

2015 ANNUAL REPORT

LAURIMAR PRIMARY SCHOOL



School No: 4597

School Principal: Jason McBean

School Council President: Sabine Harrison

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

2015 was our 7th year allowing us to build on our academic and personal growth of each and every student. In a very large school there were once again many challenges however these were outweighed by rich educational achievement of each child. The year was highlighted by the multitude of opportunities provided to our engaged students and the incredibly dedicated teaching professionals who invest so much into our students and school every day. Student growth at Laurimar Primary School continued as numbers expanded from the 1041 that we concluded the 2014 school year with to 1084 at the conclusion of the year operating 47 classrooms. This represents a continued plateauing effect on growth which is a positive for our school and allows us to consolidate and grow the educational opportunities for each child. We continued to look at maximising the opportunities presented from our dynamic educational environment and 21st Century Learning Spaces which provide teaching and learning areas that are ideal for the educational and social development of every child in our care. The number one focus in these learning environments is student engagement and achievement where we focus heavily on the learning intention of each lesson and success criteria for each child.

We have continued to expand, develop and further enhance engaging educational programs which respond to the directions of the Department of Education and Training (DET) and the changing needs of our ever growing community. In 2015, we were able to contribute to key strategies outlined in the Minister's paper, *'The Education State'* to benefit all stakeholders within our school and look forward to operating under the new framework in the next part of our journey.

The 2015 school year was about growing our educational institution, not resting on our laurels and taking our student learning outcomes to higher levels, further embedding the wonderful learning culture that we had created. The aim was to really focus on 'Learning Architecture' within our school and evaluate its effectiveness in the classroom. The plateauing student enrolments have certainly been able to allow our staff to consolidate the many wonderful teaching and learning programs on offer with a core focus on our 10 hours of literacy (RAW Program) and 5 hours of Numeracy to build proficiency in these areas. Throughout the 2015 school year, we aimed once again to embed our stance in the Doreen and wider community as a dynamic Educational Institution that provides excellence in Primary Education to our students and families.

Our school curriculum was broad and extensive. Our 21st Century teaching and learning coaching program has a focus on the 'Core Business' of Literacy and Numeracy. We continued to build on programs such as our 'Clubs Program' initiative, Human Powered Vehicle Program, Chinese Mandarin now from Prep- 6 where for the first time Prep- 2 students came on the language journey, strong Social and Emotional learning program, Physical Education and Sport, and the creative Arts program. All programs and teacher delivery within them aim to inspire through a multitude of activities and strategies. In 2015 we certainly aimed to provide the maximum learning opportunity and range of extra-curricular activities for all our students.

There were many wonderful highlights throughout the 2015 school year, many of these I have detailed further in this report.

The successes achieved during 2015 were once again attributed to the large team of hard working professional teaching staff whom work tirelessly to engage, teach and inspire their students during each available session every day. At Laurimar Primary School, all staff members aim to make a difference and add value to each and every student which is a feature of our school culture. As a school, we will always work hard to maintain this aspect of our school by employing the best possible teachers through a rigorous recruiting process. In 2015 we were able to create in our workforce, an excellent blend of dedicated staff possessing a strong work ethic and commitment to the teaching profession and indeed to our school. I would personally like to congratulate all members of our leadership team in 2015. Their fantastic support, professionalism and advice along the way was much appreciated. Many thanks in particular to my Assistant Principals David Williams and Natasha Biddick for their hard work along the journey and support acts in the AP role, Maree Jordan, Jane Brayshaw and Justine Convery. Once again there were some significant changes to the make-up of our leadership team and all combined to set a clear direction for our school throughout the year. I would like to thank all year level Professional Learning Team Leaders and their Assistant Leaders for their support and contributions within their teams and across the school throughout the year. Personally, I would like to say a huge thank you to all teaching staff, office administration and educational support staff on their excellent work, their passion for children and education, energy and commitment throughout 2015 school year.

Once again throughout the year, there were so many areas and examples of a supportive parent body within our school community. Without this support, we would not be in a position to provide the children with the range of stimulating

experiences and vast educational opportunities that were a feature of 2015. The sheer amount of excursions, incursions, camps and sporting events would not be possible without the generous volunteer support. Thank you also to the large number of parents who assisted the teachers in a variety of ways such as school Working Bees, Town Fair Committee and roster support, parent helpers within the classroom to help improve the learning for our students, social events or fundraisers. Greatly appreciated by the entire school community. Thank-You!

