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2022

Sion Hill Newsletter

JUNE 2022

Dominican College Sion Hill aims to help each student achieve their full potential academically, spiritually, physically, emotionally and socially in a happy secure environment.

Welcome

Welcome to our final Newsletter for the 2021/22 Academic year. As we put this Newsletter together, there is a great sense of excitement throughout the school. Brighter evenings and warmer weather bring a sense of anticipation for the approaching Summer. Lockers are being emptied, Summer plans discussed and exam preparation is well underway.

Each year in a school is unique and brings its own joys and challenges. This year, events in Ukraine brought into sharp focus the importance of peace and working together. The student body in Sion Hill have shown great compassion and initiative in how they have actively responded to this humanitarian crisis. As you will see in the following pages, students held numerous events to raise funds for the International Red Cross. We commend them for their thoughtful, considered leadership.

The easing of public health restrictions in the Spring has allowed us to reintroduce many of our whole school events. We welcomed back SPIRIT awards, Prize Day, International Day, Sports Day, Commencement and much more. Through these events, we had opportunities to gather as a school community and celebrate the wide range of talents, skills and abilities we are lucky to enjoy in our school. As a school in the Dominican tradition, we are proud to develop all aspects of students in our care. It was wonderful to see community spirit reignited in our school and to celebrate the many aspects of school life that make our school what it is – a community working together to help all of us to be the best we can be. We thank all staff and students for their significant efforts in these areas.

For the first time since 2019, it appears that all state exams will proceed as normal. We wish our 3rd and 6th years every success in this process. They have worked extremely hard and have shown great resilience and determination in the face of significant uncertainty and challenges.

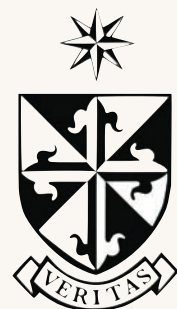
And finally, as the year draws to a close, we bid a fond farewell to Mr Killion as he retires. Our students have put a huge effort into thanking Mr Killion for his years of dedicated service. The guard of honour organised by the students was a fitting tribute to a great servant of our school. We wish him every happiness in his retirement.

I wish all members of our school community a peaceful and restful Summer. Thank-you for your great support of our school throughout the year.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Orla Condren'.

Orla Condren
Principal



From the Student Council

Student council strives to give each student in Sion Hill a voice. The class representatives are chosen democratically and serve as leaders for their year group.

This year with student council we organised a number of events.

We held Stand Up week, back in November. We also organised an anti-bullying week promoting friendship, inclusion and awareness around bullying. Events were carried out in tutor class and at lunch. We reviewed the Anti-Bullying policy and Wellbeing Policy and fed our suggestions back to the Board of Management. We joined the ISSU, a union for students which is a huge achievement for the school and some students went on training for this over the Easter.

We had several students working hard on a youth council, Comhairle na nOg, International Lunch was massive success and displayed the many cultures present in Sion Hill. Finally, our annual Table Quiz was successful, after two years without the much-loved tradition.



From the Sports Committee

The sports committees aim this year was to share a love and enjoyment of Sport while encouraging others to get involved too !

We started off the year by hosting the Sion Hill Olympics on the pitch at lunch time once a month. From rounders to dodgeball we did it all.

The sports committee were lucky enough to host the first whole school event after a long 2 years. We had the fun run in March and although the sixth years did have the best costumes, the fifth years sure gave us a "run" for our money.

On Sports day the outfits were even bigger and better. We had sharks, James Bond agents and were even lucky enough to have the whole Cuala senior team! Sports day has always been a day to remember in Sion Hill and this year was our first proper sports day since 2019 – it certainly came back with a bang.

We'd like to give a huge thank you to the many teachers who helped the sports committee this year. Special thanks to Ms Carty, Ms O'Dell, Ms Nulty and Mr Treacy.



From the Social Awareness Committee



This year the social awareness committee showed a great commitment to encouraging a more fair and just world in any small way that we could.

Our committee members shared great enthusiasm for the needs of others and helped many students get involved in the process of strengthening school life.

Our year began by fundraising in aid of Breast Cancer Ireland. The whole school took part in wearing 'something pink' to show their support.

This year we also carried out our annual Walk4Water for the first time in 3 years. Walk4water works with AidLink in order to raise awareness for the numerous women in the world who travel vast distances everyday in order to obtain water for their families.

In March we held a sanitary product collection to help the women of Ukraine and our bake sale raised €850 for the Red Cross.

During Diversity Day, the Alive stand held lots of popular fair-trade goodies such as chocolate, tea and coffee. Along with the stand, a fair-trade Easter Egg hunt took place and all the years got involved!

Finally, some of the members of Alive and the social awareness committee took part in Darkness into Light to help raise awareness about the importance of mental health and to support Pieta House.

