Seven mean. The results for the Bishop's Religious Literacy Test also saw Loreto Nedlands student results in Year Three and Year Five considerable higher than the state mean. Teacher focus in 2020 has been on improving results for:

- Grammar and Punctuation
- Problem Solving - Mathematics
- Religious Education

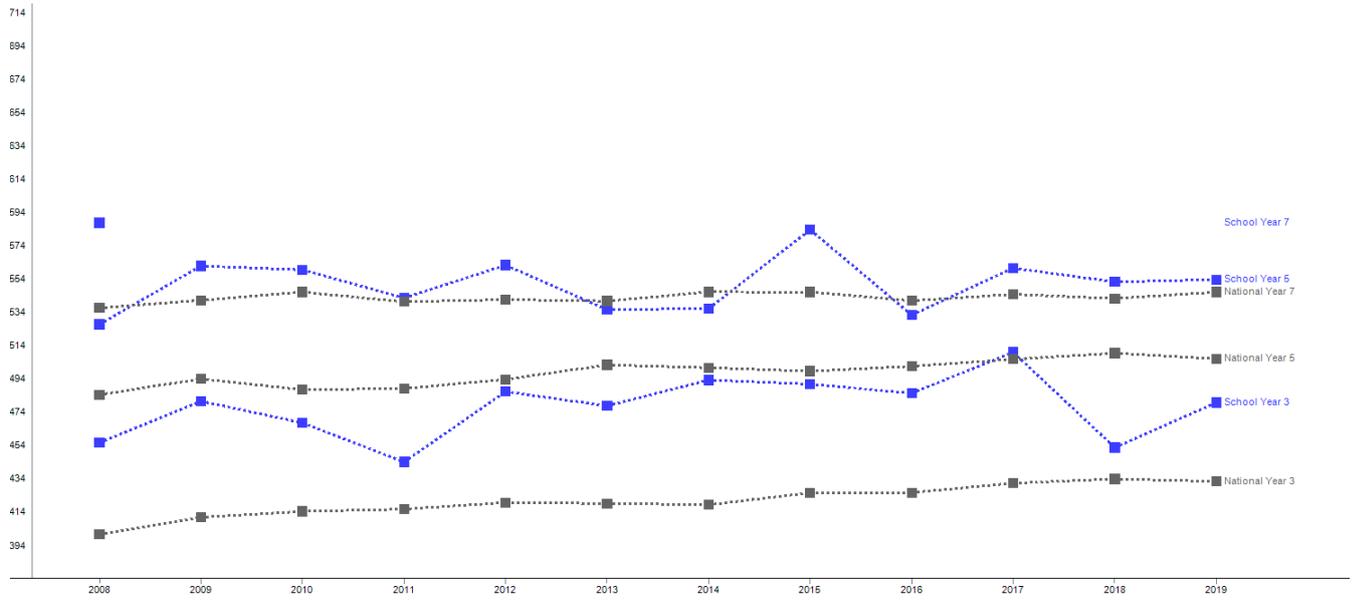
Success in these areas has been achieved, evidenced through the results of standardised and non-standardised assessments. Visible learning pedagogy has continued to be an area of improvement in 2019. The staff have benefited from coaching opportunities with curriculum advisors from Catholic Education Western Australia. The staff have focused teaching and learning improvement on the use of learning intentions, success criteria and a consistent approach to student feedback. The pedagogy of making learning visible to our students will continue to be an area of focus in 2020. The staff have focused on the academic growth of individual students. Student growth has been recognised with the introduction of the Growth Awards in 2019. Growth Awards recognise the progress that students make across Literacy, Numeracy and Religious Education and celebrates student's effort and diligence towards their studies.



