

The Wesley Update



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All-Ireland Hockey Champions

The Senior Boys Hockey squad have claimed their third All-Ireland Schoolboys' Championship crown of the decade in a thrilling final match against Wallace High School over half-term. The manner of the victory and the excellence of play throughout the tournament completely erased the disappointment in last year's final against St Andrew's.

Wesley progressed untroubled through the rounds, defeating the pre-tournament favourites Banbridge 3 - 1 in a blistering semi-final, with goals from Shane Madeley, Alan White and Peter English.

Their opponents were the first to score in the final and it wasn't until the second half and a change in tempo that Wesley brought the game level through Peter English's eighth goal of the tournament. This was quickly followed by another from Robert Burke. However, Wallace HS managed to bring the tie to 2 - 2 and into added time. Luke Chadwick was the hero in extra-time as he scored the silver goal which assured the win. Congratulations to the squad and the coaches on a great achievement.

Prize Distribution



Second Year Subject Prize Winners

Back L-R: Jessica McCauley, Clare Samuel, Kevin Sweeney, Alek Swanepoel, Callum Douglas, Lucy Gaynor Front L-R: Luke Davison, Kate Reidy, Shannon Carroll, Kirk Shimmons, Paul Mullen

Wesley's annual Prize Distribution took place on October 20 to reward pupils' academic achievement and effort throughout the year. Dr John Harris, Chairman of the Board of Governors, introduced the guest speaker, the Hon. Mrs Justice Catherine McGuinness, who also presented the prizes. Justice McGuinness spoke about her own schooldays and commended the variety of books chosen by the prizewinners. We were also delighted to welcome the President of the Methodist Church in Ireland, Rev Donald Ker, who led the prayers.

There was much to celebrate. The school's highest award for the best all-round girl and boy in terms of character, conduct, sporting and educational achievement, went to Ivan Campbell and Aoife Cassidy. There was also a musical interlude from the Senior Choir and Orchestra who performed *Homeward Bound* by Marta Keen. It was a wonderful evening which acknowledged the breadth of talent in Wesley. We look forward to the Arts and Sports Awards evening later in the year which will mark achievements in these fields.

Young Science Writer Winner

Congratulations to Paul Kelly (6th Year) who claimed second prize in the RDS McWilliams Young Science Writers competition in which secondary level students are invited to write a piece of fact or fiction on a science related topic. Paul's factual essay, entitled "Particle Physics: a Catastrophic Waste?" was inspired by the controversial Large Hadron Collider at CERN which provoked fears of annihilation by a mini black hole! The judges were impressed with both the style and substance of his piece. Dr Tony Scott, President of the RDS, presented Paul with his prize at a special ceremony in September.

Scifest Competition



Orla Reynolds and Emma Telford

Nine students from 1st and 2nd Year represented Wesley at this year's science competition, SciFest. One group from 1st Year, Emma Telford and Orla Reynolds, achieved particular success when they presented the results of their project along with other Dublin schools at the Institute of Technology in Blanchardstown. In a project entitled "Slippy or Grippy?...our school surfaces", they studied the friction on different surfaces around the school campus. The judges were suitably impressed and they won the Discover Sensors award for their innovative use of data logging and sensors. Congratulations to both girls and the other students who took part: Sarah Clarke, Conor Brady, Edwina Hilton, Sophie Andrews-McCarroll, Sara Ensor, Lara Sutton and Grace Mason.

Bullying Awareness Week

Wesley's annual Bullying Awareness Week took place from September 21 - 25. The theme "I Have a Responsibility" was drawn from the Wesley College Rights and Responsibilities Charter which incorporates our new anti-bullying logo. This logo also featured on the Wesley College pens which were sold throughout the school by prefects to support our chosen charity, Barnardos. The Chief Executive of Barnardos, Mr Fergus Finlay, came to speak to parents on the work of Barnardos and our collective responsibility towards the most vulnerable of children.

