



GREENSCENE

Newsletter of the Loreto Parents' Association

Contents

- 2 Chairperson's Address
- 3 Loreto Parents' Association Walk
- 3 School Photographs
- 4 Loreto Past Pupils
- 5 Lunch for Rumbek
- 6 Sports Day
- 7 School Debating Society
- 8 Portrait Artist of Loreto the Green
- 8 Rumbek News
- 9 Maytime Music
- 10 Sports Report
- 13 Art Zone



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Chairperson's Address

Welcome to the Summer edition of Greenscene and hope that it finds all the students, their families and teachers ready to enjoy a relaxing summer.

The year starts for us parents in late August when our daughters prepare for their return to school; for some it is their 1st year, for others their last. The PA, through our information sharing and activities hopes to support the networking of Parents, to provide a forum to inform and consult parents regarding school policy, plans and activities and to assist in furthering the objectives of the school.

Our activities in the First Term are:

- The First Year Parents' night
- The AGM with its relevant, interesting speakers, this year being Hilary Fannin
- The Debs Reception, a great celebration for Students & Parents alike
- Careers' Night for 4th & 5th Year Students covering 25+ different careers
- The development of relationships and communication between parents through the Class Social nights,
- the liaison with the Junior School and the production of Green Scene

Since January our activities included

- The annual Family Walk, this year on beautiful Dollymount Strand and Nature Reserve
- The highly successful Parents' lunch which this year raised €14,500 for the awe-inspiring Loreto School in Rumbek South Sudan which is run by Sr. Orla Treacy and her team. Sr. Orla's insights on the day were interesting and revealing – no wonder she is the 2019 recipient of the International Courage Award
- Assisting at the Annual Sports Day run by the ever energetic Ms. Crinion
- The "Memories" Vimeo for the Class of 2019, our Leaving Cert 6th Year Students, Graduation for 6th Year Students

All these events are made possible because of the continued support from Ms. Dempsey, Mr. Fitzgerald, all the Teachers and the unstinting work of the PA Committee. On your behalf, I would like to sincerely thank all 24 PA Committee members who have been a pleasure to work with throughout the year. At the AGM, the current 2nd Year Representatives will be standing down and so we will be looking for four new Class Representatives from 3rd Year Parents as well as 1st Year Parents, so please consider joining, you will learn much and also have some great fun.

Finally, I would like to wish our Junior & Leaving Certificate Students the very best of luck in their State Examinations and hope that they achieve the results they wish for and deserve; and though 'The Green' says goodbye to our wonderful 6th Year group of young women, thanks them for the contribution they have made to 'LOG' life and wishes them every success in their future endeavours. I also know they take with them Mary Ward's values of Truth, Justice, Freedom, Sincerity & Joy, the Loreto ethos that binds all Loreto Students together for life.

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



Loreto Parents' Association Walk

This year the Loreto Parents Association went north side...with great success! Our walk took place on a lovely calm and mild January morning and we were joined by plenty of pupils, parents' and a few accompanying dogs. We started on the Causeway Road and took a leisurely 7km route along the beautiful Dollymont strand (with a leisurely coffee stop!) and back to our starting point. We're open to suggestions for our 2020 walk, please contact the Parents Association with any ideas you may have.

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.



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

Please visit the link:

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

Password: onthegreen

Loreto Past Pupils: Noeline Blackwell, CEO of the Rape Crisis Centre

by Fiona O'Flynn (4T Rep Parents' Association)



If there is anyone who best embodies the Mary Ward ethos, it is Noeline Blackwell, CEO of the Rape Crisis Centre.

Noeline came to Loreto on the Green from Tipperary as a boarder. Her father was the creamery manager and wanted his three daughters to study higher level maths, so they had to travel to school. Her Aunt was a Loreto Sister at the Abbey, so it was arranged that Noeline and her sisters would attend the Green. Her memories of boarding in 1968 were of a frugal regime. The milk was watered down in the refectory - for the daughter of the creamery manger, there could be no worse fate. Noeline remembers arriving with a large trunk with hand-sewn Cash's labels on all clothes. Family visits were hosted in the parlour and there was sometimes the odd trip to the Indian Tea Shop or out for chips. There were limited trips home, which fostered a strong community spirit among the Green Boarders.

