



CHANGE OF GUARD
at
LOYOLA SCHOOL



Publisher

Fr P.T. Joseph, S.J.
Principal, Loyola School
Thiruvananthapuram

Coordinator

Fr Roy Alex, S.J.

Editing & Design

James Thomas

Contents (Hyperlinked)

- 03 *From the Principal's Desk*
- 04 *Welcome to Fr Salvin Augustine, SJ*
James Thomas
- 05 *Fr Dr P.T. Joseph, SJ*
Joy M. Varghese
- 08 Loyola Global Leadership Awardees
- 10 Dedication of classrooms in the
Diamond Jubilee Building
- 16 Loyolites in the Limelight
- 18 *A Diamond Is Forever*
Sindhu N. Sarma
- 19 *Fare Thee Well, Our Dear Kala Ma'am*
Ananthakrishnan L., VIII A
- 20 *In Memoriam Kiran Manoj*
Dr Vishnu Mohan
- 20 *Goodbye, Vijay*
Wg Cdr Nalini Ranjan Kanthy (Retd)
- 22 NCC Report
- 24 *Digital Documentation of Trees and
Plants on Loyola Campus*
Dr Cynthia Christopher
- 28 *A Day at Jayamatha Boys Home*
Abhinav Manoj, VI C
- 30 Upcoming Programmes:
 - (i) Externship 2023
 - (ii) Parents Cricket League-II
- 31



From the Principal's Desk...

Another school year has come to an end. Also I pass on the school leadership to Fr. Salvin Augustine SJ and wish him all the best. On 15th April, I will take charge as Professor of Information Systems and Dean of Finance and Administration at XLRI-Delhi campus. I want to thank all the students, teachers, parents and alumni of Loyola school for the wonderful co-operation extended to me in transforming Loyola school during the pandemic. When I joined, we had only 1540 students. Next academic year, we will have 2300 students including 100 girls in Std XI.

I wish you all a wonderful summer vacation.

Fr P. T. Joseph, S. J.

WELCOME

Fr Salvin Augustine, SJ



Jesuit educational institutions the world over are committed to the ideal of all-round development of both the students and the institutions. The periodic transfer of Principals is meant to ensure that each institution benefits from the vision and expertise of different heads. Naturally, Loyola School today is the quintessence of the cumulative contribution of a long line of visionaries who guided its destiny for over six decades. It enters yet another transitional phase today, 1 April 2023. Much more than a routine change, it is at a deeper level a scientist being replaced by an artist.

The artist, Fr Salvin Augustine SJ, is a postgraduate in English Literature now doing research in Interdisciplinary Leadership in Education at Creighton University, the USA. He has also to his credit bachelor's degrees in Theology, Philosophy, and Education. A *Kalaprathibha* at school level, his areas of interest include linking education and art, choreography, elocution, and creative writing. He has been promoting art and literature, innovation in tribal education, experimentation in pedagogy, and has distinguished himself as the designer of the Creative Leadership Training (CLT) Programme.

His article on 'Quality Education', in *Sandesham*, and his book, *Jesuit Education*, are a standing testimony to his perception of the values central to the Jesuit vision, and his evaluation of how far and how successfully they have been practised.

The various positions Fr Salvin held at different times helped him practise the values he keeps closest to his heart. He had been teacher of English at, and for some time Director of, Sarvodaya HSS, Eachome, Wayanad, Administrator of Loyola Entrance Academy, Coordinator of School Ministry of the Kerala Jesuit Province, Member of Dialogue and Media Commission of the Kerala Province, Coordinator of Apostolic Planning Commission of the Kerala Province, District Commissioner of Scouts, Kanjirappally, Director of TUDI (Tribal Unity for Development Initiative) in Wayanad and Principal of AKJM School, Kanjirappally. And he continues as the Coordinator for Formation, Kerala Jesuit Province.

Fr Salvin has also disseminated his ideas on parenting, compassionate leadership, and personality development in several seminars and workshops across the State, some of them exclusively for different religious congregations, and the others, for parents, teachers, and students.

A student of English Literature, Fr Salvin is sure to appreciate what T. S. Eliot said in his 'Tradition and Individual Talent' about poetic impersonality and the relationship between the poet and poetic tradition and apply the concept in his stewardship of Loyola School and prove himself to be at once a classicist and a modernist among the Principals, just as Eliot was, as a poet.

