

# The Wesley Update



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## All-Ireland Hockey Finalists

The Senior Boys Hockey squad emerged runners-up in a thrilling All-Irelands this year. At the start of the group stages against Killeel, the team found themselves two down after twelve minutes, despite having all the possession, but managed to fight back to win 7-3. Next day began with a staggering 8-0 win over Middleton and a 3-1 victory over Bandon to reach the semi-finals.

They overcame Bandon once again in a 2 - 1 win to advance to the local derby with St Andrew's. Despite playing the better hockey for most of the game Andrew's went 2-1 up with six minutes to go. Unfortunately, under such time pressure an equaliser was not found.

The boys can be very proud of their achievements and showed great sportsmanship and dignity in defeat. There were consistently great performances from players like Rob Whelan, Kyle Good, Conor Moyter and Jamie Tobin, but special mention must go to Carl Eggert who scored twelve goals in the five games. The squad will continue their league campaign at home to Kilkenny on November 12 followed by what will be an intense away fixture to St Andrew's on Friday 14.

## Prize Distribution



*Back L-R: Rev Nigel Mackey, Patricia Lewis, Don Lewis, Barbara Harris, John Harris, Annetta Kavanagh, Graham Darlington Front L-R: Joan Ferguson, Rev Aian Ferguson, Christopher Woods, Nicola Woods.*

Wesley's annual Prize Distribution took place on October 16 to reward pupils' academic achievement and effort throughout the year. Dr John Harris, Chairman of the Board of Governors, introduced the guest speaker, Rev Aian Ferguson, President of the Methodist Church in Ireland, who also presented the prizes. He remarked that the standard of excellence pursued by all our prize winners exemplified the school's traditional motto 'Prove all things, hold fast that which is good'.

This year, the school's highest award for the best all-round girl and boy in terms of character, conduct, sporting and educational achievement, went to Daniel Moody and Sarah Lewis. There was also a musical interlude from the Senior Choir and Orchestra who performed 'When you believe' from *The Prince of Egypt*. It was a wonderful evening which acknowledged the breadth of talent in Wesley and we look forward to the Arts and Sports Awards evening later in the year which will mark achievements in these fields.

## UCD Scholarships

Congratulations to Anna O'Hare and Alison Jones who have been awarded Entrance Scholarships to University College Dublin based on their achievement in the Leaving Certificate this year. Stella Davis will also join them at the presentation ceremony on November 14 when she receives a UCD Sports Scholarship. These scholarships are a testament to their academic and athletic efforts last year and we wish them well in their college careers.

# Campus Developments



The college has undergone significant refurbishment over the summer months which has had an immediate impact on many areas of the college, from boarding and sport to the Science block.

Epworth House has been considerably upgraded in the second stage of a development plan which began with the modernisation of Embury House last year. The junior dorms were the primary focus of the renovation. They have been transformed into individual rooms for up to four people with improved insulation, new double-glazed windows and furniture. There have been many other improvements to communal areas which have added to the homely environment of the boarding house.

The Science block which had been targeted for refurbishment for some time has been reconfigured to create a new Geography room, two Science laboratories and staff work area. The central concourse has also been re-floored in the same colourful style as the classroom block.

The most significant expenditure has been aimed at the sports facilities. Three new artificial playing areas have been built to complement the existing hockey pitch. Wesley now possesses an exceptional range of amenities comprising the Pavilion, two full size artificial grass hockey pitches, a hockey and general purpose sports area and four modern tennis courts. This is all in addition to our four rugby pitches, cricket area and soccer pitch.

## Wesley Teacher Elected

Mr Peter Lydon has been elected President of the Association of Geography Teachers of Ireland. The AGTI represents and provides courses for 2500 Geography teachers throughout the country. Mr Lydon's election reflects his position as an innovative teacher during a period of change in the Geography curriculum and highlights the important contribution Wesley has made to the progress of Geography teaching in Ireland.

## 1st Year Bonding Day

All of 1st Year went to Ovoca Manor, Co. Wicklow in November for their bonding day. They managed to avoid the adverse weather conditions which beset the Transition Years and looked forward to the challenging activities ahead. The year was divided into fourteen teams in order to encourage the students to engage with other pupils. Each group had to complete tasks such as an obstacle course which required initiative, teamwork and leadership. There were many memorable moments on the trip which will hopefully help the year to forge its own identity.



## Project Maths

Wesley is one of twenty-four schools selected to pilot Project Maths, a new Mathematics curriculum which will be introduced in all schools by 2011. The new curriculum will emphasise problem-solving skills that will considerably benefit students. It will also ensure that the Maths Department is at the forefront of subject developments in the future.

