



# the turret

WELLINGTON SCHOOL  
NEWSLETTER

Winter 2010

Ayrshire's only Independent School

Founded 1836

## Flyaway Theatre Success



*Edward Russell, Emily Westwood, Kenneth Manderson and Martin McHard*

Wellington School is well known for the quality of its drama productions and this year's show, 'Peter Pan', held in Kilmarnock's Palace Theatre, was no exception.

Each main character brought something unique to the show. Blair Stevenson's portrayal of the wicked Captain Hook was very convincing and yet comical. John and Michael, played by Kenneth Manderson

and Martin McHard, acted very well together as the playful Darling brothers. Emily Westwood as Wendy held everyone together on stage with both her fantastic acting and sheer enthusiasm. Finally Edward Russell, playing the part of Peter Pan, had a likeness both in appearance and attitude to the character, and a truly spine-tingling singing voice.

*full review on the centre pages*

## International School Award

In the very positive HMI's Inspection Report for Wellington School published on 2nd November one of the five particular strengths of the school was identified as: "The embedding of international education across all sectors and stages."

Not surprising considering the exciting developments at Wellington at the moment in Modern Languages,

The School has just been awarded full International School status by the British Council, in recognition of its work to bring the wider world into the classroom.

We have a Comenius project running that involves cooperation with schools from 4 other European countries (where all the conferences are held in French) and we are 1 of only 5 schools in Scotland to have a Comenius Assistant (Anita Bugovits, Hungarian) this year, appointed by the British Council.

The Sunday Times recently highlighted the range of language opportunities at Wellington, including rugby tours and regular pupil exchanges with schools in both France and Germany.

Languages have always been strong at Wellington, and pupils derive great benefit from the opportunities to perfect their language skills whilst getting a taste of other cultures.

The three key criteria for the International School Award are: 'year round international activity'; 'an international ethos embedded throughout the school'; and 'a majority of pupils within the school impacted by and involved in international work'.

*more details on page 3*

## Eco-Schools Green Flag Award



In June this year Wellington was delighted to achieve its first Eco-Schools Green Flag. This is a magnificent achievement for all three areas of the school: the Nursery, Primary and Secondary departments.

This award is of particular importance for the Secondary department as we are only the second Secondary School in South Ayrshire to achieve this prestigious award. Working towards this over the past year has been challenging and time-consuming but a lot of fun for the pupils and staff involved.

*see page 4 for full story*





# Interview with our Comenius Assistant, Anita

My name is Anita Bugovits and I come from Szombathely in Hungary.

## What do you do in Wellington School?

As a Comenius assistant, I support the teaching of German in school and three times a week I teach Hungarian language and culture for the Seniors, as well as for the Primary 3 pupils. On Saturdays I accompany the rugby teams to matches and if my timetable allows it, I can even go for school trips to get to know this beautiful country better.

## How long will you be staying here?

I will be staying here till Christmas and if everything goes well, I can apply for extension at my National Agency for some more weeks which I really hope to get.

## Have you visited Scotland before?

No, this is my first time in the United Kingdom but despite being far from home, I like Scotland and Ayr so much that I can feel absolutely comfortable, not to mention how kind and friendly people are with me here.

## Is Ayr very different from your home town?

On one hand it is very different but on the other hand it is not. Both of them are nice places to live, not crowded, quite safe. In my hometown, Szombathely, there are some parks, a small lake and a lovely town centre where you can go for a walk or just sit on a bank and enjoy the sights. But of course the sea is wonderful here in Ayr, and when I first saw the location of the school on the seaside, I was amazed and

thought how lucky you are and of course how lucky I am too, that I can be here. The stone or sandstone houses look very different, and also the traffic on the left side and the driver's seat, they still confuse me all the time.

## What do you hope to do when you return home?

When I return home to Hungary I hope that I will be able to use the good technical experience that I have gained here so that I can be a good teacher of English and German. In this school I have had the opportunity to try new things that I have never done before, for example I am trained as a secondary school teacher but in Wellington school I can work with small children as well, which is a nice challenge that I enjoy very much.

I also hope that I can make good connections and friendships that could help in developing the international links between our countries in the future.



Comenius students from France, Germany, Hungary, Scotland and Slovenia in Ayr in October 2010

## Pupil Assembly for European Day of Languages

27th September was European Day of Languages and at assembly Caoimhe Hunter-Blair, Captain of Modern Languages, and Mina Green talked to their peers about their involvement in Wellington's Comenius Project. Below is the gist of what they said that day:

Next week the second part of Wellington School's Comenius project begins, as representatives from the French, German, Hungarian, and Slovenian schools will come here to work on the main part of the project where we will all bring together the work we have done over the past year. I hope that all of you will make the most of this opportunity to meet new people, to learn about other cultures, and to get involved in the Comenius project.

The Comenius programme is a programme established by the European Union aimed at bringing students and teachers in different European countries together. It has two main objectives: to develop knowledge and understanding among young people and education staff of the diversity of European

cultures and languages, and the value of this diversity and interdependence; to help young people to acquire basic life skills and competences for their personal development, for future employment and for active European citizenship.

Every couple of years a new project within the Comenius programme begins. The project our school is currently involved in is called 'Beyond the Iron Curtain'. We are learning all about (and comparing) what life was like on either side of the Iron Curtain in the 1960s. The Iron Curtain was a symbol of both the physical and ideological separation of Europe, playing a significant role in European history.

Being a part of the Comenius project is not, as some people may think, a chance to get a free holiday. Being a part of the Comenius project improves your communication skills, it gives you a chance to meet many new people, and also gives you the chance to learn and experience other cultures (which in my opinion is critical in this modern day and age).