James Thomas

Fr. Dr. P.T. Joseph, SJ

Fr. Dr. P. T. Joseph SJ assumed office as Principal of the prestigious Loyola School, Trivandrum on June 1, 2020. He brought with him immense experience and knowledge in pastoral, technical, managerial, administrative, and human resource development. He has Masters in Physics, Education, Theology, Business Administration, and Doctorate in Electrical and Computer Engineering. He was serving as 'McLean Chair Professor' of Artificial Intelligence at St. Joseph's University, Philadelphia, when he was chosen to lead Loyola School.

His exposure over 33 years as Visiting Assistant Professor, MBA Programme, Marquette University; Professor, Information Systems and Organizational Behaviour, XLRI, Jamshedpur; Director, Xavier Institute of Management, Bhubaneswar; Marian Institute of Management, Kuttikanam; Amal Jyothi Engineering College, Kanjirapally; Faculty and Research Fellow at Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration, Mussoorie and such others has given him a clear vision on education, management, and brand building

He has authored books on spirituality, leadership styles and practices, emotional intelligence and pastoral leadership, information systems in



knowledge economy, the Indian perspective of E-Commerce and articles like “Use and abuse of social media”, “Internet-Opportunities for Business in India”, “Panoramic Holo-interferometry” etc. published in several journals.

His proficiency in decision making during adverse circumstances has benefitted Loyola School and its stakeholders remarkably. The projects undertaken by him have opened avenues for visible developments of skills in the stakeholders.

Covid-19 pandemic opened arrays of challenges in online academic progress of students and he was quick to arrange training for teachers to upskill themselves, to manage and become experts in online teaching. Student community enjoyed commendable academic progress even during Covid-19.

He was quick to tap the resources of LOBA for a series of Career Guidance webinars.

Diamond Jubilee Building: Fr. Joseph believes that Loyola must serve more students and parents in the future. And for that more classrooms are required. More contiguous land was purchased, and the Diamond Jubilee Building with 28 classrooms and two multipurpose rooms has been constructed and will be ready for use from June 2023.

Swimming Pools: It will be a dream come true when the two new swimming pools under construction are ready for use by the end of May. Students currently on roll dream of getting into the pools after the summer break.

Brand building is an essential part of any promising institution and blessings of saints certainly matter. A new statue of St. Ignatius was erected near the entrance in 2021.

A home away from home certainly requires attractions like love birds, turkeys, rabbits, and such. Fr. Joseph was quick to understand the importance of those ‘distractions’ of focus and include them on the campus for the aspiring ornithologists and pet lovers. The aviary and the little stream in it attract a lot of grandparents too who enjoy the short flights of the love birds and the gurgle of the stream.

After the decommissioning of MiG-27 ML by the Defence Ministry, the fighter plane bearing the number TS 575, flown by Loyola alumni, was gifted by the Indian Air Force to Loyola School in 2021 and it is displayed at the entrance of the school. Wg Cdr N R Kanthy (Retd) is remembered fondly for making this possible.

Fr. Joseph also found an answer to the ever-soaring electricity bill by augmenting solar panels which can now generate up to 100 KW of energy.

Fire prevention and safety measures have been upgraded in all the buildings.

Scholastics received a boost when he set up AI and Robotics lab and started remedial classes for those who needed more handholding in foundational concept clarity in all subjects. He also offered more options in subjects as per the NEP guidelines.

Games and sports acquired more focus during these years to improve physical fitness to boost immunity, mental health to leverage academic achievements, team collaboration, endurance, balance and coordination, self-discipline etc. More teachers and coaches were appointed for improving the skills in football, basketball, cricket, and skating. Second trip buses ensured safe transport for those who opted for coaching in these games.

Games equipment like jungle gym, garden slides, swings, boards for balancing and gymnastic rings were installed on the ground near the school auditorium for students in foundational and middle classes.

The long-awaited school marching band was introduced in the summer camp of April 2022 and the boys have been performing well during all major events of the school. Thanks to the expert band master. More boys will be trained during the summer camp of 2023.

Visionary interventions: After many rounds of discussions with the stakeholders, Fr. Joseph decided that opportunity for entrance coaching must be provided on the campus for prospective candidates and hence Narayana entrance coaching programme commenced in 2021-'22.

Another attraction for the outgoing students is the Externship introduced in 2022 with the help and initiative of LOBA. As a pilot programme, a week's trainings were arranged for students in Class XII in the IT Park, Kochi and Trivandrum. The summer of 2023 will witness about 50 Loyolites participating in the externship.

