

# The Wesley Update



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## Arts and Sports Awards

### Scifest Winners

This year, ten students from 1st and 2nd Year entered projects in the SciFest competition. They headed for the Institute of Technology in Blanchardstown on May 12 to take part in a challenging but very successful day. Congratulations to Orla Reynolds, Nicholas Stratford and Sophie Andrews-McCarroll (2nd Year) who won a Discover Sensors Award for their project using data logging and sensors entitled: 'How brightly does magnesium burn?' Significantly, this is the second time that Orla has been on the winning team in this category. Paul McKay and Dylan Lewis also won their Physical Sciences category with a project entitled: 'Is your school damaging your hearing?' Well done also to the other students who took part: Becky O'Connor, Nicola Armstrong, Louisa Coates, Fiona Wolfe and Phoebe White.



*Nicholas Stratford, Sophie Andrews-McCarroll and Orla Reynolds receiving their award*



*SCT Captain Guy Cresswell receiving the Performing Arts Award from George Hook*

The annual Arts and Sports Awards took place on Wednesday, May 12. This event honours students who excel in non-academic spheres. This year saw the inclusion of three new awards: The Wesley Five Mile Challenge, The Textiles and Fashion Design Award and The Craftwork Award.

The guest speaker was rugby pundit and broadcaster George Hook, who spoke provocatively and challenged the audience on the nature of success. He identified three key areas which are fundamental: preparation, presentation and a professional attitude. His skills as a raconteur were very much to the fore as he regaled us with personal anecdotes which, although entertaining and hilarious at times, conveyed the essence of his 'no pain, no gain' philosophy.

Musical interludes were provided by the Chamber Choir and Damian Bourke, along with the White family ensemble, Phoebe, Rory and Carla. In addition, Poetry Aloud winner Gianna Nordon also performed an absorbing recitation of 'An Irish Airman Foresees his Death' by W.B. Yeats.

Finally, refreshments were served in the cool light of the summer's evening, as George Hook generously mingled with pupils, parents and staff alike. It would appear that behind the gregarious persona there is a steely determination that is both admirable and inspirational.

## Marcus Sedgwick Visit



*Marcus Sedgwick with Nadia Armstrong*

Author Marcus Sedgwick stood before Preps, 1st, 2nd and 3rd Years, in the Myles Hall in May. He treated his audience to an amusing and informative talk on vampires, his sources and writing life. Using a slide show, he traced the origins and history of the vampire phenomenon and read from his novel *My Swordhand is Singing*. It was highly engaging and students were enthusiastic with their contributions and comments.

The pupils were invited to take the opening sentences of Sedgwick's novels and add five of their own. The best entries were judged by the author who named Nadia Armstrong as the winner, with Alice Marcouse and Stephanie Cafolla second and third respectively. Helen Major thanked him for a stimulating talk and presented him with a gift to enthusiastic applause.

## Debating

Carin Hunt (5th Year) followed on her Individual Winner achievement in the Leinster Senior Competition by claiming the Denny All-Ireland Individual trophy. Her remarkable run of success has included the Law Society Mace trophy, as well as her performance at the Worlds in Qatar and co-convenorship of the Wesley Shield.

The Shield was very successful. As well as providing two teams of speakers, Jayne Misstear (4th Year) and Matthew Nuding (3rd Year), Luke Sheeran-Purcell (5th Year) and Peter O'Donovan (4th Year), Wesley debaters covered all the adjudications, chairing and administration. The competition comprised thirteen debates. Luke and Peter made a strong late surge to qualify for the final but were defeated by a team from St Conleth's. Congratulations to all the speakers, administrators and co-convenors, Carin and Dara O'Brien (5th Year).

The Aoife Begley Final (NUI Maynooth) saw Matthew and Jayne represent Wesley. Matthew completed the feat of participating in both a Junior and Senior competition final in the same year. Although eventually placed third, they were singled out for special praise by the adjudication panel. Undeterred, they competed in

## Creative Writing Workshop

Wesley College hosted a very special event earlier this year, an eight-week creative writing workshop with the young Irish novelist, Kevin Power. It was open to all pupils from 4th, 5th and 6th Year, and it offered the fifteen who took part a unique opportunity to learn more about the art of writing. In his late twenties and completing a PhD on Norman Mailer in UCD, Kevin Power has published one novel, *Bad Day at Blackrock*. It is a clear-sighted look at a group of affluent, amoral young people in South Dublin and its plot echoes the events some years back when a young man tragically died outside Annabel's Niteclub in Dublin. It went on to win the 2009 Rooney Prize for Literature.

