

The Wesley Update



Issue 43
April 2010

Feis Ceoil Successes

Wesley's musicians made a real splash at this year's ESB Feis Ceoil. Carla White (5th Year) competed at Senior Level this time around having won four competitions at Junior Level in last year's festival. Carla spoke about her previous successes and her passion for playing the violin with Ryan Tubridy on RTÉ radio on March 12. Carla was competing against much older musicians, many of whom are studying music at third level. She was awarded second place in the Arthur Catterall Cup for Violin and Viola Concerto playing and went on to win both the Arthur Darley Memorial Prize, awarded for the playing of unaccompanied Bach sonatas, as well as the Elsner Memorial competition. The Elsner is awarded to a duo for the playing of a string or wind sonata and Carla was joined by her chamber music partner, Sean Rooney, for this competition. They were awarded first prize of the cup but also the RTÉ Lyric FM award of a cash prize and a recording for future broadcast.

Success for the White family did not end here as Rory was awarded the Johnston Cup for Junior Violincello and Phoebe took the St Cecilia Cup for Junior String Recital and a Junior Violin competition, as well as being placed second in the Junior String Concerto competition. Paul Mullen (3rd Year) competed in the Senior Organ competition and was awarded the Fitzgerald Woodworth Cup for his playing of the two prescribed test pieces on the organ in St Bartholemew's Church. He also went on to take second place and a silver medal in the Junior Piano Duet class with Alastair Greene.

Wesley's Model United Nations



Yvonne Corcoran, Megan Skelly, Katy Rae and Nathan Walsh ably representing the college at the WCDMUN

Over 300 delegates from nearly 20 schools in Ireland and the UK assembled for the Opening Ceremony of **WCDMUN2010** on February 25. Secretary General, Katy Rae (5th Year) exhorted the audience to "leave behind the weary views of the past, and constantly question your own opinions and those of other people". Eamon Ryan, Green TD and Minister of the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, also addressed the delegates. The two-day conference saw students attempt to pass resolutions on some of the most difficult issues facing the world. As well as formal debate, there was a banquet for all the delegates, and a social event, the Late Late Jazz Café, after the first Committee session.

WCDMUN is hosted and organised by seventy students from Wesley. They chair the committees, decide upon the debates, provide the administrative support for delegates, report on the events in the Conference newspaper, and even provide a security team to ensure the smooth running of the event. Other Wesley students formed part of UN delegations and were commended for their contribution. The Best Delegation Award eventually went to Terenure College's USA delegation. Ireland needs fresh ideas and the fervour and brilliance of some of these students could change things for the better.

Construction Studies Prize

The Annual Conference of the Teachers of Technical Subjects, the Technoteachers Association, was held recently in Ballinasloe. The top twenty Leaving Certificate Construction Studies projects were chosen for display at the conference. Stuart Malcolm's project was selected and he was presented with a certificate. We would like to congratulate him on this prodigious achievement.

Ready Steady Cook



Back L-R Mrs Deborah Burns, Mrs O'Doherty, Mrs Linda Dwyer-Joyce, Mr Thomas Haughton, Ms O'Donohoe, Mrs Anna Keogh, Ms Fallon Front L-R Esther Glenfield, Deirdre Cassidy, Grace O'Reilly

Wesley's 7th annual culinary competition Ready, Steady, Cook took place on March 3. This year it was decided to support the national campaign to "Love Irish Food". Twenty finalists were selected to create the best dessert using at least one Irish ingredient in one hour and thirty minutes. The ingredients and prizes for the competition were once again generously sponsored by the Parents Association.

The students' work was carefully assessed by Thomas Haughton, Executive Head Chef of Harvey Nichols Restaurant in Dundrum. He was assisted by two excellent judges from the Parents Association, Mrs Lynda Dwyer-Joyce and Mrs Anna Keogh. Each prize winner was awarded a voucher for a cookery course in the acclaimed Cooks Academy in Dun Laoghaire. There was a great buzz as the judges set about sampling twenty different desserts and the standard was outstanding. The great crowd of supporters looked on, anxious for the results and eager for a piece of cake! First prize and the Ready Steady Cup was awarded to Deirdre Cassidy for her mouth-watering *Chocolate Lava Cakes*. Second Prize was awarded to Esther Glenfield for her *Artemis Delight*, a delicious almond meringue and strawberry cake. Third prize was won by Grace O'Reilly for her tasty lemon pudding with strawberries and white chocolate. The teachers of the Home Economics Department are delighted to see the continued and ever improving standards of culinary excellence in the Ready, Steady, Cook competition. I think I can speak for students, parents and staff alike when I say we are licking our lips in anticipation of next year's event!

