

NEWSLETTER

Sutton Park School



April 2008

Message from Michael Moretta, Head of School

It seems strange to be writing this newsletter and sending it to you at the start of the Summer Term during the first week of April. Having just had the earliest Easter since 1913 there is no doubt that the academic year has been distorted this year. For instance our 3rd and 6th Years took their mocks some two weeks earlier than last year. The good news in all this is that these two year groups will have a full eight weeks of concentrated teacher/time this term. Learning from mistakes made in the mocks is even more important than the grades gained in these important papers.

Looking at the mock results I felt the students performed in a very encouraging manner. We are now in a position to set focused targets and deal with any problem areas that have arisen from the exams. All students add significantly to their mock performance and I know that speaking to many of them they learned valuable information about the quality of their revision and especially timekeeping under exam conditions. I am very confident that they will build on their achievements in the next few weeks and really begin to develop solid exam techniques.

We had the Parent/Teacher Meetings for these key examination years on Monday March 10th of last term. If there are any issues that have arisen over the holidays or indeed if you have any major concerns can I invite you to contact the school to make an appointment. Problems surrounding revision and exam stress are certainly best shared and dealt with in partnership. My assistant Caroline Moore will be happy to organise a mutually beneficial time.

Reports for all the other year groups were dispatched at the end of term. The early break offered the opportunity to review progress and plan for the end of year exams. Once again, if you have any concerns please do not hesitate to make an appointment to discuss any issues you feel need to be addressed.

Finally, I want to give you all advance warning about an important series of discussion groups and meetings on the subject of bullying we are arranging for early next term. The dates have yet to be finalised but we are looking to organise a number of sessions for parents and students in both the Junior and Secondary School for September. I have asked Jenny Ryan, our Student Counsellor to write a few words about this project and will keep you informed of the dates once we confirm the speakers etc.

Ms Ryan and I are currently seeing all 4th Year students to go through the attainment tests results and begin to make plans for the subjects they hope to be taking during the Leaving Certificate cycle next academic year. The information I have received from these meetings will help us set the parameters for the new timetable. Next term I will begin the process of seeing all 3rd Years.

Once again this year seems to have just flown by, and there is still much to do. I would like to draw your attention to a significant innovation we are preparing in our Junior School. For a full explanation of our plans I have posted a letter that our Chair of Governors and I sent out to all parents in the Junior School on the website. This information can be downloaded from our website www.suttonparkschool.com

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May & August Mailing

As has been traditional at Sutton Park we are currently preparing material that used to be known as the August mailing. It is my intention to post out this material in May/June. The May/June mailing will contain all the information you will require to prepare for the new academic year from booklists, subject choice lists, uniform details etc. It will mean that in August I can confine the mailing to sending out a newsletter detailing our examination results in the Leaving Certificate and a few reminders of the key dates in the first few weeks of the new term.

The Design Department

Congratulations to Mr Timmons and the 5th Year Design and Communications Graphics group who have been chosen to head up a pilot project in this subject. Sutton Park were chosen because of our extensive work using AutoCad and our project work in Design Graphics. This is a major honour as well as recognition by the Department of Education for the very high standards we have shown in this subject over recent years. Students involved in the project will have a clear advantage in their Leaving Certificate when it comes to their final project. I will keep you informed of further developments as and when I hear news.

Congratulations to Fintan Sealy for winning a major competition [over 150 schools entered] in Design Graphics. All schools were asked to submit a design for a new logo for The Leinster Badminton Branch and Fintan's design was chosen as the clear winner. You can see his work displayed in the school foyer.

