

**ADDRESS GIVEN BY THE PRINCIPAL MRS. MBUGUA ON
PRIZE GIVING DAY HELD ON THURSDAY 4TH APRIL, 2019.**

Our Guest of honour, Sheila M'mbijiwe, our Education Secretary, Sr. Sophie Achieng', Msongari Community Leader Sr. Maria Goretti, Advisory Board members, the Loreto Primary School Head Mrs. Mutuku, Heads of schools present, Loreto Sisters present, Loreto Alumni, invited guests, our dear parents, members of staff , students, Ladies and gentlemen; Good Morning.

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to our 2019 Prize Giving Day. This is indeed a great day for us as we take stock of our achievements and acknowledge the collective effort of all the stakeholders of our school. We thank God for what we have achieved so far as we also acknowledge there are areas that we do need to improve.

Today we will be awarding those who have excelled in various categories: academic, co-curricular activities, leadership and personality.

I do acknowledge each of you girls for you have uniquely contributed to the achievements of the school in one way or another. Keep the Msongari flag flying high.

In a special way I would like to welcome our Guest of Honour Ms Sheila M'mbijiwe a Msongari product (alumnus) to our school. We take so much pride in you and we are happy & honoured to have you with us today. Karibu sana.

Today we also bid farewell to our Year 11 girls who will begin their IGCSE 'O' Level exams this April to finish in June. They are prepared for exams and we are praying for God's blessings as they do their exams.

Allow me to now give the school report.

Our Guest of Honour as you know, Loreto education aspires to form a well-balanced person integrating the physical, spiritual & academic aspect of the student as well as nurturing and appreciating their giftedness. Hence our students are involved in diverse activities, programs and also enriching learning experiences in and out of the classroom. We have marked great milestones as a school and I will be highlighting these.

ENROLMENT

Our school has grown in numbers. Our current enrolment stands at a total of 429 students, with 294 being boarders. This has given the school an opportunity to take part in numerous activities without the risk of overstretching the girls. There is something for each and every girl.

ACADEMICS

K.C.S.E. 2018

Last year the school registered 64 candidates for the K.C.S.E exams. We attained a mean grade of 6.72 C+ which was an improvement of 0.65 from 2017 mean of 6.07 C. Our top student was Brenda Wendo who attained an A- of 75 points. The best performed subject, 2nd year running was Home science with a mean of 9.36 B. Congratulations to Mrs. Muriuki. The most improved subject was French from 4.73 C- to 7.00 C+. The best department was Technical with a mean of 8.31 B-. Congratulations to Mrs. Odude the H.O.D.& the team. The most improved department was Languages with a mean of 7.04 C+ up from 5.83 C. All subjects marked a positive deviation apart from Physics and C.R.E.

This year we have a candidate class of 55 students. They have just finished their pre-mock exams. Our target this year is 7.5 B-.

- Every department has set targets and have come up with strategies to improve.
- I am happy to report that Maths has marked tremendous progress in the last 4 years from 4.8C- to 6.5 C+. The girls' attitude towards

Maths has changed. They are positive. Consequently we are having more students taking Physics.

- Our challenge still remains with Chemistry and Biology. We are networking with Kenya High School in order to improve.
- We have also been sourcing exams externally and also having some exams marked by external teachers/examiners.
- These and many other efforts have been directed towards continuous improvement and it is our hope that these efforts will bear fruit.

I.G.C.S.E.

Year 11 – 2018

The school presented 23 candidates for the IGCSE ‘O’ Level exams last year. The class marked an improvement of 1.18 from a mean of 4.8 to 6.21. The best student was Zoe Gichuhi with a distinction: 4A*, 1A, 1B, 1C. The best performed subject was Literature in English with a mean of 7.00B. Congratulations Ms. Muyela. The most improved subject was Physics from 3.9 to 6.33. The best department was Maths with an improvement of 2.08. Out of 14 subjects only French marked a drop. The class attained 3 distinctions, 11 merits, 8 passes and 1 fail.

This year we have a candidate class of 28 students who will begin their exams this month on 18th April. This is a better class than last year and is very promising. We are expecting good performance. We are working on improving Business Studies, Art & Design and Biology which is a challenge. We have engaged the students in thorough revision and have done a lot of practice papers in various subjects. Year 11 you have all it takes to excel, keep the focus and do your best. All the best in your exams.

CHECKPOINT EXAM

33 Year 9 students will be sitting for their Checkpoint exam from 15th - 17th April. They will be tested in Maths, English and Science. Best wishes Year 9 and may God bless the work of your hands.

