

# The Wesley Update



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## UCD Scholarships

Two of last year's 6th Year pupils, David McMillan and Andrew Roe-O'Leary, have been awarded Entrance Scholarships to University College Dublin based on their achievement in the Leaving Certificate. This scholarship is a testament to their academic efforts last year and we wish them well as they continue their studies.

## Technology Awards

David McMillan received further recognition for his Leaving Certificate results when he was awarded 2nd place in Ireland in Construction Studies. Zoe Johnston also distinguished herself in Materials Technology (Wood), coming first overall in the country. They will be presented with their awards at a ceremony on March 1. These exceptional results are a credit to both students and the Technology Department of Wesley.

## Music News

Congratulations to Breffni O'Byrne, yet another of last year's talented 6th Years, on winning The Jerome Hynes Composers Competition 2007. His winning composition *Geantraí a hAon (Prelude)* for piano will receive its premiere at the National Concert Hall on January 30. The recital will be given by the NCH Rising Star 2008 winner, Belfast-born pianist, Michael McHale. Breffni is currently studying for a BA in Composition at the Royal Irish Academy of Music.

## Future Fulbright Scholars?



Paul Mullen and Shannon Carroll presenting Minister Éamon Ó Cuív and American Ambassador Thomas C. Foley with a copy of *Lifelines* at the Fulbright FLTA Launch

Ar an 22ú Eanáir, d'fhear an coláiste fáilte Uí Cheallaigh roimh an Aire Gnóthaí Pobail, Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta Éamon Ó Cuív agus Ambasadóir Mheiriceá Thomas C. Foley. Ina dteannta bhí ionadaí ón Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha Joseph Lynch (Iar-Ambasadóir na hEilbhéise).

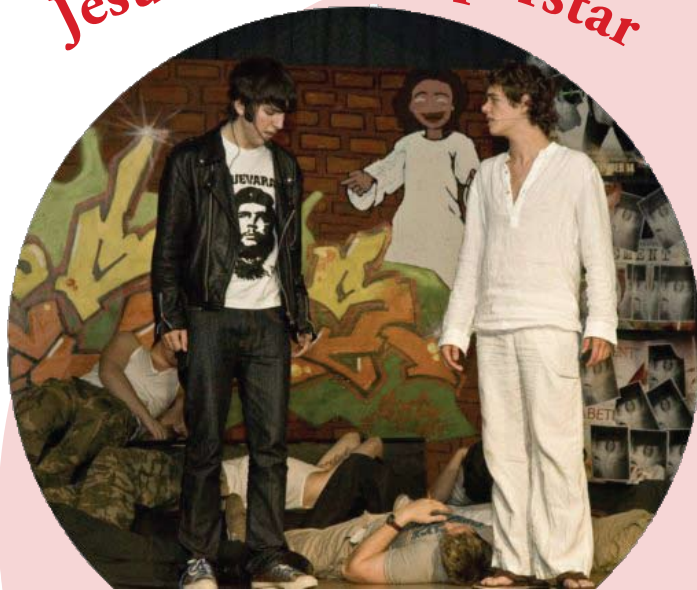
Tháinig siad go dtí an coláiste chun na Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistantships a sheoladh do 2008. Bronnadh ceann de na gradaim Fulbright seo ar an Uas. Aibhistín Ó Coimín anuraidh agus chaith se bliain ag múineadh Gaeilge i Boston College dá bharr.

Bhuail scoláirí na Séú Bliana Sarah Jane Cowman, Alison Jones, Danielle O'Meara, Shane Bracken agus Shane Caffrey leis an bpáirtí oifigiúil ag an bpríomhdhoras agus threoraigh siad é go dtí seomra comónta na Séú Bliana ina raibh soláistí curtha ar fáil. B'ábhar mór cainte grianghraf d'Uachtarán de Valera (seanathair Uí Cuív) ag oscailt an champais seo in 1969, don slua ar fad.