On the academic side standards were high - the girls were expected to focus on work and to meet their potential, very much like now. Noeline said that she didn't appreciate the education she was receiving at the time but remembers how the girls were encouraged and respected as individuals.

Noeline said she had had many excellent teachers in the school. Sister Lyola, who taught Maths, and Ms. Lavelle, who encouraged her love of English and Poetry. Her funniest memory though, is of the etiquette classes, which were provided by the glamorous Ms Begley. Noeline recounts the main etiquette skills as follows

- How to walk downstairs in a ballgown, how to politely refuse wine when offered a second glass, how to eat spaghetti without bending down, how to cross legs at the ankle and not at the knee, and most importantly, how to avoid sweaty hands (by resting hands like open flowers on one's lap).

It was totally surprising to hear how young Noeline chose Law in UCD. She had planned to apply for Froebel teaching, but a chance discussion with a friend changed her mind. She quoted from Robert Frost and simply said that she took the road less travelled. Law was less popular at that time, and she had no legal connections, but she took the chance, and it took her on an incredible career path. She also mentioned that volunteering along the way brought her from practise to her most recent roles in Free Legal Aid and the Rape Crisis Centre. She laughingly said that she might still go back to teaching one day, and we discussed how challenging it is for people to know the right path to take.

She quoted Jane Hirschfield's poem China -

*"Whales follow the whale-roads.
Geese, roads of magnetized air.
To go great distance,
exactitudes matter.
Yet how often
the heart
that set out for Peru
arrives in China,
Steering hard.
consulting the charts
the whole journey."*



Lunch for Rumbek

by Fiona Donnelly (6th Year Rep Parents' Association)

L to R: Catherin Bent, Jackie Dempsey, Sr Orla, Margaret Campbell, Sr Brigid, Des Fitzgerald

The morning heralded bright and dry. Giving impetus to the dressing plans, make-up scheduling, taxi planning. . . . how the plans rushed the parents' waking thoughts. Arriving at the venue the cacophony of happy voices filled the atrium outside the function room; Mums rushed to greet fellow Mums, new parents were introduced through mutual acquaintances, the atmosphere was joyful. There were murmuring about a special guest of honour was coming and indeed when the parents entered the room Sister Orla had indeed attended.

Our festivities started with an address by Orla Treacy described to us western pampered mothers the average journey one of her pupils endures to attend classes; young boys facing death threats due to inter-tribal vendettas. Our greedy giddy laughter was hushed to hear of the risks undertaken to lift these children out of certain perpetual poverty.

Ms. Catherine Bent, our Parents' Association Chairperson quoted from Mary Ward's writings, reminding all of us present, the expressed ideology of the founder of the Loreto Order. All settled to eating, laughter and playful spot-prize ticket pulling. Donations to the Rumbek, South Sudan cause were secured and by now new parents were settling into yarns of the older parents' experiences. A strangely attired gentleman interrupted the gaggle of sounds: he said he was a Conrad staff chef on his last day at work who wished to sing to us of his home country, Italy. Aah, but he toyed with our innocent acceptance when he broke into a deep baritone voice singing of his love of home. He whipped his delighted audience into audience participation by ordering us to wave our white napkins high at arm's length in rhythm with his singing. The room became transformed into a cloud of white cotton waving in the air by delighted parents captivated by the theatrical images of his songs. Yes, we were no longer in Dublin but on a seat in an operatic amphitheatre in Verona! Sister Treacy and Sister Brigid were drawn into the sea of white napkins as were Ms. Dempsey and Mr. Fitzgerald! To the courageously industrious parents' lunch sub committee, we say congratulations and roll on 27.03.2020. I for one have the taxi booked, now for the Gúna.....



