



GREENSCENE

Newsletter of the Loreto Parents' Association

Contents

- 2 Chairperson's Address
- 3 Loreto Parents Association Walk
- 4 Loreto Past Pupils
- 5 School Photographs
- 5 Jim Lucey Talk
- 6 Lunch for Rumbek
- 7 Sports Report
- 9 Student Newsletter
- 14 Student Mentoring Initiative
- 15 Art Zone
- 16 Comment





Chairperson's Address

Welcome readers to our first truly 'green' Greenscene. In keeping with the School's recent Green Flag status, this is the first digital only version of Greenscene and we hope you approve!

I'm sure it is a familiar refrain for the Summer edition of Greenscene, but the year truly does seem to have picked up speed since Christmas. It is hard to believe that the exceptional talent celebrated at Maytime Music, the fun of Sports Day and the Graduation Mass, are now behind us.

We have had a great time on the Parents Association this year. We were delighted to welcome Professor Jim Lucey to the school assembly hall in March to talk to parents on the topic of Building Confidence and Resilience in our Teenagers. Prof Lucey was highly engaging and generous with his time and wisdom.

The undoubted highlight of our year was the inaugural Loreto parents' lunch on 20th April. With the support of a range of very generous sponsors, we enjoyed a lovely lunch in the Conrad Hotel and were delighted to be joined by Sr Brigid Tunney who had just returned from celebrating the tenth anniversary of the Loreto School in Rumbek, South Sudan.

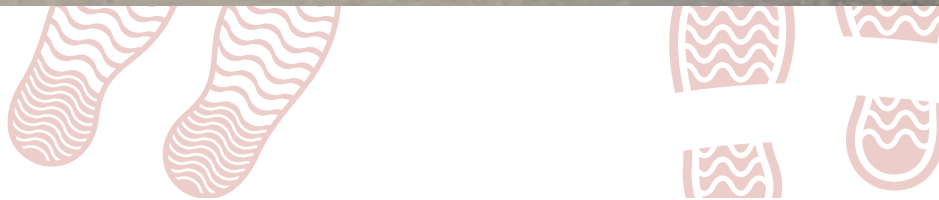
Sr Brigid spoke so warmly about the often dire conditions in South Sudan that we managed to smash our fundraising target. It was fantastic to present a very generous cheque to Sr Brigid on your behalf on 11 May.

We echo the blessing Sr Brigid bestowed on our exam students and their families and hope that they stay well and happy over the coming weeks. To our sixth years we say: good luck and our best wishes for health and happiness with everything you do in the future. Thank you for the contribution you have made to life at Loreto on the Green. We encourage our former students to keep in touch and in particular to let us know if they would like to be involved with our nascent Mentoring programme (further details on page 14). We are looking forward to welcoming the girls and their parents back to the school in October for the debs reception.

We hope that all the girls, their families and teachers enjoy a relaxing summer and return in September full of energy and enthusiasm for the new school year.

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

Loreto Parents Association Walk



Following the cancelation of our first walk in January due to bad weather, the Loreto Parents Association walk finally took place on April 29th – and the sun shone the whole way! We started in Sandymount car park and walked the length of the Great South Wall to Poolbeg lighthouse and back. Things took a little longer than the usual two hours due to a small coffee stop on the Bull Wall, but we all made it back in one piece 15,000 steps later.

We hope to try a north side walk next year – and will possibly do a circuit of Bull Island, along the coast road and Dollymount Strand.





Loreto Past Pupils

Deirdre-Ann Barr

Dublin's All-Ireland ladies senior football winner Noelle Healy

A past pupil of Loreto on the Green, Noelle Healy has been playing Gaelic football since she was 9 years old. Clearly bursting with talent from a young age, she has played on Dublin football teams since she was 14. She won her first All-Ireland medal in 2010 and played in three All Ireland Finals in the past three years, missing out to the Cork ladies team who seemed to have a monopoly on the title in recent years. Add in to the mix the fact that Noelle was studying medicine and is currently a doctor in the Mater Hospital specialising in anaesthetics and you have the perfect person to talk to the girls about the importance of balance in their lives. Either the medicine or the inter county football on their own would be enough for one person. Even with all that going on, Noelle managed to find an extra few hours in her day to come in to Loreto on the Green and take a training session with the Gaelic football players earlier this year. She gave them an insight as to how she worked to achieve her goals and shared some training tips with them.

