

## Dominican College Sion Hill – School Update – February 2016



**DOMINICAN COLLEGE SION HILL**  
Established in 1836

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**SION HILL FLASH UPDATES**



As we approach the end of February, our calendar since November has been quite eventful. Many thanks to all who contributed and supported the events outlined below, including, Staff, Parents, Students, Past pupils. Below is a sample of the events and activities since our last update. ....

### **Nov 13<sup>th</sup> Marathon Challenge:**

- Many thanks to all in the Sion Hill community who supported this event.

### **Nov 16<sup>th</sup> CSPE 3 Diamond:**

- Students from 3 Diamond visited DSPCA Centre

### **Nov 18<sup>th</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> year Retreat.**

### **Nov 20<sup>th</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> year Business class visit Google:**

### **Nov 24<sup>th</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> year Parent Teacher Meeting:**

### **Nov 26<sup>th</sup> Dominican Youth Forum:**

### **Nov 30<sup>th</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> Jan: Arts Week:**

### **Dec 8<sup>th</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> year Retreat:**

### **Dec 9<sup>th</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> year Geography Field Trip:**

### **Dec 10<sup>th</sup> 4<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> year Parent Teacher Meeting:**

### **Dec 11<sup>th</sup> ALIVE Coin Race:**

- See below (Social Awareness Committee Report) for further details

### **Dec 22<sup>nd</sup> School Carol Service:**

### **Jan 7<sup>th</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> year Retreat:**

### **Jan 11<sup>th</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> year Parent Teacher Meeting:**

### **Jan 13<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> Healthy Lifestyle Week:**

- See Mind Body and Soul below

### **Jan 18<sup>th</sup> New Parents Night:**

- We were delighted to welcome the parents of first year students with their daughters for an informal get-together. Many parents were delighted with the opportunity to interact with other parents and students in their daughters' year.

### **Jan 21<sup>st</sup> Theatre Outing Romeo and Juliet 3<sup>rd</sup> years:**

### **Jan 22<sup>nd</sup> Table Quiz Stillorgan Park Hotel:**

- Huge thanks to parents, staff and past pupils who supported this event, thus ensuring a very enjoyable and successful evening.

### **Jan 28<sup>th</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> year Parent Teacher Meeting:**

### **Feb 1<sup>st</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Feb Mock Exams (3<sup>rd</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> years:**

### **Feb 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Feb February Exams (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> years:**

## **Student Council**

- 2015 ended with 'A wish upon a Star'. The Student Council asked students to write a wish or hope for 2016 on a 'star shaped' decoration and then they hung it on the Christmas Tree. The theme of 'positivity' was carried into 2016 and was particularly present during 'Healthy Lifestyle Week'.
- The Student Council celebrated Friendship. Quotes and thoughts about Friends and Friendship were put on the Student Council Notice Board every day during the week and a beautiful collage was designed by the students outlining what friendship means to them. On Friendship day students were asked to bring in a mug from home and hot chocolate and tea was provided and more importantly it was an opportunity for the students to mix with and chat to girls from across all the years.
- On the 14<sup>th</sup> January the Student Council Representatives attended the 'Cycle Against Suicide, Student Leadership Congress' in the RDS which was nothing short of inspiring. The message 'It's okay not to be okay and it's absolutely okay to ask for help' is a powerful one and one the council feels passionate about spreading throughout the school.
- The end of January saw our annual table quiz which the Student Council promoted. It was a fantastic evening and an absolute sell out!
- The Student Council is eagerly awaiting the Fair Day in May but on a practical level they are assisting the parents in organizing and collecting prizes for the much loved Tombola stand. It should be a great day.

