



LORETO CONVENT SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER



...ing and leading in love and Justice



Volume 23 Issue 02

05 March 2021

Dear Parents,

We have been extremely blessed to have received our 2020 Matric results on the 23rd February. Our Matric group exceeded all expectations, and, under extremely difficult circumstances, performed wonderfully and had fantastic results. There was much joy and excitement, as learners arrived to collect their results. Well done to every learner - we now confidently send you out into the world, knowing that you will overcome adversity and we pray that our Lord will rest His hand of protection and blessing on each of you. We wish you every success in whatever adventure you partake in next! To our Matric class of 2021 - be encouraged by these results, and know that if you put your mind to it, anything is possible. No matter what adversity you may face in life, if you work hard, do your best and trust in the Lord, you are certain to succeed. Work hard and you will reap the fruits of your labour.

We also need to thank our dedicated teachers, without whom, none of these results would have been possible. Our teachers are certainly a group of hard-working, enthusiastic and passionate people, and we need to acknowledge the extra effort and care you put into our learners daily. All of our staff put in more work and effort than ever before in 2020, and again this year, sacrificing time, money and even sometimes putting their own families second, to ensure that every learner in our school has the best chance at success during this pandemic. We ask the Lord to bless each one of you and reward you for your many sacrifices.

Our first outreach project for 2021 has commenced, and we are excited to be able to make a difference in the lives of those less fortunate than ourselves. Please do join us in being examples of kindness and generosity for our learners and teaching them that they need to always think of others, and that to be blessed in life is always something that should be shared with those people who may need a little help from the Lord. We are called to be HIS hands, HIS feet and HIS voice in the world.

On a different note, we will be celebrating St Patrick's Day, on the 17th March. Saint Patrick is a saint of the Catholic Church, and his holy day is the day of his death, rather than the day of his physical birth. After spending most of his adult life converting the pagans of Ireland to Christianity, St. Patrick went to his reward in Heaven on March 17, 461 AD.

Patrick was a humble, pious, gentle man, whose love and total devotion to and trust in God should be a shining example to each of us. So complete was his trust in God, and of the importance of his mission, he feared nothing - not even death.

Sturker

From the Principal's Office

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

012 326 6342

pa@loreto.co.za

GENERAL NEWS (HS AND PS)

SCHOOL CONTACTS:

General Enquiries, Reception and **Absentees** – Mrs Mateka - 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 and Finance Matters – 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

Uniform Shop - Danny Venter - 083 658 9859 - pmc@mweb.co.za



(012) 326 6342

Office Hours

Mon to Thu 07h00 to 15h00

Fridays 07h00 to 14h30

Admission Office and Card
Payments to 13h00 daily

Our admin staff currently screen learners until approximately 08h00 every morning, so please be patient - they will attend to you as soon as they are able to. Also please note that our phone lines are extremely busy during the day - if possible, please send an email to the appropriate person instead, so that we can attend to your query as quickly as possible.

Website (for booklists, school fee info, bank details, calendar, newsletters and other information)

www.loreto.co.za



LORETO CONVENT SCHOOL
School Calendar for 2021

| | <u>Start</u> | <u>End</u> |
|--------|---------------------|-------------------|
| TERM 1 | 25 January | 26 March |
| TERM 2 | 13 April | 25 June |
| TERM 3 | 13 July | 23 September |
| TERM 4 | 05 October | 08 December |

Term 1

Support Staff Starts 04/01/2021
Admin Starts 12/01/2021
SMT Starts 15/01/2021
Teachers Start 18/01/2021

School Opens for All Learners 25/01/2021
Mid-Term Break 26/02/2021 - 01/03/2021
School Closes 26/03/2021

Term 2

School Opens 13/04/2021
School Closes 25/06/2021

Term 3

School Opens 13/07/2021
School Closes 23/09/2021

Term 4

School Opens 05/10/2020
School Closes 08/12/2021

PLEASE NOTE THAT OUR CALENDAR HAS NOT CHANGED SIGNIFICANTLY AND THAT DATES ARE NOW DIFFERENT FROM THOSE GIVEN OUT BY THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS.



💡 As from 02 March, all our learners have been **attending school every day**. This means that there will no longer be on-line learning on Google Classroom. If a child is **absent** from school, he/she must catch up with the work on return to school. If a child is absent for an extended period of time, arrangements can be made with Ms Hill to assist with daily work and homework being sent home.

💡 With all the learners back at school on a full-time basis, it is even more vitally important that we all **adhere to the COVID-19 protocols** as set out by the Department of Health, Department of Education and in place at the school. All learners must wear a **mask** at all times, ensure **social distancing** and **wash their hands or sanitize regularly**. Parents are asked to please emphasise these measures with the children. The school is committed to keeping the children safe while on school grounds.

