



# the turret

## WELLINGTON SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2011

Ayrshire's only Independent School

Founded 1836

## Minister Unveils Plaque for Outdoor Nursery at Doonside



*Mrs Smith, John Scott MSP, Provost Sloan, Mrs Lomas, Mrs Allan, Ms Angela Constance, MSP, Mr Parlour, Mr Walker, Mrs Gibson*

On Tuesday 1 November Ms Angela Constance MSP, Minister for Children and Young People, officially opened the Wellington Outdoor Nursery.

The Minister was at Doonside for much of the morning, during which time she unveiled a plaque in the Pavilion and talked to the children in the woodland area, as well as addressing the guests.

The Official Opening was attended by Provost Sloan, Mr David Anderson, Chief Executive of South Ayrshire Council, John Scott MSP, representatives from Education Scotland, Quality Improvement Officers from Ayrshire, Governors, Staff and Parents.

*Ms Constance looking at the floorbook*



Ms Constance was presented with flowers and a smaller version of the Floor Book used to record the children's experiences in the Outdoor Nursery.

Provost Winnifred Sloan said: "The enthusiasm from the staff was catching, and the children so obviously love being outdoors. The mums who were there also thought it was a great idea that their children were outdoors."

A recent article in the Parenting supplement of The Herald highlighted the Outdoor Nursery at Wellington along with the other four currently operating in Scotland. Wellington's Nursery is unique in balancing outdoor and indoor experiences, giving

*Making mud pies*



pupils the best of both worlds.

The nursery enjoys a very large outdoors area with a wide variety of habitats.

Ms Constance commented that she especially liked Wellington's mission statement: 'Our Outdoor Nursery is a place where a child can... become a risk assessor, be a designer, ...a place where a child can develop confidence, independence, a respect for danger, make mud pies and use tools, ...and, most importantly, have fun!'

Wellington School Nursery is run in partnership with South Ayrshire Council and so is open to all.

*The Minister with Mrs Gibson and children*





*French, German, Scottish and Slovenian students outside Wellington School*

# International Conference in Ayrshire hosted by Wellington School

Wellington School was the host for an international conference on the theme of 'Water' from 4-7 October 2011. Young people from schools in France, Germany and Slovenia stayed at the Gales Hotel in Irvine, joining senior pupils from Wellington for the event sponsored by UCAPE (Union to promote Culture and Professional Advancement in Europe).

With workshops in Irvine and Ayr, the young people used English, French and German in all combinations to get their points across.

Water seems a particularly relevant topic for the conference, given that a typical view of Scotland on continental Europe always includes the rain! A visit to New

Lanark on Wednesday reinforced the way water can link power, people and play. This was followed by an evening presentation on 21st century technology from Carol Goodall, a former pupil at Wellington, who is currently involved in installing a prototype turbine at the Orkney marine energy testing facility.

Thursday saw more active involvement from the conference participants. In the morning, each visiting group presented a study of their local river, using PowerPoints in different languages to help the others understand. The real hands-on task was in the afternoon, when they tackled producing water power themselves under the guidance of Head of Science, Mr Andrew McPhee.

It was not all work and no play. There was plenty of time for international interaction during and after the working day, and on the Thursday evening a ceilidh was organised with a group from Ayrshire Fiddle Orchestra providing live music.

On Friday morning the young participants then combined their language skills to write a multilingual report. This account of the conference activities was presented the following week at the annual meeting of UCAPE leaders in Seville, Spain, and it will also be published on the UCAPE website. As Mrs Morag Allan, Modern Languages teacher and conference organiser, says: "It will be a real reward for their joint effort when they can see their own activities described on the Web."



*Ross Andrew and Colin Casey give a demonstration*



*Ceilidh in Carleton Turrets Hall*



*Mrs Coontz addressing UCAPE in Seville*

# Senior French Exchange

by Rhona Ford, Languages Captain

During October 2011, six Wellington pupils, from 5th and 6th Year, took part in a Senior Exchange with seven pupils from Saint-Dominique. It was a two week exchange, with the Wellington pupils spending the first week in France to return with their penpals, allowing them to experience ten days in Scotland at Wellington School.

We flew out to Beauvais airport on the afternoon of Sunday 16th October, where we were met by our French hosts and Mrs Coontz at the airport. That evening we all returned to our French homes for dinner and an early night. Starting school at 8.30am was unusual for us, but we were all warmly greeted by the students and teachers of Saint-Dominique. The plan for the week was to shadow our penpals, going to their classes at school and living their home lives too. Throughout the week the Scottish students attended a wide range of classes from Philosophy to Chemistry and Spanish to Maths, whether we understood everything or not. Saint-Dominique was a new experience for the Wellington pupils, as the class sizes are almost double the size of ours. We learned about the French

education system: going from 3 subjects to eight or nine was a shock to the 6th Year.

In the evenings the French students spent a lot of their time studying but throughout the course of the week we did lots of different things, from visiting the local castle and surrounding area, to attending Zumba classes, to cycling around Paris at night. On Wednesday after school, the whole group visited a town called Chantilly and then went out for a meal. On our last full day in France, we were all lucky enough to go into Paris, where we saw various sights including the Louvre, L'Arc De Triomphe, and of course, La Tour Eiffel.

For the Saint-Dominique pupils, the second week was full of new experiences. The Wellington pupils tried to squeeze as much of Scotland into the short time as we could, with visits to Edinburgh and Robert Burns' Cottage. The French pupils also experienced Halloween, Irn-Bru and fish 'n' chips!

