



LORETO CONVENT SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Learning and Leading in Love and Justice

Volume 21 Issue 09

05 June 2019

Dear Parents,

This week we celebrate the birthday of our school! What a blessing to have such a rich history. This year, our School turns a grand 141 years old!

The history of Loreto Convent School begins with an intrepid young pioneer sister called Mary Ward. Born in 1585, and founder of the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary, or, Loreto Sisters, the Sisters were responsible for the founding of Loreto Convent School in 1878, in the building they still call home to this day.



Mary Ward travelled to France, where she and her fellow sisters opened their first school for girls in Saint-Omer in 1609. Mary believed strongly in the education of girls – and not only wealthy girls, but those from the poor communities. The Schools that she opened were innovative for their time, offering not only modern languages, but also drama, dancing and music. Three brave Irish sisters, Mother Margaret Mary Jolivet, Mother Joseph Colahan and Mother Teresa Colahan, opened the school at Skinner Street, on 7 June 1878, with 20 pupils enrolled in the high school and 6 in the parochial school. In 1879, the government of the time commended the school for the high level of education offered to the learners.

During the siege of Pretoria in 1880, the school was used to house British soldiers and the school was closed down for a short period. By 1881, the siege ended and life at school returned to normal. Numbers continued to grow. During the Anglo Boer War that followed, the school was once again closed and used as a hospital for wounded soldiers. President Kruger's message to the nuns at that time was very reassuring: "Let the ladies at the Convent have no fear; if anything happens, they shall be the first to be protected."

Stuber

From the Principal's Office

www.loreto.co.za
pa@loreto.co.za

012 326 6342

The school building was enlarged in 1922. School enrolment at Loreto Convent School in Skinner Street, reached a peak in 1953, with 853 learners enrolled at the school. Where everyone was accommodated at that time remains a mystery! In the early 1970's, the school opened its doors to learners of colour. This led to great conflict with authorities and as a result, the school was barred from using the City Hall as a venue for large functions. In 1978, the school celebrated its centenary, which included a week of festivities. A pageant of the history of Loreto in South Africa was held on the hockey field, and was a spectacular event, combining all of 3 the Loreto schools in the country in a colourful display.

The year 1988, saw the establishment of the first Board of Governors, to administrate the functioning of the school. One year later, Mrs H elene Addis was chosen to become the first lay Principal of the school (replacing Sister Joan, the last Sister Principal) and many improvements were made to the school during her time as Principal, removing any doubt as to the wisdom of the decision to involve the laity.

In 1996, Mrs Ren e d' Oliviera succeeded Mrs Addis as the school Principal. A new school hall was opened in 1998 to accommodate the entire school community in one venue. A House system was reintroduced to motivate learners and create school spirit, namely, St Gabriel, St Michael and St Raphael. The Representative Council of Learners was established in 1996, to serve as a link between staff and learners, and every class in the High School is represented on this council. A Code of Conduct was accepted as school policy in 2001, which requires both learners and parents to sign and abide by the code of discipline upheld by the school.

Mr Stuart Shillinglaw was appointed the Principal in 2006. During this time, the school grew in numbers to almost 800 learners and a third class per grade was introduced in the High School to cater for the demand. The school has achieved a 100% Matric Pass Rate for the last 25 years, which attests to the high quality of education that is offered at Loreto Convent School. The bachelor pass rate increased to 97%, which placed the school as the best performing school in the district for the 2013 senior certificate examination.

Mrs Suzette Truter is the current executive principal of the school, replacing Mr Shillinglaw, following his retirement in 2016. She is keenly focused on the importance of teachers in the lives of learners. "As a teacher, one often finds oneself in situations where, by doing something, seemingly insignificant, you have an enormous impact on learners you work with. I feel as though the past 24 years at Loreto Convent School, has had a powerful impact on my personal life as I have worked with many learners who have made a difference in my own life and I can only hope that I, myself, have managed to do so for them as well".

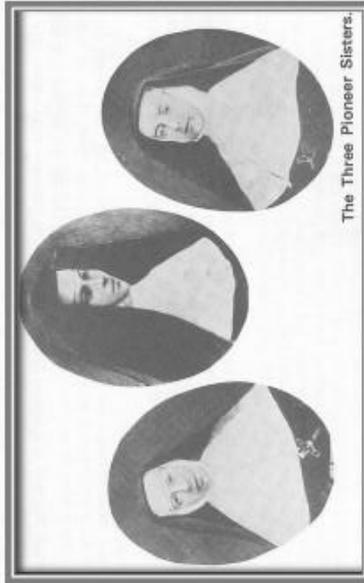
A new Cr che was started in 2018 to address a need in the Loreto community, and is also going from strength to strength. One of the biggest challenges that the school faces is the upkeep of such an old building and grounds. A large portion of the current budget is used to maintain the buildings, upgrade infrastructure and the grounds of the school. The annual building levy that every family pays, goes a very long way in helping to keep up with repairs, maintenance and new upgrades. For this we are very grateful.

