



Wesley College Parent Teacher Association

Ballinteer, Dublin 16

Email: pta@wesleycollege.ie Website: www.wesleycollege.ie

NEWSLETTER

Dear Parent/Guardian,

September 2010

We hope you had an enjoyable summer and welcome you back to the start of the College year. We would especially like to welcome any parents who are new to Wesley College and hope your children enjoy the 'Wesley' experience and settle easily into college life. The transition from primary to secondary school can often be as daunting for parents as it is for our children, but it is amazing how quickly the students learn to adapt within the first term. Parents may take a little longer!

The PTA actively encourages parents to communicate with each other throughout your children's school years. We are therefore collating a mobile no/contact list for **Preps & 1st Year** Parents who wish to have their details circulated to each other on a confidential basis. The forms were handed out at Induction Day and will also be available at the Coffee Morning for new parents on Saturday 18th September. This will be repeated for **3rd Year** parents at the Transition Information Evening in March 2011, before the commencement of the September 2011 Transition Year when pupils' classes will change again.

We would like to offer our heartiest congratulations to the Leaving Certificate Class of 2010 which performed exceptionally well this year with outstanding results, the best ever achieved for Wesley College. We look forward to seeing them in their finery at the PTA Pre-Debs Soirée on Saturday 16th October 2010.

The Parent Teacher Association is YOUR Association. Its aims are to promote communication between Management, Parents and the Staff of the College and advance the education and welfare of our students. The PTA annual sub of €20 per family goes a long way to enhance our children's education by providing sponsorship and practical support towards many extra-curricular activities in the arts, science, sport and music.

The PTA meets seven times each year and the next AGM will be held on 22nd November 2010 when **5 parents** will retire from the Committee. Please think about getting involved and possibly putting your name forward. Parents can be a huge support for the school community, and by interacting with teachers, administrators and other parents on a regular basis, you can gain first-hand understanding of your child's daily activities and insight into school life that will help you communicate with your child as they develop through school.

For your information listed below are some of the events the PTA will be involved with this term:

September 18 th Saturday @ 10.30am:	Preps/1st Year Parents Coffee Morning, Sports Pavilion
October 16 th Saturday @ 6.00pm:	Pre-Debs Soirée, Myles Hall
November 11 th Thursday @ 7.00pm:	Poetry Aloud Finals, GB Shaw Auditorium
November 15 th Monday @ 7.30pm:	CAO Information Evening to 6th Year Parents
November 22 nd Monday @ 7.30pm:	AGM/Guest Speaker Event, GB Shaw Auditorium
December 16 th Thurs @ 12.30-4.00pm:	Student Enterprise Market Day, Myles Hall

The PTA would like to wish all parents, students and teachers a very successful school year in 2010/2011.

Linda Dwyer-Joyce
Chairperson

Year Heads for 2010/2011: Preps: Mrs Jean Glenfield, **Y1** Mrs Patricia Lewis, **Y2** Mr Karl Wall, **Y3** Mr Richard Fox, **Y4** Mr Craig Petrie, **Transition Year Co-ordinator:** Mr Derek Shaw, **Y5** Mr Robert Garland, **Y6** Ms Fidelma Meehan.

Homework: Teenage years are characterised by a move from dependence to independence. This includes learning organisational skills to produce homework assignments to specific deadlines by themselves. To assist them:

- Set-up a well-lit homework friendly area with dictionary/ pens and no distractions such as TV, loud music or mobiles
- Schedule a *regular* study time. Routine is important. Some work best immediately after school, others after their evening meal
- Check their Homework Journal for work set and completed each week
- Recognise your role is helper not doer
- Allow them to take short breaks after completing an assignment
- Praise their efforts, commendations, and mention academic achievements to relatives
- Encourage your child to read. Do they see you reading the newspapers, writing letters or reading a book?
- If your child has problems with homework, contact their Tutor or Year Head for advice

Sharing Experiences & Suggestions around Substance Abuse: Substance abuse amongst young people is fast becoming an area of real concern for parents of teenage children. A Collaborative Guide for parents, published and endorsed by 32 schools in Dublin including Wesley College, will be sent to you shortly and is available at www.wesleycollege.ie. The report follows extensive research by a wide range of experts and authorities and takes into account interviews with parents and teenagers in relation to experiences of alcohol and substance abuse. We hope this document proves useful as a Guide during your child's teenage years in setting boundaries and handling situations that may arise in the future.