The following day all students were addressed by John Lonergan, Governor of Mountjoy Prison, who spoke passionately about individual responsibility towards the vulnerable, both here in the college and in the wider community. His talk was followed by a lively question and answer session. Other assemblies during the week had bullying awareness themes, while those given by the Head and Deputy Head Boys and Girls and the Prefects were particularly entertaining and thought-provoking. Prefects were also involved in the "buddy" system with 1st Year students and Preps.

Students had the chance to participate in poster and slogan competitions, highlighting the responsibility theme. The art work and decorative slogans created a colourful display and focal point in the concourse and library.

Leaving Cert Success

Congratulations to our 6th Years who achieved such outstanding results in the Leaving Certificate this year with 85% of those taking Higher Level receiving a C grade or higher. Indeed, 88 per cent of candidates also achieved in excess of 300 points. They were welcomed back for a very enjoyable Pre-Debs soiree in October. We wish them every success in all their future endeavours.

Acting Honours

Wesley is proud of two of its talented actors, Laoise Murray and Eva O'Connor. Laoise, who is only in 2nd Year, has just finished filming her part as the young Queen Elizabeth in *The Tudors*. Meanwhile, past-pupil Eva has been tripping the boards in the lead role of a bilingual play, *Broken Croi - Heart Briste*, as part of the Dublin Fringe Festival. Congratulations to both on their incredible achievements.

Home Economics Blog

If you want to see what the Home Economics Department are up to, why not check out the new Home Economics blog using the link below? It can also be accessed through the main Wesley College website under Activities, followed by Useful Links.

<http://wesleycollegehomeeconomics.blogspot.com>



Mr Woods with John Lonergan, Governor of Mountjoy Prison

Junior Poster Competition

- 1st Nadia Armstrong & Lara Sutton
- 2nd Aaron Clarke-Maher & Callum Sheeran-Purcell

Highly Commended
Zoe Baker, Hayley Bell, Sarah Cannon, Dana Klavina

Senior Art Competition

- 1st Lauren Hall
- 2nd Evan Allison
- 3rd Rebekah McColl

Highly Commended Clare Kelleher, Stuart Scanlon

Slogan Competition

- 1st Emilia Howarth
- 2nd Emma Telford
- 3rd Kathryn Shine

Highly Commended
Aaron Clarke-Maher, Shannon Kenny, Christine McKee



Silent Reading

The annual Book Week took place from October 12 – 17 in order to encourage healthy reading habits. 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 was a range of activities, including literary quizzes for each year, along with the usual poetry, writing and art competitions. As evident above, an array of very impressive art entries were also on display in the concourse. Meanwhile, in assembly, members of staff and the Preps entertained students with readings from their favourite books, among them John Boyne's *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas*.

Spelling Bee Buzz

A new addition to this year's Book Week events was the inaugural Spelling Bee for 3rd Years. A very enthusiastic crowd cheered on the twelve finalists chosen from each class. Two challenging rounds narrowed the contestants to the final four who stood under the glare of the spotlight to spell words like *preposterous* and *malcontent* among others. The eventual winner of the Spelling Bee medal was Craig Arnott, while Spenser Christie and Kate Reidy were second and third respectively. Future competitions for other years are in the planning phase.

Poetry Prize Winners

Congratulations to Robert McCarthy and Kyrsten Baker in 6th Year who came second and third in the *Teaching English* magazine's "Write a Poem" Competition. Natasha Waugh was also Highly Commended for her entry. They were presented with their prizes at a special ceremony and the poems were published in the most recent issue of the magazine.

Sophie MacKenzie Visit

On October 20, Preps and 1st Years met the London-based writer Sophie McKenzie. In the past three years, McKenzie has written eight books with her most recent novel, *The Set-Up*, revolving around four teenagers who have psychic powers. Other novels explore the emotional and psychological implications of cloning. After an interesting talk on her writing life there were dozens of questions from the floor.

