



## School Overview

Our Lady Help of Christians School has serviced the needs of Catholic families in the parish areas of Learmonth, Waubra, Miner's Rest and Wendouree for 60 years. The school has a rich tradition and a strong commitment to social justice, based on the wonderful contributions and charism of the Sisters of Mercy over many decades.

Our school is a School Wide Positive Behaviour School. Our focus in **Respectful, Responsible and Resilient** in our words, thoughts and actions. The diversity within our school definitely enriches our school community, and one of our inclusive maxims is "***Every face has a place***"

Our school benefits from a Catholic Care worker weekly to support children and families along with the expertise of the Catholic Education Office Student Services. We invite Educational Psychologists, Speech Therapists as well as other professionals such as child therapists, School Nurse, financial counsellor, disability advocates or case managers to best support the individual needs of those in our community.



We focus on the spiritual, moral, social, emotional and intellectual development of each child. We provide an atmosphere in which each child's natural creativity can emerge and where each child is stimulated to an appreciation of life in all its areas; in particular positive relationships. Parents feel welcome and experience a real sense of belonging. Contact with the staff and personal involvement is strongly encouraged.



We strive to foster mutual respect, responsibility and service within our school community. We treat each person as an individual 'in the image' God. We aim to promote justice and the dignity of everyone, building relationships of Faith, care and support, which characterise our school's vision.

In 2021 we will celebrate 60 years of education in Wendouree. We look forward to celebrating this with our community.



### Our Lady Help of Christians School enacts its Vision and Mission through:

- curriculum
- support for students and families, and
- a commitment to ongoing improvement

### Vision Statement

*Jesus said, "I have come that you may have life and have it to the full."  
John 10:10*

At Our Lady Help of Christians School, we work together with families, so each uniquely gifted child will continue to grow spiritually, socially, emotionally, physically and intellectually to achieve fullness of life.

### Mission Statement

We will support families in the care and education of their children, within our Catholic School and our wider community, by:

- *creating opportunities for prayer and celebration, to nurture our relationship with God, our world and with others*
- *maintaining a safe, happy, innovative and engaging learning environment*
- *affirming and celebrating contributions, efforts and achievements*
- *providing stimulating, challenging and contemporary teaching and learning experiences*

# Principal's Report

Today is a good day.

This was written by an unknown source in an unknown time but it sits perfectly with how I feel about our school community following the challenges of 2020.



**If there were ever a time to dare,  
To make a difference  
To embark on something worth doing  
It is now.  
Not for any grand cause, necessarily -  
But for something that tugs at your heart  
Something that is worth your aspiration  
Something that is your dream.  
You owe it to yourself  
To make your days count.  
Have fun. Dig deep. Stretch.**

**Dream big.  
Know, though,  
That things worth doing  
Seldom come easy,  
There will be times when you want to  
Turn around  
Pack it up and call it quits  
Those times tell you  
That you are pushing yourself  
And that you are not afraid to learn by trying.**

**Persist.  
Because with an idea,  
Determination and the right tools,  
You can do great things.  
Let your instincts, your intellect  
And let your heart guide you.**

**Trust.  
Believe in the incredible power  
Of the human mind  
Of doing something that makes a difference  
Of working hard  
Of laughing and hoping  
Of lasting friends  
Of all the things that will cross your path**

**Next year  
The start of something new  
Brings the hope of something great.  
Anything is possible  
There is only one you  
And you will pass this way but once.  
Do it right.**

Collaboration and Resilience came to the forefront in 2020. Entering the school gates in January no one could have predicted what was to come. Our staff and families worked together to support all of the children each step of the way. In many cases we were only a step in front of the children when working with the technology and we were very grateful to parents for their patience as we navigated the directives from the Government and Health Department with changes happening on a daily basis. Whilst some people thrived in a learning from home environment others struggled and finding balance for teacher learning was a daily challenge. The staff were feeling similarly as they maneuvered their lives and the lives of their families across the year.

2020 and the constraints that brought to schools meant different methods were used to facilitate adult learning. Our Staff Meetings went online as did professional learning in the areas of Leading 4 Learning, Religious education and our teaching staff working with Peter Sullivan in the area of maths with many other teachers across the diocese.

A Cookie Dough Drive in September lifted all of our spirits. Our School Community Team raised over \$1200 for our school library and we sold over 500 tubs of delicious cookie dough! Thank you!!

