

# 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

LAURIMAR PRIMARY SCHOOL



School No: 5497

School Principal: Jason McBean

School Council President: Amanda Moad

## 2020 PRINCIPAL'S REPORT: A YEAR LIKE NO OTHER

2020 was our 12th full year of operation at Laurimar Primary School and it certainly was a year like no other. After our local MP, Daniel Green rang the very first bell to commence our student learning back in February 2009, little did we know that the world would be crippled by a global pandemic some 11 years later. Leading a school of over 1000 students and collectively 3000 stakeholders that make up our community was certainly deeply complex and challenging for all. Nonetheless right throughout the school year the personal growth, their health and wellbeing and learning for each and every student at Laurimar Primary School remained our priority.

We have continued to deliver and enhance engaging educational programs and priorities, which respond to the directions of the Department of Education and Training (DET) under the Framework for Improving Student Outcomes. We continued to embed Education State priorities such as the Literacy and Numeracy strategy and High Impact Teaching Strategies with a particular emphasis on 'Feedback' through our writing, reading, spelling and numeracy programs. Our strategic plan goals around 'Building Practice Excellence' and 'Empowering Students to Build School Pride' through professional learning and targeted activities changed priority and we shifted to a focus on health and wellbeing of all students, staff and their families. 2020 saw us complete our final year of our 4-year Strategic Plan as we led into a school review in December. We also drew upon strategies that deeply fostered connectedness between our school and each family with a strong emphasis on building relationships between staff, students and families. We are so proud of how we invested in each family and feel that the relationships are strong.

Our ability to construct, create and deliver 2 remote learning platforms that became the longest remote learning programs in Australian Education History and throughout the world in any educational jurisdiction was an absolute highlight. Soundwaves spelling, CAFÉ reading and VOICES writing programs were all adapted and included in our program as we strived towards building proficiency across these curriculum areas. Throughout 2020 we were able to show a high degree of flexibility and adaptability to the ever changing landscape and environment in education during a global pandemic. We constantly reflected and looked at new ways to engage our students and the community, combining the needs of all staff and how they were to deal with the changing situation. As a school community, we can all take enormous pride in the fact that we looked out for each other in such a delicate world when it came to maintaining everyone's health and safety.

Our school's specific learning programs, detailed curriculum and opportunities provided through the year has been diverse and extensive for our community. We continued with a strong commitment to our growth coaching model which allowed for 5 Leading Teachers (Teaching and Learning Leaders) to coach, model, challenge, reflect, inspire and support teachers in the most difficult and challenging times and had a focus on maintaining consistency of practice for students. Unfortunately we were limited through the year in providing a strong and consistent Clubs Program initiative. For the first time in the events history, the Energy Breakthrough Program in Maryborough in the Human Powered Vehicle Event was cancelled along with 90% of all events that would ordinarily go on in a very large school. Our expressive education program that includes our diverse Arts program, Physical and Sport Education program, Chinese Mandarin program, STEM program all adapted wherever possible to help engage our students and focussed on strong Social and Emotional supports when needed. Overall, we were very limited as to the amount of extra-curricular activities that we could bring to our students such as sports events, excursions, camps and incursions. When all things are considered with the year we were faced with, there were certainly many memorable highlights throughout the 2020 school year of which I have detailed further in this report.

