

WELCOME
BACK TO
SCHOOL



WELCOME
BACK TO
LOYOLA SCHOOL
Thiruvananthapuram



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

Coordinator
Fr. Roy Alex, S. J.

Editing & Design
James Thomas

Contents

- 03 *From the Principal's Desk*
- 05 *Appeal to all Loyolites*
- 06 *LOAF OF LOVE* drive of the PTA
- 07 Loyolites in the limelight
- 10 Family Day programmes
- 17 Diwali programmes
- 23 *Return to the campus*
Adithya R., VII A
- 24 *Back at Disneyland*
Rithav Sreekanth, V C
- 25 *Back to School*
Diana Mohan (Parent)
- 26 *Off tenterhooks*
Dr Priya Jalesh (Parent)
- 27 *A dream come true*
Darshan R.Nair, VI B
- 29 Children's Day programmes



From the Principal's Desk...

Finally, the schools are open. Fear of COVID_19 has kept 80% of our children from coming to school. Another innovation is in the offing for the students of Stds X and XII. Soon, ICSE, ISC & CBSE first-terminal Board Exams will happen offline. I wish them all the very best. The second terminal exams for all the other classes will be conducted in December. I am sure they will all do well.

We will conduct the *Loaf of Love* programme on 4th December. I hope the PTA will make it a success and at least some children will be able to take part in it.

Youth festivals are going on for various groups in the online mode. I am glad that our children are participating in spite of all the limitations.

Congratulations to the teachers on their excellent celebration of the Children's Day on 14 November.

A good news I would like to share with you is that the Thiruvananthapuram Corporation has given permit for Loyola School to construct the new 'Diamond Jubilee Building'. This building will be the **Loyola Foundational School** as envisaged in the New Education Policy and will house the Play School, LKG, UKG, and Stds. I & II.

Fr P.T. Joseph, S.J.



Front elevation of Loyola Foundational School



Blessing the construction site during the Groundbreaking Ceremony on 8 November 2021



Special Appeal to all Loyolites

Dear Loyolite,

We have received the final sanction from the Thiruvananthapuram Corporation to commence the construction of the new Diamond Jubilee Building. This building will be the **Loyola Foundational School** as envisaged in the New Education Policy and will house the Play School, LKG, UKG, Stds.1 and 2. I request all alumni and other wellwishers to contribute liberally towards this building fund and help us make it a state-of-the-art Foundational School.

If a batch or an individual donates Rs. 5 lakhs, we shall name a classroom of their choice after that batch (or alternatively, any name that the batch suggests) and place a plaque and the group photo of the batch at the entrance of that classroom. The same will be done in the case of individual donations too. In this case, the alumni may choose to name the room after any member of his family or dedicate the same in memory of any one. We shall display a photograph of the person to whom the room is dedicated.

We hope to complete the construction of the building by January 2023. We require your wholehearted support to achieve this.

Donations from Indian currency accounts may be sent to the following account:

Account Name: Building Fund
Bank Name: South Indian Bank, Sreekariam
Account No: 0497053000010008
IFSC code: SIBL0000497

In the case of foreign contributions, the bank account details are as follows:

Beneficiary Name: Kerala Jesuit Society
Beneficiary Bank Name and Address:
State Bank of India
FCRA Cell, 4th Floor
New Delhi –110 001
Account Number: 40187967623
Swift BIC Code: SBININBB104
IFSC Code: SBIN0000691

Loyolites have been generous in the past and I am certain that you would stand firmly with us for this cause too.

Gratefully yours

Fr P.T. Joseph, S.J.

Principal



AN INITIATIVE OF LOYOLA PTA

*To reach out to the destitute,
on 4 December 2021*

The global pandemic has brought about devastating socio-economic disruption. More than 5 million people have lost their lives and many have lost their livelihood as well.

Loyola PTA's *Loaf of Love* charity drive aims to make a difference in the lives of the underprivileged. The plan is to provide necessary assistance to the needy patients at the Regional Cancer Care Centre (RCC) and also address the needs of the inmates of a few old-age homes. The estimated amount for the drive is Rs.5,00,000. So far we have received Rs. 41500. Let us join hands and do our bit in giving back to humanity what it needs the most, love and care. Let us bring in smiles to those who have forgotten to smile and make this a better place to live in.



