

LAURIMAR PRIMARY SCHOOL

School No: 5497



2019 ANNUAL REPORT (AUGUST 2020)

School Principal:

Jason McBean

School Council President:

Amanda Moad

Learning - Partnerships - Success

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

2019 marked our 11th year in Education for Laurimar Primary allowing our school to continue to build and consolidate on our achievements, success, and academic and personal growth for each and every student. Our goal to provide rich educational achievement and opportunities for each child was a major focus. The year was highlighted by the multitude of educational opportunities provided to our highly engaged students. Teaching and learning with a focus on our strong literacy and numeracy programs continued to be a feature. This allowed the time and space for our teachers to deliver high quality content around CAFÉ Reading Strategies, and our VOICES Writing program which was introduced as a result of targeted and specific professional development initiatives. The Big Ideas In Mathematics in our Numeracy Program continued to develop knowledge, consistency and understanding across the school along with a strong focus on quality feedback for all students.

We have continued to deliver and enhance engaging educational programs that respond to the directions of the Department of Education and Training (DET) under the Framework for Improving Student Outcomes. New Initiatives under the Education State such as the Literacy and Numeracy strategy have been implemented where our school's focus on Building Practice Excellence and Empowering Students to Build School Pride were once again made a strong priority. In 2019, the third year of our 4-year Strategic Plan, we also drew upon strategies that foster connectedness between our school and each family with a strong emphasis on building relationships between staff, students and families. Greater lines of communication were further fostered and embedded based on survey feedback from community members.

As a school, we continued to build upon our strong 'Learning Architecture' and continued to reflect and evaluate its effectiveness in the classroom. Through all learning programs, the dedicated 10 hours of literacy (RAW Program, CAFE and VOICES writing) and 5 hours of numeracy each week build proficiency across these areas. Throughout the 2019 school year, we aimed to once again embed our stance in the Doreen and wider community as a Dynamic Educational Institution that creates a strong academic language and culture when it comes to our learning and provide excellence in Primary Education to ALL students and families.

Our school curriculum and opportunities provided through the year has been highly engaging, diverse and extensive. Our strong Teaching and Learning Leader (TLL) culture allowed for 5 lead teachers (Teaching and Learning Leaders) to coach, model, reflect, inspire and support teachers right across the school in being able to focus on their classroom practice and delivering consistency for students. To complement effective teaching, we were also able to offer:

- our strong Clubs program initiative
- National Young Leaders Day at Melbourne Convention Centre
- 2019 Energy Breakthrough Program in Maryborough through the Human Powered Vehicle Event where we entered 3 teams
- Whole School Production over 3 nights at Plenty Ranges Arts and Convention Centre
- A Diverse Visual and Performing Arts program, Physical and Sport Education program
- Chinese Mandarin program encompassing our China Exchange Trip which unfortunately we had to postpone for 2019 due to low interest
- a focussed and strong Social and Emotional Learning program
- A strong partnership with Whittlesea Lodge Aged Care facility and its staff and residents

All programs and teacher delivery within these, aimed to inspire through a multitude of engaging activities and strategies. In 2019, we certainly were able to provide a broad range of extra-curricular activities with maximum learning opportunities for all our students.

There were many wonderful highlights throughout the 2019 school year and I have detailed several of these further in this report.

The successes achieved during the 2019 school year are once again attributed to the large team of hard working professional teaching staff whom work tirelessly to connect, invest, engage, teach, motivate and inspire their students during each available session every day. At LPS, our staff adopt the attitude of 'Every Minute Counts' and 'It's not OK to be away' is modelled and encouraged to all students. Our teachers aim to make a positive difference and add value to every student in their care, which is a unique feature of our school culture. As a school, we will always work hard to maintain this aspect by employing the best possible teachers through a rigorous recruiting process for each position made available. In 2019, we were able to create within 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 2019 who are committed to reaching our overarching school goals and Key Improvement Areas. They work tirelessly providing fantastic collegiality, support, professionalism, direction, reflection and advice along the way and is greatly appreciated and valued. Many thanks in particular to my Assistant Principals Mrs Deb Purser, Ms Justine Convery, Mr Brett Hayes (Acting) and Mrs Marg Chapman for their amazing work ethic, support, advice and professionalism each and every day. 2019 once again had solid consistency within the leadership team at Laurimar Primary where each member continues to hone and build their individual leadership capacity, skills and experience. All members combined as a team to set a clear direction for our school throughout 2019.

