INTRODUCTION

St Laurence’s Primary caters for Years 5 and 6, with five classes per year level. There are approximately thirty boys per class with a current enrolment of 300 students.

The Primary school is purposefully operated as just that – a Primary School. The Primary teaching staff display pride in their profession and are committed to providing a well rounded, holistic education. They are committed to the academic, personal, physical, social, cultural and spiritual development of every student. Many draw on a wealth of experience and knowledge acquired through higher degrees. Extensive classroom experience and captivating energy help ensure continuity of quality teaching and learning and outstanding student care.

The Home Class Teachers are supported by a Head of Year, who leads the curriculum development and pastoral care program for each year level. The staffing structure also includes the direct day to day leadership of the Head of Primary who is responsible for the overall leadership of staff, students, parents and all aspects of school life. The Head of Primary is under the direct leadership and guidance of the College Principal.

The Primary students enjoy many advantages in being part of an overall College structure of Years 5 to 12. This includes the instruction of specialist teachers in the Key Learning Areas of Chinese, Art, Music, Drama and HPE. They also have access to subject specific facilities such as Science laboratories and a dynamic Library, offering multimedia spaces.

The curriculum in Years 5 and 6 is rigorous and engaging for boys. Classrooms are warm and welcoming learning environments where boys feel safe to take risks and are challenged. Students can also access Learning Support and the College enrichment / extension program.

The school experience is enriched by cultural activities, a vibrant music program and service opportunities. The College is also a member school of the Associated Independent Colleges (AIC) and as such, provides a variety of sports.

Lauries is a Catholic school in the Edmund Rice tradition. We celebrate our faith and spirituality through mass, liturgies and daily classroom prayer.

The most obvious strength of St Laurence’s Primary is the very real sense of community that characterises much of what we do. Celebrations such as our Mother’s Day, Father’s Day, Year 5 Grandparents Day and the Awards Evening are evidence of this shared sense of belonging.

Importantly, the Primary boys enjoy support from senior students through formal programs such as “Peer Mentors” and “Transport Buddies.” The senior boys also have a strong presence through informal mentoring and role modelling as part of a proactive model of student leadership. Student leadership and service opportunities are also provided to boys in Years 5 and 6.

Like the rest of the College, the Primary School operates in partnership with parents, families and the wider Lauries family to support the boys on the Primary Lauries Journey.

Students who graduate from our primary school, do so with a well developed “Lauries” spirit, a strong realisation that they belong to a great school community and also with a deep understanding of their own great potential as a person.

MUSIC

St Laurence’s College offers a vibrant and inclusive music program covering classroom, instrumental and vocal music. The music program has a strong influence within the College, involving over 600 students from Years 5 to 12. All boys enrolled at the College are encouraged to be involved in a variety of ensembles encompassing many standards, musical styles and genres. The classroom music program is compulsory for Years 5 – 7 and elective from Years 8 – 12. There is a large ensemble and choral program which students can be involved in. The music groups perform many concerts at school and the general community throughout the year. The senior ensembles participate in interstate and international tours every few years. Musicians from Years 5 to 12 also play a vital role in the performing and liturgical life of the College. All Year 5 boys participate in the Year 5 Music Program and learn an instrument. Continuing with these instruments is optional in Year 6.

CULTURAL

Primary students can engage in a wide variety of cultural activities as part of the overall co-curricular program on offer. The College is a member school of the BIS (Brisbane Independent Schools) competition for Public Speaking and Debating, and also competes in the AIC Chess competition. Students in Years 5 and 6 can engage in these activities during Term 2. Social chess is also available as a lunch time activity. Every second year, in partnership with several local girls schools, the College performs a musical production. Primary school boys are welcome to, and encouraged to, audition for roles in these productions in both minor and lead roles where appropriate. The Wakakirri Dance competition is an annual event. It provides students with an opportunity to tell story through drama and creative dance. St Laurence’s enters teams in this competition on a regular basis, providing boys with the opportunity to engage in another aspect of the co-curricular program.
**CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

**SERVICE**

There are many opportunities for boys in Years 5 and 6 to engage in activities of service. The College supports many initiatives each year, including fundraising and volunteer work. The boys in the Primary School are strongly encouraged to support many of these and to be actively involved in age-appropriate experiences. The Mini-Vinnies group is specifically for boys in the Primary School and offers the opportunity to co-ordinate, run and lead events/activities of service within the Primary School. The group has a staff mentor and they meet regularly to plan these activities. Examples include: the annual “Lauries Super Chef” competition, the collection and sale of second-hand books, Christmas cards for aged care facilities etc. Service is at the very core of Edmund Rice Education and is a wonderful aspect of school life for the boys to engage in.