We look forward to your generous contribution. Remittance details are given below:

Bank: South Indian Bank, Sreekaryam
Account Name: PTA Loyola School
Account No: 0497053000010443
IFSC: SIBL0000497

*It's not how much we give
but how much love we put
into giving.*

— Mother Teresa

LOYOLITES IN THE LIMELIGHT



Miguel Benoy Koottumkal (I B) won the Gold Medals in 400m and 600m in Kerala State Roller Skating Championship held at Kozhikode from 9 to 11 November 2021.

**WINNERS IN THE INTER-SCHOOL IGNATIAN QUIZ
HOSTED BY AKJM SCHOOL, KANJIRAPALLY.**



Jonathan B. Jomy, Jonathan Edwards N. and Astin Thomas Binu of Std.VI; Advait Manoj and Abhiram S. Nithin of Std. VII



**ADITHYA KISHOR (XI B), WINNER IN MEDHA MEGA QUIZ
at St Mary's School, Pattom, Thiruvananthapuram**

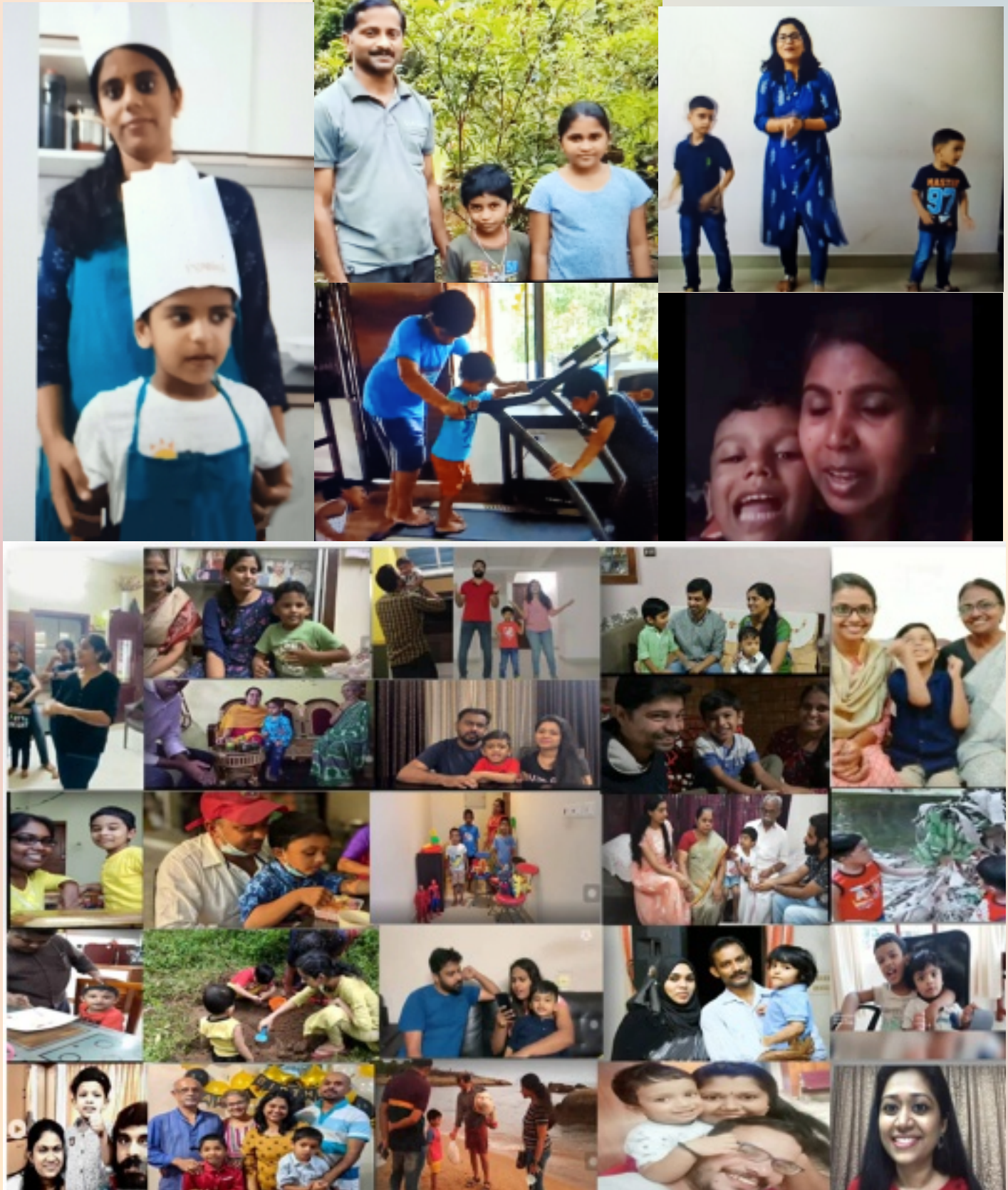


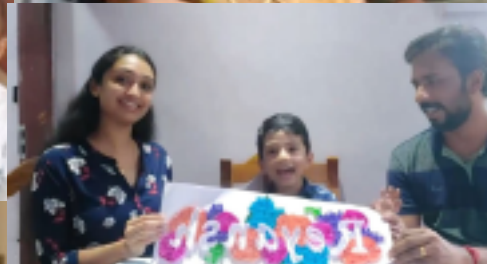
17th ALL KERALA STATE ROLL BALL CHAMPIONSHIP

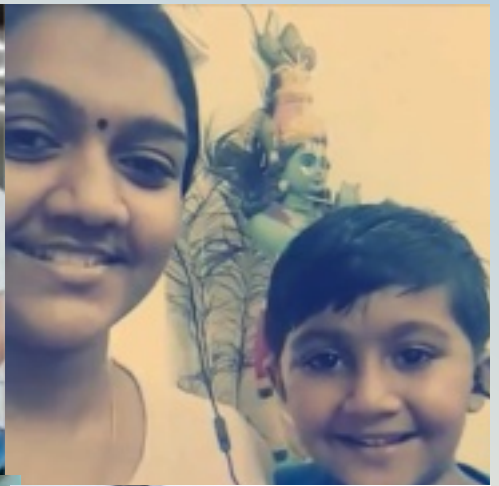


**Advaith Manjush Kurup & Jonathan Edwards N. of Std. VI D and Gaurav Unnikrishnan of Std. VI B
who represented the Trivandrum District and won the Silver Medal at
the 17th All Kerala State Roll Ball Championship
held in Kozhikode on 30-31 October 2021**

FAMILY DAY PROGRAMMES: LKG & UKG









PROGRAMME PRESENTERS



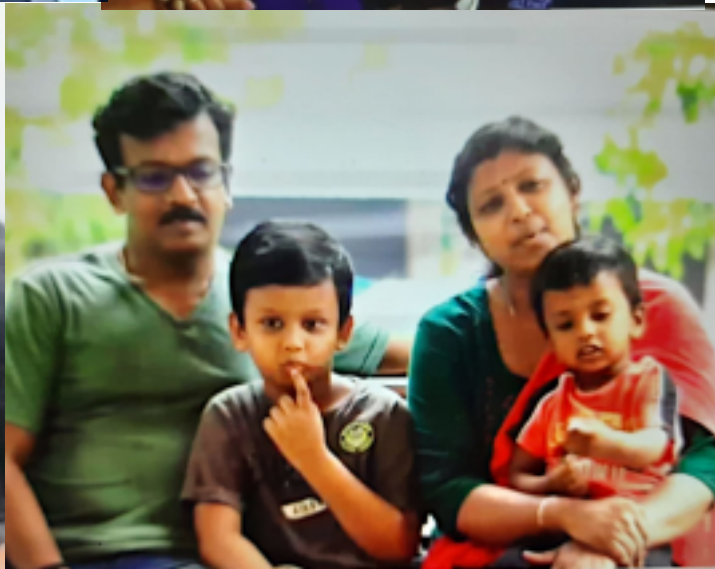
FAMILY DAY PROGRAMMES: CLASSES I TO IV



*You don't choose your family.
They are God's gift to you, as you
are to them.... God's dream is that you
and I and all of us will realize that we
are family, that we are all made for
togetherness, for goodness, and for
compassion.*