I cannot stress enough to you all the importance of learning a foreign language. Young people, from the United Kingdom in particular, are at a growing disadvantage in the recruitment world, because of our introspective approach to speaking other languages and embracing other cultures. How many of you have been abroad and been served by someone who flips from their native tongue to English, Spanish, French and Italian without hesitation? We are all part of Europe and the competition for good jobs is getting fiercer. If you were the employer and had to choose between two candidates of the same ability, but one could speak more than one language, which candidate would be the better investment in this global economy?

We are all given many opportunities at Wellington School, and as Mr Parlour tells us repeatedly, we must grab these opportunities and make the most of them. Being part of the Comenius project does require some form of commitment and does involve a little bit of work, but we would recommend it to you all.

# Rugby Sevens Tour of France 2010



*The Wellington team before their first fixture in France*



*Enjoying the opportunity to see Saumur*

Wellington has a huge number of trips and exchanges for pupils, including the regular rugby exchanges that create perhaps the most surprising enthusiasts for modern languages.

On Friday 8th October a group of 10 rugby players, accompanied by Mr Ness and Mrs Coontz, travelled to France to play Sevens. In conjunction with the Modern Languages Department, the aim was to immerse the boys in French culture and traditions, encourage dialogue and experience playing rugby in a different environment. This has now become a popular fixture in the Wellington Sporting Calendar.

On arrival at St Vincent in Senlis near Paris, each boy was collected by his opposite

number and taken away to be looked after for the evening. The next morning we arrived at the Rugby Club to play our first game against St Vincent. After a thorough warm up and a run through of tactics, the boys started well and moved the ball wide into space. A substantial score was built up and the game was won 74 - 17. After lunch the boys borrowed 5 French players to play a game of 15-a-side against a local club side. Again the boys took control of the game and won comfortably at the final whistle.

The next stage of the tour involved travelling to the Loire Valley to play St Louis in Saumur. A tournament had been organised and the local club was also involved.

Playing each other twice, Wellington beat St Louis on both occasions, drew one game and won the other game against the local rugby club to win the tournament.

Due to the French strikes, Mrs Coontz was forced to find alternative arrangements to get the group back to Scotland. We stayed an extra two days in Saumur and soaked up the French hospitality and 25 degrees sunshine. We played golf, table tennis, badminton and used the climbing wall in school. We also visited the national equestrian centre, a tank museum and a wine cellar.

Due to the success of this fixture we are hoping to run a similar weekend in the New Year for younger pupils.

## International School Award (continued from front page)

The International School Award seeks to celebrate, develop, recognise and accredit outstanding practice in the international

dimensions of teaching and learning. Fostering an international dimension in the curriculum is at the heart of the British

Council's work with schools, so that young people gain the cultural understanding and skills they need to live and work as global citizens.

For a week before October half-term Wellington became a true multilingual and multicultural environment. Pupils from our partner schools in France, Germany, Hungary and Slovenia arrived to work on the next stage of our Comenius project.

During the four days of official activities, pupils from all five schools wrote articles for our forthcoming newspaper on life in Europe during the 1960s. Our visitors also visited Glasgow, Edinburgh and Arran. On the final evening our guests were treated to a Scottish meal followed by a Ceilidh and they enjoyed learning new dances.

For our European students, the highlight of the visit was the warm hospitality provided by so many Wellington pupils from P6 to S6. Our visitors enjoyed learning about life in Scotland by living with families.

Pupils in the senior school are now looking forward to their visit to Berlin, Weimar and Munich next spring.



*The German girls and staff in their Dirndls at the ceilidh*



# Lewis wins National Poetry Competition

## Young Engineers win at Faslane

The three attendees were Saul McNally-Summers, Christopher Rae & Mairi Archbold, and Saul's report follows:

The Royal Navy Challenge Day at Faslane began with a short briefing where the contestants were welcomed and had the challenges outlined. We had already been separated in to 22 different teams and we were led upstairs to our bases. After introducing ourselves to our team members, we began work on the first of the two tasks.

This consisted of a road that had cracks in it and debris on top following an earthquake disaster. Our first challenge was to remove the debris, for which my team designed a pulley system, and the other half of the task was to build a bridge so that vehicles could pass across. Eventually, after an hour and a half, we assembled downstairs to be judged.

Afterwards, half of the teams were taken to the Faslane Naval base where we looked around the SONAR training room and also witnessed a simulation of a torpedo attack in the submarine control room training suite. The other half stayed for lunch and after an hour we swapped.

The second task took place on either sides of a river where a hospital had no electricity, again thanks to an earthquake. The challenge was to build two pylons and a bridge that would connect the circuit. After another hour and a half, the teams were judged and we later assembled for the prize-giving.

There were 4 prizes - one for effort, two for each of the individual tasks and an overall winner. My team won the individual prize for the hospital task for which we won £25 along with many other Royal Navy gifts.

### Goat Fell

It is as big and as strong as a lion  
Sitting still, quiet  
Not a movement  
It is all alone in the cold frosty air  
With snow like sugar sprinkled on top  
It is as long as a giraffe's neck  
From end to end bumpy rocks  
What a beautiful sight!

Then on a summer's day the  
sun hits the rocks and they glow  
golden brown  
All the birds from the sea roost  
on it  
What a beautiful sight!

On a cloudy day it is all dull  
Nothing but grey cloud  
The mountain sits behind it like  
a child sitting sobbing on a dull  
cloudy day.

## Eco-Schools (continued from front page)

Work on School Grounds and increasing Biodiversity has been a main feature of our action this year. The Eco Garden and the Millennium Garden look fantastic and are being enjoyed by a variety of wildlife.

Since carrying out their environmental review in January and updating their eco action plan the Infant and Junior eco committee have coordinated various new projects as well as overseeing the continuation of previous schemes. Drumley now has adopted a dolphin after raising money on Animal Day where pupils brought in toy animals and wore animal clothes.

All pupils from the Infant and Junior departments were involved in a range of eco activities on June 3rd to celebrate World Environment Day: Guest speakers from Hessilhead Wildlife Centre and South

Ayrshire council gave presentations on rescuing injured wildlife and biodiversity.