The successes achieved during the 2020 school year, a year like no other, were once again attributed to the large team of hardworking, dedicated and professional teaching staff, education support, STRIVE team and OSHC staff whom work tirelessly to engage, teach, keep safe, motivate and inspire our students during each available session every day. At LPS, our staff adopt the attitude of 'Every Minute Counts' to maximise the attendance and learning opportunities for all students. Our professional staff aim to make a positive difference each and every day, build confidence 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 commitment by employing the best possible teachers through a rigorous recruiting process for each position made available. Throughout 2020, there is no doubt our team was challenged with the juggling act that they were presented. Not one person took a back step and they went about their work and care for others in a diligent and professional manner. I would like to wholeheartedly congratulate all members of our leadership team in 2020 who went go over and above and were committed to reaching our overarching school goals and Key Improvement Areas from our School Strategic Plan and Annual Implementation Plan. They worked tirelessly through the pandemic and the book ends of the year providing fantastic support, professionalism, ideas, innovation, care, direction, reflection and advice along the way, and their leadership is greatly respected, admired, appreciated and valued. Particular thanks must go to my incredible Assistant Principals Mrs Deb Purser, Mr Brett Hayes, Ms Justine Convery and Mrs Marg Chapman for their second to none adaptability, flexibility, rigorous conversations at times, work ethic, support, advice and professionalism each and every day throughout the most challenging of years. Throughout 2020, we once again had solid consistency within the leadership team at Laurimar Primary as each member continues to grow with their leadership practice, strengthen and build their individual leadership capacity and experience for the betterment of all members of our community. They embraced all the curve balls that were thrown at them while leading through a pandemic lockdown and came through with a high level of distinction. All members worked seamlessly and collaboratively as a team, both in the context of on the ground and remotely, to set a clear direction for our school throughout the year.

I again want to take this opportunity to acknowledge our highly professional, diligent and hardworking Business Manager, Christine Kalogirou. The depth that she went to in supporting all during the pandemic was incredible. The scope and importance of her work is pivotal as she continues to help lead multiple areas across our school. Each and every day Christine, on our frontline is 'There' for all staff as she 'Chooses her Attitude' epitomising our Fish Philosophy foundations and is a wonderful role model to all. Chris is such a valuable asset to all members within our school and always completes her tasks with a beautiful smile and the most positive attitude while maintaining a light hearted and fundamental approach to her work. I cannot begin to thank Chris enough for her ongoing support, friendship and advice in which she provides to all of us on a day to day basis.

We must acknowledge the outstanding work of our inspirational office administrators, Christine, Joyce, Sue, Melinda, Caroline, Julie and Jess. During the uncertain times of panic, we could not possibly ask for a more understanding, caring, professional, dedicated, thorough and hardworking team, where they all continue to strive hard to get through each frenetic day in the front office area. The work behind the scenes administratively was first class. Their calmness, composure under fire, their welcoming nature, poise and dedication is a great credit to them all and we could not have got through 2020 without them. We thank them for their high level of care and work for all school community stakeholders and in particular for our students and their families every day through a

pandemic lockdown. We are all so lucky to have them as part of the LPS family and they should be individually and as a team, be deeply proud of helping us to defeat the virus in our large educational setting!

I would also like to thank all Professional Learning Team Curriculum and Operations and Welfare Leaders for their hard work, focus, composure, drive, strength, energy, support and contributions within each PLT across the school throughout the complex year. This middle leadership was outstanding in keeping the wheels in motion within each team in what was new and challenging work.

I also thank all LPS teaching staff who made it happen in their classrooms and within homes during the remote teaching and learning periods each and every day and for being on the frontline with our students and parents. They are all simply inspiring teachers and staff and are highly valued professionals within the education sector. The work that they were able to take on was just outstanding, solidifying the critical role that educators play in society each and every minute of every day. This work is immensely appreciated by ALL Victorians whom you make stronger for being you! They all set the learning architecture, attitude and learning goals for our students and strive for continuous improvement in each session for our students. Their ability to be creative, connect, engage and inspire during the most complex times, whilst managing their own family situations, being on site and managing remotely was unheralded.

I would also like to particularly note the hard work, flexibility, adaptation to programs, focus and high impact from our Educational Support Staff. Their excellent work, dedication and support for teachers, students and families, their passion for children and education, high-levels of energy, strong impact and commitment throughout the tough 2020 school year to achieve the great success that we all shared. All staff at LPS can take immense pride with how they held their heads high, dug deep to provide the best learning opportunities and level of health and safety for all. An amazing accomplishment for the year.

