

**ADDRESS GIVEN BY THE PRINCIPAL MRS. MBUGUA ON
PRIZE GIVING DAY HELD ON THURSDAY 29TH MARCH, 2018.**

Our Guest of honour, Dr. Joyce Gitangu, Our Province Leader Sr. Jane Frances Mulongo, our Loreto Education Secretary, Sr. Sophie Achieng, Msongari Community Leader Sr. Maria Goretti, the Loreto Primary Head Mrs. Mutuku, other heads of schools present, Loreto Sisters present, invited guests, our dear parents, members of staff , students, Ladies and gentlemen; Good Morning.

I am delighted to welcome you all to our 2018 Prize Giving Day. This is a great day for us as we recap key events in our school calendar and acknowledge the collective effort in our achievements. We thank God for what we have achieved as we also acknowledge there areas we do need to improve.

In a special way I would like to welcome our Guest of Honour Dr. Joyce Gitangu, a Msongari alumnus (Msongari product) to our school. We are happy to have you with us today. Karibu sana.

I want to thank you parents for turning up for this Prize Giving Day. We changed our event from taking place in 2nd term to 1st term so as to harmonise the school programmes for IGCSE curriculum and the 8-4-4 curriculum.

Today we also bid farewell to our Year 11 girls who will be sitting for their 'O' Level exams in May/June. We are praying for God's blessings as they do their exams.

I will now move on to the school report.

Loreto education aspires to mold and develop a well balanced person, integrating the physical, spiritual and academic aspects of the individual, as well as nurturing and appreciating their giftedness. Hence our students are involved in diverse activities, programs and also enriching

experiences in learning. These aspects mark the highlight of our Prize Giving Day today.

ACADEMICS

K.C.S.E.

In 2017 we had a class of 54 candidates. The class attained a mean of 6.07 C which was a drop from the previous year mean of 7.07 C+. The top students were Cassandra Kuria and Lynsey Bwisa who attained a B+ of 67 points. The best performed subjects were Home science and Computer with a mean of 9.11B. Congratulations Mrs. Muriuki and Mr. Musee who taught the class. The most improved subject was Physics from 6.07 C to 7.26 c+-. The best department was Technical with a mean of 8.04B. Congratulations Mrs. Odude and department. The most improved department was Maths from 6.06 C to 6.22 C. Congratulations Mrs. Mugo and the Maths department for the continuous improvement.

This year we have a candidate class of 64 students, they have just finished their pre-mock exams. It is promising class and we have laid down strategies to ensure that they perform well. We are hopeful of better results next year.

I.G.C.S.E.

Year 11 – 2017

The school presented 24 candidates for the IGCSE 'O' Level exams last year. The best student was Amo Ikiror who scored 1A*, 5A, 2B & 1C. The best performed subject was Swahili followed by Business Studies, then Chemistry. Congratulations Mrs. Masinde for the achievement in Kiswahili. The most improved subject was Chemistry. Congratulations Mr. Jumba. The best department was Languages. Well done Ms. Muyela and the team.

Year 11 2018

This year we have a candidate class of 24 students who will sit for their 'O' Level exams in May/June. They did their Mocks in the beginning of

this month. Our top student was Zoe Gichuhi who scored 2A*, 2A, 2B, 1D.

The class is prepared for exams and we look forward to a better performance than the previous year. Year 11 you have all it takes. Remain focussed and give it your best.

CHECKPOINT EXAM

34 students will be sitting for their Checkpoint exam from 12th -14th April, 2018. They will be tested in Maths, English and Science. Best wishes Year 9. May God bless the work of your hands.

We have made efforts to ensure improvement in academics e.g.

- We have changed the mode of how we set questions right from Form 1. This is in line with the changes in KCSE exam setting where there are fewer questions on knowledge – recall as was the case before. Now there are more questions on analysis, application, synthesis and evaluation.
- Remedial evening classes for Form 4 in Maths, English, C.R.E. and Geography are ongoing.
- We have engaged a speaker who dealt with study skills for all students.
- We engaged Elevate education who had sessions with teachers, Year 9s and 10s and also their parents on how to improve performance.
- Revision topics in Form 1 and 2 work in form of questions for Form 3 is ongoing.
- We reshuffled Form 3 class to create move competition and to address challenges within different academic ability groups.
- With the support of the Task Force, we have had motivational sessions where students who have excelled and those who have improved are awarded. We had a very successful session for the candidates.