To my team of outstanding office administrators, Christine, Melinda, Joyce, Sue, Julie, Caroline and Jess. We couldn't possibly ask for a more caring, professional, dedicated, thorough and hardworking team where you all strive hard to navigate the frenetic days in the office area. Your calmness, welcoming nature, poise and dedication is a great credit to you all. Thank you for your high level of care and work for all of our school community members and in particular to our students every day. They are so lucky to have simply the Best!

I would also like to thank all Professional Learning Team Curriculum and Operations and Welfare Leaders (OWLs) for their innovation, hard work, drive, energy, 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 who make it happen in their classrooms every day. You are all simply amazing! You set the tone and goals for your students and strive for continuous improvement in each session. I would like to particularly note the hard work, focus and high impact from Educational Support Staff and congratulate them on their excellent work and dedication, their passion for children and education, their high-level energy and their commitment throughout the 2019 school year to achieve the success that we had. It certainly is a large team effort at LPS and takes the entire school to educate and support each child. We are so, so proud of each person's efforts and impact for our students and families!

During 2019, there were once again so many areas and examples of where our committed and supportive parent body within our school community were involved with their positive impact. Without this support, we would not be in a position to provide our students with the large range of stimulating experiences and vast educational opportunities that were a feature throughout the year. The large amount of excursions, incursions, camps, committees, sub committees, whole school celebrations and sporting events could not be possible without the generous volunteer support and time given from our parents and helpers. 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 classroom roster support, Parent Helpers within the classroom to help improve the learning outcomes for our students, excursions, camps, social events or fundraisers. The support and continued investment from you all is greatly appreciated by the entire school community at Laurimar.

I wanted to take the opportunity to acknowledge our highly professional and hardworking Business Manager, Christine Kalogirou. The scope and importance of your work is so grand as you continue to work across so many areas within our school and you are simply 'There' for everyone as you 'Choose Your Attitude' epitomising our Fish Philosophy once again in 2019. Chris is such an amazing part of the fabric to Laurimar Primary School and always completes her tasks with a beautiful smile and the most upbeat nature and attitude. I cannot begin to thank Chris enough for her professionalism, ongoing support and advice in which she provides to not only myself, but to all of us on a daily basis.

The unheralded support from all 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! Congratulations on a fine team effort everyone in 2019!

Another major highlight of the 2019 school year, was 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 in 2009. We were able to complete our 44th whole school Ride to School day and 44th Walk to School day, which helps to reinforce this unique aspect of LPS. In particular, I would like to thank Sustainable Transport ambassador Mr Matt K, our parents who help to drive and embed the culture and all staff who get behind this program. I commend the staff for their commitment to help drive and ensure our sustainable transport culture was an outstanding success at Laurimar in 2019 and we hope to continue for many years to come. Congratulations to all on continuing to reinforce strong safety messages for our students and community and for setting the positive narrative around correct etiquette.

A big thanks to our second hand uniform and lost property team of dedicated volunteers in Amanda Moad, Kristen Thomas and Yvette Mac. We thank them for their enormous work, time, organisation, contributions and involvement in managing this important service for the benefit of our students and supporting our families.

Congratulations to our brilliant canteen manager Julie Hazelden and her dedicated band of workers in Jacinda Clarke and our long time veteran, Lois for their canteen success in 2019. The wonderful work of our grade 6 helpers is greatly appreciated and acknowledged as they demonstrate their community service skills back to our school. This service afforded to our parents, students and staff, is of high quality and offers variety and choice for all. The professionalism and attitude from the team is a highlight of our school. Julie's dedication and support of numerous morning teas all throughout the year to support staff and the community, demonstrates her whole school commitment. Her work to provide this variety and service is simply amazing. One of the highlights this year was our first Mothers and Fathers Day Breakfasts which were both widely supported. Well done to all on a successful 2019 year in our fabulous canteen where you continue to make so many students happy on a daily basis.