## Arts Committee

- Poetry Aloud - October
- Senior French debating at the 'Alliance Francaise' - students won first round and Roisin O'Hara awarded 'Best Speaker' - November
- Junior debating club - weekly
- Huge success of school musical 'Beauty and The Beast' and promotion and sale of tickets for the musical – November
- Very successful Arts Week - December
- School choir and Chamber choir perform carols at nursing homes and The Radisson, Stillorgan - December
- Christmas Photography Competition – December

## Environment Committee

- The Environment Committee is running a campaign/survey to take part in The Big Travel Challenge 2016. We are targeting students who come to school in a car asking them to take public transport or car pool for the week beginning Mon. 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb.
- The TY Biology class are working on Biodiversity and have made birdfeeders from coconuts, old bottles and ice-cream cones filled with nuts, seeds & lard. They also did some Glo-bingo activities and Needs and wants exercises to help keep on track with global citizenship. A group of 2nd years is participating in the Water Explorer Mission which is a global action plan to save water.
- Congratulations to 2 Gold the deserving winners of our Recycled Christmas Decorations.

## Library Committee

- The Library Committee has been adding new titles to the Library on a continuous basis and we are very grateful to Dalkey library for their large donation. All Second year students took part in a 'One Book, One Year' initiative over the Christmas break. The entire year read 'Pride and Prejudice'. The committee is preparing for World Book in March and we are hoping to organize a book swap with the covers concealed in a bid to '*Never judge a book by its cover*', with all proceeds going towards St. Michael's House.
- Congratulations to Chloe Duggan who won the December Short Story Competition that the Library Committee ran 'Wish upon a Star'. Junior, Intermediate and Senior Book Clubs will be meeting again at the end of the month to discuss their chosen novels.

## Mind Body and Soul Committee

- **Mind, Body & Soul recent events:-**  
Relaxation Through Colour in Open-Space at Lunch-time.  
Anti-bullying Seminar for 3rd years with Monica Rowe from ISPCC in Auditorium.  
Anti-bullying badges sold by students in 3 Amber for ISPCC. 200 euros raised.  
Positivity-Picnic/Food-Fest in Open-space at lunch time during healthy Lifestyle Week.  
Create A Healthy Menu Competition during Positive Lifestyle Week.  
Positive Lifestyle Week: Students (during tutor & SPHE class) encouraged to focus on ONE lifestyle change to implement for the future.

## Social Awareness Committee

- In January the students in Alive applied themselves to researching NGOs and allocating the funds raised in the December Coin Race. The €2,337 was donated to *Bothar*, Aidlink, EthiopiaAid, Mediciens Sans Frontieres, Plan Ireland, Operation Smile and Sightsavers. The work of these worthy groups especially affected the students and they made presentations to the meetings on the different NGO.
- A guest speaker from Bothar visited to discuss their work as did a speaker from Concern, whose Fast in November, students participated in and raised €300.
- TED talks chosen by students for students continued on Tuesday at lunchtime.
- In December The St. Vincent de Paul group hosted parties and gift sharing.
- Monthly, 'National Geographic' is in the Library to keep up to date with world affairs.

### **Upcoming:**

- In February Fairtrade is promoted.
- 12 students will attend Concern's International Women's Day event on March 8th
- We will 'Walk for Water' with the world, later in the term.

## Sports Committee

- Due to the success of our inaugural Healthy Lifestyle Week last year, we decided to include it in our school calendar again this year. The Sports Committee worked alongside the Mind, Body & Soul Committee promoting positive mental health and well-being, diet and exercise
- Numerous events took place around the school which both committees promoted, such as Zumba, Yoga and a Mindfulness Colouring Lunch.

## Upcoming Events

**March 2<sup>nd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> World Book Week:**

**March 2<sup>nd</sup> Incoming Transition Year Information Meeting:**

**March 7<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> Oatlands/ Sion Hill Musical Guys and Dolls:**

**March 7<sup>th</sup> National Flag Presentation Ceremony:**

**March 8<sup>th</sup> Incoming 1<sup>st</sup> year Information Evening:**

**March 14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> Seachtain na Gaeilge:**

**March 11<sup>th</sup> International Lunch:**