The Nursery children have lived up to their eco-code of 'Reduce, Reuse, Recycle' and will scold anyone who dares put the wrong thing into their recycling bins.

They've had great fun visiting Heathfield Recycling Centre and also had a very interesting visit to Whitelees Wind farm. This year the Nursery has been attempting to make their garden a more sensory area and they are well on their way to achieving this.

Thanks to the children for all their hard work and a big thank you to the parents who have made such kind donations and continually take time out to either attend the committee meetings or help out in the garden. Your support is very much appreciated.

Lewis Costley and Jade McIntyre were both competition winners in the recent Eco-Schools Scotland Expressive Arts Competition.

Lewis Costley in Primary 7 Dunure has won a national poetry competition organised by Eco Schools Scotland with the title 'Beauty and the Beastie - Scotland From Flow to Forest'.

All pupils from P7 to 2nd year took part in a Poetry Day in June. Each pupil produced a poem on the theme and these were submitted to the competition. Lewis was the winner in the Primary Poetry Category and he attended an awards ceremony in Edinburgh at the end of September. His prize was a fabulous biodiversity pack for the school and a professional poet, Gerry Cambridge, has offered his services to come to Primary 7 and work with the class for a whole day on nature poetry writing.

Jade McIntyre was runner up in the Secondary Schools Section.

Also finalists in the competition were Emma Carmichael, Christopher Large and Hamish Matthewson.

Jade McIntyre receiving her certificate



Lewis Costley, 1st prize





## S3 Geography/ Physics Excursion to Wind Farm

In May, S3 pupils visited Whitelees Wind Farm where they took part in a discussion on what were the facts and opinions on wind energy and renewable forms of energy. The pupils then split into three groups and discussed the advantages and disadvantages of wind, hydro and tidal power in Scotland. Each group put the case for and against their type of renewable energy. At the end of the session the pupils voted for the best type of renewable energy for Scotland.

The pupils then had the opportunity to participate in energy related experiments and were taken on a tour of the wind farm. Whitelees is the largest on-shore wind farm in Europe. It has 140 turbines with plans for another 60.



## HE Fair/Careers Convention

The biennial Higher Education Fair and Careers Convention took place in March. In attendance at the Higher Education Fair were representatives from many Scottish Universities and Colleges, together with the Armed Forces and Skills Development Scotland. BUNAC also attended this year for the first time, and gave pupils an insight in to some of the many opportunities available to those who may wish to take a GAP year. All pupils, from S2 - S6, were given an opportunity to visit the Fair.

In the evening, consultants from a wide range of career paths gave up their time to attend the Careers Convention, where they were available to answer questions relating to all aspects of their particular job. This proved to be an invaluable experience for many of the pupils as they gained a real insight into the careers they were particularly interested in. Dentistry, medicine, architecture, law, the hospitality industry, journalism, accountancy and air traffic control were among the many careers represented.

## Over £21,000 Raised for Charity Again

The incredible sum of £21,883 was raised by Wellington School's 2009/10 charity appeal for Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research.

As in previous years, the whole of the Wellington School community was involved in this charity effort throughout the year, from the annual Wellington Christmas Fair, through non-uniform days, cake and candy sales, and collections made at local churches and Wellington School shows.

Sponsored events brought in more, as did

charity sports events such as the Fun Run in March. Donations amounting to £1405 were also gratefully received to take the total to over £21,000.

The picture shows 2009-2010 Wellington School Head Girl and Head Boy Catriona McGregor and Christopher McKelvey, with a representative of Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research.

The charity chosen by the Sixth Year this session is The Yorkhill Children's Foundation.



## News In brief

### RSC Award for Chris

Christopher McKelvey, Head Boy last year, has won the RSC (Royal Society of Chemistry) prize for the best Advanced Higher investigation in Scotland.

The Royal Society of Chemistry presented an award to Christopher McKelvey as the top student in the Advanced Higher Chemistry Investigation at Our Dynamic Earth, Edinburgh on Wednesday 10 November.

### UCAPE Diplomas

Caoimhe Hunter Blair and Rhona McGregor have been awarded diplomas for European citizenship by UCAPE, an international association based in Belgium. The girls have successfully completed residence abroad, individual study projects on European issues and have displayed excellence in their chosen languages. Both girls continue to be fully committed to the European dimension at Wellington and are helping to drive forward our work on the Comenius project.

### Ayrshire & District Netball

Eve-Anne Travers (S5) and Millie MacDonough (S3) have both been selected for the Ayrshire Netball squads in their age groups.

Eve-Anne Travers, Millie MacDonough, Verity MacDonald and Ruth Dunsmuir have been selected to represent South West Scotland at U16 level, together with Fiona Preston, Zoe Haddow and Rhona McGregor at U18 level.

### Junior Book Fair

The Book Fair for P1-P7 will soon be arriving and we look forward to seeing lots of pupils and parents there. The Primary Department can now get up to 100% commission on the amount of books we sell at the fair which makes a huge difference to both class libraries and the library on the top floor of Drumley.

### Gillian is DofE Ambassador

Gillian Howie, who recently completed her Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award, has been appointed as a DofE Ambassador in Scotland for the next 3 years.



DofE Ambassadors are young participants and Award holders who are keen to contribute towards the work of the DofE. They personally believe in the benefit of the DofE through the adventures and experiences they have gained doing their DofE. They use their knowledge and understanding to actively represent and promote the charity, helping to deliver the key messages to young people in Scotland.

# Juniors Inside and Out



Primary 5 classes have just completed their topic on Roman Britain. They visited the Hunterian Museum in Glasgow where they participated in workshops on the Romans in Scotland. They explored a legionary's kitbag, examined Roman artefacts, wrote on wax tablets and dressed up as a Roman legionary. They completed the topic with an excellent Roman Feast. The pupils organised costumes, food and entertainment, including a song from their music lessons.