Debating News

The College has been well represented at a number of interschools' competitions. Two teams were fielded in the final of the Leinster Junior Plate. Alexandra de Valera and Conor Brady were proposing, while Matthew Nuding (3rd Year) and Victoria Taylor (1st Year) were opposing the motion on tying development aid to democracy. In the end, Alex and Conor were the more successful of the two pairs and won the competition outright.

Conor Brennan (3rd Year) was our sole representative in the Junior Competition proper at the semi-final stage but was unable to progress from a tight round. Kevin Smyth (1st Year) and Alexandra represented Wesley at the ICYD trials in UCD and Helen Major participated in the National Final of the Irish Women University Graduate Federation Public Speaking Competition. All three benefitted hugely from the experience.

That same weekend, Carin Hunt and Dara O'Brien won the Law Society Mace. Jamie Haughton won the individual speaker award. Wesley's two teams, completed by Tara-Masterson Hally partnering Jamie (all 5th Year), tabbed first and second from the league phase of the competition and won seven of the eleven debates they participated in.

Carin qualified as an individual speaker for the Denny Leinster Senior Competition. She was composed and eloquent. Tara and Jamie, Wesley's other semi-finalists, were knocked out in a complex debate on torture.

Wesley still have three representatives in the semi-finals of the Aoife Begley NUI Maynooth competition. Jayne Misstear, Yvonne Corcoran (4th Year) and Matthew Nuding are scheduled to participate after Easter.

Carin's trip to the World Schools was eventful. In one of the most intensely fought league phases of recent years, Ireland finished fifteenth and qualified for the octo-finals. However, the draw pitched them against eventual champions Canada and Ireland's participation ended there. Carin is hopeful of continuing her position with the Irish team for next year's competition in Scotland.

Well done to all who have contributed to making debating such a spirited and dynamic experience at Senior and Junior Level.



Carin Hunt competing at the World Schools

Seachtain na Gaeilge

Ceiliúradh Seachtain na Gaeilge sa scoil seo i mbliana idir an 10 agus 16 Márta. Mar ghnáthchuid den tSeachtain eagraíodh imeachtaí cosúil le Tráth na gCeist, Comórtas Póstaeir, Céilí agus Tóraíocht Taisce le haghaidh daltaí na scoile. I mbliana cuireadh tús le comórtas filíochta sa scoil. Glacfaidh buaiteoirí an chomórtais seo páirt i gcomórtas filíochta náisiúnta níos déanaí sa bhliain. Ba sheachtain an-rathúil í Seachtain na Gaeilge is bhain gach uile duine taitneamh aisti.

*1st Years
taking part in
the Tóraíocht
Taisce*



Garrett Carr



Garrett Carr with Jessica O'Hanlon

Garrett Carr, a new Irish writer who has just published his first book, *The Badness of Ballydog*, spoke to Preps and 1st Year on February 26. In a leisurely talk, he spoke of growing up in Killybegs, his boyhood obsession with monsters, characters' names and why 'bad bad' is more interesting than 'nice'. He also emphasised the need to keep reading if you want to become a writer. He showed a series of slides depicting monsters, images from his school copybooks, and cover designs for his novel. To coincide with this visit, pupils were invited to read the opening pages of *The Badness of Ballydog* and tell the story in two haikus. Garrett Carr judged the shortlist and named Jessica O'Hanlon as the winner, with James Austen and Adam Curry in second and third place respectively. Dylan Lewis thanked Garrett Carr and presented him with a gift on behalf of everyone.

Alexander Gordon Smith

On March 19, 2nd Years enjoyed an action-packed and rip-roaring visit from Alexander Gordon Smith. He hardly paused for breath as he explained how he always wanted to be a writer. Anecdotes abounded, far-fetched tales about shooting cow pats and nose-attacking robots, all convincingly told with great style and sound effects. He suggested that if you're stuck when it comes to describing something or someone then draw it or make it. Indeed, he and his brother made many of the gadgets that feature in Smith's *Furnace* trilogy. The pupils had read extracts from Smith's work in class and were invited to write a personal response. Stephanie Elliott claimed first place, with Emily Stynes and Thomas Redmond in second and third place respectively. Finally, Katie Sweetman thanked Mr Smith for coming and presented him with a gift.