💡 The learners have started with **Physical Education classes**, and must please wear their sports clothes on these days.

| Grade/Class | Day |
|--------------------|------------|
| 1D | Friday |
| 1F | Monday |
| 2D | Friday |
| 2K | Thursday |
| 3G | Wednesday |
| 3V | Monday |
| Grade 4 | Tuesday |
| Grade 5 | Tuesday |
| Grade 6 | Thursday |
| Grade 7 | Friday |

 The Grade 4 to 7 learners must please bring a **towel and a skipping rope** (if they have one) on their Phys-Ed days. Assessment will begin soon in these classes.

 **Drop-off and Pick-Up:**

The gates in **Visagie Street** open for vehicles at **7h00**. If you drop your child before 7h00, they may walk through and line up to be screened. There are staff members already present from 6h30, and the children are supervised.

As mentioned in the SMS sent this week, please ensure that your child is **ready to exit** the vehicle as soon as you stop. If the children take too long to gather their belongings, it causes severe traffic congestion in Visagie Street and in the driveway. Thank you to all our parents for taking others into consideration!

As from 02 March, the **Foundation Phase** (Crèche to Grade 3) finishes school at **13h10**, and the **Senior Primary** (Grade 4 to 7) finishes school at **13h30**.

The Visagie Street gates will open in the afternoon at **13h10**; please DO NOT come too early (before 13h10) as this creates problems with the traffic build-up in the street.

Parents with siblings in the school are reminded to please only come to fetch the children when the **oldest sibling finishes** school as there is no safe place to park and wait for the children in the school grounds.

High School learners finish school at **14h00**.

 A reminder to **day care parents** of the service being offered by the **tuck shop** to prepare lunch for the learners. Please contact the tuckshop **directly**, Orlando, at 083 265 4768 with orders and payment.

 Please ensure that your child in **Grade 4 to 7 has all the necessary textbooks**. It is essential for her to have the books in order to keep up with the work and not fall behind. Should you be experiencing challenges in this regard, you are most welcome to email Ms Hill (michelleh@loreto.co.za) for assistance, and to be put in touch with parents who might have second hand books for sale.

 Please note that ALL **Grade 4 to 7** learners must **wear their name badges** every day at school. If the badge is lost, please see Mrs Haupt to purchase a new one for R20.

-  The learners have started with **assessment** in all the subjects. Please support and encourage your children and please monitor the homework and assessment plan.
-  **Homework demerits** will be issued for any homework not complete, or books left at home.
-  Please make sure that your child has all the **necessary items of uniform**. A reminder that the **sports skirt may only be worn by Grade 4 to 7 girls**. The Foundation Phase girls must please wear their blue sports shorts as part of their sports uniform. Please contact Mr Danny Venter on 083 658 9859 at the uniform shop to make an appointment should you need to purchase any items.
-  Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 regulations, **learners may not bring cake or party packs** to school for their classmates on their birthday. Children, may, however, wear their home clothes on their birthday.
-  We are about launch our first **Outreach programme** for the year. Our **Blanket Drive** kicks off this week. We are asking our very generous parents to donate a blanket that will be distributed to organisations that serve the needy in the community around the school. The blanket must please be a new one, although we do not expect our parents to buy very expensive blankets, only what you can afford. There will be an area where the children can leave the blankets when they are dropped off in the morning. Please take note that this is a voluntary donation and parents are by no means forced to make a contribution. The last day for bringing a blanket is **Friday 16 April**.
-  A reminder that Loreto Convent School's **terms and holidays now differ quite significantly** from those of public schools. The first term comes to an end on Friday 26 March and school reopens on Tuesday 13 April. Reports for the first term will be issued after our return in April.
-  Any medication that must be taken during the school day must be dispensed by the parent for the appropriate dose, and **MUST contain a list of full instructions** (what to take, how much must be taken, a spoon or syringe that can clearly indicate dosage in the case of syrups, what time it should be taken, parent info and signed by the parent). All medication **must be sent in the bag for the class teacher to administer (Foundation Phase) or to the secretary (Grade 4 to 7)** before school, and it will be given to your child as per your instructions at the correct time.



- 💡 We have come to the end of our **first week** (since March 2020) with a **full** High School compliment and we are happy to inform parents that all has gone well. Learners are very good at complying with Covid protocols. Please continue to encourage and educate your child about protocols and how **important** it is to obey all of the rules put into place at school.
- 💡 A kind request to all parents - if you need to see any member of management to **please make an appointment in advance**. As per Covid regulations and instruction from the Department of Education, we may not accept any adults (other than staff) onto our premises. It is therefore important to make an appointment, so that a venue can be prepared.
- 💡 **Matric results** were published on 23 February. We are overjoyed with our results. We have **100% matric pass rate and 95% university entrance pass rate**. We are humbled by our 2020 matrics and their outstanding achievement. They have done us very proud. Congratulations to Tokologo Montwedi and Mbali Radebe who achieved 5 distinctions each while Yaa Addo-Bediako, Zandile Kowane and Lwandile Ntshingila achieved 4 distinctions each.
- 💡 It is important to note that under **discipline** we also have a **merit system** in place. We do SMS parents all demerits **and** merits attained by any learner. All messages start off as: DISCIPLINE NOTICE... Please ensure that you read **to the end** the SMS, so as not to assume that it is a demerit.
- 💡 A kind reminder as mentioned in the previous newsletter – we aim to email **Term 1 report cards** by 19 April, but this is subject to COVID and department regulations.
- 💡 **Cell phones**: As per page 14 of the Code of Conduct, **no smart phones are allowed** on the school premises. Searches will be done randomly. If your daughter's phone has been confiscated, please do not request for it to be returned. Your daughter needs to take responsibility and lessons are to be learnt. Parents can't expect the school to 'ignore' the Code of Conduct of the school
- 💡 Parents must please note that the School may not, by law, dispense any **medication** to a learner. Therefore, we would like to request that you **provide your High School daughter** with the following in a small tin, zip bag or container, that she is able to **keep with her in her schoolbag** at all times, and can be used in the case of minor headaches, period pain, nausea and other problems that she may have during the school day.

