



GREENSCENE

Newsletter of the Loreto Parents' Association

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Photo: Alex Phlean



Chairperson's Address

A warm welcome to the Christmas edition of Greenscene.

It is hard to believe the first term is nearly over, but as usual it has been a hectic time for the students. The Parents Association has had a very busy term too:

In September, we welcomed the parents of first year students to the school and a few weeks later we welcomed back the sixth years (who graduated last May) to a drinks reception before they went off to their debs ball. There was a fantastic atmosphere as the girls enjoyed their return to school, trading their uniforms for glamorous ball gowns. How the time flies for parents and students alike between these two events in their life!

In late September, we had a very thought provoking parent talk from the knowledgeable and energetic Dr. Mary Ryan who was a rock of sense and reminded us of the importance of 'down time' in our daughters' busy lives. We have another great speaker lined up for the second term and will be in touch after Christmas with all the details.

In October we were delighted to welcome several new members to the Parents Association executive: Sinead Rowell, Declan McCarthy, Marie Bramble, Tanya Comber, Kevin Cleere, Ann Donnelly, Dzintra Abrazone, Orna Cuddy, Mary Clarke and Cathy Etchingham.

We had a very successful careers night at the end of November, with nearly forty different speakers who spent the evening sharing their experiences with the enquiring minds of our fourth and fifth year students. The number of recent past pupils, parents and their contacts who took part ensured that we were able to offer the students a diverse range of career options and to illustrate that there isn't just one career path, but many twists and turns possible along the way. It was a great tribute to the School and in particular the guidance counsellor, Ms Chelsea Weaver, that so many of the speakers remarked on how articulate, engaged and polite the girls were. There was a great buzz in the School on the evening.

Some of the year groups have already had their social nights, with the remainder to follow in the early part of next term. Your class rep will be in touch with you soon with details of the night for your year group. We are also planning a family walk on Sunday the 20th of January to round off Wellness Week in the School. Fingers crossed the weather will be as kind to us as it was for our last family walk. Again your class rep will be in touch with details closer to the time.

Wishing you all a peaceful Christmas and health and happiness for 2018.

Deirdre-Ann Barr, Mum of Isabelle Barr, (2G),
Chairperson
'Loreto on the Green' Parents Association.

Parents' Annual Walk

Sunday the 21st January, Sandymount Strand.

The Parents' Annual Walk is taking place on the morning of 21st January 2018 starting from Sandymount Strand. Further details of the exact time and starting point will follow. The walk has been a very enjoyable day for parents, students from Loreto on the Green and accompanying dogs that are willing to stroll/walk or skip to Poolbeg Lighthouse.

At the end of what is often a bleak month, the outing will give us all a chance to catch up with everyone. So come along for a walk and chat with friends and get to meet other parents on Sunday 21st January.

We can walk in the steps of Joyce's Stephen Dedalus.





Spotlight on: Sr. Orla Treacy Loreto Rumbek

Loreto Rumbek is a primary school, secondary school and Primary Health Care Centre based in South Sudan.

South Sudan was ranked as the world's most difficult nations for girls to receive an education. In a country where only 2% of girls enroll in secondary education, we take a look at the work of Sr. Orla Treacy from Bray Co. Wicklow. Here Sr. Orla reflects on her work over the past ten years in South Sudan.

New Country

I am a Loreto Sister and for the past ten years I have been living and working in South Sudan. When we (the Loreto Sisters) came here in 2006, the country was part of Sudan, but in 2011 we voted overwhelmingly for independence and today the Republic of South Sudan is five years old. A typical Irish five year old is full of wonder, hope and adventure as they start

school, meeting new friends and exploring new paths. Our five year old country is bleeding, hurting, starving and struggling. Life is not easy for people in South Sudan. Life is not easy for the women of South Sudan.

Reality in the Country

South Sudan is a country the size of France, with a population of approximately twelve million people. Two and a half million people, that is almost one in five, are displaced and fleeing violence and hunger. One million people over the past few months have become refugees in neighbouring countries. Over forty per cent of the entire population need food support. The rate of inflation has increased by 700% in the past twelve months. People cannot afford to buy food or medicine.



