

# The Wesley Update



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## World Schools Debating

Wesley's two representatives on the Irish World Schools' Debating team had a very successful tournament in Cardiff in July. Mark Houghton and Sian Murray were heavily involved in the League phase of the competition, in which Ireland were undefeated in eight heats, and succeeded in carrying twenty-two of the twenty-four adjudicators who scored the rounds. This meant that the Irish team were highly seeded for the Octo-Finals where they defeated Bangladesh, England and Canada to bring them to the Final. Mark became the first Wesley speaker to be selected for the World Schools' Final, and is one of only six Irish debaters to receive this honour. Team Ireland was unlucky to run up against defending champions Australia in the Final and suffered their only defeat, finishing as runners-up. This was Ireland's second-highest placing in the competition. Congratulations to all involved.

## Prize Distribution



(Back L-R Mr Graham Darlington, Mr David Rice, Mr Christopher Woods, Dr John Harris, Mr Conor Brady, Mr Don Lewis, Rev Nigel Mackey, Front L-R Mrs Patricia Lewis, Mrs Nicola Woods, Mrs Barbara Harris)

Wesley's annual Prize Distribution took place on October 19 to reward pupils' academic achievement and effort throughout the year. Dr. John Harris, Chairman of the Board of Governors, introduced the guest speaker, Mr Conor Brady, former editor of *The Irish Times* who distributed the prizes. In his address, Mr. Brady spoke eloquently about the dangers of the modern media and our need to question the messages they perpetuate. He appreciated this opportunity to lend his support to such an important evening for the pupils and the college. There was a musical interlude from the Senior Choir and the orchestra who performed *Lacrimosa* from Mozart's *Requiem*. It was a wonderful evening which acknowledged the wealth of talent in Wesley and congratulations to all who received prizes. We can look forward to the Arts and Sports Awards night later in the year which will mark achievements in these other fields.

## Lifelines



(L-R Caroline Shaw, Donal O'Connor, Stephanie Veitch)

*Lifelines – New and Collected* was launched on Tuesday, 10 October, in the luxurious surroundings of The Royal College of Surgeons on St. Stephen's Green at a wonderful occasion to mark the final edition of the book. Gay Byrne, Kathleen Watkins, Mary Lohan, Donald Teskey, Julie O'Callaghan, Jim Sherwin and Peter Fallon were among those who joined pupils, teachers and principals, past and present, to celebrate the launch of what has been deemed 'the world's best anthology' by the poet Paul Durcan.

A number of people were called upon to say a few words and recite their favourite poems. John O'Donnell, poet and barrister, read 'from Clearances' by Seamus Heaney and Elizabeth Walsh Peavoy read her poem 'The Day We Drove Down La Nicoliere' about the death of her own daughter. Other speakers included Sr. Stanislaus Kennedy, Marie Heaney and Denis O'Driscoll.

This final collection is a testament to the enduring enthusiasm of Niall MacMonagle, as well as the past and present day pupils who put in such a tremendous effort to make each edition possible. The principal praised the three Form IV students, Caroline Shaw, Donal O'Connor and Stephanie Veitch who helped compile the new book. They can be duly proud of what they have created.

*Lifelines – New and Collected* is available in most bookshops and all proceeds go to the Concern so please purchase your copy now and support this very worthy cause.

For information and news check out the College website [www.wesleycollege.ie](http://www.wesleycollege.ie)

# Music And Arts Book Week

## Author Visits

### Fabulous Francesca!

On Friday 6 October, author Francesca Simon and creator of *Horrid Henry*, spoke to Preps and Form I about her most famous character and her writing techniques. She is a prolific writer, so much so, that *The Bookseller* in same month announced that sales of the *Horrid Henry* books have now reached six million. Her audience that day was very familiar with her work and had all written their own opening version of a *Horrid Henry* story. Simon judged Jack Perdue's entry the winner.