In 2019, we continued the great work in our ever-popular OSHC service led by our program leader, Emma Renn and her dedicated program assistants Julie Bamford, Chloe Cornehlis and Rowena Pearson along with their broader team of accredited workers. We consolidated our OSHC Demonstration program which caters for students with disabilities both after school and on the holidays. They have formed a dynamic and professional team who generate a homely feel for all students as they continue to benefit from the program. Having a dynamic Before and After Care Service coupled with the ever-popular Vacation Care through the holidays, has our program at the forefront and is highly sort after by families in our local area. Congratulations to Emma, her entire team, Amanda Moad (OSHC program committee convenor) and her broader team on the enormous success of the year in the OSHC program. We look forward to more innovation and creative ideas through our 2020 program.

At LPS, we are in the best of hands with all things technology and our student 1-1 iPad program continues to be supported by our wonderful technicians John Gerrard and Adrian Szekeres. Once again, their high-level technical expertise, professionalism, knowledge and hard work ensure things are running effectively and smoothly for all staff and students across the school out of the 'Bat Cave' as its known. Their ability to support our whole school and large community events such as Anzac Day, Town Fair, Remembrance Day and assemblies is a reflection of their dedication to our school. The boys always complete jobs and tasks with a smile and magnificent attitude and nothing is ever too hard for them

Our grounds and facilities were once again kept in terrific shape under the guidance and lead of Mr Bill Chapman. In what is a large portfolio in the school and a gigantic body of work, Bill was able to target areas of need and manage this large job on his own, achieving success with all things grounds and facilities and once again assisting in providing a safe environment for all. Many thanks to Bill for his drive, commitment and passion around the school. Certainly a very large job.

Our fundraising efforts throughout 2019 were once again outstanding. I sincerely thank all parents, staff and students in ensuring the fundraising efforts were productive as we target different areas around the school to support our students. Funds raised have been committed to roll out more secure fences and gates around the school. The efforts were reflected in the success of the many fundraisers conducted throughout the year. The 2019 Carols night was another huge success for the school and the wider community. Thank you to Michelle Cosgrove and her band of helpers for the huge chocolate fundraiser, Mothers Day and Fathers Day stalls and Breakfasts. Michelle was instrumental in overseeing our Community Liasion committee for 2019.

To Andrew Tenson for running the successful Colour Run fundraiser and creating a memorable atmosphere for our students. We thank all parents for their time and energy to successfully complete the numerous tasks that were planned for 2019 fundraising around the school. We look forward with renewed enthusiasm to the 2019 Fundraising calendar as we continue to prioritise targeted areas around our grounds to further benefit and support our students in their educational setting.

Once again, I would like to congratulate our dedicated School Council team on a wonderful year and one that has contributed significantly to the continued growth and improvement of our students and their learning as we proceed towards our 12th year of operation in 2020. To Amanda Moad and her role as a dedicated school council President, thank you for your work, ideas, support, passion and leadership role within our school council. To our hard working and dedicated school council members, LPS cannot thank you enough for your time, input, dedication to our students, innovative ideas, passion and energy in this important area of the school operations which is greatly valued by all at Laurimar Primary School.

My thanks are also extended to School Council staff representatives, Assistant Principals, Deborah Purser and Brett Hayes, Rhett McDonald and Paul Kearney for their important leadership and contributions in 2019.

Having completed my 6th full year as Principal of this wonderful school, I am once again extremely grateful, humbled, mightily proud, privileged and honoured to be the leader of such a dynamic educational institution that has an outstanding reputation and standing within the community for providing highly inclusive and rich educational opportunities for all students. I look forward to our progression in growth, consistency and continued academic achievement through improvement and a strong focus in 2020.

Finally, congratulations to our brilliant students, staff, parents, key community stakeholders and partners within our wider community for their support, love, pride and care of our wonderful school. The hard work and dedication in our 11th year of operation at Laurimar Primary School is there for all to see and admire. You should all be very proud of your contributions, vision and fortitude throughout the year to contribute to the success for our students in 2019.

We look forward with much anticipation, hope, optimism and excitement to the 2020 school year that awaits us and once again having the privilege to work with 1000 plus students with great excitement and enthusiasm for success.