Sophie Browne, Robert Campbell, Yvonne Corcoran, Josh Hayes, Eve Kearney, Liah McElligott, Rebecca McKimm, Leanne McNamara, Fionn Murray, Andrew Nuding, Aoife O'Hagan, Stephen O'Kennedy, Aislinn Rowe, Megan Skelly and Mark Wright were lucky enough to attend this workshop. Sophie Browne thought it was 'brilliant' because 'not only did it give us an insight into a writer's life, it also provided us with valuable writing tips and priceless life experience.' Fionn Murray deemed the author 'a witty, intelligent, insightful young writer whose classes were consistently informative, entertaining and encouraging.'

the Blackrock Mace two days later, where Jayne tabbed as the tenth ranked individual.

The Annual General Meetings for both Senior and Junior Societies covered a vast range of topics, considering many initiatives for the coming year. Tara Masterson-Hally (5th Year) was elected for the Senior Chair for 2010/11, and Conor Brady (2nd Year, Chair), Nadia Armstrong (1st Year, Recording Secretary) and Alexandra de Valera (1st Year, PRO) were elected officers in the Junior Society.



*Luke Sheeran-Purcell and Peter O'Donovan*

# Green Week

Water conservation was the theme for Green Week this year as Wesley works towards the Green flag for water. Guest speakers, Philip Beck and Gavin Harte, gave thought-provoking presentations in assembly on the challenges of conserving water resources and living more sustainably. To that end, the Green committee have set up a rainwater collector on the campus. During the week they also welcomed a visit from eco gardener Brenda Palmer, and later visited the Greenstar Recycling facility in Bray to see how green bin waste is sorted for recycling.

Many events were held including quizzes and poster, poetry and slogan competitions. In the song category, Tara Masterson Hally and Louisa Harland won first prize for their composition *We have a thirst*. Meanwhile, Paul McKay won first prize for his robot and Sadbh Grehan won second prize for her Sim card jewellery in a competition to make an object out of recycled materials.

Bake sales raised €102 for Tearfund's *Make Life Flow* campaign to improve access to clean water in Africa. Other activities included a clean-up of the campus, a Green-theme debate and a no-car-day for staff.

## Art Trip

The 2nd Year Art students had a very enjoyable trip to the National Gallery in March. They had a guided tour which focused on portraits in the gallery and which has given some inspiration for their summer art project.

## Walton and Cocker Prizes

The Science Department was really impressed with the standard of this year's Walton and Cocker Prize entries, many of which showed great creativity and originality. The competition requires detailed research and the final presentation of an essay chosen from a list of prescribed topics. The following were awarded prizes:

**Walton Prize for Physics:** Alexander Sloane - 'Fusion: Is hydrogen the fuel of the future?'

**Cocker Prize for Biology:** Claire Drury - 'Electro Convulsive Therapy, the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth!'

**Cocker Prize for Chemistry:** Alice Baddeley - 'Caffeine: A Chemical Lift'

In addition to the main prizes, four students have been awarded School Science Prizes for their essays. These include Daniel Bryan, Matthew Lewis, Kathryn McGurk and Josh Hayes. Their essay topics ranged from the physics of cricket to the chemistry of ADHD and the mysterious life of bees!



*Mr Fergus Madden, Ms Catrin Duffy, Scott Ringland, Ross McMahon, Lucy Gaynor, Spencer Christie, Sarah Cullen, Helen Major*

## Pipe Works

Paul Mullen (3rd Year) will be performing during this year's annual Pipeworks Festival. Pipeworks is an international organ event which encompasses recitals, masterclasses, concert performances, the prestigious Dublin International Organ Competition and the annual fundraising marathon. Paul will be part of the Pipeworks Festival Organ Marathon which offers participants the opportunity to play in both of Dublin's Anglican Cathedrals. Paul has been granted the great honour of playing on the Wills organ (built in 1902) in St Patrick's Cathedral on Saturday, June 5. He has been a regular performer at assemblies throughout the year and we wish him all the very best.