Desmond Tutu







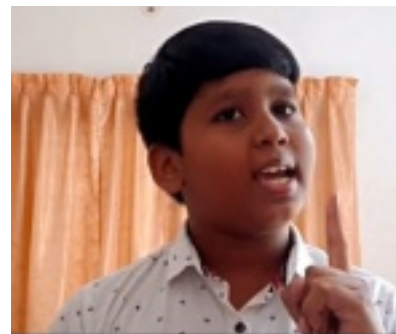
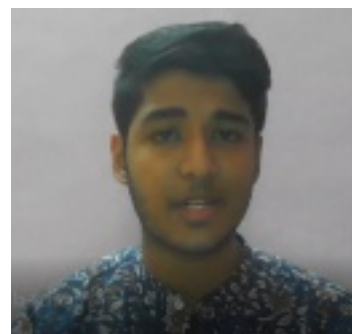
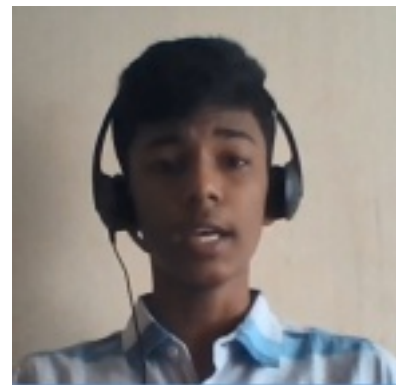
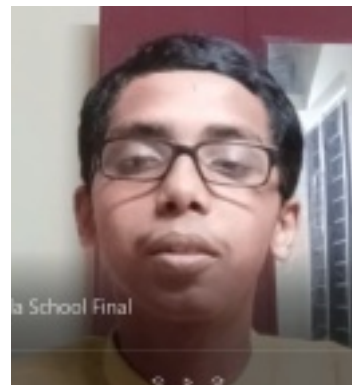
DIWALI CELEBRATIONS



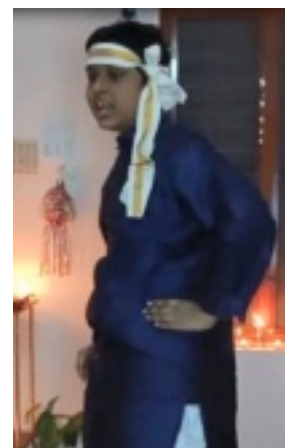
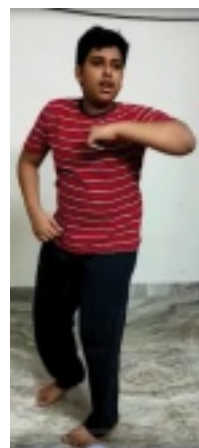
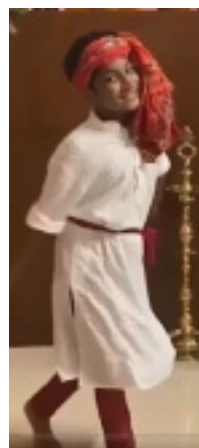