Despite the declining numbers of Catholic learners and staff, the School maintains its Christian ethos based on Catholic tradition. The school day starts with a morning prayer and notices for the day, and later in the day learners gather for a second prayer in the quad. There are regular Religious Education classes and Masses held at school. Weekly assemblies are held at school where a religious and moral message is presented to learners. Loreto Convent School has a vast and rich history, spanning over 140 years. From humble beginnings in a small town with 12 000 residents, it has grown to be a giant in the field of education, preserving its rich religious and cultural heritage.

The School has seen many eras of change, and will likely see many more, as it continues to strive for excellence and live up to its crest motto: "In the Cross, while I breathe, I trust." We look forward to what this new birthday year will bring and we will strive to continue the high standards of education that was started 141 years ago by a remarkable group of women.



School Founded 7 June 1878



The Three Pioneer Sisters.



Highest Enrolment in 1953 – 853!



“I hope in God, it will be seen that women, in time, will do much...” Mary Ward



“We are living in an information-driven society which bombards us indiscriminately with data—all treated as being of equal importance—and which leads to remarkable superficiality in the area of moral discernment. In response, we need to provide an education which teaches critical thinking and encourages the development of mature moral values.”

Pope Francis 2013

GENERAL NEWS (HS AND PS)

SCHOOL CONTACTS:

General Enquiries and Reception – Mrs Mateka – 012 326 6342 (switchboard) reception@loreto.co.za

Executive Principal– Mrs Truter – principal@loreto.co.za

Executive Principal's Office – Mrs Stoman – pa@loreto.co.za

Admissions – Ms Westra – admissions@loreto.co.za

Finance Office Mrs Swart – finance@loreto.co.za

Primary School Deputy Principal – Ms Hill – michelleh@loreto.co.za

High School Deputy Principal – Ms Alves (previously Mrs Pinto) – mariaa@loreto.co.za

EMIS Officer – Mrs Swanepoel – admin@loreto.co.za

Sports and Physical Education Queries – Mrs Haupt – sherilynh@loreto.co.za

Daycare – daycare@loreto.co.za

Website (for booklists, school fee info, bank details, calendar, newsletters and other information)
www.loreto.co.za

Message from the Board and Catholic Schools' Trust

Investigations in the beginning of this year that were carried out by the school's senior management team and auditors uncovered significant financial irregularities. These pointed to fraudulent activities on the part of the then bursar, who suddenly resigned her post during February. The matter has been taken up by the school's lawyers, and has been handed over to the police's commercial crimes unit.

Prof D Kourie – Chairperson of the Board

UNALLOCATED PAYMENTS / REFERENCES

We have a large number of payments that have been made into the school's bank account that do not have any references, or incorrect references. If you have made one of these payments, please do send your proof of payment to Mrs Swart at finance@loreto.co.za so that she can allocate it.

We would also like to appeal to parents to **PLEASE** reference their payments correctly, as it is almost impossible to allocate correctly, or understand what is being paid for. Reference payments as following please:



LORETO CONVENT SCHOOL

P.O. Box 11381
The Tramshed
0126
Tel: 0123266342
Fax: 0123242780
E-mail: finance@loreto.co.za

Banking details: Standard Bank Main Account
Bank: Standard Bank of S.A Ltd
Branch code: 051001
Account holder: Loreto Convent School
Account number: 010387927
Account type: Cheque

ACCOUNT STATEMENT ON 20 MARCH 2019

Account reference: **1017** (MOK012)

Learner information:

[Grade 1/1F]

The reference is your four digit family code number, NOT the old family code (in this case, NOT MOK012 please)!

Thereafter, please indicate what the amount being paid is for. This means, that for this account, the correct bank references will look like this:

1017 School Fees

D1017 Day Care

1017 Extra Fees

1017 Textbooks

1017 Netball Camp

1017 Hockey Camp

1017 Matric Dance

Please also do try to pay correct amounts, as the system gets confused when large amounts are paid that do not match any amounts. When amounts are correct, and referenced in this way, the system is able to allocate to the account automatically and mistakes are avoided.

Please do try to assist us in this regard so that we can effectively provide a great service to you!