**SPORT**

Good sportsmanship and fair competition are the foundation of all sport at St Laurence’s College. Participation in sport is an important component of the well-rounded educational experience offered at Lauries. The co-curricular sports program offers students the opportunity to participate in a variety of sports. Every student is encouraged to participate in the sports program which caters for beginners through to elite athletes as a member school of the AIC. Through participation in co-curricular sport, St Laurence’s continues the development of essential life long physical skills and healthy behaviours, which track into adulthood. The College also believes that co-curricular sport is an aid to good academic achievement, as sport and the associated training, are integrated with the study pattern of a student. For more information on the College’s Sport program, please refer to the 2016 Sport Information Booklet.

**PASTORAL CARE**

The “Lauries Journey” provides the context and structure for the delivery of the pastoral care program in Years 5 and 6.

Pastoral care refers to the extensive support and management provided for the students, staff and parents. At St Laurence’s Primary the approach is a holistic one, developing and supporting the boys to be and become “the best person they can be”.

The Lauries Journey is a metaphorical journey, walked by the boys, in partnerships with their peers, staff, family and extended school community. This sense of partnership and community builds confidence, spirit and importantly, a sense of self-worth and belonging.

Structured, sequential lessons are delivered to the boys in classrooms, assemblies and by external expert presenters to develop a deep understanding of age-appropriate issues and topics. The boys are taught the value of forming mutually respectful relationships and have the skills for developing such relationships modelled and explicitly taught by staff.

The focus is on placing highly desirable personal characteristics such as trust, forgiveness, inclusion, humility, honesty and dignity at the centre of forming relationships.

Central to the Lauries Journey is the notion of Restorative Justice. This set of practices ensures people to identify and take responsibility for their actions. It allows them to repair any damage that the actions or behaviours may have caused before finally, moving forward in a positive, mutually respectful way. Restorative Justice acknowledges as the central premise that humans make mistakes, including children.

Professional services such as counselling support is also available to students and families as part of the pastoral care program if required.

The pastoral care program to develops skills that can be transferred into adult life. It is a structured program based on opportunities to engage in all aspects of College life.
THE TEACHING & LEARNING

The teaching and learning framework used in the Primary School is “Innovative Teachers Companion.” This framework engages the students in a variety of activities and develops skills using Bloom’s Taxonomy (Remember, Understand, Apply, Analyse, Evaluate and Design). A variety of teaching techniques foster individual and group work, providing the boys with a well-balanced, holistic education for boys. The Head of Year provides the direct leadership of curriculum development and implementation, ensuring consistency and quality across all classes in each year level. This role provides the day to day leadership, while the Primary School also fits in with the overarching teaching and learning philosophy of the College, under the direction of the Head of Primary and Dean of Studies, along with the College Principal.

HOME CLASS

The curriculum in Year 5 and 6 is developed and implemented using a traditional Primary School model. Students in Year 5 and 6 study the key learning areas of Religion, English, Maths, Science, History and Geography under the instruction of their Home Class Teacher. Each of these subjects is taught in accordance with the requirements set down by ACARA (Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority) in an engaging, challenging and dynamic classroom environment. Themes, concepts and learning experiences are also enhanced through expert external providers and excursions. Year 5 boys also sit the NAPLAN (National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy) tests in May along with all Year 5 students in Australia. Preparation for these tests takes the form of ensuring quality teaching and learning in classrooms on a daily basis.

SPECIALIST CLASSES

Home Class Teachers are supported by specialist secondary teachers, who teach Health and Physical Education, Music, Art, Drama and Chinese (Mandarin). Primary School classes also engage in library lessons, with a focus on literature, research skills and technology.

TECHNOLOGY

The use of technology in 21st Century classrooms is essential. Units of work are designed to encourage IT skill acquisition and provide opportunities for the boys to apply those skills in assessment tasks. All students have an individual device for both school and home use. The Primary School classrooms are also equipped with interactive television screens.

LEARNING SUPPORT/ENRICHMENT

St Laurence’s Primary also offers Learning Support for boys who require small group skill development in Maths and English. Learning enrichment and extension opportunities are also provided to cater for boys requiring further academic challenge. This is in the form of external academic competitions, as well as a variety of workshop based experiences across a number of topics.

OUTDOOR EDUCATION

Boys in Year 5 and 6 will also attend an outdoor education experience as part of the holistic approach to learning. These camps are 3 days and 2 nights in duration and are conducted off site—generally at the College campsite at Lake Moogerah.

REPORTS

Formal reporting on student progress occurs five times per year. Three written report cards are issued and are complemented by two formal opportunities for parent teacher interviews.

STAFF

Year 5 and 6 students are well supported in their learning by very passionate, professional and caring staff. Classrooms are welcoming and students are encouraged to take risks and strive for their potential.