The whole exchange was great fun for all of us, and as well as allowing us to improve our French, we made new friends and experienced another culture.



*Some of the Senior French Exchange group*

## Strengthening Links with the Institut Saint-Dominique

Wellington School and the Institut Saint-Dominique, Mortefontaine (40 minutes to the north of Paris), have been working together since 2000 on junior exchanges. We are now expanding our activities to include a senior exchange in S5 and S6 and a rugby exchange for our S1 and S2 boys. In February the P7 and S1 French Trip pupils will spend an afternoon with P7 in Mortefontaine. Looking forward to next session, we are planning a UCAPE conference on Art Nouveau with Saint-Dominique and the French school will join us in our proposed Comenius project 2012-2014. During their time at Wellington School all pupils will have the opportunity to take part in an international activity with pupils from our French partner school.

# S1/S2 French Rugby Exchange

Sixteen French boys from S2 arrived in Ayr on Friday 4 November in time to be transported to the annual Fireworks display at Ayr Rugby Club before going home with their Scottish hosts that evening.

On Saturday the Wellington S1/S2 rugby team won the three-way fixture against Institut Saint-Dominique, Mortefontaine, and Carrick Academy, Maybole on a sunny morning at Doonside.

There was a training session at Doonside on Sunday morning led by Stuart Fenwick,

the Development Officer at Ayr Rugby Club. The S1/S2 rugby players from Wellington and Saint-Dominique enjoyed a stimulating session involving rucking, mauling and tackling techniques with instructions in both English and French thanks to Sylvain, the Ayr Rugby player from Castres, who was also on hand to help. They then followed this up with a controlled game situation (with mixed sides). We are very grateful to Ayr Rugby Club for their support.

The French team were in school on Monday morning before leaving for their flight back to France.

All the boys involved seem to have had a great time and the Wellington squad are looking forward to the return match in France in March. In addition to playing rugby against the Saint-Dominique team, they will spend a day at Racing Métro where they will have a training session with the team coaches and they will also see the team train.

*Teams from Saint-Dominique and Wellington*





*Shopping in Jaipur*

## Wellington goes Global

Wellington School has a new international partner, St Edmund's School, Jaipur, India.

Jaipur is known as The Pink City, due to the colour of the buildings in the town centre. This new partnership is supported by the British Council.

St Edmund's School is an English-medium school with an excellent academic reputation. Like Wellington, it has pupils from Nursery to Senior Secondary. The schools' junior departments are of an equal size but St Edmund's school roll reaches a total of 1160 pupils, due to the size of the secondary school.

The two schools are working together to develop a project on Festivals. This will help pupils in both schools to find out about life in another country. Initially, communication will take place electronically and by post. Both schools have applied to the British Council for funding to allow the first visits to take place. We hope to welcome staff from St Edmund's to Wellington in June and plans are underway for Wellington staff to travel to India during the summer holiday.

*Wellington Pupils explore Jaipur Dec 2010*



# Foreign Language Assistants at Wellington Buck Scottish Trend



*Carolin Reuster*

Carolin Reuster is German but she will regularly be seen and heard around Wellington School this year as she is one of two Foreign Language Assistants working here this session.

She and Camille Mennessier, from France, spend their time between Wellington and Hutchesons' Grammar in Glasgow.

As in previous years, pupils studying languages at Wellington will be able to speak with a native speaker week in and week out - and this is in addition to the many opportunities for foreign travel that exist from P7 right up to S6 level.

It was International Education Week on 15 November and the British Council used this opportunity to highlight the vital role of foreign languages in preparing children in the UK for life and work in a global economy.

The British Council supports language-learning in UK schools through programmes including Foreign Language Assistants - native speakers of French, German, Italian, Spanish or Chinese, who support language teachers in schools. However, as reported by the global news website FinChannel.com on 15 November, "there has been a marked decline in the number of schools employing these Assistants. Nationwide, there has been a 30% drop in numbers since 2005 - from 2716 to 1888.

And Scotland has seen the most severe drop - 80%. This year, just 59 Foreign Language Assistants will work in Scotland's schools - down from nearly 300 in 2005-6. In England numbers have dropped by 21% over the same period, Wales has seen a 38% drop and, in Northern Ireland, numbers are down by 35%."

The UK's cultural relations body - which builds relationships for the UK through education, English and the arts - is underlining the important role played by languages in improving understanding of other cultures, which is essential if our children are to be able to compete in an increasingly internationalised world of work. Foreign languages also make a valuable contribution to children's intellectual development.

Vicky Gough, Schools Adviser at the British Council, said: "Foreign languages are essential for our children's future. If they are going to grow up able to compete in an increasingly globalised world, they need to

have a good knowledge and understanding of other cultures - and languages are an integral part of this."

Carolin was raised in Stuttgart, but moved north to study and now lives in Nuremberg, Bavaria - a town twinned with Glasgow.

She is taking a year out before graduating with a teaching degree in 2012 in English and Italian.

She has not visited Scotland before, although she has spent time with friends in England. She felt at home in Glasgow from day one and has already been exploring the local area, visiting Cumbrae and Loch Lomond. During the October break she took the opportunity to extend her travel with a Highlands and Islands tour taking in Harris and Lewis.

Carolin says she hopes to make the most of her year here, both professionally and culturally. She really enjoys working with pupils at the school and does a lot of speaking and pronunciation practice with those from S3 and S4. She also works with pupils from S5 and S6.