Our Mission

As Loreto Sisters, we were invited by the Bishop of Rumbek to open a girls' boarding secondary school. Over ten years later we have 201 girls attending from all over the country, a primary school for girls and boys from our local community and a clinic to serve the health needs of our children and their families.

Education in South Sudan for Women

Education here has always been a privilege given to few people. Today it has improved somewhat and the literacy rate stands at about twenty per cent nationally. However, in our local community, fewer than one per cent of women in my age bracket (29 – 49 years old) are literate. The struggle to improve standards and access to education persists. Only thirty seven per cent of girls attend primary school; of those only seven per cent will complete it. Nationally only two per cent of girls go to secondary school and fewer than that finish it. A fifteen year old girl is more likely to die in childbirth than to complete secondary education.

In the area of health, thirty three per cent of pregnant mothers here are malnourished. One in ten babies here will die before the age of three months. Returning to the sentiment of my question at the beginning of this article, if I were born in South Sudan would I be alive today? Would I have survived the early years of childhood? Would I be among the few girls that go to primary school or, more miraculously, attend secondary school? Would I have been married young? Would I have survived childbirth? Where would I be today?

These are the realities that our students and graduates have to overcome in their young lives. Today we have eighty graduates from our secondary school and nearly seventy per cent of them are pursuing further studies. They dare to dream, to fight the odds and to hope for, and work towards, a greater future for South Sudan and for the women residing there'.

Note: This article was written for the Irish Messenger Magazine March 2017. Thanks to Sr. Ann O'Donoghue for her help and permission to include this article. For more information visit <https://www.loretorumbek.ie> and for donations visit: <https://www.loretorumbek.ie/donate>.



Anti Bullying Week 2017

Ms. Kelly

This year the theme of our Anti Bullying week was diversity and inclusion. We had a wonderful and varied schedule of events, something for everybody.

The week kicked off with a morning reflection looking at the #CLICK WITH COMPASSION video, getting everyone to think before posting online. The students were invited to enter a poster competition with the theme #Click with compassion and we had a huge entry, well done to Liadh O'Toole 1M, Sophia Keating McCabe 1G and Martha Leavey & Amelia Brady 2M on their winning entries.

We had a number of workshops during the week, the 2nd years workshop was facilitated by Sticks and Stones and focused on the theme of the week – inclusion. The 1st year workshop was facilitated by Ms Weaver and Ms Curtis and focussed on the theme of being an UPstander not a BYstander. The girls were all invited to sign a copy of our Anti Bullying pledge and each student received one of our "I'm a buddy not a bully" blue bands.

The Wellbeing committee put a huge amount of work into the week and hosted "Tea and chat" at lunchtime on Monday.

Pledge signing Tuesday and Wednesday and a "We stand together" photoshoot on Thursday and Friday. A big thank you to Liadan O'Hare and all her committee.

Anti Bullying Week
20th - 24th November 2017

I'm a Buddy

<p>1st Year Upstander workshop Wednesday</p>	<p>2nd Year Sticks & Stones workshop Monday</p>
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Not a Bully

Monday: #Click with Compassion - Poster competition
Tea and chat HE1 Lunchtime

Tuesday: Upstander pledge - available to sign at lunchtime
Mean Girls movie - Assembly Hall at lunchtime

Wednesday: Upstander pledge - available to sign
Thursday: We stand together photoshoot
Mean Girls movie - Assembly Hall at lunchtime

Friday: We stand together photoshoot
Mean Girls movie - Venue TBC

Student Newsletter

The students Newsletter Committee have put the following together so we would like to thank Virginia Tozer, Síofra Brady, Jane Loughrey, Hannah Murphy and Hannah Flood for all their work compiling this newsletter. Thank you also to Ms. Kelly for all her help in providing material for this newsletter.

Newsletter No. 37

23rd August – 1st December

Leaving Cert Results 2017

Congratulations to all the 6th Year class of 2017 and to their teachers on their wonderful results in the Leaving Certificate. Congratulations to Elizabeth Bolger who achieved an amazing 8H1s. Elizabeth was one of 13 students nationwide to achieve the maximum grade. Good luck to all the class of 2018 in the year ahead.

