

WELCOME TO THE NEW ACADEMIC YEAR



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From the Principal's Desk...

I am happy to welcome all of you to the new academic year. We had hoped for some let-up in the pandemic and the return of all students to the campus. It seems that we have to wait a little more for the return to normalcy.

Hectic activities of different sorts have been going on during the summer vacation.

- * Annual examinations ended on 15th March.
- * Third Model exams were conducted for Stds. X & XII which ended at the end of May
- * Vacation classes were held for the incoming Stds X & XII till 15th May
- * Online orientation programme on Blended teaching and Outcome-Based Education was conducted for our teachers.

- * We started 4 sections of LKG with a total strength of 95 children.
- * Twelve new teachers were inducted this year.
- * After 50 years of glorious service, Merl Murray Ma'am retired from service.
- * Seven students of CBSE class XI opted to take Artificial Intelligence as a 6th Subject in class XI.
- * We started integrated entrance coaching in collaboration with Narayana Group .
- * Inspirational quotes are being put on display on the walls of the school.
- * An aviary is being built.

This being the diamond jubilee year of the founding of Loyola School, we thought of going beyond the usual infrastructure renovations.

- * As a result, we have added a new full-size basketball court.
- * We also erected a new statue of our heavenly patron St Ignatius, and installed it near the entrance of our campus.
- * A recently-decommissioned MiG 27 fighter aircraft shell that had actually been flown by a few of our own alumni is on display at the school. We hope to formally inaugurate it in the near future and open it to tourists as well.

I am much grateful to Wg Cdr Ranjan Kanthy (Retd.) of the ISC class of 1969 for much of what happened during the vacation. It was because of his initiative and perseverance that we have the aircraft on our campus. He mooted the idea of digitising all the previous issues of *The Loyolite* and found another alumnus to get the work done. And he marshalled a large number of former students and spearheaded the Diamond Jubilee Souvenir Editorial Advisory Board. We are bringing out a Coffee Table Book version of the souvenir with hardcover and dust jacket especially for former students who have volunteered to pay for it and for anyone else who asks for it in advance.

I wish all our students a fruitful academic year.

Fr P.T. Joseph, S. J.
Principal



Three additions to the campus this year are the new statue of the school's heavenly patron, St Ignatius of Loyola, a full-sized basketball court and the fuselage of a recently-decommissioned MiG 27 fighter aircraft that had actually been flown by a few Loyolites. The aircraft shown here is only representative; the real one will be shown after a fitting inauguration later.





Ignatian Year

From May 2021 until July 2022 the Society of Jesus celebrates an Ignatian Year. May 2021 marked the 500th anniversary of St Ignatius' conversion. Five hundred years ago St Ignatius of Loyola experienced an event that would change the course of his life and also of the world. As a young soldier in the Spanish army, Ignatius dreamed of fame and glory. But everything changed when he was suddenly and gravely injured by a cannonball during a battle at Pamplona. While in recovery, Ignatius experienced a spiritual conversion and immediately decided to make a change in his life. He found a new sense of purpose and set out seeking ways to serve God and finally establishing the Society of Jesus. If that "cannonball" event had not taken place in Ignatius' life we would not have hundreds of Jesuit schools, colleges, universities, missions and organisations all over the world that serve humanity to make our world a greater place. This year, all Jesuits and their collaborators began celebrating the Ignatian year on May 20, 2021 and the celebration will be concluded on the Feast Day of St Ignatius on July 31, 2022.

The injury suffered in the battle was a major failure for Ignatius as he was imagining his future with full of courtly riches and worldly achievements.