Throughout the 2020 school year, there were once again so many areas and examples of where our committed and supportive parent body within our school community made a positive impact. Large decisions regarding the impact from school council led programs were made throughout the tough year. Without this support, we would not be in a position to provide our students with the large range of stimulating experiences, wonderful facilities and grounds and vast educational opportunities that were a feature throughout the year. We deeply value the generous volunteer support from our parents and helpers each and every day. Thank you also to the large number of parents who assisted the teachers in a variety of ways including our Year 6 camp and in particular for our fabulous grade 6 Graduation in tough weather conditions on the second last night of the year. The support and continued investment in Laurimar Primary School from them all is much appreciated by the entire school community at Laurimar and we look to build upon this strong platform in some more normal times in 2021.

The unprecedented 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 in conquering an unprecedented 2020 school year!

Out of lockdown and towards the end of the year, many thanks must go to our dedicated volunteers in Jane Szydlowski, Amanda Moad and Yvette Mac for once again kindly providing our LPS second hand uniform service. We thank them for their enormous work post the lockdown, for giving up their time, and for providing some organisation, contributions and involvement to ensure this important service is available for the benefit of our students and families. It is greatly appreciated!

There were some remarkable achievements in terms of our grounds and facilities at LPS in 2020, as Mr Bill Chapman took the opportunity during the lockdown to make many improvements. In what is a large portfolio in the school, Bill 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 and in 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 made more difficult by the pandemic lockdown.

Our 2020 school council members completed a tough and challenging year not being able to meet face to face until the very last meeting in December. Considering this, their work has contributed significantly to the continued vision, strong direction, adaptation and modifications to our remote learning platforms, growth, development and improvement for all students and their learning as we proceed towards our 13th year of operation in 2021. To Amanda Moad, our amazing school council President, we thank her for her tireless work, ideas, support, passion, feedback and leadership role within our school council. Amanda's contributions over the past 12 years has been instrumental in helping to shape and create such a strong educational platform and culture for the many students and families who benefit from our great school. To each and every hard working and dedicated school council member, students, staff and parents of Laurimar Primary School, we cannot thank you enough for the enormous amount of time away from your families, the dedication you display to our students, your high level work ethic and innovative ideas, passion for State Education and high energy levels in the important operational area of the school. This is highly valued and appreciated by all stakeholders within Laurimar Primary and we are grateful for staying the course through a rocky road in 2020.

Having completed now my 7th full year as Principal of our inspiring school, I cannot begin to explain how extremely grateful, humbled, mightily proud, privileged and honoured I am to be the leader of such a strong educational institution through such challenging times in 2020. None of us in our lives have experienced anything of the like and the way our community came together to tackle the challenge will be etched in my memory forever. Through this complex work, we have consolidated our outstanding reputation for providing rich educational opportunities for our students. Our remote learning platforms were no exception and were revered within the broader community. I look forward to our continued growth in student achievement, closely monitoring and supporting the health and wellbeing of every individual and driving consistency in maintaining strong attitudes of Respect and continued improvement across all areas of the school with renewed strength and energy in 2021!

In closing, congratulations to our unique and wonderful students who all bring their individual qualities, smiles and traits every day, all staff who make great things happen around our school, our supportive parents and key stakeholders from our wider school community, for their support, love, dedication and care for our school, hard work and dedication through our 12th year of operation at Laurimar Primary School. Everyone should take enormous pride in how we all navigated together

through a difficult year, stuck to the vision and maintained hard work and focus through the year to contribute to the overall success and safety for our students and their development.

In 2021, we all look forward with high anticipation, hope, optimism, normality and excitement to what the new school year brings. Through setting clearly defined individual learning goals for our students, assess exactly where each and every young person is at and combine closely with our school community to bring about rich success through their educational opportunities and achievements.

**Best Wishes,**

**Jason McBean  
Principal**

# Learning - Partnerships – Success



## Our HIGHLIGHTS and ACHIEVEMENTS for 2020 School Year

Due to the impacts of COVID 19 in 2020, the following represents a much more scaled back version of the successful programs, events, achievements and learning opportunities for students and staff when we look back through the complexities of the 2020 school year at Laurimar Primary School. We can recall many of the modified, adjusted and adapted activities provided by our entire staff throughout this difficult period and now completes 12 years of operation in education at LPS.