Valencia Sports Camp

The pre-season hockey and basketball trip to Valencia took place from August 16th-20th. Each morning there was a two hour fitness session led by Ms. Woods and afterwards the group had their lunch followed by recovery in the pool. The afternoons were spent at the beautiful beach outside the city. In the evenings there were hockey and basketball matches followed by dinner. Special thanks to Mr. O'Riordan, Mr. Mulligan and Ms. Woods for organising the trip and accompanying the group.

First Year Class of 2017

On Wednesday 23rd August we welcomed our new 1st Years to Loreto College. The new girls were made thoroughly welcome by their 6th year buddies. Thank you to everyone involved in making their 3 days of induction a lovely welcome for our new 1st Years.

Junior Cert Results

On Wednesday 13th September, 96 nervous TYs entered the Assembly Hall to receive their Junior Cert results. Congratulations to all our TYs on their magnificent results and thank you to their teachers for preparing you for all your exams.

Lourdes 2017

The best word to describe the Lourdes Pilgrimage is "special". It was a phenomenal experience from the moment we got on the plane with our fellow volunteers. As first-time volunteers we were called 'Blue shirts': The most rewarding part of the experience was the opportunity to talk to and listen to the pilgrims who all had interesting stories to tell. Seeing the pilgrims so happy made us so happy. The positivity was infectious.

December 2017

Bodywhys Talk

On Tuesday 19th September all 2nd years attended a talk given by the BODYWHYS Group. This is a national voluntary organisation supporting anyone affected by eating disorders. They provide support in both group and online form as well as a national helpline.

Airfield Ecology Trip

The 3rd Year Science classes enjoyed a fieldtrip to Airfield during the month of September. Thank you to the Science Dept. and to all the teachers who accompanied the groups to Dundrum.

Opening School Mass

A long held Loreto tradition is the opening school mass which takes place during the month of September in Clarendon Street Church, and this year was no different. The mass is an opportunity for the whole school to come together before the hustle and bustle of school life begins in earnest. Participation from different year groups plays a key role in the mass and as such every year students from first to sixth year are given either a reading or a prayer of the faithful. This year the gifts were brought up by a youngest member of the school community (First Year) and an oldest member (Sixth Year). On the day music from both Ceiliúir and the various year group choirs ensured that the mass itself was backdropped by beautiful hymns, and as Saint Augustine once said " To sing is to praise twice".

Emotional Resilience

All 6th year classes attended an emotional resilience class in Teresa Ball House as part of our preparation for the year that lies ahead. Having control of your emotions and mental well-being is a skill important to all years but particularly for those in 6th year. We were advised that although much of our time will be devoted to study, we need to learn to balance everything in our lives in order to remain mentally healthy. This includes spending time with family and friends, maintaining these relationships and also keeping up some exercise. Finally, it is important to remember that 'Failure is Key to Success!'

Spirit week 2017

Spirit week ran from Oct 9th-13th and this year's theme was 90's Vs. 00's. On Monday morning, the school was covered with colourful decoration and Spirit FM was playing classics. The Fresh Prince of Bel Air was played at lunchtime in the assembly hall. A heated debate between students and teachers, a charity breakfast buffet, a lip sync battle, dance routines and a 1990's trivia quiz were all part of the fun-filled weeks enjoyed by all. Spirit week came to a close on Friday when everyone embraced their 90's style by wearing socks and sandals, double denim and scrunchies! The carnival was the main event with an ice cream truck, games and even a prom in Teresa Ball.

Loreto College Voyage à Paris

On Thursday the 26th October, a group of 5th and 6th year students studying French (along with teachers) set off on a trip to Paris. The trip included a boat ride known as a Bateaux Mouche along the river Seine, a visit to Monmartre, shopping in Galleries Lafayette, a visit to the Musee D'Orsay and a guided tour of the Louvre. One of the highlights of the trip for all involved was a full day visit to Disneyland Paris. The action-packed trip concluded with a morning mass at St. Joseph's church just off the Champs Élysées. Thanks to Ms.Cunningham for organising this wonderful school tour and to Ms.Peelo, Ms.Beatty, Ms. O'Reilly and Madame Soudry who accompanied the group.