### Brian Keaney

The London based novelist Brian Keaney visited Wesley on 19 October and spoke to all of Form III about his life and writing. His parents are Irish and his mother was forever telling him stories when he was a boy. He spoke that day about how this inspired him to write. He read from his new novel *The Hollow People*, took questions from the floor and deemed Hannah Pratt and Kyrsten Baker joint winners of the writing competition in which they were asked to comment upon two openings of his novels.



### Art News

A display of the best of last year's Junior Certificate Art Projects was in the main concourse to coincide with the Form III parent-teacher meeting and the Prize Distribution.

Meanwhile, Form VI Art students, accompanied by Mrs. Frumholz, visited the RHA on Friday, October 6 to view the Robert Ballagh Retrospective Exhibition. The students were treated to an enthusiastic and insightful tour of the exhibition by William Gallagher.

### Irish Film Institute

Form IV visited the Irish Film Institute in September to see *Stand By Me*, a film that captured so well the anxieties and awkwardness of adolescence.



The build-up to Wesley's *Lifelines* launch began on October 2 with the schools' Book Week. It started with the usual hectic rush to the library by staff and students alike to get their books for the daily reading period from 11.20am to 11.30am. There were a range of activities this year, including a number of quizzes which saw some very strange goings-on in the library involving a dead body and a murder mystery. There were also some impressive entries in the art and writing competitions. Meanwhile, in the book swap on the concourse, students traded their favourite reads and the preps conducted a survey of everyone's reading interests.

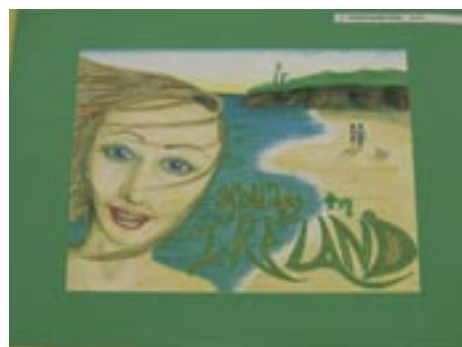
### Irish National Folk Company

Louise Howley (Form V) was invited by the European Folk Art and Culture Organisation to represent Ireland at a congress of cultural leaders and specialists from more than 30 European countries in October. The National team was asked to make a presentation of their national music, song and dance at a formal ceremony which was attended by the Polish government and civic and cultural leaders. We offer our congratulations to Louise on achieving such a great honour.



### Percussion Exams

Under the direction of Ms. Monica Bonnie, several percussion students sat grade examinations of the Trinity Guildhall School of Music. Although none of them claimed to be superstitious, it was third time lucky as the percussion dates were rescheduled twice and eventually happened on Friday 13! The G.B. Shaw Auditorium proved a wonderful venue for the drummers on this occasion.



The following pupils won competitions during Book Week:

#### Art

Junior: Gillian Motyer  
Intermediate: Aisling McDaid  
Senior: Jan Campbell

#### Haiku Competition

Preps: 1st Kate Carey  
Joint 2nd Oliver Brooks  
& Christopher Dickson

Junior: Ann Shanahan  
Intermediate: Rebecca Sellar  
Senior: Russell Elliott

#### Mini Creative Writing Competition

Junior: Carin Hunt  
Intermediate: Zara Gleasure  
Senior: Aine McNelis

Alison Benn was also awarded a special honorary prize to mark the 1000th Mini-Creative Writing entry.

## Preps

The Preps have had a very busy term between winning art competitions, orienteering, a Christchurch visit and the buzz of Book Week. As well as taking part in the other activities during Book Week Hugh Cresswell, Daisy Maloney, Lyndsay Walsh, Lauren Haughton and Lucy Gaynor performed a dramatised reading of *Horrid Henry's Computer* in assembly, much to everyone's enjoyment. The Preps also conducted a very extensive school-wide survey of peoples' reading habits. The class were later invited to accompany Form I to the G.B. Shaw Auditorium to meet Francesca Simon, author of the *Horrid Henry* books. Eimear O'Brien and Oliver Brooks won second and third prize respectively in the story competition.

