

**ADDRESS GIVEN BY THE PRINCIPAL MRS. MBUGUA ON
PRIZE GIVING DAY HELD ON THURSDAY 3RD AUGUST, 2017.**

Our Guest of honour, Sheila Ngatia - Ass. Country Director/Head of Programme UNDP, our Loreto Education Secretary, Sr. Gertrude Mallya, the Community leader Loreto Msongari Sr. Nuala Brangan, Loreto Primary Head Mrs. Mutuku, other heads of schools present, Loreto Sisters, Loreto Alumni President Gaye Fernandez, other Loreto alumni, other invited guests, our dear parents, members of staff , students, Ladies and gentlemen Good Morning.

It gives me a great pleasure to welcome you all to our 2017 Prize Giving Day. This is indeed a great day for us as we acknowledge the collective effort of all the stakeholders and also celebrate our achievements of the year. We appreciate the giftedness and uniqueness of our students as we award those who have excelled in academics, co-curricular activities and leadership. We do thank God for our achievements as we also acknowledge there are areas that we do need to improve.

In a special way I would like to welcome our Guest of Honour Sheila Ngatia, a Msongari product, to our school. Feel most welcome. We are proud of you, we are indeed happy and honoured to have you with us today. Karibu sana.

This is a special year for us Loreto Schools and more so Msongari. We have begun celebrating God's faithfulness as we look in grandeur the work of the Loreto Sisters. In 4 years we will be celebrating 100 years of Loreto establishment in Kenya which began with Msongari in 1921. Msongari is the root of all other Loreto Schools in East Africa Province comprising Kenya, Tanzania and Ghana. We celebrate the growth of Loreto Schools and share in the joy of experiencing the fruits of our Loreto Education through enriching and empowering alumni who are touching many lives in our society.

I will now move on to the school report.

ACADEMICS

K.C.S.E.

In 2016 we had a class of 85 candidates. The class attained a mean of 7.1 C+. The top students were Bakhita Shali and Edel Koki who attained an A- of 77 points. The best performed subject was Art and Design with a mean of 10.67 A-. The most improved subject was Art & Design from 4.7 C to 10.67A-. The best department was Technical with a mean of 8.68B and it was the most improved department from 7.32C+ to 8.68B.

This year we have a candidate class of 55 students. The class is quite promising. They have just finished their Mocks and we are very hopeful that they will perform well. We wish them well as they prepare for their K.C.S.E.

I.G.C.S.E. – YEAR 11 2016

The school presented 15 candidates for the IGCSE ‘O’ Level exams in May/June 2016. The class registered an 87% pass. The best students were Ashley Chao who scored 2As, 3Bs and 2Cs and Denise Wambuma who scored 2As, 4Bs, 1C & 1D. The best performed subject was Literature. Humanities department marked the highest improvement for the 6th year running. Religious Studies was the most improve subject.

This year we had 26 students who sat for their ‘O’ Level exam in May/June and we are awaiting their results which will be out this month.

CHECKPOINT EXAM

26 students in Year 9 sat for their Checkpoint exam in April. The students were tested in Mathematics, English and Science. Our top student was Candy Nishimwe with A of 84 points. English was the best performed subject. The class marked an improvement from 50.59 – 55.79 compared to the previous class.

As a school efforts have been made to ensure continuous improvement in academics.

- Setting termly targets and evaluation done after every exams. Results are reviewed and strategies laid down.
- Team teaching, team setting and team marking.
- Maths hour – every Friday night for all boarders:
 - F4s Maths CATs - Tuesdays 7am– 8am.
 - F1 & 2s Maths CATs – Thursdays 7 -8am
 - F3s Maths CATs – Wednesdays 7-8am.
 - Students weak in Maths 4s – remedials on Monday and Tuesdays lunch hour. 3-4pm and on Thursdays – F4 Physics students (weak).
- Random marking of exams by external teachers.
- Purchased support materials – revision books, DVDs, etc.
- Capacity building for teachers – workshops and networking with other schools.
- The school has also invested in training teachers as examiners and also in IGCSE.
- Days set aside for some subjects – Kiswahili and French languages.
- Students have engaged in joint exams with other schools – F4s and 2s.
- Science department has organised for practicals during the evenings Wednesdays, Thursdays & Fridays for F4s and also giving attention to individuals who need more practice.
- Motivation programs through the initiative of the task force and also from the side of the school.
- Introduced Book club which is now well established. This is to help students grow and promote the culture of reading.

