

Our Lady's School Newsletter



Dear Parents & Guardians,

It has been another busy and productive half term in our Lady's. Both Leaving Cert and Junior Cycle classes have received their results and we are delighted to see the level of their achievement. The 4th Years were awarded their Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement on Wednesday. The Other Areas of Learning identified on their Certificate reflects the positive move at Junior Cycle to focus on the holistic development of each student. Some of our very successful Leaving Cert students have been honoured with UCD Entrance Scholar Awards and Trinity Entrance Awards. We are equally proud of all students who strived to do their best and achieved their potential. Congratulations to the teachers of both Leaving & Junior Cert this year for their hard work, dedication and commitment to their students.

Please take time to look at the vast extracurricular calendar on the app. Students who get involved in extra-curricular activities in the school feel more connected and engaged. There is so much for your daughters to choose from so please check that she is participating at lunchtime and/or after school.

There was a large attendance at the Junior Cycle talk given by Pauline Kelly in November. She clearly conveyed the changes that are happening at Junior Cycle level and finished by quizzing the parents to check that they were all listening!

Thank you to all parents who are using the app to let us know if your daughter is sick or absent from school. All our Permission Forms and letters are also on the app for you to use. Regularly checking the app is an important way to keep in touch with what is going on in the school.

Christmas is always a very special time in Our Lady's. We have a strong tradition of helping others and our students get involved in a range of charitable initiatives. You can read below about all the different activities from knitting to the annual coin collection that are taking place.

A reminder also that our students will be running the Goal Mile on St Stephen's Day in Terenure College 11am to 12.30pm for anyone who would like to join in.

We are all looking forward to the TY Musical 'Singing in the Rain' which will run from Mon 21st to Thurs 24th Jan. Tickets are on sale so book now!

Thank you for all your support for the variety of causes that our students raise funds for throughout the year.

Finally, I would like to wish you, your families and the extended community a restful and happy Christmas.

Marguerite Gorby | Principal



In this issue:



■ PAGE 2: Christmas Cheer



■ PAGE 4: Community Links



■ PAGE 5: Sport



■ PAGE 10: Chaplaincy Corner



Christmas Cheer

Christmas Fundraising

Our annual **Gifts to the Crib** is organised by Ms. Nyland. This year we continued our commitment to St Vincent De Paul with students from 1st – 4th Year bringing toys and gifts for babies, young children and teenagers. The 6th Years focused on non-perishable food items and treats to create food hampers for families who are struggling this Christmas. This year, the 5th Years focused on a new charity. They brought in care packages for homeless shelters, the women's refuge in Rathmines and the Alice Leahy Foundation. The response from the students was overwhelming and will make an enormous difference to families in the greater Dublin area. Well done girls, we are very proud of your generous spirit and the

commitment of your parents.

Every Friday since November a group of staff and students have gathered in the GPA to knit hats and scarves for the homeless. The **Knovember Knitathon**, which continues into December, is our way of letting the homeless know they are not invisible to us and our gifts will hopefully bring a little Christmas cheer into their lives.

Counting of **Christmas Coin Collection** for the Peter McVerry Trust is currently underway. The house jars are looking quite full and the addition of the €5 per student donated on House Colour Day should ensure this is our biggest collection yet.

Thank you to all the staff, students and friends of OLS who have helped in these initiatives.



Gifts to the Crib



Knovember Knitathon

Goal Mile

The TY Students are once again organising the Terenure GOAL Mile. This will be taking place on December 26th in Terenure College. The first mile will start at 11am and starts will continue every 15 minutes until 12:30pm. We would like as many people as possible to come along to run, jog or walk the GOAL mile together and make a donation to GOAL's work in the developing world. DO THE MILE WITH A SMILE!

TY & LCA Christmas Fair

On December 13th the TY Enterprise class and the LCA Agriculture/Horticulture class held a Christmas Fair in the GPA. Everything from doughnuts to hampers, candles to chargers and handmade Christmas decorations were sold at lunchtime and many stalls were sold out within the first half of lunch. Well done to the TY and LCA entrepreneurs on a busy, vibrant and very successful fair!