Since she met the Loreto girls last March, Noelle and the Dublin team had a very impressive run to Croke Park where once again the Dubs were All Ireland contenders. On a gloriously sunny Sunday in September, a record attendance for a European ladies sporting fixture (including many Loreto pupils and parents) watched Dublin finally lift the Brendan Martin Cup. Noelle Healy's performance was scintillating earning her the player of the match award. Her fantastic season was recognised last weekend when she was voted Players' Player of the Year.

What a role model for our girls!



School Photographs – now available to access and purchase online

Every year since 2011, our school photographer Fionán O’Connell has taken photos throughout the school, including individual classes, debs, sports, choir. Everything that appears in the Loreto Yearbook and more. For the first time, we have arranged a facility whereby parents can access these photos and purchase them if they wish. The images are password protected.

Please visit the link:

<http://www.oconnellstreetphotography.com/loretocollegephotos2011-2018>

Password: onthegreen

There are some great photos of the girls over the years in the gallery - some certainly worthy of a frame in our homes.

Jim Lucey Talk



Building Confidence and Resilience in our Teenagers

The Parents Association was delighted to welcome Professor Jim Lucey to talk to parents on Tuesday 13th March on the topic of Building Confidence and Resilience in our Teenagers. Prof Lucey gave a very engaging and informative talk and was extremely generous with his time and expertise. He referred us to numerous sources of information on the status of mental health in Ireland and directed us to some tools for improving our own and our children’s mental health. The material referenced can all be found in the slides below. The main take away for parents was the importance of wellness and the fact that without mental health there is no health.

The undoubted highlight of the evening was when Professor Lucey extolled the (scientifically proven) benefits of singing for good mental health and had all assembled singing “Ireland’s Call” in full voice, probably a first for the Assembly Hall! Full details and a copy of the presentation are available on: <http://www.loretothegreen.ie/news-events/detail/professor-jim-luceys-presentation-from-pa-talk>



Lunch for Rumbek

Mary Clarke

Above: Loreto students, staff and members of the PA committee presenting the cheque for €20,000 to Sr. Brigid

On Friday 20th April 2018 an Inaugural Parents Association Lunch was held at the Conrad Hotel, with the primary purpose of raising monies for the Loreto School and Primary Care centre in Rumbek, South Sudan. The secondary aim was to enable parents of Loreto to meet up with other parents from the school in an enjoyable social setting. Several months of planning by the sub-committee of Fiona Donnelly, Ann Donnelly, Jean Mc Kieran and Aine Phelan were undertaken to organise the first ever PA Lunch. And what an event it turned out to be!

The sun shone bright for the first time in several months, the spot prizes were displayed and donated bottles of wine were placed on the tables ready for the parents and friends. Over 200 parents and friends turned up and Sr Brigid spoke, eliciting how exactly Loreto on the Green was supporting the students and families in Rumbek. As we sat in the comfort of the Conrad Hotel in Ireland her speech brought home the realities of life for another group of students far away in South Sudan. The atmosphere and outpourings of goodwill on the day was special. Everyone enjoyed themselves immensely as spot prizes generously donated were distributed and an excellent lunch was enjoyed amidst lively conversations.

Afterwards with the sun still shining, the group moved to the outside terrace with the 'lunch' and talk continuing late into the

evening. Eventually we had to go home with all agreeing it had been a wonderful day for an outstanding cause and unanimously agreeing we would do it all again next year!

Generosity of the parents and sponsors exceeded all the expectations of the PA committee when the total monies raised that was initially calculated, continued to rise over the next week - it was evident that the parents were touched by Loreto Rumbek. Money, spot prizes, time, and attendance all contributed to the Parents Association Lunch raising and incredible total of €20,000 which was presented to Sr Brigid on 11th May 2018. All the parents and friends of Loreto, St Stephen's Green can be proud of this wonderful achievement and it goes without saying but we hope to see you all next year!



