

Community service and journalist-phobia

As you all know, we have to do a few weeks of community service in fourth year (those of us doing the Gaisce have to do a few more). After being assigned my topic for this issue's article, I thought I might go out and find out what all you guys are up to, whether you're enjoying it and why you might think any of this could be beneficial or worthwhile. This was before I realized that a substantial amount of people in our year simply refuse to be interviewed by a friendly neighbourhood journalist (i.e. yours truly). Those of you whom I managed to coax some sort of answer from were able to give me some immortal phrases such as "it's fun" and "It's grand, yeah...". Inspiring words. Really. However, some of you were a little more helpful. It's interesting to note the range of activities you can get involved in for community service; I've heard about everything from helping with Brownies/Scouts/Cubs to taking a first-aid course (I was surprised that this one counted, but there you go...) to taking a homework club to teaching older people to use mobile phones; to coaching different sports and the list goes on...

What's even better is that we all seem to be really getting satisfaction and benefit from doing some good. For example, a friend of mine does a homework club on Wednesdays and says it's actually quite good experience if they go into teaching in the future and they find it really interesting to watch and help the kids learn. Year head and RE teacher Mr. Petrie says "the real value of community service is that it encourages students to make a positive contribution to their community that has an impact outside school."

Let's hear it for positive contributions! Overall, most of us seem to be actually enjoying and benefiting from whatever we chose to do for our community service, which is pretty good. Now, if we felt that way about all our projects, we'd be flying...

Yvonne Corcoran

4A1

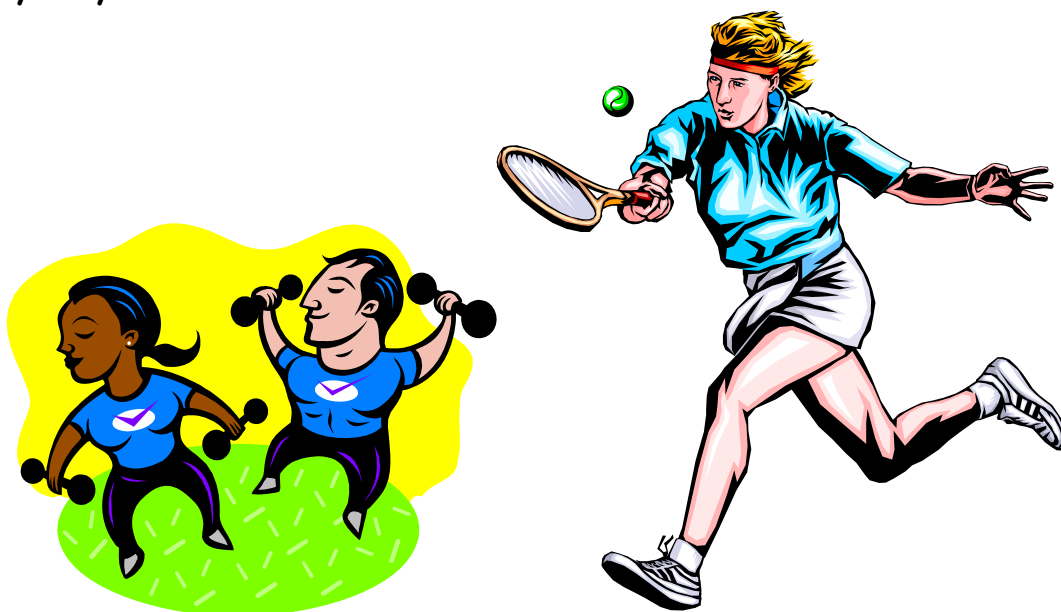
Health Week

As you all know, the week of the 16th-18th was Health week. This year the physical education department set all us pupils and teachers many challenges. The main challenge was to get every student and staff member to do the Wesley mile to get a badge with a smile. This was one of many challenges.

Determined to complete the challenge but with little time on our hands. We, the editors went out and ran the Wesley mile in the dark on Tuesday evening after our weekly meeting. Though you may say this was stupid and dangerous, it was the funniest experience. After a long day of Wesley's athletes running the Mile, the route had become quite muddy and waterlogged. We slipped and screamed our way through the mile and eventually finished and got our badge of pride.