GOAL Mile



Christmas Fair



The library team



Mindful Monday

Library Life

Student Librarians

Our main goal at OLS library is to encourage reading for pleasure and to instil good reading habits that enhance the intellectual and emotional development of our students. This term we appointed a team of ten student Library Assistants – Máire Hyndman, Clara Flinter, Aoife Ryan, Sophie Gorman, Rebecca Harper, Casey Anne Wynne Robinson, Aimée Moran, Roisín Evoy, Halle Donnelly Mahon and Marie Bishop – who help us realise the vision and goals of the library. The team promotes the role and services of the library to the school community and makes a valuable contribution to the running of the library. Their duties include issuing, returning and shelving books, helping students to

find books and information, recommending books, writing reviews for the library website, helping students use the library's IT facilities and ensuring the library is tidy, well organised and welcoming.

Mindful Mondays

The library is more than a room filled with books; it's a centre for wellbeing and a quiet space amid the bustle of a busy school. On Mondays we focus on mindfulness and students are invited to come in participate in fun, stress-reducing activities such as origami, puzzles and mindfulness colouring for a relaxed but focused start to the week at OLS.

PDST Wellread National Award

It's official – OLS is a 'well read' school. Marie Bishop, Caitlin Evoy, Roisín Evoy and Ms Harte were delighted to accept the PDST Wellread National Award on behalf of Our Lady's School at a ceremony in Dublin on November 27th. The award aims to create heightened awareness about the importance of creating a culture of reading in school communities for our young people as part of their personal and academic development. It recognises schools that actively foster a reading culture through a variety of activities and initiatives.

Christmas Crafting

Students got crafty in the library making Christmas trees from old books and intricate 3D snowflakes from old magazines

during the last two weeks of term. The decorations they made are unique, thrifty, environmentally-friendly, and very festive indeed. We also completed our annual structural engineering task by building a 6ft Christmas tree from over 200 books!

Reading Opens Doors

The staff at OLS are spreading the joy of books throughout the school by displaying what they're reading on their classroom doors. The current reads take in a terrific range of genres, including classics, science fiction and historical fiction, from both Irish and international authors. We hope everyone has the chance to curl up with a good book over the Christmas break.



PDST Wellread National Award



Christmas in the library



TY & Community Links

Tech 4 U

This term TY students volunteered their time for Tech 4 U programme that ran after school each Wednesday for 6 weeks from November 7th to December 12th. The students gave an hour long lesson to local people from our area who wanted to advance their technological skills. Caoimhe and Claire (C4) would like to give a special shout out to their newly found friends Noel and Willie, and would like to wish all participants a very Merry Christmas. Thanks you to Ms Doyle and Ms Cantwell for facilitating such a heart-warming and valuable inter-generational learning experience!



The Tech 4 U crew

Recreational Studies

TY students had the opportunity to sample a range of recreational activities as part of Rec Studies this term. During the Multi-Sports block, the girls in TY took part in a range of sports from Gaelic football to tag rugby. They all learned a range of new skills and enjoyed trying out a variety of new sports.

Pound is a fun and different way of releasing energy. As the music blares and the floor thumps, the TY's move in unison, hitting their sticks against the ground.

After a long, studious Monday, Pilates is the perfect way for the busy TY's to relax and have some downtime in a calm and relaxing setting.

For swimming, the girls braved a trip to Terenure College to use the pool. After a brief sighting of the boys the girls were quick to get into the pool and forgot all about the cold. All of the TY girls really improved their swimming

skills, some learned to dive and everyone really enjoyed the aqua aerobics.

Balloon Twisting for Blood Bikes

Well done to Aoife Martin who generously gave up her time to fundraise for Blood Bikes East on November 17th. Aoife's balloon-twisting talent and bubbly personality delighted children and their families and according to the organisers she brought a real buzz to the event. This kind of community spirit epitomises the ethos of OLS and we are very proud of our students who give back to the community.

Zeminar

On November 15th the TY students visited the Zeminar show in the RDS. Zeminar is a social enterprise created to bring all those invested in the development and well-being of young people in Ireland to one place. The TY students thoroughly enjoyed the day.



Pound!



Aoife Martin



Sport

Hockey

Our Lady's has 5 senior, 3 junior, 3 minor and 4 1st Year teams entered in Leinster schoolgirls leagues this year. All leagues and cups are up and running and the girls are competing very well. Senior B and Junior A teams are currently lying top in their respective leagues and most other teams are competing for a top position and hoping to qualify for the next stage of the competitions. Good luck to all the teams in their final games of the season. For all hockey results please see

www.leinsterschoolgirls.com



OLS Hockey

Gaelic Football

Our Lady's Junior and Senior teams have played well this year, and were unlucky not to progress to the next stage with both teams winning 2 out of 3 matches in the league. We had two 1st Year teams participating in the Loreto Gaelic Football blitz which took place in Kilmacud Crokes on December 6th with both teams winning 3 out of 4 matches. Thank you to the TY Coaches who helped out on the day Alannah, Saoirse, Laura and Anna. U14's training will be starting after Christmas and we will be entering 2 teams into the league this year. Please check the Gaelic Football noticeboard regularly for training and match notices.