## Leaving Cert Success

Congratulations to our 6th Years who achieved such outstanding results in the Leaving Certificate this year with 60% of those taking Higher Level receiving an A or B grade. They were welcomed back for a very enjoyable Pre-Debs soiree in October. We wish them every success in all their future endeavours.

## Keith Gray



Winners of the Keith Gray literary competition: Jack Perdue, Jonathan Lewis, Keith Gray, Clare Kelleher, Ali O'Shea

## Jenny Valentine

On October 21, Jenny Valentine spoke to all of 2nd Year. Jenny Valentine lives in Hay-on-Wye with her husband and children and runs their shop three days a week. The rest of the time she devotes to writing. She published her first novel, *Finding Violet Park*, in 2007 and it won the Guardian Children's Fiction Prize. *Broken Soup* followed in 2008 and she told 2nd Year that her third novel, *The Ant Colony*, which she has just finished will be published in March 2009.

She finds openings easy and explained how and where she gets her ideas. Her first novel is told from a fifteen-year-old boy's perspective, her second has a female narrator and she has already been translated into Italian, German and Dutch as well as being published in America. She read from her first two novels and this was followed by a question and answer session.

## Geraldine McCaughrean

On 23 September, Geraldine McCaughrean, author of 140 books and winner of numerous awards [the Carnegie Medal; the Guardian Children's Fiction Award; the Whitbread Children's Book of the Year Award (three times)] visited Wesley and spoke to Preps, 1st and 2nd Years about her life and work, during which she invited her lively and enthusiastic audience to shape the opening of a new story. She also urged her young audience, even if they didn't like reading, to keep their imaginations open.

On 14 October, the English writer Keith Gray brightened up a rainy afternoon when he spoke to 3rd Year about himself and his work. He began with an entertaining commentary on some of the eighteen different instructions that came with a ladder he had recently bought. He then told two fascinating and engaging stories about a rock he saved from the shores of Loch Ness and a cigar. He spoke about his six novels, showed pupils different editions of his work including a Japanese version of *Creepers* and also produced the manuscript of his next novel. Jack Perdue presented Keith Gray with a gift and thanked him for coming to Wesley.

## Kate Thompson

On 16 October, 1st Years and Preps met Kate Thompson, author of many highly-acclaimed novels, one of which is part of the 1st Year curriculum. *Creature of the Night* which they read in class has proven to be a very popular choice. She told her audience that she wrote in longhand, could write a first draft in three weeks but that a novel took a year to complete. She named Jan Mark's *The Eclipse of the Century* one of the best books for teenagers and she also praised the work of our recent guest author, Geraldine McCaughrean.

Prior to the visit pupils were invited to write a film-script of the opening moments of *Creature of the Night* and they produced some marvellous work. They were also asked to write

a description of an alternative cover for the book. Kate Thompson judged the shortlist and awarded prizes for the best covers to Evan Stuart and Katy Thornton with first place going to Jack Woods. Film-script prizes went to Eilis Dexter, Tom Kanwischer and the overall winner Stephanie Elliott. Fiona Wolfe won the special competition for Preps. Sarah Clarke thanked Kate Thompson on behalf of a very appreciative audience.



Andrew Whyte, Geraldine McCaughrean, Rory O'Callaghan, Lucy Gaynor

# AUTHOR VISITS

## Model United Nations Manchester Trip

Sixteen Wesley students had the opportunity to represent Indonesia, Israel and Egypt at the 8th Annual MUNCH Conference in Manchester. Victoria Veitch (5th Year) was invited as a Guest Chair for the Human Rights Council, having distinguished herself in this role at WCDMUN08. The conference is one of the largest in Europe and attracted 95 delegations and over 500 delegates from the UK and Ireland. All of the Wesley delegates made an impression in the committee rooms and the General Assembly but the following students received awards during the closing ceremony:



Natasha Waugh, Anna Tierney, Eve Kearney, Thelma Harris and Katy Rae

### Commended Delegate Award

Sarah Cullen - Egypt: Health and Youth Committee  
 Anna Tierney - Israel: Health and Youth Committee  
 Eve Kearney - Israel: Human Rights Committee  
 Katy Rae - Israel: Middle East Committee

### Highly Commended Award

Kevin Stone - Indonesia: Environment Committee

### Special Mention

Alex Coleman - Indonesia: Security Council

### Best Young Delegate Award

Yvonne Corcoran - Egypt: Middle East Committee

In addition to these individual awards, Israel (Katy Rae (Ambassador), Eve Kearney, Thelma Harris, Anna Tierney, and Natasha Waugh) had the distinction of winning a coveted Commended Delegation Award.

