

# The Wesley Update



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## Forty-Two Years of Service

Ms Mavis Johnson officially retired on February 18 after 42 years' service to the College. Her career in Wesley began when the school moved from St Stephen's Green in 1969. Over the years, she was an integral member of the office staff, acting as College secretary for a significant period. She is remarkable, not only for her competence and efficiency but her inimitable ability to identify the thousands of pupils who have passed through the College during her tenure. Former Deputy Principal, Mr Richard O'Connor, fondly reflected upon Mavis' work in the school and made a presentation on behalf of the staff. We offer her our warmest congratulations and best wishes for the future.



*Ms Mavis Johnson with former Deputy Principal  
Mr Richard O'Connor*

## Debating Honours



*Irish Schools Debating Captain Carin Hunt*

Carin Hunt (6th Year) has been chosen as the Captain of the five speaker team that will represent Ireland at the World Schools' tournament in Dundee this summer. This will be her second time competing. She and her teammates will undertake an intensive training schedule which will pit them against the best of Ireland's third level debaters with previous experience in the competition.

Carin was one of the Wesley contingent that participated in the Leinster trials for the National team. Alongside her, Jamie Haughton and Tara Masterson-Hally (6th Year) were the top tabbing speakers in the Leinster trials. However, prior commitments intervened to prevent them attending the National selections. In addition, Jamie, Tara, Carin and Dara O'Brien (6th Year), took the top four individual spots at the UCD Literary and Historical Society Mace.

The Junior Society have also achieved notable success. Conor Brady and Laoise Murray were the overall winners of the Belvedere College National Junior Mace Competition, defeating 83 other teams to claim the trophy. The achievement is all the more remarkable seeing as it was Laoise's competitive debut. Since then, the team has been invited to Cambridge to participate in the International Competition for Young Debaters (ICYD).

In the Irish Federation of Women University Graduates Public Speaking Competition, the Wesley team of Molly Corbett, Darcy Vahey and Ana Cambursano (all 1st Years) won the Trinity Heat and will now represent Wesley in the National Final in Trinity College on March 5.

# Whole School Inspection Report

In September 2010 the Department of Education and Skills carried out a Whole School Evaluation in Wesley College. This evaluation consisted of three Department Inspectors visiting the College to meet with the Board of Management, the Principal and management team, groups of teachers, parents and students. A range of lessons across subject areas was inspected.

The College is delighted that the report is exceptionally good, highlighting the excellent standards in Wesley College, whether in the areas of academic endeavour, pastoral care or extra-curricular activities. The report refers to the clear vision and clarity of direction provided by the Principal, and the emphasis that is placed on high quality teaching and the maintaining of standards of excellence.

## Key findings of the evaluation are:

- The board of Management and Principal share a clear vision of the development priorities of the school.
- A vibrant learning environment has been firmly established in the school and respect for learning is promoted widely.
- In supporting students, the school places commendable emphasis on recognising the achievements of students and, particularly, on the overall pastoral care of its students.
- The ways in which the school management creates opportunities to foster and to promote excellence are examples of very effective leadership of learning.
- The overall quality of learning and teaching observed was very good.

## The following is a summary of the report:

### Management of the College

- The Principal provides a clear vision and clarity of direction for the school.
- Senior management in Wesley share a consistent vision of school leadership.
- Senior management have a constant presence and involvement in every aspect of school life.
- The work of each member of senior management enhances a team approach to maintaining a high quality experience for students.

### Academic Strength

- The promotion of high quality teaching and maintaining standards of excellence is a priority for the Principal.
- A vibrant learning community has been firmly established in the school.
- In all previous evaluations, the quality of teaching and learning was high.
- Respect for learning is promoted widely in the school community.
- The excellent quality of planning in subjects was evident.
- There is high quality planning, collaboration and professionalism within subject departments.