Asked to compare her experience of the two schools she is working in, Carolin says she finds the buildings and the scenery here in Ayr much more attractive than those in Glasgow.

For Carolin herself it is a good experience to be living in an English speaking country because she will be teaching English in the future. For the pupils here at Wellington she hopes to be a mini ambassador for the German people - encouraging interest amongst them in the German language and culture.

*In the Language Lab*





# Comenius Programme allows for Exchange of Cultures

Wellington is one of only seven Scottish schools to be hosting a Comenius Assistant this year according to an article from the TESS this month.

one of the aims of which was to give assistants ideas of extra ways they can contribute in school. The assistants provide an important free resource for their host school whilst they gain experience.

Denitsa was born in Dimitrovgrad in Southern Bulgaria (near the border with Greece and Turkey) and lives in Stara Zagora where she hopes to get a job teaching Nursery or Primary children when she returns after her six months in Ayr.

Although she has never been to the UK before, she was so sure that this is where she wanted to be that it was the only country she put on her Comenius application form. She says that she has a colleague working in England who was so enthusiastic about the UK that she was sure it would be a success for her. She is

here for the experience, for the teaching practice and to see how schools operate here.

In her home country she graduated this year, but so far has only had two months teaching, one month in a nursery and one month in a Primary School. She explains that getting on a teaching course in Bulgaria is easy compared to getting a job afterwards, and the work experience here at Wellington (which is funded by the European Commission) will help when she returns home.

Denitsa is living in Ayr town, not far from the school, and she loves having the beach so close. She has found the people here to be very friendly, and says "Of course I will return to Scotland!"

Denitsa Mitkova

Denitsa Mitkova is working in both the Outdoor and Indoor Nursery at Wellington. She is also teaching Bulgarian and introducing and sharing her culture to interested pupils after school.

She was one of 101 Comenius Assistants from 22 different nationalities to attend a meeting in Edinburgh in early November,

## Harvest Service for Junior School

The Junior School Harvest Service was held at the Church of St Columba in October, and led by the Rev Fraser Aitken.

As part of the new unified structure at Wellington, the service this year was attended by all Junior School pupils together with their teachers, parents and governors, and was held in the Church rather than Carleton Turrets Hall as in previous years.

However the high standard of the musical performances by the choirs and orchestras were unchanged, as were the generous harvest gifts brought in by the children and distributed to good causes in Ayr.



Harvest colours held aloft in the Church of St Columba

## S3 Modern Studies Pupils Visit Holyrood

On Friday 11 November, S3 Modern Studies pupils went to the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh.

The pupils enjoyed a workshop which explored the division of powers between the Scottish and UK parliaments and the ways in which Scottish people can actively participate in our democracy.

They then went on a whistle-stop tour of the parliament building, including the magnificent debating chamber where they were given the opportunity to see first hand where the First Minister sits during Question Time and in debates.

All the pupils returned having discovered more about their role as citizens in a democracy and how the parliament acts to represent the people of Scotland.



In the Debating Chamber

# From Stone Age

## Junior ESU Debaters Progress to Second Round

## Learning to be Jacobites!

As part of their S2 unit on 17-18th Century Scotland, students in History learnt how to be Jacobites at Doune Castle in Stirlingshire!

Led by Hugh the Jacobite, pupils were given an expert demonstration on how to wear a plaid – with a little help from Mrs Shaw and Mrs Murray! Then everyone had the chance to pair up and try out their 18th Century fashion skills. Finally, Hugh judged their efforts and the best got the chance to try out the Jacobites' broadsword and targe.

Pupils also got to tour this fantastic castle, learning about how best to escape from an 18th Century prison, how to build in medieval stone, and how to keep warm in a home with no central heating, carpets or windows! Finally, pupils got to handle some Jacobite artifacts to learn how the men would have lived during these military campaigns. All of this should help the pupils in their assessed work looking at the 1745 rebellion which culminated in the Battle of Culloden (1746).

On Wednesday 2 November, four members of the Junior Debating Club took part in the first round of the annual English Speaking Union Junior Debates for Schools. The motion for the first round debate was 'This House Would Ban Beauty Pageants'. This emotive issue was debated intelligently and passionately by the two Wellington teams.



They faced a very formidable challenge from the other teams of local schools including Belmont Academy, Stewarton Academy and Girvan Academy who participated in the first round.

Wellington teams A and B were successful in the debate and they now progress to the second round of the competition where they will face an enticing proposition of top competition from schools in Glasgow and the West of Scotland.

Congratulations go to Celeste Killin, Chloe Dobbie, Alistair Kidd and Christopher Large for their wonderful performances. Good luck in the second round!



## P7 pupils learn empathy with our Stone Age ancestors

In October, as part of the unit on Early Scotland, P7 History pupils learnt about empathizing with people in the past.

Pupils were challenged to work in groups and build a stone age house just like this one which they are studying from Skara Brae in Orkney.

The pupils worked very well in their groups, building with the same materials

as the Stone Age settlers in Orkney - only on a much smaller scale! They even explored different roof styles, trying out flat roofs before moving on to different styles to offset problems with snow!

They then discussed the problems such a society would have faced having to build with such difficult materials.



# to Modern Britain

## S4 Modern Studies & History London Trip

As part of ongoing extra curricular development in the Social Subjects, S4 pupils visited London in September. Twenty three pupils who study Modern Studies and/or History were given the valuable opportunity to engage in active learning beyond the classroom.