- Plans to engage ‘peak performance’ to train F4s are underway. Hopefully this will boost performance.
- All classes have a Math hour weekly and weekly CATS.
- The school bought new novels and revision books for the library and furnished it to accommodate more students.
- Capacity building for teachers – workshops and networking with others.
- Regular trainings for teachers. In April, 2 teachers will undergo online training in IGCSE Geography and Chemistry and 1 will undergo KNEC training to be an examiner in Biology.
- Exams set by external examiners for the different classes.

With these efforts quite a number of students in the various classes have improved, though much more work is needed.

This year the students have had diverse and enriching experiences out of class which have provided focus and relevance to concepts learnt in class.

- The F4s went to Ufungamano House to watch plays based on their set books.
- Form 4 computer students visited the East Africa Data Centre.
- Form 3 Biology students visited the Giraffe Centre and Animal Orphanage.
- Year 11 Art students visited the National Museum and Murumbi Cultural Centre.
- F2 and F3 Home science students went to Karen – Dominos for a cookery session.

This term we have had open days/meetings for Year 8, 9, 11, F4s and F2s. These have given an opportunity to the parents, teachers and students to discuss performance, challenges and seek for a way forward.

Apart from preparing students for good performance in academics, Msongari endeavours to give students an opportunity to discover and develop their talents thus becoming fully integrated persons. Our girls have participated in many activities since the beginning of the year.

SPORTS

Swimming

The Swimming team participated in the Private & International Prep Schools Association junior and senior championship in Makini School. Rebecca Lemm was 4th position overall in her age group. Beryl Onyancha was 1st position and received a trophy. The school was 1st Runners up and we received a trophy, 23 medals and certificates.

The team also participated in the Kenya Secondary Schools Sports Association (KSSSA) swimming competitions which were held in St. Mary's School on Saturday 10th March, 2018. They were position 15.

We held our Annual Swimming Gala on Saturday 17th March. Borgia House emerged the winning house. The best senior swimmer was Beryl Onyancha and the best junior swimmer was Anita Okoye. Aisha Gitau was the most promising senior swimmer and Chantelle Sijenyei the most promising junior swimmer.

I wish to thank Coach Annabelle for the continuous improvement in swimming.

In the Ball Games, various teams participated in the Nairobi Secondary Schools Sports Association (NSSSA) – Westlands sub-county league, the International Private Schools Sports Association (IPSSA) tournament and the Alliance – Bush Open Tournament.

Hockey

The team participated in the NSSSA – Westlands league which was held in Nairobi School and Statehouse Girls. They won 1 match, drew 2 and lost 2 matches. They were position 3 in their pool.

In the IPSSA tournament held at Oshwal Centre, the hockey team won 1 match and drew 3 matches. They were knocked out in the semi finals due to the goal aggregate.

Netball

The Netball team participated in the Bush Open tournament held at Alliance High School. They won 3 matches and lost 1 match.

Soccer

The soccer team took part in the Bush Open tournament and reached the quarter finals. They also participated in the Laiser Hill tournament and emerged position 3 out of 9 schools. They also participated in the Westlands sub-county KSSSA league and qualified for quarter finals to be played in May. The Copa Coca-Cola under 17 league began last weekend. Our team played 3 matches, they lost 1, drew 1 and won 1. Next term the team will be participating in the IPSSA tournament. We are the defending champions. We hope to scoop the trophy again. All the best to the football team.

Volleyball

The volleyball team participated in the Bush Open tournament but were knocked out in the preliminaries.

The school values the role of sports in enhancing growth development of an all-round Loreto girl as well as cultivating self discipline and social skills.

I wish to thank Coach Josephine and the sports department for the great strides and effort in sports.

