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CREDITS

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From the Principal's Desk

A Month of Milestones at Loyola



September has been a month of milestones and celebrations at Loyola School, a testament to the vibrant spirit and collective efforts of our Loyola family. As we reflect on the past few weeks, we are filled with pride and gratitude.

We are thrilled to announce that Loyola School has been ranked **First in Kerala and Eleventh in India** among Boys Day Schools, as published in the latest *EducationWorld*. This achievement speaks volumes about the dedication of our students, faculty, and the entire Loyola family. Another feather in our cap is the **EldroK India K-12 Expo Award 2024 for Life skills and Activity-Based Learning** which further highlights our commitment to holistic education.

Onam, a time of joy and unity, was the highlight of the month. In keeping with our tradition of nurturing both nature and community, each division of every class planted a sapling on the campus, a symbol of our responsibility to protect the environment. The saplings will grow as a reminder of the care we must extend to our planet. Alongside these celebrations, our students showed great compassion by raising charity funds for Wayanad. This gesture of solidarity in the midst of Onam festivities reminds us of the value of kindness. As Mahatma Gandhi put it tersely, the “best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others”.

The first term exams that followed were a time for hard work, but the holidays afterwards provided a much-needed rejuvenation for both students and teachers. The rest has prepared us all to embrace the challenges ahead with renewed energy.

L-Spectra, our intramural exhibition on the 28th, offered yet another platform for our students to showcase their curiosity and ingenuity. The participation of KG students brought fresh enthusiasm to it. Let us hope that the scintillating spark in the participants will enable them to develop into a galaxy of innovators in the years to come.

Incidentally, *L-Spectra* is reserved for the October issue of LENS because it deserves extensive coverage. A couple of articles from parents too are welcome provided they are about the exhibition in general rather than the exhibits of their wards.

Finally, our Teachers' Day celebrations were heartwarming. Our students took on the mantles of teachers and administrators for the day, an experience that not only gave them a taste of running the school but also deepened their respect for the profession. The way our teachers were honoured made them feel proud to be part of this institution. As John Steinbeck beautifully said, “I have come to believe that a great teacher is a great artist, and there are few greater artists than those who teach”.

With the achievements of this month, we step into the future with hope, determination, and a deep sense of gratitude. Together, we continue to write the story of Loyola School, one chapter at a time.

Fr Salvin Augustine, SJ

MEET OUR ALUMNUS OF THE MONTH

Decades ago, our 3rd standard class teacher, Mrs Fernandez, asked us to write about our career aspirations. One kid wrote, "I want to become a veterinarian." We were all shocked. Most of us didn't even know that such a profession existed.

After graduation, I joined the Department of Animal Husbandry, Government of Kerala, in 1997 and worked in various remote villages bordering the Western Ghats and became the chief of the elephant squad tasked with tranquilizing rogue elephants both in the wild and in captivity. I also collaborated with the Department of Forests and Wildlife to capture, treat,



and translocate ailing and problematic wildlife. Later, I assumed the position of Chief Veterinarian at the Trivandrum Zoo and remained there until I emigrated to the US in 2013. Today, I reside in New Jersey, leading a much less adventurous life where my practice is limited to treating just cats and dogs.

Veterinary medicine ranks among the most coveted professions in North America, the EU countries, Australia, and New Zealand.

The scope that the field provides is wide and varied. Apart from clinical medicine, Pharmaceutical (drug development), Food, Research and Development, Environmental, and Banking Industries as well as Regulatory Affairs are just a few examples of where vets are employed. Unfortunately, only a handful of vets are alumni of our Alma Mater.

For me, this journey has been incredibly rewarding. The joy, satisfaction, and fulfilment I get from alleviating the pain and suffering of helpless animals cannot be described with words. I wouldn't trade this profession for anything else in the world.

PS: The kid who aspired to become a veterinarian back in the 3rd standard is Dr George Chandy, who is now the Professor and HoD of Surgery at the College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Pookode, Wayanad.