In November, Primary 5 will be a voting centre for 'a RIGHT blether' – a national consultation about children's rights. As part of Health and Wellbeing the pupils have been participating in an exciting range of activities, learning about the

United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. The vote will be open to all pupils in the Junior Department and then Primary 5 pupils will collate the results and return them to Tam Baillie, Scotland's Commissioner for Children and Young People.

Primary 5 Dalrymple organised a shoebox project to help children less fortunate than themselves. The distributed letters and leaflets to the Nursery and Primary Departments, asking for donations of shoeboxes filled with gifts. On Friday 12th November, the pupils delivered 70 shoeboxes to the Ayrshire Depot. This was an excellent response and will make Christmas special for children in other countries. *P5 pupils with the shoeboxes*



## P4 Junior Apprentices

In line with Curriculum for Excellence outcomes, P4 are busy researching different aspects of Ancient Egypt. This topic is proving to be an excellent vehicle to develop research and presentation skills. The children are working confidently in small groups to produce their very own presentations. With the use of our new Filp cameras, these oral, written and multimedia performances will be recorded and presented to parents to inform them of their children's learning.



On the 19th May, Primary 5 travelled by ferry to Arran for three days activities at the Lochranza Field Studies Centre. Activities started with orienteering. After a short introductory course around the centre working on navigation skills, groups of pupils negotiated a two mile course through Glen Chalmadale. The next day we completed a full day coastal walk from Tormore to Blackwaterfoot. We studied the geology of Arran and investigated coastal features including

Kings Cave. Back in the classroom, after dinner, the pupils investigated different types of rocks, identified during the day. On the Friday morning, pupils walked to Lochranza shore to identify plants and animals in each zone of the seashore. All too soon it was time to head back for the ferry and home! The pupils all thoroughly enjoyed their field studies on Arran, learning in the outdoor classroom, and look forward to their next residential experience in Primary 6.

## Junior School News

Primary 6 recently visited Culzean Castle as part of their Victorian project while Primary 4 have visited The Dick Institute, Kilmarnock and Kelvingrove Museum in Glasgow as part of their Egyptian topic.

The Junior Halloween Party took place in Carlton Turrets Hall on Thursday evening at the end of October. Both staff and pupils were scarily well dressed for the occasion.

## P6 Outdoor Trip

Primary 6 pupils spent an exciting week at Abernethy Barcaple Outdoor Centre last term. Everyone enjoyed the residential experience and the good weather! The staff, facilities and meals at the centre were superb and pupils and teachers enjoyed abseiling, archery, zip wire, canoeing, climbing, hill walking, blind trail, ropes course, orienteering and team challenges. The pupils had a wonderful time - even the scary bits were fun! - and would like to thank Mrs Lynn for organising the event.

## More Science for P6

Each year, Primary 6 classes are involved in 'taster' sessions to augment their normal classroom experience in Science. In May they worked in the Senior School labs as they carried out experiments on viscosity, working with three different fluids to see how long it took a glass bead to drop through them. As part of 'A Curriculum for Excellence' and Active Learning, the senior school science department liaises regularly with the Primary years to ensure that science is very much on the agenda.



# Infant Learning moves out of School

The children in the infant department have taken every opportunity to take their learning out of the classroom this term, and the following stories indicate just some of the out of school activities planned by teachers and pupils.



P1 children hit the ground running and seemed to thrive on the many activities and new routines. Their first topic, 'Where I live', led to trips to the Citadel Fort and Dunure Castle. Exploring the countryside at Loch Doon proved inspirational and a return trip with P3 is planned in the summer term. Working across stages, P1 and P3 undertook a traffic survey on the Low Green. Great excitement when 3 motorbikes were spotted!



Subsequently the children have explored Growing Things through the Jack in the Beanstalk topic. They made very impressive boxwork castles for role play and grew their own beanstalks. This topic linked neatly with work on the seasons and the children have enjoyed exploring the woods at Culzean learning about seeds, trees and the signs of autumn.

We are already looking forward to our next topic on Earth and Space.

*Below: Primary 1 at Culzean*



Primary 2 made use of the best of the weather this term to explore forces using the outdoor spaces we are fortunate to have in and around the school.

*Below: Primary 2 look at forces*



We looked at pushes and pulls and opposing forces with some lively competitions at tug-of-war and arm wrestling.

We explored the power of the water and the wind. We were fortunate to be able to watch the kite exhibition which showed the children that the force of the wind can even



lift a man. Much inspired we made and flew our own kites.

On Wednesday 6th October, Primary 3 went along to visit the residents of South Lodge Nursing Home, taking with them beautiful baskets of fruit and bouquets of flowers that were kindly donated by the boys and girls at the Harvest Festival. The ladies and gentlemen were very pleased to receive such wonderful gifts.

*Primary 3 loading gifts into the minibus*



The children gave a rousing performance of their Harvest Songs, and many of the ladies and gentlemen joined in by clapping along with the catchy beat!

*Below: Harvest Festival gifts*



The boys and girls made time to chat to the residents and found out a little bit about the person to whom they were speaking. The children very much enjoyed their chats and expressed an interest in coming back to visit their new friends.

The staff at South Lodge expressed their delight at how well-behaved and well-mannered the children were. This made the Primary 3 teachers and the pupils feel very proud.

*Below: Harvest Festival service*



# Magical Peter Pan



*Blair Stevenson as Captain Hook, Alyssa Shepherd as Smee*

For the second time this year, the Palace Theatre in Kilmarnock was the stage for a stunning Wellington School show. The production was overseen by the team of Mrs Jess Barry as Director, Mr Derek Goudie as Musical Director, Ms Ainsley Cole as Choreographer and Mr Roger Robinson as Stage Manager.

Wellington is well known for its School Shows and the talented performances which have been produced by its pupils. They have received highly commendable reviews for previous shows such as 'Oklahoma' and 'Disco Inferno', and this year's production of 'Peter Pan', held in Kilmarnock's Palace Theatre, deserves no less appreciation.