On behalf of our entire school community, I would like to recognise the outstanding contribution of our 2015 administration team and thank them for their wonderful dedication, patience, organisation, relentless hard work and professionalism that they all display each and every day. To our highly professional Business Manager, Christine Kalogirou the scope and importance of your work is enormous and you continue to be across so many areas to our school and are simply 'There' for everyone. She is such a wonderful asset to Laurimar Primary School and always completes her tasks with a beautiful smile. Words cannot describe the support in which she provides to me on a daily basis. Congratulations to Sam, Joyce, Michelle, Sue, Julie and Caroline who make this space so effective.

This wonderful support from teachers, parents and students underpins our school Logo which is about partnerships between our students, staff, parents and the broader community to improve student outcomes.
Partnerships + Learning = Success!

A major highlight of the 2015 school year is the continued success and culture of our Sustainable Transport Program. This has been a large component of our school culture since opening our doors at Laurimar. We were able to complete our 28th Ride to School day and 28th Walk to School day which helps to reinforce this unique aspect of LPS. In particular, I would like to thank our Sustainable Transport Ambassadors, Brett Hayes and Carly Drake, our parents who help drive the culture and our staff for their commitment and drive to ensure sustainable transport will continue to be an outstanding success at Laurimar in 2016 and for many years to come. Congratulations to all!

Our lost property and second hand uniform service was kindly run by the dedicated volunteers in Amanda Moad, Claudia Gaston and Kathleen Knight. We thank them for their enormous work, contributions and involvement in providing this important service to others.

The success of our school canteen attributed by manager Julie Hazelden and her dedicated band of workers and volunteers is greatly acknowledged. This service afforded to our parents, students and staff is of high quality and the professionalism and attitude is a feature. Well done to all.

We continue to benefit from the popular OSHC service led by program leader, Emma Renn and assistants Julie Bamford and Jo McDonald. They have formed a dynamic and professional team who make the area feel like home to all students who continue to benefit from the program. Congratulations on the enormous success of the year.

Our 1-1 Ipad program and all things technology continue to be supported by technicians John Gerrard and Adrian Szekeres. These two masters are unheralded behind the scenes and on behalf of the entire school would like to thank them for their technical expertise, professionalism and hard work to ensure things are running effectively and smoothly.

Our grounds and facilities were once again kept in fine shape under the guide of Mr Clint Cotter. In what is a large portfolio in the school, Clint was able to target areas of need and manage this large job on his own and was once again able to achieve success with all things grounds and facilities. Many thanks go to Clint for his drive and passion around the school.

2015 witnessed a huge effort in the area of fundraising. I sincerely thank the support of all parents, staff and students in ensuring the fundraising efforts keep turning as we target different areas to support our students. Another tremendous year in this area as we were finally able to witness the commencement of building our magnificent cover way over the assembly area during the final week of the school year, something that we all should be extremely proud of. The efforts were reflected in the success of the many fundraisers conducted throughout the year. The 2015 Twilight Town Fair was the 5th Instalment and was another huge success for the school and wider community. Funds raised from the past couple of Town Fairs have gone towards the above mentioned cover way. Special thanks to the inspiring and dedicated Town Fair Committee for making this a continued success for families and overseeing our biggest fundraiser. Other highlights included Kim Houndsome and her dedicated band of helpers to officially conduct a very successful chocolate drive fundraiser. Sarah Walsh and her Physical Ed team for running the Walkathon. We thank all parents for the time and

energy to successfully complete the numerous tasks that were planned for 2015. We look forward with renewed enthusiasm to the 2016 Fundraising Calendar as we continue to prioritise targeted areas around our school.

Once again, I would like to congratulate the interim School Council on a wonderful year and one that has contributed significantly to the continued establishment of our school as we proceed towards our 8th year of operation. Your time, passion and energy in this important area of the school is greatly valued by all at LPS!

