**St. Francis Xavier Senior School**

 

December 2019 Newsletter

* **Wellbeing Week** [](about:blank) **2nd - 5th  December**

Wellbeing Week 2019 was a huge success with our pupils thanks to the great planning and preparation done by our Action Team for Partnership. Each day of the week had a different theme and brought a fun and reflective activity from “Marsh-mellow Monday” to “Feelgood Friday”. Pupils experienced yoga lessons, wrote gratitude letters to a family member and engaged in screen-free evenings at home. The week concluded with a flash-mob dance by the teachers much to the delight of the pupils!

* **6th Class on Legal Street Again!**

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Our 6th class pupils visited the Law Society in Backhall Place last week to participate in a “*mock*” trial. This unique experience was the culmination of a 6 week programme entitled *“Legal Street”* - an initiative for senior primary school pupils. Our sincere thanks to Mary Ann McDermott, SFX parent, who brought this initiative to our school again this year. Following their performance in Blackhall Place, the evidence points to some legal careers ahead for many of our pupils!!!

* **Debating Success [](about:blank)**

Just this week our 6th class pupils participated in round two of the Concern Primary Schools Debating Competition against Scoil Mhuire Girls’ National School from Lucan. The SFX team on this occasion was comprised of Keelin Dooley (Captain), Sorina Costis and Rafia Nauman. All three team members delivered excellent arguments proposing the motion that *“Primary school students should be banned from owning a mobile phone.”* The motion was carried! Congratulations to our SFX debaters!

* **The Irish Guide Dogs came to visit..** [](about:blank)

Last week we had some very special guests visit the school - volunteers from the Irish Guide Dogs for the Blind, two “Ambassador Dogs” and a puppy-in-training! Our pupils learned about the work of the Guide Dogs Association and the difference a Guide Dog can make in people’s lives. This visit was in advance of a Christmas Evening of Music co-hosted by the Guide Dogs Association and SFX Senior School in Westmanstown.

* **Christmas Spirit in our Community **

Mr. Donaghy’s 4th class pupils were invited to perform carols for the patients of St. Francis’ Hospice and also in the Stroke Unit in Connolly Hospital recently. It was a very special experience for the children who spent time chatting with the patients afterwards and were all made feel so welcome. A note from the Day Care Manager*:*

*“We have just met your wonderful 4th class pupils with Mr Donaghy and Teresa and to say we were blown away by them is an understatement. They were so lovely and gracious and their kindness and consideration in making cards for the patients was so appreciated. I want to thank you and your staff and pupils for your continued support each year in making Christmas special for our patients in St Francis Hospice.  Please convey my thanks to them all again from us here. They are truly a credit to the school their parents but mostly themselves. Their singing was beautiful and has put us all in the festive spirit.”*

**The Christmas Carol Roadshow!!**

Our Carol Singers from both Mr Donaghy and Ms Donoher’s classes performed yesterday outside Tesco, Roselawn, to raise funds for St. Francis’ Hospice. Always popular with busy shoppers, a total of € was raised and presented to the hospice manager afterwards. Maith sibh a phaistí agus a mhúinteoirí!

Well done to all pupils and staff on a wonderful week of Christmas performances from plays to sing-a-longs!

Wishing all our pupils and staff and their families a

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

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