5th Year Retreat

The fifth years had their retreats on Monday 6th and 13th November in Teresa Ball House. The retreat was led by a clinical psychologist and the topics of relationships, communication and active listening was discussed.

Folk Mass

Reflection from our first Folk Mass on Saturday 7th October:

'Take time with a friend to do nothing too important,
but just to be together, to enjoy another person.
Give your roots rain.'

'Take time to play some sport, to read a poem, to pray for a while,
to grow in the different aspects of your life.
Give your roots rain'

Orwell Healthcare Recital

A wonderful morning of beautiful music from our Orchestra entertained the patients of Orwell Nursing Home on 26th October. Beginning with a most memorable rendition from Oliver, it was followed by such time immemorial classics such as Circle of Life, Pie Jesu, Blue Danube and culminating with a rousing recital of Somewhere over the Rainbow. Special thanks to Ms. Ní Bhroin for organising and preparing the orchestra for this treasured memory for all present. Thank you also to Ms Kelly for accompanying the group.

6th Year Geography Investigation

The 6th Year Geography class travelled to Knockree, Co. Wicklow on the 3rd of October to undertake their investigation on processes of erosion and deposition in a river valley. A beautiful sunny day made the data gathering process very easy.

6th Year Debs Reception

We were delighted to welcome the 6th year class of 2017 to enjoy a reception in the school to celebrate the Debs. Thank you to the Parents Association for all their work in preparing this evening and to Ms McPartland for organising the beautiful portraits of the girls and their partners.

20 Year Reunion

Here on The Green we are so lucky to welcome back our past pupils every year. Each year we host a 10 Year Reunion, usually in November. This year we were delighted to welcome back our 6th Year class of 1997. Catherine de Blacam, Head Girl in '97 organised the event and an evening of nostalgia and reminiscing was savoured from all past pupils and teachers present. We look forward to welcoming our class of 2007 at the end of November.

Chemistry visit to Trinity College

On Friday the 10th November, the 5th year Chemistry class went to a "Careers in Chemistry" talk hosted by Science Ireland in Trinity College. The first talk was from TD Kate O'Connell and how her degree in pharmacy has provided fact-driven basis for all her debates about fluoride in the drinking water in Ireland and other issues. The next talk was from Julia White, a chemistry teacher and 5 time All-Ireland winning camogie champion. We heard about her success in camogie and why she decided to become a Chemistry teacher. There were also a series of short presentations from PHD students in Trinity and academic and industry post-doc researchers.

Sports Report

Meagan Hoffman (Sports Coordinator)

Hockey

Our hockey teams have been doing great in their Leinster League and Loreto League competitions. Our Senior A team are still undefeated, and hope to continue this winning streak in the first round of the Senior Leinster Cup in two weeks time. Our Junior Teams have been doing well also, particularly our Junior C team who have not lost a match yet! Our Minor teams continue to perform well, with our Minor A team winning their Leinster Cup match versus Dalkey recently in an exciting game that went into penalties, with the girls winning 3-1!

A huge congratulations to Nicola Torrans (4th Year) who was selected for the Leinster U16 team where they won the 2017 Interprovincials Championship up in Belfast last weekend. She has also just been selected for the U16 Irish Trials.

Basketball

Our Senior and Cadette Basketball teams have continued to do extremely well in their Leinster, South Dublin and Loreto Leagues. Our Senior A team won all their Leinster League games, and won their Semi Final versus Cluny last week to make it into the finals. The girls also won their U19 All-Ireland Cup Quarter Final match in Cork a couple weeks ago, and are now into the semi's that will be held in January in the Oblate Hall.

This is the furthest we have ever gotten in this competition. Well done to the girls and their coach, Ms. Woods, on an unbelievable season thus far!

A huge congratulations to Lauren Devitt (6th year) who has received her first cap for Ireland with the U17 girls basketball team in September. She has also been named into the U18 Irish National team panel.