L to R: Aine Phelan, Anne Donnelly, Sr. Brigid, Fiona Donnelly & Jean McKiernan enjoying the PA Lunch



Sports Report

Ms Hoffmann

Above: Parents & Pupils enjoying a sunny Sports Day at the Iveagh Gardens on May 13th

We have had a brilliant second half of the year for sport in The Green! Some of the highlights include:

Hockey

The Senior A team was undefeated in the Leinster League, making it to the Senior Leinster Final in Three Rock Stadium, playing Skerries in an exciting match, where it was tied 1-1 and the end of regular time, unfortunately losing in penalties.

Our Senior 3 Hockey team made it to the Quarterfinals of the Leinster League Playoffs, and won the Loreto Final against Bray in Penalties! Our Junior C team made it to the Leinster Quarter Finals, and to the Loreto Finals (where they lost to a talented Beaufort side). Our Minor B hockey had a great run, making it to the Leinster Semi-final match against Muckross. Our 1st Year A Hockey team had a brilliant run in the Leinster Cup, beating Newpark 1-0 followed by a great win against St. Raphaela's in penalties. They played Foxrock in the Quarter Finals, and unfortunately lost in a close match.

Basketball

Our Senior A Basketball team have been nothing short of amazing this year! The team made history, winning the U19B All-Ireland Cup Final against Ulidia Integrated, and then went on to win their 2nd All-Ireland against Blarney in the U19B All-Ireland League Final. We brought 350 student/staff to fill the National Basketball Arena, which created a brilliant atmosphere; it was a special day for the team, coaches and the school as a whole!





Student Newsletter

Development Education Book Launch:

On the 26th of October we were delighted to host the launch of Development Education Book for all Loreto Schools. Students from Loreto, Navan gave a presentation on Development Education in their school. There were also speeches from Minister Ciaran Cannon and Blathnaid Coulhoun.

2nd Year Enterprise Awards:

The 2nd Year Enterprise Awards are well under way with students participating in workshops in November.

Mini Market days were celebrated in December ahead of the final on January 23rd 2018.

TY Dance and Samba Drumming:

From the 9th-23rd November all the TY classes enjoyed a Dance class with our talented instructor Marianne, who helped us to learn 'New Rules' by Dua Lipa. We really enjoyed the dancing and hope to do an activity similar to this next year as it was a great experience for all of us.

TY First Aid and Cookery School:

In December all TYs undertook a First Aid course in TBH. In the same month, a trip to Ballyknocken Cookery School was also enjoyed by all. Students were shown how to cook a few simple Italian dishes by well-known chef, Catherine Fulvio, who also brought the group to see her kitchen garden. Thank you to Ms.O'Reilly and Ms.Kelly for accompanying the group.

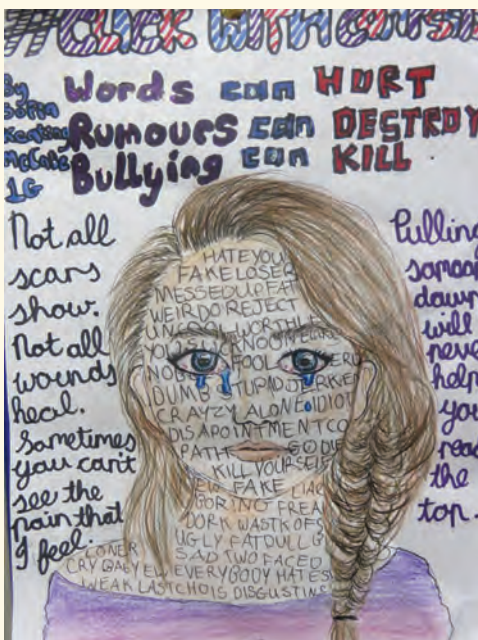
Science and Geography Week:

Science and Geography week culminated with the brilliant project work on display for all to view on the 17th November. Congratulations to our winners and all students who submitted and researched projects and described them so clearly and passionately to our judges, classes and staff who viewed them during the day.

The day before SCIFEST, the 2nd years were treated to a series of wonderfully entertaining Science experiments in the Assembly Hall. We all came away with a magical sense of awe and wonder at the amazing experiments carried out. The Geography Dept. held a photo competition and a Kahoot Quiz. The Quiz enabled our 4 Houses to share their Geographical knowledge and gain some valuable points at the same time.