Ansin bhog siad ar aghaidh go seomra ranga chun buaileadh le rang Gaeilge ón gCéad Bhliain. Thapaigh na scoláirí an deis ceisteanna a chur ar an mbeirt mór le rá agus dúradh go raibh caighdeán na gceisteanna an-ard, do dhream chomh óg. Bhronn Shannon Carroll agus Paul Mullen cóipeanna de *Lifelines* ar an mbeirt aoí agus ba léir go raibh siad tógtha leis an leabhar.

D'fhan siad chun buaileadh leis an Tríú Bliain ar feadh píosa sular fhág siad chun trácht throm a sheachaint. Lá mór, onóir mhór don choláiste, tús iontach do 2008.

## Jesus Christ Superstar



Robbie Kitt and Micheal Naude

## Junior Drama

From December 10-14, 1st Years completed a drama workshop with professionals from the Gaiety School of Acting. Mixed groups were guided by a leader from the Gaiety through various activities and dramatic exercises, culminating in a mini-dramatic production on the last day. This production, in which the pupils had significant input, was a testament to all the hard work put in by both pupils and leaders throughout the week. Many thanks to all those who organised and participated in this wonderful event.

## Irish Film Institute

Transition Year made their second trip to the IFI on January 28 to see *Maria Full of Grace*. 4A6 have also made several visits to the centre in recent weeks as part of a new initiative to develop Transition Year Film Studies programmes. They attended the premiere of Lenny Abrahamson's new film *Garage* and spoke to the director afterwards about his work.



Sahr Yambasu and Anthony Horowitz

Wesley put on an energetic and imaginative adaptation of the rock opera, *Jesus Christ Super Star* by Andrew Lloyd Webber in October. The Myles Hall was full to capacity every night, as an eager audience came to see what all the hype was about. They were not disappointed. Michael Naude gave a passionate and convincing performance as Jesus Christ, while Robbie Kitt commanded the stage as Judas Iscariot. Anne Nuding sensitively portrayed Mary Magdalene and Neil Dexter played a dramatic Pontius Pilate. Felix Ganghofer was a revelation in his humorous take on King Herod, backed up by some excellent dancers and choreography. The entire cast deserve the widespread praise that their performances received and we commend the staff, particularly Ms Spicer, Mrs Doyle, Ms Hiney and Ms Lynas, for their unwavering enthusiasm and dedication.

## Theatre Trip

Fifty students from 6th Year attended UCD's Dramsoc production of *Othello* in the Astra Hall on January 21. It allowed the pupils to fully experience the play which is their core text on the Leaving Cert.



## Anthony Horowitz

On 8 November, the best-selling author Anthony Horowitz visited Wesley and spoke to a packed Myles Hall. Preps, 1st, 2nd and 3rd Year were entertained by a dynamic and inspirational performance from the charismatic Horowitz. Many of the pupils are avid fans of his Alex Rider series of novels and they proved very knowledgeable on the subject when interviewed by Rob Ross from RTE's *The Den ICE* programme who was covering the event. Horowitz took a barrage of questions from his enthusiastic audience and signed books afterwards. He was later interviewed by Eve Kearney for *Full Stop*.

Before the visit all the pupils were invited to read six Alex Rider openings and to say which one was their favourite and also write their own version of an Alex Rider opening. Horowitz judged the competition and presented the prizes to the following pupils:

Personal Response: 1st Shane Kennedy, 2nd Esther Glenfield, 3rd Carla White

Creative Writing category: 1st Sahr Yambasu, 2nd Dara O'Brien, 3rd Jack Woods

## Speak Week

The 1st Years participated in a public speaking competition as part of their English classes in January. Two students were chosen from each class to present their topic to a packed auditorium of their peers. All of the pupils are to be commended for their poise under pressure and the dramatic delivery of their speeches. Ms Emily Lynas kindly adjudicated and awarded first prize to David Potts who argued that we are all 'slaves to fashion'. Lucy Gaynor came second with an inspiring speech about her participation in the Liffey Swim. Craig Arnott came third and Ella Ryan was Highly Commended. Well done to all those who took part and made it such an entertaining occasion.