- Teachers are highly prepared for lessons.
- In all lessons observed, a very positive atmosphere prevailed.
- Subject teachers and tutors bring qualities to their roles which ensure highly effective relationships between teachers and students.
- Students were engaged and responsive, and clearly comfortable in the classroom environment.

### Ethos of the College

- The Chaplain is a central figure and is pivotal in sustaining the College ethos in the daily life of students.
- Worship is an important part of school life.
- College Assemblies allow for the integration of prayer, music, song and reflection and are daily occasions which serve to forge the school community.
- Assemblies provide excellent opportunities to acknowledge achievements whether academic, sporting or personal.

### Pastoral Care

- Care for students in Wesley is very effective.
- The College provides a caring and safe environment for its students and there is a strong sense of community.
- Teachers are encouraging and supportive.

### Extra-curricular activities

- Activities range from the arts, sports, music, enterprise, to debating and drama and facilities are excellent.
- 90% of students surveyed participated in activities outside of lesson time.

### Of the 176 parents surveyed:

- 99% agree that facilities in the College are good.
- 98% agree that the College is well run.
- 99% agree that teaching in the College is good.
- 97% agree that discipline in the College is good.
- 96% agree that the atmosphere in the College is good.
- 95% agree with the statement: "My child enjoys going to school."
- 97% agree with the statement: "I am happy with the school"

The teaching staff of the College can be enormously proud of this very impressive report. It is a tribute to all who work in this school.

The report concludes: "The pride in the school's long history and traditions permeates the work of the school boards, senior management, teachers and students. Wesley College is a reflective, evaluative, self-challenging school in constant search for greater effectiveness. In the pursuit of excellence, the educational provision of the school draws on the best traditions of the past while at the same time reflecting the latest thinking and insights about teaching and learning."

The full report will be available on the College Website shortly.

## Footloose



*Alex Andrew and Fiona Masterson with the rest of the Footloose cast*

The cast of this year's musical ably transported us back to an era of big hair, neon clothes and leg warmers in their marvellous production of *Footloose*. Alex Andrew commanded the stage in the lead role as Ren McCormick, while AJ Browne gave a brilliantly convincing performance as Reverend Shaw Moore. Not to be outdone, their female counterparts, Rebecca McKimm, Helen Tempany and Connie Martin gave assured performances which left the audience spellbound. Meanwhile, Josh Hayes displayed great comic timing as Willard Hewitt. There are too many to name here but the entire cast, with the support of the pit chorus, deserve great praise for bringing the spirit of the musical and the Myles Hall to life. We would like to gratefully acknowledge all those who helped back stage in set design, costume and make-up. Many thanks also to Ms Spicer, Ms Doyle and Ms Balfe for their hard work, determination and enthusiasm in producing yet another wonderful spectacle.



*Wesley under snow in December*

## Debating

It has been a busy first term for both Junior and Senior Societies. As well as many speakers making their debuts, invitations were received from several competitions which we had not participated in previously. Teams from Wesley competed in the Loreto Stephen's Green Mace, the Mount Sackville Mace, the Castleknock Community College and Oxford Schools' Maces.

In the Leinster Junior Competition, all three Wesley teams have qualified for the second round. Alexandra de Valera, Nadia Armstrong, Kevin Smyth and Victoria Taylor (all 2nd Years) and Conor Brady and Hannagh Misstear (3rd Year) all spoke with eloquence and conviction. The 2nd Year speakers are deserving of special mention, as they have sought out every opportunity to test themselves and develop further in competition this year.

Thomas Wyse Jackson and Glen Byrne (5th Year) have qualified for the semi-finals of the Aoife Begley NUI Maynooth competition. Jayne Misstear (5th Year) and Matthew Nuding (4th Year) await their quarter-final. This latter team have been in good form of late, qualifying for an invitation to participate in the Oxford Schools' Mace. Unfortunately, a prior commitment to MUN means they will be unable to avail of this invite.