On the evening of Friday 6 October, Emma Rock, Alexandra May, Kate Carey, Sophie, Lucy Gaynor and Eimear O'Brien travelled to Christ Church Cathedral in Dublin for the annual Dublin and Glendalough Diocesan Junior School Service. Most of the service was led by national school children and Lyndsay Walsh, representing Wesley read the Collect brilliantly.



### Irish Permanent Award

Victoria Johnston (Form V) has been awarded an Irish Permanent Highest Achiever Award in recognition of her Distinction in her Gold Medal Pianoforte Recital Exam in June. This is the fourth time she has received this award. She also received a distinction in her Senior Certificate Piano Exam at the same time. She deserves great praise for what is certainly a prodigious achievement.

### Art Competition

In tandem with the Ryder Cup, several students won prizes of a day-trip on the Stena Line Ferry for a colouring competition associated with the prestigious event. They were Kate Carey, Sophie Fitzpatrick, Daisy Maloney, Lucy Gaynor, Jonathan Roberts, Alexandra May, Rachel Allen and Lyndsay Walsh.

# Sport

## Badminton

The new season commenced on a high note for Wesley College Badminton Club when Steven Taylor (Capt) David Tutty and Garreth Peoples won the Division 1 Leinster Mixed Doubles for the seventh year in a row. The team partnered Old Bawn Community School and defeated Sandford Park and Loreto Foxrock in the final 3-0.

In Division 2, Stephen Kennedy, Niklas Lauder and David Roche (Capt) combined with Loreto Bray and were narrowly defeated on points.

The girls in Division 1, Shola Ogundimu, Carla Roberts and Rachel Kinlan (Capt) along with Division 2 girls, Aislinn Holland, Megan Nally and Sinead Brady were up against very strong opposition in Templeogue, Terenure and St. Andrews but acquitted themselves well.

David Roche is the well-deserved Club Captain of the Badminton Club this year.

## Junior Girls Hockey

The Junior A team has played three league matches. They beat Loreto Bray 2-1, drew with Alexandra College 0-0 and lost to Mount Sackville. They will play Muckross in their next league game.

The Junior Bs have only played one league match this season and won 5-0 but show great promise as they have won all their friendly competitions.

The Junior Cs have played two league matches, beating Rosemount 5-0 but were unfortunate to lose to Mount Anville.

The Junior Ds have been winning a lot of their friendly matches but were only able to draw to Muckross 0-0 in their league game. We wish all the teams every success in their upcoming competitions.

Finally, Kate Willis and Amanda Walker have been selected to play for the Leinster U16s on the 10-12 November at the Interprovincials and we wish them the very best.



## Epworth

Life has settled down in the Girls' House and we would like to welcome the new first years and preps who have brought a very international flavour to their year with six of the thirteen girls coming to us from various countries such as Portugal, Spain, Kenya, England, Australia and Nigeria. They are pictured here at a welcoming hot chocolate evening. We wish them well in their years here. They include Roxy Renner and Anna Jimenez (Preps) and Elyse Heemskerck, Rachel Burns, Laura McKay, Leanne McNamara, Mihlan Klinge Quain, Iremide Ife-Alabi, May Kay James, Sophie Pratt, Petra Romanic, Amy Roulston and Sarah Cullen (Form I).



## Hurling

Eddie O'Byrne (Form IV) has been selected onto the panel of the Dublin Schools' Junior Hurling Team who began their first round of matches in the Leinster A League in October against Good Counsel College, New Ross. We wish him and his team every success.

## Senior Girls Hockey

The 1st XI have started off this season with great enthusiasm and are showing great potential. Ably led by captain Jennifer Fair, the team comfortably beat Holy Child Killiney 6-2 in their first league match. This was followed up by a tight 2-1 defeat by local rivals High School. Muckross College were always going to be tough rivals but the team started out well and Shannon Taylor finished off a nice team move to go up 1-0. Muckross equalised shortly after though and the match went into the second half all-square. Wesley created a number of chances and played some very accomplished hockey but were unfortunate to concede a goal five minutes from time. The match finished 2-1 to Muckross.