Speak Week participants with Mr Woods, Ms Rowan and Ms Glenfield

English News

Speak Week

On February 12, 1st Years buzzed with excitement as they awaited the twelve finalists, two from each class, taking part in Speak Week. The speech topics were wide-ranging and varied from a defense of red heads, the travesty of seal culling, the need live healthily to a denunciation of graffiti. Well done to all the participants: Nadia Armstrong, Sophie Campbell, Sarah Cannon, Christine Cox, Isaac Harris, Dylan Hughes, Emmanuel Mansuk, Leo Micklem, Kevin Smyth, Jonathan Wilson, Fiona Wolfe and Heather Wolfe.

The performances were of a high standard and Ms Glenfield and Ms Rowan had the difficult task of selecting the winners. Third place went to Nadia Armstrong, second to Leo Micklem and Mr Woods presented Jonathan Wilson with the Overall Prize. This year a special Perpetual Trophy, the OAR Award (Oratory and Rhetoric) was specially commissioned and Jonathan Wilson was the first to raise this splendid trophy (made from mahogany, oak and walnut by Mark Ennis in 5th Year) to thunderous applause.

Student Enterprise Competition

Wesley had a great day at the Student Enterprise County Final in the Marine Hotel, Dun Laoghaire, taking three out of the nine prizes in the competition. Yvonne Corcoran and Nathan Walsh came 1st in the Senior Section with their *Sugar & Spice* venture. Following upon the success of their older counterparts, *Lockerboard* creators, Sean Hanlon, Jonathan Kelly, Stephen Dallas and Luke Gray also finished 1st in the Intermediate Section. Meanwhile, Grace O'Reilly was a very commendable 3rd in the Junior Section with her *Cáca Milís* endeavour. The two winning teams will now progress to the National Finals in Croke Park on April 27. We wish them continued success.



Sean Hanlon, Luke Gray, Jonathan Kelly and Stephen Dallas
Winners of Intermediate Section

Liverpool Choir Trip

Members of the Senior Choir travelled on a hectic four-day tour of Liverpool in March. First we were treated to a tour of Anfield, from Stephen Gerrard's seat in the changing rooms to the hallowed turf of the pitch itself. The Tate Liverpool followed, along with dinner and a cinema visit. Saturday began the Beatlemania on the Magical Mystery Tour. Iconic sights such as Penny Lane and Strawberry Fields, colleges attended by the Fab Four, as well as many of the Beatles' homes were included, and all to a colourful soundtrack of Beatles hits. The tour finished up in "the most famous club in the world" synonymous with the Beatles – The Cavern, where we had a vocal workshop with one of the Cavern Rock School's tutors. The choir had the privilege of being the *only* choir in history to perform on the legendary Cavern stage. Shopping was followed by dinner and a West End performance of *Dancin' in the Streets*. The stars of Motown were brought to life and everyone was dancing in their seats by the end of the evening. The adrenaline was flowing on a day trip to Alton Towers and its infamous rollercoasters. On our final evening, the choir had an African drumming workshop where they explored rhythm, improvisation and chant. Finally, there was no better way to experience Liverpool than from the deck of the famous *Ferry Cross the Mersey*. A visit to Liverpool's Philharmonic Hall rounded off a marvellous tour with a great bunch of pupils.

Edinburgh MUN



Nineteen Wesley students participated in Scotland's only MUN Conference. Hosting over 500 delegates, George Watson's College in Edinburgh's Morningside is the ideal location for an event of this size with its grand Assembly Hall and large committee rooms. The delegates from Wesley made an excellent contribution to the debates with at least four of their resolutions being chosen despite stiff competition from students from the UK, Europe and Iran. Wesley was the only Dublin school at the Conference and our delegates were noted for their skilful debate and lobbying. One advisor was impressed by the ease with which Sarah Cullen quoted Winston Churchill during General Assembly debates.