On behalf of all members of the Laurimar Primary School community, I would like to sincerely congratulate Sabine Harrison on her role as School Council President. Sabine's professionalism, dedication, passion, leadership and hard work for the school and in particular our students are certainly valued and appreciated over the past 7 years.

Also a special thank you once again to School Council co-opted community member, Bridgid Keele (City of Whittlesea) for her continued investment and support of Laurimar Primary School and its community. Katandra Rise are to be congratulated on their assistance in sponsoring our Fun Run for our school throughout the year. To all school council members, you belong to a significant and special group in our school community who contribute and make a large difference to the lives of our students, staff and families here at LPS. I thank you all for your enormous support and contribution to our school community throughout 2015 and look forward to working with you all once again.

My thanks are also extended to School Council staff representatives, Assistant Principals, David Williams and Natasha Biddick, Kathy Plant and Ms Fiona Roberts for their contributions in 2015.

Having completed my second full year as Principal of this amazing school, I am extremely proud, privileged and honoured to be the leader of such a great school with an outstanding reputation and I look forward to our progression in growth, academic achievement and strength in 2016!

Finally, congratulations to all involved for the hard work and dedication in our 7th year at Laurimar Primary School. You should all be very proud of your contribution, vision and hard work throughout the year to contribute to our success.

We look forward with anticipation, optimism and excitement to the 2016 and the expected 1090 plus students with renewed energy.

Best Wishes,

**Jason McBean
Principal**



Learning - Partnerships - Success



HIGHLIGHTS and ACHIEVEMENTS for 2015 School Year

The following list represents some of the amazing achievements that come to mind when we look back on the 2015 school year and recall many of the engaging activities provided by our entire staff throughout the school during our 7th year of operation.

Lead into the 2015 year

Construction of the new school commenced in 2008, Minister of Education, Bronwyn Pike turned the first sod of soil on May 22nd. Construction of the school was of a very rapid pace. Fortnightly meetings were held with the builder (WP Contractors) and architect (Minx) to ensure progress was on track. Many parents were of the opinion that the school would not be completed for the start of the school year. There was a huge final push to have classrooms ready for the students. We opened the school for students and parents the Sunday prior to the start of the school year with 8 teachers and 113 students. Now in our 7th year, our amazing school commenced the 2015 year with 1079 energetic students

Student Enrolment

Census day, 28th February 2015, recorded student enrolments at 1079.4 students across 47 grades (an increase of 2 classes from 2014). By the last day of the 2015 school year there were 1084.4 enrolments. There has been a general slowing of enrolments throughout the year as we witnessed a more transient population of students in and out! Prep enrolments rose from 162 in 2014 up to 176 in 2015 which is testament to our enrolment officer and prep team leader and prep team. Well done to all!

2015 Staffing

Indeed a highlight of the school year! Very stable with our 2015 workforce to cover all program planning. Congratulations to all 2015 staff for your efforts and professionalism in engaging and inspiring our near 1100 students. A fantastic team effort in our 7th year with over 100 teaching and ancillary staff in our educational institution. To each and every one of you, well done on a big team effort. The commitment and dedication shown by all staff to commence another year was evident across all levels with the staff conference once again providing a great platform to launch into another year of education. Feedback from parents throughout the year was extremely positive and a level of appreciation in all you did to teach and care for our students. Very few departures due to maternity and opportunities at other schools, and the recruiting at the end of the 2015 allows for us to be very excited by the upcoming year. The most important resource and asset at any school is the staff. I look forward to leading and working with this group of amazing professionals once again in 2016.

Organisation / Class Sizes

We commenced the 2015 school year with 47 classes at Laurimar Primary School. The education setting was arranged accordingly;

Prep x 8, Grade 1 x 8, Grade 2 x 8, Grade 3 x 7, Grade 4 x 7, Grade 5 x 5 and Grade 6 x 4.

Class sizes were well below the state average once again. Prep to Grade 2 average of 20 students or less and Grade 3 to 6 average of 24 students. An overall class size average across our entire school of 23.1. These figures represent excellent averages across the school and are well under the current departmental benchmarks for the state.

Education Week

This important event on the Education Calendar was celebrated once again in May and provides an excellent opportunity for the school to showcase the collective talents of both students and staff. We are extremely proud of our school and view this as an important way to showcase our great school and wider community.