The 4 musketeers who planned and schemed for the sheer pleasure of the collective parent group Clodagh Mc Keenan, Cliona Maughan, Laura Berry & Sarah Hayes Whelan.

Sports Day

Sunday, 7th April 2019

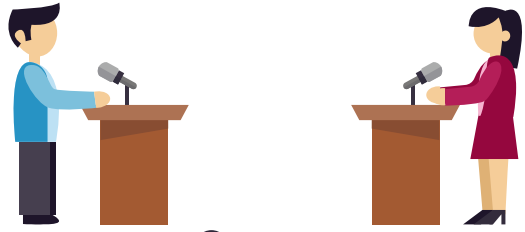
Loreto Sports Day took place early this year on Sunday, 7th April, but that didn't deter anybody. With the rain holding off all afternoon and the sun peeking through on occasion, Sports Day was a huge success. Well attended by all, Sports Day is a wonderful occasion for students, parents, teachers and siblings to get active, laugh and eat ice cream in the magical surroundings of Iveagh Gardens.

Loreto Sports Day could not have taken place without the brunt enthusiasm and sheer dedication of Ms Crinion, who was the perfect host and compere on the day. The races included sack, egg and spoon, sisters and brothers as well as the ever-popular teachers race! As well as Ms Crinion, we would like to thank the PA volunteers, who acted as judges, patrol and equipment helpers and grounds patrol on the day.



School Debating Society

by Sheena Carey (mum of Caoilinn 6G and Muireann 3G)



The achievements in 2018 to 2019 have been memorable in both junior and senior debating. The senior debating team won the senior all Ireland debating competition and the Aoife Begley memorial competition as well as the Inter Loreto debating competition. Not to be outdone, two of the junior debaters have come in the top 15 in the national Junior Mace. It is a great testament to the 5th year debating committee that so many juniors are involved and doing well in competitions – and they have been wonderful mentors to the girls.

1. **Junior Debating** - 2 girls are ranked in the top 15 speakers in Leinster (Asha Rait & Kate McGowan)
2. **Senior Debating** - 2 girls will represent Ireland during the Summer and 5 qualified for international competitions in both Oxford and Cambridge Universities this year. (Sophie Bannon & Caoilainn Carey, pictured below)

As all parents of debaters know, the nights leading up to a competition result in much more robust discussions than the usual chats about school, TV, music, sports, etc. The dinner table becomes a mini debating chamber looking at topical issues, politics, geo-political situations, the different sides of debates, how we got here, the rights and wrongs – the list goes on and on! It makes for some lively, interesting and challenging discussion especially if there is a referendum coming up. Topics include setting up a separate country for women, the Republican Party should not nominate Donald Trump and should we have an Irexit?

It is a great training for their life ahead and indeed their schoolwork as many essays and questions on papers involve analysis of current affairs, in many languages. Debaters have to be aware of so many different issues and topics, as they can be asked to speak on practically any topic with only 20 minutes to prepare their arguments, points of clash and rebuttal. In writing about debating, I must also mention Mr. Mulligan. I regularly meet him mid-week at UCD and on weekends at whichever school the competition is in. (He gives the girls the opportunity to learn, grow and take on greater responsibility. You can see the success of this at both the Junior and Senior levels.





Portrait Artist of Loreto the Green

by Meadhb Fleming (5T Rep Parents' Association)

On 12th April the fifth year Art Class held the first Portrait Artist of Loreto the Green competition. The competition is modelled on the Sky Arts show 'Portrait Artist of the Year'. It was open to all students and there were 17 participants, from all year groups. The competition was held in the school canteen and participants had 2 hours to complete a portrait drawn from life. Our models were past pupils, Jill Deering and Orla Comerford and current fifth year student Maria Doyle.