Joe Jacob, 1987 SSLC Batch



LOYOLITES IN THE LIMELIGHT



Darshan S. Anand, VIII C
SILVER MEDALLIST IN CISCE NATIONAL GAMES
Karate Championship at Jhansi, Uttar Pradesh



Pranav N. M., VI A

SILVER MEDALLIST IN THE U-14 CATEGORY AT THE CISCE NATIONAL ARCHERY CHAMPIONSHIP in Kolkata. He has also been selected to participate in the SGFI School Games in Gujarat



Aiswar A., IX B

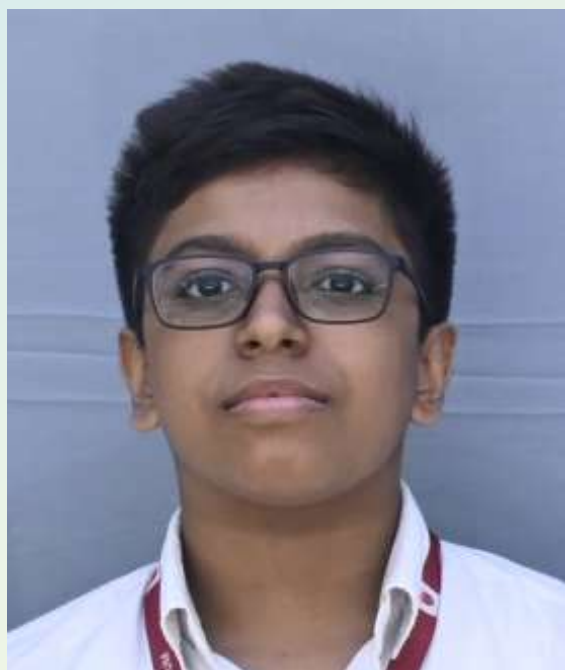
**MEMBER OF THE TEAM THAT WON THE
CISCE U-19 NATIONAL FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP**



Achintya Yadav, IX C
MEMBER OF THE RUNNER-UP TEAM IN
CISCE U-14 NATIONAL FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP



Amrit Ramesh (09), Jonathan Edwards (30), and Shabad Kaila (04)
MEMBERS OF THE CISCE STATE U-17 BASKETBALL TEAM



Ishaan Sajay, X B

&

Vaishnav A. NAIR, X A

First in Quiz at ASISC Fr George Hess Memorial Zonal/Regional
Literary Competitions at KEEMS, Mannanam, on 31 Aug 2024.

Ishan Sajay also won the 5th position in NIT-C Infitum '24 Maths Quiz



Johanna Esther N., XII A

Bronze Medal in 4x400 m Relay at
CISCE Kerala Regional Athletic Championship



Akshay Krishna, III A1

Third in Pencil Drawing competition at DiYES
International School, Parassala on 27 August 2024



Sreemadhav R. V., V B

Third in U-10 Chess Championship at DiYES
International School, on 16 Sept 2024



ANANTHAKRISHNAN L. & ASHWIN RAJ PRADEEP
Second in the Zonal Final of Aqua Regia Quiz



**JEREMY JOSEPH
MUNDIYANI, IV A1**
FIRST IN ENG. ELOCUTION



MUHAMMED NIHAL HALEEM, XI D1
FIRST IN HINDI ESSAY WRITING

**WINNERS IN SOUTH
ZONE SAHODAYA
COMPETITIONS
2024**



ABHIRAJ A., XI D1
FIRST IN MALAYALAM
EXTEMPORE SPEECH



MADHAV KRISHNA K.S., XI D1
SECOND IN CLASSICAL MUSIC
AND THIRD IN LIGHT MUSIC



ADHEENA EASWAR, XII B1
THIRD IN TURNICAT

TEAMS AT CBSE SOUTH ZONE SAHODAYA COMPLEX KALOTSAV 2024



Patriotic Song and Group Song



Margam Kali



Western Music Concert



Mime



Thiruvathira



English Skit



ONAM

*at
Loyola*

*The best-laid schemes o' Mice an' Men
Gang aft agley,
An' lea'e us nought but grief an' pain,
For promis'd joy!*

These lines may sound a little un-English because they are from Robert Burns's Scots-language poem "To a Mouse" written in 1785. They mean that something often goes wrong with our plans, resulting in grief instead of joy.

