



# GREENSCENE

Newsletter of the Loreto Parents' Association

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Artwork: Sally Kearney – 6th Year



## Chairperson's Address

A very warm and festive welcome to the Christmas edition of Greenscene. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you for supporting the events organised by your Parents' Association throughout the first term, especially as the September 'Back to School' to Christmastime is always a busy term for the students, which means it's a busy time for parents 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, graduates of 2018, their parents and invitees, to a drinks reception before they went off to their Debs' Ball. At both events there was a fantastic atmosphere of excitement about new beginnings and the exciting years ahead. How the time flies for parents and students alike between these two events in their "Loreto on the Green" life!

In late September, we had our AGM followed by a very personal insight from Irish Times columnist, Hilary Fannin, which included how different school life can be for students, depending on whether they receive positive or negative support from their educators and the importance of this group as role models. It certainly reminded me to be eternally grateful for the many life learning gifts given to me and my family members by the many excellent educators we experienced in school. Hopefully, in Hilary's story, there were also a few lessons and tips for us parents about the importance of the nurturing role we play as per the 'one good adult' concept.

In October we were delighted to welcome several new members to the Parents' Association executive: Adrienne Kavanagh, Christine Vial, Amanda Kelly, Laura Berry, Josephine Black, Trish Galvin, Eileen McNulty, Cliona Maughan, Mary Keogan, Clodagh McKernan, Sarah Hayes Whelan, and Fiona O'Flynn; we also said goodbye and, on your behalf, a very big 'thank you' to their retiring predecessors.

Another very successful Careers' Night was held in November, with nearly forty different speakers who spent the evening sharing their experiences with the enquiring minds of our fourth and fifth year students. It was a great tribute to the school and in particular, to our past and present guidance counsellors, Ms. Chelsea Weaver and Mr. Donnchadh O'Mahony, that so many of the speakers remarked on how articulate, engaged and informed the girls were. 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 also plan to run our second Parents' Lunch given its huge success last year so watch out for your class rep notices about details for this and other PA events coming in 2019.

Thank you again for your support for the 2018 Parents' Association events and I wish you and your families a very joyful Christmas with health, wellness and happiness for 2019.

**Catherine Bent, (Mum of Virginia Tozer – 6M),  
Chairperson Loreto on the Green' Parents' Association.**

# Loreto Parents' Association Walk

The Parents' Association Annual Walk is taking place on the morning of 20th January 2019 – and this year we're going Northside! The walk has been a regular fixture in the Parents' Association annual calendar, and a very enjoyable day for parents, family and students from Loreto on the Green and accompanying dogs that are willing to stroll/walk or skip. 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– there's even a coffee stop along the way.

Please meet at the entrance gate to St Anne's Golf Club, Causeway Road, Dublin, D03 Y304 (see map), there is plenty of free parking available on both sides of the Causeway Road. Our walk will be an 'easy' 7km route with some beach walking (red line on map) and paths (blue line on map) and should take about an hour and a half to complete.

|                       |                                                                |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Date:</b>          | Sunday the 20th January 2019                                   |
| <b>Meeting Point:</b> | Entrance gate to St. Anne's Golf Club on Bull Island (see map) |
| <b>Meeting Time:</b>  | 11am                                                           |
| <b>Walk:</b>          | Dollymount Strand Loop                                         |
| <b>Distance:</b>      | 7km / 1.5 hours                                                |





## Loreto Annual Careers' Evening 27th Nov 2018

Deirdre Dunne - PA Committee

Every November, the Parents' Association in collaboration with the school careers office organise a careers evening. This starts by conducting a survey amongst the senior cycle students to see what careers they would like to be represented on the evening. This year, alongside the old reliables of doctors, teachers and lawyers, the girls asked us to find representatives from a wide range of careers including an advanced paramedic/ firefighter, a social influencer, event manager, journalist, forensic scientist and urban planner to name but a few. We even had the lead singer from Bell X1 in to chat to the girls about the music industry. We source all the volunteers from the past pupil and parent body (and a few friends of past pupils and parents). Everyone we asked could not have been more helpful and enthusiastic about getting involved.

The evening itself is run along the lines not dissimilar to a speed dating event – the girls move from desk to desk to speak to people in their chosen careers for twelve minutes until the bell rings and everyone moves on to their next choice and so on. A great feature of the event is the amount of young past pupils who return to share their experiences with the girls – this year this list included an army cadette, an actuary, a physiotherapist, a biomedical scientist and a Garda detective.

While it was not possible to get a representative for every career requested by the girls on the night, the good news is that we hope to be able to connect a number of senior cycle students to young career mentors from the past pupil community via our new Loreto Peer Mentoring initiative.