Other speakers to have represented the College in Senior competition this year are Peter O' Donovan (5th Year), Conor Brennan, Iain Faulkner, and Rebecca Raethorne (4th Year). We wish all these speakers continuing success in their respective endeavours and reserve special mention for Jamie Haughton, who as convenor of the Wesley Shield, is aiming to extend the competition to a two day format and increase the amount of schools that can participate in this year's Mace. This event will be held on April 1 and 2.

## Young Scientists

Wesley was represented at the BT Young Scientists 2011 in the RDS by Sophie Andrews-McCarroll and Nicholas Stratford of 3rd Year. Their project entitled: 'Cleaning up the Gulf', tested different materials and their ability to soak up an oil spill at sea. In the end, they used bacteria to digest the oil. The judges were very impressed and gave them a Highly Commended Award.



*Nicholas Stratford and Sophie Andrews-McCarroll*

# Student Enterprise Competition

We had another busy market and adjudication day on December 16. Our thanks to our adjudicators, June Persson and Sharon Vard, who were very impressed by the standard of the business projects. Congratulations to all who participated in the competition and best of luck to the 1st and 2nd place winners in the Junior, Intermediate and Senior categories who now go forward to represent Wesley at the County Final in the Marine Hotel Dun Laoghaire on Thursday, March 10.



Intermediate Winners Sadhbh Grehan and Jennifer Arlow

## Bridge

Congratulations to Cormac Benn and Barry Percy who have been selected to represent Ireland in the Under 20 Bridge Championships against England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland in February. We wish our first Bridge Internationals every success.

## Science Snaps

Three students from Wesley College were finalists in the National Science Snaps Competition during Science Week. Well done to Paul McKay (2nd Year), who was a finalist for the second year in a row, this time with his photo of a Newton's Cradle. Well done also to the other finalists, Christopher Hill (4th Year) with his photo of a light bulb filament and Robbie Clarke (5th Year) who captured a lightning strike. Robbie's photo was later awarded a runners up prize in a competition organised by the *Irish Times*. All of their work was on display during Science Week in Pearse Street Library and Cork City Hall.

## Past Pupil Success

We would like to extend our congratulations to one of last year's 6th Years, Fionn Murray, who recently won the inaugural From Page to Stage writing competition for new and unpublished plays. Fionn's winning entry, *Burn*, was performed as a rehearsal reading in Dublin City Council's Wood Quay Venue on November 20.

Another of our past boarders, Mark Crowe, was also recently conferred with a Higher Doctorate of Science from UCD for his published research.

### Student Enterprise 2010/2011 Winners

#### Junior Section

1st place: *Decor8* Owen Clarke & Robin Stratford  
2nd place: *Simply Soap* Sarah Mitchell & Amy Cullen

#### Intermediate Section

1st place: *Jive* Sadhbh Grehan & Jennifer Arlow  
2nd place: *Little Bow Peep* Sophie Roe O'Leary & Isabelle Lynam  
3rd place: *Tea-Lightful* Michelle Groos, Ella Gaynor & Kirsten Ringland

#### Senior Section

*Stain Minicompany* Callum Douglas  
Kevin Sweeney  
Aaron Johnston  
Felix Frank  
Peter Simpson  
Stuart Parker

**Innovation Prize:** *D Card* Darcy Vahey

**Green Prize:** *Funki Fone Socks* Aisling Dooley & Louisa Coates

**Best Display** *Prep Crafts* Katharine Woods  
Emily Ryan  
Serena Huggard  
Katy Beckett

## Ranganna Damhsa

Glacann daltaí na hidirbhliana páirt i ranganna Gdamhsa gach Aoine mar chuid den Mhodúl Oidhreacht a dhéanann siad sa Cheathrú Bliain. Tagann comhlacht proifisiúnta isteach chun é a chur ar siúl. Baineann na daltaí taitneamh as damhsaí ar nós 'Baint an Fhéir', 'Falláí Luimnigh' agus 'Ionsaí na hInse' a fhoghlaim.

