



Loreto College Junior School

ST. STEPHEN'S GREEN | DUBLIN 2

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Newsletter December 2016

Dear Parents,

We have watched, waited, listened, wondered, prepared and reflected as the celebration of the birth of Jesus draws near. The Advent wreath has been lit with the passing of the last four Sundays. The first purple candle represents Hope. During this season we pray for all those who find themselves without hope, we also pray that our words and actions may bring hope into the lives of those who find themselves without it this Christmas season.

Carol Service

Our Nativity/Carol Service begins at **11.40am** in University Church tomorrow, Wednesday. Our whole school will come together to remember the birth of Jesus. We welcome family and friends to our very special Service.

Please note:

Our school holidays begin immediately afterwards. All children should be collected from the church at 12.15. Be sure to inform whoever is collecting your children of these arrangements.

School will reopen on Monday 9th January.

Junior & Senior Infant Nativity

The Junior and Senior Infant Nativity took place last Friday and it was a joy to behold. I was delighted to welcome so many parents, grandparents, relations and minders to this very special occasion reminding us of the real message of Christmas.

Musical Entertainment

Our recent Musical Entertainment gave an opportunity to showcase the amazing talent within the school. We ensure all our girls participate thus developing team spirit, discipline & resilience while having plenty of fun. They all worked so hard and it certainly paid off. They were wonderful!. My heartfelt thanks to our staff who worked tirelessly in the background ensuring everything went so well.

Junior Infants

Special mention to our Junior Infants who are working so well. There is a great buzz in the classroom each day when I visit. "Mol on Óige agus tiocfaidh sí". I ask all our Junior Infant Parents to continue to reinforce their phonics and sound blending over the holidays as it is easy to forget them. The children continue to gain in independence which is to be encouraged. HSE Immunisation was administered in Junior Infants together with hearing and sight screening.



Junior & Senior Infant Nativity

Outreach

As part of our outreach to those less fortunate than themselves, our girls have once again shown the generosity of spirit which is at the centre of our Loreto philosophy of Education.

5th Class sang Christmas Carols in St Stephen's Green Shopping Centre on Monday assisted by some of our 6th Class girls. The funds gathered by our Past Pupils Association will go to our Loreto Charities. Their behaviour and singing were exemplary.

Our Toydrop was a resounding success yet again. 150 toys were donated. Be assured your gifts are greatly valued and will help bring a smile to the faces of many children on Christmas morning. Ms Sweeney was delighted with the response.



Toydrop

5th Class and Miss Ferry coordinated the gathering of food for our Hamper Appeal which we passed on to Sr. Bernadette. She works in disadvantaged communities in our city and has requested our help.

Cinema

As a special treat we all went to the Cinema today to see **Moana**. The younger girls went by coach while the rest of the school took the Luas. It was a well deserved treat.

The MS Readathon is Ireland's longest running read for young people. Our school has participated for many years, as we have found it to be a great way to encourage our pupils to "pick up a book and put down the remote". The money raised helps to fund a range of essential, nationwide, community based services for people with Multiple Sclerosis.

Hundreds of books were read and discussed over the weeks and I really hope Santa makes sure to leave a variety of books under the tree. Encourage reading for pleasure as I firmly believe "you are never lonely if you have a good book".

As the great feast of Christmas draws near with its message of Hope for all mankind, we think of the poor, the sick, the lonely and the refugee. We pray for families everywhere. We thank God for his many blessings to our school community. We welcome the babies born, with joy, and we gather and treasure the precious memories of loved ones we have lost - so loved and so very dear.

The staff of Loreto College Junior School wish you all a peaceful and holy Christmas.

Beannachtaí na Nollag oraibh go leir

Ó

Mairead, Bean Uí Chathmhaoil

Margaret Campbell, Principal