There were also prizes for those who responded to the openings of McKenzie's novels before her visit. Hannah McKay, Nathan Hayes and Sam O'Connor were named best in this category. Pupils could write their own opening to a novel and the author insisted on four prize-winners. Michelle Groos came fourth, Christopher Maher, third, Rory O'Callaghan, second and first place went to Luke Campbell.

Literary Competitions

The following pupils won competitions during the week:

Art

Senior: Claire Fitzpatrick & Stuart Scanlon

Intermediate: Aislinn Rowe

Junior: Zoe Baker

Aisling Dooley (*Creature of the Night* Prize)

Preps: Paul Roche

Shaina Sutton

Calligraphy: Callum Douglas
Cher McCrave

Illumination: Hannagh Misstear

Bookmark: Rachel Williams

Shakespeare Haiku: Jack Browne

Shakespeare Limerick: Claire Drury
Suzanne Hunt

Mini-Creative Writing

Senior: Lisa O'Sullivan

Intermediate: Emma Sutton (Overall Winner)

Junior: Niamh Buckley

Art Trip

All the 3rd Year Art classes went on a trip to the National Gallery on October 15. They were given a guided tour of the Edvard Munch print exhibition. This is a wonderful collection by the Norwegian artist known for his famous painting *The Scream*. The students also looked closely at pieces from some 20th century Irish artists like Louis LeBrocqy and Gerard Dillon. A very enjoyable afternoon included a visit to the Gallery coffee shop.



Hayley Bell, Niamh Kilkenny, Sadhb Grehan, Andrew Scanlon, Christopher Roche, Leon Daly, Christine Cox with Sophie MacKenzie

Model United Nations Conferences



Iremide Ife-Alabi, Ali O'Shea, Nathan Walsh, Yvonne Corcoran, Clare Kelleher, Matthew Nuding, Jayne Misteear at TERMUN Conference

September 26 saw the opening (and closing) of the first ever Terenure College Model United Nations Conference. Organised to mark the school's 150th anniversary, the one-off conference saw about 150 delegates participating from the surrounding Dublin schools. Wesley students made up two delegations representing Palestine and France in the Committees and the General Assembly. Of those who took part, the following students deserve particular mention as they were awarded Outstanding Delegate awards at the end of the day:

Eve Kearney - Political Committee, Palestine

Nathan Walsh - Security Council, France

Yvonne Corcoran - Human Rights Committee, France

L' échange français

Dimanche, le 7 juin nous sommes arrivés à Nantes et nous avons pris un bus à Saumur. Nous avons rencontré nos correspondants à la gare à Saumur. Le lendemain, nous sommes allés à l'Institution Saint Louis pour des cours à huit heures. Nous avons visité l'école. Le bâtiment est comme un château. Mardi, nous y avons passé une journée scolaire complète et jeudi nous sommes allés au Futuroscope.

Vendredi, nous avons visité le château d'Angers. Samedi, nous nous sommes reposés chez nos correspondants. Dimanche, quelques Irlandais sont allés au zoo à Doué. Lundi nous sommes rentrés à l'école et l'après-midi, nous avons visité le Cadre Noir, une école d'équitation qui est très célèbre. Mardi nous sommes allés au centre ville avec les profs. Nous sommes allés faire du bowling mardi soir, pour fêter le dernier soir avec nos correspondants.

Mercredi matin nous étions tristes de quitter Saumur mais heureux de retourner chez nous. Nous avons appris beaucoup de vocabulaire, et nous avons appris beaucoup au sujet de l'école et de la vie familiale en France. Je pense que l'échange français est une bonne idée et il est idéal pour améliorer son français. Je le recommanderais à chaque élève qui étudie le français à l'école. C'est une expérience inestimable.

Olwen O'Meara (6th Year)

It was an early start for the French delegation from Wesley on Oct 2. The weekend wasn't all work. After a 6.30am flight, a bag drop at the hotel, and chauffeur driven excursion around Manchester's M60, there was shopping in one of the UK's largest retail meccas, the Trafford Centre. Later that evening Delegates Andrew Nuding, Nathan Walsh, Yvonne Corcoran, Leanne McNamara, Cara Doherty and Sarah Cullen dined with their chauffeur at TGI Fridays before a final briefing in advance of the opening of the Conference.

