



Loreto College Junior School

ST. STEPHEN'S GREEN | DUBLIN 2

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Newsletter December 2017

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 Sundays. The first purple candle represents Hope. The season of Advent is a time of preparation and reflection. During this special season we get the chance to take stock of everything we are grateful for in our lives, and remember to extend a hand of friendship and hope to those who need it.

Carol Service

Our Nativity/Carol Service begins at **11.45am** in University Church tomorrow, Thursday. 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 12.20. Be sure to inform whoever is collecting your children of these arrangements.

School will reopen on Monday 8th 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.

Mary Ward Debates

Congratulations to our 6th Class girls as they go forward to the second round debates in the New Year.

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.



Junior School 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.

Sr Bernadette IBVM thanks all our families for their continued generosity in answering her **Hamper Appeal**. 5th Class took charge of the appeal and spoke to the classes about Sr Bernadette's request. They sorted and packed the food which was donated and Sr. Bernadette made **two** trips to the school filling her car each time to the brim. Needy families will benefit from your kindness. Sr. Bernadette works in disadvantaged communities in our city. My thanks to Ms Walsh for organising.



5th Class sang **Christmas Carols** in St Stephen's Green Shopping Centre on Thursday. The funds gathered by our Past Pupils Association will go to our Loreto Charities. Their behaviour and singing were exemplary. My thanks to Ms Walsh and Ms Carroll for preparing the girls.

Cinema

As a special treat we all went to the Cinema yesterday to see **Ferdinand**. 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". Thank you to Ms Halpenny and Ms Doogan for organising.

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 léir

Ó

Mairead, Bean Uí Chathmhaoil

Margaret Campbell, Principal



4th Class Christmas Art