On the night itself, the school canteen and the assembly hall were abuzz with great energy. The volunteers were highly complementary of how the girls conducted themselves and impressed with the level of questions and knowledge expressed. A huge thank you to everyone involved, to those who worked quietly behind the scenes and to those on the frontline manning the desks and deftly dealing with all those questions with grace and good humour.





# Hilary Fannin Talk

Monday 24th September



**From being expelled by the nuns at the age of ten, through going to university in her mid-fifties (without the help of Uggs boots or hair extensions), writer and Irish Times columnist Hilary Fannin provided the Parents Association with a light-hearted, personal journey through her experiences of our education system. For those of you who attended the Parents Association AGM and the Hilary Fannin talk on 24th September, you may have noticed her Irish Times column a month later on October 26th. She wrote a very interesting piece and referred directly to her night at Loreto...we thought it was worth reproducing in case you missed it!**

## Are we subtly telling young women they are not good enough?

### **There is something insidious about being told at 17 you have not made the grade**

I was recently invited to talk to a group of parents and teachers at a well-known convent school in Dublin. It was nothing major – they were having a meeting anyway, and I was rolled on at the end as a kind of psychological drain-clearer to blast talk of financial statements and all-weather pitches out of the room, shoot the breeze, and generally delay a bunch of decent people who were probably dying to get home to their Horlicks.

I was surprised to be asked. As I said to my hosts, I haven't exactly seen my finest hours on polished convent-school corridors and, to be blunt, which I was with the committee that invited me, I'm about the last person I'd ask to address a bunch of hardworking professionals with high stakes in the education game.

I was expelled from a convent school at the age of 11, after which I didn't go to school at all for a while. Then, when I did finally begin my secondary education, in a different convent, under the largely benign tutelage of the Dominicans, I spent significant swathes of my time down the back of the boiler house in my bottle-green knee-socks clutching 10 squashed Grand Parade and nursing my fantasies of eloping with Peter Frampton. (I know, I know, whatever about the nicotine poisoning, just think about the damage I was doing to my musical taste.)

In the end, the Leaving Certificate I got was barely worth having, made up as it was mainly of Es and Fs. So my dreams – small, cloudy ones without much substance – of going to college were dashed on the rocks of my academic failure, of parental indifference and of a serious lack of funds. And, as I told those patient folk in the school auditorium a few weeks ago, that sense of failure and rejection is hard to shake off. There's something insidious and pervasive about being told at 17 that you haven't made the grade, any grade; that you are just not good enough.

It's almost 40 years now since I left school and you'd be forgiven for thinking that the potency of the let-down I experienced as a teenager would have diminished. But when I stood up in the auditorium that night and talked about my personal journey through education, I was surprised at how close those old feelings of inadequacy and deficiency were to the surface.

### **The gig was fine**

Listen, the gig was fine: I read a bit and reminisced, and people asked questions, and we ended up talking about the different kinds of pressures that students are under now, not just educationally but socially and societally, all of which chimed with something I became aware of when I finally did get to university last year, at the tender age of 56. It seemed to me that some of the young women I observed on campus (though by no means all) were battling a raging perfectionism, frantically trying to achieve absolutely everything: the perfect results, the perfect body, the perfect future.

This burden of perfectionism is obviously not confined to any one school or city. At the end of the evening, a couple of women and I stood around talking about how convent-school life has changed. I can't find, or haven't looked hard enough for, the statistics, but in 1979, when I groped my way out of my alma mater, it seemed to me that depressingly few of my schoolmates went on to university.

Secretarial college, the bank and, of course, nursing absorbed the majority of us. While the mothers I spoke to naturally talked about their daughters' sure expectations of achieving a third-level degree, and beyond, they also referred often to the increased pressure young women seem to find themselves under nowadays. Several said their daughters expressed entirely unwarranted feelings of failure and inadequacy if they weren't achieving A1 grades as well as all-round social and personal fulfilment.

This burden of perfectionism is obviously not confined to any one school or city, nor can it be attributed solely and simplistically to factors such as helicopter parenting or the ethos of particular institutions. Across the board, the people I spoke with were actively engaged in communicating to young women that their self-worth shouldn't be solely predicated on intense academic achievement or unattainable ideals of perfection.

I left glad that so much has changed for the better, but wondering if and how, as a society, we're still peddling fairy stories that, subtly but pervasively, continue to tell young women they're not quite good enough.

*Reprinted by kind permission from Hilary Fannin and The Irish Times*

## **Rumbek News**

Why not catch up on all the news from Loreto Rumbek! By visiting the Loreto Rumbek School Website <https://www.loretoRumbek.ie/category/news/> - you will see that despite the differences, our schools are very similar in many ways. You can catch up on their 8th Graduation ceremony which took place on November 21st, the debating club news, visits to the start hospital by the girls, sports day and even fundraising efforts for their local Primary Health Care Unit.