PRIMARY SCHOOL

- ♥ All children should be in **full winter uniform** now. Please ensure that your child has all the necessary items. Learners may not mix summer and winter uniform. Tracksuits may be worn to school during the winter.
- ♥ Grade 4 to 7 girls are very busy with **exams** at the moment. Please ensure that your child is on time for school and has all the necessary stationery.
- ♥ School is finishing at **11h00 during the exam time**. There will be day care as usual up to and including the last day of school, which is Friday, 21 June. (Please ensure that you are aware that government schools close on Friday, 14 June.) Children who are not in day care will have a venue in which to study until 14h00. Day care children will have lunch at 14h00, so please ensure that you send their normal school lunch, which can be eaten at 11h00.
- ♥ There will be **normal school** during the last week of term, **18 to 21 June**. The children will follow the normal daily timetable and school will end at 14h00. There will not, however, be any after-school activities. Teachers will use this time to go through the exam papers and to finalise marks.
- ♥ A request to parents to **not include any bubble gum** or chewing gum in party packs sent to school. Gum is strictly forbidden at school.
- ♥ We will be celebrating our **school's birthday** on 07 June with a Mass (Grade 4-12) and a Paraliturgy (Grade R-3) starting at 7h45. Children must please wear their **full winter school**

uniform for this celebration BUT Grade 4-6 girls must **bring their sports clothes and house shirts** with to school to change into after Mass, as they will be practising athletics until 11h00.

-  **Happy Father's Day** to all our very special dads and granddads on 17 June.
-  **Foundation Phase (Grade R-3) Parents' Evening** will take place on **Tuesday, 18 June**, from 16h00-18h00. The teachers will all be in their classes.
-  The Primary School will be having the **annual Inter-House athletics** meeting on Thursday 20 June, during school time. ALL learners, Grade R-7 to please wear **sports clothes** to school, with **house shirts**.
-  **School closes** for the winter holiday on **Friday, 21 June at 11h00**, and reopens on **Wednesday, 17 July**.
-  On **Thursday, 18 July**, we will be celebrating **Mandela Day**. As a school, we will be collecting any school-related items to donate to less privileged school children in and around Pretoria. We ask that every child brings at least one item to school on that day, for example, old school shoes, white school shirts that have been outgrown but are still in good condition. We would also appreciate donations of stationery, books, old story books etc.
-  **Re-registration for 2020 is now open**. A fee of **R2 500** is payable in order to secure a space for your child for next year. Please indicate your reference number clearly when making payment.
-  The **Grade 4 to 12 Parents' Evening** has been brought forward a week and will take place on **Thursday 25 July** and not 1 August.
-  The School will be making important upgrades and changes to our **security** and will be employing a security company to **monitor access** to the school during the day. We will communicate all of the changes to parents in our next newsletter.