Number of students in each section in the formative classes was reduced to ensure better facilitation and personalised interventions.

The decision to provide equal opportunities of growth to girl students will be inscribed in gold in the annals of the history of the school. Though in the year of inception Loyola School was co-educational, due to some pragmatic challenges the school admitted only boys in the later years. Now, after 63 years of service and being ranked the best boys' school in Kerala and 14th nationally, the decision was unanimously welcomed by the residents of Thiruvananthapuram. More than 100 girls

have sought admission to Class XI. More than 100 girls have sought admission to Class XI.

Fr. Joseph is an inquisitive and continuous learner and takes calculated risks which will turn out to be beneficial to the institution and the stakeholders. Though he appears a task master with a clear vision of responsibility, he knows where to be firm and is just in dealing meritoriously and generous in appreciating the deserving. He is deeply spiritual, frank and loves gardening and agriculture.

As Fr. Joseph joins XLRI Delhi as Dean of Finance and Administration, Loyolites wish him good health, vigour, protection, and blessings on all his services.

Joy M. Varghese



Felicitations to LOYOLA GLOBAL LEADERSHIP AWARDEES



Loyola Global Leadership Award winner Raj Subramaniam (President and CEO, FedEx Corporation) addressing the gathering. Seen on the dais are Sharath Krishnan (LOBA Secretary), Principal Fr P.T. Joseph SJ, Young Achiever awardee Aravind Mani (CEO, River EV), Renjith Raveendran (LOBA President) and Fr Roy Alex SJ. (Principal, CBSE)

Ever since its establishment in 1961, Loyola School has been grooming potential leaders of all stripes. Many former students have made it big at the global level. Loyola Old Boys Association instituted Loyola Global Leadership Awards (GLA) in 2015 and has since been honouring outstanding leaders every year. The winners of this year's Global Leadership Award and Young Achiever's Award are Rajesh Subramaniam and Aravind Mani, respectively. They were felicitated in a special assembly at Loyola School on 11 March 2023 and presented the awards in a colourful function at Sri Mulam Club, Vazhuthacaud, Trivandrum, the same day.



Young Loyolites queuing up with questions

Rajesh Subramaniam of the 1981 ICSE batch did his B Tech in Chemical Engineering at IIT Bombay and his Masters at Syracuse University, New York, and MBA at the University of Texas. He joined FedEx as a marketing analyst in 1991 and is now the President and CEO of that global delivery conglomerate. He is the second CEO in the 50-year history of FedEx. Aravind Mani of the class of 2001 did his MBA at the Asian Institute of Management, Manila. After being with Manali Petrochemicals, TN Petroproducts, and the EV division of TVS Motors at various times, he turned an entrepreneur and is the Co-Founder & CEO of River, the startup which specialises in the production of electric scooters.

[Click here to listen to what Raj Subramaniam's father says about his son](#)

[Click here to hear what Aravind Mani says about RIVER IDIE EV](#)

JT



Aravind Mani receiving the Young Achiever Award from Fr P.T. Joseph S.J.



Renjith Raveendran,
LOBA President



Dr C.V. Ram Mohan,
Former LOBA President



Chief Guest of the Award Ceremony,
V.K. Mathews, Executive Chairman,
IBS Software





Dedication of classrooms in the **DIAMOND JUBILEE BUILDING**

The **Diamond Jubilee Building** is getting ready for its launch as **Loyola Foundational School**. With appropriate plaques and photographs in place, the classrooms are being dedicated to the memory of the sponsors' choice. The details of the sponsors and the dedication are given below:

1. The batch of 1974, in memory of late Ms Maya Thomas, Teacher of English from 1962 to 1980
2. Dr Rejnish Kumar (1984 batch) and Dr Renjith Kumar (1977 batch), in memory of their mother Smt Meeni Ravikumar
3. Thomas K. Vaidhyan (1984 batch) in memory of his parents, Mrs Ponnamma Kurian and late Prof. Koshy Vaidhyan
4. 'BoSS' (Boys of Seventy-Seven)
5. The Silver Jubilee batch of 1987, cherishing all who have been part of the journey
6. The batch of 1994, in memory of Vivek Rajendran
7. The batch of 2000, in memory of Dr Sabari S.

The foundation stone of the proposed gallery partially sponsored by the batch of 1984 was blessed by Fr Roy Alex SJ.