Camogie

OLS has 3 camogie teams: Senior, Junior and Minor. All are entered in the Dublin Post Primary School league. The Senior team will be playing their shield final on January 18th and

the Junior team will be playing their shield semi-final on December 20th. The Minor team will begin their matches in early 2019. We wish all our teams the best of luck in their respective matches.

Badminton

The badminton teams have gotten off to a great start this year. With 5 competitive teams entered across u14, u16 and u19 ages our training sessions have been great fun. The older teams have spent the start of the year training the younger players which is what the sport is all about. In the New Year we will find out how many of our teams will go through to represent OLS in the Dublin Finals. We hope there will be many of our girls there. Congratulations to the U19 team of Rachel Clarke, Sinead Richardson, Orla Kelly and Hannah Perry who are already through to the semi-finals. Best of luck, girls!



OLS Gaelic Football



OLS Camogie

Athletics

Our Lady's School's first cross-country event was held in Bushy Park on Thursday November 22nd. We had 36 1st and 2nd Year students competing. Well done to all athletes involved. It was a very competitive race with a number of sprint finishes. Congratulations to Niamh Ward C2 and Rebecca Pendergast L2 who were the first two second years to cross the finish line. Clara Kinsella L1, Niamh Coffey B1, Abi Johnson C1 and Alison Duggan B1 led the field and were the top four 1st Years to finish. The overall first lady home was Clara Kinsella L1 in a brilliant time of 5.54! Well done to all. A special thank you to Mrs. Doran and her Sports Leadership team who helped organise the race. Our Lady's athletes had a

fantastic day out at the Castleknock College Cross-Country Invitational. Conditions were tough as it was a cold, wet and hilly course! Well done to everyone that went out and competed. Our 2nd Year team (Niamh Ward, Rebecca Pendergast, Helen Heffernan, Abby Kelly, Heidi Eggen, Aoife Flemming, Áine Hyndman) won the silver team title in a competitive field. Our 1st Year team (Clara Kinsella, Niamh Coffey, Emma Tisdall, Ali Dougan, Eve McCormack, Laura Kennedy, Amy Dempsey) ran strongly to win the silver team title as well! Clara Kinsella (L1) capped a wonderful day of racing by capturing the gold medal in the first year race. Clara led the field from the beginning and led her team mates to the finish line.



OLS Cross Country @
Bushy Park

Cross-Country Invitational



UCD Entrance Scholars

Academic Achievers

UCD Entrance Scholars

Congratulations to UCD Entrance Scholars 2018, Keeva Bowe, Isabel Browne and Laoise Higgins. UCD recognises the calibre of its incoming high-achieving students with this award which is presented to 1st Year students in recognition of their academic accomplishment to date.



TCD Entrance Exhibition

TCD Entrance Exhibition

Congratulations to Caoimhe Massey on her award at the TCD Entrance Exhibition 2018. Entrance Exhibitions reward academic achievement of new undergraduate entrants to Trinity College Dublin.

Theatre Trips

6th Years attended a performance of 'An Triail', the

play on the Leaving Cert Irish course in UCD on November 6th. Everyone was looking forward to seeing the characters come to life. There were some great performances and it was an excellent opportunity for the students to revise their studied text. Lá dár saol cinnte!

As part of their English course, 3rd Years attended a performance of Shakespeare's 'Romeo and Juliet' in the Civic Theatre on November 8th. This version of the play was adapted specifically for Junior Cycle students. The girls thoroughly enjoyed seeing the tragic love story performed onstage and the actors discussed the play's key themes between scenes. The trip was a valuable learning experience and enjoyed by all.