With these efforts, we have seen quite a number of students improve in the various classes.

The students have had engaging and enriching experiences out of class. These have provided focus and relevance to concepts learnt in class.

- F4 Art students went to State House girls for an Art forum.
- F4s went to watch plays based on their set books in Kiswahili and English.

- F4s went to Nairobi School for a Humanities symposium.
- F4s and 3s attended a Maths contest in Kenya High and Fs an Olympiad of Science and Maths in Alliance.
- F3s and 4s History and Geography students visited Ngong wind mills, Olorgesaille pre-historic site and Lake Magadi.
- Form 3 Biology students visited Karura forest.
- F2 History students visited Hyrax Hills, Kariandusi, Lord Egerton Castle, Gambles Caves, Nakuru National Museum and Njoro River Caves.
- ICT students visited Multi Media University.
- F1 History students visited the National Museum, Railways, Nairobi Gallery, Archives and Uhuru Gardens.
- F1s visited the Meteorological Weather Station in Dagoretti.
- French students went to Alliance and Ofafa Jericho for symposiums.
- Home science students attended the Cake Festival.
- We have an upcoming trip to Dubai in December together with Loreto Convent Valley Road. Last year 24 girls went to Mauritius.

We have had open days for all classes and motivation sessions for some classes organised by the Task Force members. These have given an opportunity to the parents, teachers and students to discuss performance and also lay strategies for improvement.

Apart from preparing students to excel academically, Loreto education endeavours to give students an opportunity to discover and develop their talents and so become fully integrated persons. Our girls have participated in many activities this year.

SPORTS

SWIMMING

The swim team made up of 10 students participated in the Kenya Swimming Federation (KSF) galas in level 1 and 2. In Level 1 Beryl Onyancha came 1st in her heat and 4th overall in her age group 16 & over.

Aisha Gitau came 2nd in her heat and 8th overall in her age group 14 & 15 years.

In the annual swimming gala, Gordon house emerged the best. The most organised house was Ball. The best junior swimmer was Stephanie Mwaura F2 and the best senior swimmer was Beverly Onyancha F3.

In Ball Games various teams participated in the Kenya Secondary Schools Sports Association league and the International Private Schools Sports Association tournaments.

HOCKEY

The Hockey team emerged 2nd runners up in the IPSSA Peponi tournament. They won the Samaj tournament and reached the semi-finals in the KSSSA league.

NETBALL

The Netball team went up to the semi-finals in the IPSSA tournament.

FOOTBALL

The Football team reached the quarter finals in the K.S.S.S.A. league. They emerged the 1st Runners up in the IPSSA tournament.

BASKETBALL

The Basketball team has engaged in a number of friendly matches with schools like St. George's, St. Austin's and Buruburu Girls. They are training to get into the league competitions.

TENNIS

Tennis players participated in the Peponi and Naisula tournaments. They have shown great improvement and will be participating in the Mvita Junior Tennis Tournament together with LCVR in November. Loreto is the defending champion.

VOLLEYBALL

The volleyball team has marked good progress. They participated in the Westlands sub-county Volleyball League and reached the second round.

ROUNDERS

The school participated in Rounders in the IPSSA tournament and were position 3 out of 8. The team also played in the Gems International tournament and were position 2. Danielle Perkins was the best player in the Gems tournament.

This year we successfully held our annual sports day in June. This time we included ball games: Basketball, Volleyball, Football and Netball which were played before the day and so was the cross country. Athletics and Discus were done on the material day. Ball House won in Basketball and Soccer, Borgia in Volleyball and Gordon in Netball. Gordon House won in Athletics. The overall winning house was Ball house. The best junior athlete was Ashley Yigo and the best senior athlete was Isabella Abuor.

Our Guest of Honour of the day was Patrick Namwamba MD Fulana Sports & Leisure Limited. He gave a donation of Ksh. 20,000 which will go towards boosting the sports department. Well done girls for the commendable spirit of competition as well as sportsmanship.

Unfortunately this year we have postponed the 5th Inter-Loreto Games which come in August immediately after closing schools due to the upcoming elections.