Anti-Bullying Week:

On Monday 20th November we launched Anti-Bullying Week. The launch consisted of each teacher showing a video at 8:47 to all classes entitled- 'Click with Compassion'. On the same day 1st Years attended an Anti-Bullying Workshop in TBH, facilitated by Ms. Weaver and Ms. Curtis. The 2nd and 3rd year tutors organised a poster competition which was linked to the Click with Compassion theme. Other events included the 'Upstander Pledge' which has now become a permanent fixture on the main stairs wall, and is a vital reminder to all that if we perceive any bullying we must act against it. "Mean Girls" the movie was shown at lunchtime, throughout the week, and on Wednesday Anti-Bullying bands were distributed to students outside the canteen. On Thursday we had the opportunity to see the wonderful posters on display and we also had a photoshoot at our LGBT+ board, with buttons and ribbons distributed.



On the 5th of December, 10 students from 2nd years to 5th years attended an Anti-Bullying Conference in Mount Sackville Secondary School, run by the Diana Award which was set up following Princess Diana's death in 1997. The programme teaches students and teachers all across the UK and Ireland how to deal with bullying, with the aim of becoming Anti-Bullying Ambassadors.

Kolkata Quiz:

Taking place on the 23rd November, the Kolkata Quiz was organised as a fundraiser in aid of the Multi Activity Centres(MACs) in Kolkata, which are dedicated to the education of child labourers. Over €5,000 was raised on the night, all of which will be donated to these centres. Thanks also to all the staff who helped, and the contestants on the night for their very generous donations.



Careers Evening:

The careers evening organised by the Parents Association and Ms.Weaver in late November was a roaring success. We welcomed back past pupils, and a huge variety of professionals who all gave up their time so generously to provide invaluable information on their chosen professions. With Accountants, Pilots, Aid workers, Dentists, Auctioneers, Army Personnel, Barristers and a whole multitude of other disciplines, there was something for all our TYs and 5th Years to have their questions answered.

LPPU Concert:

The Loreto Past Pupils Union (LPPU) which encompasses past pupils from all our Loreto Schools both nationally and internationally organised a fundraising concert in early December. The concert included Irish Music, Irish dancing, classical music and a concert from Dana (Winner of the Eurovision Song Contest in 1970).

10 Year Reunion:

We were delighted to welcome back 40 of our past pupils from 2007 on the 30th November from Ireland, the UK and Europe. It was a lovely evening and we look forward to welcoming our 2008 past pupils next November.

June 2018

Ecology Trip:

For many girls the ecology trip is one of the highlights of the junior cert biology. The girls have the opportunity to use equipment such as an insect net, fish net, sweep net, pooter, sieve, pitfall trap and settlement tray. Thank you to the Science Dept. for organising this excursion.

Poetry Slam:

The poetry slam workshop was a really fun filled afternoon, with instructor - Stephen Murray, an acclaimed poet himself bringing an element of light-hardheartedness and fun to a topic usually associated with big words, and complex themes.

Wellbeing Week:

Wellbeing week started on 8th January with a 'Tea and Chats' over lunchtime, a day off on Tuesday, 'drop everything and relax' meditation on Wednesday then mindful colouring for 1st years on Thursday. Finally on Friday 'walk in my shoes' was a fun filled day where students and teachers wore all types of shoes from Crocs, fuzzy slippers or wellies!

2nd Year Retreat:

The Second Year Retreat was held last November. The day involved singing, fun and games and a trip to Christ Church and the Dublin Mosque.

Ceiliúr trip to Switzerland:

On December 6th, 42 Ceiliúr members from 2nd to 6th year departed Dublin for Zurich. Day one was spent in Zurich and Bern visiting the Christmas markets and sightseeing before traveling on to Interlaken, where the group visited the Jungfrauoch "The Top of Europe" and the Ice Palace and sang Don Oíche Úd i mBeithil. On Friday, the girls walked up the mountains in the snow to Bidmi and had a traditional 'Raclette' lunch. In the afternoon the group visited École d'Humanité and had dinner with the students before performing a selection of songs from our Christmas repertoire including Winter Song, Jingle Bells, Suantraí Ár Slánaitheora, and O Holy Night.