In the past 1 year, the students have had engaging learning experiences out of class. These have provided more focus and relevance to concepts learnt in class. I will mention just a few.

- Form 3 Home science students visited and Yr 10 & 11 Business students visited Cold Stone Creamery.
- Form 3s & Yr 10s took an educational trip to Mombasa/Malindi.
- 2 students sat for Delf French exam at Alliance Francaise.
- 15 girls attended a Maths contest at Strathmore University.
- Art students F2 – F4, Yr 10 – Yr 11 visited the National museum and Railways museum.
- Yr 9 & 10 Art students went to Rusinga School for an Art session.
- F3 & F4 French students went to Starehe Boys Centre for a French day.
- The girls have also attended symposiums in various schools e.g. Humanities at Nairobi School.
- The F4 candidates went in February to watch plays based on their set books both in English and Kiswahili at Ufungamano hall.
- The F4s have had sessions with Peak Performance International on breaking examination barriers, keys to examination success & learning techniques.
- This April year 8s and 10s will be going for their class trip to Mombasa.

Apart from preparing students for good performance in academics, Loreto Msongari endeavours to offer an opportunity to students to discover and develop their talents thus becoming fully integrated persons. Our girls have participated in various activities. I will recap some of them.

SPORTS

Swimming

This term the swimming team has participated in 3 competitions. In the Alliance Bush tournament, the team came 4th overall. In the Westlands sub-county Kenya Secondary Schools Sports Association competition,

the team came 3rd and were awarded 2 gold medals and 8 silver. They proceeded to the regionals but did not make it to the nationals. This was very encouraging as the school has not reached this level in a long time. In NAKIFEO Invitation Swimming Championship 2019 competition, the team was 2nd runners up. They received a trophy, 6 gold, 8 silver and 7 bronze medals. They qualified to go for the next level in Uganda but did not go due to logistics challenges.

Congratulations to the swimming team for the great effort and Coach Annabelle for the improvement in swimming.

We held our annual swimming gala on Saturday, 16th March. Gordon house emerged the winners while Borgia house was the most organised. The best senior swimmer was Viola Konji and the best junior swimmer was Anita Okoyo. Joy Kendi was the most promising junior swimmer and Lillian Njambi was the most promising senior swimmer. The most improved junior swimmer was Ruby Gitau and the most improved senior was Pauline Orina.

In the Ball Games, the various school teams participated in the Kenya Secondary Schools Sports Association (KSSSA) league, the International Private Schools Sports Association (IPSSA) tournament and the Alliance Bush Tournament.

Hockey

The hockey team reached the semi-finals in the KSSSA league. In the Bush tournament they were eliminated in the quarter finals. They also participated in the St. Andrews Turi tournament in Molo and were second position in their pool. The team also played in the finals of the plate and won the trophy.

Netball

The netball team has not played any league game as this is a Term II game. They have been training in readiness for the KSSSA league. However last year they reached the regionals representing Westlands Sub-county. They reached the semi-finals and were ranked position 4 in

the Nairobi Region. Stephanie Mwaura was voted the girl of the match at the semi finals.

Athletics

The school participated in the KSSSA – Athletics competitions for the first time and did very well. 4 athletes qualified to represent the Westlands Sub-county in the Regional games. They became position 3 & 4 and thus did not qualify for the Nationals.

Volleyball

The team participated in the Alliance Bush Open and lost in the preliminaries.

Soccer

The team participated in the Mang’u Open in January 2019 and lost in the group stage. In February they took part in the Alliance Bush Open and reached the quarter finals. In the IPSSA under 15 tournament, the team emerged the winners out of 7 schools. They are the under 15 IPSSA champions 2nd year running.

In the KSSSA – Westlands league, the under 16 reached the quarter finals while the Under 19 qualified for quarter finals which will be held in May 2019.

I do want to sincerely thank Coach Josephine and her team of sports teachers for the great effort and achievements in the various sports.

CLUBS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

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

MUN

The MUN club members took part in the 36th edition of the East Africa Model United Nation. This year’s theme was “Tujenge pamoja”. Our

school was assigned 3 countries: Australia, Luxembourg and Togo. Our delegation comprised 21 students. 1 Senior chair, 1 Press Corp, 3 Ambassadors, 4 Secretaries & 12 Delegates in different committees i.e. Political, Economic, Human Rights, Special Summit, Ecology, International Court of Justice (ICJ), Global Agenda & Environment.