### School Context and the years leading up to the 2020 school year

Construction of our new school commenced back in 2008, when the Minister of Education at this time, Bronwyn Pike turned the first sod of soil on May 22<sup>nd</sup>. Construction of the new school was of a very rapid pace. Fortnightly meetings were held with the builder (WP Contractors) and school architect (Minx) to ensure progress remained 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 to commence the first day of the 2009 school year. We opened the school for learning for our students and parents the Sunday prior to the start of the school year with 8 teachers and 113 students.

Now having completed 12 full years of education, our proud school commenced the 2020 year with 1006.4 energetic students all eager to learn and take on every opportunity before them. Little did we know, that on returning to school on February 1<sup>st</sup>, the effects of the global pandemic were quickly heading to our shores, hence making the 2020 school year one of the most challenging in our country's history.

### Student Enrolment

On Census day, 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2020 our recorded student enrolments were at 1006.4 students across 44 operational classrooms (an increase of 1 grade from 2019). There was a slight increase once again this year as we maintain enrolments in the low 1000s with enrolments expected to dip slightly in 2021 due to 161 year 6s exiting at the end of the 2020 school year. Prep enrolments remained consistent with 8 grades housing 147 prep students (an increase of 9 from the previous year), which is testament to our enrolment officer, prep team leaders and entire prep team. Well done to all for the work invested into our K-P transition program where the children are prepared very well, ready for the learning journey in Primary School

### 2020 Staffing

A highlight of the school year was the commitment and dedication to all students from our entire staff! We produced a stable 2020 workforce including strong consistency in our school leadership team, to cover all program planning across the school and various programs that we offered our students. A huge congratulations to all the 2020 staff for their hard work and strong commitment during one of the most difficult years for educators. Their efforts, focus, versatility and their professionalism in engaging and inspiring our 1000 plus students was phenomenal. This was backed up by positive feedback from parents during the pandemic surveys that were conducted. A fantastic team effort in our 12th year with well over 100 teaching and educational support staff in our school. To each and every one of them, congratulations on a big team effort and their amazing attitude around managing the complexities of a pandemic both professionally and personally. Their approach to this deeply delicate and complex work was second to none. The commitment and dedication shown by all staff to embrace their occupation and the importance of their role was

evident. The flexibility and the ability to take on all that was thrown at them was clearly evident across all levels of the school from the very start of the 2020 year. Feedback from parents throughout the year was extremely positive and there was a level of appreciation in all their 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 and opportunities for staff at other schools. As a result the recruiting at the end of the 2020 school year allowed for us to be very excited for the 2021 school year. The most important resource and asset at any school is the staff and in ours during a year like no other, I am truly grateful and proud of each and every person's deep level of commitment. I very much look forward to leading and working with this group of amazing professionals once again in more normal circumstances in 2021 as we all strive forward to further improve our student learning outcomes and take Laurimar PS from good to great and to commence the start of our new 4 year strategic plan (2021-2024).

### School Organisation / Class Sizes

Our 2020 workforce plan composition comprised the following;

44 classes at Laurimar Primary School. The following education setting was arranged accordingly;

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

Class sizes were well below the state average again this year with Prep to 2 averages of 20.3 students or less and the Gr 3 to 6 average of 24.5 students. The overall class size average across our entire school was 23.0. These figures represent excellent averages across the school and are well under the current Departmental benchmarks for the state allowing for maximum student learning for each individual.

### Education Week

One of the most important events on the State Education calendar celebrated in May, was unfortunately cancelled due to being in the middle of the first lockdown of the COVID19 crisis. We look forward to bringing you an even better Education Week in May 2021.

