INTRODUCTION

Faith in Action at St Laurence’s College is a Year 5-12 programme which strives to enable students to live the gospel message and mission of Blessed Edmund Rice in an authentic and responsible manner. Faith in Action is based on service learning pedagogy in which students have leadership roles in thoughtfully organised service experiences that meet real needs in the community.

Service is integrated into students’ academic studies with structured social justice themes and activities that allow students to engage in, reflect, discuss and connect their service experiences to their learning and understanding of the wider world. The curriculum service themes are embedded with themes from the recent encyclical, Laudato Si’, as we connect our curriculum service to Peace, Justice and Preservation. Faith in Action at St Laurence’s endeavours to be an agent of change by empowering students to be active, aware and engaged young men who will question the status quo and transform society to be a more just and equitable place. Through their involvement in faith in Action Laurie’s boys build relationships in solidarity with our local and global community while demonstrating true Christian values of compassion, respect and dignity.

The core principles of Faith in Action at St Laurence’s are

- Liberating education
- Active service and engagement
- Reflection and Advocacy

SERVICE LEARNING CONTACT

Ms Etaoin Donovan
Director of Service Learning
Phone: 07 3010 1190
Email: edonovan@slc.qld.edu.au

COLLEGE CONTACT

Mrs Kerri-Anne O’Neill
Administrative Assistant (Service Learning)
Office Hours 7.45am to 3.50pm
Phone 07 3010 1115
Fax 07 3010 1188
Email koneill@slc.qld.edu.au
Website www.slc.qld.edu.au

PEAK PROGRAM

The PEAK program assists young people at St Laurence’s College to become productive, responsible young adults of the community. Through engaging in various pastoral activities, students are challenged to break down the barriers of poor choices and make positive steps towards their future. The PEAK program encourages young people to improve performance both within and external to the classroom. The PEAK program also aims to empower students by offering various pathways into the future, building strong attitudes to school and to work and increasing student knowledge about valuable life skills.

Contact

Mr Lachlan Heshusius lheshusius@slc.qld.edu.au

CAFÉ EDMUND

Café Edmund operates before school on two or three days a week out of the hospitality room. A café menu is served by senior students who have completed a certified barista course. The streetscape setting has become a social focal point in the College. Proceeds raised from the Café go to various charities and organisations.

Contact

Mrs Maliss Spina mspina@slc.qld.edu.au

AREAS FOR DEVELOPMENT

COMMON GROUND PROJECT

Brisbane Common Ground is a new affordable housing development in South Brisbane. Combining residential, retail/commercial and community spaces, this unique building has been designed for social inclusion. The tenants of this development are varied in their backgrounds with many having a life of poverty prior to being given an opportunity to call this place home.

Exciting opportunities exist for our young people to connect with the residents of Common Ground. Currently there are conversations occurring around visits to this residential area for weekly or fortnightly breakfasts, visits to assist with teaching basic technology skills using their facilities on site, gathering for special occasions in celebration, and presenting opportunities for developing a relationship through sharing of story.
Faith in Action at St Laurence’s College connects young people in three main areas; Curriculum, Co-curricular activities and through Immersion experiences.

**CURRICULUM**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Theme</th>
<th>Curriculum Focus</th>
<th>Action/Service</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 7</td>
<td>Peace</td>
<td>Promoting an inclusive community</td>
<td>Packs for refugees</td>
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<td>• Refugees and asylum seekers</td>
<td>Advocacy campaign</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Other possibilities include:</td>
<td>Debating competition</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Indigenous studies</td>
<td>Foodbank</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 8</td>
<td>Justice Preservation</td>
<td>Developing ecological sustainability</td>
<td>Global Food Banquet and Awareness Campaign - Money raised donated to NOAH project</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Sustainable food practices</td>
<td>• Green Schools Initiative</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Other possibilities include:</td>
<td>• Foodbank</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Water conservation</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Daily sustainable practices</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 9</td>
<td>Peace Justice Preservation</td>
<td>Engaging in a global community</td>
<td>Welcome Hub - Hazara community event at Runcorn</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Global classroom-Edmund Rice Beyond Boarders</td>
<td>Edmund Rice Beyond Borders opportunities.</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>• Multiculturalism</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 10</td>
<td>Justice Preservation</td>
<td>Walking in solidarity</td>
<td>Sleep out</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Homelessness</td>
<td>St Vincent de Paul and Micah Projects appeal and community engagement</td>
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<td>Orange Sky Laundry workshops and activities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 11</td>
<td>Building relationships</td>
<td>Student development</td>
<td>Service of community</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 12</td>
<td>Service beyond SLC</td>
<td>No curriculum focus</td>
<td>Orange Sky Laundry</td>
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<td>Edmund Rice Camps</td>
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**STUDENT SUPPORT PROGRAMS**