At the opening ceremony on Saturday morning, the 450 delegates representing 90 countries and 30 schools, were addressed by Mr John Stalker, former head of the Greater Manchester Police. He told delegates that he was heartened by their involvement in "internationalism", something which he only began to see the importance of in his mid-thirties. By 10.30am the Committees were up and running across the Cheadle Hulme Campus, and as debating got underway it was clear that France would make a significant impact. Sunday saw joint committee debates before lunch and the closing ceremony at which Wesley delegates were recognised in the awards ceremony. They were as follows:

Commended Delegation (One of 6 Delegations)

Human Rights Council - Yvonne Corcoran – Highly Commended

Human Rights Committee - Matthew Nuding – Best Young Delegate

Middle East Committee - Sarah Cullen – Commended Delegate

Security Council - Nathan Walsh – Best Young Delegate

Legal Studies Trip

Mr. Lydon's Transition Year Legal Studies class visited the Four Courts on October 15. The group experienced a case in the Central Criminal Court which adjourned just after it started. They proceeded to the Circuit Criminal Court and heard two very interesting cases – one involving a burglary and the other an assault in a car park. After lunch, the group visited the District Courts at the Bridewell and got a completely different view of the operation of justice in Ireland. Many thanks to Canon Reed who accompanied the group.



South African Rugby Tour



From June 11 - 24, the Senior Rugby Team toured South Africa. Thirty-one players and six staff went on the trip which was hugely rewarding for everyone involved. The squad played in four games around Cape Town and Stellenbosch and stayed in a professional rugby centre for five days. They attended two British and Irish Lions games in Newlands and met the Lions along with the Emerging Springbok side. They also visited Robben Island, spent a day in a game reserve and visited two townships, one of which was connected to Habitat for Humanity, for whom the students had raised €10,000.

The trip was a great success: the brand of rugby and togetherness of the squad which emerged while they were away have been key to the good early-season performances. Many thanks to all of the parents and supporters whose fund-raising efforts made the trip possible.

Rugby News

The rugby season has started well in the college. Coming off the back of their tour of South Africa, the Seniors are playing good rugby and getting better with each game. They are in the middle of their league campaign now. The Senior 2nd XV are also putting in some fine performances. The Colts side are enjoying the fruits of a good pre-season and time in the gym with strong performances against Gorey Community School, High School and Clongowes. The Juniors are in good form too, having won their first league game against Templeogue, while the U-14s have had impressive wins over Clongowes, Kilkenny and St Columba's. The new crop of U-13s have had some promising performances in 10-a-side Blitzes against sides from CBC, Terenure and Templeogue. We look forward to seeing them play in the league after half-term.



Leinster Hockey Panel

Once again Wesley's hockey players have been justifiably selected in large numbers to play on the Leinster U16 and U18 sides in the interprovincials. Robert Fitzgerald, Robert Burke, David McCrea, Luke Chadwick, Neal Megarity, Shane Madeley, Alan White, Tom Samuel and Scott Margetson took their places on the U18 squad, while Ben Chadwick, David Winn, Ian Stewart, Jonathan Roberts, Jordan Sutton, Neil Pelow and Robbie Clarke made up the U16 side. Moreover, Kirk Shimmons was named vice-captain of the U16s.

Not to be outdone, Anna-May Whelan was made vice-captain of the U16 Girls' squad and was joined on the team by Lauren Haughton. We would like to congratulate them all as they strive for provincial and national honours.