Classroom sponsored by the batch of 1974 in memory of late Ms Maya Thomas, Teacher of English from 1962 to 1980



Classroom sponsored by Dr Rejnith Kumar (1984 batch) and Dr Rejnith Kumar (1977 batch), in memory of their mother Smt Meeni Ravikumar



Classroom sponsored by Thomas K. Vaidhyan (1984 batch) in memory of his parents, Mrs Ponnamma Kurian and late Prof. Koshy Vaidhyan.



Classroom sponsored by the Silver Jubilee batch of 1987, cherishing all who have been part of the journey



Classroom sponsored by the batch of 2000 in memory of Dr Sabari S.



Classroom sponsored by the batch of 1994 in memory of Vivek Rajendran



Classroom sponsored by **BoSS** (Boys of Seventy-Seven)



The foundation stone of the proposed gallery partially sponsored by the batch of 1984 being blessed by Fr Roy Alex SJ.



LOYOLITES IN THE LIMELIGHT



Kesav Muralikrishnan, Hrishikesh S.R. and Dev Santhosh of Std IV won the First Place in the Basketball Skill Test conducted by TDBA (Trivandrum District Basketball Association)



Daksh R. Nair (V E), Gaurav B. (IV C), Pranav Nair (V A), Rishi Hariharan (II A), Siddharth Abhilas (IV A) won the Second Place in the Basketball Skill Test conducted by TDBA (Trivandrum District Basketball Association)



Second Position in Trivandrum District Basketball League



Ishaan R.S., I B
(Second Prize)



Abel Sebastian Yesudas, III B



Farhan Shajeer, I B
(Winners of the Third Prize)



Aryan R. Nair, I A

A DIAMOND IS FOREVER

Mathematics is not about numbers, equations, computations or algorithms; it is about understanding concepts. It may not teach us how to add love or subtract hate but it teaches us that every problem has a solution.

Life is like a string of mathematical problems. Easy and immediate solutions may elude us at first, but they will emerge as we analyse the problems. Sometimes questions may be complicated but the answer could be simple. There have been complexities in my life. Kala has helped me find easy ways out. Her advice is to accept complexities as a part of life and face them squarely and come out stronger by grappling with them without losing heart.

God has given us the freedom to choose friends who will be with us for ever. Parents love us as

we are their own flesh and blood. A friend is initially a stranger, and then she gradually becomes a part of our life in a very special way. For many years, Kala and I were together in one staffroom. She would crack jokes in a funny way. She had the freedom to ask me to do things. It was with great joy that I would do the same for her like I would for an elder sister. We have a very good relationship like that between two sisters. She had been an elder sister to me and at times a mother figure too. She has a large store of good advice, not just for children but also for adults, which she gives out at the right time.

I don't have befitting words

to describe the profound relationship which I have had with Kala. There was no need for daily chats or meetings to help us continue our smooth friendship because it is etched in our hearts. She is moving forward to the next phase of her life. I wish her the best and I know she will do her best wherever she goes.

Thank you Kala for having been a wonderful friend.



A small token of love from the colleagues

Sindhu N. Sarma

Fare Thee Well, Our Dear Kala Ma'am

Just like her name, Kala Madam is a teacher endowed with various talents, the primary one being teaching. To all of us, Ma'am is not only a teacher, but also a very close friend. Her way of teaching and handling us have been quite special.

She was my class teacher, during the pandemic-time, in the sixth and the seventh grades. Even though she was not very tech-savvy, she showed a keen interest in learning how to use all the features of MS Teams. She patiently listened to every piece of advice regardless of whether it came from her colleagues or students. She supported us throughout the online-class-time and helped us to cope with the new normal. Ma'am tried to include all the elements of offline class

in the online platform too. She sent us quizzes regularly and made sure that all questions were very good ones. If we couldn't answer any of them, she would wait after the class and explain the solution.

With Kala Ma'am as our teacher, mathematics became simpler than it was. She showed us new techniques for solving problems. She used to give us very little homework and made sure that most of the questions were solved in the class itself.

During her first class, all of us thought that ma'am would be a very harsh and strict teacher. But as days passed by, we understood that the first assumption was completely wrong. Ma'am used to call herself a driver. She thought of us as passengers in her vehicle. With such an experienced driver at the steering wheel, the vehicle traversed terrains of all sorts like geometry and algebra and the ride proved quite smooth for all of us.



