



A Well-Nurtured Club, Naturally

Butterflies, wrappers and Wayanad kept the Eco Club active, reports GEORGIE JOE VEYCCAN (8 A).

The Eco Club is the only club in the school that has a uniform of its own. It is also the club in school that has got the most publicity in the media.

The Eco Club was constituted to create awareness among the students about the problems that are being faced by nature. “Soni Madam has been trying her level best to organize the club,” says Fr. Gilbi. There are a lot of activities under the Eco Club – like the Butterfly Club, and the medicinal plants garden – handled by Fr. Gilbi and Thomaskutty Sir.

The Club organized medicinal plants exhibition during the Youth Festival, and the Science and Arts Fair. “Elizabeth Madam and Lincy Madam helped us immensely during these exhibitions,” says Vishnu Sharma, Secretary of Eco Club.

In 2002, the environmental organization Warblers and Waders helped to set up the Butterfly Club as a branch of the Eco Club. It was the first of its kind in Kerala and then other schools also started similar clubs. Loyola’s Butterfly Club continued to be active in 2003 with regular classes by Mr. C. Sushanth who works in the Agriculture Department, and Murukesh *chettan*, of the school office. They teach the members to identify butterflies and many other things related to the conservation of nature. Mr. Sushanth leads all the Butterfly Clubs in Trivandrum. “It is because of him

Photo: Eco Club members at a tree-house in the Tholpetti Wildlife Sanctuary (Wayanad), noted for tigers.

that we are very famous now,” says Rahul Nath H. A. (8 A), President of the Eco Club.

This year, a new problem was identified - sweet wrappers that are littered around the campus. Since these wrappers are plastic and so non-biodegradable, they pose a threat to the environment. Soni Madam organised some boys to pick up all the wrappers that they could find.

What most members like about the Eco Club is the frequent trips organized by Fr. Gilbi. This year, he organized trips to Kodaikanal, Wayanad, and Arippa. Anil Kumar Sir and Mr. Sushanth also accompanied the members on such trips. During the Onam holidays, Anil Sir gave up his plans to attend an NCC Camp and joined the Eco Club on a trip to Kodaikanal. Since Fr. Gilbi is reportedly going to be transferred to another place the next academic year, members fear that activities and trips of the Eco Club will decrease.

In 2003, the members got a green T-shirt – with ‘Loyola Green Squad’ and ‘Butterfly Club’ written in blue on the left side, and ‘Warblers and Waders’ underneath that. The back of the T-shirt carries the name of the insurance company that sponsored the T-shirts.

This year, most of the achievements of the Eco Club were possible due to the efforts of Fr. Gilbi. “Fr. Gilbi showed tremendous interest in the Eco Club,” said Tushar Nair, the Treasurer of the Club. ■

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Sporting Giants

On Sports Day, it was a narrow win for GG House, recalls ARCHITH MOHAN (7 C).

On 7 November 2003, when classes had finished, the students boarded the buses excitedly discussing what would happen the next day - Sports Day. On the morning of the 8th, the excitement in the air was palpable. A significant number of parents were present to watch the events and cheer their children. Students lined the stands, ready to cheer their house representatives on.

At 9 O' clock sharp, the Sports Day celebration began with a colourful march past. Students of various classes marched in their House uniforms, behind the respective captains who were bearing their House flags. Mrs. Usha Nair, Reader at the Laxmibai National College of Physical Education, was the chief guest.

The athletic events were kick-

started by the 100-metre dash for the seniors. This was followed by various thrilling relays and other events such as the 200m and 400m races.

Then began the events for the tiny tots. Everyone's eyes turned to see the children in action. They had events ranging from the old fashioned three-legged race and the potato sack race to the Howrah Bridge race. It was great to see the audience encouraging the participants of the Treasure Hunt race who were frantically digging through the flour using their mouths to find the hidden toffee. In between the events, certificates were awarded to the winners by the chief guest.

Beautiful P. T. displays by various classes followed the athletic events. There was the calm and peaceful yoga, a colourful sari dance with its beautiful formations, and a hoop relay.

The organizers had kept the best for the last. The tug-of-war between the Old Boys and Loyolites was nothing short of exciting. The Old Boys, showing their experience and maturity, won the 'battle'. But clearly what everyone wanted to see was the musical chair for the teachers. Eventually, it was narrowed to a showdown between Susha Madam and Mary Madam (Ms. Mary M. Dominic), with the latter ultimately winning.

After the march past at the closing ceremony, there was the prize distribution ceremony. The Gemini Giants bagged the overall trophy with 132 points, while AP was runner-up (130 points). SS stood third (98 points) and JJ was last. AP was adjudged the Best House in the march past. Individual champion trophies in the different categories were bagged by Deepak S. Anand (6 C), Leo Francis (7 A), Sanjeev J. Santhosh (10 A) and Danny John Selvan (10 A), and Sreekanth R. R. (12 C). This year, the Santhosh Solomon Memorial Trophy donated by Loyola Old Boys' Association went to Mohammed Haneef (12 C). Sreekanth R. R. bagged the Mathews Malieckal memorial trophy for the Best Outgoing Athlete.

The Sports Day came to a close with the National Anthem. The winners were ecstatic and everyone was pleased that everything went smoothly. But surely the AP House members must have been disappointed on losing the overall trophy which they had been winning for quite a while.

Below (L-R): Picking lemons; Sari dance; Teachers playing musical chair





Spectacular Day

On School Day, the quadrangle brimmed over with parents who were treated to an evening of song, dance and drama, report JOHN F. XAVIER (11 A) and GOPIKRISHNAN U. (11 A).