## Composition Prize

Our 6th Year students were given the opportunity to practise their essay writing skills for the Leaving Certificate in a specially designed exam in December. Ellen Lunney was awarded the overall Composition Prize for her short story entitled 'Balance of Power', which showed subtle insights into the world of politics.

## Carol Service

A great sense of occasion, musical celebration and solemn worship was created at both Junior and Senior Carol Services in the run up to Christmas this year. The Myles Hall was bedecked in holly and white lights, which really set a beautiful scene for the very special services which were to follow.

The congregation, readers and musicians alike, were entirely immersed in the wonderful atmosphere of prayer, verse and carol. Particular highlights include Handel's rousing *Hallelujah Chorus* performed by the Senior Choir and Orchestra, the fabulous 5th Year vocal quartet of Nicola McConnell, Vicky Sargeant, Andrew Wall and Peter Duffy, and the Boys Choir who gave a really polished acapella performance of *Going to Bethlehem*.

Wesley musicians are busy preparing for the fast-approaching Inter-Schools Music Festival and the Senior Choir are particularly looking forward to their trip abroad as they head for Paris at the end of term.

## Classical Studies Trip

On November 14, thirty Classical Studies students and three staff travelled to Italy on an educational tour of Rome and Pompeii. The students visited the many historical sights of Rome, including the ruins of the Forum and Colosseum, Trajan's Column and the Arch of Constantine, all stark reminders of the glory and power of the Ancient Roman Empire. There was a tour of the Vatican which took in the awe-inspiring St. Peter's Basilica and Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel.

The students also travelled to Pompeii which was destroyed in a volcanic eruption. The uniquely preserved buildings, frescoes and mosaics provided a vivid journey back in time to the ancient civilisation. Many thanks to the staff who organised the trip which was a wonderful experience for all concerned.

## Poetry Aloud

The Final Round of Poetry Aloud 2007 was held in November in the G.B. Shaw Auditorium. Sixteen pupils made it through to the final and there were three category winners: Esther Glenfield (Junior), Natasha Waugh (Intermediate) and David Zhao (Senior). Natasha Waugh was also named the overall winner and Mr Ken Dover of the Parents' Association presented her with the Perpetual Trophy and a cheque for €180. The three judges this year were Ms Cooke, Mr Shaw and Mr Hugh Brickendon. Well done to all those who participated and gave such powerful recitations on the evening.



David Potts and Mr Christopher Woods

## Preps News

A Preps' soccer team, comprised of Gavin Hughes, Matthew Boyle, Ross Shaw, Finn Bourke, Scott Dagg, Freddie Huggard, Josh Brownlow and Joseph Lee, beat twelve other schools to win the Association of Independent Junior Schools 5-aside Soccer Shield. The team faced penalty shoot-outs in both the semi-finals and final before winning the competition in sudden death shots. Well done to all concerned.

Once the Christmas exams finished, the Preps class dug out the glue and glitter and set to work creating Christmas cards and boxes for the Student Market Day. For some the experience was a sticky one, as sequins and school uniforms don't go together! With the help of Rosie Hunt, the class created many ingenious cards and the money raised was donated to the Betel Ireland charity.



Nicholas Patten, Rosie Hunt, Finn Burke, Ross Shaw, Stephen Rice

## ISPCCC Fundraising & Ice-Skating

On 19 December, the Transition Year students collected money for the ISPCCC all around Dublin's city-centre. The time given by the pupils was greatly appreciated by the children's society and was very much in the spirit of the Christmas season. Earlier in the morning, they also managed to fit in some ice-skating at Smithfield. This was an enjoyable time-out with impressive skill displayed by staff and students alike, whilst others crashed and fell in an equally dramatic fashion!