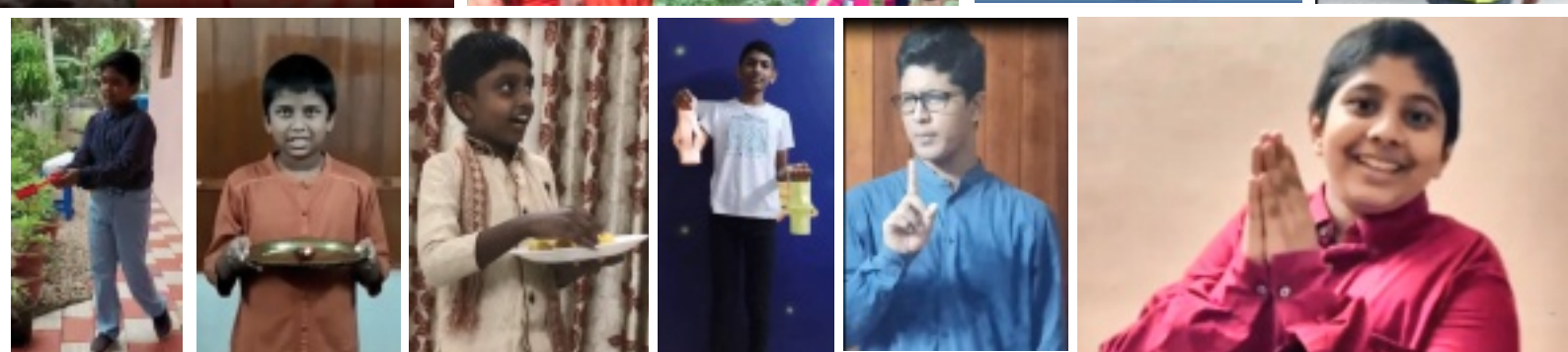
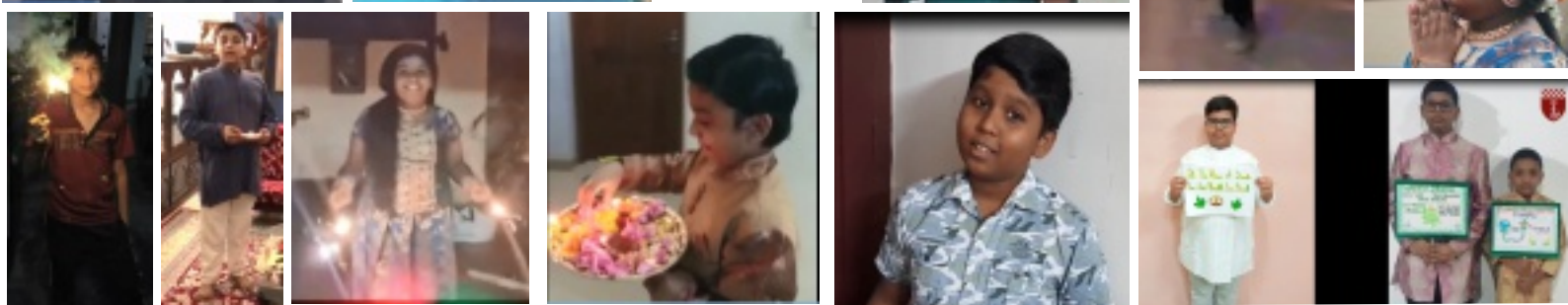
Happy Diwali

Diwali Song: Music Club



Message: Fr Sunny Kunnappallil, SJ (Rector)







Alvin Noble (XI F), Deva Narayan S. (XI D), and Sooraj J. U. (XI B)

Diwali Celebrations



We have all gathered in front of our screens to celebrate Diwali yet again! I'm here to share my thoughts about one of India's most dazzling festivals. "Diwali is the darkest night of the year and as we all know one can overcome darkness with light." The essence of *Diwali* lies in the *shlok*, '*Tamaso ma jyotirgamaya*' which means 'Lead me from darkness to light.' Everyone has to fill their hearts with the oil of love, light the wick with the knowledge of truth and ward off ignorance.

The festival of *Diwali* has more significance than mere lighting *diyas*, wearing new clothes, exchanging sweets and bursting crackers. It suggests that we can kindle light in many hearts just like a *diya* which can light many *diyas*.

A recurring theme of *Diwali* throughout history is how one cannot celebrate the festival of light before combating the darkness within. *Diwali* binds people and is a synthesis of spirituality, religion, culture and social values.

In northern India, the festival of lights signifies the return of Lord Rama to Ayodhya, after his fourteen years of exile and victory over Ravana. Ram, on that special day, was welcomed to the kingdom of Ayodhya with rows of *diyas* lighted throughout the kingdom.