Best Wishes,

Jason McBean
Principal

Our HIGHLIGHTS and ACHIEVEMENTS for the 2019 School Year

The following list represents some of the fulfilling achievements and opportunities for students and staff that come to mind when we look back on the success of the 2019 school year at Laurimar Primary School. We can recall many of the engaging activities provided by our entire staff throughout the school during our 11th year of education.

Years leading up to the 2019 school year

A brief school history begins with construction of our new school commencing back in 2008, when the Minister of Education at this point of time, the Hon. 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 by the original staff to have classrooms ready for the students for day 1 of the 2009 school year. 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 11th year, our amazing school commenced the 2019 year with 989 energetic students all eager to learn and take all opportunities before them.

Student Enrolment

Census day, 28th February, 2019 recorded student enrolments at 989.4 students across 43 classrooms (decrease of 1 class from 2018) There has been a general slowing of enrolments throughout the year as we witnessed a more transient population of students in and out and the first year of a number of new schools in the area! Prep enrolments remained high from 151 in 2016 to 141 in 2019 which is testament to our enrolment officer, prep team leader and prep team. Well done to all for the work invested into K-P transitions.

2019 Staffing

Indeed, a highlight of the school year is the commitment and dedication to all students from our entire LPS staff! We produced a stable 2019 workforce to cover all program planning across the school and the various programs that we offer. Congratulations to all 2019 staff for your continued hard work and efforts and your professionalism in engaging and inspiring our 989 students. A fantastic team effort in our 11th year with well over 100 teaching and education support staff in our educational institution. To each and every one of you, congratulations on a big team effort and your amazing attitude and approach to this deep and complex work. The commitment and dedication shown by all staff to commence another year at LPS was clearly evident across all levels during our initial start up program to commence the 2019 year. Feedback from parents throughout the year was extremely positive and there was a level of appreciation in all your work to teach, inspire, grow, develop and care for our students. There were a number of departures due to maternity leave with staff either starting or growing their families, or staff taking up opportunities at other schools, and the recruiting at the end of the 2019 school year allows for us to be very excited for the 2020 school year. The most important resource and asset at any school is the staff, and I am truly grateful and proud of ours. I very much look forward to leading and working with this group of amazing professionals once again in 2020 as we all strive forward to further improve our student learning outcomes and take Laurimar PS from good to great.

Organisation / Class Sizes

Our 2019 workforce plan composition comprised the following;

43 classes at Laurimar Primary School. The following education setting was arranged accordingly; Prep x 8, Grade 1 x 6, Grade 2 x 6, Grade 3 x 6, Grade 4 x 6, Grade 5 x 6 and Grade 6 x 5.

Class sizes were well below the state average again this year with Prep to 2 averages of 20.4 students or less and Gr.3 to 6 average of 24.6 students. An overall class size average across our entire school of 23.0. These figures represent below State averages across the school and are well under the current Departmental benchmarks and expectations across the state allowing for maximum student learning for each individual.

Education Week in May



One of the most significant events on the Education State 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 of Laurimar Primary School. Many thanks to Vanessa Thompson (Vanessa the professor) for the innovative and creative STEAM exhibition (Get on the 'Steam' train at LPS) which was the theme of our Open Evening during Education Week. We were able to demonstrate ideas and activities around Mathematics, Technology, Engineering and Science. There were other exhibitions held on the night for visitors to explore.

We are extremely proud of our school and view this as an important way to showcase our great school to the wider community. There was once again an excellent response to the 2019 Grandparents Day (2000 plus grandparents) as always and is an embedded part of our school culture and history. This is such a beneficial experience for our students and always highlights the pivotal role that grandparents play in their lives.

The open day program during Education Week allowed for many parents to walk through our classrooms which were on display and to see their children and teachers in action. We had a fantastic turnout for these events during Education week with many prospective parents visiting throughout. Another huge success for Laurimar Primary School in 2019 and we look forward to celebrating all things in the Education State in 2020.