## Science Quiz



*Mr O'Braonáin, Alastair Green, Kate Reidy, Spencer Christie*

This year's Irish Science Teachers Association Junior Science quiz took place on April 21 at Belvedere College. Wesley was represented by a team of three 3rd Years: Alastair Greene, Kate Reidy and Spencer Christie. The team scored an excellent 41 out of 48 on a very challenging set of questions, mainly based on the Junior Cert Science curriculum. They finished in third place, narrowly losing out to a winning score of 45. Well done to the trio.

## Wesley Artist of the Year



*Daniel McCarthy's winning entry*

### Artist of the Year 2010

*Venice Canal Scene on Board* by Daniel McCarthy

#### Preps

1st Prize: Shaina Sutton

#### 1st Year

Joint 1st: Caroline Harbison, Louisa Coates and Heather Wolfe

2nd: Sarah de Courcy

3rd: Choy-Ping Clarke-Ng

Commended: Susan Bryan and Lauren Hunt

#### 2nd Year

Joint 1st: Freddie Huggard and Rebecca Angel

2nd: Shauna O'Reilly

Joint 3rd: Kate Horgan and Stephanie Elliott

Commended: Hannagh Misstear, Lexy Hunt and Kirsten Rule

#### 4th Year

1st: Glen Byrne

#### 5th Year

1st: Daniel McCarthy

2nd: Sally Kiernan

3rd: Lisa O'Sullivan

#### 6th Year

Commended: Lauren Hall and Guy Cresswell



*Category winners in the WAY competition*

## Business Innovation

Congratulations to Colm Farrell (5th Year) who was the winner of the Business Innovation Award for his project 'First Solar Ireland'. This annual competition is open to all Business subjects students in 5th and 6th Year and requires participants to design a creative business plan. We would like to thank Mr Peter Sheridan of Enterprise Ireland who adjudicated this year's entries and also the PTA for their sponsorship and support.

## Enterprise Awards

Continuing on from their achievements in the Student Enterprise Competition, Yvonne Corcoran and Nathan Walsh's *Sugar & Spice* company was one of six businesses featured on TV3's Ireland AM programme on the day of the National Final. The pair were also asked by the Dun Laoghaire Rathdown Enterprise Board to give a presentation on their business to around 100 students from various schools, to encourage more to enter the competition next year.

## Home Economics Prizes



At the Arts and Sports Awards Evening, the Home Economics Department offered two new prizes for excellence in craft and textiles work. Jane Dover (3rd Year) received the award for Excellence in the Junior Certificate Home Economics Craftwork Project. She produced an outstanding framed cross stitch picture of a young girl. Her cross stitch technique is flawless and the shading and use of colour in this piece is outstanding.

The prize for Excellence in the 6th Year Textiles and Fashion design project was awarded to Zara Davison. She worked consistently throughout this elective and produced an attractive and well made red linen dress, suitable for a work placement as required by the design brief. The level of commitment and attention to detail, notably when producing the written folder to accompany her project, made Zara's work stand out.

# EMBURY UPDATE

It has been another hectic year in Embury House. Most recently, a host of sporting events have been ferociously contested. Craig Rountree beat Mark McGarry to claim the Embury House 6th Year Pool Championship in an exciting final. Meanwhile, the Staff versus 6th Years Gaelic Football match allowed the older generation to teach the boys a lesson. Staff added to their victory with another one against a Boarders/Dayboarders team in the annual soccer fixture. Despite the students leading early on, the staff came back to win 5 - 3. Success finally came for the pupils in basketball in which they defeated a mixed staff team 39 - 10. Furthermore, the boarders managed to claim a win over the Day Boys in soccer.

The astro pitches later became ideal venues for barbecues in May. Other weekend activities included swimming in nearby Meadowmount, while 1st and 2nd Years enjoyed a weekend at Hidden Valley Holiday Park in Wicklow. New wireless internet connections enabled a broader range of use, including Skyping parents in Lusaka. Finally, all of Embury was treated to a Talent Show featuring the boys and staff members, Mr Peter Wallace and Mr Des Golden.

Ian Rountree, former Head Boy from 2004, leaves Wesley after twelve years as both a pupil and resident staff. Following his entrance scholarship to UCD, he has successfully completed his studies in Veterinary Science. Present Head Boy and Head of Embury, Ben Doyle, presented Ian with a thank you on behalf of all in Embury House, following a congratulatory commendation by Canon Reed before the assembled boys, during which he read the poem 'The Vet' by Guy Boas.