Spectacular is the word that best describes this year's School Day celebration held on 17 January 2004. The school quadrangle brimmed over with parents who turned up in large numbers to appreciate the creativity of the Loyolites. The talented youngsters had worked hard for this day, on which their parents were treated to three hours of song, dance and drama.

Her Highness Princess Gouri Parvathy Bayi of the erstwhile royal family of Travancore made the occasion a very special one with her presence as the Chief Guest. She endeared herself to the students sitting on the stands by recounting vividly - in impeccable English - her experiences as a school-girl and later as a teacher. She remarked that she was happy to see such cheerful children who combined academic work with many other activities. She noted in particular, Loyola's attempt at nurturing a green

campus. The students were struck by her simplicity and warmth. She stayed till 7.30 p.m. to watch the tiny tots perform.

The kindergarten children bowled everyone over with their performance as circus artistes in their event 'Loyola Circus'. Junior school students enthralled the crowd with their dances, songs and skits. Students of Class Five put up an impressive show on the theme 'Make the World a Better Place', when the stage came alive with trees, birds, beasts and men. Other highlights of the day included the colourful Ranga Pooja, the impressive composition of the young musicians in the orchestra, dances by students of Std. 8 & Std. 9 and the runaway successes - fusion dance by students of Std. 11 C, and the play 'One Small Step' by students of Std. 11 A.

The parents enjoyed the evening and were heard wondering where the cute 'girls' on stage came from. ■



Clockwise from left top: A section of the School Day crowd; Dignitaries on the dais; Trapeze artistes of the 'Loyola Circus'; Action song - Vande Mataram; Ranga Pooja.

Below (L-R): English Play 'One Small Step'; Group Instrumental; Ball Dance.



Exhibiting Creativity

It was a fountain of creativity in the Science Arts Fair this year. **SRIRAM P. (8 B)** reports.



Hundreds of students and parents gathered in the school on the 10th and 11th of October to watch the Science and Arts Fair 2003. On the 10th (a working day), students and teachers from various classes came to watch the boys perform experiments, and proudly display their creativity in the form of models and pictures. The next day, the Open House for the teachers and students was held, and simultaneously, the Fair was conducted.

In the Berchman's Hall, the Physics and Chemistry department had a large number of students, both looking

As Principal comes visiting, are Eco Club members caught with their plants down?

at and displaying exhibits, which included electronic items, still models, and various chemical experiments and tests.

The indoor games room, venue of the History and Geography department, was decorated with a variety of exhibits like wind vanes, globes, maps, reports, and models of palaces, temples and other historical monuments. "The response was much better than last year. Students got more involved and I feel it was a fine success", said Soni Madam one of the teachers in charge of the History and Geography department.

In the Mathematics and Biology department, a majority of the exhibits were still-models, which included geometrical figures and models of human organ systems.

The Loyola Green Squad (Eco Club) organised a Medicinal Plants Exhibition in the special class room. It consisted of a wide range of medicinal plants grown in the school. "The students did much better than last year, when they needed the help of Warblers and Waders. But this time they managed everything on their own", said Fr. Gilbi, associated with the Loyola Green Squad. ■

Marching to the Top

Loyola's NCC Cadets won laurels this year too, writes ARAVIND A. MENON (9 B).

It was an action packed year for the N.C.C. cadets. Like in previous years, regular parades were held on all Saturdays. The Loyola troop had 89 cadets and an Associate NCC Officer (ANO). Through the year, special training camps were organised, where cadets were trained in various forms of drill. In addition, special theory classes were arranged to make cadets aware of the latest defence news.

Thirty-five cadets got the opportunity to attend an Annual Training Camp at G. V. Raja Sports School during the Onam holidays. Experts from the armed forces trained the participants. Cadets also had an opportunity to get first-hand experience in firing. Even though the Best Troop Award evaded us, Cdt. Flt. Sgt. Aravind Menon was adjudged the Best Cadet of the camp.

Cdt. Flt. Sgt. Avinash Antony Thomas (9 B) represented Kerala and Lakshadweep directorates in the Republic



Day Camp 2004. He was one of the two cadets from the Air Wing of the N.C.C.

Readers will be happy to learn that our former Flt. Sgt. Arun John and Flt. Sgt. Krishnachandran have joined the National Defence Academy. Cdt. Achudev S. secured admission to the Rashtriya Indian Military College at Dehradun. ■



A Ronaldo from Loyola?

Football coaching began in Loyola this year. LINTO MATHEW (11 C) reports on the impact.

Loyola has been known for its achievements in basketball, and of late, in cricket. But this year, the school performed well in football too, thanks to the newly-launched coaching in this sport.

The physical instructor of Loyola, Anil Sir (Mr. Anil K. R.) took the initiative to organise a football camp during the summer vacation of 2003. Encouraged by the response, the school decided to make it a regular coaching to continue the training. Coaching is usually held on Friday evenings and Saturday mornings. When necessary, it is also held on Sundays. Mr. M. G. Jayakumar, physical instructor in Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan school, serves as the coach.

The impact of football coaching was visible in the Sports Festival held

in Christ Nagar school in November 2003. In the first match, Loyola led by Aswin J. (12 A), had to take on defending champions Leo XIII. Accepting the challenge, Loyola forced a penalty shootout and won the match 4-2, with goal-keeper Joseph Ijin Davis (11 C) saving some goals. The next match was against Iyyankali Memorial School, and the Loyola footballers won 2-0 to enter the semi-final.

In the semi-final, playing against G. V. Raja, Loyola lost 1-5, the only goal for Loyola coming from Ebi (11 A). G. V. Raja went on to win the event.

Loyola is planning to play more matches in the coming year. One hopes that football coaching will attract talented students who will bring fame to the school.