Camping Program



Our 2019 camping program was once again another huge highlight of the year for our students where we provide such rich camping experience. The program included a Prep Trek/ Lunch, Grade 1 Dinner and Disco, Grade 2 Sleepover, Year 3 Camp to Billabong Ranch in **Echuca**, Year 4 Camp to **Phillip Island Adventure Resort**, Year 5 Camp to **Warrnambool** and **Camp Kangaroo** and finally our Year 6 Camp to **Anglesea Recreation Camp**. A

special thank-you to all staff and parents for making our camping program possible through their commitment and the success that it was in 2019.

The increase in the students' confidence, their growth of independence and their ability to give things a go, is clear evidence of the impact and success of the camping program.

I am sure all parents and staff would agree, it is certainly a thorough and unique camping experience that we offer our students here at Laurimar Primary School and one that we are very proud of! We look forward to the 2020 version of our camping experience.



Out School Hours Care/ Vacation Program



Many thanks once again to our OSHC Program Leader, Emma Renn, fellow leaders Chloe Cornhels, Julie Bamford, Shannon Grech and Rowena Manser for their outstanding leadership and innovation, and to the staff for an incredible year of growth in our Mod 9 building. 2019 also had the success of another successful year of opportunity for our Vacation Care/ Holiday Program which has been very popular and moves from strength to strength during each holiday break. Embedded in the program is our OSHC Demonstration Program that caters for students with disabilities both at after care and during the Vacation care holiday periods. This allows students with disabilities from Concord School,

Northern School for Autism, Diamond Valley SDS and Merriang SDS to access our school program and once again highlights our school's high level of inclusiveness.

The continued success of the program provides Emma and the team the impetus and the strength to strive for applying for 'Excellence' – ACECQA in all areas under the accreditation framework. A feat in which only one school in Australia has achieved. Our School Council oversee the general operation of our unique OSHC and OSHC Demonstration programs and generously supports the many school community initiatives including community gardens, War Memorial, basketball courts and goals, Working Bees, Welfare Programs, accessible buildings, security fences and boom gates and assisted in the construction of the cover-way. We wish Emma and her dedicated, caring and professional staff the best of luck on obtaining their goals and efforts through 2020 and beyond. A sensational team and cultural effort that reflects a high level of inclusiveness and adds to the overall success of our school.



Literacy / Numeracy Program

The strong and focussed teaching of Literacy and Numeracy is the foundation of our curriculum and is at the core of our 'Learning Architecture' of what we do here at Laurimar Primary School. The staff are to be commended for their ability to provide all students with such a high quality Literacy and Numeracy curriculum, practice innovation, engage in strong professional learning and teach with engaging learning tasks all year. 2019 Naplan Data produced another positive result in year 3 and 5 and continues to head in the right direction with improvement in writing. This element of our school is something we should all be very proud of. The results have our Year 3 cohort at or above state benchmarks across all areas with some improvement in year 5 and the learning gain from year 3 to 5. Our 1-1 iPad program from Years 2-6 provides an additional tool and resource and takes the student learning to a higher level sparking curiosity amongst all children and providing engagement to support their learning. We have maintained a relentless commitment of 10 hours of literacy and 5 hours of numeracy every week across each classroom and this is non-negotiable throughout the entire school. Some very exciting initiatives were achieved in 2019 particularly with VOICES writing and the consolidation across the school with our CAFE reading approach where we were able to

adopt the services of experienced educational consultant Lynn Watts for literacy. All students look forward to engaging in our Laurimar RAW (Reading and Writing) program each day. Our staff are committed and dedicated to their continuous learning and improvement, ensuring we constantly measure and monitor the improvement of student learning outcomes across the school through regular Professional Learning Team Data meetings and then through our Whole School Data team meetings.

Parent Helper Classes

Once again, to train, skill up and educate our parent community, Assistant Principal Deb Purser facilitated our Parent Helper classes throughout the 2019 school year. These sessions were well attended and allows for parent helpers to support our teachers and students within the classroom setting. Under child safety standards within schools, parents are required to attend these sessions, have a current Working With Children's Check and sign confidentiality agreements when wanting to participate in their child's classroom. We are fortunate to have Deb's experience and 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 greatly appreciates their support to fortify our partnership in learning.