The trip began bright and early on the 5th of September at Glasgow Airport. With a buzz of enthusiasm, the pupils arrived in London after a short flight. The first port of call was the Imperial War Museum. Dr McQueen and Mrs Malloch gave everyone a guided tour of the weapons of war and led our intrepid explorers to a reconstructed First World War trench.



The pupils were then given the opportunity to explore a period of military history themselves and experience the vast array of artifacts and displays. This was highly beneficial for History students who study the First World War as part of their Standard Grade course.

After a spot of shopping at Notting Hill's Portobello Market, they went to see the musical *We Will Rock You*. Some even sang along!

The focus for the second day was the key topic of Democracy in the UK. The pupils rubbed shoulders with MPs and Lords alike as they embarked on a tour of the Houses

of Parliament. The guided tour took them through the main lobbies, and the House of Commons and House of Lords chambers. This did not stop the pupils having a brush with the Phone Hacking Inquiry committee which was sitting the very same day with Rupert Murdoch as a star witness. The tour ended in the Great Hall as the tour guide regaled the pupils with stories reflecting Parliament's rich and diverse history. The pupils then participated in a workshop about elections and electoral systems which is a key part of citizenship in education and the Standard Grade Modern Studies course.

After a quick whirl on the London Eye, Mr McDougall led a tour round Whitehall stopping at Downing Street, the Cenotaph and the Ministry of Defence. The tour of Whitehall culminated at Buckingham Palace with everyone keen to catch a glimpse of the royal guards. After a quick dinner near Liverpool Street, it was time for the pupils to catch the flight home.

The trip ended back at Glasgow airport and the pupils stepped off the plane with a deeper understanding of the democratic process and a heightened sense of the importance of war in shaping our nation.

## Young Egyptologists from P4 weigh hearts at Kelvingrove Museum

Primary 4 took a step back into the past when they visited Kelvingrove Museum and Art Gallery.

Pupils had a guided tour of the Ancient Egyptian exhibition, where they were able to show off to their very impressed guide how much they had already learned about death ceremonies of that time. They are pictured here taking part in a dramatisation of the weighing of the heart ceremony.

The children were able to put their knowledge into practice and teach the guide a couple of facts that he did not know!

During their workshop, the children had

the opportunity to handle some genuine Egyptian artefacts. They acted as detectives, just like real Egyptologists, trying to decide what a number of artefacts found together could have been used for in ancient times. This gave them a real insight into how different evidence can be used to deduce things from the past, but that a best guess still needs to be verified from another source before we can start to think of it as historical fact.

Primary 4 agreed that this had been a most enjoyable and interesting visit. They passed on their learning to their friends by presenting the highlights of the trip in an assembly to the rest of the school.



# GUYS and DOLLS



In *Guys and Dolls*, Wellington School produced a captivating performance this year, with some beautifully choreographed dance routines alongside the musical numbers.

*Guys and Dolls* is a great show for amateurs to perform as it has lots of small roles, jazz-friendly tunes and an interesting plot that deals with sin, drink, gambling and redemption through the colourful characters found in Damon Runyon's tales of New York low life.

From the start the vibrant costumes and clever and stylish set capture the bright lights of Broadway, whilst the "Save A Soul" mission band led by their leader, the pious and beautiful Sergeant Sarah Brown (Eve-Anne Travers) along with her grandfather Arvide Abernethy (Ross Andrew), provided a sobering contrast.

Rory Craig played inveterate gambler Sky Masterson who bets that he can take Sergeant Sarah Brown to Havana – where she becomes intoxicated both by him and the local alcohol. Both were nicely judged performances, while Gregor Feeney's portrayal of Nicely Nicely Johnson was larger than life and Oliver Greenall gave good support as Benny Southstreet.

Stealing the show was Megan Thomson (Miss Adelaide), long term fiancée of Nathan Detroit, with a tremendous voice and great stage presence. At one stage she confesses to Nathan, played by Robbie McAdam, that she has been lying to her mother for the past 14 years and has told her that she is married with a staggering five children. She consults a medical book she has been reading, which tells her that the chronic cold she suffers is a psychosomatic reaction to her frustration with Nathan's failure to marry her ("Adelaide's Lament").

Sky's great Act II number, "Luck Be a Lady" and Nicely's rendition of "Sit Down, You're Rockin' the Boat" both had the audience tapping their feet.

The scene near the end where Miss Adelaide and Sergeant Brown commiserate in their woes, and then resolve to accept their men as they are, since they can always change them later, showed the voices of both girls off to good effect ("Marry the Man Today").



*For all the latest news about events at Wellington,*

Alyssa Shepherd:  
General Cartwright



Connor Gargan:  
Big Jule



Elliot Brady:  
Lt Brannigan



Eve-Anne Travers:  
Sarah Brown



Gregor Feeney:  
Nicely-Nicely Johnson



Kieran Gibson:  
Harry The Horse





The crisp choreography, with the Hot Box girls, the dancers in Havana and the boys in the Crapshooters Dance (down in the sewers beneath Times Square), was an outstanding feature of this year's show.

Director Jess Barry, choreographer Jordan McKenzie and musical director Derek Goudie made sure that the show had great pace and vitality. The excellent stage management was by Roger Robinson whilst the orchestra provided lively music all evening.