However, this failure turned out to be a process of transformation in his vision and sense of purpose in life leading Ignatius to have bigger dreams. He got transformed in the Divine and now he is no longer centred on himself, but rather on God and the mission entrusted to him by God. This conversion experience helped Ignatius to see all things new in Christ (the motto of the Ignatian year). The Jesuit Society took "conversion" as the theme of this Ignatian year and urge all the Jesuits and their collaborators to go through an experience of conversion that we may be able see things new in the present circumstances of the world. Celebrating 500 years of the conversion of St Ignatius is not primarily about the past. It is about the present and the future. It is an opportunity for renewal and rediscovery of the Ignatian roots. It is an opportunity to stop, take stock and put God and his world in the Centre again in our daily lives. It is about daily and continued conversion. Let the wound Ignatius suffered in Pamplona not be merely a historical event but an invitation for renewal and conversion to make us better instruments of God to recreate and transform our world making it more beautiful and graceful.

Fr Sunny Kunnappallil, S.J.



Merl Murray

Golden Jubilee and beyond...

Do you hear the wheels of time rumble
It's chariot disappearing in a flash
It arouses a vibration of heartbeats in the vast ether
Heartbroken sobs of stars glisten in trampled darkness...My friend,
That fleeting time embraces me, weaving its web
Lifts me to the speeding chariot
En route the dare devil journey
Far, far away from you, I feel a thousand deaths...
I have faced to come here
At the summit of this new dawn...

In the few years that our paths crossed, I came to know the legendary Murray ma'am. She is the finest example of a person totally in sync with her environment. She has this uncanny ability to cope through thick and thin and can disarm anybody with her sweet smile. She is a disciplinarian and her life manifests the fruits of patience. No wonder then that she faces the vagaries of life with her two golden qualities -ductility and malleability -in the midst of the harsh realities and uncertainties in life.

If we can believe the insights that graphology gives to a person's character through their handwriting, then Murray Ma'am's handwriting reveals her personality through and through. Like her clean, neat and boldly-formed letters, she is clean, upright as well as honest and

straightforward. Generations of Loyolites carry with them her style of the formation of the English alphabet and the ability to speak English fluently and accurately. This speaks volumes about her commitment and skill in spreading the right formation of not only writing but also proper pronunciation and accent. She is strict as a teacher and leaves no stone unturned in grooming her students into men charged for the future. Thus, the command that she holds has left lasting impressions in the minds and hearts of the tiny tots.

Her dedication and commitment are not only to her students under her care, but also to her grandchildren back home. Her grandchildren are indeed fortunate that she is able to oversee their progress in their alma mater. She is humble and energetic in the way she conducts herself. She enjoys savouring good food and her refinement extends to the dining table – she has excellent table manners!

Another outstanding quality I have noticed is that she always speaks well about others – once again proof of the goodness in her, and the fact that she is unbiased and harbours malice towards none. She never believes anything until she hears it straight from the horse's mouth. This is her distinct way of avoiding negativity. It helps her brush aside rumour – a great quality to possess in a workplace or a place of social interaction.

She is ever helpful to her relatives, friends and colleagues, always affectionate towards her junior colleagues and never throws the weight of her experience on them. This was my personal experience when I joined Loyola as a teacher of English for the students of std two. She is always open to new ideas and is willing to change according to the need. All these qualities emanate from her deep faith in the Almighty. What more need we expect from a teacher true to her students and her Creator!

As a teacher, Merl Murray ma'am has already carved her name in gold in the annals of Loyola School! It is indeed a privilege for me to toast to the good health and prosperity of such a personality! May God bless her with many more cheerful, fruitful, and joyful years!

What I have given you

Was your own gift to me

The more you accepted

The more indebted you made me.

My friend..Farewell!

(Lines from 'BIDAI', by Rabindranath Tagore {Translated... Farewell])

Baijayantee Bhattacharya

Murray Ma'am, we've been so fortunate to have your expertise to rely on. What a blessing it has been to work with you over these past few years. We will miss you for sure!

Rina Roynold Gomez

The most dedicated teacher, truly loyal to her profession. She's the role model for every young teacher. I consider myself lucky to be born the year she joined Loyola school and to have worked with her for twenty-one years. Will miss you madam!