All of our achievements this year would not have been possible without the dedicated work of our committee members and the inspiring enthusiasm of Ms.Doonan and Ms.Reid. Thank you Ms.Doonan and Ms.Reid for all of your support this year!

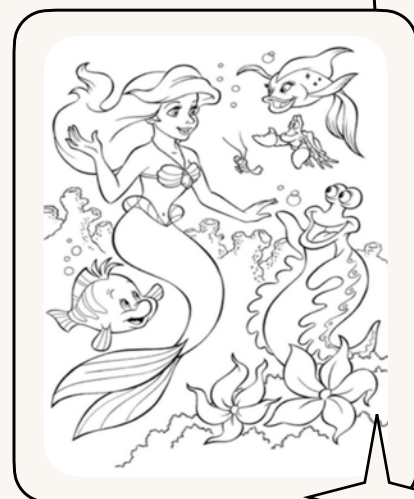
Transition Year

Transition Year ended on a high in Sion Hill. Students went kayaking in Dun Laoghaire and the lovely weather meant they even needed sun cream. The TY Graduation Ceremony was held in the Concert Hall on Monday 23rd May. It was a celebration of all that the students had achieved and taken part in during the year. We were delighted to be joined by Prime Time host and past pupil Louise Byrne who gave an inspiring talk about what a Sion Hill education had given to her. We were also joined by the Dominican Sisters and representatives from the Past Pupils Union for what was a very special night. Congratulations to all involved.



From the Arts Committee

The Arts committee is a place where all are welcome to express their love and enjoyment of the Arts - dramatic, visual, musical and literary. Students are always encouraged to share their enthusiasm for the Arts, help others to participate in them and to strengthen school life. We have a wealth of artistic extra-curricular activities open to students in Sion Hill such as Choir, Orchestra, Book Club, Debating, Art club and musicals. We have held a number of events this year such as our Christmas Decoration competition, a Little Mermaid Themed colouring session and a very successful Arts day. We also supported and promoted the wonderful TY production of "The Little Mermaid".



From the Library Committee



The Library Committee had a very successful year with lots of events being held. Some of our highlights were book club, film club, the swap shop and our "bake a book sale" and poster competitions. We would like to thank all the members of the library committee and Ms. Sherlock and Ms. Quinn for being a great support for us.

From the Mind, Body and Soul Committee

The Mind Body and Soul Committee was set up to support the whole human being by emphasising the inner person – the spirit, mental health and feeling well. After a challenging couple of years, the MBS committee strived to bring joy and a sense of belonging to Sion Hill. We

organised Le Chéile week remembering grandparents

and older people in our lives and the

Dominican sisters and the role they

play in our school. From a music filled Stand-Up week, to speSHELL

Little Mermaid themed events to spread excitement for the TY musical,

the MBS committee this year brought joy to the school. This could not have happened without the support from the school community. "



From the STEM Committee

In the STEM Committee our aim this year was to share and promote our love for sciences with the school. From learning about animal cells to the physics of airplanes, I think it's safe to say that we've achieved this with all your help!

We started off the year with various themed weeks - such as Maths, Science and Space week. Then in the second half of the year we had posters and free facts stuck on the wall, guest speakers who ranged from engineers to neuroscientists and a treasure hunt.

We thanks all the teachers who helped us this year, teachers. This wouldn't have been possible without you! Particular thanks to Mr. Sheehy, Ms. Keogh and Ms. Burke for always encouraging us to thrive as the scientists and women in STEM we are.



From the Environment Committee

A commitment and passion for the issues involving our Environment was promoted throughout the year. Each member of the environment committee shared their enthusiasm for these important issues, and encouraged others to participate. The environment committee started the year off strong with a highly successful COW/WOW day in which students were encouraged to walk, cycle, or scoot to school. We introduced compost bins in all of the eating spaces and put up posters to bring awareness to what goes in each bin. Having already been awarded eight flags, the committee worked hard throughout the year to secure the Green Schools Global Citizenship Travel flag. Events to promote this flag included the #andshecycles campaign to promote women cycling, and placing CO2 monitors around the school to see the impact of cars on our air quality. Over Easter, our swap shop was a big hit and it was great to see everyone enjoying getting second hand clothes. We thank Ms Duffy for all of her help and support this year.