*log on to the website at [www.wellingtonschool.org](http://www.wellingtonschool.org)*

Megan Thomson:  
Miss Adelaide



Oliver Greenall:  
Benny Southstreet



Rory Craig:  
Sky Masterson



Ross Andrew:  
Arvide Abernathy



Andrew Martin:  
Rusty Charlie



Robbie McAdam:  
Nathan Detroit



Some of you may have noticed scaffolding at the stair window of Craigweil House during the summer holidays and you may have wondered what was happening there.

The stained glass window that lights the stair was in a poor condition. Accidents over the years and some unsightly repairs meant that the window was no longer an attractive feature. In addition, the stone of the transoms and mullions was heavily eroded and the panels of leaded glass were seriously deformed. But this has all changed.

All the leaded panels were removed from the opening and taken to the studio of Stained Glass Design Partnership in Kilmours, which is owned by the parents of Jianghong Lucky (S4).

Jianghong helped in the restoration by carefully removing all the old lead from around the individual panes of glass and gently washing all the intact original glass in warm soapy water. Skilled craftsmen and women then chose glass of the correct colour and texture to replace the damaged panes and cut the new pieces of glass to the appropriate size and shape.

The panels were then re-assembled using new lead calmes, carefully replicating the pattern of the original work. Each place that two leads touch needed to be soldered and each panel was then sealed with a special sealant to make sure that all areas are strong and weatherproof. Copper tie wires were soldered to the inside of the panels and when the panels were installed

these were tied to the special brass bars that support the windows.

In conjunction with the stained glass work, all the window masonry, moulded mullions and transoms were replaced by local firm Scotcourt (Stonemasons) Ltd of Crown Street, Ayr.

As with the glass the new stones had to be carefully matched to the original. This meant sourcing them from the correct quarry before they could be accurately cut to size and shape and lifted into position in the wall, so the existing stone was cored and sent for testing at the British Geological Society to allow a suitable replacement stone to be obtained.

Next came full removal of the existing decayed stones. Mould 'templates' were taken at the stonemasons' workshop to ensure replication of profile was assured in profiling the new chosen stone. Thereafter the newly formed masonry was built using stainless steel dowels and traditional lime mortar.

Now that the work is complete, the entire window – stone, glass and lead – has been restored to its original neat and sparkling appearance. More importantly, it is ready for another century or more of letting the light in while keeping the weather out.

It is hoped that during the next two summer holidays the stair windows of Carleton Turrets and Drumley House will also be restored.

The stained glass was originally made by W. B. Simpson and Sons. This company was founded by William Butler Simpson in 1833, continued through five generations of Simpsons and is still in existence. Nowadays the company only undertakes commercial tiling but in the Victorian period this was a decorating firm working in many media and undertaking domestic, commercial and ecclesiastical work, two specialities being pub-fitting and ceramics. Millions of people have seen their work because they made ALL the tiles for the London Underground from the very beginning until the present day.



*The completed work from the exterior*

*Renovation in progress*



# Craigweil Restoration: Stained Glass Replacement



## Bugsy Malone

The Junior Department's 'Bugsy Malone', (director Mrs Mackenzie, musical director Mrs Docherty), entertained full audiences in June. A rich mixture of song, dance and theatre set in 1929 New York City, the story tells of the rise of Bugsy Malone and the battle for power between Fat Sam and Dandy Dan.

Lewis MacLeay learnt innumerable lines as Bugsy and delivered them with aplomb. Mitchel Wyllie was an excellent Fat Sam surrounded by some convincingly dense 'hoods' - Tom Scott, Morgan Fitzsimmons, John Lomas and Ronan Aitken.

The girls were suitably decorous and Stephanie Craig and Alex Breslin both sang beautifully.

Bobby Walker was menacing as Dandy Dan with his threatening gang of Ross McCorkindale, Jack Stevenson, Jack Currie, Hamish Ablett and Neil Large.

All the children in P4, 5 and 6 classes gave up lunchtimes and play times to rehearse Bugsy and to learn the dances. A strong New York accent prevailed. They worked incredibly hard and enthusiastically and performed a memorable show.



## Troon by Train for P1

Primary One enjoyed a trip to Troon on the train and back again as part of their local area topic.

They also visited significant features of the town of Ayr, seeing the ramparts of the Citadel and St John's Tower, followed by a trip to Dunure to see the harbour and the ruined castle.

A trip to Catrine House was extremely popular with the bonus of a delicious home-made ice-cream at the end!

During a walk down to the River Ayr, they were looking for signs of autumn as they went and with the help of the information sheets on their clipboards were able to identify lots of different plants. Great fun was had; walking, climbing, discovering and collecting things in the countryside.



## Ecoman's message is 'Love your Planet'

Wellington Junior School celebrated World Environment Day on Friday 3rd June 2011. The pupils were joined by the environment superhero 'Ecoman' also known as Gordon Carslaw, a student from Glasgow Caledonian University. Ecoman opened the event and explained to all the pupils how he was fighting to save the planet by encouraging students to recycle, save energy, be eco friendly and look after the world.

The environmental activities arranged by Mrs Rigg and the eco committee were welcomed by all. Children enjoyed participating in an eco song competition, a recycling quiz, a skip off for the British Heart Foundation and an Eco Fair to which parents were invited. The sandcastle competition organized by primary one pupils William and Elsa was a great success. Staff embraced the day encouraging children to get involved. The Eco Fair gave pupils an opportunity to showcase all the work they have been involved in to look after the environment and gain Wellington's Green Eco Flag. Various stalls were run by pupils and staff displaying information and promoting several issues including Fairtrade, Junior Road Safety Officers, eco bags, recycling, eco fashion, litter picking, Thrift Shop, Cycle Club and the Green Fingers Gardening Club. Parents were also invited to join the Corsehill Park Tour involving minibuses taking Ecoman and parents to a local park where Wellington pupils have been given an area of ground to develop and maintain.