I wish to thank the Games teacher Coach Josephine and her team for the great strides and efforts in sports.

CLUBS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

This year has presented a rich diversity of activities and limitless opportunities for the students in various clubs and other activities.

MUN

The MUN members took part in the 35th edition of EAMUN – East African Model United Nations in June. This year Msongari was assigned 3 countries: Brazil, Nigeria and Kazakhstan. We had 3 students participating as ambassadors, 1 press corp, 3 secretaries and 13 delegates in different committees i.e. political, economic, human rights, special summit, ecology, ICJ, global agenda and environment. Thank you Mr. Otieno and Mr. Muloki for preparing the girls.

ST. JOHN'S CLUB

The St. John's club has engaged in many activities. In April they had a camp at Gilgil and trained on First Aid Skills, Radio communication, animal care, mapping and navigation and marching drills. They also had a leadership training in July.

The club participated in the Central region symposium held at Moi Forces Academy and emerged the best overall Division and were awarded a trophy. The club also participated in the County First Aid competition at South C CID Training School. The Junior team merged position 1 and were awarded trophies and medals. They qualified for the regional competition and ranked position 4. Congratulations St. John's and your patrons Mr. Kiruthu and Mrs. Mugo for this great achievement. I also take this opportunity to thank you for the service you give to the school during events and emergency situations.

PRESIDENTS AWARD CLUB

The President's Award club went for an excursion to Taita Taveta and Mombasa in April. The members successfully undertook the expedition to qualify for Bronze, Silver & Gold level. The 5 Gold level members are to undertake a residential community project and upon completion will graduate in October. They will receive the Gold certificates from the President at State House.

DRAMA CLUB

One of the rewarding aspects was the victory in the Kenya Drama Festivals this year. The school presented 5 items.

1. A Film – Boomerang – which was the best action film. It was nominated for the International Zanzibar Film Festival which took place in July. The school was represented by 2 teachers and 3 students.
2. A Documentary – Venerable Mary Ward – Pioneer extraordinaire which won the best production and winning documentary.
3. Screen Narrative – The Hotbed was the winning screen narrative. We have won in this category 3 years in a row.
4. Advert – Chapo Samo – Winning advert
5. Screen Solo Verse – The Highest Bidder which was 1st runners up in screen solo.

Overall results we received the following awards.

- Overall winning school
- Most prolific institution
- Overall winning film
- Best items of the festival – Chapo Samo advert & Mary Ward documentary.

In total we received 21 certificates of merit and 5 trophies.

In June the school premiered our 2 films ‘She Got Game’ and ‘Boomerang’ on Big Screen at Imax Garden City. This was indeed a historic moment for us. Our aim was to move our films beyond mere participation at the Kenya Drama Festivals. This gave our students exposure to the film industry hence providing them with an important launching pad to successful acting and film production careers. We appreciate the participation and support that we received from the Kenya Film Classification Board and Capital FM. KFCB also sponsored 3 students and 2 teachers air tickets to attend the International Zanzibar Film Festival.

Thank you parents for your support towards the premiere.

Congratulations Drama team, Mr. Ouma and Ms. Keiza for these great achievements.

SCOUTS MOVEMENT

22 Scouts members took the Mwamba Investiture test and passed thus joining the worldwide fraternity of scouts. They received certificates and were invested in March.

The members attended an annual Scouts forum at Chania High School where they trained on life saving and marching drills. The group also attended a First Aid symposium at Alliance High School.

I take this opportunity to thank the patrons Mrs. Odude and Mr. Shikuku and the scouts for their service to the school – ushering during events and functions, hoisting the flag on Mondays and Fridays, etc.

JOURNALISM CLUB

The club members are tasked with writing reports for the various school events, taking photos during events, giving briefs during Monday assemblies and also coming up with the annual school Year Book. They have been committed in ensuring we have a new edition of the school magazine annually. Thank you Journalism team and your patron Mr. Muloki for the good work in the 2016/2017 Year Book. We are looking forward to our next edition of our Year Book which will be out next term.

DEBATE CLUB

The Debate Club participated in the Nairobi region inter-school debate competitions and were position 6 with 74%. These debates are aired on KBC television channel.

Thank you Ms. Muyela and the debating club for the effort.

The school has also engaged in other activities in the year.