## Concern Fast

Unfortunately, this year's Concern fund-raising drive was disrupted by the inclement weather. Therefore, January saw a rescheduled fast take place with eight staff and nineteen pupils participating. Their efforts eventually raised €1260 for the charity.



Back L-R Andrew O'Sullivan, Sam Klimmek, Joy Howlin, Sarah McLoughlin, Mark Young, Calvin Pratt, Front L-R Jade Rooney, Liah McElligott, Louisa Harland, Alison Shine

# ENGLISH NEWS

## Speak Week



*OAR Award Winners Niamh Buckley, Judith Wilson and Finn Carragher McDonald with Mr Woods*

Speak Week began in January with every 1st Year pupil preparing and delivering a two-minute speech in class. Two from each of the six classes then went forward to the finals which were held on February 10 in the Auditorium.

A spirited Molly Corbet spoke on Social Networks; Hannah Watchorn explored the history of hockey; Rick Mutwarasibo denounced the Eurovision Song Contest; Owen Clarke traced the Facebook explosion; Judith Wilson warned her audience about advertising; Dirk van Brede focused on homework; Finn Carragher McDonald argued the pros and cons of cars; Luke Corish spoke about the way we speak; Robin Stratford reminded us of the 'fine mess' we're in; Niamh Buckley exposed parents everywhere as liars; Gianna Nordon praised boarding schools especially co-ed ones and John Baddeley painted a vivid and evocative picture of Afghanistan. The range of topics made for a very stimulating event.

Ms Julie Rowan and Mr Woods judged and third place went to Niamh Buckley, second to Judith Wilson and The Oratory and Rhetoric trophy was presented to Finn Carragher McDonald for his confident and stylish performance.

Every January the English Department challenges the creative juices of Transition Year by asking them to form an imaginative response to any work of literature, from a play, poem, short story or novel. This year's group did not disappoint as their projects went on display in the library to an approving public. Their responses took many forms including musical compositions, painting, puppetry, film, woodwork, modelling and written material. The following pupils are the shortlisted finalists for the prize which will be announced in due course.

## Literature Prize

Alison Arlow (3D Model)	<i>A Christmas Carol</i>
Craig Arnott (Interactive Quiz)	<i>Why do Pandas do Handstands</i>
Vicki Byrne (Puppet)	<i>Harry Potter</i>
Jane Dover (Petit Point picture)	'Sea Fever'
Emer Haughton (Musical piece)	'Stop all the clocks'
Jason Hogan (Cartoon)	<i>The Knife of Never Letting Go</i>
Dave Johnston (Lorri's Diary)	<i>Skippy Dies</i>
Colin Kieran (Map)	<i>Alone in Berlin</i>
Eleanor Long (The hole in the noise)	<i>The Knife of Never Letting Go</i>
Carolyn MacLachlan	
Isabelle Wilson	
Maia Nunes (Puppet)	'The Song of Wandering Aengus'
Jessica Roe (Photographs)	'Lipstick'
Clare Samuel (DVD trailer)	<i>One Thousand Splendid Suns</i>
Kevin Sweeney (Graffiti)	<i>A Visual Feast</i>

## Poetry Aloud

This year's Poetry Aloud attracted more entries than ever and it was only the select few who progressed to the Final Round on November 11. The audience enjoyed some superb performances and the incredible standard created an unenviable task for the judges. Ms Annetta Kavanagh, Mr Klaas Jan de Vries and Ms Charlotte Walker named Conor Potts first in the Junior category, and Lucy Gaynor and Fiona Masterson winners of the Intermediate and Senior sections respectively. The judges also awarded a special prize to Esther Glenfield for her outstanding performance. Mr Woods presented the perpetual trophy to the overall winner, Fiona Masterson. Congratulations to all those who took part and many thanks to the Parents Association for their continued support.