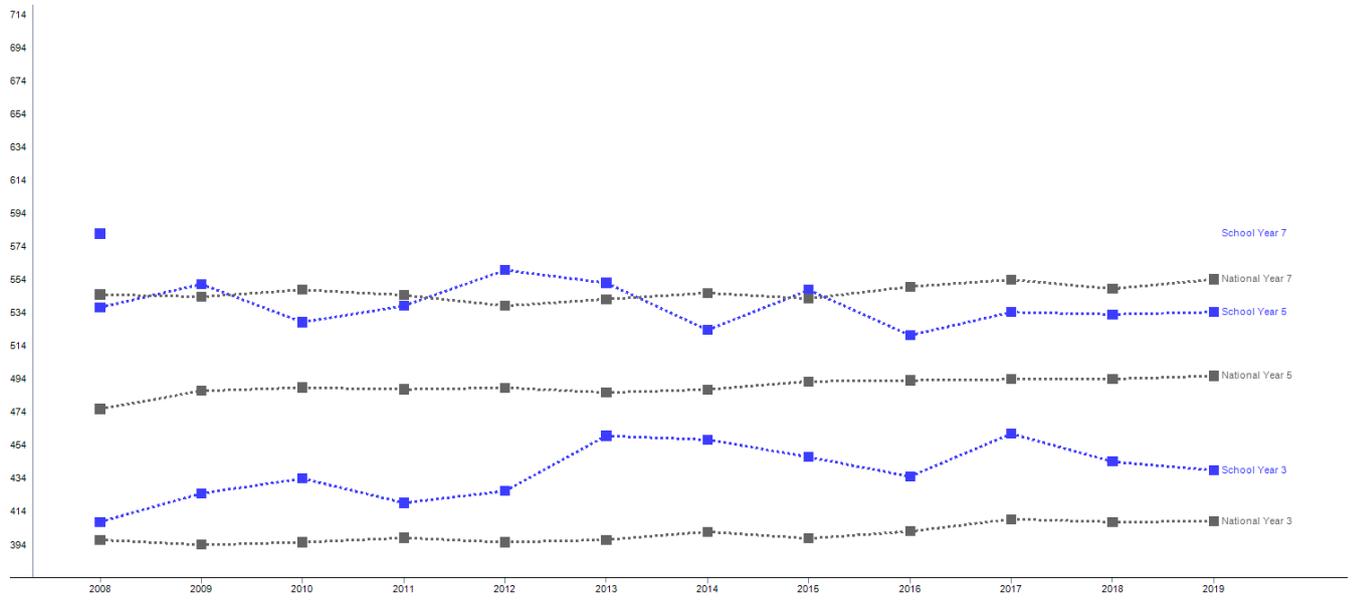
NAPLAN WRITING



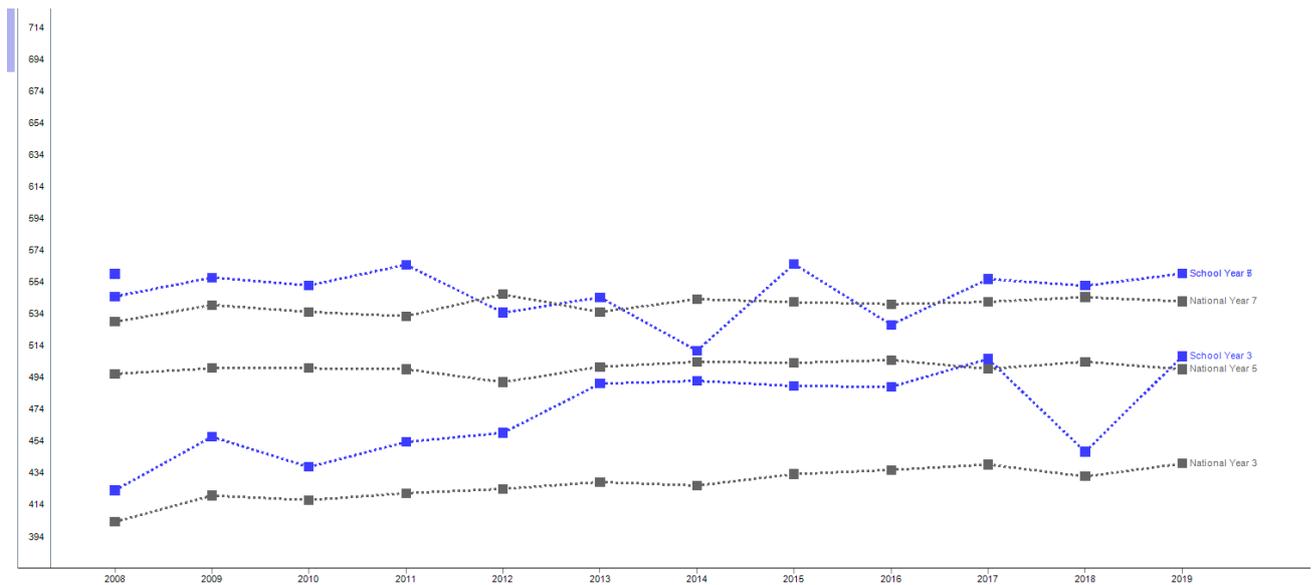
NAPLAN SPELLING



### NAPLAN READING



### NAPLAN NUMERACY



## NAPLAN GRAMMAR AND PUNCTUATION

Staff have offered students a variety of opportunities to be involved in co-curricular activities to develop their gifts and talents during the year. The variety of opportunities available for our students this year have included:

- Year Six Canberra Leadership Camp
- Year Five Outdoor Education camp
- Mathematics Olympiad Competition
- Tournament Of Minds Competition
- Robo Cup Competition
- Robotics and Coding Club
- Environment Club
- Interschool Basketball, Tennis, Athletics, Swimming and Cross Country.
- Loreto Netball Club
- Interschool Chess Competition
- Interschool Debating
- Academic Allstars Competition
- Catholic Schools Performing Arts Festival
- Lego club
- Minecraft Club
- Bookclub

I am grateful to the work of our staff in assisting the student to achieve to the best of their potential.

Once again, it is with a sense of pride that together with the staff and parents we congratulate our students for ensuring the Loreto values and spirit continue to thrive across all aspects of the school community.

Therese Hussey  
Principal