CLUBS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

This year has begun with a steady surge forward with activities from different clubs, which I will highlight.

The students have participated in a number of activities through the various clubs.

MUN

The MUN members took part in the 36th edition of EAMUN - East African Model United Nations in February. This year our school was assigned 3 countries:- Kenya, United Arab Emirates and Lithuania. Our school delegation comprised 19 students. We were proud to have had 1 Junior Chair. We also had 3 Ambassadors, 3 Securitaries and 12 delegates in different committees i.e. Political, Economic, Human Rights, Special Summit, Ecology, Global Agenda and Environment. Thank you Mr. Otieno and Mrs. Masinde for preparing the girls.

Our Guest of Honour and parents, this is a club that trains young people skills on diplomatic practices, conflict management and resolutions. The students are awarded certificates.

Presidents Award Club

The PA members undertook a pre-adventurous journey to Naivasha – Longonot area in February. The journey is to be completed in April where they will have an expedition at the Aberdare Ranges. Residential project group is to finalize their project in August. There are 11 Gold awardees, 24 Silver and 15 Bronze. 5 members have successfully completed the Gold level and will receive their certificate from the President on 12/3/18 at State House.

Drama Club

This year we made our debut in the Westlands Sub-county Drama Festivals with a play entitled ‘Tartan Tattered’. The competitions were held in Nairobi School. We emerged position 2 with 79%. We won the following awards:

- Best Actress - Molly Muthama
- 2nd Runners up Best Actress – Abigael Wambui
- Best play in English – 1st Runners Up
- Best costume and décor – 1st Runners up
- Best producer – 1st Runners up

The school also participated in the Regional Drama Festivals. We were position 5 out of 9. This was great effort from the Drama club, this being their debut on stage performance. Congratulations to Mr. Ouma, Mrs. Masinde and the drama team.

We will also be entering 2 screen items for this year's festival. A short feature entitled 'Scarred' and a screen narrative entitled 'Mbilikimo Mkora'. This will be held in April at Lenana School.

Scouts Movement

The Scouts went to Nyeri for the 161st Founders Day celebrations held at Baden Powell Park on 24th February 2018. They participated in drills and were awarded certificates.

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

Y.C.S. Movement

The Y.C.S. members animated the 10:00a.m. Mass at Holy Family Basilica on 28th January, 2018. They also attended the Central/Western Y.C.S. rally at Lenana School. They participated in the day's events and were awarded a trophy and certificates for being the most creative, disciplined and organized group.

Thanks to Mrs. Omondi and Mrs. Muriuki the club patrons and all the Y.C.S. members.

St. John's Club

This year the St. John's cadets took part in the Casualty Simulation Training which was held in school and they attained a certificate. On 7th March, they attended the Central Region Competition at Pioneer School and emerged the best team in the First Aid Evacuation – junior team and were awarded a trophy. The team also received a trophy for being the 1st Runners up in the Central Region First Aid competition. Vanessa Aluoch was awarded a gold medal for being the outstanding cadet in evacuation emergencies. The team will be taking part in the County and

Regional First Aid Competition which will begin in May. Congratulations to St. John's for these achievements.

Special thanks to St. John's members and your patrons Mr. Kiruthu and Mrs. Mugo for the service you render to our school during events and also during emergency situations. You have truly lived to your motto 'Service to Mankind'.

Journalism

The club members are tasked with gathering information and taking photos during school events which they will use for putting together the School Year Book. They are working towards this project so that the Year Book will be out by October this year. Thank you Journalism team for the good work you do in producing our school magazine yearly.

The school has also engaged in other activities.

Mary Ward Week

We celebrated our Foundress Mary Ward Week from 22nd to 28th January 2018. Our theme was 'The Service of Faith & Promotion of Justice. Each house had a presentation with a Mary Ward Message which was done in the course of the week. The week culminated with a celebration of Mass and presentations. This was done jointly with the primary school on Friday 26th January, 2018. Sr. Maria Goretti gave a message on Mary Ward to the pupils and students.

