

# Wallace Hall Academy

## NEWSLETTER



March 2011

Working Together to Achieve More

## World Book Day Inspiration



**World Book Day celebrations this year at Wallace Hall Academy were made extra special by a visit from popular teenage fiction author Cathy Cassidy.**

The event, made possible by a generous donation from WHA Parent Council, allowed over 160 pupils from Wallace Hall Academy and associated primary schools to meet Cathy and hear her speak of her ideas and inspiration for her popular series of novels including "Dizzy", "Indigo Blue" and "Cherry Crush". Full report and pictures on page 10.

## WHA Globetrotters!

Wallace Hall Academy pupils have been travelling the world this term with school trips organised to China and France. All who took part in these trips agreed they were a fantastic opportunity and it is hoped that further travel opportunities will be available in the future. Reports and photographs on both trips are inside this issue.



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Working Together to Achieve More

# China Trip 2011

Report by Sophie Whytock

On Monday 21st February we were all up bright and early to be at the school for half seven! We arrived with our cases, hand luggage and hoodies. We set off all cheery, travelling through the Dalveen Pass with a wee sing song. We then caught our 8 hour flight with Emirates to Dubai. Emirates was an amazing airline and gave us great food and service. Dubai airport was huge! It took twenty minutes to get from one terminal to another. We then got another 8 hour flight to Beijing. We were met by our guide for the trip with a big yellow flag. At the hotel (which was lovely) we had a break before our traditional Chinese meal using chopsticks. This proved quite a challenge for some!

Early the next morning, we got a Chinese continental breakfast before heading to Tiananmen Square. This is the biggest square in the world. It was buzzing with people with their cameras taking pictures. We went to the Forbidden City and then the Summer Palace. Both were absolutely amazing and the Chinese architecture was fascinating. We went to a pearl factory where we cut open an oyster and we each got some pearls to take home. This was followed by a trip to a tea tasting place. It was nice to taste some Chinese herbal tea and see how it was made.

The next morning we were up very early again and packed our things to store at the hotel as we were heading to Xian later in the day on the overnight train. We then headed to the Great Wall. This was a highlight of the trip. We all climbed up the steep steps and the view we got at the top was amazing. The wall is so unbelievably big, it can be seen from space! At the bottom some of us had some ice cream before heading to the Jade Factory. It was more of a shop than anything, where they sold all sorts of things made from jade. We visited the Ming Tombs after this which was similar to the Forbidden City but a lot smaller.

After a not so good night's sleep on the overnight train we went to our hotel for some breakfast before



heading to the Wild Goose Pagoda. It was a beautiful Buddhist temple, where we viewed some stunning artwork on the walls. We went for a bike ride around the 8 and a half mile city wall. Some had tandems so it was good fun and we saw the ancient city compared to the new city. We went to 26 Middle School and spoke to the students. Their ways of life are very different and they are all very studious. Most of them spoke a lot of English which was helpful as none of us spoke Chinese! It was as if we were famous, they were getting pictures taken with us and getting our autographs and msn addresses. We also visited the history museum, which was really big and full of interesting things.

On Saturday we had another early wakeup call and headed to the Banpo Museum where we saw house foundations and skeletons. We went to a factory where the terracotta warriors were reconstructed and minis were made to sell. Some of us bought some to take home with us. We then went to see the terracotta army, which was incredible! We visited the Tang Dynasty art museum and it was fascinating to see the different types of art in China.

We were up at five to head back to Beijing and go to the birds nest stadium followed by the zoo! We saw pandas! It was really enjoyable. We went to the Temple of Heaven and the Summer palace. Both were very beautiful and the detail was fascinating.

On the last day we went to the market and the mall. The mall was real designer and the market was fake and cheap! The vendors selling the fakes at the market were very pushy and some cornered you into the shop to force you to buy things. We went on a rickshaw ride! It was so much fun and we saw a traditional Chinese house as the owner had opened it up to tourists to view.

When we came back we were all very tired and jet lagged but it was all worth it for such a brilliant trip!





# China Trip 2011—more photographs





# Stockmarket Challenge report by Lauren Dalgleish

**On Wednesday the 26<sup>th</sup> of January, five S3 students from Mrs Robinson's Intermediate 2 Maths class, including myself, spent the day in Glasgow participating in Stock Market Challenge 2011.**

Stock Market Challenge is a game where you have to try and increase your original value by buying and selling shares in a number of fictional companies. News broadcasts and daily news headlines about the companies were produced for the game, to help our judgement of what shares we should be buying or selling. The game is played in five sections (each one simulating a day's trading), of twenty five minutes each. The winners are the group with the highest overall profit.