Science

Science Week

To celebrate Science Week we had a lovely surprise visit from Pat Hennessy of Agri Aware and his mobile farm. Pat brought with him Billy the calf, Jack and Jill his two pet sheep, two Tamworth pigs called Rasher and Sausage and a plethora of poultry made up of ducks, geese, chickens and roosters. The girls had a little talk on each of the animals and the types of farming they were involved in as well as amazing and interesting facts about each one. At one stage the roosters decided to go rogue and MIA but were soon recovered with thanks to some very enthusiastic volunteers. All the animals were well treated and spoilt rotten with pets, hugs and smooths from all the girls. We hope to see Pat and his entourage again next year for Science Week.



Fun on the Mobile Farm!



SciFest

On December 11th 120 1st Year students exhibited 40 projects in the fourth SciFest@OLS.

Students demonstrated their knowledge of science, technology, engineering and maths through their creative and innovative projects.

We would like to congratulate all the girls that entered who should be very proud of themselves for doing such an excellent job at impressing all the judges.

The following prizes were presented:

- * **Best Communicators:** Isabella Behan Beer, Keira Harrison, Rebecca Horne and Emma Hughes
- * **Best Display:** Jennifer Power, Isabelle Coughlan and Rachel Vaughan
- * There were **three highly commended** prizes which went to: Cara Gillespie, Aisling Gavin and Louise O'Hara

Annabel Flemming,
Aoibheann Boyle and Keela Wynne

and

Ella Burke, Elle Walsh Giguere
and Olivia Casey

- * **Runners up:** Ciara McLean, Caoimhe Brock and Nicole Curtis
- * **1st prize:** Mia O'Connor, Naomi O'Shea and Caoileann O'Donnell Monahan for their project 'Does the temperature of a squash ball effect the height it bounces?'

The girls will go on to represent the school at the regional final at Tallaght IT in May. Winners from the regional finals have the opportunity to go on to compete in a national final each November in Dublin for the chance to represent Ireland at science fairs in the USA and the Netherlands.



SciFest



Runners up



1st place



B3 at the DSPCA



CSPE at the DSPCA

On November 11th B3 made their way to the DSPCA at the foothills of the Dublin mountains to investigate Stewardship in action as part of their Action Project for CSPE. B3 would like to raise awareness about the work of the DSPCA. The education officer was brilliant and discussed with the girls what daily life was like for animals at the shelter. Luckily the rain held off for most of the trip!

On December 4th P3 went to the DSPCA to complete their Action Project for CSPE. The trip was entirely organised by the class so they were all very excited to go. Upon arrival the girls were met by volunteers Paul and Declan and Paul gave the girls a talk on why

he decided to volunteer at the DSPCA. His reason for volunteering with animals was because "they have no voice". He told us of all the amazing work that is done in the DSPCA like rescues, adoption preparation and the fostering programme. The girls were then brought on a tour of the DSPCA where they fed horses and donkeys and played with some rescue puppies who were waiting to find their 'forever home'. P3's eyes were really opened to the amazing work carried out by the volunteers at the DSPCA. Many of the girls now hope to complete work experience in the organisation next year.

OLS Spirit

Student Council

Congratulations to all the students who were elected by their peers to represent their year group on the Student Council. Well done to these leaders who are taking on this advocacy role and working to improve student experiences at school.

Leaving Cert Applied Afternoon Tea

On December 5th Our Lady's Leaving Cert Applied group hosted 'Afternoon Tea' for their parents and staff members. The event was a tremendous success and very well attended. The guests enjoyed a wonderful array of fabulous treats including scones, cheesecake, Christmas cookies, apple crumble, fairy cakes and brownies. We are very proud of the students who are completing their first module in Hotel Catering & Tourism (HCT).

MSReadathon

A huge congratulations to B1 for taking part in the MS Ireland Readathon. The girls read a total of 190 books during the month of October. They also managed to raise an impressive €500 for MS Ireland. The enthusiasm for reading was inspirational. Well done, girls!

Junior Cycle Profiles of Achievement

Well done to the TYs who were presented with their Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement on December 19th. This certification represents the broad spectrum of their Junior Cycle experiences, documenting their exam results, descriptors for their Classroom Based Assessments as well as evidence of their Other Areas of Learning, including extra-curricular involvement.



LCA Afternoon Tea



Presentation of the Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement to Sinéad Mc Goldrick who achieved all A Grades/Distinctions

Co-Curricular Activities

Model United Nations

Congratulations to the students who represented Our Lady's School at the Rathdown School MUN conference this weekend. All the girls did a great job and were wonderful ambassadors for their countries and their school. A special congratulations to Marie Bishop and Aimée Murphy who received Distinguished Delegates awards. Ana Cooke held a chair position and Emily Jones, Alisha Shanagher and Aimée Murphy all had resolutions passed.