These medications are inexpensive and are available over-the-counter at Clicks or Dischem.

- 1 x sanitary pad or tampon
- 2 x Neurofen Period tablets
- 2 x Buscopan tablets
- 2 x Valoid or Aculoid tablets
- 2 x Allergex Non-Drowsy tablets



Only send this small amount of medication please.

Please do not send **large amounts of tablets or medication** to school with your child. Any medication that must be taken must be measured for the appropriate dose, and **MUST contain full instructions** (what to take, how much must be taken, what time it should be taken, parent info and signed by the parent). All medication **must be handed in at the secretary's office** before school, and it will be given to your child as per the instructions at the correct time. Unfortunately, we have had situations in the past, where learners have brought large amounts of medication to school in their bags, which has then been taken out of the bags by other learners, or learners have accidentally overdosed themselves on their own medication. This situation must be avoided at all costs. (**Asthma pumps** must be kept with the learner at all times please, and **Epi-Pens** can be stored safely at school with the Deputy Principal for emergency use only.)

If your daughter has chronic or severe period pain or migraines/headaches, she **must** be seen by a doctor please so that the correct medication can be prescribed, depending on the doctor's recommendations and treatment plan. Encourage your daughter to take medication for period pain in the **mornings** at home, before she comes to school, if at all possible. Please alert the school to any serious conditions which she may have – including allergies, asthma, heart conditions, and so forth.

 We would like to encourage parents to ensure that they have **read and are familiar with** our various policies, school rules and other important documents. These are available on the school website, as well as in the school diary. Our **drug policy**, for example, is that learners will be subjected to random drug screening tests throughout the year, conducted as per Department specifications. Our **subject choice policy** details the guidelines for choosing subjects in Grade 10. Also please ensure that you read our newsletter, check the website for information and look out for emails and sms messages that regularly get sent. If you are not receiving communication, it is quite likely that your contact details have changed and the school has not been informed. Please keep us up to date on any changes that may occur during the year.

FINANCE MATTERS

Firstly, we need to **thank** those parents who have faithfully been paying their school fees. In order for the School to stay operational, parents **HAVE** to pay their school fees on time. Loreto Convent School is not a State or no-fee paying school, and as such, we need to rely on the payment of school fees as the majority stream of income that must finance all expenses throughout the year.

Statements have been sent out to parents. If you are not receiving our bulk mails, please do let us know.

Please note that school fees are payable **UPFRONT**, by the **7th of every month**. This means that all fees, up to and including January/February 2021 fees are already due and payable in full. Overdue accounts will be followed up and handed over to our debt collection company for recovery. Please note that you will be liable for any **interest** on the account and collection and/or legal **fees**, should the account be handed over. **Overdue accounts will be charged an interest rate of 2% per month, as per our contract.** We are going to be very strict regarding the payment of fees in 2021.

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 when the references are missing or incorrect. Examples of such references are "School Fees", "Loreto Fees" or "Cash Payment" – it does not indicate who is making the payment or what is being paid.

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 14 JANUARY 2021

Account reference **1033** (MNI002)

Learner information:

P O Box 13487
The Tramshed
Pretoria 0126
Tel: 0845807241

Please cut on the dotted line and send the top part back with your payment



Reference: Your account number at school i.e. 1110 **** Take note that these references are only examples and must not be used.** Please contact the accounts department to get your account reference. The reference will also appear on your monthly statement in the place indicated by the red circle above.

The reference is your four-digit family code number, NOT the old family code or your surname or the child's name.

Please also do try to pay correct amounts, as the system gets confused when allocating amounts that are paid but do not match any specific billing amounts. When amounts are correct, and referenced in this way, the system is able to allocate to the account automatically and mistakes are avoided. 9

Congratulations Matric Class of 2020

100% Pass Rate - 95% Bachelor Pass



History 13 Distinctions with an average of 81%

Afrikaans 12 Distinctions with average 68 %

Geography 2 Distinctions with average 72 %

Maths 3 Distinctions, highest mark 89%

Dux Scholar Mbali Radebe 5 x A with average of 83 %

2nd Tokologo Montwedi 5 x A with average 82 %