There was an excellent response to the Grandparents Day (2500 plus grandparents) as always and from prospective prep parents and existing families within the school. The open day program allowed for many parents to walk through the classrooms and see their children and teachers in action. Many prospective parents visited throughout the week. Another huge success for Laurimar Primary School.

Camping Program

Prep Trek, Year One Dinner, Grade 2 Sleepover, Year 3 camp to Echuca, Year 4 camp to Phillip Island Adventure Resort, Year 5 camp to Canberra and finally Year 6 camp to Anglesea Recreation Camp.

A special thank-you to all staff and parents for making our camping program possible and the success that it was in 2015.

I'm sure parents will agree it is certainly a unique camping experience that we provide here at the school!

Laurimar Town Fair

Now in its 5th Year, our biggest fundraising event for the year was once again held in scorching summer conditions in February, the Laurimar Twilight Town Fair. This is a fabulous day for our school, involving quality time for families and the wider community. I would like to thank the many sponsors from around our local community who greatly support this event and make it possible. Many thanks to the dedicated Town Fair Committee for their vision, planning and hard work in ensuring the success of this large community event. We look forward to the 2016 version under the convening of Hannah Bloomfield. This is now such a big part of the Laurimar way and our Community, an event in which all stakeholders look forward to every year.

Out School Hours Care/ Vacation Program

Many thanks once again to our OSHC Program Leader, Emma Renn and her outstanding leadership and innovation of staff for an incredible year of growth in our Mod 9 building. 2015 provided the consolidation of our Vacation Care/ Holiday Program which has been very popular and moves from strength to strength during each holiday break. After conducting a full review under accreditation from DEECD in 2014, Emma and the team were able to achieve an 'Exceeding' NQS rating under the guidelines. This rating now provides Emma and the team the impetus to strive for applying for 'Excellence' – ACECQA' in all areas under the framework. A feat in which only one school in Australia has achieved. Our school council run OSHC program generously supports the many school community initiatives including community garden, War Memorial, 7 Habits, Welfare Program and assisting the construction of the cover-way. We wish Emma and her dedicated and professional staff the best of luck on obtaining their goals and efforts through 2016 and beyond.

Literacy / Numeracy Program

Literacy and Numeracy are the foundation of our curriculum and form the core business of what we do at Laurimar Primary School. The staff is to be once again commended on their ability to provide all students such a high quality Literacy and Numeracy curriculum with engaging learning tasks all year. Naplan Data has our year 3 cohort at or above state benchmarks across all areas in year 3 and some significant growth in year 5. Our 1-1 iPad program from Years 1-6 takes the student learning to a higher level sparking curiosity amongst all children. We have maintained a relentless commitment of 10 hours of literacy and 5 hours of numeracy every week and this is non-negotiable throughout the entire school. Some very exciting initiatives were achieved in 2015 such as the consolidation and whole school roll out of our new Café/ Daily 5. All students look forward to engaging in our Laurimar RAW (Reading and Writing) program each day. All staff are committed and dedicated to ensuring we constantly measure and monitor the improvement of student learning outcomes across the school.



Parent Helper Classes

Once again to train and educate our parent community, Laura Warry and Robyn Greenwood facilitated Parent Helper classes throughout the 2015 school year. These sessions were well attended and allows for parent helpers to support our teachers and students in the classroom program. Parents are required to attend these sessions and sign confidentiality agreements when wanting to participate in the classroom. We are fortunate to have Robyn and Laura's expertise in our school to run these excellent programs for our parent community in a bid to help improve student learning outcomes and our school appreciates the support.

Human Powered Vehicle Experience

An amazing opportunity for our Year 5/6 students came in the form of the Human Powered Vehicle event as Part of the 2015 RACV Energy Breakthrough up at Maryborough in November. Forty-one lucky participants had been preparing strategically since June and had a memorable 4 day experience at this wonderful event. Our 3 teams, The Dragons, Phoenix and Griffins performed admirably and made our school very proud. Once again we are very lucky to be able to provide an opportunity of this magnitude to our students. This is made possible due to the incredible drive, commitment and passion from Mark Brown, ably assisted by Kathy Plant, Mel Gibson, Rhett McDonald, Adam Oakley and their support crew of passionate and hardworking teachers and parents. Congratulations to all involved in the 2015 event! Our students are very fortunate to have this opportunity!