## Cancer Fundraising

Congratulations to all the 1st Years who ran in a mini-marathon at half-term in aid of the Tri to Beat Cancer charity. The school raised the substantial sum of €10,000 and the cheque was presented to an appreciative Dave Fennelly in assembly.

## Student Enterprise Awards

Once again we had a vibrant and hectic Market Day on December 17 in which over 30 businesses participated. The adjudication evening for the Student Enterprise Competition took place on January 25 and we are delighted to announce that the following will progress to the next round of the competition:

### Junior Section

1st Lucky Angels	Bridget Fraser
2nd CM Jewellery	Cher McCrave
3rd GG's Goodies	Richard Gilmer & Lucy Gaynor

These businesses will represent Wesley at the County Final on 6 March. Well done to all our participants for the high standard this year.

### Intermediate Section

1st Roysh Here Roysh Now	Glen Byrne
2nd Beadelicious	Ann Shanahan, Niamh Sweeney & Katie Aragane
3rd Mosaic Madness	Eimhin Burns

### Green Prize

1st What's in the Box	Emer Haughton & Daisy Maloney
2nd Honey Mates	Inga Dalzell
3rd CM Jewellery	Cher McCrave



Ann Shanahan, Niamh Sweeney and Katherine Aragane



Callum Sheerin-Purcell, Ciaran Maguire, Daniel Gillespie,  
Brandon Conn, Vistor de Vries

## Boarders Christmas Dinner

Once again the Boarders' Christmas Dinner was a great success. The boys and girls of Embury and Epworth were treated to a delicious meal, served by our very well-dressed resident staff members. It was the last such occasion for the 6th Years who took pride of place at the head table. There was even some musical entertainment in the form of a George Michael number from the boys and a festive *Winter Wonderland* from the girls. The boarders would like to extend their thanks to the catering staff for a wonderful meal and to the residents and Heads of Houses for their constant support and hard work.

## Big Ballot

As part of their CSPE course on Democracy and Human Dignity, the 2nd Years organised the Big Ballot elections for their fellow classmates and 1st Year. The Big Ballot was a nationwide enterprise promoted by the Office of the Children's Ombudsman in order to gauge the issues which concern young people. On a very busy Thursday lunchtime, 279 students found the time to cast their votes. From a choice of five topics, Wesley students identified the right to play, relaxation and recreation as the primary issue the Children's Ombudsman should address in the coming year. Congratulations to the 2nd Years for their calm and thorough running of the elections and to the 1st Years for their active and enthusiastic participation.

## Literature Prize

Transition Year students created a wonderful array of projects for their Literature Prize assignment as part of an English module. The students were asked to design a personal response to a piece of literature. The response could take many forms, from sculpture and collage to musical composition. There were some marvellously creative entries again this year, all of which were on display in the library. We eagerly await the results from our very discerning judges in the coming term.



Olwen O'Meara

The Wesley Update is compiled and edited by Ms Eve Rogers. It is designed and typeset by Aoife Cassidy, Yr 5, assisted by Mr David Rice.

## Science Quiz

Andrew Sloane, Ivan Sliounaev and Stephanie Veitch represented the college in the National Irish Science Teachers Association quiz in Trinity College where they came 5th of forty-five teams from the fifteen regional finals. This is a commendable result in what is a very competitive event.

## Geography Teacher Recognised

Congratulations to Mr Peter Lydon who was awarded the Annual Gwenda Hurst Memorial Award for his contribution to *Geographical Viewpoint*, the journal of the Association of Geography Teachers in Ireland. Mr Lydon's article in Issue 34 entitled: 'A Geography Teacher's ICT toolbox' was selected by the Editorial Committee for its contribution to the teaching of Geography.

Mr Lydon is on the Royal Irish Academy Committee for Geography and the Geological Survey of Ireland Consultative Body. He is also the Vice-President of the Association of Geography Teachers in Ireland and has conducted several training courses for Geography teachers wishing to enhance their teaching. Mr Lydon continues the long tradition of teachers from Wesley who have contributed to the development of the Geography curriculum.