Immediately after half term, Nadia Douglas, Leigh Pelow and Rachel Scott will represent the school on the Leinster U18 squad at the Interprovincial Championship in Dublin. The following week the school team will play their final group game against Mount Sackville.

This season is remarkable for the fact that we have over 50 girls playing hockey in the Senior section. There are four teams regularly playing matches. The Senior 2 team have won their first league game and will continue their campaign after half term, while the Senior 3 team lost their first league game away to Mullingar and then drew their second 1-1 with Mount Sackville.



## Embury

There have been improvements to the house over the summer, not least a refreshed and very colourful Junior Dorm area. The addition of a new table soccer game has been a great success, as are the more traditional pool tables.

We must extend a very warm welcome to the new Form I boarders in their first term. Congratulations also to the boys on their excellent Junior Certificate results. They celebrated with a night of racing which was won by Champion Driver, Andrew McCrann.

## Rugby

Wesley Rugby has been re-invigorated this year with new additions to the coaching staff in the shape of Eric Miller and Philip Rice. Both former pupils, Eric has been working with the Colts, and Philip with the 1st XV. Eric's playing experience with Leinster, Ireland and the Lions, has ensured that the boys are keen trainers and have rapidly improved in terms of both skill and attitude and have won their first two league matches. Philip meanwhile has been working with the 1st XV and the early results are very encouraging. More professional fitness training for all age groups has also seen a marked improvement in our rugby and conditioning.

The Senior XV have challenged for the top spot in their league group with wins against Presentation Bray, Newbridge, and Templeogue, while out-half, Barry McLaughlin has been selected for the Leinster Schools' squad this year. If the team can continue its early season form we can hopefully make a strong impression in the Senior Cup.



The 2nd XV has notched up a few good wins and is gradually building up momentum for the start of its league campaign in January.

The league campaign for the Colts has just kicked off and both the A's and B's won their first matches.

The JCT's league campaign has been very tough so far and we have come up against two of the Cup favourites in Newbridge and C.B.C. Monkstown. However, this team of Juniors has steadily improved and finished off this section of the season with a good win against St. Paul's.

## Senior Boys Hockey

The Senior Boys hockey team competed in the All-Ireland Championships in early November. Although they did not make it to the semi-finals, they played some exciting and competitive hockey.

They defeated Middleton College 2-1, with goals from David Robinson and Robert Whelan and followed this with a 3-1 win over Sullivan Upper, Brian Doherty, Robert Whelan and Mark English the scorers this time.

They then faced RBAI for a chance to progress to the semi-finals. Despite playing the more attractive hockey, Wesley conceded four goals to lose 4-2. RBAI later finished runners-up in the event.

The Wesley team played with unquestionable commitment and persistence and we wish them every success as they regroup to compete in their League and Cup competitions.



## Retirement

Mr. Arnold Edge, Head of Science, officially retired at the end of November. He joined the staff in 1968 and retires as the last member of staff who has taught in both the old school in St. Stephen's Green and our present campus in Ballinteer. During a distinguished career as a Chemistry and Biology teacher he has led by example with his energy, commitment and enthusiasm.

He has performed many valuable roles throughout his tenure at Wesley, notably as Head of the Science Department for thirteen years and variously as Head of Day Boys' Welfare, a Junior Rugby coach, co-ordinator of audio-visual aids, prefects, the Photographic Club and the Leonardo da Vinci Society. He has also lent his photographic skills to the recording of school events and a creative module in Transition Year.

We wish him well in his retirement and hope that it will be filled with new and exciting opportunities.

