Loreto Rumbek **Newsletter**
November 2025

THE PICNIC

It has been a journey of laughter and learning for the senior 4 class. Since this is their last period together, the group went on a picnic on November 7th. Under the guidance of the school counsellors, the girls went to Infijhar for the outing. They shared a special moment, reminiscing about their days in school. The theme of the day was "Crossing Over," symbolising moving from one stage to the next. As the girls prepare to face the outside world as young adults, they need to be mentally ready for what lies ahead after being students. *"Finally, I have been longing to have a very good time with my classmates as we prepare for our exams and depart,"* said Teresa Achilec.

The girls also had activities such as a balloon caterpillar walk, a lava walk, a blind folded walk, and many others. They also took time to reflect on the long journey with gratitude. The girls all had secret gifts for each other, which were revealed later as a way of saying thank you for the togetherness in school, overcoming every challenge that crossed their path. After the gifts were exchanged, they cut a cake together and said, "We wish to pass the South Sudan national examinations with good grades." The girls later came back to the school compound singing. We wish our candidates the best in their exams as they start the national exams on 1st December.

PEACE CONCERT

Peace is a value we hold, what we live and strive for across our societies. Every year, the Peace Club members, with the club matron, organise a peace concert by going into communities. This month, 27 peace club members led by Ms Aghar Mark went to Mayom Payam to celebrate peace and spread the message of peace under the theme, "The Seeds of Peace."

When the girls arrived, they were welcomed with joy and excitement from the community. the community leaders, women, youths, and children quickly gathered under the tree and were ready to listen to what the Peace Club members had for them. The girls presented poems, dances, and a drama. The club chairlady, Yar Ateny, gave a speech and said, "*When the seed of peace takes root, it transforms. It becomes forests of unity, rivers of justice, and skies of freedom. It becomes the world we all dream of, a world where every voice matters and lives are valued. The seed of peace is small; it doesn't shout, it doesn't demand. But when planted in the soil of understanding and watered with compassion, it grows into something extraordinary. It begins as a whisper in the heart, a choice to listen, a decision to forgive, a moment of empathy. It needs patience and courage. It may face storms of hatred, but with enough light, the light of hope, it will rise. We are the seeds of hope, and peace begins with us in our homes, schools, and everywhere we go."*

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This peace concert was not just an event to help the society around to understand more about peace. It was not only a journey for the girls, but the community accepted the call to journey with them towards the path of bringing peace. Deng, a community leader who spoke on behalf of the community, shared his heartfelt gratitude and call for acceptance. *"Peace is for everyone, not only one person. It's not when you talk about it, it's when you show it in actions. Thank you for coming today, and this has made me believe that you, the young people, are the seeds of hope."* As the girls left, they said, "Peace begins with us, and when we win, humanity wins today and always."

PRAYER DAY FOR PRIMARY 8 AND SENIOR 4

Under the inspiring theme **"**Through Education, We Can Build a Great and Extraordinary Society,**"** Loreto Girls' Secondary School marked its 15th Annual Prayer Day on 21st November for the 57 candidates of the Class of 2025. A day earlier, on 20th November, the Primary Section celebrated its 9th Annual Prayer Day for 87 candidates preparing for their national examinations. The annual event serves as a moment of thanksgiving and reflection, celebrating the students' academic journey and the challenges they have successfully overcome. The atmosphere was filled with joy and excitement as parents, students, teachers, and guests gathered to share in the occasion, poems, drama, speeches, and cultural dances**,** all centred on empowering messages about the value of girls' education**.** Performances highlighted the resilience of learners, the support of parents, and the importance of creating opportunities for the girl child to thrive. Angelina Akolde, a Senior 4 representative, shared heartfelt gratitude: *"We gather here today to celebrate a day of joy, thanksgiving and reflections. We are beginning new chapters and we thank every person who put efforts to help us throughout this journey. On behalf of all S4s, we ask our parents to know that as we are finishing secondary level, that doesn't mean we are stepping into the world at the finish line and become women, we are still young and need to further our education. Please continue supporting and protecting us from all that we might face in the future. This is not the end but the beginning, we are going to be the change that we want to see.''*

A parent representative expressed deep admiration for the students, saying, *"When we celebrate the end of the Senior 4 class, we celebrate your tireless commitment to the betterment of women in this part of the world. Many women have done great things, one of them was Mary Ward, and we see the spirit of such women in our daughters."* With warm wishes from all groups, Primary 8 candidates began their exams on 24th November**,** while Senior 4 candidates will start on 1st December. Every word spoken touched hearts, and every performance touched souls.