2019 Energy Breakthrough Experience- Maryborough



Once again, our dedicated team of teachers provided an amazing opportunity for our Year 5/6 students in the form of our EB program as part of the 2019 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 unique event. Now in its 7th year for our school, 3 teams, Dragons, Phoenix and Gryphons, performed admirably and made our school very proud. Each team gave their all during the 14-hour endurance event often battling some unfortunate luck in racing but were forever resilient in their ability to overcome roll overs, crashes, heat and mechanical issues. Once again, we are very lucky to be able to provide an opportunity of this magnitude to our students. This is all made possible due to the incredible drive, commitment and passion from Rhett McDonald, ably assisted by Des Chapman, Mark Brown, Tracy Sims, Brett Hayes, Julie Hazelden and Mrs Kim Ferguson and their support crew of passionate and hardworking teachers and parents. A special mention to parent volunteers led by Simon Kneale, Troy Hazelden, Esther Cathie, Terrie Flanagan and Damian Ball for providing the mechanical and engineering expertise to allow our vehicles to be so proficient during the event. A huge thanks to the fundraising team led by Jane Szydlowski, Kath Ball, Nicole Carrick and Michelle Cosgrove. It was also uplifting to see former participants in Caleb Kneale, Jamie Hazelden, Ebony Pearce and their team of ex team members. Congratulations to all EB team members involved in the 2019 event and for being such wonderful participants. Our students are very fortunate to have this opportunity in our school and I am sure the next wave of lucky students await the 2020 version to create their own piece of history!

Clubs Program

One of our diverse programs and opportunities once again on offer to support our students in 2019, was in the form of our 'Clubs' program. This program offers students some 12 structured opportunities to join a club where they might demonstrate a level of interest or passion. These included Chess, Pokemon, Gardening, Arts and Dance, Yarn and Big Bash Cricket Clubs.

The range, variety and engaging Clubs Program is a credit to the staff who lead these and our students who take up the opportunity. I would like to thank all staff who volunteered their time at lunchtimes to give our students these fantastic opportunities and help add to the great culture of Laurimar Primary School.

VIP Club



In 2019, our 3rd year of the popular VIP Club was conducted which is specifically designed to meet the needs of those students who find the playground and school yard overwhelming at times. This program was supported by teaching staff and education support staff and provided up to 50 students the opportunity to participate in organized games, craft, sensory activities, Lego and structured social interaction to ensure success during lunchtimes for each individual. Many thanks

to Elley Heyer, Nikki Elliot, Elke Valencia, Cindy Attard, Carlie Pearce and their support staff for their continued drive of this integral program in our school.

2019 Chinese/ Mandarin program

2019 was a very busy year of learning Chinese Mandarin at Laurimar Primary. We welcomed our Assistant Chinese Teacher Ms Chou Mei to join the Chinese team in February. Ms Mei delivered Chinese cultural and language program to our younger students with support from classroom Chinese teachers, Mrs Chao and Mrs Wang. Prep to Year 2 students learned vocabulary and practised to introduce themselves in Chinese.

Ms Chao ran a Chinese cultural club on Wednesdays and many students from Year 3 and 4 had lots of fun in the program. They learned traditional Chinese fan dance and ribbon dance and were very proud to perform it on Grandparents Day and at other assemblies. Year 3 and 4 students enjoyed learning some scientific content in Chinese and were able to label parts of fruits and vegetable in target language.

Mrs Wang and Ms Chao had planned fun activities for Year 5 and 6 to engage them in using Chinese in their daily life. Students are encouraged to compare languages (Chinese with English) and cultural differences.



Laurimar Primary School was very proud to host 20 temporary International students from our sister school in China in 2019 and they were supported through our whole school community. The students ranged in ages 6-13 and participated in daily learning routines with their Australian classmates while also having the chance to share their Chinese knowledge with our students.

Year 5/6 China Trip

Unfortunately after 5 China exchange trips, the increased costs of the trip for 2019 meant that we could not generate the interest to be able to hold our Chinese trip this year. We will revisit this amazing experience at the next available opportunity.