Eugene Fung, Tom Kehoe, Lewis Morrison, Abbie Thompson and I represented Wallace Hall Academy in the game. We were each assigned specific roles within the group, which included trade buyer and seller, investment analysts, and media analysts. Once the trading market opened, the trade buyer (me) and the trade seller (Abbie) had to exchange our shares and money at a trading desk, where workers at the event

carried out the exchanges.

We were able to learn about the values and importance of teamwork, and we worked well together as a group. The game required good numeracy skills, communication skills, problem solving skills, and quick thinking. Some of us became very competitive! In the end, we achieved second place, out of the twenty five schools participating from the South West of Scotland, with an overall profit of over thirty thousand pounds. It was a thoroughly enjoyable day and was well worth the long journey there!



## Creative Inspiration

**Report by Caitrin Stirling**

**On Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> of January, local poet Douglas Lipton visited the library at Wallace Hall Academy to give a reading of a selection of his work. The poems read included "The Secret Society", a reflection on fatherhood and my personal favourite, and "Tellervo", a poem inspired by the beauty of the same Scandinavian name. Mr Lipton also worked with two of Mr Pape's Higher English classes, looking at styles of poetic expression and the way music and art can enhance poetic creativity.**

In an interview shortly after the reading, Mr Lipton explained that he'd been writing poetry for most of his life, having started in earnest in his mid-teens. His inspiration comes mostly from nature but also from life experiences (as seen in "The Secret Society"). He explained how his poetry has evolved since he started writing; that his more recent poems often took a more

political slant than his earlier works, and that, as methods go, poetry is a very good way to express such views and feelings, though it can be a challenge to get poetry published. Mr Lipton has so far released three collections; most recently, "An Enclave in Eden" (copies of which can be found in the school library).

Mr Lipton's visit to Wallace Hall Academy was a great success and was much enjoyed by staff and pupils alike. We would like to thank him for taking the time to visit and share with us his love of poetry.



## S6 Publicity and Reporting Group

As part of their S6 Personal and Social Education periods all S6 pupils are asked to opt into a committee or group. Tom McCubbin, Caitlin Palmer, Laura Sloan, Caitrin Stirling, Jack Taylor and Thomas Wall all chose to become involved with the S6 Publicity and Reporting

Group. The group has worked very hard over the past year reporting on pupil achievement, photographing events and designing the school newsletter. They have worked well as a team, sourcing news, sharing ideas, meeting deadlines and the skills they have acquired through being part of this group will be beneficial in their future studies and career. This is their final newsletter - congratulations to them all for a job well done!

# Toast tae the Bard report by Kelvin Riley



**Each year Wallace Hall Academy celebrates the memory of Robert Burns, this year being no exception. Musical entertainment was provided accompanied by a superb traditional dinner of Haggis, Neeps and Tatties. What more could you possibly need?**

Well, a Burns supper is never complete without some Burns poetry! We enjoyed a well-read and dramatic 'Address to the Haggis' by Lauren Dalglish, followed by 'The Rights of Women', another Burns poem recited with clarity and confidence by Mhairi Dalglish. A set of Scottish tunes were played by Amy, Grace and

myself to spice things up a bit, with a beautiful singing of 'Ae Fond Kiss' from Emma Ackland further on in the night. We were delighted to hear performances from both of the Parks, with Callum piping in the haggis and Kathryn giving an inspirational recitation of 'To a Louse'. The sheer variety of entertainment gave an interesting flavour of Burns' diverse range of works.

As always, the speakers were brilliant. Kenneth Marchbank's 'Toast to the Lassies' was exceptionally funny, only later to be answered by Gill Dykes' quick and witty 'Reply from the Lassies'. We were honoured to have Jayne Moore present the 'Immortal Memory', which gave us an outstanding insight into Burns' childhood and education. Our observation of Robert's fortunate opportunity for learning helped us all to appreciate that education is a privilege and not a right that we should all expect to be handed to us.

Many thanks go towards the Wallace Hall Academy Parent Council for organising such a successful evening. With a recent 1<sup>st</sup> year anniversary in relation to our new school building, this annual event was the first of its kind to take place since moving from the old school. Last but not least, such an evening could not have taken place without the incredible help of the school canteen ladies and the waitresses. Everybody thoroughly enjoyed the food and the manner of those pupils that helped to serve the meals was excellent and much-appreciated.