Athletics/Cross Country

Our cross country team competed in their first meet (Brother XC Meet) where they finished 2nd as a team in the Inters, with 3rd Years Emma Goddard and Caoimhe O'Reilly finishing 6th and 7th. The girls also competed in the Blackrock Cross Country race, with 2nd Year Sarah Jane Smith finishing 11th in the Junior race.

Swimming

In swimming the girls competed in the Loreto Swimming Gala last week held in the National Aquatic Center, with some great overall performances. Top finishes for The Green were: Miren Tellechea (4th, U19 Butterfly), Aoinhoa Tellechea (4th, U16 Butterfly), Emma McEvoy (4th, U14 Breaststroke), Mia Whelan O'Connor (5th, U14 Backstroke). A huge thanks to Ms. Crinion for all her help in the lead up to the Gala, and on the day of the event.

Gaelic/Camogie

- Our Senior Gaelic team did very well this year, and just lost out on securing a place in the Leinster quarter finals in their close match against Beaumont this past week.
- Our 1st Years competed in the Loreto Annual GAA Football Blitz in Foxrock a few weeks ago, it was a great outing for the girls, and was great to see so much talent among this group of girls!
- Our Senior Camogie team have had a great season thus far and will be playing their Quarter Final match next week where they hope to secure a place in the Semi Finals!

Sailing

- We hosted the Inter Loreto Sailing Regatta this year in Dun Laoghaire and had a great turnout with twenty eight

girls in total competing in the event (eight of them from The Green). We won the Team Trophy as well as the Individual Trophy (Gemma McDowell, 6th Year).

A huge thanks to Ciara Peelo for all her organization and planning of the event.

Equestrian

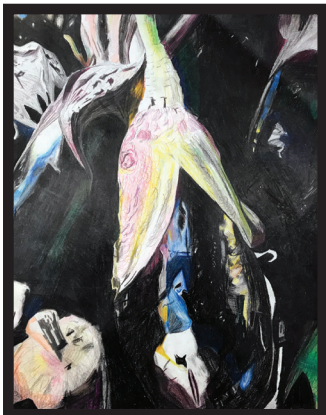
- Our Equestrian team continue to perform extremely well in the Inter Schools Show Jumping competitions. They came 2nd as a team in the last event two weeks ago, the team comprised of Clare Madden, Kate Horgan, Eabha Toole, and Ciara O'Sullivan. 1st Year, Kate Horgan, led the way finishing 2nd in the Individual event as well.

Art Zone

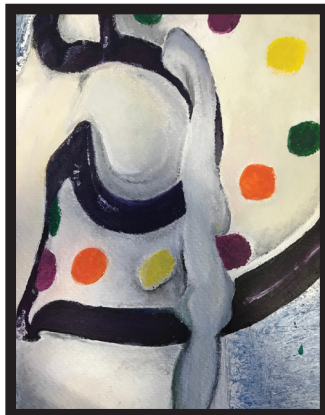
Thanks to Ms. Fynes for sending on some beautiful examples of the work created so far this year in the Loreto Art Room!



By Ella Johnson



By Kate McGowen



By Claire Whelan

Comment

Tanya Comber-Rait

“

Thank you to all parents, teachers and pupils for your enthusiasm in submitting interesting news items, and please continue to do so. Ciara Cosgrave & Elaine Byrne from 1T were also of great help.

Thanks to Mr Fitzgerald & Ms Dempsey for their advice and help in putting together this edition as well as the great input from Ms. Curtis, Ms. Kelly Ms. Hoffman, Ms. Fynes and the Student Newsletter Committee for their hard work and enthusiasm.

And finally, a big thank to Sr Ann O'Donoghue who kindly gave permission to use the article on Sr. Orla Treacy's work in Rumbek, Sr O'Donoghue also asked me to mention the website www.loreto.ie which is a great tribute to the work of the Loreto Congregation in Ireland and a great source of information also.

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Be an Upstander, Not a Bystander

Anti-Bullying Pledge

“I will not be a bystander, I will not look away and pretend it's not happening.”

“I will speak up when I see someone being bullied or know they are being cyberbullied. I will always encourage others to speak up too.”

“I will get help if I need it because I know I do not have to do it alone.”

“Bullying may start with someone else, but it stops with me.”