The MUN girls wrote and presented resolutions on:

- i. Maximizing the use of reclaimed land for infrastructural development in Kenya on a 3 year pilot program.
- ii. Eradicating early child marriages in South Sudan.
- iii. Initiating negotiation platforms to solve Burundian political crisis.

They were awarded certificates of participation.

The school will also participate in the Sub-Saharan International Model United Nations (SAIMUN) 2019. The conferences will be held in Nairobi and Johannesburg. Our Guest of Honour, this is a club that trains young people various skills through activities i.e. public speaking, debating, problem solving, conflict management, diplomacy, negotiations, lobbying, research, team work, leadership and working in an international environment.

We thank Mr. Otieno and Mrs. Sagao for preparing the girls for the conference.

President's Award Club

This year on 2nd March the club had a successful pre-adventurous journey to Kilimambogo where they climbed the mountain. They will undertake the complete journey to Kilifi and Mombasa after we close school. The Residential project group is expected to finish their project in August. The club currently has 18 gold awardees, 28 silver and 40 bronze.

On 20th March 10 members who had successfully completed the gold level were awarded the gold certificate in State house by the President.

Congratulations Mr. Ondiek and Mrs. Sagao as we look forward to more golds next year.

Drama Club

The school participated in the Kenya Drama & Film Festivals 2019 with a play entitled *Blast from the Past*, Spoken Word entitled *Timeless Soon*, a film entitled *Sister Sister*, a Narrative entitled *Throw Back*, and an Advert *Red Ants Soccer Academy*.

In the Westlands Sub-county the play was position 3 and proceeded to the County level where we finished position 6 out of 29. At the Regionals the play qualified for the gala and emerged position 2. We are proceeding to the Nationals representing Nairobi County in April. Maria Isis was awarded the best performing artist, Hope Majale was awarded the 1st Runners up best actress and Natalie Kaswii was awarded the 2nd runners up best actress.

The Spoken Word was position 3 at the Sub-county level and proceeded to the County level where it was eliminated.

The film, narrative and advert competed at the Regional level and are also proceeding to the Nationals which are taking place at Kibabii University in Bungoma from the 3rd – 12th of April.

Congratulations to Mr. Ouma, Mrs. Masinde and the Drama club for the great achievements. We wish you well at the Nationals.

St. John's Ambulance Club

This year St. John's members took part in the Nairobi County competition held in Hospital Hill. Our school emerged the best senior nursing team and were awarded gold medals in First Aid evacuation. The team qualified for the Nairobi Region competition where they were position 3 out of 39 schools. We did not make it for the Nationals. Vanessa Aluoch was awarded a gold medal as the outstanding cadet in evacuation emergencies.

In March the club took part in the Central Region symposium at Murang'a High School and were recognized for attaining the following: Position 1 and 2 in the Trivia category, Position 2 in CPR category, Position 1 in theory paper and position 1 in AED category. They ranked position 1 overall.

Congratulations to St. John's team. I also take this opportunity to thank you for the service you give to the school during events and emergency situations. Thank you Mr. Kiruthu and Mrs. Mugo for the good leadership.

Debate Club

The debate club got an opportunity to participate for the 1st time in the renowned World Scholars Cup. This tournament has 4 events: Scholars Bowl, Collaborative Writing, Scholars Challenge and Team Debate. This year's theme was 'A World on the Margins' and the subject areas were History, Social Studies, Science, Literature, Music and Art. 10 girls took part and collected 68 medals. Faith Korir F4 received a special award for exceptional performance in the debate challenge and was chosen for the Debate Show Case. The team qualified for the Global Round which will take part in Beijing – China from 21st – 26th June 2019. It is my hope that the parents will support the girls to participate in this global tournament. Well done Ms. Muyela and the debaters. May the girls continue to shine with their oratory skills.

Journalism Club

The journalism club members are tasked with producing the School Annual Book. Last year the edition was out in October and they had done a good job. They are now working on this year's edition. Thank you Mrs. Mukima and the journalism club for good work.

Environment Club

The environment club has been at the forefront in Beating Plastic Pollution. They have also been keen to try and improve the natural beauty of our school by planting trees and flowers. They inaugurated a Msongari garden last year at a ceremony that was graced by members of Green Peace Kenya. We thank Mr. Moseti and the Environment club for the initiative.

Science

This year the school annual Science & Engineering Fair was held on 1st March. There was great improvement on the projects in terms of ideas,

research, display and presentation as compared to last year. There were a total of 21 projects presented in various categories: Physics, Biology, Engineering and Transport, Computer Science, Chemistry, Biotechnology, Food technology and Textiles.