## Recitation Honours



**On Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> February, Catherine Anderson in 1<sup>st</sup> year entered the Southern Counties Burns competition and won the poetry section for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year. She managed to secure the Annan Ladies Shield by achieving the highest score of 9.5/10 by reciting the poem 'To a Mouse' against ten other competitors. Catherine has entered every year since P5 and has since been mentored by Mrs Forsyth from Sanquhar.**

Mhairi Dalglish in 4<sup>th</sup> year also entered in the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> year category and came 3<sup>rd</sup> with her recita-

tion of 'The Rights of Women'. She has been entering every year for 5 years and has been tutored by Mrs Harkness from Penpont since her first competition.

On 30<sup>th</sup> April, Catherine will be travelling to Lockerbie Academy to represent Dumfries and Galloway in the National Burns Competition to compete against the finalists from other regions in Scotland. We wish Catherine and Mhairi the best of luck with all their future competitions.

Report written by Jack Taylor and Thomas Wall

## Squisher Success

In October last year, six Wallace Hall Academy pupils won the Authority-wide S1 Enterprise Challenge Event. Led by Ms McLean, this team of entrepreneurs impressed the judges by designing "The Squisher": a family-friendly device linked to local shops that would compact plastic milk cartons and make them easier to recycle. Earlier this month the Director of Schools Services, Colin Grant, visited Wallace Hall Academy to congratulate the group on their success. Picture shows Mr Grant, Fraser Morrison, Hannah Jones, Teigan Lord, Niamh Snailham, Ewan Davidson, Olivia Mess and WHA Head Teacher, Mr Graham.



# WALLACE HALL PUPILS DANCE THE NIGHT AWAY



On Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December, Wallace Hall Academy hosted the annual Christmas dance for S5 and S6. The Christmas dances have become quite a tradition at Wallace Hall Academy with most of our senior pupils and staff choosing to dress up in their finest and join in the fun. This was the first time the dance has been held in our magnificent new Bailey Hall and all agreed that the surroundings were lovely with the Christmas

tree, donated by the Queensberry Estate, taking pride of place beside the stage.

The dance is organised by a committee of S6 pupils who opt into this activity as part of their S6 PSE programme. The evening commenced with the pupils being piped in to the hall by Callum Park and Tom Kehoe. A delicious three course meal was then served, provided by the catering staff from the school kitchen, helped by a team of S4 pupils who volunteered to wait at the tables.

The music was supplied by the Jim Gold Scottish Dance Band and their toe-tapping sets ensured that the floor was filled for every dance. All too soon it was the last dance and time for everyone to go home, foot-sore but happy.

Unfortunately, due to adverse weather conditions, the S1/S2 and S3/S4 dances have had to be postponed until January. Hopefully the big freeze will be over by then and our younger pupils will be able to dance the night away!



## S3/S4 Christmas Dance

Unfortunately, due to adverse weather conditions, the S3/S4 Christmas Dance had to be postponed until Thursday, 27th January. This did not deter our dancers though with a packed hall of pupils ready to trip the light fantastic.

As ever, it was a fantastic night with pupils taking the floor at every opportunity to the lively music of the Jim Gold Duo from Douglas, Lanark. Thanks to all the staff who organised the night and to the pupil representatives who kept the evening going with a swing.





## Christmas... in January!

By Robert Guthrie 2.S2

Wallace Hall Academy held their prestigious and traditional Christmas Dance for S1 and S2 on 25<sup>th</sup> January. The event had been rescheduled owing to the bad weather in December, but the postponement appeared to have no effect on the pupils' enjoyment.

Once the dance was officially declared open, the boys and girls danced well into the evening (complete with some embarrassing

moves from various staff members!) to traditional Scottish dances, the Dashing White Sergeant, Virginia Reel, and many more. The award-winning Jim Gold Duo from Douglas, Lanarkshire, played all the music for us, and their blend of accordion and fiddle sounded very authentic.

Halfway through, we enjoyed some music performed by Part Two, the Wallace Hall S2 band, consisting of Angus Bruce and Aiden Halliday, playing instruments ranging from guitar and mandolin to keyboards and drums. They sang six songs, five of which were written by Aiden himself - and the crowd loved them. One of the tunes these budding young musicians played was "Dance Like We're Meant To", which had been written by Aiden when his family had no heating on New Year's Eve - again, due to the severe weather.

At about half past eight, it was back to the country dancing, having had some refreshments: according to the pupils, water had never tasted so good!

During the second half, we had our "Strictly Come Dancing Style" Competition. The aim was to find the best dancing couple, after a process of elimination. S6 prefects were judges for the evening, and used table tennis bats from the PE store to "reveal their scores". From the sharp-witted comments made, there are definitely some future Craig Revel-Horwoods and Bruno Toniolis in the making!