## Bullying Awareness Week

This year's theme for Bullying Awareness Week was *Communication* and one of the key issues addressed during the week was the modern phenomenon of cyber-bullying. Kyle Petrie, currently a resident master in Embury, gave a very informative talk to students on the dangers of internet message-posting and the use and abuse of social networking websites. On 23 September, Junior Cycle parents were invited to a talk on *Promoting Positive Mental Health in our Teens and Cyber Bullying and Internet Safety*. The speakers for the evening were Suzanne Harris and Nola Lambert from Newpark Comprehensive School and Kyle Petrie.

The week was a further opportunity to continue the Prefect Buddy system which has been introduced over the last few years. Under this initiative, Preps, 1st and 2nd Years have been assigned Prefects to offer them advice and support. Prefects and the 6th Year vocal group and choir gave assemblies and Rev Mackey and Mr MacMonagle added their voices to the Bullying Awareness message. Special wrist bands, enscribed with the proverb, 'Words kill, words give life - they're either poison or fruit, you choose' were launched and provided the theme for the poster competition. A stunning set of posters was put on display in the concourse alongside the new logo for Bullying Awareness week which was designed by one of last year's 6th Years, Freddie Stevens.



Launch of Bullying Awareness Week Logo  
 L-R Mr McConnell, Ms O'Byrne, Freddie Stevens, Ms Downer, Mrs Wilson, Mr Woods

### Junior Art Competition

1st Gillian Motyer  
 2nd Aaron Clarke-Maher  
 3rd Rebecca Angel

### Highly Commended

Rachel Coleman, Emma Heyn, Clare Kelleher  
 Alex Morgan

### Senior Art Competition

1st Beth Walsh  
 2nd Ethan McCabe  
 3rd Alice Lett

### Highly Commended

Jessica Pearce

## IFI Film Trip

Transition Year made the first of a number of visits to the Irish Film Institute in September to see *Maria Full of Grace*, a challenging film which deals with the harsh realities of drug trafficking.

# Wesley Sports

## Cricket Cup Winners

Congratulations to the U13 Boys Cricket team who won the Cup Final for the first time since 1996 on Thursday, 18 September. The side, captained by Kirk Shimmins, beat Sandford Park in the final by 8 wickets. Notable batting performances on the day came from Sam Byers (23 not out) and Kirk Shimmins (15). In the bowling department the wickets were shared around by messrs Copeland, Strong and Shimmins. The side also beat the much fancied St Andrews in the semi-final by 9 wickets and particular mention must go to the captain's 48 not out that day.

## Badminton

In a great start to the year, two Wesley teams competed in the Leinster Mixed Doubles Division Two final. Karl Roe, Paul Campbell, and Donal Egan partnered the Loreto Bray girls in the final against St Andrews B boys and our own B team comprising Sinead Brady, Iona Patterson and Shola Ogundimu. The Wesley boys eventually secured gold in a very competitive match.

In the Division One final Inga Dalzell, Aislinn Holland and Megan Nally had an excellent match with Terenure College B boys but were unfortunate to lose 2 – 1 to Terenure College A and Our Lady's B. The girls beat their Wesley counterparts Colm Farrell, Graeme Barrett and Mark Wright who partnered St Andrews girls in Div One in the semi-finals.

The league for the U19 and 16s has commenced with the 16A Girls (Capt) Sarah Conn winning 4-2 over St Colmcilles and the 16B Boys (Capt) James Tanner winning 5-1 against Salesian Celbridge. In similar form, the 19C Boys (Capt) Adam Kinlan beat St Mary's 6-0. The U14 league commences after half-term.



Back L-R: Andrew McConnell, Alastair Greene, Kai Jameson, Gavin Hughes, Jurgen Steinbeck, Jonathan Roberts, Alan Oglesby, Adam Rice, Front L-R: Sam Byers, Aaron Copeland, Kirk Shimmins (Capt), Mark Strong, Abhisek Mohan

## Wesley Olympian

Past-pupil, Scott Evans competed in his first Olympic Games in Beijing this summer in the Men's Badminton Singles competition. Ranked No. 46 in the world, Scott secured qualification for the games after an arduous couple of years training in Denmark and competing in numerous international tournaments to move up the rankings.