- ***Science Fair***

In order to ignite our students' passion for Science, some students were trained by an alumnus of Msongari who is a mechanical engineer. The purpose of the training was to expose the students to various ways of scientific approach to problem solving and innovation. The training was captured on NTV through Gladys Gachanja's 'Women and Power' program. In turn, this exposure gave the girls an opportunity to participate in the Innovate Challenge sponsored by Global Minimum International Organisation. This is a national competition and 3 girls, Tracy Wachira, Tamara Cheruiyot & Michelle Kibias managed to qualify in the top 10 with the project "Waste to Watts'. They then proceeded to an innovation camp training in April. The training was supposed to capture rapid prototyping and entrepreneurship. After the whole process the girls were awarded the most resilient group award and a training at the University of Nairobi Prefabs lab.

This was a good opportunity for the F4 girls since a good number of students who go through this program get the opportunity to gain admissions to prestigious programmes at African Leadership Academy, United World College, Watson University and Harvard University. Congratulations Tamara, Tracy and Michelle. Thank you Mr Ondeyo for supporting the girls.

- ***Mary Ward Week***

We honoured and celebrated our foundress the last week of January. The different houses made presentations during assemblies. These culminated in a celebration of Mass jointly with the primary school.

- ***Family Fun Day***

This was held in March. This year our focus was still on health and fitness for the family. Our theme was 'Msongari eating healthy for a groovy life'. Apart from the activities we had a health talk and a free health check up for all. The winning House in this year's family fun day was Ward.

- ***Cake Festival***

Form 3 Home Science students took part in this year's competition where bakers compete for the best themed cakes awards. The girls entered for the Best Citrus Cake competition. They presented a choco lime cake and a grape lime one. The choco lime emerged the 2nd runners up. The girls were awarded medals and certificates.

Thank you Mrs. Muriuki for preparing the girls and well done F3 Home Science students.

- ***Careers Day***

This was held in June. We had guest speakers some of whom are Msongari alumni, engaging the students. The speakers were from various career fields: Engineering, Journalism, law and International Relations. The students also had a talk from a Career Coach. Thank you Mr Otieno for organising for the career day.

- ***Environment Day***

The school marked the World Environment Day on 9th June. The theme was 'Connecting with Nature'. The day was marked with presentations from each class, tree planting and a talk focusing on the theme by a guest speaker from the UN. F4A was the Environment class of 2017 and Year 8 was the most creative class.

This year we had very good themed presentations from the various classes. Well done girls. Thank you Mr Moseti and the Environment Secretary Tamara Cheruiyot for a good event.

- ***IGCSE Assessment***

In June, the school randomly engaged 6 IGCSE students in a trial of CIE Cognitive Ability Test (CAT4). This is a suit test that assesses the students' ability in verbal reasoning, non-verbal reasoning, quantitative reasoning and spartial reasoning. The

CAT4 provides an indicator of attainment for the students in all levels and provides a starting point for target setting.

The objective of this Test is to identify the students' abilities and weaknesses so that the teacher can develop the given abilities in the learner and help them realise their full potential.

We are hoping in future all IGCSE students will be able to take the CAT 4 assessment. Thank you Mr Kiruthu for co-ordinating the assessment.

- ***French Exam***

5 French students sat for DELF exams at Alliance Francais in June. 4 passed well and are moving on to the next level. Thank you Ms Muyela for supporting the girls.

6 students will attend the Pupils Reward Scheme Program in September. This is a mentorship programme which was launched by His Excellency the President and Her Excellence the First Lady. These girls will have the opportunity to interact with Her Excellency the First Lady – Margaret Kenyatta.

CAPACITY BUILDING

- Our teachers had the opportunity to interact with other teachers through workshops in Maths, English and Kiswahili.
- Y.C.S. Patron attended a workshop on empowering teachers to evangelise to the youth.
- Drama patron attended a workshop in film production.
- The parents had a workshop in June. The theme was 'Understanding the 21st teen'. The focus was on the top 10 struggles for today's teenager.
- The teachers had a day's seminar on Loreto Ethos and another day's workshop on curriculum implementation and productive discipline.
- Our students' council jointly with LCVR attended a 2 day leadership workshop.