Following the classic tale, Peter Pan tells the story of the Darling family, in particular the daughter Wendy and her adventure

with Peter Pan – the boy who never grew up – in the imaginary world of Never Land. Along with her two brothers – John and Michael – and the lost boys, Wendy and Peter embark on a fantastic adventure with pirates led by the evil Captain Hook; feisty Indians including Princess Tiger Lily; and a mischievous crocodile. Filled with colourful, likeable characters, fun and catchy songs – and not forgetting a little fairy dust – Peter Pan is a magical experience appealing to the whole family. Performed by the younger cast of pupils in S1 to S4, it is obvious that these young people are just as capable as their more mature peers at producing a sterling show. It would even be fair to say that the youth of the cast is more appropriate and appeals to all members of the audience – both young and old.

Each main character brought something

*The Lost Boys on the Pirate Ship*



*(Below): Emily*



# al Show an 2010



); Rachel Alner as the Crocodile

g Smee, Catpain Hook and Christopher Rae as Starkey



Westwood as Wendy and Edward Russell as Peter Pan



Emily Westwood as Wendy

unique but equally brilliant to the show, helping to create an overall flawless performance. Blair Stevenson's portrayal of the wicked Captain Hook was very convincing and yet comical, supported by his crew of pirates. John and Michael, played by Kenneth Manderson and Martin McHard, acted very well together as the playful Darling brothers. Emily Westwood as Wendy held everyone on stage together with both her fantastic acting and sheer enthusiasm. And as for the one and only Peter Pan, Edward Russell had a likeness both in appearance and attitude to the character, and a truly spine-tingling singing voice.

All aspects of the production were very professional, from the eye catching costumes to the stage scenery which transformed into a magnificent pirate ship. The band was superb, playing

tunes that had the audience clapping their hands and tapping their feet. But the real highlight was - the flying. To see four people essentially flying across the stage created an amazingly magical atmosphere and really set the scene. The pupils and staff controlling the fliers must also be congratulated for their effort, having only practised a couple of times before the big night. The Palace Theatre catered tremendously well for the flying and the audience thoroughly enjoyed the technical addition - truly sealing the show.

With Christmas just around the corner, Wellington's delightful performance has created an atmosphere of adventure and magic for all who saw it.

By Erin McKenzie  
First Year student Law LLB,  
Glasgow University

Yasmin Habib as Tiger Lily, with the Indian Dancers



# Meet the Music Instructors



## FIONA CHISHOLM – FLUTE INSTRUCTOR

Fiona trained at the RSAMD and since then has been working as a freelance flute player. She is currently principal piccolo with Scottish Ballet.



## TED BOSSLEY – GUITAR INSTRUCTOR

Ted has taught in various schools since 1980. He is Past President of the Glasgow Society of Musicians, and plays solo acoustic guitar and Jazz/ Big Band music.



## SCOTT MACKAY – DRUMKIT INSTRUCTOR

A graduate from BA (Hons) Applied Music degree at Strathclyde University, Scott has been teaching at Wellington for two years. He has been playing professionally since leaving school, with performances around the world, from Europe to China and appearances at many of the UK's major festivals, such as the world renowned Glastonbury Festival. Lessons at Wellington with Scott will include a good grounding in the basics of music theory as well as the fundamental techniques and skills to become a good drummer and musician.



## HEATHER MORRIS – PIANO INSTRUCTOR

Heather Morris graduated from the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama where she gained a BMUS in piano performance. During her time at the RSAMD she developed an earlier interest in violin and remains active with the instrument in a chamber group and a number of contemporary bands. She actively develops her piano skills through solo performance, chamber music and accompanying dancers and other musicians. She is an enthusiastic teacher and enjoys nurturing musical skills in others, taking particular pleasure in developing students to a stage in which they can take pleasure in music and the opportunities it offers.



## ROSIE TOWNHILL – CELLO INSTRUCTOR

Rosie graduated from the RSAMD in 1998 with BMus(Hons) and the Certificate of Postgraduate Studies in 1999. Since then she has become a member of the Scottish Ballet Orchestra and has worked frequently with the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra including Live and recorded broadcasts for BBC Two, Radio Three, Proms in the Park, Edinburgh Festival and CD recordings. Rosie has also toured Europe with Brit-award-winning rock band Belle and Sebastian including an appearance at Glastonbury Festival in 2002, and she performed with Runrig at Edinburgh Castle in 2008. Rosie is a member of the Trossachs Quartet and as well as teaching is also the Cello tutor for Strathclyde University Symphony Orchestra.



## DIANE MERSON-JONES – VIOLIN INSTRUCTOR

Diane Merson-Jones has been teaching violin at Wellington for 4 years, and also teaches viola and music theory. Mrs M-J (as she's affectionately known by some of her pupils) coaches the Wellington String Quartet, the Wellington Fiddle Group, conducts the Junior orchestra and assists with the Senior orchestra. During her 26 years of professional playing she has held a Principal position with the Orchestra of Scottish Opera and is currently Principal 2nd violin with the Scottish Ballet Orchestra. She has also freelanced regularly with the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, RSNO and BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra, with which she has performed many times in the BBC Proms and Edinburgh International Festival as well as other Festivals around the world. Diane has also been soloist and guest leader with the Ayrshire Symphony Orchestra.



## NICOLA LONG -- CLARINET AND SAXOPHONE INSTRUCTOR

Nicola Long studied with John Cushing at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama in Glasgow. Whilst there she enjoyed a high profile career performing regularly as an orchestral, solo and chamber musician and represented the Academy at many festivals, commercial recordings, master classes and competitions. The winner of the Governor's Competition Prize for Chamber Music and also awarded the Mary D. Hammond Prize for Excellence in Chamber Music, she successfully auditioned for the Royal Scottish National Orchestra's apprenticeship's position. Nicola has performed with the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, the London Sinfonietta and for the Strictly Come Dancing Orchestra on tour. She is particularly dedicated to the musical education of children and is a trained Kodaly teacher. Nicola currently holds posts at St George's School for Girls in Edinburgh, the High School of Glasgow and is a deputy teacher for the RSAMD Junior Academy.