## Mardi Gras



Eric Chan and Ben Healy making pancakes for Mardi Gras



Lee Gibbs and Elaine Shirley

## Health Week

Health Week took place from November 19-23 in order to encourage healthier living and eating amongst the Wesley community. It was intended to inform students about the importance of exercise, our unhealthy habits and their implications. In order to promote healthy eating, each student was given a breakfast bar and fruit for their break-time snack. Some students took up the opportunity to run (or walk) The Wesley Way from 8am each morning, while senior students and staff participated in a walk from Bray to Greystones on the Wednesday afternoon. A poster competition was organised and the following pupils received prizes: Jennifer Brown (Preps), Callum Douglas (1st Year) and Gillian Motyer (2nd Year).

## Bugs in the System

As part of Science Week, the Science Department welcomed Lee Gibbs from London with his entertaining presentation called 'The Big Bug Show'. Rev Mackey interviewed Lee during assembly about his work with animals while simultaneously holding a tarantula! Throughout the day, Lee addressed the students of 1st, 2nd, 4th and 5th Year, telling them about cockroaches, giant snails, millipedes and spiders. Some lucky student volunteers were even allowed to hold the bugs. For the more discerning palate, Lee offered a delicious selection of bugs to the staff at break-time – the adventurous few had a taste but for others it was a case of 'I'm a teacher get me out of here'!

## Boys Hockey

Robert Fitzpatrick, Tom Samuel, Shane Madeley, Alan White, Scott Margetson, Neal Meggarity and Luke Chadwick have been selected to play on the Leinster U16 squad. Their senior counterparts, Karl Chapple, Brian Doherty, James Dalrymple, Robert Whelan, Kyle Good and Kristian Fitzgerald will be competing on the Leinster U18 side. This highlights the remarkable breadth of hockey talent in Wesley.

## Girls Hockey

Congratulations to Claire Fitzpatrick who was selected to play on the Leinster U16 Hockey team in an Inter-Provincial tournament in Galway in December. Claire follows in the footsteps of Stella Davis, Suzanne Lett, Nadia Douglas and Rachel Scott who played on the Leinster U18 team in the same month.

## Sailing

Alyson and Alexander Rumball continue to impress in their chosen discipline. They both competed in the End of Season Events in Britain and Ireland. Alyson was First Girl and fourth overall in the Irish section. In Britain, she went on to claim three titles, First Overall Girl, First Irish Girl and First Irish Youth Sailor. Alexander also won the Irish End of Seasons. He came first in one of his races in the British competitions against many top European sailors. These are very fine achievements for the pair.

## Netball

Commiserations to the 1st Year Netball team who lost 5-2 in a close League match against Dominican Convent, Wicklow in the quarter-finals of the Cup. The Minor team are through to the semi-finals of their competition after beating Dominican College Wicklow 17-4.

## Badminton

The Badminton Club have had a very successful year so far, with many teams qualifying for the Dublin, Leinster and All Ireland Finals. Notably, we won the Leinster Mixed Doubles for a record seventh year. The following are the results and fixtures for this term:

### Boys

19A in Dublin Final and Leinster Finals v St. Colmcilles  
 19B in semi-finals v Scoil Ard Ris  
 19C section runner-up  
 16A in semi-finals v Terenure College  
 16B in quarter-finals v Newbridge College  
 16C in semi-final Newbridge College  
 16D in quarter-finals v Gormanston

### Girls

19A in Dublin Finals v Mt Sackville  
 16A in semi-finals v Sutton Park  
 16B section runners-up  
 16C 3rd in section  
 16D 3rd in section

Our Club Captain, Aaron Barry, has been an inspiration this year and we would also like to thank Graeme Barrett and Colm O'Farrell for their coaching assistance with the U14s. We wish the teams all the best in their upcoming matches.