



Loreto College Junior School

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Newsletter February 2017

Dear Parents,

I hope that February is treating you well. It is lovely to see the signs of Spring in the garden. The children check the flowerbeds and watch the snowdrops and daffodils as they continue to push up through the ground. Everywhere, if we just look, we can see signs of life.

Book Fair

Our Book Fair will take place on Friday 3rd March. The range of books from Osborne books will appeal to all ages and interests. I look forward to listening to the girls on the corridor as they chat about the various books on offer. It is interesting to hear the girls discuss the merits of the various authors and books. Much debate and discrimination becomes evident. (*A catalogue will go home after mid-term*).

Mary Ward Debates

Congratulations to our 6th Class girls who were the winners of the recent debate against Loreto Primary, Grange Road, hosted by the Green. Our team proposed the motion "Animal testing should be banned" and it was keenly debated. We are proud of our girls for their sporting behaviour and look forward to the next round of debates for the Mary Ward Shield. Look on our website for a more detailed account.

Sacramental Preparation

Mrs Halpenny and 2nd Class are busy preparing for the Sacrament of Penance on 15th March at 7.30pm in University Church. This beautiful ceremony, with the telling of the story of the lost

sheep, will mark another stage on their faith journey towards First Holy Communion. Parents, Grandparents and families are welcome to attend.

As part of their spiritual preparation for Confirmation, the girls had a special retreat day on 1st February in the Dominican Retreat Centre in Tallaght. This day of quiet reflection and group activities was followed by the pre-Confirmation Ceremony of Light. The symbolism of parents handing the lighted Baptismal candle to their daughter was so powerful.

Going Home

Following a review of our 'going home' arrangements, we ask parents and minders to line up along the wall on both sides of the exit. Once your child has joined you, please move back towards the entrance to clear our line of sight. Do not form a cluster in the middle of the corridor, as we cannot see through you. Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Traffic Safety

Parents must give good example to their children by crossing the road safely. Please use the pedestrian crossing and always respect the cycle lane across from the school entrance. The safety of your daughters and all other road users is everybody's business. We have had a couple of 'near misses' outside the school recently. I urge you to be vigilant and cautious when dropping your children to school.

S.T.E.M (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths related subjects).

Females are significantly underrepresented in the STEM related industries and in Loreto Junior and Senior we want to encourage our girls to break the mould. We encourage our bright young minds to realise that scientists are not confined to a lab, and engineering & technology are not just subjects for boys.

If you have a background in Science, Maths, Technology or Engineering and would like to enthuse and encourage the next generation of great problem solvers and inventors, please let us know.

We are looking for mechanics, scientists, nurses, doctors, nutritionists, mathematicians, technicians, engineers etc. to come in to inspire our girls and help bring to life the many possibilities of an exciting future in the sciences. I will forward any suggestions and offers to Ms Kelly who will coordinate our efforts.

Another visit from the Defence Forces

We had a great concert when Captain John Carpenter and the members of the Army, Number 1 Band, based in Cathal Brugha Barracks in Rathmines, came to entertain us. They soon had us clapping and singing together. We were introduced to the instruments of the brass and woodwind families. Some lucky girls got a chance to conduct the band and play percussion instruments. It was great fun. My thanks to Barbara O'Donoghue for helping to organise the visit.

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On 10th February we joined with many schools all over the country doing 10 minute workouts and movements to mark 10 years of Operation Transformation. It was really enjoyable!

Front Door Security

Please note that pupils are not allowed to open the glass door for anybody - even if it is someone they know.

Homework

Homework, as you know, is valued and must be done with care and consistency. We ask parents to sign the homework notebook or sheet each evening and to remind your daughter to hand it up for correction on time. It is important that parents review all work done in Supervision Room or in After-school. Parents play a vital role in reinforcing the importance of doing homework well, by listening to reading, spellings and items to be learned, by looking over written work and by admiring neat work.

Lice Alert Reminder:

We have issued a number of Lice Alerts over the last few weeks. Thank you to the responsible parents who have alerted us to the presence of head lice - it is very important that you do so. Every child in the school **MUST** be checked this weekend and again next weekend and treated if necessary. Let's all work together and get the bugs **OUT!!!**

Check, Detect, Eject!!

Be sure to check the website for a taste of the various activities going on in our school.

Dates for your Dairy

28th Feb: Accord Parent Meeting @ 7.30pm

1st Mar: Ash Wednesday. Lent begins.
Book Fair & Book Week.

1st - 16th Mar: Coicis na Gaeilge.

2nd Mar: Nutritionist, Aveen Bannon will visit
5th & 6th Class for a nutrition workshop

4th - 10th Mar: Engineers Week

9th Mar: Accord Workshop for 5th & 6th Classes

I wish you and your families a happy and restful mid-term.

Le gach dea - ghiú agus sláinte oribh go leir

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Mairead, Bean Uí Chathmhaoil

Margaret Campbell, Principal