Loyolites remembered Burns when the District Collector unexpectedly declared 9 September a holiday for schools, thereby upsetting the delicate balance of the term examinations and practice sessions for the Onam celebrations.

Known for their resilience, Loyolites bounced back in grace and never allowed grief to creep in!

That is the story of the three-day-celebrations of Onam, each segment of which was as delicious as the *payasam* we had on all three days.

Onam Celebrations of the Kindergarteners



Loyola School Kindergarten celebrated Onam, the harvest festival of Kerala, with a vibrant and colorful programme on September 12, 2024. The event commenced at 9:30 a.m. with a warm welcome speech by Devaansh K. J. of UKG B. The programme proceeded with a prayer by Ishaan Anand of UKG C and the lighting of the ceremonial lamp.

Fr Salvin Augustine SJ delivered the presidential address, highlighting the cultural importance of Onam. Our new Bursar, Fr Jose Thaiparambil SJ, graced the occasion with a felicitation speech.

The children showcased their talents through various acts. The LKG and UKG students enthralled the audience with group songs and dances. Individual items included solo songs by Noah Paul of LKG C, Nirmay R. of UKG D, and *vanchipaattu* by Anvith P. Nair from LKG A. A musical skit by the UKG students added a touch of humour and creativity to the programme.

The kindergarten teachers also joined the festivities with a group song, and a duet song by Mr Joy M. Varghese and Ms Priya Balan further enhanced the musical atmosphere. The event concluded with exciting special games and the vote of thanks proposed by Riyansh R. of UKG A. The programme was expertly compered by Drupad Warriar and Neeraj R. Pillai.

The Onam celebrations at Loyola School Kindergarten were a joyous occasion that brought together students, teachers, and parents to celebrate the rich cultural heritage of Kerala. The vibrant performances and enthusiastic participation of all involved made it a memorable event for everyone.

Justicia Jerome











Onnichonam Nallonam



The central segment of Onam celebrations at Loyola unfolded itself on 13 September. It was a welcome relief from the just concluded terminal examinations and all students of classes I to XII could go for a blast.

The celebrations this year, however, had a difference because they were conceived against the backdrop of the natural calamity that struck Wayanad recently. So, the aim was to make students aware of their responsibility to protect nature, express their solidarity with the victims of the tragedy, and at the same time be true Keralites in following its customary practices.

Everyone arrived in traditional attire. Athapookalams set in both the ICSE and CBSE blocks brought out the spirit of Onam: unity, equality, peace and prosperity.

Celebrations started in the morning with Fr Salvin Augustine and the school cabinet planting one sapling on the campus, followed by the representatives of each class planting a sapling.

This was followed by cultural programmes and games in each class. As usual, Maveli along with the chenda ensemble, visited every class.

We had our formal Onam celebrations, *Onnichonam Nallonam*, in our indoor stadium. The inaugural function was graced by Shri. G.R. Anil, Hon'ble Minister for Food and Civil Supplies, and his Onam message underscored the the values of equality, prosperity and harmony.

Following the formal inauguration, we had cultural events presented by students and teachers. After the official Onam celebrations, the school distributed payasam to everyone, which ensured that these sweet memories would never be erased from our minds. The celebrations came to a close with the vibrant sport of the Onam celebrations, the *vadamvali*, which kept the festive energy high.


Onnichonam Nallonam will remain one of the most unforgettable experiences in our school life because it was celebrated in a meaningful manner without diluting its spirit and splendour.

Benjamin James Pio, X C



“The true meaning of life is to plant trees, under whose shade you do not expect to sit.”
 – Nelson Henderson

**LOYOLA'S ONAM SPECIAL:
 ONE TREE FOR EACH CLASS**










CLASS-WISE CELEBRATION













Fr Salvin testing the strength of the swing before letting others try the device



ALL SET FOR THE COMMON CELEBRATION



Waiting for the Chief Guest





Reception of the Chief Guest



Procession to the indoor stadium for the formal function





Welcome Address:
Jonathan Edwards N.