Nine delegates were acknowledged at the closing ceremony. Matthew Nuding picked up a Gavel for the Best Delegate in the Health Committee, no mean feat for a 3rd Year pitted against senior students. As well as the intensity of the debate and the taxi rides over the Edinburgh cobbles, the trip was memorable for the visits to Edinburgh Castle, Princes Street, the Scottish Parliament, Camera Obscura on the Royal Mile and the city's only Tartan Weaving factory, the latter proving to be a highlight.

Bridge

Congratulations to the Wesley A Bridge team who came fourth in the Irish Schools' Team Championships in Galway in March. The team comprised Cormac Benn, Barry Percy, Peter Cox and Craig McCourtney.



Senior Choir enjoying the Beatles Magical Mystery Tour

Interschools Music Festival

The 32nd Annual Interschools Music Festival took place in March and it was a bustling weekend of choirs, orchestras, chamber ensembles, rock bands, duets and soloists competing for the top prizes. Almost seventy choirs from around the country participated in a wonderful evening of choral music. The eight Wesley choirs gave well-prepared performances of varied repertoire from show tunes and ballads to classical compositions. Nearly all received certificates or placings. The Chamber Choir retained the David Wilson Cup for another year after their stunningly polished performance. The Junior Choral Group came very close to victory in the two-part choir competition but was beaten into second place by Kilkenny College for the Epworth Cup. There were also Highly Commended Certificates for the Senior Girls Choir, the Male Voice Choir, Wesley's Barbershop group and the Senior Choir. A specially commissioned trophy, generously sponsored by the PTA, was awarded for the first time to the winners of the rock band competition by PTA chairperson Linda Dwyer-Joyce.

Top prizes went to Paul Mullen who claimed the St Columba's Cup for organ solo and Phoebe White who was awarded the Stansted Cup for U14 strings. Rory White won the Hamilton Cup for U16 strings for a second consecutive year. Carla White was also successful in her bid for the Arbuckle Cup for senior strings and Alastair Greene took the High School Cup for U16 piano solo.

Silver medal successes came for Damian Bourke (Organ), Javier Roper (U14 piano solo), Paul Mullen and Alastair Greene (piano duet), Eilis Dexter (U14 classical singing), Edwina Hilton and Aaron Clarke Maher (U15 unaccompanied Irish song), Isaac Harris (U15 percussion) and the Wesley flute trio of Sarah McGurk, Jennifer Anderson and Esther Glenfield (O15 chamber music).

The Habitat Café supplied lots of gorgeous snacks and countless cups of tea and coffee. Congratulations to all the competitors who took part and a huge thanks to everyone who helped out at the Festival, particularly the PTA who worked tirelessly throughout the weekend. A final word of thanks goes to our wonderful Festival Administrator, Mrs Anna Miller, whose hard work throughout the year is greatly appreciated and makes the Interschools Music Festival such a success.



Senior Girls Choir

Wesley Sports

Athletics

There was a strong representation from Wesley in both the girls and boys races in the East Leinster Cross Country Championships. While all the athletes participated with great energy and persistence, a number of performers deserve special mention. Rebecca Angel ran courageously to secure a qualification spot for the Leinsters in the Girls Junior A event. Richard Sparkes displayed fitness and composure to win a bronze medal in the Boys Junior A section. Meanwhile, the Junior A Boys claimed the team event but this decision was later overturned on a technicality. However, Richard Sparkes, Jedd Pratt, Sam Tully, Aaron McDonnell, Freddie Huggard, Jamie Matthews, Conor Burrell and Ross Shaw deserve to be commended for their achievement.

Badminton

Congratulations to the Girls U16 A team, comprising Sophie Pratt, Ann Shanahan, Kate Reidy and Sarah Foudy, who were runners-up in the Leinster finals. The Boys U16 C team were also runners-up in the Dublin final. Well done to Craig McCourtney, Aaron Johnston, Colin Cheron and Matthew Nuding.

Junior Cup Rugby

After the Junior Cup team's marvellous 10 - 8 victory over Belvedere, hopes were high for their quarter-final clash against Blackrock. The team performed bravely in horrific conditions and intermittent snowfalls. Despite some superb work from Jurgen Steinbach and centres Rob Bracken and Andrew Walsh, Wesley simply could not overcome the skilful Blackrock side.

They were to experience further hard luck in the Fr Godfrey Cup semi-final where they lost 16 - 7 to Presentation Bray. Despite a late rally and dominant performance in the second half, they had left themselves too much to do against a large and quite negative Bray side. We would like to thank the team for the excitement they have given us this year.