Rachel Kilmartin, Aimee Cosgrove, Alex Lacey and Robyn McCarthy represented India. Aimée Murphy, Marie Bishop,

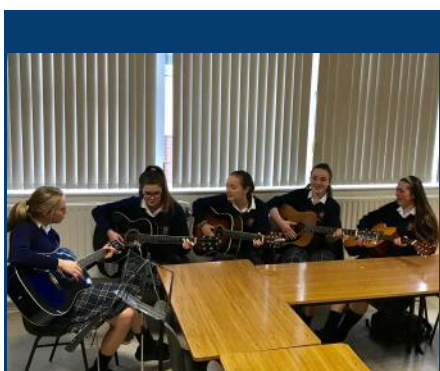
Jena Frain, Emma Casier, Ella Manning and Aisling Wedick represented Japan. Alisha Shanagher, Nicole Dempsey, Emily Jones and Ciara O'Gorman represented Malaysia.

Debating

The 2nd Year debating team sailed through the first three rounds of the UCD Junior Schools Debating competition this term. The girls delivered their powerful speeches in UCD with great confidence. The standard of the competition was extremely high. The team are currently awaiting results for the knockout rounds which will continue in January.



Model United Nations



Guitar Club



Bracelet Making

Guitar Club

Students from 1st to 6th Year, new and experienced, meet twice a week for a little fun (with some learning and practising in between!). We have 15 students involved over the past few weeks playing everything from the Beatles to Jingle Bells. For those interested in joining, look no further than Room 28 on a Monday and Wednesday lunchtime, no need to have your own guitar.

Chamber Choir

The Senior Chamber Choir is in its early stages this term. Made up of 4th, 5th and 6th Years with both Soprano and Alto voices we hope to develop our choral skills over the coming months. The Chamber Choir will be covering music from sacred and secular works along with gospel, chant and barbershop among many others. Our aim is to sing at many

school events and develop our sound as we progress. We welcome singers of all styles and everyone is welcome no matter what genre of music you are into. After all, 'You don't get harmony when everyone sings the same note'. We would love to have a big group so any students who would like to join should speak to any member of the Choir or to Ms Reilly.

Bracelet Making Club

1st Years enjoyed the Bracelet Making Club this term. If you get a bracelet as a Christmas present you will know where it was made! Next term a Cooking Club will begin on Tuesdays from 3.50 - 4.50 pm. Interested students should be sure to put their name down with Ms Surlis as there is a limited number of spaces for this club.



Tree of Remembrance



Chaplaincy Corner



Tree of Remembrance

During the month of November we, as a school community, marked the passing of our loved ones. During Religion class, each student was given the opportunity to remember those they love who have passed away. Each leaf or heart on the tree bears the name of someone with a message from the students who wish to keep their memory alive. Our tree symbolised a celebration of their lives and the love in our hearts.

Second Year Retreat

The 2nd Years made their retreat on November 7th and had the opportunity to take a day of reflection to focus on the theme of Friendship. In their class groups they had the opportunity to bond and recognise the importance of each member of the group. As a concluding activity, each student left with an affirmation sheet where each of her classmates had written what they believed are her positive qualities and talents. Thank you, ladies, for your participation. We hope you had an enjoyable day.

L House Mass

On November 16th the L House, joined by family, past students and sisters of our community, and Ms. Byrne our new House Head, came together to celebrate the Feast Day of St. Laurence, the Patron Saint of our House. The theme we chose for our Mass was 'Individually we are one drop but together we are an ocean.' During the Mass we took time to reflect on why it is important to work together as a community and how we need to have faith in God to show us the way.

Through our choice of music, song, poems and prayer, we acknowledged our individual strength and the power of community. We hope the L1 class, the newest members of the L house family enjoyed it as much as L6 did.

Foundation Feast Day Celebrations

Last year we celebrated the Bicentenary, 200 years of the founding order, with wonderful festivities of thanksgiving and song. This year B5 along with their Religion teacher Ms. Murphy, decided to bring it to the GPA for a quieter, more reflective ceremony. The theme was 'A candle never loses its light by lighting another'. This highlights that when you help someone, you lose nothing by doing so. Sharing your light with other people does not take from the light you emit, but rather our light grows stronger and burns more brightly when we share it.