### Camping Program

Our 2020 camping program was hugely impacted by the effects of the global pandemic. The Year 1 Dinner and Disco, Year 2 Sleepover, Year 3 Camp to Billabong Ranch in **Echuca**, Year 4 Camp to **Phillip Island** Adventure Resort, and Year 5 Camp to **Warrnambool** were all cancelled due to being planned for times during both lockdowns. On a positive, one of the absolute highlights was our school's ability to keep the dream alive for our Year 6 Camp to **Anglesea**. As soon as the green light was given, we proceeded with a new revised date from 14-16<sup>th</sup> December to give our 161, Year 6s an opportunity to experience camp in their final year of Primary School. A special thank you to all staff and parents for making this memorable camp possible and the huge success that it was in 2020. What a great way to finish their 7 years of Primary School. To have a school whose staff prioritises students and their opportunities and holding them at the forefront is something we can be so proud of. Thank you to all for keeping the dream alive for our students.

### Out School Hours Care/ Vacation Program

In 2020, our incredible OSHC service went over and above, operating every single day during the global pandemic. The service that was provided for our essential service worker children, out of home care students and students deemed vulnerable and at risk, was second to none. In times of uncertainty and panic, they stuck to the task every day of the school year and holiday period and with

an incredible attitude, rose above every challenge. The program is led by our amazing program leader, Rowena Pearson and supported by her dedicated program assistants Carlie Pearce, Julie Bamford, Chloe Cornels, Pedro Merlo, Emma Potocnik, Chloe Freeman and Tara Cunningham (OSHC Demonstration leader), along with their broader team of accredited workers. They have formed a close knit, dynamic and professional team who generate a homely feel for all students as they continue to benefit from the program during these times. Having a successful Before and After Care Service coupled with the ever-popular Vacation Care Program through the holidays has our service at the forefront and highly sort after for families in our local area. Congratulations to Rowena, her entire team, Renee Kueffer and Deanne Arcus (OSHC program committee convenors) and her broader team, on the enormous success of the year in the OSHC program. We look forward to more innovation and creative ideas throughout the 2021 program.

This program and its facility also extends more broadly and supports the many school community initiatives including cooking club and community garden, Arts and Crafts, VIP Club, Doreen War Memorial, basketball goals, Welfare Program, security fences and gates, upgrades to playgrounds and assisted the construction of the second cover-way on the bat tennis courts. We wish Rowena and her dedicated, caring and professional staff the best of luck on obtaining their goals and efforts throughout 2021 and beyond.

### **Out School Hours Care (OSHC) Demonstration Program**

As result of the Premier's Visit, Mr Daniel Andrews to our school in 2017, LPS was fortunate enough to be selected as the only mainstream school to run an OSHC Demonstration program that caters for students with disabilities for After School care and Vacation care purposes. This is such a fine reflection of us as a school and our high level of inclusiveness, acceptance, patience, tolerance and understanding. The program has now completed 3 successful years and last year highlighted during a pandemic the absolute need for this service within our community. It continues to increase student enrolments at a steady pace and continues to immerse students through the program on a daily basis and through the holiday program. Something that we can all be very proud of at LPS.

### **STRIVE Program**

One of the pleasing features of our school in 2020 was another hugely successful year of our STRIVE program. This is an inclusive program that caters for our funded students and provides an environment and structured learning program that allows for greater student outcomes, a strong sense of achievement and experiences of success. This program has now completed its 3<sup>rd</sup> year and our students look forward to attending their 3 x 2 hour sessions per week with their dedicated teachers and support staff. Many thanks to Nikki Elliot our dedicated leader for her adaptation during uncertain times in 2020 and her hugely dedicated and skilled staff who work with our students every day.

### **LLI Program-2020**

Levelled Literacy Intervention (LLI) continued to be an integral part of the Enrichment Program at Laurimar Primary School throughout 2020. Students requiring reading support were identified, and an online program was adapted and modified that addressed their learning needs.