School Magazine

I suppose we are still technically in our 50th Anniversary Year and so it is fitting that this summer we are re-launching a school magazine at the end of the summer term. We have already had a very successful competition to the design of the cover. It was won by Sabine Lockhorst who has produced a stunning front cover and Megan Scott who designed the back cover. The Magazine will be well over 80 pages large and will contain many samples of work completed by the students throughout the school year as well as reports from the various school trips and our teams. I want to thank in advance, Mr Scully and Mrs Colgan for their fine work in setting up an editorial committee and chasing up the various parties to submit pieces for publication. I also want to thank the PTA for helping support the publication costs of the magazine. We will be sending out copies with the summer newsletter.

Uniform Code

We are currently revising many of our policy documents in the school and one area we are all very anxious to address is the issue of school uniform. It has probably come to your attention that we need to make some of our guidelines a little more specific, especially around the wearing of earrings and the types of acceptable jean wear. I enclose a draft of the new regulations we are recommending to the BOM. I would welcome your input in putting this policy together since it is you as parents who will be asked to support the school in enforcing this uniform code in the new academic year. Please do not hesitate to contact me or any one on the board of management if you wish to make any comments on the code. I will be sending out the final version of the uniform code with the May newsletter.

Host Families

As you are aware Sutton Park School has many overseas students who join us each year. Host families are often required where there is no boarding places available.

Families are required to host students going to Sutton Park School. I am looking for warm friendly families to host boys/girls for the school term 2008/2009 (set June) these are international students and would gain greatly from being in a host family.

I pay excellent rates (€175 pw) If you are interested please contact me at:-

Contact: Sam Connell
Mobile: 0862524571
Email: robsamc@yahoo.co.uk
Address: Samantha Connell 50 Briarfield Road, Kilbarrack, Dublin 5

School Calendar

The calendar for the new school year is being compiled at this very moment. This will be posted on the website in the coming weeks, but for now I would like to draw your attention to some of the most important dates for your diary. I know that many of you like to book your holidays well in advance so I am listing below the dates for all the holidays and midterm breaks in the 2008-2009 academic year.

Monday, 25th August - Staff Meetings All Day (No students)

Tuesday, 26th August - New Student Induction Day

Wednesday, 27th August - School Begins - Classes finish half day. Enrolment for clubs will take place in the afternoon.

I am planning a School Prize Giving Evening – combining Academic Prizes and Major Sports award in September. I feel such an evening will provide the whole school community an opportunity to celebrate the achievements of the students in a fairly formal setting. It will also give you all as parents an opportunity to see the full range of activities our students are involved in during the year as well as celebrating our Leaving Results with the outgoing 6th Years.

The school term ends very late indeed in December 2008. The school will close at the end of Tuesday, 23 December. I am using the last two days of the Christmas Term for a round of re-sit exams.

25th - 31st October - Mid Term Break

24th December - 6th January 2009 - Christmas Holidays (Returning 7th Jan 09)

16th - 20th February 2009 - Half Term Break

16th & 17th March 2009 - St Patricks Day Holidays

6th - 17th April 2009 - Easter Holidays

29th May 2009 - Last Day of Term for Summer Holidays

Mock Exams will take place from Wednesday 25th February - Friday 27th February 2009.

Special Collection for Barnardos, Chernobyl and Sightsavers

I would like to thank all of you for the magnificent contribution you have made towards Stephanie Croghan's collection for these three worthy causes. As many of you will have noticed, we have collected a massive range of items and we are now in the process of sorting and boxing up the material for dispatch at the end of April. With this closing date in mind I would like to ask you that if you still intend to submit any items for our collection could you bring the items into school NO LATER THAN April 18th 2008 for Chernobyl and Barnardos.

The collection for Sightsavers is slightly different. If you still intend to submit glasses, mobiles, printer cartridges or if you are giving any financial donation the closing date for submission of the above will be April 25th. Stephanie will update us all on the final figures and totals when the collection process is complete. I will communicate these to you in the May Newsletter. It is wonderful to see an initiative that has arisen from one of our students embraced so warmly by the school community. Once again, many thanks to you all and especially Stephanie whose energy and enthusiasm has been such a driving force behind the entire project.