Mini Aravindakshan

To complete fifty glorious years in the teaching profession and to be able to accomplish that feat in the same school is indeed a rare phenomenon. That's our dear Murray Ma'am for you! I met her for the first time when I joined Loyola school in 2006. Although I did not enjoy the privilege of working with her, our paths crossed on a number of occasions, since we were both teachers of English. She came across as a wonderful human being, truly committed to her work. Her commanding voice, her calligraphic handwriting and her unassuming nature will be remembered by all. She can be counted among the stalwarts that Loyola school has had the honour to have.

Murray Ma'am and Loyola school have almost become synonymous. Of the 60 years that the school has stood tall, Murray Ma'am has made her invaluable contribution for 50 of them. As the curtains fall on her long, immensely satisfying and eventful teaching career, I wish her all the best for the future. The void created by her absence cannot be filled by anyone. I hope and pray that she may enjoy many years of well-deserved rest and relaxation surrounded by her loved ones. Take care and God bless you Ma'am!

Love and regards.

Brinda A. Nair

A very loving and affectionate person, Murray Ma'am took up teaching as a noble profession and shaped the character, calibre and future of many individuals. She was not only prepared to meet the needs of today's child, but was also prepared to foresee the hopes and dreams in every child's future. We are all going to miss you dear ma'am. May the Almighty continue to bless you and your family with lots of love, peace and happiness in the years to come.

Beena Thomas

It is hard to imagine Loyola School without this magnificent teacher...Mrs. Merl Murray. She has unplugged a flood of emotions in me, as I write a few words about her.

Murray ma'am has been a colossus, whose presence has been felt by every Loyolite irrespective of whether he/she is a student or a member of the staff. Isn't this ample reward for well-accomplished work? What more can one ask for?

I personally consider it as a blessing to have worked with this remarkable educator who believes in simple living and high thinking.

Murray Ma'am is omniscient; there's hardly anything that she doesn't know about handling the little ones. Her golden teaching techniques are classic and proof of that resonates in her classroom. She had exemplified the art of teaching. As the saying goes: "There is no school like the old school!"

In fact, I still have indelible memories of my first meeting with her. In my eyes, ma'am resembled the Iron lady, Mrs. Indira Gandhi. Maybe because of the way she draped her saree pallu modestly over her right shoulder and her signature hairstyle (streaks of gray in between the black).

Her clear articulation and the reassuring tone of her voice, the elan with which she spoke sounded like RP (Received Pronunciation) or simply Queen's English.

And finally, how can I not mention her USP, her cursive writing? Graphologists say that handwriting reveals a part of our personality! I guess it's true. For instance, when the letter *L* is written with a big loop, it shows that the person is self-confident, can gracefully handle changes, is disciplined and has poise! Well, coincidence or call it what you may, I see those characteristics in Murray Ma'am!

I have thoroughly enjoyed my association with you dear Ma'am and I hope to leave you with the memory of a pleasant and fruitful collaboration too.

Teary eyed, let me end by saying that while on one side your retirement marks the end of an era at Loyola school, at the same time it means a new phase of life with long vacations, relaxation and leisure for you!

Take care! Stay safe! Goodbye Ma'am!

Anjali V. Das

I have been associated with Mrs Merl Murray since 2002 and I can say with certainty that I am yet to come across a person like her who is so dedicated and passionate about teaching. She has been my guide and mentor. She is very jovial and witty. Her presence in the staff room leaves us all in splits.

Madam, you will be terribly missed. God Bless!

Jinsam Shibu

PRICELESS GEM!

There's a priceless gem whom Loyola School was blessed to have for five decades. She's the one and only, Mrs Merl Murray. Her tireless striving towards perfection, for all under her care and for herself, is a commendable quality she possesses. Her incomparable sincerity, undying passion to work hard, and her modest, elegant, pleasant and helpful ways are indeed praiseworthy.

Age has never been a deterrent. She works with renewed zeal with each passing year. She didn't shy away from online classes but made herself technologically proficient and continued to be the competent and efficient teacher. She has never boasted of her merits but prefers to remain the humble, silent, hard worker that she is.

