

SOLAS MAGAZINE

ST. AIDAN'S COMMUNITY COLLEGE, DUBLIN HILL, CORK
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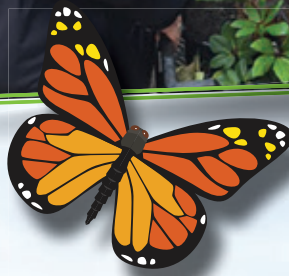
*"To plant a garden is
to believe in tomorrow."*

- Audrey Hepburn

There are many reasons to plant a garden and Class Eithne in TY had plenty of ideas in mind when they embarked on a gardening and courtyard renovation project.

New life has been breathed into the internal courtyards of St Aidan's. Bluebells are in bloom and the air smells of freshly turned soil. Shrubs, herbs and vegetables have been planted, trellises and walls painted and garden furniture has been installed. New bird houses and feeders will bring nature into our school. The excitement is palpable as students and staff await the imminent completion of four new areas designed for relaxation, reading and teaching.

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Darkness into Light

This year's Darkness into Light walk took place on Saturday May 12th. The vision of Pieta House is "to create a world where suicide, self-harm and stigma have been replaced by hope, self-care and acceptance."

We are very proud of the 37 students from our school who took part in this event with their teachers Mr Geasley and Mr Healy. Their fundraising and efforts to raise awareness around suicide and mental health is commendable.

Aoife Mulryan, Luke Higginston, Mairead Mc Carthy, Kyle Mc Mullen and Eimear Crowley are pictured here with their teachers prior to the event.



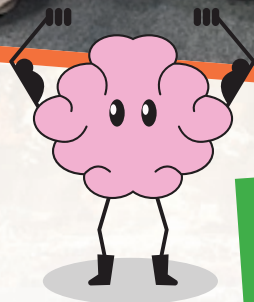
Ways to Wellbeing

Wellbeing is at the core of the new Junior Cycle, incorporating three subject areas, PE, SPHE and CSPE. In St Aidan's we are actively promoting the many indicators of wellbeing; being active, responsible, connected, resilient, respected and aware.

Class Finbarr were recently treated to two sessions with Debbie Moriarty who has been working for many years in the area of massage, reflexology and aromatherapy.

Debbie is pictured here with Paul, Máire, Maria, Aoife, Ryan, Lauren, Alex, Jonathan and Chloe.

The class were given an introduction to the many uses and benefits of essential oils. This was followed with a session on relaxation and breathing techniques to help calm the mind and body and promote reflection, mindfulness and self-awareness.



"Nurturing yourself is not selfish-it is essential to your survival and your well-being."



An outdoor chalkboard will see teaching and learning move beyond the classroom. The reading area outside the library has been given a fresh coat of paint. The new vegetable and herb garden will not only encourage healthy eating but raise awareness of sustainability. The sensory garden will give us a space to relax and reflect during the busy school day.

The project required Class Eithne to conduct research trips to garden centres, source and price equipment and finally secure funding.

Many thanks to the Tomar Fund and the SCP Life and Social Skills Mentoring Programme for supporting this project. Ms Furlong, Mr Lyons and our caretaker Tim have been instrumental in ensuring the project's completion and finally, thanks to the SCP's gardening mentor Chris Troy and Pauline Hydes for their expertise.



"The glory of gardening: hands in the sun, head in the sun, heart with nature. To nurture a garden is to feed not just on the body, but the soul."



Careers / DPS Nominees



Congratulations to 5th year students Rebecca O'Donnell, Alison Power, Jessica Ricken, Robyn Andrews and Cian Hayes who were nominated for a Solas Award by DPS Engineering in recognition of their outstanding work in the DPS Aspire2 programme.

Student Achievement



Congratulations to Rebecca O'Donnell, seen here proudly holding the Bronze medal she won at the Ozawa Cup International Karate Tournament held in Las Vegas on March 31st last.

Rebecca represented Team Ireland and her club, Curam de Cara Karate Club, Blarney, in the 15-17 years Black Belt Kumite.



Rebecca is pictured with some of her biggest fans... Alison Power, Lorena Nason and Lauren Murphy.