## Composition Prize

An invitation to write a composition in November is now a fixture on the 6th Year literary calendar. This is a marvellous opportunity for the pupils to practise, in exam conditions, that most challenging of tasks: 'Write a composition on . . .' It prepares them well for the key question on their Leaving Cert English paper, which is worth 25% of the exam. The English Department awards an overall prize for the best essay. This year it goes to Carin Hunt for her assured and stylistically versatile short story called 'That Fatal Glint of Gold'.

## Badminton

Badminton has enjoyed a very successful year since September with hopefully more to come from the U14 age group. The strength at the Under 19's age bracket was very evident this year with our 19A Boys and Girls and 19B Boys all qualifying for the Dublin finals after emerging top from their groups and progressing through the semi-finals. The 19B Boys squad made up of Jack Daly (Captain), Eimhin Burns, Peter Cox, Luke Davison and Craig McCartney won their competition by only one point after battling against Terenure College. The 19A Boys, comprising Colm Farrell (Captain), Mark Wright, Donal Egan and Eoghan Donnelly, and the 19B Girls, comprising Inga Dalzell (Captain), Sarah Foudy, Ann Shanahan and Sophie Pratt, both faced strong competition from Ard Scoil Rís and Holy Faith Clontarf respectively. Their opponents all had Leinster representative players in their squads. Unfortunately, both teams went down in very close games, but still joined the 19B Boys in the Leinster competition.

Once again, the 19A Boys qualified from their group to meet Ard Scoil Rís. With strong performances from Mark Wright and Eoghan Donnelly it came right down to the wire. Sadly, we were forced into a very close second place, losing the doubles that would have won us the tournament by a mere three points. The 19A Girls also faced very strong opposition but they will certainly be contenders for the trophy next year with all four players returning.

However, the 19B Boys proved the strength of their team by coming out on top of their group to beat Scoil Airegail Kilkenny convincingly to win the Leinster title. Many thanks to Mr Wall who took over badminton this year and to all the coaches, particularly Ken Taylor, for their commitment.

*Colm Farrell*



*Inga Dalzell, Sophie Pratt, Ann Shanahan and Sarah Foudy*

## Irish Rugby International

Congratulations to Ms Deirdre O'Brien who achieved her first international cap when she came on as a replacement in the first match of this year's Women's Six Nations Championship against Italy in February. The Leinster and Blackrock player helped the squad to a 26 - 5 victory and remains on the panel for the current campaign. This prestigious honour is one her students can perhaps one day hope to emulate.

## London Senior Choir Trip

Members of the Senior Choir travelled to London on a very busy four day tour which took in many of the capital's musical, cultural and historical sights. Our first stop was a *Les Miserables* choral workshop in the Queen's Theatre in the West End. French flags were flown, guns shot, costumes donned and some of the musical's most famous choruses including *At the End of the Day* and *Do You Hear the People Sing* were rousingly declaimed by the Senior Choir. Our next stop was the London Eye and its panoramic views. From there, we attended Evensong in Westminster Abbey. Our first evening could not have ended on a higher note - a performance of *Les Miserables*, now in its 25th year, was simply outstanding.

A gospel workshop was the order of the day on Saturday and the choir learned some inspiring and energetic songs complete with moves! A music themed tour of the National Gallery was followed by an interesting cruise down the Thames to Tower Bridge. The Traitor's Gate of the Tower of London set the scene for a rather grizzly Jack the Ripper walking tour of London's East End.

On Sunday, the choir were guests of their gospel tutors as they led worship in a Pentecostal service with a performance of *Make a Joyful Noise All Ye People*. The beautiful Kensington Palace and Diana memorial fountain were the last stops on this year's choir trip which proved, once again, to be a magnificent four days of music and culture.



*Senior Choir in London's Trafalgar Square*

For further information and news please check out the college website at [www.wesleycollege.ie](http://www.wesleycollege.ie)