Eventually, four finalist couples were chosen, who battled it out on the dance floor, with the winners receiving a scrumptious prize of Celebrations.

At 10:30pm, after we sang Auld Lang Syne, it was time to go, and we were all completely exhausted. Another year until the next dance, and everyone can't wait until next December - weather permitting!



## Alastair Parkin enters the Dragon's Den!

In Mr Chapman's art module we were making sculptures out of clay. In the first block of module I made a young dragon hatching out of an egg and in the second module I

made the head and neck of a dragon. The dragon head was washed with black ink and then bronze paint was lightly brushed on to give it a metallic sheen. After it

was painted I uploaded the pictures to the computer and used Photoshop to integrate the head into different scenes.



# Top author visits Wallace Hall



**Top teen author Cathy Cassidy was the focus of World Book Day celebrations at Wallace Hall Academy earlier this month.**

The best-selling writer spent the morning with an enthusiastic audience of Wallace Hall fiction fans as well as younger bookworms from P5 – 7 of our associated local primary schools.

Cathy, well-known amongst her many fans for gripping novels including "Sundae Girl", "Ginger Snaps", "Driftwood" and her newest book "Cherry Crush", began by speaking to her rapt, capacity audience about the people and places that inspire her in her writing; and the ideas that are important in her

books, such as friendship, growing up and individuality. She also let us in on the activity she believes is most important to a writer: day-dreaming, something she advised her readers to do as often as possible – even in school!

After treating us to an appetising reading from her latest book, Cathy invited questions from the audience – many of whom were rewarded with a free book. Cathy allowed us a sneak preview of the new cover designs and revealed that Puffin her publisher are planning a competition to find a cover star to feature on these – from amongst her readers.

Following a break featuring tasty refreshments provided by the school's Fair Trade group, Cathy signed books for her fans and took part in some fun creative activities with them, including making attrac-



tive bookmarks and friendship bracelets. For many readers, having the chance to chat informally with Cathy about reading and writing was one of the best parts of the visit.

Made possible by a generous donation from the Parent Council and organised by enterprising librarian Caroline Menzies and Learning Leader for English, Sharon McLean, it is hoped that this will be the first of many inspirational literary events at Wallace Hall.



# Performance power at the Festival

Wallace Hall Academy pupils have a history of success at the local Dumfries and District Music Festival. This year's WHA entrants did not disappoint with a host of trophies and certificates being awarded in the Accordion and Fiddle, Music and Speech and Drama Sections with the Country Dancing and Piping and Drumming Sections still to come. Photographs below show some of our festival winners.



## DofE Gold Award Training Weekend

Stronord Outdoor Centre near Newton Stewart was the desti-



nation for us keen explorers on the weekend of 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> February. Off we went, wrapped up for arctic weather and assured that there was enough chocolate packed in our bags to safely survive the weekend.

Saturday saw us attempt several routes for a day walk; snow, gales and freezing winds altered our plans considerably, so our route ended up being plan C! (A & B were under snow). Knackered but pleased with our efforts we started to plan our practice and qualifying expeditions in the evening. Several proposed areas later and a rough plan was formulated. Strict rules though – round hills not over if possible, let's not kill ourselves on day 2 and that walking over Helvellyn with a big rucksack wasn't going to happen! First Aid was also revisited on the Sunday. With an Easter egg up for

grabs to the winners, it was all to play for. With some 'interesting' acting and impressive demonstrations, it was a hard fought competition. However, the impressive fake 'tomato sauce' blood just tipped it for the winners.

Flexibility, stamina and new friendships were just some of the things that formed over the weekend, along with development of navigation and teamwork skills.

What is most memorable about it though... fun, laughter and a great weekend with great people.



## WHA Pupils make front page news in national Modern Studies Competition

report by Molly Harkness

Last year, three first year classes from Wallace Hall Academy participated in a nationwide Modern Studies competition organised by the Modern Studies Educational Trust.

The Trust organises a number of national competitions and seeks to recognise excellence in Modern Studies. The task was to write a newspaper report about human rights including a main article focusing on human rights and a selection of factual information on the topic area. This information had to be taken from a verified website. The

newspaper report could also include pictures, drawings or diagrams and we were encouraged to think of a creative name for our newspaper.

Out of the whole of the country two pupils from Wallace Hall Academy, Lucy McGill and myself (Molly Harkness), were successful winning a £20 cash prize and a certificate. We were both delighted and proud of our achievement as it was a national competition. Now all we need to think about is how to spend our prize money!