Young Scientists



We always look forward to welcoming students from our neighbouring Scoil Oilibhéir and we enjoy the excitement that those visits bring. One of many visits this year was hosted by Ms O'Meara in the Science laboratory where these 4th class pupils loved exploring our world under the microscope.



Congratulations to Robyn Andrews on winning the Literacy Week Senior Writing Competition. Robyn was delighted to receive a beautiful set of hardback novels by her favourite author, F Scott Fitzgerald. Well done Robyn!



Daffodil Day 2018

For many it felt like spring never arrived this year so the burst of colour and hope that came with Daffodil Day was especially welcome. Our TY's enthusiastically donned their yellow vests and spilled out into the community to sell daffodils in support of the Irish Cancer Society's annual appeal.

An incredible 4720 euro was raised! We are very proud of the TY's commitment and hard work. Some are pictured here with Mary Morrish of the Irish Cancer Society.

Many thanks also to Maeve Flavin Murphy and Mr Breen for their organisation of such an important event.



Ready Steady Readathon

Class Ambrose took part in a Readathon challenge this term in aid of The Mercy Hospital Foundation Children's Ward. They raised an incredible 350 euro! They purchased books which were then donated to the hospital. They are seen here presenting the books to Deirdre from the Mercy Foundation. Well done Class Ambrose!

St Aidan's actively promotes literacy through a number of initiatives and is close to achieving the Wellread National Award. The school library is the centre of all this activity with hundreds of titles available to lend to students and staff.



"The journey of a lifetime starts with the turning of a page."



2018

SOLAS AWARD WINNERS

Exceptional Co-Curricular: *School Bank*
Best Class Award: *Class Colmcille*

Setanta Sports Awards

Female Junior: *Mackenzie Dorney*
Female Senior: *Roisin Mulcahy*
Male Junior: *Karl McCarthy*
Male Senior: *Neil Nietes*
Edward Pope Memorial: *Aine Byrne*

Pupil Endeavour

Junior Cycle: *Lauren McCarthy*
Senior Cycle: *Nathan Gleeson*

Technological: *Quintain Noonan*
Business Studies: *Joyce Ren*
Home Economics: *Sophie Towler*
Maths: *Sean Varian*
French: *Alison Power*
Science: *Jamie Huggins*
History: *Mairead McCarthy*
English: *Kelly Meaney*
Geography: *Luke Higginston*
Music: *Sidney Uzik*
Art: *Rebecca Lynch*
Gaeilge: *Eimear Crowley*
Exceptional Pastoral Achievement: *Aoife Mulryan*
JCSP: *Jake Murphy*
LCA: *Dylan Sorenson*

Student of the Year

1st Year: *Ronan O' Keeffe*
2nd Year: *Alex Thompson*
3rd Year: *Jodie Hughes*
4th Year: *Jessica Brooks Stout*
5th Year: *Nicole Bolger*
6th Year: *EJ Albino*

Junior Academic: *Katie McCarthy*
Senior Academic: *Sean Varian*
Best Junior Certificate 2017: *Shauna Lane*
Best Leaving Certificate 2017: *Megan Scollard*
Best Leaving Certificate Applied 2017: *Katie Walsh*
Community Award: *Lee Donovan*
Principal's Award: *Quintain Noonan*







Aidan's Amazing Artists

Mr. Morouz's first year art option had an exciting challenge set for them by C.I.T's Linked Schools Project, using the theme "My education, my future". The opportunity to exhibit this work in the James Barry exhibition centre in CIT is an amazing way to recognise their artistic talents. We wish all first year entries the best of luck.



LCA class Sean have undertaken an art historical project based on a local hero. They chose renowned champion boxer Packey Mahony. The class made a replica boxing belt worn by Packey as well as a replica boxing ring. They also researched the history of his fights and his life here in the Northside. We look forward to their exhibition in Blackpool library over coming months.

5th year art students have been busy designing the new journal covers for September 2018. Congratulations to Jason Leahy and Victoria Burke on their winning digital design! Shauna Heffernan's amazing design is also seen here.