We have wonderful respectful students who are a credit to their families and school community. It is easy to be proud of the students at Our Lady Help of Christians and of what they have achieved this year. Our students consistently try hard to do their best and demonstrate our school mantra of Respectful, Responsible and Resilient. Visitors to our school (*e.g. school nurse, student teachers, staff from the Catholic Education Office, etc.*) regularly comment positively upon the calibre of our children.

Respectful, Responsible and Resilient is our school mantra. This year like never before have these 3 words meant so much. Our students continue to demonstrate these words each day and are a model to each other.

Thanks to our staff.

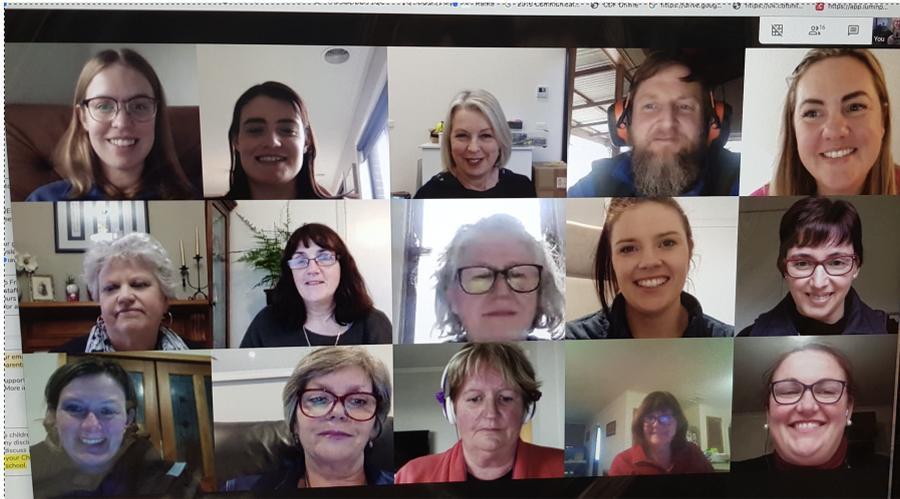
Like any production behind the scenes there is a huge commitment going into each day and an eagerness to be the very best educators they can be. It is a privilege for me to work with this staff who have such a skill-set and expertise in education. Their dedication to educating the students in our school is enormous.

Similar to our graduates Mrs Julie Vanderkely is preparing for a new adventure in 2021 . After many roles across our school we are looking forward to hearing about her new school and know that leading the performing arts will be a perfect fit for her. We will all miss you and your infectious laugh Julie.

Miss Therese Keane is on long service leave for part of 2021, we pray for good weather for all your travels and know you will make the most of every opportunity that comes your way. Thank you Therese.

Jenni Lea is leaving us after a year as our Centacare Chaplain. Jenni has made such an impact on those she has met with over the course of the year and we wish her well with her next adventures.

To our families leaving us this year after their time at Our Lady Help of Christitans, thank you for the contribution you have made to make our school what it is today.



Follow your dreams

Follow your passion

Believe in yourself.

Life is an endless process of self-discovery

Peace be with you,

Leigh Bradshaw

Principal

## Report from the Religious Education Leader Samantha Curtis



2020 called on us all to draw upon our faith and our sense of community at Our Lady Help of Christians. Even though we were all facing the same storm, the boats we weathered the storm in came in all different shapes and sizes.



We began the year with a Welcome liturgy in the Mercy Performing Arts Centre. Shortly after we attended the parish Ash Wednesday mass in Term 1, the world changed around us and the teachers, students and families had to prepare for the imminent lockdown. Plans for Holy Week came to an abrupt halt and the parish Sacramental program had to be put on hold for the year.

We were no longer able to gather together in our school, let alone our church. It was time for us to think of new ways to come together.

Our online meetings for students began with a prayer, just as our school day would in the classroom. Even staff meetings were held online, with time reserved at the beginning to pray together.

We saw families gather together from our homes all across Ballarat to celebrate our Mothers and Father's Day liturgies online.

Our Lady Help of Christians Feast Day was also celebrated online with a digital liturgy. Students were invited to create an artwork depicting Mary, which was shared with the school community.



A special online assembly was held during Catholic Education week. Students and classroom teachers shared what Religious Education looked like during remote learning.

The learning never stopped for our teachers and support staff - it even accelerated as we found new ways to connect with others. The teaching team was supported by Carmel McCormick from the Catholic Education Office and participated in online learning to strengthen our understanding of spiritual capabilities when creating our Religious Education units.