Boundaries for Teenagers: As your child's social network increases, so does their desire to engage in social activities outside school. If you are dropping off to a party, do so at the house not in a communal area. Find out if parents will be present and agree a time for collection. Ensure your child's mobile is charged and has credit before they leave. Don't be afraid to ask 'is there alcohol involved' or 'who else is going' if the answer is '*everyone*', speak with other parents, after a few calls that could evaporate to two!

Anti-Bullying Campaign: The PTA strongly supports the Wesley College Anti-Bullying Campaign with sponsorship in an effort to increase awareness of the devastating effect bullying can have on adolescents' self esteem. It is in all our interests as parents to ensure that no child is involved in or a victim of bullying. No school is totally immune from bullying, and if you ever suspect your child is being bullied or you are aware of someone who is, do not hesitate to report it to the appropriate **Year Head** at the earliest. Ms O'Byrne and Mrs Wilson, Guidance Counsellors, are also experienced and discreet in supporting students with any concerns. Cyber-bullying on internet social websites such as Facebook or texting outside of school is more difficult to control. We all have a responsibility to ensure our children are using the internet and their mobile phones responsibly. A useful website for parental reference is www.internetsafety.ie

School Uniform: In the scramble of changing rooms our children often 'lose' uniform or sports gear. Check the name tags on the uniform your child is wearing occasionally to ensure there is no possible confusion. **LOST PROPERTY** opens on Tuesdays and Fridays at breaktime and is run by Mrs Henderson and Mr Kingston. The PTA organise a second hand uniform sale on the last day of the summer term in the Gym Hall. This has proved a popular and economic way to recycle school uniform in good condition during students' school lives. New uniforms can also be purchased at the Sale from Rita's Uniforms with discounts on the day or directly online at www.ritas.ie

Extra Curricular activities: Wesley College offers a vast range of extra curricular activities catering for all interests. The PTA asks parents to encourage their children to take advantage of this and participate in as many as they can without obviously overwhelming themselves. This is a unique time in their lives to discover talents and interests.

Driving on the College Campus: To avoid congestion remember there is a 2nd EXIT at the Methodist Church End of the Campus to the M50 (Left Turn only) from 3.00pm-6.00pm (1.00pm Wednesdays). Parents please note that pupils driving onto the College Campus must have a Full Driving Licence and a parking permit from Mr Lewis.

Other PTA events/sponsorship:

Book Week
Building & Grounds Committee
Business Innovation Award
Compass
Green Week

Habitat for Humanity Greeting Cards
Model United Nations Week
Poetry Aloud
Ready Steady Cook
School Leaver's BBQ
Seachtain na Gaeilge

Spring Guest Speaker Event
Student Enterprise Awards
Uniform Sale
Wesley Artist of the Year
Wesley College Interschool Music Festival
Wesley Year Book Cover Design

We would be delighted to hear from parents with any suggestions or concerns. Email: pta@wesleycollege.ie

Chairperson: Linda Dwyer-Joyce, Hon. Secretary: Anna Keogh, Treasurer: Pat Feenan
Jenny Boyd, Fran Harland, Mary Higgins, Anthony Hoare, Klaas Jan de Vries, Anne McDowell, Gerard McGuinness, Sandra Pullen.
Teacher Representatives: Louise Downer, Richard McConnell. Principal: Christopher Woods.