**PEER MENTORING PROGRAM**

The SLC Peer Mentoring is a program that commenced in 2006 with ten year 12 students being involved. Since then, the program has grown dramatically with up to one hundred Year 12 students being trained over the Christmas holiday break each year. This training teaches them support skills, help-seeking, communication and problem solving strategies, in a bid to help prevent everyday problems that people may experience, from escalating to more serious issues. The training also helps to equip the students with the skills needed to be a Peer Mentor and to be able to provide the adequate support and mentoring to the younger students of St Laurence’s College.

Younger members of the community are encouraged to approach the Peer Mentors throughout the year if they are in need of help, support or guidance. (For more information refer to the Careers and Counselling booklet).

**ACADEMIC TUTORING PROGRAM**

Senior Students offer their time immediately after school or at lunchtimes to assist younger students with academic support.

**LAURIES MATES**

Staff, Senior Students and Old Boys socialise with younger students who lack a significant male role model in their lives. Activities they participate in are: Abseiling, kayaking and a day at the football.
CO-CURRICULAR

Service opportunities for inclusive community
Students invited to participate in the following events:

- Caritas
- Walkathon
- Foodbank
- Smith Family Reading Programme (Year 7-9)
- Homework Help (Year 9-12)
- Multicultural Day at Runcorn
- Special Olympics
- Sony Camp
- Orange Sky Laundry

IMMERSION PROJECTS

Immersion programs seek to give staff and students an experience of connecting with the wider world through service opportunities.

Students and staff will have opportunities to participate in:

HELP project in East Timor: Hutchins builders support staff and students from St Edmund’s, St Laurence’s and St Patrick’s colleges to participate in a building program in the Hills in East Timor. Four students (usually VET students) from Year 11 spend two weeks in the September holidays working with villagers to build classrooms for the education of young people.

Vietnam: Students and staff visit Vietnam in September and have the opportunity to build houses and visit/assist at schools for the deaf.

Malaysia: This is a study tour for Year 11 SOR students that also incorporates a service opportunity at local orphanages in the area they visit.

Palm Island Immersion: Students in Year 10 have the opportunity to immerse themselves in Torres Strait Islander culture and history as part of the timetabled immersion program for that year group.

ADVOCATING FOR A BETTER WORLD

WELCOME HUB

In 2016, St Laurence’s College students and families will have an opportunity to develop a community connection with the Hazara community in the Logan area. There will be opportunities to engage in activities particularly through sporting teams so that newly arrived refugees can experience a sense of welcome and connection to Australia.

Through these activities, friendship and a sense of understanding are built as Lauries men are challenged to question and appreciate the sense of story from those who may not have a voice in our community.

ERA FOR CHANGE - EDMUND RICE ADVOCACY

In 2013 staff and students from Queensland Edmund Rice Education Australia Schools gathered to launch the ERA for Change movement, which advocates for moral justice in current social climates.

This year, ERA for change is continuing to grow in voice, numbers and spirit as the theme of 'inclusivity' is embedded in all gatherings. ERA for change encourages students to challenge the status quo and to ask questions which advocate for outcomes for all. Students across all year levels are invited to be a part of this movement and stand in solidarity with those who do not have a voice locally and globally.

CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS

Students across the College participate in fundraising and awareness campaigns in support of various groups including:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Caritas</th>
<th>AEIOU</th>
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<tr>
<td>SVDP - food collection</td>
<td>ANZAC Badges</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christmas gift collection</td>
<td>Little Kings Collection</td>
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<tr>
<td>SVDP – Sponsorship in Asia</td>
<td>Timor Leste</td>
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<tr>
<td>Foodbank – food collection</td>
<td>MDA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Micah Projects</td>
<td>Mater foundation</td>
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COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS & ACTIVITIES

SPECIAL OLYMPICS

‘Special Olympics’ is an annual event held at our Runcorn playing fields during the EKKA Break. This event is hosted by St Laurence’s College in partnership with Special Schools visited as part of the formal St Laurence’s program. It is run by an ‘army’ of volunteers from St Laurence’s, Stuartholme and Lourdes Hill Colleges, including students and staff. With the support of the volunteers, students and athletes discover skills that develop self confidence and bring joy to everyone involved.