While in southern India it signifies the victory of Lord Krishna, in western India it is the celebration of the birthday and the wedding day of Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth.

The celebration reminds us of the necessity to destroy evil forces and strengthen divine forces. In Bengal, *Diwali* is dedicated to the worship of the powerful, dark goddess of strength, Kali.

In some parts of India, *Diwali* is associated with the legend which states that on this day Lord Vishnu, in his fifth incarnation as Vamana, had rescued Lakshmi from the prison of King Bali.

Diwali is also of great significance to the Jains as it is said it was on this day that Lord Mahavira attained *Nirvana* or eternal bliss, King Vikramaditya was crowned on this day, and Guru Hargobind Singh was freed from the captivity of Jahangir on this day. The Sikhs also celebrate *Diwali* to commemorate the laying of the foundation stone for the Golden Temple in 1577. Now that you know why we celebrate *Diwali*, let me tell you how it is done.

Traditionally, *Diwali* celebrations are rendered incomplete without fireworks and merrymaking. As we all know, fireworks light up in the pitch black sky for a few moments but you should know, it can terribly affect our environment and health.

Diwali is a festival of light and hope, not of pollution and damage. So as conscious individuals, let us not burst crackers. If fireworks turn out to be unavoidable, stick to eco-friendly crackers.

The story of thousands of child labourers employed in fireworks factories is not unknown to us. The only way to save these children is to say "no" to crackers! When the demand dies, supply will die. Let this *Diwali* mark the birth of a new and rejuvenated soul. Let us be charged up to make changes as healthy, ethical citizens.

HAPPY DIWALI!

Mrs Baijayantee Bhattacharya

Return to The Campus



Adithya R., VII A

After a gap of one and a half years, I entered the school with nostalgia. My eyes were filled with tears of joy as the school bus entered the school premises. When I saw my teachers welcoming us, my joy had no bounds.

Our Principal had given us a chance to select offline classes. Some of us opted for it and other friends are still attending online classes. So, I could meet and enjoy the company of only a few of my friends.

As my teachers taught us as usual with the smartboard, I prayed to God that we all should come to school regularly. Some of the teachers taught us while others got us engaged in fun activities.

Our Principal and teachers made sure that we took care of ourselves in this pandemic situation. Both on the school bus and classroom, the arrangements were very fine. Our body temperature

was recorded before we got onto the bus.

On the bus as well as in the classrooms we were seated at a safe distance from one another.

Just as our parents take care of us at home, our teachers, uncles and aunts took care of us at school. They guided us in following the COVID-19 protocols

in the school premises. Still, a small feeling that hurt me was that we couldn't play in the school grounds. The empty playgrounds brought back memories of the games I used to play with my friends. I hope those good old days will return very soon.

My experience in the school after a long gap gave me great happiness. It was very pleasant and interesting. Among the many new things on the campus that I noticed are a MiG-27 fighter aircraft, a basketball court, an aviary with a waterfall and fish pond in it, cages with rabbits, hens, turkeys, ducks, and silver pheasants.





Rithav Sreekanth, V C

Back at Disneyland

A lot has changed since COVID-19 came our way. Many people have lost their jobs, many are struggling with poverty, schools were closed, everyone had to wear masks and face lockdowns. It was like a microwave heating up and we were the corn in it, gradually becoming popcorn. But everyone prayed, took care, and is safe.

It was one and a half years since I started attending online classes at home. Then came the good news that offline classes would start in November. I was excited.

As I entered the school campus after so long an interval I felt like being in Disneyland. The very first thing that caught my attention is the MiG-27 fighter aircraft at the very entrance of the school. I had read about it, but had never imagined it to be so huge and awesome. A huge cage for birds and

many small cages for farm fowls are a few other new things on the campus.

I greeted everyone and walked to my classroom. I was the second boy to enter the classroom after almost two years. I wore a mask and carried three extra masks, a bottle of sanitiser, a towel, snacks, and the books needed for the day. I met my teachers and friends, but I was not allowed to play in the parks or grounds because of the pandemic. I understood everything the teachers taught us and I was so excited.

