



# Wesley College Parent/Teacher Association

**September 2009**

Dear Parent / Guardian

Once again we are at the commencement of a new school year and on behalf of the P.T.A. I would like to welcome new "Wesley Parents" and trust that your children are now settling into college life.

This time last year we were facing into the worst economic recession which many of us have experienced. For many parents the outlook is quite different now to what it was only a few short years ago.

The college also has also suffered from cutbacks but more about this later.

It has been a tough time for last years 6<sup>th</sup> Formers with entry points increasing for many third level courses. We take this opportunity to wish them all the best in whatever choices they make.

The PTA has once again been very proactive during the year that is past, supporting and funding a wide variety of activities which contribute to College life. However, we would like to draw your attention to a number of areas of college life where we would strongly urge you to get involved - please see details overleaf.

The PTA wishes parents, pupils and staff at Wesley every success for the school year 2009/2010.

Regards

**Ken Dover**

Chairman, Wesley College PTA

# Your involvement is essential

A full report on the work of the PTA Committee together with our annual accounts will be issued at the PTA Annual General meeting to be held in November.

During the year that is past we invited members of the Board of Governors, Board of Management and students from the Student Council to speak to us and tell us about their role in the college. This gave us a greater insight into the workings of the school. Be assured that our views and concerns as parents are carefully listened to and considered by the school authorities. If you have any ideas or concerns and if you feel the PTA could be of assistance please do not hesitate to contact us. We would like to thank all who gave of their time in this regard during the year.

As outlined overleaf we feel it is essential to draw your attention to a number of events and issues where your support is necessary.

## **Work of the PTA committee**

The PTA committee actively supports the work of the college. Among other activities it sends a representative to COMPASS meetings. This organisation represents PTA's from all Protestant and Minority Faith schools throughout Ireland. With changes happening in government funding in education it is important that parents' views are heard. Our committee plays an active role in this regard but we need to hear your views. As outlined overleaf, we have a number of vacancies arising this November. Please give this some serious consideration.

## **Recession**

No doubt many of us are feeling the cold wind of recession blowing all around us. For a large number of parents, sending our children to Wesley represents a real sacrifice but we know that investing in their education is money well spent. During the year the PTA committee stressed the importance of keeping fee increases to a minimum. We are very pleased that the college took this on board. We would encourage parents to avail of grants that are available and to seek advice if necessary in this regard.

## **Invitations to visit friends**

At the commencement of secondary school your child will make new friends. During the next six years they will become increasingly independent.

When asked to a friend's house, especially for overnight stays, you should be aware of what the circumstances are. For younger students in particular, make sure you know exactly where they are going, preferably bring and collect them yourself. Will there be at least one parent present at all times? Does your child know all those who will be present? What DVD's / computer games will they be watching? Will alcohol be available?

Families have different standards as to what is and is not acceptable. Respect this, contact the parents and if you are not happy, don't be afraid to say no. Your child will get over it!

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all parents who support Wesley College in either a formal or informal manner - this contributes greatly to the positive atmosphere that exists within the school.

Finally a note of thanks to the staff and teachers for all their work and dedication to college life throughout the year.

## **Wesley College Parent Teacher Association 2008/2009**

Parents can contact the PTA by email or in writing. The PTA email address is [pta@wesleycollege.ie](mailto:pta@wesleycollege.ie) or write to The Secretary, PTA, Wesley College, Ballinteer, Dublin 16.

Please find below a full list of PTA committee members, feel free to contact us at any time.

Ken Dover – Chairman, Colin Bryan - Hon. Treasurer, Linda Dwyer-Joyce - Hon. Secretary.

Jenny Boyd, Hugh Brickenden, Fran Harland, Klaas Jan de Vries, Mary Higgins, Anna Keogh, Sandra Pullen.

Teacher Representatives: Peter Lydon and Richard McConnell. Principal: Christopher Woods.

**Coffee morning for parents of preps & 1<sup>st</sup> year students  
Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2009 @ 10.30am  
in the Pavilion**

This PTA hosted event takes place every September and has always been well attended, giving parents of new students an opportunity to meet each other and staff members in an informal setting. It is held in the Pavilion overlooking the all weather hockey pitches. Tea and biscuits are provided and the sun always shines for this event!

**We look forward to meeting you!**

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**Pre-Debs Soirée  
Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> October @ 6.00pm in the Myles Hall**

The PTA organises and funds the Pre-Debs Soirée every year. This is a major event in the college and will take place again this year. It is often the last formal contact former students and their parents have with the school.

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**"Protestants outraged over schools budget discrimination"**

This headline appeared in the Irish Independent of 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept 2009.

The article that followed outlined the current threat to Protestant schools from current government policies. The view of the Committee on Management for Protestant Secondary Schools is that if these policies continue many of our schools, particularly in rural areas may close.

Among other issues, the majority of pupils in Catholic schools have pupil teacher ratio of 19:1 while for the majority of Protestant schools the ratio is now 20:1. This difference was introduced in the last budget. Should the recommendations of the McCarthy Report be followed this will be further eroded in the December budget. This is discrimination; it must be reversed. We cannot stress strongly enough the gravity and urgency of this situation. Speak / write to your local TD about this matter.

The Committee on the Management for Protestant Secondary Schools has organized a conference to discuss these issues which will be held at:

**The Maldron Hotel, Tallaght on 3rd October 2009 from 11am to 3pm**

**Please support this event by attending**

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**Wesley College PTA – Annual General Meeting  
Monday 16<sup>th</sup> November @ 7.30pm in the GB Shaw Auditorium**

Our Annual General Meeting will be held in November. There are a large number of vacancies on the committee this year. We need your support. If you feel you can make a positive contribution please consider putting your name forward for election. Each member serves a term of three years. We meet as a committee about seven times a year and assist in the organising of various events in the school year.

The contribution of the PTA committee to the life of the college is encouraged and appreciated by the school authorities. During these challenging times we need a strong and committed PTA committee.

If you would like to know more about the committee please feel free to contact me, Ken Dover on 087 9441058 or any member of the committee.