The key message 'Love your planet' was truly taken on board. World Environment Day is an internationally recognized celebration and it is a credit to all staff, pupils and parents involved who have made the day such a success. Mrs Rigg was 'delighted that Ecoman was able to attend this important day and that he has motivated everyone to take our good work into the community and beyond!'

# S3 pupils go downstream

S3 pupils participated in a three day geographical expedition to Loch Ranza in Arran during June.

Pupils completed fieldwork on river and glacial landscapes. Mapping skills were improved by completing two orienteering courses.

A visit to Brodick allowed fieldwork to be carried out in an urban setting. Pupils carried out a tourist questionnaire, an environmental index and traffic survey. The data gathered during the visit was then processed onto maps and graphical analysis sheets at school.

However, the highlight of the trip was the opportunity to gorge walk in North Glen Sannox. Walking through muddy puddles to remove inhibitions was the start of a thrilling, if cold experience as pupils slid down waterfalls and jumped into plunge pools.



# Geography focus

## S2 pupils head for Lead Hills Mining Museum

S2 geography pupils visited The Lead Hills Mining Museum at Wanlockhead in September.

This is part of their coursework which focuses on rocks and their uses.

The pupils visit the museum to investigate

the uses of metal ores such as lead pipes and how lead weights keep the Leaning Tower of Pisa from falling over.

They also 'pan for gold' and take a trip into the mine to learn about the process of mining.

## Culzean for S5

Higher Grade geography pupils took part in coastal fieldwork at Culzean. Part of their higher course requires an understanding of coastal erosion and features such as headlands, caves, arches and stacks. This is an opportunity to discover parts of Ayrshire which they did not know existed. It also helps pupils to understand the formation of the coastal landscape. As a result they are better prepared to answer questions during national examinations.

# Art and Design News

## Maclaurin Exhibition

We were delighted that Wellington pupils won almost half the awards in the 2011 Maclaurin Art Exhibition held in June and July.

John Walker of the Maclaurin Trust officiated at the awards ceremony which took place on Saturday 18th June at the Maclaurin Galleries.

In addition to the usual sections, the judges were so impressed with the 3D work this year that they created a new award for



Alistair Kidd with the winning 3D exhibit, a chess set by S2 pupils

## Show Programme

S2 pupils have been producing posters to advertise the school show.

Congratulations to Lucy Dempster whose very apt and effective design was chosen as the cover image for the programme.

Around 20 of the best poster designs were on exhibition at the theatre during the three day run of the show.



Rebekah Gavin with her winning portrait 'Concentration'

this category, and Wellington are the 1st recipients.

### Award Winners:

Nursery: Megan Williamson,  
Primary: Fraser Nolan,

Senior: Rebekah Gavin and Rory Boyle.  
3D Award: Class S1 (mixed group)

### Commended Entries

Senior: Emile Beattie, Ivana Ostojic and Shannon Cowan



*Standard Grade 1st Kathryn Thomson*

## Art Spectacular

The department's annual Art Spectacular Exhibition was held on Wednesday 24th August.

Carleton Turrets Hall and Drumley Hall were transformed by the vibrant display of several hundred pieces of work during the event.

These included a range of wonderful observational drawings, expressive paintings and exciting design work (for example jewellery, sporran and graphic design) by pupils from Nursery to S6.

Prizes for the event were kindly provided by the Wellington School Association.

Three prizes were awarded in each of the six age group categories and a further 3 pieces of work in each category were 'highly commended'.

First prizes were awarded to:

Jenna Lomas Nursery,  
Eve McArthur - Infants,  
Lucy Davidson - Primary,  
Shannon Cowan - Junior,  
Kathryn Thomson - Standard Grade  
Gemma Travers - Higher/Advanced  
Higher.

The overall winner of the Wellington Association Award for Excellence in Art and Design was Gemma Travers from last year's S6.



*Wellington School  
Association prize for  
(whole folio)  
Excellence in Art  
Gemma Travers*



Gemma has now embarked on her degree at Gray's School of Art, Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen.

The judges at the event were painter and former pupil Sarah Muirhead, and new media artist Alan Currall who is also part-time lecturer at both Glasgow School of Art and Edinburgh College of Art.

## Silvana McLean

In September S1 pupils took part in a workshop with Scottish printmaker and painter Silvana McLean.

Silvana showed pupils examples of both preparatory sketchbooks and finished work and gave them the opportunity to ask about her inspiration and methods.

Pupils were then led through the process of preparing a collagraph printing plate, based on the sea, which they are currently printing as part of their seascape project.



*Silvana McLean  
giving advice to S1  
pupil Holly Martin*



*Infants 1st  
Eve Macarthur*

## News In brief

### Non-Uniform Day

There will be a Non-Uniform day on Tuesday 13 December, in aid of the 6th year Charity, Rays of Sunshine.

### Business Challenge

Eight pupils from the Higher Business Management Class participated in the South Ayrshire Schools Business Challenge held on Wednesday 16th November and hosted by National Air Traffic Control Centre in Prestwick (NATS).