I kept blabbering around that I didn't sleep last night because of excitement. I was happy to see my school after so long and I found it to be more beautiful than it ever was.





Diana Mohan

Back to School

The very word 'school' brings a smile along with warm and cherished memories of childhood days. It is the place where a child learns to socialize, share, help one another and master the art of team play. Though strange and alien to him at first, it soon becomes his second home where he is equally at ease, fully himself and perhaps even more.

During the last one and a half years lost to the pandemic, the kids missed their life at school—their classrooms, playgrounds, corridors, mischiefs they pull together, petty fights and sweet makeovers, teachers, uncles, and aunts. As school reopens, it brings together promises and



apprehensions as the kids leave their homes. It is quite heartwarming to find that Loyola School makes every effort to ensure their safety as they are handed over to their good old world. The change in the child is noticed right after the first offline class—all the excitement and the stories that never end when they get back from school. The old sparkle is back to their eyes...

We are grateful to the school management, the principals, teachers and non-teaching staff for making all the arrangements in the best way possible to keep the kids safe as they get back to school.

The writer is a Loyola parent, mother of Arnav Abhishek of II C and Adveid Abhishek of IV D. She is an engineer with VSSC/ISRO.

Off Tenterhooks



Dr Priya Jalesh

The covid pandemic has affected each and every one of us in one or the other way. It has caused a tremendous setback to our educational system, leaving all the activities virtual. It was a tough time for all students, teachers, parents and the school authorities. The worst-affected among them were the students of primary classes. They were completely suppressed

systematic measures taken by the management. Children were taken to their classrooms by the teachers and uncles who allotted them seats in accordance with the social distancing norms. All students were put under a bio-bubble for added safety. It was indeed great that they could interact with their classmates after a very long time under the constant supervision of the teachers.

At the end of the day's session, the boys were escorted back to the entrance by the staff in an organised manner, with absolutely no flaws. They were allowed to leave the premises only after everything was meticulously checked. Fr Principal himself could be seen running around to make sure that everything went right. He had monitored all classes during the lectures. Altogether, it was a great experience for the kids to meet their friends and teachers and

enjoy the lessons taken in a hearty manner. The dedication and sincerity shown by the management and every single member of the staff needs to be appreciated wholeheartedly.

I thank the school management, the Principals, and the members of the teaching and non-teaching staff from the bottom of my heart for arranging such a great comeback for these children.

through virtual means and had no room for their social and mental wellbeing even though the school management had taken all the initiatives. The news of reopening of the primary classes brought a splash of joy and excitement to my son. As parents, we too were excited and at the same time quite anxious as well. But the anxiety lasted only till the reopening day. A major chunk of our tension and anxiety vanished when we saw the smiling faces of the teachers and other staff members who were on duty at the entrance to receive and escort the students. We felt so relieved seeing the

The writer is a Loyola parent, mother of Navaneeth P.J. of IV D.





Darshan R. Nair, VI B

A dream come true

I got very excited when the dream of 'Back to School' was about to come true. I found it difficult to control my flying mind the previous night and could not get proper sleep. I was eagerly waiting to reach my school. My parents accompanied me to school as if it were my first day. I remembered my first day in UKG at Loyola when my mother waited outside to take me back after the classes. Principals, teachers and uncles welcomed us at the entrance which was a great pleasure to me. I felt that the rich greenery, open playgrounds and the newly-installed MiG-27 fighter aircraft were all embracing me and welcoming me to the campus. The excitement was high in the air when I met my classmates. All of us cautiously followed the COVID-19 protocols with proper social distancing, wearing masks and regularly sanitising our hands. Even though we were not allowed to play outdoors we enjoyed indoor games and activities which we missed for the last one and a half years. The difficulty of looking at the computer screen was not there and I started getting the old feel of the class. I hope in a few weeks all classes will be filled and we will be able to enjoy both studies and games just as we did before the virus disrupted everything.



Feel the pulse again



Image courtesy of an as-yet-unidentified member of LOBA

Children's Day Programmes

14 November 2021