Only those with light within can give light to others. Mrs Merl Murray has allowed the God-given light in her to shine forth and brighten the lives of others. I am sure all will agree that they've seen the selfless work of this rare gem.

Mary Mathew

Welcome to the **New Teachers**



Ms Lakshmi Raj



Ms Asha S.



Ms Salin Mary Varughese



Ms Aarathi Nair



Ms Sumitra Nair



Ms Nupur Choudhary



Sr Sushama James



Ms Roshy Thomas



Ms Smitha Stephen



Ms Veena V. Manoj



Ms Marina Antony



Ms R. Rajitha



INNOVATIVE EXTERNSHIP PROGRAMME BY LOBA

Loyola School along with LOBA would like to announce the introduction of another “first” in Indian school history. We are proud to start **Loyola Externship Programme** with effect from this year.

Externships are on-the-job observership programmes for high school students.

Externships are structured in such a way that it gives students a short-term, yet real-world experience of the work environment and the various facets associated with that field. The students are placed in a professional setting where they can gain valuable insight into what they can expect to experience within the field they have chosen.

Duration:

The programme will be for 3 to 5 days and will depend on the host organisation that the school will be associated with. There will be no monetary compensation provided for the students by the host organisations. At the end of the programme students will be provided with a certificate either by the host organisation or from school. To start with, we will be associating with organisations in and around Trivandrum to make the logistics easy and simple. Participation is purely voluntary.

Experience:

Externships are generally considered as job shadowing involving a buddy/mentor who will be a representative from the host organisation. The shorter duration of externships is not structured towards more long-term job results

but is intended for students to observe, explore, ask questions, and develop interest. It does not provide the same extensive, hands-on work experience as internships.

Career streams selected for the programme

1. Engineering/Technology
2. Robotics, AI, ML.
3. Space science/Aeronautics.
4. Healthcare sector/Hospitals/ Diagnostics/Research facilities
5. Finance/Accounting
6. Business Management/ Entrepreneurship
7. Defence Services
8. Civil Services/ Law Enforcement/ Legal & Politics
9. Sports Management
10. Farming/Food, Fishing, Forestry, Renewable Energy, Integrated Farming
11. Arts, Music, Movie, Journalism & Writing
12. NGO's/ Social & Developmental Work.

Externships will be held once a year during one of the major vacations. This will be a great opportunity for students to gain valuable exposure into various professions. It offers benefits that can help students make good career choices. Students who can manage their time well can actually pick and choose a mix of externships that are a good fit for them and receive the best from all the experience.

Babith Moses Wilby

SCHOOL LEADERS 2021-2022



SCHOOL LEADER
ABHAY KRISHNAN, XII A



ASST. SCHOOL LEADER
ADITYA NARAYANAN, IX B



ASST. SCHOOL LEADER
DENNIS K. ROBIN, X B



JUNIOR SCHOOL LEADER
KESAV BALACHANDRAN, V B



ASST. JR. SCHOOL LEADER
AMAAN SALAM A., V A



ASST. JR. SCHOOL LEADER
DHROV A., V B

World Environment Day Celebration at Loyola School



The roots of human evolution can be traced back to Mother Nature. So, it is imperative that we take measures to protect our environment.

The World Environment day, celebrated annually on June 5 by the United Nations, encourages awareness of and action for the protection of our environment.

Loyola School celebrated the World Environment day this year with a marvellous assembly. Dr. Sujith V. Gopalan, the renowned conservation biologist and herpetologist, was the Chief Guest for the programme. Our Principal Fr P.T. Joseph SJ inaugurated the programme by planting a sapling in the school campus.