# Meet the Music Instructors



## HENRY FULLERTON – BASS INSTRUCTOR

Henry is a busy bass player in theatre productions across the West of Scotland, and has a keen interest in teaching bass and seeing his pupils develop



## ANNE MCKECHNIE – PIANO INSTRUCTOR

Anne McKechnie has been teaching at Wellington for 22 years. She studied at Ommer School of Music in Glasgow, gaining an LTCL. She also plays the violin, reaching Grade 8 and has enjoyed playing with the Ayrshire Symphony Orchestra.



## AMANDA JAMES – VIOLIN INSTRUCTOR

Amanda James CTA originally worked in Taxation but then travelled to Ireland to train as a Suzuki Method Violin teacher. She runs the Kyle Suzuki Violin Group which has pupils from all parts of Ayrshire and plays violin in the Ayrshire Symphony Orchestra.



## ROBERT DIBDEN – BRASS AND KEYBOARD INSTRUCTOR

Robert has been teaching in schools for over 30 years. Many school bands and pupils have benefited from his direction, notably the South Ayrshire jazz band which he founded and conducted for many years. In his spare time he is musical director for Ayr amateur operatic company.



## DENNIS HAGGERTY - SINGING INSTRUCTOR

Dennis Haggerty graduated from the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama in 1992 and continued his studies at the National Opera School for two years. Since graduating he has enjoyed an international singing career performing extensively in opera, oratorio, operetta, recital and concert. Dennis has been teaching at Wellington School for 10 years now.



## ALEX SOUTH -- CLARINET AND SAXOPHONE INSTRUCTOR

Alex South is a graduate of the University of Cambridge and the RSAMD, where he studied clarinet with John Cushing. He is based in Glasgow, playing regularly with the Scottish Clarinet Quartet and specializing in the performance of contemporary chamber music. Alex teaches clarinet and saxophone at St Aloysius' College (Glasgow) and Wellington School (Ayr).



## LUCY KERR – VOICE AND SAXOPHONE INSTRUCTOR

Lucy Kerr teaches Voice and Saxophone at Wellington School. Lucy graduated from the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama as a saxophonist and has gone on to perform across the country as a singer and saxophonist with her own quartet for which she composes. She has studied with Scotland's best saxophonists including Tommy Smith and worked with Margaret Izzatt for vocal tuition. As an instructor, Lucy teaches a variety of styles including jazz, musicals, classical and folk. She is co-director of the school Jazz ensemble and is also a woodwind instructor in other schools in Scotland.



## ROSAMUND MACDONALD – PIANO INSTRUCTOR

Ros MacDonald was born in southern Africa, and studied piano and singing from an early age, eventually qualifying through Trinity College, London. She married a Scot and came to Ayrshire where she has taught for 25 years, and performs regularly with various choirs both as soloist and chorister. She has a large teaching practice, both at Wellington and at home in Troon, and is an experienced piano accompanist as well. [Her pupils consistently gain excellent results in exams, and in being accepted for the national youth choirs.] She takes great delight and pleasure in maximising each pupil's individual musical potential, fostering enjoyment as well as skill. [She sometimes still misses the sunshine of Africa, but says that the warmth and friendliness of Scotland do help to make up for the weather!]



## Italian for Nursery children

The children in Nursery have been working on a topic entitled 'All about me!' The Transition children were very interested to hear about Lita-Rosa's Daddy who speaks a different language. Lita-Rosa explained to the children that her Daddy has three names, "Daddy, Papa and Domenico and he talks Italian".

It was arranged with Mr Sfregola that he would visit the Nursery on Tuesday 28th September to talk to the children. The children were delighted to welcome him and listened carefully as he gave us a brief Italian lesson!!

Mr Sfregola had kindly prepared a large Italian Flag, some pizza and pasta colouring sheets and sang a song in Italian, which he then translated into English (although the Italian version sounded much better!). He taught the numbers one to ten and most children very confidently repeated them back to him. Mr Sfregola ended his talk by teaching the children to say Thank you and Goodbye in Italian.

In one of the photographs you will see Mr. Sfregola with his daughter Lita-Rosa singing together in Italian.



## Tesco shopping is fun

During our recent 'All About Me' theme Mrs. Smith's group were very keen to explore birthdays. The children talked about their own birthdays with great excitement, recalling parties and cakes and cards! Mrs. Smith worked with the children on a recipe for dough birthday cakes and some wonderful creations were produced.

Parties were explored and the children talked about party bags. Using their emerging literacy skills the children wrote shopping lists for the contents of the party bags and of course just had to visit Tesco to buy the items for the bags! This was a truly enterprising learning opportunity!

## Halloween party

On Friday 29th October there were some strange happenings in our Nursery. Princesses, witches, draculas and even

batman attended for the morning! We had lots of fun with "dooking for apples" and party games.





## Nursery garden re-design

We are very lucky at Wellington Nursery to have a wonderful garden. However, we marked it as an area we could develop further to provide the children with a more sensory experience. In order to do this effectively, we carried out an audit involving all the Nursery children, their parents and staff. We showed the children catalogues and a drawing of the garden and asked them individually what they would like to see in the garden. The children were very enthusiastic with their ideas and knew exactly what they would like.

“A tree house or a house on sticks, lawnmowers, more flowers, growing carrots, decorate the fence, playing with water”

These were among the suggestions. Parents were also keen to help out and offered both their ideas and their time.