Clubs Program

One of the great program's on offer to our students in 2015 was in the form of our 'Clubs' program where we offer students some 12 structured opportunities to join a club that they demonstrate a level of interest or a passion in.

Chess club for example had the opportunity to attend a state wide tournament at the historic Castlemaine Gaol where we had 5 teams compete. I would like to thank all staff who volunteered their time at lunchtime to give our students these fantastic opportunities and help add to the great culture of Laurimar Primary School.

Year 5/6 China Trip

The highlight for 14 year 5/6 students was their incredible journey to China. Now in our second year and as part of our commitment to Engaging Asia and building strong and authentic relations with our Asian Neighbours, an opportunity was once again presented by the Victorian Principal's Association to travel with a party of 50 other teachers and students from 5 schools across Victoria to Nanjing in the Jiangsu Province. Our students attended 10 memorable days in Jinling Primary School (Population of over 2000 students). Our year 5/6 adventurers once again made our school extremely proud through the many rich and engaging activities that they were immersed in. Many thanks to Ms Rosie Milne and Ms Vanessa Thompson for their incredible high level organisation, support and care that they provided our students for the 14 days away from their precious families. They both demonstrate experience beyond their years. Thanks to School Council for supporting the vision of our Chinese Program in the school and consolidating an amazing opportunity for our students and staff. As part of our sister school partnership, Laurimar Primary School had the opportunity to host our Chinese friends from Jinling PS. Many thanks to our very kind host families and staff who opened their doors and warmly welcomed our guests into their homes and own families. The opportunities, generous hospitality and memories we provided the Chinese students and staff is much appreciated by our school community.

In 2015, we were able to broaden our Chinese program further with the introduction of the Chinese Assistant Program in Prep-2. Students were immersed in a weekly, 30 minute language program and is a wonderful grounding for when they enter the year 3-6 Chinese program.

Grade Six Graduation

The school embarked on its 7th Grade 6 Graduation at the beautiful Plenty Ranges Convention Centre in South Morang. This was always going to be a significant evening for over half the graduates that we were farewelling after completing 7 full years of education at LPS. This marked a very significant moment as those 'original pioneer' preps were about to complete their primary school journey. Congratulations to all involved in this memorable occasion. Mrs Maree Jordan for your brilliant planning and hard work. This was an occasion where the students took great ownership in running the ceremony, Vanessa Thompson, Emma Sampson, Rebecca Burke and Adam Oakley; a truly memorable evening for the 500 plus in attendance. This was one of those nights where you can't help but feel genuine pride and great affirmation that this school has been an incredible learning journey for these graduating students. We wish each and every graduate every success as they surge through their secondary experience and trust that the education at Laurimar Primary has prepared them sufficiently well for this.

Facilities

Can we believe that the construction of our targeted coverway was finally underway? In late December, works commenced on the assembly coverway area that was long overdue for our school in terms of providing genuine shade for our near 1100 students.

Anzac Day Dawn Service

On Saturday 25th April, we were privileged to be part of history at Laurimar Primary School when we held the first ever RSL endorsed Dawn Service at our school to mark the 100th Anniversary of the Gallipoli Landing. The event was heavily attended by our parents, staff, students and broader community and obtaining a good vantage point was at a premium. Many thanks to Clint Cotter, Rick Frost, Jason May, Adrian Szekeres and John Gerrard who started setting up from 2.30am. The attendance swelling to over 5000 people was testament to just how important this is to people and I'm sure will only grow in stature each year. This is all something that we can take an enormous pride in.

Carols Evening

Our 2015 carols experience had a different feel led by Sarah Fennell, bringing the school community together during the festive season. This is always an important part of the end of year calendar and Christmas Celebrations. The hiring of the truck stage allowed for each and every child on stage to be clearly seen and our students made us very proud particularly battling the elements and the arctic like wind. Well done to Sarah and her team and we thank her for all the effort invested into the evening.

In concluding what was another year of great successes, this was a brilliant way to finish another productive school year at LPS in 2015 and one in which we can all be very proud of!



Multipurpose Coverway



ANZAC Day Dawn Service



Carols Evening