Of these projects we took 13 to the Sub-county Science & Engineering Fair competitions where 7 of the projects qualified for the Regionals which were held on 21st March. Out of these 5 projects qualified for the Metropolitan competitions last week. We have 1 project proceeding to the Nationals in Nakuru from the 7th to 13th of April – a project in Engineering by Tamara Omondi and Rachael Muigai. Congratulations girls and we wish you well at the nationals.

I would also like to thank Mr. Wachira and the science team for the great work with the girls. This is a great motivation for the girls that yes they excel in Science.

Music

Our choir last year had the opportunity to participate in the Competition of Choirs of Secondary schools in Nairobi organised by Youth Network of Inter-religious Brotherhood. They presented 3 songs and were position 1 out of 8 schools. They received a trophy, medals and certificates. Congratulations to Tr. Geoffrey and the choir.

This year they will be participating in the Kenya Music Festivals which will be held next term. They are now training for the festivals.

Though music is not an examinable subject in the school, the girls are trained to play the guitar and piano. We wish to take music to the next level and are partnering with Funtasia Music School and engaging them from next term. They will be training interested students in other instruments e.g. violin, clarinet & Brass instrument, trumpet, trombone, tuba, etc. These girls will in turn form a school band.

Art

Art has really come up. The Art students participated in the MASK prize competition last year. This is a creativity competition for young people in Africa. 2 students (Tracyros Wairimu & Melissa Pola) art

works were selected amongst the outstanding and creative art works. They were presented with prizes at an award ceremony held at Michael Joseph Centre. The selected art works are being exhibited at Leading Congress USA and the Tuner Contemporary UK.

The Art club has also been very active working towards their theme 'Art and our Learning Environment'. They have produced art works for different school areas. They also have an Art display today.

We thank Mr. Wabuti for the progress and great work in Art.

The school has also engaged in other activities:

Mary Ward Week

We celebrated our foundress Mary Ward week from 23rd – 30th January 2019. Our theme was 'Emulating Mary Ward in the 21st Century'. Each house had a presentation which was done in the course of the week. The week culminated with a celebration of Mass and presentations on 31st January, jointly with our primary school. Sr. Catherine Okari gave a talk and message on Mary Ward.

Family Fun Day

Our annual Family Fun Day held jointly with our primary school took place on 3rd February 2019. Our theme was 'Msongari Embracing Technology with Real Family Conversations'.

The activities were organized in the various houses and were competitive. Each team had a representative of a father, mother, teacher, high school student and primary pupil. Borgia House emerged the winners. It was a fun filled day of bonding and the turnout was very good. In Loreto Msongari we believe that if we strengthen the family, we will have better children and ultimately a better society.

Teachers/Parents Forums

This year we have had parents/teachers/students forums for Year 8, 9 & 11, Form 2 & 4. The meetings have been fruitful with discussions and

feedback on ways to improve performance. One student, Daisy Njeri Mukaru F2 participated in a Leadership program – the Emerging Youth Leaders Camp (ELYC) in November 2018. She displayed exceptional leadership skills and was therefore selected to participate in this year’s Global Youth Leadership Summit (GYLS). GYLS is organized by Tony Robbins Foundation and brings together over 500 teenagers from all over the world. The Summit will take place at the University of San Diego in USA from 29th July to 4th August 2019. We do attest that our girls are globally competitive as in line with our vision.

CAPACITY BUILDING

Our teachers are engaged in processes of reflection and assessment, not only of students’ growth but also of their own professional learning to best provide learning experiences for our girls which fulfil the Loreto education mission.

- Our teachers have had the opportunity to network and benchmark with teachers from Kenya High, Nairobi School, Loreto Limuru, Alliance and Strathmore.
- The teachers have also attended workshops in Kiswahili and English on review of KCSE 2018, setting and marking of set books.
- We have also had teachers undergo online and face to face IGCSE training in Chemistry, Geography, English and History. We have also had them trained as 8-4-4 examiners in Kiswahili, C.R.E., Maths, Physics, History, French & Geography.
- Some teachers have attended workshops this term on Science & Engineering fair, Drama & Y.C.S.
- 7 teachers together with some Year 9 parents attended a 12 week parenting programme facilitated by Dr. Kinyanjui Ng’ang’a (a parent) who is a life coach, corporate trainer and an author.
- All the teachers and administration staff underwent a one day training on Child Protection & Safety organised by the Loreto Development Office. The support staff also undertook the same training.
- The Careers Master attended a careers guidance training organised by Pace Careers Institute from South Africa. The training was

aimed at equipping the teacher with necessary tools to enable them help learners identify career fields best suited for them.