World's Biggest Lesson Wednesday 23rd April

We are taking part as a school in the World's Biggest Lesson – a project that will certainly find its place in The Guinness Book of Records later in the year. This is a co-ordinated and synchronised 30 minute lesson that will take place at exactly the same time across the world as part of The Global Campaign for Education. The timeslot allocated for Ireland is 9:00am on Wednesday 23rd April – we're assuming the 4:00am timeslot is not convenient for most of our students.

If you want to find out more about the project please look at the following website, www.campaignforesucation.com
This will give details of the lesson plan etc.

We want as many students as possible to take part in this exercise in solidarity with the Third World so please encourage your sons and daughters to take part when we return from the Easter break. I will remind the whole school at one of our assemblies in the new term. In recognition that this is a special day we have determined that April the 23rd will be a Non-Uniform Day. All students will be asked to bring in two euros for the privilege of forgoing our uniform code for one day.

Music Department News



International Prize Winning Pianist, Lance Coburn will give a recital on Friday 25th April at 8:00pm in the school hall.

Tickets available from Fionnuala Howard in the Music Department.

Email: fionnulahoward@gmail.com
Tel: 01 839 9400

Tickets Cost: €20 Concession €15
Includes Refreshments



The Annual Young Musician Competition takes place this year from Thursday, 24th April to 26th April.



For details of competitions contact the Music Department or see details on our website.

Parent and student volunteers are needed for administrative duties during the festival. If you are interested please contact Fionnuala Howard by one of the following ways:-



**Young Musician
Competition 2008**

Email: fionnulahoward@gmail.com
Tel: 01 839 9400

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to David Tobin who won the Repertoire Cup at the Feis Ceoil in March.

THE ANNUAL MUSICAL EVENING

The Annual Musical Evening will take place on Thursday, 24th April at 8:00pm. This will include performances by our most talented young musicians, the school choir and orchestral ensembles.

SCHOOL MUSICAL

Rehearsals for the School Musical will begin on Monday and Wednesdays. Auditions will be held on the last week of term.

Anti-Bullying Seminar

At the start of the next academic year, September 2008, Sutton Park School are planning an anti bullying seminar in conjunction with the Anti Bullying Centre in Trinity to encompass the whole school, both Junior school and Senior school students, policy review and awareness for staff and an information evening for parents. Also in keeping with the Department of Health and Children's child protection policies, Sutton Park School will be holding a training event for all staff and school personnel (to include all ground staff, catering etc) to ensure everyone is up to date on all issues surrounding child protection and legislation. This is in keeping with the following most relevant pieces of legislation.

Protection of Persons reporting Child Abuse Act 1998

Child care act 1991

Data protection acts, 1988 and 2003

Domestic violence, 1996

More information can be found at:
www.dohc.ie/publications/children_first.

Dates for the above training are to be confirmed and will be announced on the website in due course.

JUNIOR SCHOOL

North Dublin Arts Festival

The North Dublin Arts Festival was, once again, a great success. Great sponsorship this year guaranteed great prizes for all prize winners. The prizes were spread over 14 schools and the lucky prizewinners enjoyed an imaginative musical and dramatic presentation of *The Wild Bunch* presented by Grades, 4, 5 & 6.

Sutton Park had prizewinners in all age categories and this year we were the happy winners of the overall prize. The judge, Una Sealy deemed Robbie Reilly's work the evidence of great talent. Many of the paintings will go on display in Baldoyle library for a week commencing March 31st.

Global Feast

After last years resounding success we could not avoid an early celebration of St Patrick's Day with a global feast. Many parents provided magnificent dishes from around the world, and the children in their fancy dress enjoyed sampling as many foodstuffs as they could possibly manage. The organising of the event was made easy by the many parent helpers. Last year the proceeds went towards providing wells in the villages of Chimteka. This year so far we have raised €1,500 to help furnish a newly built community hall in Chimteka and provide some equipment for leisure activities in the hall.