## Founders Day Service

Wesley celebrated Founder's Day in a real musical style this year in both the Junior and Senior Founder's Day Services. The Founder's Day Hymn was of course central to our worship but this was complemented by a vocal solo from Helen Tempany (Form II) and an arrangement of Pachelbel's famous *Canon* sung by the Junior Choral Group in the Junior service. The Senior Girls' Choir provided a striking entrance anthem, *Glory to God*, and the combined choir classes of Form VI led the worship with their version of *Let it Be*. This made for a wonderful musical celebration of the founding of our school.



## French Exchange

On June 17, thirteen Wesley students, accompanied by Ms. Jackson and Dr. Mulrooney, travelled to Saumur in France on a ten-day French exchange. The quaint village of Saumur had much to delight and the students got the chance to experience the town's traditions, go on many outings and even attend a music festival with an eclectic mix of music from heavy metal to classical. This was a wonderful trip which has been beneficial both to their standard of French and their awareness of French culture.

## Form I Bonding Day

All of Form I went to Ovoca Manor, ACo. Wicklow on 11 November for their bonding day. The whole year was divided into fourteen teams in order to encourage the students to engage with other pupils in their year. Each group had to complete a set of tasks which required initiative, teamwork and leadership. Some of the tasks, rock climbing and the obstacle course in particular, were not for the faint-hearted. Nevertheless, there were many memorable moments on the trip and more importantly new friendships were forged.



## New 6th Year Centre

There has been a significant upgrading of the campus facilities over the summer. As part of the college's commitment to provide the most up-to-date facilities for its' students, the new 6th Year Centre has been completed to provide a space for Senior students to socialise, read a newspaper or discuss work. It has created a vibrant atmosphere in the concourse and also possesses paintings by Louise Butler which were inspired by her travels in India. They have added much to the brightness of the space. The centre exists alongside the new Guidance library which will allow students to research career and future study options.

## Green School Campaign

The Lud stream flows through the campus at front of the College and in a project organised by 4A5 it was hoped to return it to some of its former glory after a period of misuse. On October 11 during tutor period, the whole of Transition Year descended on the stream with bags, gloves, forks, spades and lots of energy. They cleaned up and weeded much of this great College resource. Many thanks to 4A5 and to the rest of Transition Year and staff who participated in the clean-up.

## Habitat for Humanity

A 39 strong team travelled to the town of Mizes in Romania at Easter to build two houses and lay the foundations for two more as part of the Habitat for Humanity programme which aims to provide homes for people in poverty-stricken areas. It proved to be an arduous but rewarding ten days, which ended with the dedication ceremony, where the families were given the keys to their new homes. Other events of the week included trips to the Bear Caves and Budapest and a traditional Romanian evening of food and dancing. By far the most moving experience was a visit to a local orphanage. One student, Caroline Shaw (Form V), summed up the experience, 'we were amazed at what we had done and all of us were changed in some way'. The Habitat for Humanity team is currently preparing for their return to Romania at Easter to continue their valuable work and will appreciate all your support for their fund-raising efforts in the coming months.

## Bullying Awareness Week

The theme of this year's Bullying Awareness Week was "*Thoughtfulness – Think before you Act*".

The students were involved in a number of activities during the week, including themed assemblies, a film for Form I and competitions, which produced some wonderful poetry and art work.

Ms. Jacinta Kitt gave a most entertaining and insightful talk to Form I parents on the Thursday evening. She spoke on family relationships, equipping your child with self-esteem and the avoidance of bullying behaviour. This occasion provided the parents with an opportunity to meet informally and to admire the students' work.

Anti-bullying badges were sold throughout the week in aid of the children's hospital in Crumlin.

## Transition Year Bonding Day

On the day the Junior Certificate exam results were released, Form IV climbed Three Rock as part of the annual Transition Year Bonding Day. It proved to be a little light relief from the stress of awaiting results. The weather on the day grew steadily worse but spirits remained high throughout and it provided an opportunity to get to know new classmates.

There were some interesting tasks to be completed on the trek up which encouraged team work and culminated in the Hokey-Pokey! It was an enjoyable experience which ended with many jubilant scenes as students received their results.