# Fairtrade at Wallace Hall Academy

## 28th February - 11th March 2011



**Fairtrade Activities:** There was a small team involved in giving presentations to the school assemblies. This presentation involved; giving the classes information about what fairtrade is,

what fairtrade goods are available, what activities the school was holding during Fairtrade Fortnight (for example tuck shop, coffee morning, designing bunting - see winning entries at the bottom of the page) and also the objectives of producing a Fairtrade School.

During the staff coffee morning we were involved in giving the staff quizzes to see how much knowledge they had on Fairtrade.

Report by Leanne Young. Photograph left shows L - R Leanne Young, Khati Zauner, Aimee Wilson and Isla Robertson

**Fairtrade Assemblies:** I was part of a group that created a PowerPoint that informed the students of what Fair Trade is. The PowerPoint also showed what Wallace Hall Academy's aims for a Fairtrade school are. We presented the PowerPoint at the year group assemblies so that all



pupils got to see what our Module group were doing and what Fair trade is. At the staff coffee morning that our Module group also held we showed the same PowerPoint to the staff members and also did two Fairtrade quizzes to see how much the staff already knew about Fair Trade and I can say they were a mixed bunch as they knew some things but also learned some new information on Fair Trade! This Module has helped me gain more confidence in speaking to large groups because I have now talked to the whole school. Report by Grant Thorburn. Photograph above shows Grant Thorburn



Sharon McLean, Learning Leader with responsibility for Fairtrade in Wallace Hall Academy, said "We as a school believe that it is important for youngsters to have an understanding about the Global economy and learn about their role as consumers within that economy. This has been a very popular initiative within the school."

**Coffee Morning:** At the coffee morning we served Fairtrade tea, coffee and hot chocolate. We also served a variety of Fairtrade products including biscuits, cereal bars and our fairtrade bags were also available to purchase. The staff had the option to take part in our Fairtrade raffle, with the prize being a Fairtrade bag filled with Fairtrade products. The module group gave a presentation to staff on Fairtrade subjects to increase their awareness of how the Fairtrade program works, this included a quiz. We enjoyed organising and taking part in the coffee morning as it was all for a very worthwhile cause. Report by Sammy Dundas, Samantha Rhodes, Lauren Brown and Nicole Hamilton. Photograph above shows Sammy Dundas and Lauren Brown



**Fairtrade Tuck Shop:** For Fairtrade week 2011 I helped out with the Fairtrade tuck shop. We sold a lot of Fairtrade goods like nut bars, chocolate and Fairtrade fruit drinks. The chocolate sold out extremely quickly and everyone seemed happy with what they got! I enjoyed helping out and I'm glad I volunteered.

Report by Alex Musk. Photograph right shows L - R Donald Bremner and Alex Musk



# Queensberry Initiative Activities



**BBC at Closeburn Primary collecting owl pellets**



**Behind the scenes of BBC filming**



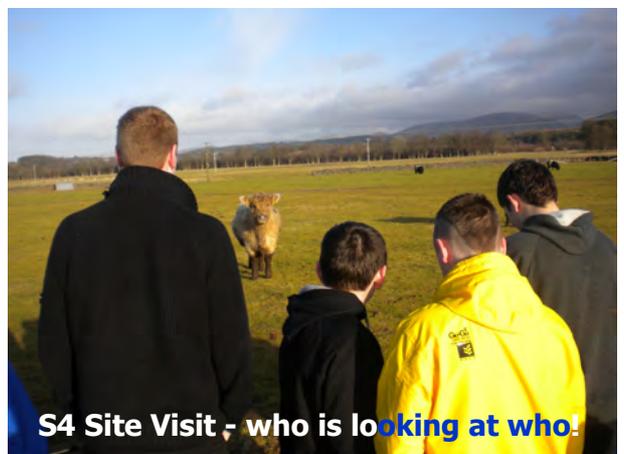
**Forestry module tree thinning**



**P7 Support Group ice breaker games**



**P7 taster lesson in Science**



**S4 Site Visit - who is looking at who!**



**Sheep tagging with Rural Skills Intermediate 1**



**S4 dissecting owl pellets**



**S1 Support Group trying Falconry skills**



**BBC Filming Closeburn Primary**



**S4 Fencing**



**S4 collecting owl pellets**



**S4 Business Mentor site visit to New Cample Farm**



**Rural Skills - happy at work!**



**S4 Fencing on Queensberry Estate**



## Paris Trip Report by Fearn McTeir

**It was a marvelous day but very tiring. On Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> February**

**Laura Gibson,**

**Déva Allan, Iona Brown, Cara Halliday, Nicole Lancaster, Ria Hill, Helen Robinson, Stephen Morrison, Angus Blair, Adam Lawrie, Rory Crawford, Mrs Pinkerton, Mr Docherty and I travelled from Thornhill at seven in the morning to Prestwick airport. We even made waiting on a plane fun by playing 'Uno'.**