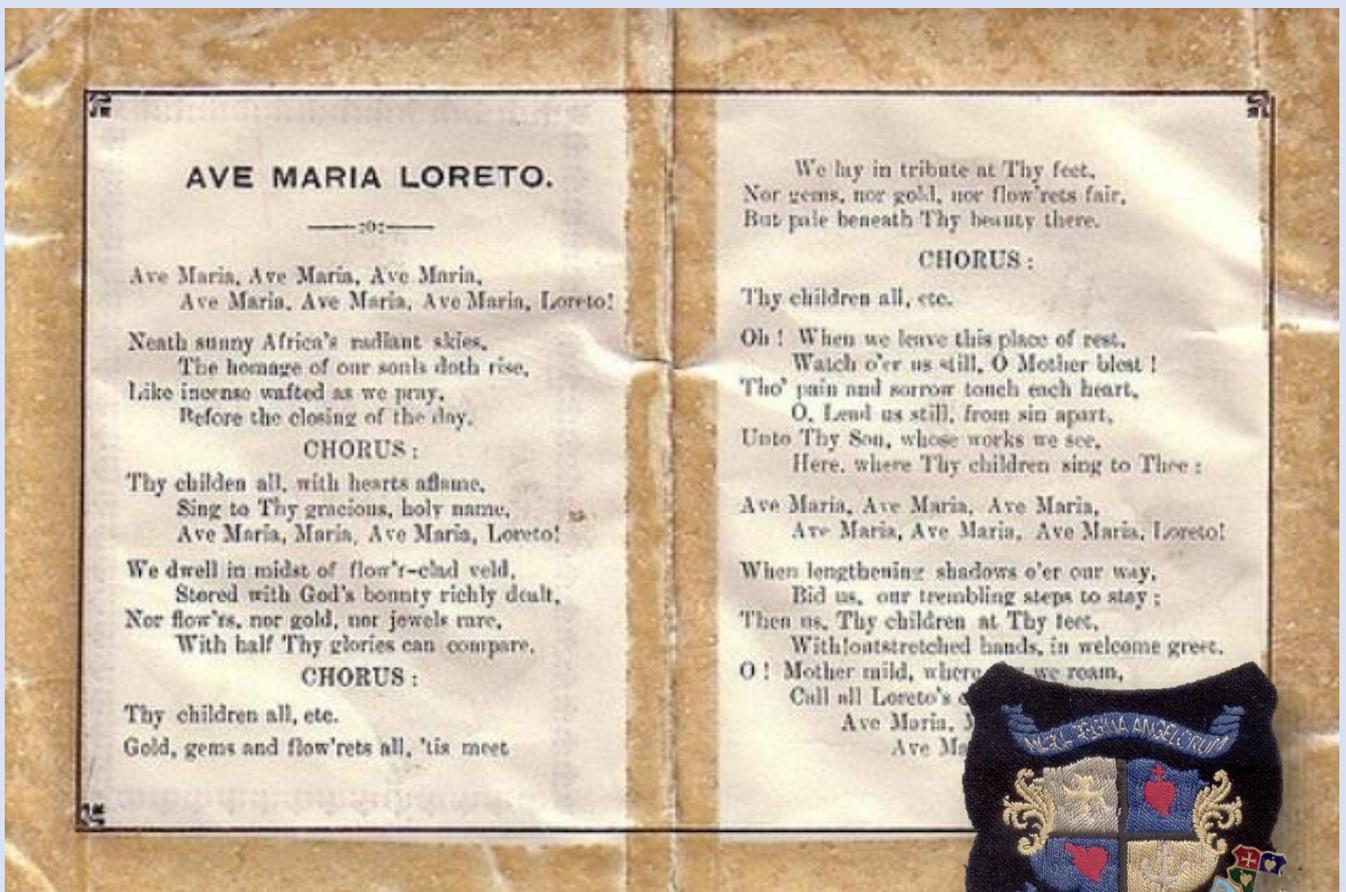


HIGH SCHOOL

- ♥ On Friday, 07 June, we celebrate our **Birthday with a Mass at 7h45**. All learners must wear their **full winter uniform**.
- ♥ The High School learners write an **exam paper** after Mass this Friday and therefore (depending on the duration of Mass) the exam session **could end at 11h30 only**.
- ♥ On **10 June**, (Monday next week) all Grade 11 learners are writing two papers and therefore will only finish at **12h00**.
- ♥ **Term 2 reports** will be handed out **24 July** and not as per diary calendar (31 July) while the **Parents' Evening and Gr. 9 Subject Choice meeting** will be on **25 July** and not 1 August.
- ♥ We would like to thank **Mrs Grundlingh** for her assistance this term, in which she has stood in as EMS teacher, and we are welcoming **Ms Stevens** in this post as from Term 3.
- ♥ Our **condolences** to Mahlatse Mathidza (Gr 12) and her family at the passing of her father. We keep you in our prayers at this very difficult time.
- ♥ The School will be making important upgrades and changes to our **security** and will be employing a security company to **monitor access** to the school during the day. We will communicate all of the changes to parents in our next newsletter.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Friday 07 June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School Birthday Mass and Paraliturgy
Monday 17 June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PUBLIC HOLIDAY (YOUTH DAY)
Tuesday 18 June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FP Parents' Evening
Thursday 20 June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PS Inter-House Athletics
Friday 21 June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School Ends at 11h00 for Holidays
Wednesday 17 July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School Re-Opens for Term 3
Thursday 25 July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grade 4 to 12 Parents' Evening Grade 9 Subject Choice Meeting



Application for Payment by Debit Order:

I, _____ (full name & surname) hereby authorise Loreto Convent School to debit my bank account on the **1st / 15th or 25th** day of each consecutive month, with the amount required for school fees, day care, extra fees and building levy as per Acknowledgement of Debt signed.

I agree to notify Loreto Convent School in writing, at least 30 days prior to the next debit order run date, should this arrangement have to be terminated or changed and acknowledge that a fee of R200.00 will be charged should any payment be returned by the bank as unpaid.

Name of Bank	
Name of Account Holder	
Bank Account Number	
Branch Code	
Type Of Account	Savings / Cheque / Current / Other: _____

Signed at _____ on this _____ day of _____ 20_____

Full name of account holder _____

Signature _____

Contact number _____

School ref number (FAMILY CODE PLEASE)	
Amount 1 st debit order (this can include extra fees, building levy)	
Amount of debit order there after (this is for the next 9 months)	
Date of 1 st run	
Date of last run	

Calculation of Payment:

School fees per month _____

Day care per month _____

Extra fees _____

Building Levy _____

Total payment _____

LORETO CONVENT SCHOOL

School Calendar for 2020

Term 1

SMT start	13/01/2020
Teachers start	14/01/2020
School opens	16/01/2020
Midterm break	21/02/2020 - 24/02/2020
School Closes	18/03/2020

Term 2

School opens	01/04/2020
Easter	10/04/2020 - 13/04/2020
Freedom Day	27/04/2020
Workers' Day	01/05/2020
School Closes	12/06/2020

Term 3

School opens	08/07/2020
Women's Day	10/08/2020
School Closes	18/09/2020

Term 4

School opens	30/09/2020
School Closes	02/12/2020