A hand-made gift that embodies heart-felt love and gratitude of Joel S. Jose, Arjun Krishna, Karthik Pillai, Jonathan Edwards N. and Shaun Remany Saugar

Now it is time for the driver to take rest. We pray to the Lord Almighty to bestow upon her good health and wellbeing. We will never forget the values she imparted to us and the knowledge she filled our minds with. You are always in our hearts Ma'am.

Ananthkrishnan L., VIII A

In Memoriam



Kiran Manoj (2010 Batch)



It is with great sadness that we announce the demise of our beloved school friend Kiran Manoj of the batch of 2010. He passed away due to a sudden cardiac arrest on 13th February. He had been working as a business system analyst in Tempe, Arizona.

Kiran was a dear friend to many and will be deeply missed by all who knew him. He had a contagious smile and a kind heart, always ready to lend a helping hand to those in need. He was an exceptional student, always pushing himself to excel academically, and inspiring those around him to do the same. He had a passion for travel and making new friendships, often offering his time and resources to various causes.

As we mourn this loss, we take comfort in knowing that he left an indelible mark on the world, and will continue to inspire and uplift those who knew him. We offer our sincere condolences to his family during this difficult time and pray that they find strength and comfort in the memories they shared with him.

Rest in peace, dear friend. You will be forever missed, but your memory will live on in our hearts.

Dr Vishnu Mohan (2010 Batch)

Goodbye Dear **VIJAY**



Brig S. Vijayakumar (Retd)

30 March 2023 will be an unforgettable day for the batch of 1969. We were woken up by a message on our WhatsApp group informing us about the sad demise of our dear friend Brig S. Vijayakumar (Retd). He passed away peacefully in his sleep on 22 March 2023 at Bangalore.

Vijay, as we called him, has the unique distinction of being the first Loyola boy to have joined the Armed Forces. None of us could be in touch with Vijay ever since he graduated from school. However, I took it upon myself to trace him out and get him back into the class group, where he became an active member.

It is an irony that Vijay, whom I traced out in 2021 after months of intense effort, should leave us so soon without any of us having a chance to meet him because of the onset of the Covid epidemic soon after we reestablished links with him. Each and every one of us was elated when Vijay rejoined us after so many years. Little did we realise that his stay with us would be so short.

Vijay was a unique personality. He came from an army background and did not know much of Malayalam when he joined Loyola School, having grown up outside the state. He was our “Go to Man” for anything Hindi.

Much bigger and sturdier than many of us he was a good sportsman, equally adept at acting and singing and was a great friend. He could come out with great ideas on any matter in double quick time.

Movies and movie stars of those days were his craze. Vijay nourished a “tinsel town school boy dream”. That dream was not fulfilled though.

His untimely demise will deprive his family of his everyday presence and affection for them. For us of the 1969 batch Vijay will be present in our lives as long as the last of us leaves this earth.

He finished Act-1 of his life so meritoriously and has gone on to play a new role in scene 1 Act -2 of his life.

Every time I spoke to him, he would say that he looked forward to the next reunion of the batch of 1969, having been still untraced when we celebrated the golden jubilee of our batch in 2019. Unfortunately that is not to be.

Our deepest condolences to his wife Shyamala, his son Vikram and daughter Keerti and the extended family. We pray that he be happy where he is.

Goodbye dear friend. You will be with us always and forever.

Wg Cdr Nailini Ranjan Kanthy

[Click here for the story of the writer's efforts to trace Vijay](#)

NCC Report



The senior NCC cadets of 2022-'23 were trained in parade as well as theory which included topics like Kargil war, ranks and structure of the Indian Armed Forces, leadership, personality development, disaster management, national integration, firefighting, health and hygiene, social development, sports and adventure, firing, obstacle course etc. Since NCC in Loyola School is an air unit, we learned about aero engine, air frames, primary controls, secondary controls, airfield layout, aero modelling etc.

On 5 June, the cadets along with Fr Roy Alex SJ observed Environment Day by planting trees and plants. The cadets also participated in *Puneet Sagar Abhiyan*.

On 21 June, the cadets presented a yoga display along with ANO Anilkumar R. and Group Captain AG Sreenivasan, Commanding Officer, 1 Kerala Air Squadron.