Once in France the accommodation was spectacular: The Olivarius Apart'Hotel. On the first day we caught the train into Paris to climb 234 steps up the Arc de Triomphe. From there you could look down at the traffic and people: it was beautiful. After that we walked down the Champs Elysées. The prices were extortionate. Stephen found a 'fur coat' shop which Mr D quite liked too. After a hefty day's walk

we retreated to 'Flam's' for our evening meal. Pizza after pizza after pizza: ham and cheese; ham, cheese and mushroom; chicken and spinach; chocolate; apple flambé. By the time we reached the apartments we were quite shattered and yet we barely slept.

Sunday: Rory, Angus, Adam, Mr D and I travelled to the Stade de France where Melissa, the tour guide, showed them around. The boys took a shine to her. Mrs Pinkerton and the rest of the class wandered to a market and then to a place where a local artist drew Laura and Déva. Later in the evening the girls got dolled-up and the boys dressed smartly (Stephen looked the same though; you can't dress much better than he already does) to eat at the 'Hippo Port Cergy'. I was served dandelions (Rocket Lettuce). Helium-filled balloons were available in the restaurant and we all NEEDED to have one.

Next day was the Galeries La-

fayette, a department store with SEVEN FLOORS!!! You could easily have got lost in it. Mr D and Stephen then took the train to a cemetery where celebrities are buried, Père Lachaise, leaving the rest to trek to the Louvre where the 'Mona Lisa' is situated. The Museum itself was amazing with so many artefacts. We met up again in front of Notre Dame but we never did see a hunchback! Already with aching feet, the teachers had us walk to the Eiffel Tower while Mr D took Ria, Helen and me to the cinema to watch 'Black Swan'. At the end of the night we ate at Le Beaujolais where I was served raw chicken.

Alas, our adventure had to come to an end. The final bit of fun was a boat trip on the Seine. We were sad to leave but nothing lasts forever.





# More Paris Trip Photographs



# Biggar Music Course 2011

report by Bethany Ransome

**On the 26<sup>th</sup> of January this year, a large group of young people from all over Dumfries and Galloway arrived at Loaningdale House just outside Biggar to take part in a residential music course.**

Musicians have to be within Grade 2-5 on their instrument, so the age ranged from 11 up to 15. There were four bands altogether: Junior Woodwind and Brass, Intermediate Woodwind and Brass, Strings and Percussion. The percussionists also accompanied the two woodwind bands. I was in the percussion section along with Luke Ball (S2), Robert Guthrie (S2) played in the Intermediate Brass section, and Sarah Kenny (S1) played in the Junior Woodwind Band. We rehearsed for a total of 17.5 hours during the week. Pieces ranged from classical music to Scottish Folk Songs to Robbie Williams and Snow Patrol.

During free time we sat around in the television lounges and chatted. If the seats were all taken, we sat on each other. We plugged iPods into the dock and blasted Paolo Nutini into the corridors. There were two organised trips into Biggar, where we stocked up on e-numbers, additives and artificial colours. We also paid a visit to the Fish and Chip shop, as the food at the centre was pretty awful. Even the teachers agreed.

At the end of the week, everything was packed away and transported to Laurieknowe Primary school. This proved quite a task for the percussionists as there were

two glockenspiels, a xylophone, a marimba, three timpani, two sets of bongos, two drum kits and various other pieces of equipment. But, of course, it was all worth it. The objective of the whole course was to put on a performance for parents. This is the chance to show them what we had achieved during the week. Well, during rehearsals, anyway. The rest would be confessed in the car on the way home.



## MER Module

MER looked at owls and their habitat. The pupils drew owls in different media, dissected owl pellets and drew the content.



## Charities Group report by Elisha Scott

The fundraising week for Chest, Heart and Stroke Scotland was a resounding success. Overall we managed to raise £930.42 for the charity which will contribute to improving the lives of people with chest, heart and stroke conditions. The Charities committee would like to thank Mrs Wilson for her continued help and support but also to everyone at Wallace Hall for helping to make the week so successful!