There were many emotions when the Grade 6 students, their families and teachers gathered together in our church for the Graduation mass. After such a tumultuous year it was a blessing for us to be together in the church to celebrate our Grade 6 graduates after an unforgettable final year of primary school.

Although we were faced with many challenges during 2020, it also gave our school community the opportunity to show the strength and resilience that resides in us.

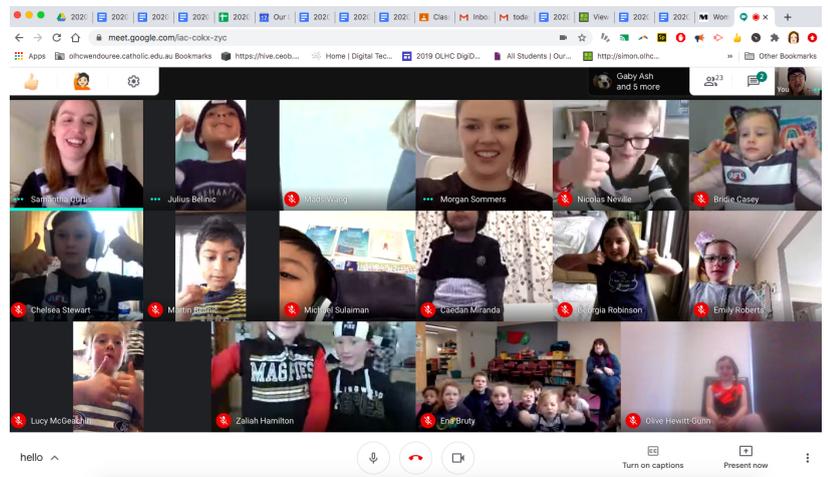
# Teaching and Learning at Our Lady Help of Christians, 2020

## Elise Hankin- Curriculum Leader

Teaching and Learning at Our Lady Help of Christians certainly challenged all of us in 2020! I am so proud of the way our Staff, Students, Parents and Grandparents rose to the challenge and faced the unknown of “Remote Learning”. We all had to adapt quickly to new modes of learning. I know personally, my skill set grew exponentially as I learned to use new platforms and programs to deliver content and connect with students. I know many of us would like to leave 2020 behind, but I am thankful for the challenges and new learning I gained from the experience and I am positive our children have benefited in many different ways too.



Although Teaching and Learning looked very different to normal, we continued to provide targeted, explicit teaching to all of our students at their point of learning. When we were at school, we ensured each minute was used to its fullest potential making the most of each learning opportunity. Although we often couldn't utilise the



power of face to face excursions and incursions the way we would have liked, we tried hard to use the resources we had, such as webinars and virtual excursions. We used Google Meet to run reading groups and class activities to prompt learning at home. Home offices were transformed into virtual classrooms, with many teachers making videos of themselves and sharing them, bravely, with their students and their families.



Our teachers continuously use data to drive our teaching and know exactly what our students need to know in order to progress to the next stage of their learning.

Teachers work collaboratively both within unit teams and across the school to ensure learning is sequential and engaging. We work with our Learning Diversity team to make sure children are both extended and supported as needed. Our staff continue to provide quality learning experiences, which engage and inspire our children.

2020 was a focus year for Mathematics as our teachers embarked on a learning journey with Professor Peter Sullivan from Monash University and supported by Kathie Turkenburg from the Catholic Education Office, Ballarat. Peter is

recognised worldwide as one of the prominent leaders in the field of problem solving in mathematics and engaging children in challenging tasks. Throughout our two Remote Learning stretches, we engaged in video conferences with Peter and many schools across the Ballarat Diocese in this learning opportunity. Teachers then used the learning to design teaching sequences from Foundation to Year Six to engage students in open ended mathematical tasks, which were implemented when we returned to face-to-face teaching. Teachers were committed to trialling and using the sequences with our students and monitoring the responses and learning. This also sparked conversations with our students about Growth Mindset and “The Learning Pit” and being comfortable on the journey of learning. We will be interested to see how implementing this new style of learning challenges our students and assists them in engaging in problem solving tasks.

I am continuously inspired by the learning and teaching across our school and I cannot wait to continue learning together in 2021.



## Report from the Resources Leader - Helen Matthews (Woods)



**2020** began in the usual busy way for the resource management in our school. Students and staff were allocated their usernames and passwords, devices and resources in their new classroom groupings. Little did we know that we were going to be thrust into ways of using online communication and learning we had not used previously. The learning curve in the first period of remote learning was enormous for all members of our community and we were called to be very resilient and patient as we navigated through each of these challenges.