- Form 4s and Year 11s have had motivation talks to focus them towards exams and success.
- Form 4s also had a team building session and talk after Mocks.
- F2s had a talk on character, focus and integrity.
- F3s have also had a talk on Guidelines for setting academic goals and pillar for attaining academic goals. This helped in refocusing the F3s towards academic achievement and they are back on track.
- The school organised talks for all Boarders in their different levels on:
 - F1 and Year 8 – Life as today’s teenager and coping with high school.
 - F2 & Year 9 – Relationships with boys and self acceptance.
 - F3s – Peer pressure, decision making and self assertiveness.
 - F4s – Exam preparation and attitude.
- Sr. Victorine also attended a conference of Loreto schools from different countries (19). The conference took place in South Africa for 1 week. The conference focused on the challenges of the 21st Century;- How to respond to the challenges in relation to present and future values, use of internet and social media, promotion of justice, peace and integrity.
- The Deputy Sr. Victorine attended a 3 weeks course in London based on the study of our Foundress Mary Ward.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

The community outreach endeavours of our students across the school continued this year with generous initiatives and participation.

- The Book club organised a book donation drive that saw a total of 200 textbooks which were donated to Excel Secondary school in Kangemi to help the needy students.

The club also visited MACODEP children's home in Kibera and donated stationery, toiletries and food stuff.

- The students have been actively involved in the Loreto helping Loreto projects. During the Mary Ward Week the students contributed Ksh. 66,000 which went towards supporting the Loreto School in Buswelu.
- During the Lenten period the girls contributed a total of Ksh. 58,000/= which went towards sponsoring a pupil of St. Teresa's Primary school.
- This term the girls raised Ksh. 44,000 in support of LCVR project of building a Multi-purpose hall.

Thank you girls for your contributions and for showing a sense of responsibility and moral obligation towards those in need. Thank you parents for your support through your children.

SPIRITUAL FORMATION

Loreto Msongari continues to place great emphasis on spiritual welfare and formation. Prayer is our way of life. Prayers are precedent in all assemblies, meetings, events, etc. Boarders have daily evening prayers and rosary recitation for Catholic girls. We have Mass every Friday and Sundays for the boarders. Each class has a pastoral lesson weekly. Staff and students have retreats annually. This usually takes place in May. These offer a unique opportunity to deepen our relationship with God.

This year 2 F4 students received the Sacrament of Confirmation in June. 6 girls received First Holy Communion in July and 9 girls were baptised in July. 17 girls will be receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation later in the year in October.

We thank Mrs. Muriuki, Sr. Rainer and Sr. Maureen for preparing the girls to receive the various sacraments and for also journeying with the girls on their spiritual growth.

OTHER DEVELOPMENTS

- The school has installed a total of 26 CCTV cameras to enhance security.
- The school also put up 6 housing units for the teachers. This has enabled us to have more teachers on the ground especially for the supervision of morning and night preps.

Our Guest of honour and parents, I do assure you that we are on course in strengthening our Loreto brand and realizing our vision to mould and develop a well balanced person who will fit in the society and is globally competitive.

Lastly I would like to thank:

- The Loreto Sisters for giving the girls an opportunity to receive an education and for the immense support that they give to the school.
- I do acknowledge and appreciate the support given by the Advisory Board and the Loreto Education Secretary Sr. Gertrude Mallya.
- The teaching staff for their commitment in giving guided empowering growth and inspiration to the girls for integral wholeness.
- To our dear parents for your co-operation, support and goodwill. Thank you for entrusting us with your children. Much appreciation to the Task Force members of the various classes who work with the teachers on motivation programs. Thank you to other parents who have worked with us in the committees for school activities. Thank you parents for your great sacrifices. God bless you all.
- The alumni for providing an opportunity to network with Loreto girls and supporting our programs.
- I also do sincerely acknowledge and appreciate the participation of the administration and support staff. You contribute greatly to the success of the school.

To those who are being awarded today in the various fields, congratulations and keep up the good work. To the rest of you girls take

up the challenge. To each one of you girls thank you for uniquely contributing towards the achievements of the school in one way or another.

I wish you girls Happy Holidays and may you be a source of joy to your family and those around you. To all of us, let us pray for peace to prevail, let us preach peace as we go for elections regardless of our political affiliations and preferences. Each one of us has a responsibility over our Nation.

Thank you all, God bless you and God bless Loreto Msongari school.