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ARTS AND CRAFTS EXHIBITION

Arts and craft exhibitions are done to boost students' creativity, confidence, and hands-on learning. Using simple materials such as old papers, sand, and clay, students created impressive presentations and experiments linked to science and social studies. This exhibition was inspiring as each class proudly showcased their prepared topics and projects. While the lower classes focused on the Arts, the upper classes took on crafts, producing remarkable work. Mary Adit from Primary Six, shared her joy and growth through activity, "*Creativity has become part of me as we have activities every term, it has really helped me learn what I didn't know, especially from different classes.*" All classes were represented, and the top three in each category were awarded prizes. In the arts category for the lower classes, Lower Kindergarten 1 took third place with their hand-drawing artwork, Lower Kindergarten 2 came second, and Primary 2 secured first place**,** a proud moment for the kindergarten section as their efforts were recognised. In the Crafts category, Primary 4 Amber emerged as number one in the upper primary with their impressive water dispenser model, creatively made from boxes, old papers, and clay. Events like this are not only entertaining, they are also essential for learning, innovation, and practical skill-building. We extend our heartfelt appreciation to all teachers, the administration, and everyone who supported the students in preparing their work. Most importantly, we applaud the students for their creativity and readiness to learn.

COMPLETION OF TAILORING AND COMPUTER COURSE FOR PRIMARY 8

This month, the tailoring and computer courses for Primary 8 learners were successfully completed. The students have been taking these lessons for the past 7 months. Those months have been impactful, as they have gained new skills and expanded their knowledge. Teaching Primary 8 learners basic computer skills is particularly important because it prepares them for secondary school, where computer studies are part of the curriculum. A total of 43 learners received certificates in computer studies**.** Jeremiah Majak said, "I'm so thankful to the school administration and our teachers for allowing us to learn how to use a computer. It was a big wish of mine, and I was afraid that I would have to wait until I started secondary school." Meanwhile, the students learned several skills in tailoring, such as threading the machine, cutting fabric, taking measurements, and sewing clothes. In the end, each girl made a dress using the knowledge and skills they acquired. They received certificates recognising their achievement. A total of 34 earned certificates in tailoring. *"My experience in tailoring was not easy during the first two weeks; I struggled because I kept missing important steps, but with the help of Ms. Milly, our teacher, I was able to learn quickly, and everything became simple. Tuesday afternoons quickly became my favourite time because we had classes then."*

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CAREER GUIDANCE

On the 5th of November 2025, the Loreto Secondary School Academic Department organised a special career guidance session for the Senior Two class. Ms. Pauline, the school counsellor, chaired the session and welcomed everyone present. She then invited three secondary school teachers to share their personal experiences on how they chose their careers and became teachers. The guest, Dr. Isaiah Thondit, the Principal of Abukloi Secondary School, gave important guidelines on how to choose the right career path. He discussed various career options in both science and arts subjects, such as medicine, agriculture, education, law, finance, tourism, and information technology. He advised the students to make wise choices, as the decisions they make now will shape their future. Dr. Thondit encouraged them with the words, *"Everything in the world is possible. You should not say that you can't do it? Avoid distractions, focus on your dream, believe in yourself, and say: 'I can do it.'"* The main purpose of the career guidance was to introduce students to many courses and help them choose the right career for themselves.

IN MEMORIAM

We were sorry to hear of the passing of Br. Bill Firman last week in his native Australia. Br. Bill, a De La Salle Brother, came to South Sudan to take on the role of Executive Director of Solidarity with South Sudan. In his position, Br. Bill offered teacher training for our young primary teachers and others in the local community. Later, he served as our first Chairperson for our newly formed Board of Management. He visited Loreto Rumbek three times a year to attend the meetings. As Br. Bill came to know the people in Rumbek, he had a great desire for the De La Salle Brothers to start their school here. In 2018, the Brothers arrived and set up the school. The friendship started with Br. Bill has continued between Loreto and De La Salle students.

We are grateful for the life, support, vision and generosity of Br Bill. May he rest in peace.

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