Science Fair

This year our annual Science Fair was organized and managed by the Science Club. It was held on 2nd February. A total of 22 projects were registered and were of good quality. It was evident that they were well researched. Ball House emerged winners for the 2018 fair. A group from Innovate Kenya – a forum organized and sponsored by International Global Minimum Organization (GMIN) were present. Their objective is to encourage students to come up with Science based projects and innovations that help solve societal issues and problems. A total of 11 projects were entered for the Innovate competition and the same projects were entered for the Westlands Sub-county Science and Engineering Fair

competitions held on 9th March at Karura SDA School. 1 project proceeded for the Regional Science Fair yesterday and we are awaiting results.

Family Fun Day

Our annual Family Fun Day was held jointly with the primary school on Sunday 2nd February 2018. The parents, teachers, pupils and students together with their siblings took part in the various activities. Apart from the activities, we had our talk on mental health from a doctor and also health checks for all. Our theme was 'Msongari Game of Life for Mental Wellness'. The activities were organized in houses and they were competing. Borgia House emerged the winners. It was a successful event and the turnout was great.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Our students have continued to develop a sense of responsibility and show special concern to those who are less privileged than themselves through community outreach initiatives.

- Last term the Drama club went to Dagoretti Girls Rehabilitation Centre – an approved school for girls. They participated in storytelling, reading exercises as well as performing various items to the girls in the centre. They also donated story books, sanitary towels and household items.
- The Y.C.S. members visited a centre 'Mums love caregivers' in Uthuru. They donated clothes, foodstuff, soaps and gave a cash donation of Ksh. 14,000.
- The choir went to Ruai Boys town – a home for street boys. They donated mattresses, foodstuff and stationery. They did some presentations to the boys.
- The choir also animated the Youth Mass in Karen – Regina Caeli Church and also attended the youth meeting and inspired them.
- This year the Scouts went to Nyeri for the 161st Founders Day celebrations held at Baden Powell Park on 24th February 2018. They participated in drills and were awarded certificates.

- The Scouts also paid a visit to Nyumbani Children's Home in February. They had an interactive session with the children of all ages. They donated foodstuff to the home.
- The students raised money during the Mary Ward week. It amounted to Ksh. 55,850/= which in addition to our Lenten contributions of Ksh. 56,000 will go towards St. Joseph's Kangemi and St. Teresa's school – 'Loreto helping Loreto' Project. In total the girls raised Ksh. 101,850. Thank you girls for your generosity.

SPIRITUAL FORMATION

Loreto Msongari continues to place great emphasis on spiritual welfare and formation of our students.

- We have Mass every Friday and Sunday for boarders and also daily evening prayers for boarders.
- In May every year we have retreats for students and for the staff in June.
- Each class has a pastoral lesson weekly.
- During this Lent season, we have had 'The Way of the Cross' every Friday.
- Rosary recitation and novenas continue to be done by various groups of students.

All these aspects offer a unique opportunity for the girls to deepen their relationship with God.

This year we have 20 students undertaking catechism classes, 6 for baptism who will in turn have classes for First Holy Communion, and 20 for Sacrament of Confirmation.

At this juncture, parents, I would like to assure you that we are continuing to improve and are on course in realizing our vision to mould and develop a balanced with values that will live on with them and hence becoming a useful member of society.

Do continue to support the school; let us work as a team as we pool together and embrace positivity for the betterment of our school and the girls.

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. Sophie Achieng.
- 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 the participation of the administration and support staff. You contribute greatly to the success of the school.
- I acknowledge and appreciate the following donations:
 - AON Minet for donating vouchers.
 - Nairobi Sports House for donating trophies.
 - His Excellency the President for donating a 51-seater bus.

To all those going to be awarded today in the various fields – congratulations and keep up the good work. To the others, take up the challenge, you still have the opportunity next time to excel.

Thank you girls, I do acknowledge each one of you for uniquely contributing to achievements of the school in one way or another.

I wish you all a Happy Easter. Happy Holidays to you girls. Be a source of joy and happiness to your family and those around you.

Thank you all and May God bless you and God bless Loreto Msongari.