We are so fortunate to have our Anam Cara's living in close proximity to our school, in Bushy Park Estate. Sr. Rody, Sr. Magnier, Sr. Cara, Sr. Kathleen, Sr.



L House Mass



Foundation Feast Day Celebrations, November 23rd



Margaret and Sr. Enda play an important role in our school life. They are a beacon of light to us by sharing their Faith and experience with all of us. Much like Father Lafosse, they expect nothing in return. They are always there for us, to listen, to educate, and to simply just be a friend when we need one. We thank you sisters for always keeping us in your prayers and we hope you enjoyed this day of celebration.

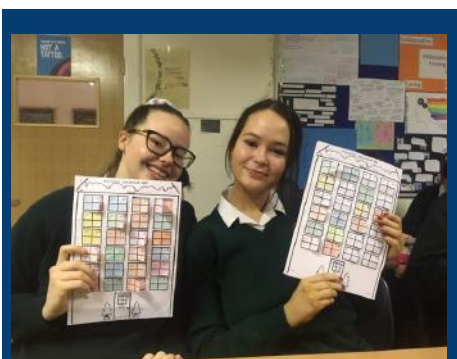
Le Cheile Council 2018—2019

During the celebration of our founder's Feast Day on Friday, November 23rd, we had the inaugural ceremony of our first Le Chéile Council. These young women from 5th and 6th Year have chosen to be part of a Faith

Leadership chaplaincy team in our school. As a Council they will work with issues of justice and peace, interfaith celebrations, Le Chéile Pay It Forward Day, charity work and build on the cherished connection with the Sisters of our community. They will also become Ministers of the Eucharist, enabling them to represent the students at school masses and, in turn, become ministers in their own church parishes. They are an incredible group who meet each Thursday at lunchtime with Ms Heaphy and our Chaplain Ms Coyne to evaluate and respond to the needs of the school and the wider community. Good luck with all your work in the year ahead.



Le Chéile Council 2018—2019 with Ms Doyle from Le Chéile



Advent Calendars

Advent Calendars

The Le Chéile Council marked the beginning of Advent by creating wonderful Advent Calendars for each student in the school. Each student was asked to pick a partner to design their Advent Calendar for and to fill it with kind actions, mindful thoughts or charity actions to try over the Advent season. They then passed the Advent calendar to a person in their class who opened a window each day and tried to follow the request for the day.

Some of the ideas the Le Chéile Council came up with to share with the classes were:

- * Say a prayer for the poor, the hungry and the homeless.
- * Write a Christmas letter to a family member who lives far away.
- * Call your relatives just to say hi.
- * Pray for the sick.

- * Sort through your toys and donate to a local charity.
- * Leave the euro in the shopping trolley for the next person.
- * Leave out water for the birds.
- * Make a charity shoebox for your local church.
- * Write a thank you note for the bin collectors and post men.
- * Take flowers or a plant to your local nursing home.
- * Clean your room without being asked

Thank you to all the Religion teachers who accommodated this meaningful activity in class.

M House Mass

December 7th was a very special day for the M house as the M5, M6 and Leaving Cert Applied class came together with their House Head Ms. Hallisey to celebrate their house spirit. This



M House Mass

year, the M House chose to have a prayer service with the theme 'Home isn't where you're from, it's where you find light when all grows dark. They were joined by parents, grandparents, the sisters of the community, past staff and students to celebrate how, for them, the M House is a home away from home. In a tradition they have had for the last six years, the service ended with the whole community singing 'Home' by Philip Philips. The baton is now passed to the 5th Years and we hope they continue to see the M House as a place of refuge if times of darkness come their way.

Gifts to the Crib

On Wednesday, December 12th, the Le Chéile Council organised a prayer service for Gifts to the Crib. The theme they chose was 'You have two hands; One to help yourself, the second to help others'. The season of Advent is a perfect time to reflect on how we can help to support and care for those who are perhaps dreading the Christmas season or are apprehensive about the financial burden it creates. The sense of prayer and hope was palpable in the GPA during the junior and senior prayer service. It was wonderful to have Sister Margaret with us who arrived with two huge bags of toys bought by the sisters of the community. At the each end of the service, to the song 'Feed the World', students and teachers presented their gifts for those less fortunate. A huge thank you to everyone, for your participation and your gifts of kindness. May we wish one and all a peaceful and happy Christmas.



Gifts to the Crib



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