Our first resource priority was to ensure that all students had access to a online learning. With the support of our school technician we responded families and staff members. The move to the following remote learning 2020 was much smoother for the resource management team as we had place.



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New skills were required by all members of our school community and through the learning journey school community members supported each other. Many of these new skills continue to be used by both staff and students. As a staff group we explored how we could deliver curriculum content online and as a result we continue to use some new online resources purchased to support teaching and learning.

An increase in cleaning of devices and resources was a key part of 2020 to ensure we managed resources in a Covid safe way. A special thanks to Adele, our library support staff member, for her attention to detail in this area.



Students were also provided with reading materials during the remote learning times. The smiles on the faces of the students as they returned to school and to the library space, accessing the collection of reading materials and being back face to face was rewarding for everyone.

Lastly the cookie dough fundraiser, held during the 2020 remote learning, raised funds to assist us to add to our amazing library resource. The students made suggestions of books they would like to see added to the library collection. The students are excited to enjoy reading these books as they arrive during 2021. We are grateful to all our school community for their support and encouragement during a difficult year.



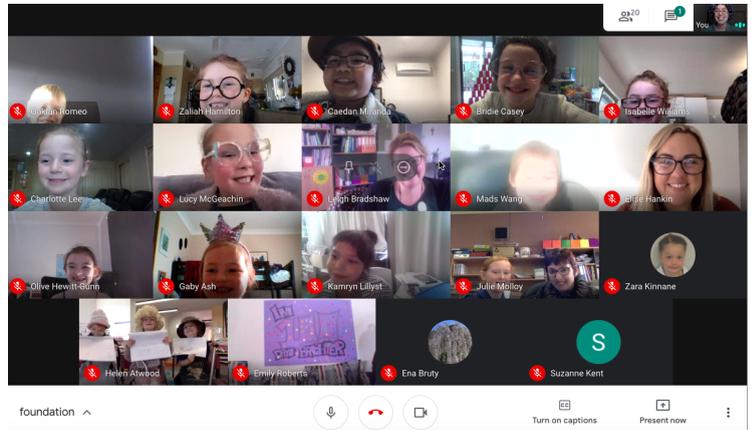
# 2020 in the Junior Unit

The year began just as any other year would - we welcomed a group of wonderful Foundation children to our unit, and the new Grade 1 and 2 children were ready to jump back into their learning.

As we approached the end of Term 1 we knew that this year was going to be different. After the announcement that we were going to learn from home, the teachers, students and families quickly found new ways to deliver learning and engage our students during the holidays. The teachers set up a Google Classroom for each learning group and families created safe and supportive places in their homes for the children to learn in.

It was wonderful to be back at school together after a joyful reunion at the end of Term 2, and the children quickly settled back into the routine of school. However in Term 3 it was time for us to learn from home again.

Even though we were all learning from home and doing our best to adjust to new ways of doing things, it was also a time of discovery. We found new, exciting ways to connect with our community. The junior children were invited on a virtual excursion to the Melbourne Zoo, without the long bus trip! We even got to explore the National Gallery of Victoria and created our own artwork. The Foundation children kept counting the days of learning and celebrated 100 days of school in a Google Meet!



When we returned to school in Term 4 we were able to enjoy our end of year celebrations, even though they looked a bit different. The Foundation children invited their teddies to



school for a picnic during the school day. The Grade 1 children watched a movie and snacked on some popcorn, and the Grade 2 children had a pizza party for lunch.

2020 was a year we will not forget. We are grateful for the brilliant children in the Junior Unit, we are thankful for the families who have worked with us to support their children, and are blessed with the wonderful teachers and educational support staff at our school.



The Junior Teachers - Samantha Curtis, Elise Hankin and Morgan Sommers.



we

## 2020 Middle Unit Learning

It was a very busy year of learning in our area, both in our classroom learning and social learning! We moved into a regular routine each day, setting ourselves up for success, so that we were organised and ready to learn new strategies and information. This routine helped us to get into a rhythm of building our confidence in ourselves and each other.



Jackson

During the school year we moved into remote learning and began to practise our skills and become the best learners we can be through our online learning tasks, Google Meets and at school remote learning.