During the morning each class had an opportunity to visit the canteen and watch the drawing process. It was a very enjoyable event and the standard and variety of portraits was outstanding. A huge congratulations goes to our winner, Laura Holloway in first year and our two runners up, Emma Chi (4th year) and Emer Connolly (6th year). The winner was chosen by the Loreto Education Officer, Ms Caroline Clarke and Sam Horler of the Drawing Studio, along with two fifth year students. The event was a fantastic end to a busy term and a wonderful showcase of the creativity and talent of the students.

Rumbek News

Don't forget to catch up on all the news from Loreto Rumbek! By visiting the Loreto Rumbek School Website - you will see that despite the differences, our schools are very similar in many ways. You can catch up Sr. Orla receiving her 2019 International Women of Courage Award, Big Sister / Little Sister Weekend, computer news, Loreto Peace club and much, much more.

<https://www.loretorumbek.ie/category/news/>





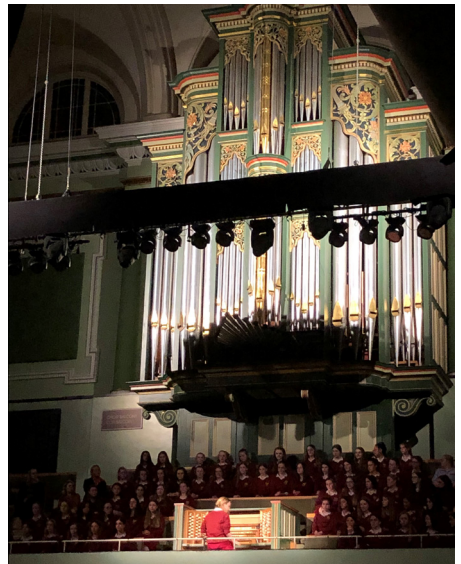
Maytime Music

by Marie Bramble (2M Rep Parents' Association)

The Maytime Music evening to celebrate the 185th anniversary of the school was held in the National Concert Hall on 14th May 2019. And what an evening it proved to be! A musical celebration of Loreto College and a credit to each and every pupil, the music staff, the choral directors and the Maytime Music committee.

Ms Alison Thomas accompanied on piano and Ms Catherine Anne Dooley performed the evening's master of ceremonies. The enthralled audience was treated to a feast of music including vocal, choir, orchestra, clarinet, violin, viola, piano, harp, fiddle, concertina, guitar, organ, flute, cello and dance. The time and effort that went into the preparation, rehearsing and planning was evident from the rapturous applause of the audience. The quality of talent on the night was overwhelming and contained a mixture of classical, choral, musical theatre, folk and contemporary music.

The evening was complimented by an artistically designed programme which in addition to setting out the order of performance provided an insightful look into the history of the school since it opened on 6th October 1841. All profits from the celebration will be donated to the Capuchin Day Centre for homeless people. Well done to everyone, it was a most memorable night and an outstanding success. We are so proud of you all.



Sports Report

Ms. Hoffman (Sports Coordinator)

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



Hockey

- We have had a great 2nd half of the season with our hockey teams this year, making the Leinster League Finals in Senior 1A and Minor 1, which was a huge accomplishment for these teams as well as our school having 2 of our top teams through to the Finals!
- Our Senior 1 team faced Newpark in the Finals where they won 3-1, becoming this year's Senior 1A Leinster League Champions! The team also were Runners Up in the Senior Plate Finals in a great match against Premier League team Loreto Beaufort.
- Our Minor A team were Runner's Up in the Minor 1 Leinster League Final. They faced St. Joseph's Cluny in a brilliant Leinster

League Final; tying 1-1 at the end of regulation, the match went into penalties where the girls unfortunately just fell short

- Our Junior A team had a brilliant year, winning all their matches and finishing first in their pool in the Junior 1A Leinster League.
- Our Minor C hockey team and Senior 3 hockey team both made it to the playoffs in the Leinster League, and unfortunately lost in two close quarter-final matches.
- Our 1st Years teams all had brilliant seasons, in particular our 1st Year C2 team who were Runners Up in the Leinster 1st Year C League, after losing to Beaufort in an extremely close match 1-0.
- A huge congratulations to all the teams and our coaches on what has proven to be a brilliant year in hockey for our school!