In November the cadets went to Assisi Nikethan, Gandhipuram, to spend a day with over 40 inmates there. The cadets prepared homemade meals and the school provided essentials like soap, brushes, toothpaste etc. Also, they went to Sadhana Revival Centre, Monvila, the same month and gifted them with essentials. On both visits the cadets were accompanied by the ANO Anilkumar R., Fr Roy Alex SJ and officers from the unit.

In regard to achievements, one of our former cadets Cdt/Sgt Anand Aravind Pillai obtained the DG commendation card. One of the present NCC cadets Cdt/Sgt Madhav V. Nair attended the the All India Republic Day Camp and won the third place in the All India Best Cadet competition. Cdt/Sgt Pranav Kishore and Cdt/Sgt Anand Mahesh attended the pre-IGC RDC camp.

48 cadets attended the annual training camp and they bagged the first position in volleyball, best cadet competition and firing.

NCC not only focuses on the armed forces but also aims to produce leaders in all walks of life. The participation in NCC has been particularly high this year compared to that in the past. Each cadet is a different person ready to take on any challenge in life.

Cdt/Sgt Madhav V. Nair



Anant Aravind Pillai receiving the DG Commendation from Brigadier Pankaj Mehra, Group Commander, Trivandrum Group and Commanding Officer Group Captain A G Srinivasan (1Kerala Air Sqn NCC).



Digital Documentation and Labelling of Plants on Loyola Campus

Dr Cinthya Christopher

Important centres for education can play a very vital role in catering for, and educating people about, the vast and varied heritage of plant life in complete harmony with nature. Rich and diverse plant collections in an educational institution serve as a valuable educational tool

through which the communities are helped to learn and acknowledge their plant resources, its sustainable utilization and environmental improvement. Although the recognition that living plant collections could be used for promoting the conservation message to a wider audience is not new, recent research carried out by Rae (1995) confirmed that conservation education is the best way in which gardens in institutions could support nature conservation.

Loyola school located in 8.54230 North Latitude and 76.91190 in the East Longitude has a thick vegetation which was established both naturally and artificially mainly by anthropogenic

intervention. The school campus covers approximately 8 acres of land and includes gardens, lawns, trees with large canopies, cages for birds and animals etc. thereby promoting the biowealth of the area. The school has accumulated decades of resources and expertise in growing plants that would otherwise be lost in nature. This institution is committed to long term maintenance of its collection of plants while providing recreation and relaxation in a natural environment not only for the students and teachers at the School but also for its visitors.



Dr Cinthya Christopher explaining the project to a group of nature enthusiasts at Loyola

The writer and prime mover of the project is a Loyola parent and the Head of the Department of Botany, All Saints College, Thiruvananthapuram

For the conservation of each and every species proper documentation and identification is a prerequisite. Against this backdrop, the task of identification and QR code enabled documentation of trees in Loyola School has been taken up.

The major lines of work are:

- i) Survey to study the diversity of plants.
- ii) Identifying, locating the family and names of plants based on the accepted classifications.
- iii) Collection of data to describe each plant.
- iv) Uploading the data in the digital blog of Loyola School
- v) QR code generation and documentation of the plants with their identifying features.
- vi) Labelling of the plants with QR code enabled interactive name boards.

A region with a large number of individual species can be considered as biologically diverse, where the number of groups or taxa and individual species provide the criteria for measurement of biodiversity. Keeping this in mind, a survey was conducted in the months of November 2021, March 2022, and April 2022 to identify the plants on the campus. The plant samples were identified with the help of diagnostic keys provided by Gamble (1935) and with reference to the accepted web resources like *The Plant List (2010)*. The data regarding the identifying features of the plants were uploaded in the digital blog of Loyola School with photographs. A permalink is generated for each blog page pertaining to each tree where the data about the trees were uploaded. The permalink is used to generate the QR code from the website 'the-qrcode-generator.com'. Then the permalink is inserted into this website for each plant and the QR code is downloaded in a PNG format.

The data on the botanical name, common name, vernacular name, family, identifying features of each plant etc. were documented for the digitalization process. The name boards for the plants with the Botanical Name, Common name, Vernacular name, Family and QR code were fixed so that the students and visitors can use them for getting the details of the plants easily.

Loyola School campus has a large assemblage of plants with many pockets of thick vegetation of angiosperm flora. A detailed survey on the plants on the campus yielded 208 species which include 90 species of trees and 118 herbaceous and shrubby plants. The plant diversity at the school provides a microclimate for other species including humans to exist. It is a micro unit of biodiversity which mirrors that of the country. The microlevel floristic diversity of the smaller regions opens immense possibilities in enriching the knowledge of plant wealth from the grassroot level. The species richness of the campus reveals that it is a sustainable ecosystem which can reduce pollution, especially that caused by carbon dioxide.