### German Exchange

30 pupils in S2 and S3 are looking forward to their exchange visit to Germany at the end of November. Christmas Market, here we come!

### Christmas Craft Fair

The Christmas Craft Fair, in aid of the 6th year Charity, Rays of Sunshine, was held on 24 November in Carleton Turrets Hall and raised over £3000.

### Stratford Theatre Trip 2011

On Monday 3rd October, a group of twenty pupils with Mrs Downie and Miss Garven left Carleton Turrets for Stratford-upon-Avon.

The weather was wonderful and we saw a lot of Stratford, which is beautiful, rowed on the river Avon, had a boat trip, visited Shakespeare's birthplace and his grave, and, of course, saw two plays. The first was Macbeth by Shakespeare, and the second was The City Madam by Philip Massinger who lived at the same time as Shakespeare. We returned home on Wednesday.

### Ayrshire Schools Cross Country

The Senior Team came in first overall (Kirsten Lundie, Isla Lundie, Julianna Brock, Hanna Smith)

The S3 team came in second overall (Lucy Cogley, Lucy Illingworth, Paris Bertschy, Emily Reece).

In this race Lucy Cogley came 1st overall out of approximately 100 runners.

### South West Hockey District

The following girls have been selected to represent the U16 and U18 South West District Hockey Teams:

U16's, Zoe Sinclair, Verity MacDonald, Millie MacDonough.

U18 level, Eve-Anne Travers.

## Stop Press

Verity Macdonald and Zoë Sinclair have been selected to attend an U16 Scotland Hockey trial after they were scouted at the Inter-district Tournament held in November.

Miss Brierly said "Its great news! I am very pleased with how they are progressing and it is a nice reward for all their hard work."

## Recently seen at Doonside...



## Top Sporting Honours for Heather



Congratulations to Heather Murdoch, 4MO, awarded her full International Initial for Ice Skating.

Heather is the Scottish Junior skating pairs Champion, the British Novice Champion, and has been selected for the International Development Squad 2011/12.

We all wish her the very best in what promises to be a very exciting future.

## Jack at Rugby Development Camp



Congratulations to Jack Preston (S4) who was selected to participate in a 5 day residential National U16 Player Development Camp during the October holidays, organised by Scottish Rugby and held at Loretto School, Musselburgh.

Jack was required to take part in various training activities including Improving Individual Skills, Developing Specialist Skills, and Classroom Based Workshops.

Jack found the Camp to be very beneficial to his ongoing rugby development.

## Javelin Success for James



Congratulations to James Armstrong of S4 who won the Under 17 Javelin Event at the Scottish Track and Field at Grangemouth Stadium on Friday 10 June.

James also broke the School Record for the Javelin this year, with a distance of 41.80m.

## Swimming

The Primary Ayrshire School Swimming Gala was again a success with Oliver Smith getting a consideration time for both his strokes back crawl and front crawl.

There was some fantastic swimming in breast stroke and back crawl from Alexandra Kendal who narrowly missed out in selection.

Adam Hanzley and John Lomas produced great times in back crawl.

Amy Phillips, Heather McCreadie and Katie Cosh had PB's in front crawl and both the girls and boys relay came easily into first place.





# Our Duke of Edinburgh Experience

By Lucy Illingworth and Rosalyn Thomson

Our Duke of Edinburgh experience can be summed up in many words. Exciting, fun, challenging and rewarding. Apart from being highly recognised by universities, the award scheme brings friendships closer together.

We started each walk with enthusiasm and courage. However these positive feelings dissolved during countless problems that we faced while walking. Keeping spirits high through out the expeditions were essential for completing the challenge. With our heavy rucksacks piled on to our backs, the award was made a feat in itself before we had even started walking. Encouragement overcame this worry. Day one on our final expedition, for us, was not a pleasant walk. The weather changed

constantly from treacherous rain, to gale force winds, to blazing sunshine. This unpredictable weather led us to surmise snow. After a couple of hairy fits, mud baths and a few tears we eventually made it to the campsite, alive, after nine hours of walking.

For those people who hadn't experienced camping before, it was an event that will never be forgotten. Apart from strong winds and grumpy deer groaning during the night, camping with friends was like a 'huge sleepover'. However this positive correlation was not praised by everybody.

The second day, in contrast to the first was extremely fun. We sang jolly and cheerful songs and chants to keep up team spirits. Scrambling through boulders could have been a nightmare but with help

and encouragement from each other we managed. The scenery of the sea was amazing whilst walking on the shore also made it more enjoyable. Our groups were ecstatic when we found out that we were walking at the perfect pace to get to the ferry in time. All everybody wanted was a hot shower, a cosy bed and their mums.

The scruffy Arran ferry was luxury to all, in contrast to the campsite. Most of us spent the whole journey huddled round a mug of hot chocolate whilst warming their hands and resting their feet.

Overall the Duke of Edinburgh experience was a rewarding time for everyone who participated and we would recommend it to anyone who gets the opportunity. It may have seemed a nightmare at the time, but trust us, looking back on it, it is a comedy.

## Outdoor Nursery Flourishes

Since the Outdoor Nursery opened in August the children have been developing lots of new skills - from identifying plants and wildlife to using tools, climbing trees and swinging on rope swings.

The children have been getting used to walking into the woods from the pavilion as some of them found it quite challenging and even now the first thing we do when we get to the woods is wash our hands and have a snack. Once we have all finished our snack the children decide what they would like to do. Some climb trees while others work together with the ropes and just recently some of the children have been developing their skills for using tools.