Habitat for Humanity in Honduras

Last June twenty-four students and six staff members went to La Cieba, Honduras with Habitat for Humanity, a non-profit organisation that builds simple and affordable houses for those who lack adequate shelter. The team worked on three houses during their time there. Tasks included digging foundations, constructing steel reinforcements, mixing concrete and mortar by hand and laying blocks. Despite the language barrier, the team also got to know the families who would eventually be living in the houses. They had a number of rest days during their time and went zip-lining over a rainforest and snorkelling over the coral reef. One of the things that stood out for everyone was the visit to an alley-way where thirty-eight families (including ninety children) were living in poverty. It was an eye-opener as many of the team had never seen such poor living conditions. This was a life-changing experience which they will never forget. Many thanks to all those who supported their efforts.



Kathryn McGurk (5th Year)

MUSIC NEWS

College Hymn Recording

Congregational singing has been a real focus in both junior and senior assemblies during this term. Founders' Day was celebrated on October 1 with the 6th Year class choir and string ensemble performing *Tears in Heaven* in senior assembly and the Junior Choral Group leading the singing for the junior school. It was the entire school population, however, who came under the spotlight as part of National Choral Singing week in October when, along with the school orchestra, they were set the challenge of performing and recording their version of the College Hymn. Mr Hugh Baker led an inspiring and motivating assembly in which he spoke passionately about the singing of Liverpool's famous anthem on the terraces of Anfield. A congregation of 950-strong Wesley pupils and staff responded admirably with a rousing version of the hymn which will shortly to be available on our website.



Wauwatosa East High School Orchestra Tour

Wesley was lucky enough once again to be included in the Dublin leg of the Wauwatosa East High School Symphony Orchestra's tour this term. We were delighted to welcome back the Wisconsin orchestra, under the baton of Director Jeff Sturgeon, along with their Principal, staff and parents, to the Myles Hall for a fantastic morning of music-making by both our own Senior Choir and Orchestra, the Wauwatosa Middle School Orchestra and the more senior Symphony Orchestra students. Four soloists who provided an excerpt from a *Concerto Grosso* by Corelli to accompany the procession of Mr Woods and Rev Mackey into our morning assembly gave a taste of what was to come. A varied repertoire for string ensembles was then performed with *Hoedown* from 'Rodeo' by Aaron Copland proving a firm favourite with the Wesley audience. The Wauwatosa staff and parents praised both the high standard of music in Wesley and the many improvements to our wonderful facilities since their previous concert here in 2005. The students were afforded the opportunity to meet and mingle over coffee in the 6th Year centre after the recital. The staff of Wauwatosa East High School are no strangers to touring, having visited London, New York and Toronto recently. They have been planning their week-long tour of Ireland for nearly two years. We look forward to welcoming them back again in the future.

All-Island Choir Competition

Wesley's Junior Choral Group, comprising Preps to 3rd Year students, participated in the inaugural Co-operation Ireland School Choir competition in September. The first of its kind, this competition is open to all second level schools in Ireland, north and south. The Junior Choral Group, under the direction of Ms Helen Doyle, worked tirelessly during the early weeks of this term to prepare new repertoire, including the

traditional Latin text *Dona Nobis Pacem* in an arrangement by MaryLynn Lightfoot. This formed the centrepiece of their recorded entry which was assessed and graded by a highly regarded judging panel, appointed

by RTÉ for the event. The competition generated a huge amount of interest, thus providing the judging panel with the difficult task of selecting five entrants to go on to televised regional finals. Unfortunately, the Junior Choral Group was not selected on this occasion but their recording is testament to the high quality of musicianship which the group has displayed so far this term. We look forward to competing again next year.

Musical Distinction

Paul Mullen was awarded the top grade in a recent and most significant organ examination at the end of last term. This award represents the final step in completion of the Archbishop's Certificate in Church Music, a three year course of study undertaken in conjunction with the Dioceses of Dublin and Glendalough, which covers organ playing, choral direction and the role of music in liturgy. Paul is a regular performer at Wesley events and is continuing his organ studies with David Adams in the Royal Irish Academy of Music.



Katy Rae with a member of the Wauwatosa East Orchestra