The students have also engaged in capacity building at different levels.

- The Students' council jointly with prefects from LCVR attended a 2 day leadership workshop at Mary Ward Centre. They also had an opportunity to attend a Students' Council Symposium at Mang'u High School organised by the Archdiocese of Nairobi Education Office.
- Form 4s have interacted /engaged with examiners in various subjects.
- Form 1s, 2s & Yr 8s have had ground counselling sessions and talks from a Youth Counsellor.
- All the girls had a talk on Menstrual Health.
- All class secretaries attended a seminar on leadership, social media and peace building facilitated by Hekima University College.
- Y.C.S. members attended a rally at Mang'u High School where they were educated on HIV/AIDS, drug abuse, early pregnancies and peer pressure.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Our students have continued to develop a sense of social responsibility and moral obligation towards those in our community and society that are less privileged than themselves. They have been generous and contributed towards various community outreach programs.

- Last year the girls have participated in Boot Cancer Challenge an initiative in support and fight against cancer, Mater Heart Run & the Catholic Education Walk.
- The girls every year have been raising money during our founder Mary Ward Week and Lenten period. This is done from January to March. This money goes to Loreto helping Loreto projects.
- The President's Award club and Drama club visited Humble Hearts school in Ruai. They donated foodstuff, clothes, toiletries and stationery. They also renovated for them 3 classrooms and the staffroom.

- The choir visited St. Charles Lwanga Boys Centre in Ruai, a rehabilitation centre for street children. They donated food stuff, stationery, clothes and cash.
- In February this year, the Scouts and Y.C.S. members visited Kenyatta National Hospital paediatric oncology ward. They donated 6 adult chairs, 6 pediatric chairs, 1 water dispenser, writing materials and fruits.
- The St. John's cadets visited Wamo Children's Home in Kawangware slums. They donated foodstuff and books. The teachers and administration staff were not left behind. They also visited the same children's home (Wamo) and donated foodstuff, blankets and mattresses.

SPIRITUAL FORMATION

Loreto Msongari continues to place great emphasis on spiritual welfare and formation of our students. We have Mass every Friday for all the students and Sunday for the boarders and also daily evening prayers for the boarders.

In May/June we have retreats for students and teachers annually. Each class has a pastoral lesson weekly. We also have some students reciting the rosary and going for The Way of the Cross during this Lent season.

We have also begun Novenas – prayers for our Year 11 candidates. All these aspects offer a unique opportunity to the girls to deepen their relationship with God and grow in faith as they experience divine love and mercy.

Last year in October we had 16 girls who received the sacrament of confirmation. This year we have 26 students undertaking catechism classes: 11 for Sacrament of Baptism & 1st Holy Communion and 15 for Confirmation. We thank Sr. Victorine, Sr. Rainer and Mrs. Muriuki for always preparing the girls to receive the various sacraments.

As I conclude, I am proud to say that the school has grown in many aspects and we pledge best effort to continue improving. I assure you that we are on course in realizing our vision to mould and develop a balanced girl.

Lastly I wish to sincerely acknowledge and thank the following:-

- The Loreto Sisters for giving the girls an opportunity to receive an education and for the immense support that you give to the school. It is so comforting to look over our shoulder and see you cheering us on.
- I do appreciate the support and guidance of the Loreto Education Secretary Sr. Sophie Achieng' and the Advisory Board under the great leadership of our Chair Mr. Ole Perrio.
- The teaching staff for their commitment in giving guided empowering growth and inspiration to the girls. Your good deeds will definitely go a long way.
- I do acknowledge the participation of the administration and support staff and sincerely thank you for your service and contribution, often working behind the scenes for the success of the school.
- To our parents for your support and co-operation as we partner together in bringing out the best in our children. Thank you for entrusting us with your daughters. Special thanks to the parents who are members of the Task Force in the various classes. Your commitment, resources, ideas, time and your invaluable support and at times taking up the heat from your fellow parents for the sake of our girls is appreciated by the school.
- To our alumni, we are grateful for supporting our programs and always ever willing to offer mentorship to our girls.
- I acknowledge and appreciate School Outfitters & Nairobi Sports House for the donations of trophies to this Prize Giving Day.

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