Aagney S.S. of Std. IV A delivered a speech on protecting the environment. This was followed by a video presentation by Abraham Joseph, Abhinav Vishnu and Akhilesh R. R. of LKG A and C. Mark Arun Abraham of UKG D sang the melodious song *What a wonderful world*. There was yet another harmonious song, *Mother Earth*, sung by Madhav Mohan Pillai of Std. IX B and Abhinand M. Nair of Std. VIII D. Dhyan Muralikrishnan of Std. I C spoke about the importance of the environment and why the Environment Day is celebrated. The final

event was a video presentation by Rehan Najeeb, Ishaan R.S., and Yahbel Thomas Jacob of UKG A. Rehan sang a song about taking care of the Earth, while Yahbel and Ishaan delivered speeches.

Our Chief Guest talked about deforestation, environmental pollution, animals going extinct and the need to plant trees.

The World Environment day is not the only day when we should take care of the environment. We should protect and conserve the planet for ourselves and the coming generations as there is no planet B where we can go to.

Bhavin Sankar M., VIII A









A Short Summary of a **Long Vacation**

I strongly believe that life gives you a contrast of the decisions you make. So, when this vacation began, I decided to go on without any plans, mostly because things were quite unsure.

I spent my vacation mainly reading, playing carrom and dipping into Bollywood classics. I also felt the need for a journal as an outlet for my thoughts. That resulted in me writing a lot. I also went on a few trips before the restrictions were reimposed, but those locations I went to weren't particularly noteworthy. On the whole, it may seem I had a normal vacation, but it wasn't so.

I would describe this vacation as being unique, not different. Last year, the word 'different' was redefined as everything underwent an unprecedented change. This vacation wasn't that different. It was unique in the sense that I got acclimatized to this life.

Lockdown, vaccine and hygiene have become everyday words, much like brushing and bathing. Acceptance of the situation helped me to adjust and cope with the situation. In addition, putting myself in other people's shoes helped me to realize how privileged I have been during these times. The current situation can't be altered, but your attitude can; trusts me, it works.

However, that doesn't imply that you should go around not adhering to the ground rules. As of now, SMS (Social distancing, Mask, and Sanitizers) is our only weapon.

Whether we accept it or not, the lockdown has changed the way we think. This underlying thought recently came into stark reality when I realized that school was reopening and I was neither downcast nor delighted. The sooner an individual comes to terms with this, the better he will be able to live with it. So, until then, stay at home, stay safe, and more importantly, stay happy.

Varad Vinayak, IX B



Thoughts on Online Learning

Considering the seriousness of the pandemic at hand, there is no other option than to learn from teachers through a digital medium. Like all other things, it has its advantages and disadvantages. Listening to teachers and writing the assignments is just a small part of learning. Learning by oneself is much better.

When we talk about the advantages of online classes, I cannot fail to mention that it is convenient for people like me from other states to attend classes. Last year we had a boy from another country attending the classes. I am also thankful for the abundance of knowledge at hand. We can now gain knowledge on any topic of our choice using the internet. Needless to say, it is a time-saving option.

Yet we students also face some problems with online learning. Even though most of the issues may have originated from our lack of self-discipline, I will cover some of the main aspects holistically. Sometimes the teachers may lack knowledge of the digital platforms which results in inefficient decisions and wastage of time. For example, I have observed an option for submitting assignments that helps us to link them to class notebooks, where teachers can check and edit them there itself so that students can access them and check where they have gone wrong. It also comes in handy during examinations. Moreover, teachers can also enable an option that does not allow us to modify the submitted response.

Another problem is distractions available to the students. I recommend efficient and progressive self-disciplinary courses to be made compulsory for the students. Other than these problems mentioned above, I have a few friends who face severe problems with online learning, which may be due to the way they attain knowledge or perceive things. It is also a fact that online classes make us extremely tired. Compared to regular classes, it is hard to concentrate after the continuous four to five classes, each of one hour. The teachers usually give a lot of assignments as they may assume that the other teachers might not have given as many assignments.

As a whole, online classes have a lot of features and advantages that are available to us. Yet there remain a few things which should be corrected or added for maximum utilization of time and opportunity.