Rainbows

We are delighted to announce that Rainbows 2008 is up and running in Sutton Park Junior School. The programme has been a great success to date. Rainbows is a peer support group for children who are experiencing grief due to death or separation. Cliona O'Brien our Grade 3 teacher is the Co-ordinator and Karen Sweeney our Junior Infant teacher is the Facilitator.

Ms Geraldine McGuire
Junior School Principal

SPORTS NEWS

Hockey

This has been an extremely important and very successful sporting season for all our teams. Standing out for me are the achievements of our Boys U14 Team. They reached only the 6th Leinster Hockey final in the school's history and narrowly lost to Wesley College on Wednesday 6th March. Having clawed their way back from one nil down, they forced the pace and only narrowly lost 2-1. Wesley's score came in the last two minutes and followed a sustained spell of pressure from the boys when it really looked as if the momentum was on our side.

The final game of the season will decide the fate of the league title and this team are very much in the running to win it for the first time in our school's history. Whatever happens, the boys have performed exceptionally this season. I would like to express my sincere thanks to all parents who gave their tireless support throughout the season. I am sure you would also like to join me in thanking the two dedicated coaches Mr Stewart and Mr Walsh.

Their experience and wise counsel is certainly helping this young team to reach unexpected heights in a fiercely contested sport. I am sure that they will be performing at the highest level for many years to come.

Junior School Hockey

It has been a fantastic year for the Junior School Boys Hockey team. Playing in the Leinster Junior School League, Sutton Park finished top of their North Leinster section with five wins from five matches played (28 goals for and 0 goals against). The semi-final saw a home fixture versus Taney School. Sutton Park continued on their winning way winning the semi-final 4-0. The young squad played against Whitechurch School on Thursday 13 March last and the SPS team did their school proud by winning 3-0.

Badminton

The under 14 girls took the Dublin Title and then went on to take the Leinster Title defeating Kilkenny College 4-2 and St Vincents, Dundalk 5-1. Well done to Nicola Hurley (Capt.), Clodagh McHale, Aishling Kinsella, Niamh Lowney and substitute Sarah Twaddell.

The boys playing in Division 1 took silver in the Dublin finals, they defeated De Le Salle, Dundalk 5-1. We needed to take 3 games from St Colmcille, to qualify for the All Ireland School final but alas, we just could not make it. We were defeated 4-2 to take silver.

The whole team played brilliantly. Well done. Team: Conor Scully (Capt), Matthew Taylor, Michael Palminteri, Jamie Doyle and substitute Stephen Palminteri.

Junior Badminton Report

All students from Grades 4,5 & 6 are now playing badminton during clubs. We have two Leinster Squad players Ciaran McHale, and Stevie Lennon, at under 11. Four teams were entered in the Leinster Primary Competition recently, where Sutton Park were defending their title. Unfortunately due to illness, we were unable to play our best team, but every one excelled, we reached the Semi Final stage, only to be defeated by Wexford on points. Team A - Mark Bergin Cpat. Max Miller, Lewis Eickholt and Caoimhe Cavello also congratulations to Stevie Pitt Lennon and Amy Reynolds who defeated the best girls doubles in the tournament 30-29. Other good players were Keith O'Hare, William Eickholt, Jonathan Knudsen, Sean Finn, Gavin O'Brien, Zoe Purser-Doyle and Sophie Gorman. WELL DONE TO EVERYONE.

Mrs P. Spence

Junior Athletics

Congratulations to Alex Horgan, Alecia Byrne-Keane and Shannen Price on obtaining a silver medal at the recent North Leinster Cross Country Championships.

Athletics will commence in earnest out of the track after Easter, all students are welcome.