An institution possessing ample representation of the indigenous plant species serves as an invaluable educational tool through which the students at all levels are driven to learn and appreciate the diversity of plants in their neighbourhood and the relationship between plants and other organisms found in natural habitats. It is difficult for the student community to care for nature if they don't have positive nature experience. Therefore, this digital documentation will definitely help to develop students' experience by providing activities that involve conservation of nature, environmental awareness and bio-aesthetics.



Now that all trees and plants on the campus are labelled, students follow up the effort by taking down notes





A DAY AT JAYAMATHA BOYS HOME



I am really happy that I got an opportunity to visit Jayamatha Boys Home at Nalanchira on 29 January 2023. In our group, there were around 50 students of class VI, Principal Fr P.T Joseph, Fr Roy Alex, three teachers and five PTA members.

At Jayamatha, Br K.T. Mathew and others received us and told us about the inmates who are studying in classes one to twelve. They were selected by the government based on their financial status. Br Mathew, Br Davis and a few caretakers look after the boys. When we reached the playground in front of the house, we could see the boys peeping out from their rooms. Br Mathew encouraged us to interact with the boys. At first, most of the boys seemed a little shy or reserved. When we started asking them their names and whereabouts, they became friendly and started to talk freely to us. The cute twins who studied in class one were the most charming of the boys there.

Br Mathew told us that based on their skills the boys would be sent to different schools and support will be given for higher education. One of the boys shared his ambition with us. He wanted to continue his studies and get a job that would enable him to support his mother and take good care of her. They told us that they usually study after coming back from school. They have playgrounds also. Most of them like football and cricket. Though the boys do not have very good facilities, they seemed surprisingly active and happy there.

We handed over our gift packets to the inmates. The packets contained food, chocolates, books, pens, bed sheets, soap, washing powder, tooth paste, mats etc. They were really happy to receive all those things.

Once the ice was broken, the boys were excited to entertain us. They sang songs for us and some of them sounded like trained singers. One boy named Vijay sang a Tamil song. He looked almost like movie star Vijay. Small kids presented a group song and a prayer song. We all clapped and encouraged them. Loyola boys also sang songs and recited poems for them. After this, Br Mathew invited us to have lunch. Chicken biriyani was served to all. There was ice cream too. When we were struggling to finish the food, we saw that none of those boys wasted a single grain of rice. They were sharing their food among themselves and enjoying their lunch. After having food, they themselves washed their plates and cups.

After resting for some time, Anil sir and the PTA members planned a football match between Loyola boys and Jayamatha boys. Only eight boys could play at a time. After five or six minutes, the next group of eight boys were given the chance to play. Jayamatha boys were really skilled and they won the match 4-0.

After spending some quality time at Jayamatha, we reached Loyola by 2:30 p.m. Our parents were eagerly waiting to pick us up.

After the visit I understood how fortunate I am to have my parents with me. The words of Br Mathew still echo in my ears: “Try to appreciate the little things that we have in our life. Try not to compare ourselves with others. Choose the right path and try hard to become the best in the world.”

Abhinav Manoj, VI C



UPCOMING PROGRAMMES

EXTERNSHIP 2023

The Externship Programme 2023 is ready to provide over 50 senior students at Loyola an experience in the corporate world in diverse career streams with 10 host organisations. The Programme will be conducted in the first half of April 2023.

The students will be engaged by the following host organizations:

AVT McCormick, Cochin (Retail/International Exports),
Nambiar Associates, Cochin (Law),
Geethanjali Hospital, Trivandrum (Healthcare/Medicine),
MD Niche Media Consultants, Trivandrum (Communication/Journalism/Media),
Grun Agro Ventures & Kennedy's Kognitive Computing, Trivandrum (Startup/New Ventures),
Gopal & Anil Chartered Accountants, Trivandrum (Accounting and Finance),
InApp, Terrific Minds, Travancore Analytics, Trivandrum (Technology/IT/ Analytics).

These host companies will nurture the next generation of leaders.

Sarah Koshy



Loyola School

Breekariyam, Thiruvananthapuram - 17



PARENT TEACHER
ASSOCIATION



venue:
LOYOLA SCHOOL GROUND
6TH - 9TH APRIL