Health week is all about trying some form of exercise, eating healthily, sleeping well and overall living a healthy life.

By Amy Stokes



Home Ec-Gym Class Heroes

With Fourth Year being a year of new possibilities and experiences, new subjects are bound to be exciting and challenging all at once. All pupils are doing something that they've never done before, so I caught up with two T.Y. students from 4A1, who experienced the subject Home Economics for the first time ever.

Their names are Jonathan Lewis and A.J. Browne.

So, what did you get to do in H.E.?

J: We got to make food, like pizza, which was great! We also had to do projects on International Foods - I did Fiji!

A.J.: Yeah, the pizza was really fun to make but Matthew ruined mine! I did my project on Thailand.

What teacher did you have and did you like her?

J: Ms. Fallon. She was a good laugh, bitta banter. She said that I was like a poppy in the desert!

A.J.: She gave me two accommodations and told me that I thrived in the kitchen, so I was happy!

Did you like the subject?

J: Yes, it was really good craic.

A.J.: It was good to learn something new.

Would you consider doing it for the L.C.?

J: No, never!

A.J.: No, it's generally just for girls! Ah, I'm only messing!

Two different and honest opinions about H.E. but overall both of them had a valuable experience that they won't forget. I encourage everyone to take a good stab at their new subjects and you won't forget it for the rest of your lives. As for A.J., boys are just as likely to take H.E. for the Leaving Cert as girls. *By Nadine Jones*

Model Making

Way back in September, when the subject choices were put up on the notice board, I had the pleasant surprise of finding out I got a place in the first model making. As I wandered over to the computer lab for the first period of this subject, I had no idea what we would experience.

To start with, we were given a list of all the things that our teacher, Mr. Darlington, an avid modeller since he was a teenager, hoped to get done during our module. This would have included a trip, but due to budget cuts, this was not to be. Of course, even without that, it was an enjoyable module if you are interested in that sort of thing. I for one found myself looking forward to the two double periods all week. But, with everything in life, there are usually one or two regrets. Mine is that I chose a model that I couldn't get completed fully by the end of the module. But life goes on. To those taking model making after Christmas, expect good things!



Michael Stroughair

Retreat Day with 3 Rock youth

On Wednesday the 11th of November a group of people from 3 rock youth did a retreat day at the Methodist church. Some of us thought it was a hike up 3-rock mountain but it thankfully wasn't. At the start we played games in two different groups such as 'shuffle bums', and 'fruit basket'. They were fun and we had a great time. Then we had a music and film quiz and were split into groups of 8. Then we went on a break. Next we

listened to a slightly funny woman who talked about her life. My favourite part was the dares where one person from each group went up to the front to perform a task. They ranged from miming how to put on a coat that is too small for you, to singing 'I gotta feeling' in an Italian accent. At the end 3 people had to drink shaken 7-up with a berocca tablet in their mouth. It was hilarious to watch except when Glenn sprayed it all over us. Over all I think it was a great day and we all had fun!

By Lucy Harris

Work Experience 2009

On Monday 2nd to Friday the 6th of November, the pupils of Fourth year in Wesley embarked on something that they had never done before and that is embarking on their first Work Experience. I myself was very excited about this as it gave me a look into the real world and possibly letting me imagine what life could be like after I leave Wesley. I was placed in The Traffic Corps of An Garda Síochána in Dublin Castle. It will be something I will never forget. I did a huge amount of different activities, from filing drink driving investigations to controlling cameras that were placed all over the city. Other students in the year agreed with me and I was lucky to catch up with a student from 4A1, Darragh Ewen and interview him on his experience of work.

Where did you have your first work experience, Darragh?

It was in a garage in Rathfarnham called Moto4You.

What were your working hours?

I worked from 8.30am to 6pm.

What did you get to do?

I got to rebuilt scooters and motorbikes. I also was able to look at how engines are constructed. It was pretty cool.

What was your overall feedback?

It was really cool because I was able to do something I love, I got paid and I received a free t-shirt and some jellies too.

Would you consider this as a future career?

I really am considering it; I even have a part time job there now.

I hope after this interview, people who do not consider Work Experience as a valuable piece of time that should be spent wisely and giving your employer the utmost respect and showing others you might have an idea about your future careers, will reconsider and encourage the idea. By Nadine Jones