Basketball

The boys played in the U19 "C" League. The team was made up of these students:

Team's components

Tim Price
Marco Dossena
Gary Kane
JJ Donegan
Sean Smith
Alvaro Castilla Santos
Pau Valle

Other Schools in our league were:

➤ Gaelscoile Donaghmede
➤ Larkin CC
➤ Hartstown

Quarter Final: Ballymun C.S. vs. Sutton Park

The boys basketball team are undoubtedly the most talented we ever had in my three years as basketball coach. It has been extremely difficult to find adequate training time and this had made team building very problematic. Basketball is an extremely competitive sport in the Dublin area and for a team to be truly successful we need more than a core of a few committed students. I want to take this opportunity of encouraging anyone interested in this sport to join our squad so that we can build up a strong work ethic and a committed team spirit. I am particularly interested in drawing students from 1st – 3rd Years. When you read the report on our girl's team you can see what is possible even in a small school.

I would like to mention Marco Dossena for being team player of the year. His constant attendance and appearance for the team in sometimes difficult circumstances made him a real ambassador for the sport and the school.

MVP BOYS: Marco Dossena for being a team player and a constant referent for the team.

THE GIRLS

After the triumphant last season where the girls became the DUBLIN's champions of the "D" league, with an immaculate record of seven games won and no defeats in the whole season, the girls played the PREMIER SENIOR A.A.S. League. This is certainly one of the toughest Irish school competitions with many players registered for clubs and some international players too. The young Suttonians played magnificently and also gained the quarter final stage where they have been defeated by the finalist Mount Sackville. A great season for this group of fine and committed players.

Team's components:

Deidre Reilly
Lea Blanchard
Marta Dossena
Georgia May-Lillis
Tamara Nieto
Olga Gargan
Anne Marie O'Driscoll
Hanna Mc Donagh
Isobel Mc Donald
Teresa Galofre
Asaki Ota

Other schools in the league were:

Manor House
Dominican College
Santa Sabina
St Paul's Greenhills

Quarter Final: Mount Sackville vs. Sutton Park

MVP GIRLS: Asaki Ato for her display of clever technique, long range shooting effectiveness and team oriented way of playing.

Mr. Pier Dossena

Sutton School of Dance

Please see below details of our new Dance Classes available. Please contact Gill Grueber on 086 8396985 to put your name down



Sutton School of Dance

3RD APRIL- 8TH MAY

The Resource Room
Sutton Park School
St Fintan's Road
Sutton

Thursdays
4-8 yrs 2:45 General
9-12yrs 3:30 Ballet
9-12yrs 4:15 Jazz

Fridays
4-8yrs 2:45 General
Boys only 3:30

Classes welcome 4-12 year olds
Beginners to advanced dancers,
Encouraging great co ordination,
Posture and creativity of skills
Working towards choreographed
Dance routines.

Come to our FREE TRIAL on the 6th March
2:45- 3:30 4-8yrs General
3:30- 4:15 9-12yrs Ballet/ Jazz

To register for the free trial or for the term, contact
Gill Grueber 086 8396985
suttonschoolofdance@gmail.com



Sutton School of Dance

2ND APRIL- 7TH MAY

EVERY WEDNESDAY

The Sports Hall
Sutton Park School
St Fintan's Road
Sutton

Classes welcome 12-18 year olds
Beginners to advanced dancers,
Encouraging great co ordination,
Posture and creativity of skills
Working towards choreographed
Dance routines.

4:30- 5:30 Ballet
5:30- 6:30 Jazz

Come to our FREE TRIAL on the 19th March
4:30- 5:15 Ballet
5:15- 6:00 Jazz

To register for the free trial or for the term, contact
Gill Grueber 086 8396985
suttonschoolofdance@gmail.com

Conclusion

I trust you all had a relaxing break over the Easter period and that everyone has returned refreshed and renewed for the Summer Term. I attended a very useful ECIS conference at the end of March in Italy. Much of the following eight months will be spent planning and preparing for our ECIS self evaluation and accreditation review which will take place in one year's time. I will write about this in more detail in my May newsletter.