The online LLI Program consisted of three small group reading sessions per week over Zoom and students were encouraged to participate in as many of these additional sessions as they were able to. The program offered explicit and direct instruction to improve the student's reading competencies and provided differentiated instruction for all students. Each LLI lesson increased

student's reading volume and supported the development of their independent and self-regulatory reading behaviours. This assisted the students to think deeply about texts and derive larger ideas from their reading.

The student's development in reading, oral language, and phonics continued to be the focus of these sessions and was communicated to parents via regular phone calls. Regular communication with parents about what their children were learning and how they could support them at home, was imperative to the LPS community during this time.

Many thanks must go to Ally Makowski for her planning and commitment to providing such a valuable and successful program, albeit in difficult times and to add learning gain to so many students in the LLI program.

### **Literacy / Numeracy Program**

In 2020 we were required to plan, modify, adapt and deliver Literacy and Numeracy lessons via remote learning platforms for a period of 7 months. As a school, we were greatly appreciative of the strong partnership during these times between students, teachers and parents. This partnership allowed for a consistent program to be delivered and involved families working together on the learning journey.

Intricate planning between year level teams continued through the remote learning period with lessons, tasks, strategies and feedback to students continually discussed and revised where needed. Of course, between the first and second lockdowns we evaluated the remote learning program through the feedback received via the teacher and parent surveys. Adjustments were made to our programs accordingly to reflect the various situations that were occurring in each household as a result of the impacts of the pandemic whether it be socially, emotionally, health and well-being or financially.

### **Parent Helper Classes**

Due to the circumstances presented in 2020, these classes were not held. We look forward to bringing these to our parent community in 2021 and have our parents deeply engaged with the learning of our students.

### **2020 Energy Breakthrough Experience**

Unfortunately, after having been registered for 3 teams to participate in the 2020 RACV Energy Breakthrough, this event was canceled due to the health and safety factors presented by the global pandemic. Bigger and Better in 2021. Fingers crossed for our students that they will take part in this memorable event.

### **Clubs Program**

A pleasing feature of our school during this difficult year, was the continued option for students to be a part of a club where they demonstrate a level of interest or a passion at lunchtimes. Clearly the number of clubs were reduced, however they still played a key role in engagement and involvement throughout the year. Many thanks to the wonderful staff for giving the time and dedication to proceed.

Our teachers work hard to provide a wide and diverse range of engaging clubs and it is a credit to the staff who lead these and to the students who take up the opportunities. I would like to thank all staff who volunteered their time at lunchtimes in 2020 to give our students these fantastic opportunities and help add to the great culture of Laurimar Primary School each week. Less down time equates to less behavioral issues for our students.

### **Grade Six Graduation**

Amazingly, on the 18<sup>th</sup> December (2nd last day of the school year), LPS was able to finally celebrate our Grade 6 Graduation. Through having an incredibly dedicated, passionate and committed staff, we were able to hold a spectacular and memorable evening for 161 year 6s. Congratulations to all involved in this memorable occasion for our graduating students and their families, where they came together to celebrate their many significant learning opportunities over their previous seven years. To Mrs Anna Maxwell, Ms Erin O'Connell, Mrs Robyn Greenwood, Mrs Kim Ferguson, Mrs Lauren Blake, Mrs Emma Hollingsworth, Mr Paul Kearney, Mr Brett Hayes, Mr Rob Johnstone and Mrs Frankie, thank you for keeping this dream alive and for your new ideas and hard work in making this special occasion work. This truly was a memorable evening for the near 550 plus people in attendance in a COVID safe environment. This was one of those nights where you can't help but feel genuinely proud and was a wonderful affirmation that this school has been an authentic learning experience for our students. A poignant moment in the evening was the inaugural presentation of the Lilly Fish award for Courage. Lilly's family were all present to announce the very first winner, Gurbaaz Singh and present this proud award to him. There was hardly a dry eye in the house and is something for those present we will never forget. Thanks to Liam, Sarah, Zoe and Roland Fish for making themselves available for this special night. We wish each and every graduate every success as they surge through their Secondary School experience commencing in 2021 and trust that the education at Laurimar Primary has prepared them adequately and for the future in general. Congratulations to all year 6 graduates, their parents and families and our staff.