## Rotary Young Musician of the Year

report by Tom McCubbin

**This year Wallace Hall Academy has 2 contenders in the Rotary Young Musician of the Year competition. Jenny Hutcheson, S6, and Amie Kirkpatrick, S5, recently entered the regional qualifier held at the Cairndale Hotel and were part of only 4 to progress from a 17 strong field.**

Jenny has been playing the piano for 11 years and is currently at grade 8. At the qualifier she played "Autumn Song" by Tchaikovsky which is one of her favourites. In her spare time Jenny likes to play jazz music from the romantic era.

Meanwhile, Amie has been singing for 9 years and is part of the UK's champion showband, KODA, where she has perfected her technique. At the qualifier she sang "There You'll Be" by Faith Hill.

We would like to wish the girls the best of luck at the next stage of the competition.

## Edinburgh Kickstart Summer School report by Caitlin Palmer

**The Edinburgh Kickstart Summer School is a great opportunity to get a taste of university life and meet new people. It is a programme run with University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh Napier University, Queen Margaret University and the Scottish Agricultural College.**

S5 pupils from Dumfries and Galloway attend and stay in the Pollock Halls of Residence and, during the days' activities, are joined by pupils from East, Mid and West Lothian. You get to take part in two hour taster

sessions/workshops on different subjects. The main subject areas are: Humanities & Social Science, and the other is Health, Science and Technology. Throughout the week you take part in 5 different workshops of your choice ranging from biomedical chemistry to Chinese to music. There are so many subjects to choose from you will definitely find something to enjoy. The week was very beneficial and has definitely prepared me for the next step in my education.

## Minimoto Championship Success for Jason

Report by Jason Vernon

Last year in 2010 I took part in the Scottish Minimoto Championship. There were 8 rounds in total which took place at various locations such as Knockhill, Kirkcaldy and Larkhall. On each race day there were 8 separate classes. On a race day there is a practice, a qualifying round and 3 races which takes up most of the day.



I took part in 3 separate classes: Junior Cs, lightweights and the open. The first 2 race days in the Championship in the Junior C class were a disaster for me as my bike was not going very well and it broke down, resulting in very low places. Dad bought a new GP6 minimoto for me to continue the season and things started to look more promising in the Junior C class. Overall at the end of the year I managed to pull back up to get 2<sup>nd</sup> in this class, missing out 1<sup>st</sup> place by just 3 points. Who knows what might have happened if my old bike had been going better at the start of the year!

In the open class, in which I did not compete in the 1<sup>st</sup> race of the year, I got 3<sup>rd</sup> overall. In my third group, which was the lightweight class, I got 1<sup>st</sup> overall, Scottish Light-

weight Champion 2010, 24 wins from 24 starts in this class, at which I

was very pleased indeed. At the end of the year we attended a presentation at the Queensferry Hotel, Edinburgh. I was presented my trophies and shield by Stuart Easton, who at the time was riding for Swan Honda in the British Superbikes. This will be the last year I will take part in the Minimoto Scottish Championship after doing it for 5 years. I am now moving on to the 125cc championship after gaining my race licence in October for a full sized motorbike. I have just returned from Cartagena in Spain from testing my Aprilia 125 and I will hopefully give you a report on this in the next newsletter.



## Curling with Confidence



Brother and sister Ross and Naomi Whyte are making a name for themselves in the sport of curling.

Along with their brother Ruaraidh, a former pupil at Wallace Hall Academy, their team put in an outstanding performance to win the Brieryhill Trophy at Lockerbie beating well known curler, Matt Murdoch 14 shots to 2 on his home ice. We wish the family well in their future competitions.



## Estate Business

Report by Kerris Parkinson and Chloe Marchbank

On Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> March our S2 Business Management class visited Drumlanrig Castle, on the Buccleuch and Queensberry Estate, for our topic on marketing. On arrival we were taken through the main office into a large room where we were shown a presentation on marketing by Lorna Reeder, an employee of Buccleuch Estates.

Following this we were split into groups for an activity. We were asked to come up with a slogan for an actual product made by Chapel Farm. Our given product was dog food and to give us inspiration two dogs were brought into the room. Unfortunately one of our pupils is scared of dogs so she didn't feel very inspired at this!

Overall we thought it was a most enjoyable trip and the class learned a lot about marketing techniques.



For more information on activities taking place at Wallace Hall Academy please visit our school website on [www.wallacehallacademy.com](http://www.wallacehallacademy.com)

## Iain dives for his future

report by Jack Taylor and Thomas Wall



**Iain Horton in S6 will be flying out to Tenerife on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of June to start his dive master internship. Iain has been diving for 3 years and currently trains at Aquatron in Glasgow where so far he has completed his open water, advanced open water, emergency first response and rescue diver courses. He has**

**done a total of 45 dives, 35 of which have been logged dives in places such as Egypt, Capenray, Loch Fyne and Loch Long.**

Earlier this year Iain travelled to Egypt to spend some time at the Red Sea Diving College, where he was planning to go after school, but, because of the political problems at the moment in Egypt he has had to change

his plans and is going to Tenerife instead. When in Tenerife Iain will start his dive master course and working towards becoming a fully trained instructor. Before Iain goes he will have to brush up on his Spanish.