Compering & Vote of thanks
Ananthakrishnan L.



Prayer: Neerad R.

FORMAL INAUGURATION OF THE CULTURAL PROGRAMME

FELICITATIONS



Fr Salvin Augustine SJ, Director & Principal (ICSE/ISC)



Sr Jiji Thomas, Principal (CBSE)



Dr Anju Deepak, PTA President



Shri G. R. Anil, Minister for Food and Civil Supplies, delivering his Onam message and lighting the floor lamp



Rector and Manager Fr Sunny Kunnappallil SJ addressing the gathering and handing over Loyola's token of love to the Minister















**Booster
dose of
Payasam**



**before the
gruelling
Tug-of-war**





Click on these
thumbnails to
watch videos
of

**Onam
Celebrations**
on Sreekariyam Campus

**Onam
Celebrations**
on Thumba Campus



Every Keralite looks forward to celebrating a unique festival wherever they are in the world. Yes, it's our own Onam. A significant part of the celebration is the *Onasadya*, the sumptuous dinner with a variety of dishes served on a fresh banana leaf.

The *Onasadya* for the staff members and the Jesuits on the campus was prepared by ourselves on 11 September. Twenty people including teachers, uncles and aunties under the leadership of our own Master Chef Ms Sathi Antharjanam cooked a wide variety of dishes including two payasams within five hours for 225 people. All the staff members who were on exam duty at the school came to help us during the recess. Fr Salvin, our vibrant principal, lighted the stove and initiated the cooking and also helped us in chopping vegetables. All the staff members stood together and made the *Onasadya* with each and every dish yummy. It was the comradeship of the staff members that resulted in such a delectable feast, appreciated by everyone. In fact all of us are looking forward to the next onam to make and enjoy the *Onasadya*.

Mini Aravindakshan

**O
N
A
S
A
D
Y
A**

*Curated by and for the
Loyola Family*



The more the merrier.
Niggallas of Loyola disproving
the proverb that too many
cooks spoil the broth!





Vicarious Celebration of Onam in Sri Lanka.

Triggered by **LOYOLA VIDEO**



On the day of Thiruvonam, I received numerous messages asking, 'How are you celebrating Onam?' and 'Did you get a chance to enjoy the Onam Sadhya in Sri Lanka?' To everyone who inquired, I shared that my celebration was a simple and reflective one. I found joy in watching the video of the vibrant Onam celebrations held at our school, which brought back warm memories and a sense of connection despite the distance.

Some have also enquired, "Have you come across any Malayalees there?" So far, I haven't met any, but I have encountered numerous tourists from various parts of the world. I am currently residing in Kandy, a city in the central province of Sri Lanka, which was recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1988. Kandy is a religious city, renowned for the Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic, a highly venerated Buddhist pilgrimage site. In Kandy, Buddhist monks, temples, and monasteries are a common sight. The local people are deeply devout, often seen dressed in white when they visit the temples for worship. The Temple of the Tooth draws devotees from across the globe, many of whom come to pay homage to the sacred relic of Buddha's tooth, preserved within this temple.

On the day of Thiruvonam, I took a long walk with a few friends to Kandy City Centre and spent time strolling around the serene Kandy Lake, which lies near the Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic. After our walk, I sat by the tranquil waters and began watching the Onam celebration video sent by Fr. Salvin. While watching it, my Polish friend,

Fr. Rafal Struginski, sat beside me and asked about the video. I explained that it was Onam video, a day celebrated by Malayalees worldwide, and that I was watching a video of the celebration held at my school on Friday, the 13th.

Intrigued, Fr. Rafal joined me, and he was particularly drawn to the moment when King Mahabali made his grand entrance, with the students singing and dancing joyfully. He asked me about the man portraying the king, and I shared the legend behind the Onam celebration. After listening, he commented on how beautiful the tradition was—welcoming and awaiting King Mahabali each year, a ruler embodying values such as unity, truthfulness, and honesty. He remarked that such a tradition must leave a lasting and powerful image of a noble leader, serving as a model for today's leadership.