### **Grounds and Facilities**

Throughout the year during the lockdowns, there were still a number of improvements made to our facilities for staff and students. Grounds and facilities meetings are convened through school council and decisions were made regarding maintenance or the introduction of new facilities or playgrounds within our school. Although we could not conduct any working bees and other prioritised projects, significant gains were made through the construction of a brand new, inclusive, prep playground at the front of the school. It is an impressive structure finished with safe rubber tough and includes a new sandpit and landscaped areas and trees. We take enormous pride in the spaces available in our school and will constantly look to improve grounds and facilities through planned infrastructure projects in 2021 and beyond. Many thanks to Bill Chapman for his leadership and guidance of our ground and facilities.

### **Health, Physical and Sport Education**

2020 was a difficult year in meeting the scheduled events for Physical Education and Sport at LPS. Our dedicated PE and Sport team were able to diversify, modify and adapt to provide students and their families a vast array of fitness options and activities to keep them active enduring 7 months of lockdowns. We maintained our focus right through to the end of the year with 2 games of interschool sport for all year 5/6 students at the end of December. This was a fine achievement. Many thanks to our good friends at Glen Katherine PS for making this possible with a home and away fixture. A huge thanks to Des Chapman, Rhett McDonald and Andrew Tenson for their work and leadership in this area.

### Breakfast with the Stars

Mr Brett Hayes, Mrs Marg Chapman, Marley (our therapy dog) and our passionate team of teacher helpers again are to be congratulated for supporting this brilliant initiative, our 'Breakfast with the Stars' program that supports children that have been suffering in one way or another. Although limited this year due to the pandemic, this powerful welfare program has been hugely popular and our team of helpers at each breakfast very early in the morning has been inspirational. We were able to run multiple events near the end of the year once restrictions eased. These breakfasts are great morale boosting times for students and the staff involved. On behalf of the community, I would like to thank Brett, Marg, Marley and our staff for giving their time at each of these 'Brekki's'. We look forward to increasing this important program in 2021 and having more breakfasts for our amazing students out of COVID times.



### 2020 Cultural Day

One of the things that we hold as a high priority at our school, is our proud culture of acceptance, tolerance, patience and a celebration of all 44 cultures within the school. In November, (again once restrictions were lifted), we felt compelled to hold our Cultural Day to celebrate cultural diversity and a belated NAIDOC week. Special guests, including Uncle Ian Hunter, performed a welcome to country ceremony and famous didgeridoo artist Ganga Giri entertained our 1000 plus students.

### 100 Days of Prep

One of the highlights of our prep foundation year, is the celebration day of 100 days of prep. After battling 2 lockdowns, we finally were able to hold this day for our students where all students and staff dressed up as something 100 and celebrated across the board, all things 100. Thanks to our teachers for making the over and above effort and for providing these special events for our students. They all had a wonderful time celebrating together after missing so much of their on the ground preparatory year. We are so proud of each and every one of them.



### 2020 Mathematics Olympiad and Maths games

Enriching our student learning is a large feature within our school. Congratulations to the 40 students who, during difficult times of a pandemic, maintained their focus and competed in the 2020 Mathematics Olympiad and maths games competitions through 2020. Once again, our school produced some fantastic results through the Olympiad, and we are proud of all your efforts. This aspect of learning and academic performance means so much to many students where they focus on high academic success and growth. We are thrilled with your effort and commitment to the program. Many thanks to Emma Hollingsworth for leading and overseeing the program in 2020 and for providing the rich educational opportunities for our students.

## 2020 Anzac Day Dawn Service

Unfortunately, due to the height of the pandemic, our 2020 Dawn Service at our memorial was cancelled.

We were able to provide links to our community to engage them on the days and provide ways to pay their respects to those fallen.



Double rainbow over Laurimar Primary School defining hope, happiness and optimism for all after a difficult 2020 year.