## Student Newsletter

### **September House Event and National Fitness Day:**

On 27th September, students participated in the National Fitness Day Fun Dance Class to promote the importance of physical activity. 160 students danced to well-known tunes & sports prizes were awarded to the most enthusiastic students with smoothies, donated by the Bagel Factory as prizes. Bee and the Tamarin Houses both won 50 house points for the best attendance.

### **TY Adventure Trips to Achill**

The TY year started off with a bang – October 8th: 4B & 4G went on an adventure trip to Achill Island, Co. Mayo. Divided into four groups our activities included; surfing, canoeing, hillwalking, climbing and archery. Surfing was everyone's favourite activity. Everybody enjoyed the challenge! We all got a kick out of the activities, despite any reluctance, due to the enthusiasm of the instructors. Ms. Keegan, Ms. J O Reilly and of course Ms. Crinion organised the entire trip, keeping us all on track and ensuring we all had a fantastic time. This was a brilliant opportunity to get to know our new and old classmates even better.

### **October House Event - Pumpkin Decorating Competition:**

The October House Event, held on the 25th, saw a House representative from each year take part in the Inter House Pumpkin Decorating Competition. Every team showed great creativity with huge support for all the Houses. The Macaws and Tamarins were awarded 50 house points - a very tough decision for the judges.

### **November House Event - Kahoot Language Quiz:**

On the 8th November, the Language Department organised a Language Quiz. Well done to Faolan Mac Eoin (5T) and Aoibheann Dillon Kelly (5M) who organised the Kahoot questions. Each House team, B, G, M and T with representatives from every year answered a variety of questions regarding all the languages spoken around the world. There were treats for all at the end and as winners the Bee House won an extra 50 House Points. A great way to celebrate Language Week.

### **First Days:**

We'll always remember our Our First Days in Loreto, especially 24th August Sports Induction Day. It was very enjoyable, activities ranging from gymnastics, basketball, rounders and team games. We did gymnastics work on the trampette and performed the tuck jump, straight jump

## December 2018

and box jump. Every class (B, G, M, T) got a chance to try each activity. We played basketball matches with our new class mates and a team bonding exercise, called the "Human Knot" where we untangled ourselves in groups while continuing to hold hands. We learned a lot about the House System and had a really fun game of rounders on the pitch. Making the shape of our class letter with our bodies followed by a competitive House dodgeball match helped us to settle into the school, learn the names of our class and have fun in an active way.

### Science Week:

Science Week is always a great fun week. This year, some 5th & 6th year biology students attended talks at the "Schrodinger at 75 Conference" in September. The theme of the conference was the future of biology. "The Future of Structural Biology" talk was given by Ada Yonath, an Israeli Nobel Prize winner and the first person to discover the 3D structure of a ribosome, revolutionising the scientific worlds knowledge of protein synthesis. As well as explaining how data and amino acids are brought into a ribosome, how they come together



to form protein, how antibiotics work, she also discussed the "pink future" of science, because now that women are scientists, they are the future.

The second lecture was given by Beth Shapiro, an American evolutionary biologist who integrates molecular phylogenetics with advanced computational biostatistics to reconstruct the influences on population dynamics in a wide variety of organisms. She started the talk by telling us about her book, "How to Clone a Mammoth: The Science of De-Extinction." She then spoke about the three ways to revive a species, from either endangerment or extinction. Having explained these she left us pondering if we did revive mammoths or the great animals of the past where would it live? How would our city landscape affect it? How would it affect current species? Overall it was an incredibly interesting and engaging talk from a fascinating speaker.

### Ada Lovelace Day:

On Tuesday 9th October, five TY science students took part in an AIB organised STEM workshop in honour of Ada Lovelace, a 19th century English mathematician, considered to be the world's first computer programmer. The primary objective of the workshop was to encourage and promote girls to pursue more technological and mathematical career paths and to inspire us about the world of Computer Science. We had a cyber security talk which explained encryption and de-hacking procedures giving us the opportunity to encrypt a message ourselves. Next, we learnt about the Binary numeric system which only uses the two digits 0 & 1 and that computers store information in binary. This was made fun by us 'Beading in Binary' to create a necklace with our name made of beads and wire. The challenge got harder when we had to build as high a structure as possible with 50 pieces of paper. They organised to have around 10



of their female colleagues to come to the hall and we were to ask them questions on what they do in their career. We were given a list of facts that corresponded with one of the workers and we had to figure out which one was which. Examples including an artist, a doctor, construction worker and numerous backgrounds in foreign countries such as Australia. Finally, we had a Microbit workshop given by an extremely interesting and enthusiastic man who showed us the methods of basic coding and gave us various actions we were to instruct the computer to carry out, such as to roll a dice or show words and numbers. The workshop inspired us TY students and now we know a lot more about what computer science involves.