There is plenty of learning taking place. Safety became our first topic and continues to be of great importance as we introduce the safe use of tools. The children have just started using Whittling Peelers, Junior Hacksaws and a Hand Drill. When introducing a new tool to the children we ask them what they already know before showing the tool to them. We ask 'What are tools for?' Ryan said 'they fix things,' Darragh said 'they cut things' and Ben said 'for digging things.' Mrs Smith held up the Junior Hacksaw and Alf-Kirk said 'that's

dangerous for children.' Mrs Smith said 'not if we use it safely' and then continued to talk to the children about how we use the Hacksaw safely. At the Outdoor Nursery we only encourage the children to use a tool when we believe the children have all the information to use the tool safely and confidently. If a child does not want to use a tool then they don't have to. When using the Whittling Peelers Stuart told us 'it pulls the skin off the sticks.' The children are developing a good understanding of what the tools are used for and how to use them safely.

The children also spent a week investigating mushrooms, looking at size, colour and shape. Each child being able to identify mushrooms/fungi is vital as there are many varieties at Doonside.

We use the natural resources we have to develop literacy skills through different writing materials like small note pads which the children may carry with them to mark making in the mud, singing songs and enjoying stories.

Developing numeracy skills, the children count each other as we set off in the morning and again when we leave the

woods. We are always considering shape and size of sticks, leaves, insects and puddles. We had lots of fun exploring puddles by putting sticks into the puddle to find out if they were too deep for us to step in or if they were just right for us to jump and run into.

We are all learning many new skills whilst having lots of fun exploring the woods at the Outdoor Nursery.





### Mrs Lesley Hunter

The department is delighted to welcome Mrs Hunter as our new part-time Teacher of Art and Design. Mrs Hunter graduated from Glasgow School of Art with a BA (Hons) in 1997. She has both primary and secondary experience, having taught in Inverclyde, Midlothian and Fallingbostal, Germany. In addition to her artistic interests Mrs Hunter is a keen musician and sailor.



### Miss Emma Lawson

Miss Lawson has been appointed as a Class Teacher for Primary 3. She was educated at Craigholme School, the University of Edinburgh (MA Geography and Sociology) and University of the West of Scotland (PGDE). Miss Lawson joins us from Troon Primary School; she is a highly qualified, enthusiastic and caring teacher.



### Miss Brenda MacAngus

Miss MacAngus joins us as a teacher of Maths having graduated with Ma (Hons). Originally from Tain, she now lives in Troon. She is an exceptionally able mathematician giving us considerable additional capacity up to Advanced Higher in the department where Mr Stuart Cathro has been promoted to Principal Teacher of Mathematics after 9 years at Wellington School.



### Mrs Mhairi Gibson

Mrs Gibson joins us as Early Years Practitioner for the Outdoors Nursery. She obtained her BA in Childhood Studies with Distinction in May 2011 having already qualified with an HNC Childcare and Education in 2006. Mrs Gibson joins us from Cairn Primary. She is a skilled musician, and is passionate about the creative learning opportunities available to children outdoors.



### Miss Susan Duncan

Miss Duncan joins Wellington as part-time Support for Learning Teacher in the Junior School. Miss Duncan graduated with a BEd (Hons) in 1994. She gained a Post Graduate Certificate in Support for Learning in 1998 from University of Strathclyde and completed further study of children with Dyslexia and Autism. She has worked for the past 17 years in Dumfries and Galloway, latterly at Sanquhar Primary School. She is an enthusiastic and highly qualified teacher.



### Mrs Gillian Simmons

Mrs Simmons joins us as part-time Early Years Practitioner for the Nursery. She graduated from University of Paisley with a BA (Hons) in 1998 and from University of Strathclyde with PGDE (Merit in Teaching) in 2007. Mrs Simmons worked in Langfauld's Primary School, Glasgow and in Hospital Education, Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Glasgow. She is a dedicated, sensitive and caring teacher who will nurture our youngest children in Wellington School.



### Mrs Catherine Ness

Mrs Ness joins the Science Department as a probationer teacher of Biology and Science. Having worked as a Veterinary Surgeon for 16 years in Uganda, Haiti, Nepal and finally Scotland, and with a Masters degree from the Centre for Tropical Veterinary Medicine, she brings a wealth of additional experience to the post. Her pastimes include skiing, cycling, running, swimming and scuba diving.

## Dates for your Diary

|                      |                                       |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Thursday 15 December | Nursery finishes                      |
| Thursday 15 December | Junior School Christmas Service 14.00 |
| Friday 16 December   | Senior School Christmas Service 10.30 |
| Friday 16 December   | School closes                         |
| Tuesday 10 January   | Pupils return to school               |
| Monday 16 January    | S4 Prelims Begin                      |
| Monday 16 January    | S4 Study Leave Begins                 |
| Tuesday 17 January   | P7/S1 Parents' Evening                |
| Wednesday 25 January | S3 Parents' Evening                   |
| Monday 30 January    | S4 Return to School                   |

## Office Bearers 2011/2012

### Senior School:

|           |                  |
|-----------|------------------|
| Head Boy  | Rory Craig       |
| Deputy    | Oliver Greenall  |
| Head Girl | Eve-Anne Travers |
| Deputy    | Ruth Dunsmuir    |

### Junior School:

|           |                 |
|-----------|-----------------|
| Head Boy  | Bradley Bennett |
| Head Girl | Eve Armstrong   |