Grade Six Graduation

Our school was able to celebrate our Grade 6 Graduation for the 2nd year in a row at the magnificent Bendigo Bank Community Stadium in Diamond Creek. Congratulations to all involved in this memorable occasion for our graduating students and their families. Congratulations to Mrs Kim Ferguson, Mr Brett Hayes and the year 6 team for providing the year 6 dinner and for your brilliant planning, organisation, new ideas and hard work in making this venue work. To our classroom teachers Kim Ferguson, Shae Audley, Erin O'Connell, Anna Maxwell, Brett Hayes, Robyn Greenwood and Daniel Taylor, well done to you all in helping to shape this into a truly memorable evening for the near 800 plus people in attendance. This was one of those scorching hot nights where you can't help but feel genuine pride and great affirmation that this school has been an incredible learning experience filled with many poignant learning opportunities for these graduating students over their previous 7 years with us. We wish each and every graduate every success as they step into Year 7 and surge through their secondary experience and trust that the education at Laurimar Primary has prepared them sufficiently well for this and their futures. Congratulations to all involved in a successful Year 7!

Facilities

Throughout 2019, we continued to look at further strengthening and improving our facilities for staff and students. Grounds and facilities meetings are conducted regularly through school council level and decisions are made regarding maintenance or introduction of new facilities or playgrounds within our school. As a school community, we take great pride in the spaces available in our school environment and will constantly look to improve in 2020 and beyond. Some of our achievements included replacing the woodchips on our playgrounds with the new Rubber Through Softfall, more accessible buildings through our OSHC Demonstration Program and upgrades to our Office Area. LPS will always look to move forward with improving our facilities for our students.

Whole School Production



One of the more memorable events every second year in our school's calendar is that of our whole school production. 2019 was no exception with our production, 'Time Flies By' coordinated by our highly skilled and committed performing Arts team. Ms Louise Mercer in her first year at LPS went about meticulously planning and preparing the team for this 3 Night Spectacular. All students in our school performed on stage and it was an incredibly proud evening for all involved. To Mrs Louise Mercer, Mrs Ally Duncan,

Bec Park, Tash Conti and their dedicated team of Arts specialists, you were able to combine your talents and passion and create a spectacular performance that you were able to etch in everyone's memory and one that the entire community should be immensely proud of. We look forward to the 2021 event with much excitement. Congratulations to all involved and its huge success for our 1000 students, our staff and our parents.



The Arts @ Laurimar in 2019

2019 was a busy and successful year in The Arts with the further implementation of the Musical Futures program through dance, and our production, along with consolidating Performing Arts and Visual Arts. Congratulations to Arts Leader Louise Mercer, Ali Duncan, Frankie Ciavola and Mandy Strongman for the hard work taking place through the arts and in particular for the hard work behind the scenes for our impressive production at Plenty Ranges Arts and Convention Centre. We look forward to an even bigger year in the Arts in 2020.

Health, Physical and Sport Education

2019 was an outstanding and very successful year for Physical Education and Sport. With the departure of Sarah Walsh on maternity leave we had the delightful addition of Ms Rach Attard. Rach brought expertise, passion, professionalism and a wealth of knowledge and inspiration to our team joining Mr Des Chapman and Mr Rhett McDonald.

The beginning of the year saw us take on District swimming, with 33 students representing us and a further 8 going onto Division, 1 through to Region and 1 State Representative in Molly Wright.



We started the year off strongly with 61 students representing Laurimar Primary School at District Cross Country where our school finished 2nd overall. We had 11 runners progress through to Division and 9 onto Regional finals. Harvey Cooke, Amelia Davidson, Felicity Cotter and Grace Scott continued on to represent the Northern Metropolitan Region and LPS at the State Cross Country held at Bundoora Park which is a remarkable achievement.

55 keen athletes represented LPS at the District Athletics Carnival held in September at Meadow Glen Athletics Track where our school was crowned champions for the 2nd year in a row. An astonishing 23 athletes made division championships, 10 off to Region and Tess Gilson, Isaac Malamatinis, Holly Davis, Emma Hendire, Grace Scott, Amelia Davidson all made State level

Year 3 and 4 students continued our sports program, with Year 3 students competing in their classes to become familiar with the process.

The Year 4 students are placed in teams and compete against one another each week with a ladder system and fixture being introduced.