In Term 1, we really enjoyed our time at Log Cabin Camp Creswick where we experienced many different activities such as the zipline, giant swing, archery, hut building and damper making with billy tea. We also had lots of free time where we could get to know each other better while enjoying trampolining, basketball, volleyball, table tennis, the bucking bull and the bridge

and island! It was wonderful!

We are very grateful for each other's support and friendship throughout the year. There were many different challenges faced and we proved to ourselves and each other how resilient we are. We would like to thank all our students, parents, grandparents, families, teachers, support staff and our principal in making our year an awesome one! We appreciate how we are all connected as a family in our school and parish community and wrapped in God's eternal love.



# 2020 Senior Unit Learning

**Tuesday 25th August**

**Good Morning Senior Students.**

- We have one writing task for the rest of this week - working one step at a time.
- Izzy found an error in a Study Ladder question. If you find one, please screenshot it and share it with us. Well done Izzy.
- Completing tasks in Study Ladder.
- Assembly on Friday will replace our Senior MEET.
- Teacher view of assignments as turned in.

**Morning Prayers**

Lord God, we pray this morning for the gift of perseverance. Help us to be patient when things are not going right and help us to accept the things we cannot change. Open our minds and ears so that perseverance is needed to help. Amen

Discouragement may have had a hold on us, but we have not let it win. We pray for our families and loved ones. Please keep them healthy and well.

**KEEP LOOKING UP THAT IS THE SECRET OF LIFE.**

**Suggested Daily Program**

Tuesday	
8:50	Log on, complete check in, arrange your workspace
9:20	Check into the MEET @ 9:20
9:45	Maths
10:15	Writing/Spelling
11:00	break
11:40	Japanese
12:15	Fitness/PE
1:30	lunch
2:20	Reading

2020 was a year in which adaptation and persistence in an uncertain time were paramount. Assessing how this impacted our local community was vital as we responded to the learning and social needs of students. Remote Learning became the focus of many hours of research and discussion as staff worked to provide the adapted content and skills that would see our Year 6 students prepared for their transition into Secondary School, and Grade 5 students supported for growth.

Grade 5 & 6 Classrooms made a relatively smooth transition into remote learning, due to the prior set up and use of many Google suite and literacy/numeracy online learning programs. Remote Grade 5 and 6 meetings were held almost daily, with smaller Reading groups offered for each child once a week. GoogleClassroom became a starting point for each day as links to content and tasks were shared and submitted collaboratively between staff and students. The support of students at home by family was invaluable. In turn, parents were offered weekly Google Meets to support them in assisting their children at home with the learning program.



Our opportunities for camps and excursions were no longer available and students were guided to explore similar content in an online setting. However, a return to school in term 4 allowed students to participate in physical activities which were drawn from the Bluearth Program where the goal was to create an experience based on the following belief:

*"This learning environment encourages intrinsic motivation, autonomy and exploration. We deliver activities that incorporate movement and mindfulness to ...increase confidence and improve learning outcomes. These components work together to build and support children's physical, social and emotional wellbeing...."*



Each child also identified learning targets to address individually in 'Academic Boot Camp' lessons. This provided each student with the chance to practice literacy and numeracy skills they felt they may have 'missed' due to the nature of Remote Learning.



The planning and provision of a Grade 6 Graduation was challenging with ever-changing COVID restrictions, which made this experience vastly different than families had hoped. We were grateful that, at the last minute, students had the opportunity to Graduate in a modified ceremony held in the Our Lady Help of Christians Church with three family members for support. The students were resilient and made the evening a success as they were joyfully celebrated on this evening.



As much as many of us will be glad to move on from the challenges of 2020, it did, without a doubt create more resilient, more mature, more empowered, students, parents and staff, in our senior unit, than if COVID-19 and remote learning had never happened.