Ananthapadmanabhan Nair S., X C



My SUMMER Holidays

Summer vacation is the best time for celebrations, fun and to explore new things. After my third standard annual examinations, the summer vacation started on 24th of March 2021. Like last year, this time too we were confined to our homes because of COVID-19 pandemic. So, I had to spend my time within the four walls of my room. When the Government declared a relaxation on the lockdown, I visited my grandparents, uncle, and aunt. I could stay with my grandparents and my grandmother prepared some delicacies for me. I got the opportunity to help my grandfather in his farm work--planting and watering the plants. I drew a lot of pictures with the help of tutorials available on YouTube. I could draw pictures of a horse, dog, Condor, Venom, and Deadpool. To keep myself physically fit, I played games like badminton, cricket and football with my sister and cousins. Chess and carrom helped me strengthen my mind power. I read *Balabhoomi*, story books and even books on science. I found time to revise the multiplication tables and helped my sister learn the alphabet, number systems, and rhymes. I helped my mother in household chores and tried my hands on cooking too. The lemonade that I prepared turned out well. Though I could not meet my friends outside, I met them online through WhatsApp video calls. Even at home, I was particular about following COVID-19 protocols like regular hand-wash, social distancing, and maintaining a healthy diet. During this vacation, I could experience something different and found happiness spending time with my family. I really loved it.

Pranav V. V., IV D



My Expectations this year

The year 2020 has been a very significant year and has brought about a drastic change in our daily life. The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted the educational system to such an extent that physical classes and exams are still not possible even after a year of its outbreak. The board exams were not conducted and all the classes had to go through online classes.

As the conditions were getting better, the second wave of the virus has put us all back into lockdown. Therefore, the present academic year will have to begin with online classes. Though e-learning is easily accessible, flexible, time-saving and convenient, it has a lot of drawbacks. There are a number of technical difficulties which may adversely affect the teaching and learning process. Online exams would involve much malpractice, but it is the only option in the current scenario.

If the situation gets better, I expect that the school would conduct physical classes for the senior school, especially the board classes. The practical sessions would require the lab facilities at school and cannot be taken online. The theory lessons could be taught through recorded videos which would help the students to manage their available time efficiently. Live sessions could be held mainly for clearing doubts and discussing questions. Extracurricular activities would not be possible in this terrible situation. Special counselling could be provided to students who are not able to concentrate on their studies or are addicted to video games due to the lockdown.

Thus, I hope that these difficult times would come to an end very soon so that we can return to our normal school life.

Akshay R., XII B



SUMMER VACATION DURING PANDEMIC TIME

Yet another summer vacation at home! My plan to meet a few friends and go on a trip to Goa was foiled and I was heartbroken. I had two options: to spend time in front of the telly or be a green panther. I chose the latter.

My first plan was to be an early riser. I got up at five and went jogging. I made friends with chirpy birds this summer.

On seeing the trailer of *Shang Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings* and getting inspired, I decided to punch the mango tree which almost broke my knuckles and learned not to imitate the movies.

Another thing I did was to reopen the forgotten pages of yoga. I danced to the rhythm of the music and tried a hand in the Japanese language. I also found time to read *Aithiyamala* by Kottarathil Shankunni to improve my mother tongue. I read Ruskin Bond's *The Great Train Journey* which reminded me of the train journeys I had before.

On my birthday, I baked a cake on my own and gifted my family a cooking magic trick. One gets exhausted soon in the kitchen. Thanks to my mother for her hard work!

I sowed seeds and planted a few banana corms. In the mornings, I skated for a short while and enjoyed the scenery around. The earth has music to those who listen. I heard it in the sound of rain and watched the leaves dancing to the rhythm.

I hope this pandemic will be over soon and everything will be back to normal.

What I learnt during this vacation is that it is better to observe and enjoy nature and accept the real world rather than the digital world in our pockets.

Madhav V. Nair, VIII A

LOYOLA SCHOOL DIAMOND JUBILEE

1961 / 2021

**LOYOLA
SCHOOL
TRIVANDRUM**



DIAMOND JUBILEE SOUVENIR
awaiting official release on 21 June 2021