Preparation of the program is planned by specialist staff from the Special Schools and is then conducted by students from the three schools under supervision. Fun and participation in activities are the key elements of the day’s events. All athletes get to stand in the number one position to receive a gold medal and have their photo taken on the day.

SONY CAMP

Since 1999 the Sony Foundation Children’s Holiday Camp Program has given Year 11 and 12 students the opportunity to care for a child with special needs for a three day period, in what is a unique and life changing experience for all involved. The students, supported by a team of dedicated teaching staff and medical professionals, are responsible for the care of the ‘Campers’ with disabilities 24 hours a day over the course of the Camp.

Not only do the campers have an enriching experience but they are treated to a weekend full of activities and interactions they would not normally have the opportunity to experience. This also provides much needed respite for parents, siblings, and primary carers in what may be their only break of the year. Caring for special needs children for three days (24 hours a day) is a unique opportunity to discover the sometimes hidden or disguised talents, joys and challenges of self and others.

IMMERSION PROJECTS

(continued)

Homelessness Immersion: students in Year 10-12 simulate the experience being homeless by sleeping rough and taking part in a series of workshops and an awareness raising campaign.

Edmund Rice Camps: Provide holidays, recreational activities and support for children, families and young people who have experienced disadvantage. The camps and associated activities offer the participants experiences of friendship, fun and sharing, positive role models in the volunteer leaders, opportunities to build self esteem and confidence and to relate and socialise better with others.

Further opportunities for partnerships are also being developed. These include:

- Refugee community outreach - being developed in 2016
- Schools connected with via ERBB - being developed in 2016

PRIMARY SCHOOL SERVICE

Year 5 and 6 students take part in a range of service opportunities throughout the school year including raising funds for Caritas, taking part in St Vincent de Paul appeals and a Super Chef competition in Term 4 where all proceeds go towards a number of charities. Students in Year 6 have an opportunity to put themselves forward to be a part of the Minnie Vinnies Committee who take on leadership roles for service within the primary school. They work with students in the Faith in Action committee and Ms Flanagan to organise fundraising and awareness raising campaigns.
COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS & ACTIVITIES

Building solidarity and an inclusive community.

- Structured Year 11 program – visits to Special Schools, Primary Schools and Aged Care facilities
- Homework Help
- Special Olympics
- Sony Camp
- Welcome Hub
- Refugee Hub
- AEIOU ‘Fast Five’
- Café Edmund
- Charitable Contributions
- Advocating for a Better World (ERA for Change)

YEAR 11 PROGRAM

Year 11 Students partake in a series of five week block rotations on Wednesdays visiting and building relationships with students and residents in primary schools, special schools and ages care venues. Visiting over 14 venues where staff and students engage in service and take part in a reflection process. Students also participate in a 5 week Advocacy & Awareness program, exploring current world issues through the lens of the Human Rights and Catholic Social Teaching. Students also have the opportunity to engage in ERA for change.

Goals of Year 11 Student Development Program:

- Active engagement in the service of people in our community
- An awareness of diverse the needs, talents, dignity, value and respect of people whom we serve and engage with
- Ability to communicate and build relationships in order to live in solidarity with each other
- Understanding of social injustice and ways in which to advocate for change.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS & ACTIVITIES

SPECIAL SCHOOLS

- Nursery Road Special School
- Mater Hospital Special School
- Red Hill Special School
- Narbethong Special School

AGED CARE

- Archbishop Duhig Nursing Home
- Birdwood Place Nursing Home
- Carindale Court Aged Care
- Marycrest Aged Care
- St Nick’s Nursing Home

PRIMARY SCHOOLS

- Acacia Ridge State Primary School
- Junction Park State Primary School
- Moorooka State Primary School
- St Brendan’s Primary School
- East Brisbane State School
- Central Brisbane State School
- Lady Cliento School

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS & ACTIVITIES

HOMEWORK HELP

‘Homework Help’ is a co-curricular service opportunity given to students in Years 9-12. The core principle of the programme is to engage our students in a meaningful service experience which serves a real need in the community and in doing so builds solidarity within our school and local communities. As such, our boys provide ‘homework help’ to students in local primary schools who may have special needs, English as a second language or come from refugee backgrounds.

The schools we visit are listed below.

- Junction Park State Primary School
- Mary Immaculate Primary School
- St Brendan’s Primary School