Basketball

- Our Senior and Cadette Basketball teams finished up their basketball seasons in January. All teams made the Loreto semi-finals and most made the South Dublin League semi-finals.
- Our 1st Year A basketball team made it to the Leinster quarter-finals where they faced a talented Loreto Dalkey side but unfortunately lost in a great match.
- After moving up into the A Division, this year was a great year of learning and we look forward to seeing the girls continue to grow and progress next year! Well done to all our basketball teams and a huge thanks to all our coaches on an excellent year!



Athletics

- The East Leinster Athletics Championships took place the week after Easter, where we had some brilliant performances by the girls, and qualified for Leinsters in: Minor 1100m; Junior 1500m; Inter 200m, 1500m & 3000m; Senior 100m Hurdles & 4x300m Relay. We have seen some amazing talent across all age groups and are expecting some great results in the Leinster Championships this week!
- It was a pleasure hosting the Loreto Athletics Championships this year along with Loreto Bray, Dalkey & Foxrock. A day that brings our Loreto schools together for a brilliant day of sport; well done to all the athletes involved!



Cross Country

We had brilliant results in the East Leinster Championships where both our Minor and Senior teams qualified for the Leinster Championships, along with our 4th year student Emma Goddard qualifying individually for the Inters. All these girls performed extremely well in the Leinster Championships, with our Senior team as well as Emma Goddard and 1st Year Alice Hickey qualifying for the All-Ireland Schools Championships.

Gaelic & Camogie

- Our Senior Camogie won their quarter-final match against Portmarnock in January, which led them to face a tough Cois Life side in the semi-finals a week later where they unfortunately fell just short in an extremely close match.
- Our U16 Gaelic team also had a great year making the semi-finals but losing in a close match against Greenhills Drogheda.

June 2019

- Both our U14 Camogie and U14 Gaelic teams had great seasons, making it to Quarterfinals of their respective leagues. Our camogie girls lost to a strong Manor House side, while our Gaelic girls lost in an extremely close match again Dominican College. Well done to both teams on a brilliant year!

Swimming

Our Junior Relay Team competed in the All-Ireland Relay Championships before Easter where they had a tremendous day in the National Aquatic Center, finishing 2nd in the Medley Relay and 3rd in the Freestyle Relay!



Cricket

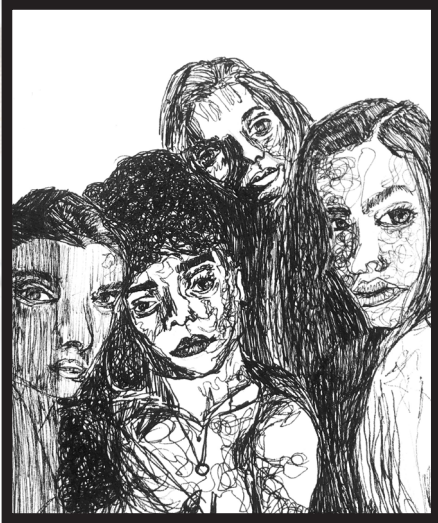
It has been great to see such a strong interest in Cricket in our 1st and 2nd years this year. Both teams won all of their group stage matches and are into the 1st Year B and Junior B Leinster Semi Finals. Best of luck to both teams!



Tennis

- We entered 10 teams into the Leinster Tennis League this year and have had some great results throughout.
- Our Junior A Team were Runners Up in the Loreto Tournament and have made it to the Leinster Finals after winning all their group matches!
- Our Minor A Tennis team also had a great year, coming 3rd in the Loreto Tennis Championships and just missing out on making the Leinster Finals
- Well done to all the girls and Ms. Crinion for all her hard work with the tennis.

Art Zone



By Kate McGowan (3rd year)



By Emma Anghel (3rd year)



By Emma Chi, (3rd year)



By Chloe McCusker, (3rd 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

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