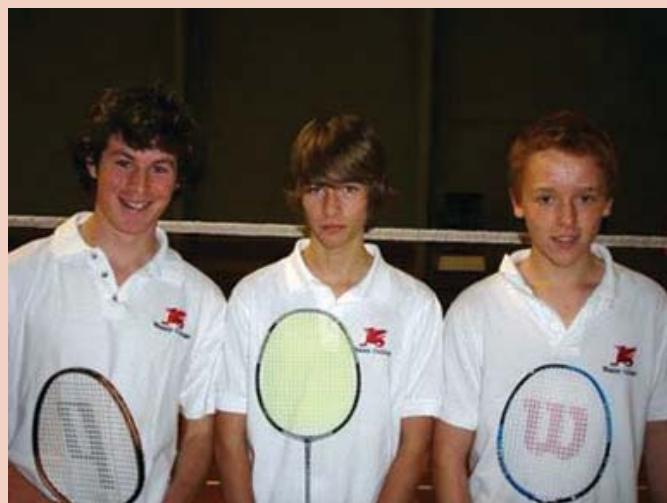
Scott was drawn in the first round against Marc Zwiebler of Germany. He lost the opening set 18 – 21, but won the second by reversing the scores. He played the better badminton in the deciding set, but gave away a late three point lead to lose the third 19-21. Nevertheless, this is still an incredible feat for Scott who is the first Irish male singles player to compete at such a coveted event. We would like to wish him all the best in his future career and look forward to seeing him in the London 2012 Olympics.

## Sailing

Wesley were crowned All-Ireland Inter-Schools Sailing Champions in September. Congratulations to captain, Niall Egan (6th Year) and his team comprising Donal Egan (4th Year), Stephen Roberts (5th Year), Alex Rumball (3rd Year) and Enzo Michel (2nd Year) who won the team event and the Conor Nolan Memorial Trophy. Alexander and Enzo also went on to win the individual event and the Davidson Memorial trophy.

## Golf

Congratulations to Jonathan Roche (4th Year) who was selected to play in the Irish Boys U 15 Amateur Golf Open Championship in Northern Ireland. Meanwhile Colin Kiernan won the first golf outing of the year after a sudden death four way play-off. He emerged victorious on the second extra play-off hole.



Paul Campbell, Karl Roe and Donal Egan

## Book Week

The annual Book Week took place from October 13 – 18 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. An array of very impressive art entries were also on display in the concourse. Two well known authors, Keith Gray and Kate Thompson visited the junior classes who had been acquainted with their work. Meanwhile, in assembly, members of staff entertained students with readings from their favourite books. The following pupils won competitions during the week:

### Art

Senior:	Ethan McCabe Sarah Johnston
Intermediate:	Glen Byrne Nadine Jones Sam Stuart
Junior:	Callum Sheeran- Purcell Shauna O'Reilly Enzo Michel
Preps:	Alison O'Brien

### Mini-Creative Writing

Senior:	Stella Archer
Intermediate:	Esther Glenfield
Junior:	Callum Douglas Laoise Murray

### Haikus and Limericks

Senior:	Phil Roche Conor Haugh David Rice Hannah Pratt
Intermediate:	Jonathon Tebbs
Junior:	Jordie Satter

## The Causey Experience

Chuaigh lucht na hidirbhliana ar thuras oidhreachta go dtí "Causey Farm" ar an 23ú d'Aibreán. Le linn a gcuid ama ann bhí an deis acu triail a bhaint as rudaí ar nós, arán a dhéanamh, an bodhrán a sheinnt is cuairt a thabhairt ar an bpportach. D'ainneoin na drochaimsire thaitin an lá go mór leo.

## Theatre Trip

A group of 6th Years went to see the National Theatre of Scotland in *Black Watch* during the Dublin Theatre Festival. This terrific and memorable production explored the effect of the Iraq war on a Scottish regiment. The Wesley contingent agreed that it deserved its standing ovation.

## Preps News

Book Week saw the collapse of the Preps' timetable to facilitate greater exposure to books. The students engaged enthusiastically with the haiku competition which was won by Rory O'Callaghan. They also produced quality laminated bookmarks with a literary theme in computer class for which Megan Russell received an award for the most effective use of computer images and James Egan for the most impressive use of an apostrophe. During the week they learnt how to knit under the encouraging tutelage of mums and one Gran with some students managing to knit little soft toys. The week culminated in a dramatised reading of a *Just William* story in Friday's assembly.



*Preps Sophie Campbell, Susan Bryan, Murray MacDonald, Katie Hastings and Fiona Wolfe preparing to read an extract from Just William in assembly*

## Transition Year Bonding Day

In September, the Transition Years took off in auspicious weather to Three Rock for their bonding day. The climb was interspersed with a variety of team building games which provided an opportunity to get to know new classmates. There were some interesting tasks on the trek up which encouraged group work and culminated in the hokey-pokey. Unfortunately, the weather took a turn for the worst and only two brave teams made it to the summit. On return they were greeted with their long-awaited Junior Certificate results and many triumphant scenes ensued. Thanks to the teachers who accompanied them and of course congratulations on such great results.



*Transition Years getting a taste of the rural life on the Causey Farm*