Following our visit to Heathfield Recycling centre, they were kind enough to donate some old tyres to the Nursery. With the help of Mrs. Fleming’s husband, we have ‘planted’ the 2 large tractor tyres, which the children can now climb on. We used the smaller tyres to plant an herb garden,

which was kindly donated. Some helpful parents volunteered to work in the garden covering the garden fence with bamboo and reed. Thanks to everyone for their time!

The garden has been completely transformed with outdoor painting easels, blackboards and mirrors. We have also purchased guttering for the children to use, when they are exploring water. We have ordered a “house on sticks” for the children! This enables the children to experience inter disciplinary learning outdoors. Our vegetable patch is starting to look healthier and we were able to harvest carrots, potatoes and strawberries.

In addition to our recently donated herbs, our next task is to plant some more sensory type plants, such as Lambs ear for its texture. Mr. Kerr, a Nursery parent has also been kind enough to donate his time to make us a sign for the garden and we are currently getting ideas for the children as to what this should look like.

Our garden is blooming and the proof can be seen not only in the flowers, but by the smiles on our children’s faces!



# Art News

A very successful Art in the Making event was held in June showcasing a vast range of expressive and design work within the department, in Carleton Turrets entrance hall and in the Millennium garden. A selection of pupils were also on hand to discuss their work and demonstrate techniques including mono printing, clay modelling, acrylic painting, metal jewellery work and felt making. Many of the visitors commented on how interesting and informative this format was and were impressed by the pupils' presentation and communication skills as well as their artistic talents.



*Amy Phillips P5 at silversmithing workshop*



*Painting demonstration by Rachel Foyle*

Following our success in the Maclaurin Children's Art Competition last November, a second exhibition took place during the summer holidays with over 100 of our pupils represented. We were delighted to discover that Wellington pupil Matthew Evans, from primary one, had won the overall Maclaurin Award. Five other pupils were award winners and another six, along with the whole of S1, were highly commended.

At the beginning of October P5 classes enjoyed two workshops in connection with the Silver of the Stars exhibition at the Dick Institute. Preliminary drama based activities in school led to a tour of the exhibition and jewellery workshop in Kilmarnock. Pupils participated very enthusiastically and have not only gained an understanding of silversmithing but have developed their critical thinking, problem solving and creative skills.

Another workshop is planned for November when S3 pupils will work with contemporary designer Laura Murray to explore the use of recycled materials in their sporran/handbag design unit.

S2 pupils have been producing posters to advertise the school show. Congratulations to Emily Reece whose exciting and effective design was chosen as the cover image for the programme.

# Geography through Outdoor Learning



In June, S3 pupils took part in a three day residential trip to Lochranza in Arran. Pupils completed river and glacial landscape investigations as part of their standard grade exam preparation. S3 also visited the Whitelees Wind Farm to complete a decision making exercise on the advantages and problems with alternative forms of energy.

Over the summer geography pupils have been active completing fieldwork in the local area.

Through active outdoor learning pupils should have an improved ability to understand the landscape around them.

Outdoor learning will reinforce their work in the class and have a positive impact on their attainment in assessments.



In September S1 pupils carried out a tourist survey on Ayr Beach. Using car number plates they discovered that Ayr attracts people from as far away as Cornwall and South Wales.

S2 pupils visited the Lead Hills Mining Museum at Wanlockhead as part of their class work on Earth Forces. Pupils visited a mine and all had a chance at gold panning. They were allowed to keep any gold that they discovered!

On a very wet October day Higher Geography pupils investigated coastal features at Culzean. Features such as stacks, caves and arches were identified. This will reinforce class work on the processes which form coastal features and should assist them in their ability to answer exam questions.

Advanced Higher pupils have been busy over several weekends completing a range of fieldwork that can be used in their Study Report and final examination.

They have completed a questionnaire for tourists in Ayr, a river study on the Sauchrie Burn and a study of the sand dunes at Troon.



*Left: S3 pupils at Lochranza in Arran*

*Right: Advanced Higher Pupils on the dunes*



# P7 Rugby Tournament



On Wednesday 6th October the P7 Rugby squad, including four Primary 6 players, travelled to Kilmacolm to play in the annual St Columba's P7 tournament. When the team learnt that Jordanhill had withdrawn from the competition, they were faced with two difficult matches against larger schools, namely St Aloysius and Hutchesons' Grammar. In the first game against St Aloysius, an early try from captain Matthew Davidson was the only difference between the teams as Wellington won 1-0. In the first half of the match versus Hutchesons' Wellington spent most of the time in the opposition's half and at one point were only two metres short of the try line. However, just before half time an intercepted pass resulted in a try for

Hutchesons' against the run of play. The second half was more closely contested, but Hutchesons' held on to win 1-0. In the match between St Aloysius and Hutchesons' only a 1-0 scoreline for St. Aloysius would have given Wellington a chance of reaching the final and at half time this was the score! Playing down the slope in the second half Hutchesons' equalised and consequently won the group to reach the final. Wellington were left to face the High School of Glasgow in the play-off for third place. Two tries from Matthew Davidson, a try from Gyan Tennent-Bhoji and a final try from Primary 6 player Mitchell Wyllie resulted in a comprehensive 4-0 win. Hutchesons' won the tournament, but Wellington came a creditable third.

## Ayrshire Cross Country Championships

At the Ayrshire Cross Country Championships which took place at Irvine Beach Park on Wednesday, 29th October the S3 team of Kirsten Lundie, Isla Lundie, Olivia Steven and Julianna Brock finished in silver medal position. Lucy Cogley was 3rd in the S2 race and received a bronze individual medal. Bronagh Wishart, S4, finished in 4th place, narrowly missing a bronze individual medal.

## Stop Press:- Hockey U16 Scotland trial for Ruth

Congratulations to Ruth Dunsmuir who has been invited to attend an U16 Scotland trial.

## S1 Sevens Team Score 31 Tries

The Wellington S1 Sevens team scored 31 tries in their five matches at the Ayrshire Schools Tournament at Kilmarnock Rugby Club on Friday 24th September.