Fr. Rafal was also surprised to see the teachers dancing in traditional sarees. I explained that Onam is much more than a festival; it is a celebration of unity, nature, well-being, and the rich cultural heritage of Kerala. I then showed him photos of the Onam celebrations at our school and other places. He marvelled at the vibrant pictures of Pulikkali, Vadamvali, and the intricate flower carpets (Pookkalam), noting how colourful and inclusive the celebrations seemed. I emphasized this by explaining that one of the most special aspects of Onam is its ability to unite people. Regardless of caste, creed, religion, or social standing, everyone celebrates it as a state festival. Even those who are far from home return to their families to make the celebration joyous by cooking, singing, playing, and sharing joyful memories together.

After thanking me for sharing the video, we walked along the other side of Kandy Lake toward Lewella. As we walked, I found myself reflecting on the beauty and depth of our culture and traditions. Onam, in particular, stands out as a festival that unites Keralites across boundaries of religion or politics, reconnecting them with their roots. It celebrates our cultural diversity while promoting values of well-being, inclusiveness, and fairness. In this way, Onam not only celebrates the past but also inspires us to build a more united and compassionate future, one where every heart finds joy in togetherness.

Fr Roy Alex, SJ



Celebrating Our Teachers



One of the most important and most overlooked professions in this world is that of a teacher. They play a crucial role in developing an individual by not only just expanding their knowledge, but also by pouring in their love, dedication and moral values which are ultimately inculcated in us; the defining factors which truly make us a good person. Celebrating these devoted, God-sent souls is essential, as the boundless love they have shown us deserves the highest recognition.

Our teachers' day celebration was unique in that the students got a taste of what teachers undergo everyday as they step onto the campus. Students of grade twelve doubled as teachers for one day, and so did I, but little did we know that we would be stepping into a class of jubilant and active torpedoes, waiting to zoom past us. It was at the same time amusing and utterly infuriating; I can now understand the plight of our dear teachers as they have to deal with rare dynamic gems like us, almost every day. After I somehow managed to gain their attention for a fleeting moment, I started off with my duty as a teacher, making sure to cover the portions I was allotted. Though I had a rather bumpy start, the experience that followed was wonderful. They listened, took down notes and asked doubts as I took classes. Though I can never truly match up to our teachers, I did my best to ensure that the portions that I taught were understood. I have to admit that I did quite enjoy the small sense of authority that every "Good morning ma'am" gave to me as I entered the classrooms. It was indeed a wonderful experience that made us more aware of the challenges that teachers face every day and yet manage to pull off everything perfectly.

We had an assembly programme for the day. I still remember what a hard time we had running after the little adorable juniors to ensure that they reached the auditorium without straying away from the path. For the assembly we had a number of events designed to entertain our dear teachers and to ensure the best experience for their special day. I am sure they enjoyed the music and the dance routines and the video presentation.

This day will definitely be one of the many days at Loyola that I will cherish; these moments of laughter and bonding are those that add the splashes of colour to our lives. No words could ever express our gratitude for having such loving teachers; our gratitude for you is as grand as your patience which we have tested every day. We need teachers because even the Gods and our parents need a break from dealing with us. I am blessed with a mother who is a teacher and now, also with teachers who are mothers to me.

Thank you teachers for being there for us whenever we took a blow, holding us close when we needed an embrace and for also masquerading as our parents, and in some cases as grandparents who never gave up on us.

Megha R., XII A













ONSTAGE PROGRAMME







Thiruvathira Challenge by the Boys



Staff vs Students Antakshari



Conclave of the ad-hoc council for interim evaluation of the day's proceedings before the scene of action shifts from the indoor stadium to the cricket ground

ALL SET FOR THE CLASH OF THE TITANS





NEWS SNIPPET



Rector and Manager Fr Sunny Kunnappallil SJ blessing the latest addition to the school fleet, Bus No. 24



CISCE Basketball Kerala Regional Camp from 6 to 8 September 2024, at Loyola School

FORTHCOMING EVENT



Loyola School



**48th LOYOLA CUP
BASKETBALL**



**07 & 08
OCTOBER
2024**

*Loyola
Indoor Stadium*