### Transition Year Uisce PE Adventure Trip:

On 27th September, 4M and 4T arrived early to school with heavy bags and excited looks on our faces, we were off to Coláiste Uisce, our first overnight trip with our new classes. Coláiste Uisce is an Irish college located close to Belmullet in the Gaeltacht which provides watersports and water-based activities for students. We arrived at Coláiste Uisce at 3pm, had lunch and got stuck into activities. We did pier jumping, windsurfing, bodyboarding and raft building on the water and on land, archery, rock climbing, orienteering, go-kart building, céilís and group challenges. During our trip, we bonded through team building activities, sitting together for meals and being room mates with new people whom we may not have bonded with had we been in an ordinary classroom setting. All in all, we really enjoyed our time in Uisce!

*Green Scene Student Newsletter Update with special thanks to contributors: Emma Goddard( 4G), Head of House Committees, Jamie Lee Ayeva & Laura Furlong, Clodagh Murphy (1G), Emma Jane Kennedy (1G), Brigid Etchingham-Coll( 5G), Claire Gregg 5T, Anna Capra (4T), Claire Connolly (4M) and extra special thanks to the teachers and year Heads who help to make all this activity happen.*

## Sports Report

December 2018

### Hockey

Our hockey teams have had a great start this year in their Leinster League competitions, with our three Senior teams having won all but 2 of their matches thus far. The Senior 1's were knocked out in the 1st round of the cup in an extremely close game, so will be competing in the Plate competition in January.

Our Junior A team and our Minor A and B teams have yet to lose a match this season, and all are at the top of their Leinster League tables- a huge accomplishment for these teams.



Our 1st Years have begun their Leinster League competitions and have got off to a great start with matches against St. Andrew's, Newbridge, and Drogheda thus far.

Each team has won at least 1 of their matches, and the girls are really enjoying competing at the Leinster level for their school.

### Basketball

Our Senior and Cadette Basketball teams have had great seasons thus far. Our Seniors just missed out on qualifying for the East Leinster quarter finals, but they have made the semi-finals for both the SDBL and Loreto leagues. Our Cadette's lost in their semi-final East Leinster and Loreto League matches against a tough Dalkey side. However, they will be competing in their quarter final match for the SDBL next week, where they hope to advance to the semi finals.

### Gaelic & Camogie

Our Gaelic and Camogie teams have been doing well thus far, with our senior team's seasons starting to come to an end. Our Senior Gaelic team fell just short in their last match against Reachrann, which knocked them out of the play-off run, while our Senior camogie team are now in the shield competition and will play their knockout match in January. Our 1st Years attended their first Gaelic event of the season at the Loreto Blitz in Foxrock.



### Swimming

Our 1st and 2nd Year girls recently competed in the U14 and U15A All-Ireland Cup competitions. Although the girls didn't make it out of the pool competitions, they showed that they are well able to compete at the A Division. They continue to train hard and will begin their regular season matches in the new year.

We had 22 girls compete in this year's Loreto Swimming Gala, with some incredible results. Top finishes individually were: Riona Monaghan (3rd, u14 Freestyle) Aisling O'Connor (4th, u14 Freestyle) Amy Purcell (6th, u14 Butterfly) Emma McEvoy (6th, u14 Freestyle). All of these girls were also part of our U14 Freestyle relay team that took 1st in the event, receiving a plaque for the school! This same team won the East Leinsters last month and will be competing in the All-Ireland's.



### Equestrian

Our Equestrian team has been doing great this year and are currently placed 3rd in the League. Well done to Kate Horgan (2nd Yr) who won the Tri Inter Schools Equestrian event a few weeks back!

### Lacrosse

We had 9 girls who were selected to attend the training camp/trials to represent Ireland in the 2019 World Lacrosse Championships. This was a great achievement for the girls and they are looking forward to finding out if they have been selected in the coming weeks.

# Art Zone



*By Hannah Burgess – 6th Year*



*By Ava Murphy – 1st Year*



*By Laura Holloway – 1st Year*





**Loreto College**  
St Stephen's Green

# Peer Mentoring Initiative

## Loreto 5th & 6th Years

### Looking for advice on a course or career?

- Would you like to talk to a recent graduate of Loreto who is currently studying the college course or pursuing the career you are considering?
- Want to get first hand, up to date guidance from someone who was in your shoes only a few years ago?

*Mentor: 'An experienced and trusted adviser'*

Contact us:

**[loretothegreenmentoring@gmail.com](mailto:loretothegreenmentoring@gmail.com)**

and let us know how we can assist you in this great new initiative.