In their group they defeated Grange Academy, Carrick Academy and Greenwood Academy before winning 4-0 against Belmont Academy in the semi final. Despite getting only a short break before the final versus Marr College, the Wellington team started with some excellent rugby and scored the first try. The game was very close and Marr ended up winning 5 tries to 4. The Wellington team was: Aaron Tait(C), Angus Boyle(V/C), Paddy Dewhirst, Luke Hughes, Josh Lightbown, Daniel McKenna, Hamish Matthewson, Jamie Roberts and Andrew Simpson.

*Ayrshire Schools Swimming medal winners*



# Swimming

In the Ayrshire Secondary Schools Swimming Gala on Saturday 23rd October 2010, Wellington won 3 Gold medals, 5 Silver medals and 2 Bronze medals.

## GOLD MEDALS

Craig Corson  
100 Backstroke, 100m Front Crawl  
Blair Stevenson  
100m Butterfly

## SILVER MEDALS

Hanna Smith  
400m Front Crawl, 200m Front Crawl  
Blair Stevenson  
200m Individual Medley

Lucy Illingworth  
200m Breaststroke  
Patrick Smith  
100m Breaststroke

## BRONZE MEDALS

Patrick Smith  
200m Breaststroke  
Alistair Kidd  
100 Breaststroke

Craig, Blair, Hanna, Lucy and Patrick all achieved consideration times in the above events for the Scottish Schools Swimming Gala at Tollcross in January 2011.

In the Ayrshire Primary Schools Swimming Gala on Sunday 24th October 2010, Wellington won 7 Gold medals, and a Bronze medal.

## GOLD MEDALS

Marshall Illingworth  
50m Front Crawl, 50m Breaststroke  
Anastasiya Khymnyuk  
50m Front Crawl, 50m Butterfly

Cameron Reece  
50m Backstroke

Boys Relay Team  
4 x 50m Freestyle

Cameron Reece, Mitchell Wyllie,  
Andrew Duthorn and Marshall  
Illingworth

Girls Relay Team  
4 x 50m Freestyle

Rachael Turner, Eve Armstrong, Katie  
Stewart and Anastasiya Khymnyuk.

## BRONZE MEDAL

Cameron Reece  
50m Front Crawl

Marshall, Anastasiya, Cameron and the boys relay team all achieved consideration times in the above events for the Scottish Schools Swimming Gala at Tollcross in January 2011.



### Mrs Diana McLaren, Acting Assistant Head (Curriculum & SQA)

With the retirement of Mr Stuart Green at Christmas, Mrs Diana McLaren has been appointed as the new Acting Assistant Head for Wellington School.

Mrs McLaren has a long connection with Wellington, being Senior House Mistress in the 1980s. Latterly she has been Principal

Teacher of Psychology and Head of Learning Support.

As Assistant Head, Mrs McLaren will coordinate the implementation of Curriculum for Excellence and have responsibility for S3/4 matters and all liaison with SQA.



### Miss Elaine Brierley, Teacher of Girls Games and PE

Miss Elaine Brierley has been appointed as teacher of Girls Games and PE. She has represented Scotland in hockey at various levels, and has just been appointed as coach for Scottish U16 Hockey.

Before qualifying as a Physical Education, Miss Brierley worked as an Active Schools

Co-ordinator in Falkirk Council, which involved promoting healthy living within several schools.

Miss Brierley continues to play hockey for Giffnock Ladies Hockey Club in Glasgow, who play in the top division in Scotland.



### Mr Alistair McDougall, Teacher of Modern Studies

Mr Alistair McDougall joined us as the new Teacher of Modern Studies (replacing Mr Patrick Oberg). He is a Politics and Sociology Honours graduate from the University of Glasgow and has previously worked at Larkhall Academy and Kilmarnock Academy.

Mr McDougall is excited at the prospect of providing high quality educational experiences

for all pupils. He is also keen to begin a programme of extra curricular opportunities in Modern Studies with trips to the Scottish Parliament and opportunities to work with visiting speakers already arranged.

Mr McDougall is an avid traveller and enjoys frequent visits to North and South America.

### Dates for your Diary

Friday 10 December	Nursery Nativity
Friday 10 December	Infant Nativity
Monday 13 December	Junior Christmas Party
Tuesday 14 December	Infant Christmas Party
Wednesday 15 December	Nursery Christmas Party
Thursday 16 December	Nursery finishes for Holidays
Thursday 16 December	Junior School Christmas Service
Friday 17 December	Senior School Christmas Service
Friday 17 December	SCHOOL CLOSES
Monday 10 January	Staff return to School
Tuesday 11 January	Pupils return to School

### Office Bearers 2010/2011

#### Senior School:

Head Boy	Ross Thorburn
Deputy	Calum Ablett
Head Girl	Victoria Armour
Deputy	Fiona Preston

#### Junior School:

Head Boy	Ross McCorkindale
Head Girl	Rebecca Roberts

In addition to new faces amongst the School's teaching staff, there is also a new face on the Board of Governors. Chairman of the Board, Mr George Walker, commented "I am delighted to welcome Mr John McGregor as a Governor of Wellington. His appointment follows a review by the Board of its composition, which identified an opportunity to add experience in both education and medical matters. As well as being a current parent and practising consultant surgeon, Mr McGregor brings a wealth of experience of education within the NHS. We look forward to his valuable contribution to our discussions."



### Mr John McGregor, Governor

Mr McGregor, a consultant surgeon based at Crosshouse Hospital, is married and lives in Troon.

He has an extensive range of interests which combine his medical, clinical and surgical expertise with significant educational involvement, most notably with the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow.

Away from the hospital, Mr McGregor's passion is sport, and golf in particular, and he is a member at Royal Troon.

Mr McGregor said "As someone with a longstanding interest in education and with two daughters who have gained immense benefit from their time at Wellington, I relish the opportunity to contribute to the ongoing development of the school".



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