Prize Day

Our annual Prize Day was held in school on the 19th May. This day is a celebration of the numerous achievements by students in our school and we congratulate all students who received awards and certificates. It is also the day when the 6th year trophies are announced. This year, the 6th year trophy recipients were:

Student of the Year: Sofia Keogh

Mary O'Connor Girl of the Year: Rachel Anne Remiter

Patricia Fitzsimons Arts Award: Jenna Gregg & Simona Eremita McArdle

Sportsperson of the Year: Kate Giblin, Gile Martin, Aoife McNicholas-Roche & Caitlin Walsh

Alive Award: Aisling Mac Allister



Sports Day



Sports Day this year was held in beautiful sunshine. This fun day included team activities, a teacher vs. pupil tug of war, a 'sponge the teacher' stand, a dance-off and much more. There were some very creative costumes on the day. Many thanks to our Sports Committee for all their wonderful work in putting this day together.



Transition Year Musical

Our Transition Years staged a remarkable production of Disney's "The Little Mermaid" in March. After numerous delays due to changing public health guidelines, we were delighted to welcome friends and family to our beautiful Concert Hall for three sold out nights. It was a wonderful opportunity to reconnect as a school community and to celebrate the wonderful talents of our students. A special world of thanks to Ms O'Keeffe, Ms Wallace, Ms Sherlock and Ms Carty for the enormous work involved in putting this production together. Thanks also to our wonderful students for generously sharing their talents and the numerous staff who helped deliver this wonderful production.



Spirit Awards

Our SPIRIT awards were held in April. These awards are always held on a date near the feast day of Catherine of Siena who encouraged us all to “be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire”. SPIRIT awards celebrate the rich tapestry of life in Sion Hill. Our mission statement clearly states that we aim to help each student reach their full potential academically, physically, spiritually, socially and emotionally in a happy safe and secure environment. These awards are a recognition of this mission being lived day to day in our school.

Congratulations to the large number of students who received Bronze, Silver and Gold SPIRIT awards. A special mention to our 2nd years who were awarded the SPIRIT trophy for 2021/22 and also to Mr Killion who was awarded a Gold certificate in recognition of many years of dedicated service, living and modelling Sion Hill values daily.



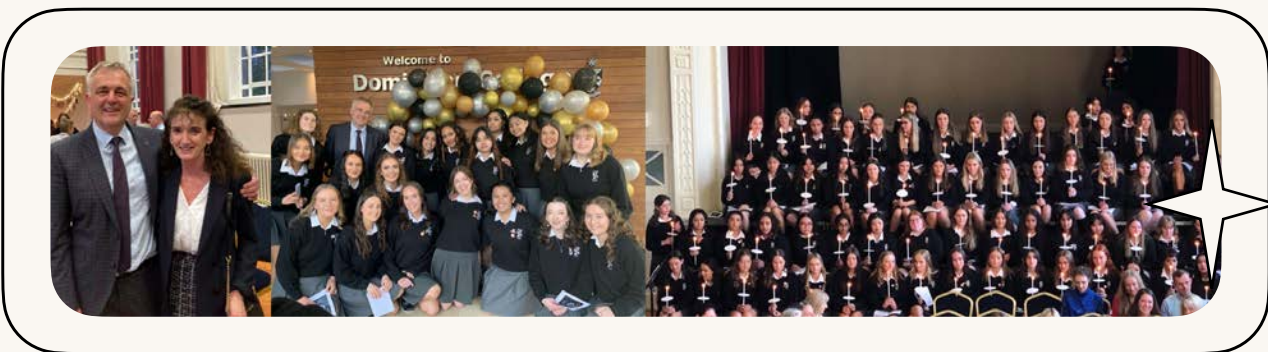
Scholarships

This year saw several Sion Hill graduates being awarded Scholarships from their Universities. In University College Dublin, Entrance Scholar awards were presented to Palakshi Rattan, Helen Sheehy, Amy Lawrence, Sofia Lambertini and Shona Fitzpatrick. Lara Creighton was awarded a Trinity College Dublin Entrance Exhibition Award and Karla Jenkac was awarded an entrance scholarship by Dublin City University. We congratulate these students on their achievements and wish them even success in their chosen areas of study.



6th Year Commencement Mass

Our 6th year commencement mass was held on 25th May. During a very meaningful ceremony, Fr John Sinnot, spoke to the students about the importance of recognising opportunities in life, many of which can arise when you least expect them. The evening was full of beautiful music and a sense of gratitude for six years spent learning and growing together. The students, staff and parents were delighted to welcome former school Principal, Ms Sheila Drum, to the event. Our Head Girl and Deputy Head girls spoke of the enormously positive impact Ms Drum made to their lives and thanked her on behalf of all the students. The 6th year choir performed a stunning rendition of 'Bring Him Home' in her honour. Sincere thanks to all involved in putting together such a special event.



Year Group Photographs 2021/22



FIRST YEAR 2021-2022



SECOND YEAR 2021-2022



THIRD YEAR 2021-2022



FOURTH YEAR 2021-2022



FIFTH YEAR 2021-2022



SIXTH YEAR 2021-2022