Carols by Candlelight.

Thank you to the Music Dept and all our choirs and Orchestra for the wonderful night of music leading up to Christmas. All proceeds were donated to the Capuchin Day Centre and thank you to everyone for your most generous donations.

Young Scientists:

The BT Young Scientist ran from the 11th to the 13th of January this year, there were 4 projects from our school picked for the exhibition. Adrienne Ward, Susie Gill and Sarah Kelly's project "Let Science Influence the Voting Age". Their project found that there was a gap in research and it is pivotal given that there is a discussion currently ongoing in the government around lowering the voting age to 16.

The project from the 5th year student was Hana Gallagher's entitled 'An Extroverted Education? A Study of Personality-Based Bias in the Classroom'. She was able to establish the presence of bias in primary and secondary schools. Hana received third place in her category of Social Sciences which was the largest one in the exhibition.

Orla Buggy made it to the finals of the BT Young Scientist with her project about finding out if singing or playing sport effects lung spirometry in teenage girls compared to their sedentary counterparts. Orla discovered that singers and athletes have better lung spirometry than sedentary girls and that singers had better lung spirometry than athletes.

Claire Gregg came second in the overall competition with her project of a 'computer model of the housing market' in Ireland. The conclusion of Claire's project is that builders do not have sufficient reason to build and so policies should be put in place to help change that. Claire met with the Minister for Housing, Eoghan Murphy.

Enterprise Awards:

Over 60 students took part in the Enterprise Awards this year with two companies progressing from the School Finals to the Dublin City Finals. Well done to Isabel Sanchez Myles, Maia McCann, Emma Burgess, Alannah Galvin and Ella Heavey of Sports Bands & Co who won the school final and to Iseult O'Higgins, Lucy Cronnelly, Caraíosa Ní Fhearghaill and Suzannah Black of SlicFix who were the runners- up. Both teams went on to represent the school in Croke Park at the Dublin Finals where SlicFix won the Intermediate section and will go on to represent Dublin City in the National Finals in May.

BSTAI/UCD 3rd Year Quiz:

Well done to Aoife O'Flynn, Katrina Khodzinska, Eva Hayes and Anna Capra who were runner up in the BSTAI/UCD annual quiz. The girls finished in joint first, a great performance!



Student Mentoring Initiative

Marie Therese Rainey

A Working Group of the Parents' Association is currently in the process of establishing a Student Mentoring Scheme.

The Parents' Association considers that current students could benefit greatly by having a means of connecting with girls who have left Loreto in relatively recent times and who are in college or the early stages of their careers. The most obvious benefit would be in relation to guidance with choice of study and career path, complementing and supporting the work already done within the school. Currently we are in the process of finalising a questionnaire which we would ask past pupils to complete to seek information about broad aspects of their post Loreto study and career experience. It is hoped that we could use this information in a targeted way to support current and future students.

We hope to create not just a database of contacts and information which would also be accessible to students, but also a lively and ongoing connection between past and current students. The current members of the Mentoring Working Group are: Marie-Thérèse Meade (2G), Deirdre Dunne (5M), Mary Clarke (4M) & Orna Bacon (6B).

The Mentoring Working Group can be contacted at [**loretothegreenmentoring@gmail.com**](mailto:loretothegreenmentoring@gmail.com)

For reasons of data protection, the Group would be grateful if past pupils could contact them indicating their willingness to become involved in the initiative. We would love to hear from as many past pupils as possible! Please bring this to the attention of any past pupils in your families or wider circles. PLEASE CONTACT US at the e-mail address above.

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 Lera O'Connor



By Kate DeBurca



By Aisling Coase

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.

Again, Ciara Cosgrave & Elaine Byrne from 1T were great help well as well as Mr Fitzgerald, Ms Dempsey, Ms. Hoffman, Ms. Fynes and not forgetting the Student Newsletter Committee. Mary Clarke & Deirdre-Ann Barr helped enormously with this edition with contributions, and great advice also.

And finally, a big thank you to the PA Committee members who organised the PA lunch, by all accounts it was a wonderfully social day and huge success – let's hope there are many more to come!

”

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.”