## Wesley Flute Trio

This year, three enthusiastic pupils of Wesley's flute tutor, Miss Áine Balfe, joined forces to set up Wesley's first flute trio. Sarah McGurk, Jennifer Anderson and Esther Glenfield, not only claimed second prize in the Interschools Music Festival, but were awarded silver medals at the Newpark Festival in May in the Chamber Music competition. They also performed in several venues in aid of Habitat for Humanity. Next year they intend to expand their repertoire to participate in more concerts.



*Sarah McGurk, Jennifer Anderson and Esther Glenfield*



*Embury's successful basketball team*

*Back L - R Sahr Yambasu, Jasper von Gruben, Josh van der Flier, Peter Tierney, Pavel Peev*

*Front L - R Calvin Pratt, Timmy Duggan, Daniel McCarthy*

## Preps News



*Daniel Gilmer and Shaina Sutton*

This being the last term of school and the weather sunny at last, the Preps got back to nature. First, we checked up on the little chick hatched the day before the Easter holidays, now a maturing Ross in Daniel's arms. Then we investigated composting, courtesy of Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council. After enthusiastically poring over the bugs which busily break down organic matter, we were inspired to set up a compost bin of our own in the College garden. Obviously we had to fill it. This meant getting stuck into the greenhouse clearing the weeds from beds and surrounding areas before dumping them in the compost bin. We shredded paper and added any other organic material lying around. In the cleared beds, lettuce was planted, along with squash and tomatoes. Calendulas are also sprouting nicely in individual pots ready to take home at the end of the year. After a final scrape, sweep and shovel, the greenhouse looked impressive – all achieved in time for the lunch bell!

*- Christopher Nixon*

# Wesley Sports

## Netball



*Junior Girls All-Ireland Runners-up*

Wesley's netball teams have been training fervently over the past couple of years and their hard work finally paid off as the Junior and Minor teams both got to the finals of the Leinster Cups. Indeed, the Juniors eventually progressed further than any team has managed in the school's history. The Minors were unfortunate to lose 9 – 10 to St Michael's in a close match. However, the Juniors beat Holy Child Killiney 22-14, which ensured their progression to the All-Ireland finals. Despite losing to a vastly more experienced Northern Irish team on the day, the girls played extremely well and did themselves proud.

## Rugby

The U13B squad recently played in the league final against a strong Gonzaga College side. Captained by David McGrane, Wesley defended brilliantly in the opening period and were unlucky to go behind before the break. A fantastic team try gave the supporters hope of an upset, but sadly it was not to be. Superb individual displays by Emmanuel Mansuk, Daniel Paul and Conor Duff Lennon, ensured that it was a competitive affair throughout. Well done to all those involved.



Congratulations to Stephen Young, Peter Tierney, Josh van der Flier, Stephen Davis and James Quinlan who were selected by the Leinster Branch to compete in the U18 trials. Of these, Peter Tierney will be part of the Leinster Schools' squad for the coming season.

## Girls Cricket

The girls have had a terrific season this year reaching four finals, the Junior Bs narrowly missing out.

The Senior 1st team played Muckross in the final and despite outstanding performances, particularly from Alice Hearnden, Claire Fitzpatrick, Laura McKay and Sophie Pratt, were defeated in the last over.

The 1st Year A team also lost by five runs in a very competitive match against Aravon. However, the 1st Year Bs claimed a well fought victory over Rathdown As by 23 runs.

The Junior A won against Alexandra College by 3 runs. Julie Van Der Flier was 49 not out and took 3 wickets. The team was excellently captained by Kirsten Van Der Flier but it was a superb all round effort by the entire squad.



*Junior A Girls Cricket squad*

## Hockey Internationals

Congratulations to Kirk Shimmins, Jordan Sutton and Anna-May Whelan, who have been selected to represent Ireland on the U16 Boys and Girls squads in forthcoming tournaments. We wish them continued success.

## Sailing

Well done to Adam Hyland who will represent Ireland on the French Nationals team in La Rochelle in July. He was chosen on the basis of his performance in the Optimist trials where the standard of sailing was impressive and the conditions challenging.

Similarly, Daniel and Richard Gilmer will be competing with the Irish squad at the FEVA World Series. We wish them all well in an exciting summer ahead.

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