The Prep students at LPS are very lucky to participate in our PMP (Perceptual Motor Program) as very few schools run this program. The PMP program concentrates on gross motor skills and perceptual motor skills, such as balancing, and integrates literacy and numeracy aligned with the Prep curriculum.

We had our most successful year to date in Inter School Sports in 2019. The Boys' Softball and Girls' Volleyball teams both progressed to Regional finals. Hockey 7s also made it to a Regional championship.

Breakfast with the Stars

Congratulations to the amazing Ladies from the Yarrambat Park Golf Club who, in 2019, once again supported the brilliant initiative by Mr Brett Hayes, our 'Breakfast with the Stars' program. This program supports children who come under our broad welfare banner. This powerful welfare program has been hugely popular and Brett and our team of helpers at each breakfast has been inspirational. These breakfasts are great morale boosting events for students and the staff involved. On behalf of the community, I would like to thank Brett and our staff for giving their time at each of these 'Brekies' and in particular to the Ladies from the Yarrambat Park Golf Club for providing the

financial support required to run such a program. We look forward to increasing this important program in 2020 and hope to involve an even greater number of students.

2019 Cultural Day

Indonesian, Chinese, Indian and African cultures were all celebrated along with all 43 other important cultures throughout our school on Cultural Day. Students were immersed in cultural activities within the classroom and had the opportunity to see 3 special performance/cultural dances and music under the assembly coverway. This is always one of the great highlights of the year demonstrating a high level of respect to all cultures and celebrating the uniqueness of cultural diversity within our school and across Melbourne. A big thank you to our cultural committee led by Jacinta Wang and Perng Chao for their vision, planning and organisation for the day. Once again it highlights the inclusive nature of our school.

2019 Mathematics Olympiad

Enriching our student learning is a large feature within our school. Congratulations to the 25 students who competed in the 2019 Mathematics Olympiad throughout the year. Once again our school produced some fantastic results through the Olympiad and we are proud of all their efforts. This aspect of learning and academic performance means so much to those students who participated and we are thrilled with their effort and commitment to the program. Many thanks to Mrs Emma Hollingsworth for leading and overseeing the program and for providing rich educational opportunities for our students.

2019 Anzac Day Dawn Service



On Thursday 25th April, we conducted our 6th year of an RSL endorsed Dawn Service at our beautiful Cenotaph to mark the 104th anniversary of the Gallipoli Landings. The focus also shifted to the 101st anniversary of the end of the atrocities of WW1. The event was once again heavily attended by our parents, staff, students and members of the broader community. All tuned into a key note address from local community member Mrs Colleen Bamford who spoke about her Pilgrimage to The Kokoda Track. Many thanks to the

organising committee for the countless meetings and organisation and who started setting up on the day from 2.30am. To our amazing friends from the Doreen RSL sub branch, President Mr Wes Wridgway and staff, students and cadets from Ivanhoe Grammar School, we can't thank you enough for your support, friendship and continued guidance of these significant ceremonies. The strong attendance was testament to just how important this memorable occasion is to our families and the broader community and I'm sure will only grow in stature throughout the years. This is something that our community can all take enormous pride in at Laurimar Primary School and continue to build our strong links with our strong House Culture for many years to come.

Strong partnership with Whittlesea Lodge Aged Care facility

One of the genuine highlights of our 2019 school year, is the continued strong partnership that we have forged with the residents and staff at the Whittlesea Lodge aged care facility. Our school made regular visits with senior students and staff engaging the aged care residents with stories, 'Balloon Volleyball', games,



singing and just old fashion chats. It's such a powerful thing for our students and staff to go up and immerse ourselves with the people who have helped to shape our great state of Victoria and our Country. To conclude the 2019 school year, we were able to attend with our school choir to sing Christmas carols and once again thank our elderly for their contributions. There wasn't a dry eye in the house. We look forward to continuing this strong partnership for many years to come. Many thanks to Tracy Kearney, Rebecca Park and Brett Hayes for their work in this important space.

As you can see by the many highlights that were experienced throughout the 2019 year, we are deeply proud of our achievements and successes and look forward with positive optimism to an even bigger 2020!

On behalf of all community stakeholders, we thank you for your contribution in providing a dynamic school for our students.



Learning - Partnerships - Success