# OLHC School Board Report

Our Lady Help of Christians PS E2064

Current Year: 01/01/2020 to 31/12/2020

WENDOUREE

E2064

Include Inactive Add-From Accounts

G/L Account	Description	Current Year Balance	Year to Date Budget	Year to Date Forecast
<b><u>PROFIT AND LOSS STATEMENT</u></b>				
<b><u>OPERATING (RECURRENT) PROFIT/LOSS</u></b>				
<b>INCOME</b>				
	School Fees	62,112.12	41,658.00	0.00
	Classroom / Excursion Fees	59,069.93	70,130.00	0.00
	School Bags Ribbons and Sports Polos	1,843.65	1,000.00	0.00
	Interest Earned	4,100.76	5,000.00	0.00
	Fundraising / Donations	0.00	11,999.00	0.00
	School Community Team Income	10,675.40	0.00	0.00
	Grants - State	419,923.57	477,120.00	0.00
	Grants - Commonwealth	2,173,468.53	1,720,640.00	0.00
	Other Income	30,328.06	14,000.00	0.00
	Intra-Systemic Receipts	989.77	0.00	0.00
	Receipts that are not school income	3,600.00	0.00	0.00
	<b>Total INCOME</b>	<b><u>2,766,111.79</u></b>	<b><u>2,341,547.00</u></b>	<b><u>0.00</u></b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
	Salaries & Related Costs	2,028,588.16	1,990,365.00	0.00
	Minor Capital < \$5000	2,674.79	5,000.00	0.00
	Maintenance / Cleaning - Building Grounds Technology	123,446.39	110,000.00	0.00
*	<i>Light &amp; Power &amp; Heating</i>	<i>14,968.63</i>	<i>15,000.00</i>	<i>0.00</i>
	Rates & Insurances	25,407.24	28,000.00	0.00
	General Office	13,939.02	15,000.00	0.00
	Other Recurrent Costs	28,542.10	47,500.00	0.00
	Interest - Loans	11,336.00	9,748.00	0.00
	CEOB Levies	341,527.05	34,860.00	0.00
	School Community Expenditure	7,814.37	0.00	0.00
	Depreciation/Ammortisation	157,586.01	0.00	0.00
	Doubtful Debts and Write offs	-1,402.25	0.00	0.00
	Loss on Sale Fixed Assets	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Intra Systemic Payments	486.93	0.00	0.00
	Classroom Expenses	73,409.35	118,900.00	0.00
	<b>Total EXPENSES</b>	<b><u>2,828,323.79</u></b>	<b><u>2,374,373.00</u></b>	<b><u>0.00</u></b>
	<b>Total OPERATING (RECURRENT) PROFIT/LOSS</b>	<b><u>-62,212.00</u></b>	<b><u>-32,826.00</u></b>	<b><u>0.00</u></b>
<b><u>CAPITAL PROFIT/LOSS</u></b>				
	Capital Income	144,795.36	29,000.00	0.00
	Capital Payments	76,595.08	41,900.00	0.00
	<b>Total CAPITAL PROFIT/LOSS</b>	<b><u>68,200.28</u></b>	<b><u>-12,900.00</u></b>	<b><u>0.00</u></b>
	<b>Total PROFIT AND LOSS STATEMENT</b>	<b><u>5,988.28</u></b>	<b><u>-45,726.00</u></b>	<b><u>0.00</u></b>

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Our Lady Help of Christians PS E2064

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G/L Account	Description	Current Year Balance	Year to Date Budget	Year to Date Forecast
<b><u>BALANCE SHEET</u></b>				
<b>ASSETS</b>				
	Bank Accounts and Cash	341,819.49	0.00	0.00
	Maintenance Account	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Investment	0.00	0.00	0.00
	School Community Team	192.37	0.00	0.00
	Debtors	38,520.92	0.00	0.00
	Provision for Doubtful Debts	-37,138.81	0.00	0.00
	Prepayments	34,558.02	0.00	0.00
	Work in Progress Building works	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Fixed Assets Buildings, Fittings, Plant etc	3,512,123.12	0.00	0.00
	<b>Total ASSETS</b>	<b><u>3,890,075.11</u></b>	<b><u>0.00</u></b>	<b><u>0.00</u></b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>				
	Prepaid School Fees	14,582.90	0.00	0.00
	Accruals	4,876.69	0.00	0.00
	Clearing Accounts	41,756.61	0.00	0.00
*	<i>Loan Balances</i>	<i>436,071.85</i>	<i>0.00</i>	<i>0.00</i>
	Accounts Payable	56,952.55	0.00	0.00
	Credit card	0.00	0.00	0.00
	GST	0.00	0.00	0.00
	<b>Total LIABILITIES</b>	<b><u>554,240.60</u></b>	<b><u>0.00</u></b>	<b><u>0.00</u></b>
<b>EQUITY</b>				
	Equity/Loan Accumulation	3,329,846.23	0.00	0.00
	Equity - Surplus (Deficit) YTD	5,988.28	0.00	0.00
	<b>Total EQUITY</b>	<b><u>3,335,834.51</u></b>	<b><u>0.00</u></b>	<b><u>0.00</u></b>

\* means including inactive add-from account.