The Junior B team made great progress, ultimately winning their way to a league semi-final for the first time in nine years. Unfortunately, they were defeated by Newbridge 17 - 12.

Girls League and Cup Double

Following on from their League victory in February, the Junior Girls continued through the rounds of the Cup. They defeated King's Hospital in the quarter-finals and Mount Anville in the semis to secure a final against Holy Child Killiney.

Wesley came out of the blocks quickly and created a number of very strong attacks in the first ten minutes. They were rewarded with a short corner opportunity which was switched left for Sophie Pratt to hit a powerful drive into the net. After this breakthrough, Killiney started to create some attacks showing pace and individual skills. They won a short corner of their own and almost scored with a cleverly worked switch.

The second half continued with Wesley threatening the opposition goal but strong defensive work kept them out. Killiney looked dangerous on the break but Wesley's defence was able to channel the ball carriers wide and isolate them. The midfield of Anna May Whelan, Clare Samuel and Lauren Houghton performed exceptionally well in the final and showed great determination in defense and attack throughout the game. In the end, Anna May Whelan led her team up to receive the cup to complete their Junior League and Cup double.

Senior Boys Hockey

Wesley's Senior Boys claimed yet another title in winning the John Waring All-Ireland Schoolboys' Championships. The squad emerged from what seemed to be the toughest group, beating Ulster champions Banbridge 2 - 1 following an earlier 4 - 1 victory over Ashton. Their perennial rivals, St Andrew's, were once again their opponents in the final match. Shane Madeley put them on the board within three minutes from a penalty corner. Madeley and Andrew Malcolm nearly got the second to secure the win, while Neal Megarity's cross passed tantalising in front of goal. Despite chances to level the match, Andrew's were not able to beat a skilful and determined Wesley on the day.

Senior Girls Hockey

The Senior Girls 1st XI and 2nd XI both finished second best in their respective finals at the start of March. The 2nd XI progressed to the League final with a 2-0 win over St Gerard's in the semi-final. There they met a well organised Mount Anville side. Nothing could separate the two and it was only in extra-time that Wesley took the lead. A Mount Anville equaliser shortly afterwards meant that only penalty strokes could decide the tie. Unfortunately, Mount Anville edged that 5-4. Well done to captain Shola Ogundimu and the team.

Although beaten in the first round of the Cup by the eventual winners, the 1st XI made it through to the Plate final against High School. Wesley started sluggishly and found themselves 2-0 down at half-time. Despite their best efforts and numerous short corners in the second half, they could only pull one goal back and lost 2-1. The team then had to regroup for a league semi-final against Mount Anville. Playing some inspiring hockey, Wesley led 1-0 at half-time. However, their opponents dug deep and scored two goals without reply in the second half. Hard luck and well done to captain Hannah Clark and the team.

Girls Hockey

The Minor Girls have had an exciting year. The Minor A squad reached the League final where they were unfortunate to lose 1 - 0 to Alexandra. Meanwhile, their Cup campaign ended in the quarter-finals against Mount Sackville. The Minor B performed very well to reach the semi-final stages against Mount Anville. Finally, the 1st Year B team also had a very good season but were defeated 1 - 0 by Muckcross in the semi-finals.

Basketball

Congratulations to Daniel McCarthy who has been selected to represent Ireland in basketball. He recently scored eight baskets in a match against the Philippines. We wish him luck in the coming season.

Boys Hockey Double

Wesley's Minor Boys claimed their third Cup title in four years beating Newpark 6 - 1 in the final. This victory adds to their success in the League already this year. The team took the lead in the ninth minute with a goal from James O'Donovan. Typifying the team effort, further goals followed from Ruan McGuinness and Ross Shaw. Newpark did threaten in the second half but Wesley were too strong for them. Ruan McGuinness added one more score, along with Taylor Sutton and Luke Madeley. It was another fine performance in the tradition of past Wesley winning squads.



Photo courtesy of Adrian Boehm

Archery

Ping Clarke-Ng has been selected for the Irish A team in archery. This achievement makes her the youngest member of a squad that trains competitively with an international world champion coach. We wish her success in the upcoming events.

For further information and news please check out the college website at www.wesleycollege.ie