We wish Iain well with his future plans.



## Half Marathon Event – Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2011



**Following the success of our inaugural event in October last year we are pleased to announce that this will become an annual event. The format will be the same with the Queensberry Half Marathon, Drumlanrig Demon 10K and Castle View Fun Run. There will be slight modifications to the routes, the main one being that the Half Marathon will finish up the drive towards the Castle, making this a better finish for the runners.**

We hope many of you will enter our races and we

have decided to offer an incentive for pupils of WHA who can enter at a reduced cost of £8 (normal price £14 for non-members of Scottish Athletics) and also parent/pupil combination entry of £20 which gives a reduction of £2 for the adult on top of the pupil reduction. Forms for pupils and for parent/pupils are only available through the school. There will be a prize awarded to the first WHA pupil to finish the 10K and the Half Marathon and for the winning parent/pupil combination in each race.

If you can't see yourselves participating in any of the races we are looking for enthusiastic volunteers to help on the day. Last year more than 100 volunteers turned out and without them the event would not have been so successful.

Further information about the event and entry forms are available on our website at [www.whahalfmarathon.com](http://www.whahalfmarathon.com). If you would like further information or you are interested in volunteering, contact Diane Jarvie or Shaun Graham by email on [wmaratho264@ea.dumgal.sch.uk](mailto:wmaratho264@ea.dumgal.sch.uk) or by phone on 01848 332120. There is also a link on our school website.

## WHA Texas Scramble – Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2011

**In October 2009 we organised a Texas Scramble Golf Competition at Thornhill Golf Club. We had 16 teams participating and it was a great day.**

We have made a similar arrangement with TGC this

year in the hope of catching some summer sunshine. The event will be held on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> June and we have tee off times for 30 teams of 4. We anticipate a hearty response this year, especially as TGC have kindly put our event onto their fixture list.

Please see our website for further details and entry forms – entries will be taken on a first come-first served basis.

# Wallace Hall Academy Cross Country

Report by Jack Taylor

The school cross-country championships were held on Friday the 18<sup>th</sup> of February in the fields behind the school. There was a good turnout from every year with over 150 pupils taking part. The races were split into year groups and each year had a slightly different course to run. As usual the races with the most entrants were from the younger years. Because of the large number of entrants the results were all very close and everybody had someone to have a good race with.



## Group Photograph shows L- R

Back row: Donald Kennedy, Euan Murgatroyd, Jack McQueen, Ally Barnes, Jack Taylor

Front row: Emily Morton, Kathryn Park, Claire Manson, Ailie Bryson, Stephanie Barnes



Above: S2 Boys at the starting line

The weather on the day was much better than many previous years which made the race a lot more enjoyable. Often the ground is absolutely rock hard with frost.

Everyone who entered seemed to have a good time and they all left for lunch with a great sense of achievement.

## Cross Country Results

### S1 boys

- 1<sup>st</sup> - Donald Kennedy
- 2<sup>nd</sup> - Connor Barnes
- 3<sup>rd</sup> - Ben Wicks
- 4<sup>th</sup> - Fraser Morton
- 5<sup>th</sup> - Craig Scobie

### S1 girls

- 1<sup>st</sup> - Emily Morton
- 2<sup>nd</sup> - Zara Duncan
- 3<sup>rd</sup> - Chloe Flannighan
- 4<sup>th</sup> - Melissa Dundas
- 5<sup>th</sup> - Heather O'Connor

### S2 boys

- 1<sup>st</sup> - Euan Murgatroyd
- 2<sup>nd</sup> - Todd Hay
- 3<sup>rd</sup> - Cameron Scott
- 4<sup>th</sup> - Ellis McLachlan
- 5<sup>th</sup> - Nathan Hogg

### S2 girls

- 1<sup>st</sup> - Kathryn Park
- 2<sup>nd</sup> - Lily Gonlag
- 3<sup>rd</sup> - Loren Wilson
- 4<sup>th</sup> - Philippa Weir
- 5<sup>th</sup> - Sarah Kerr

### S3 boys

- 1<sup>st</sup> - Jack McQueen
- 2<sup>nd</sup> - Eugene Fung
- 3<sup>rd</sup> - Tom Kehoe
- 4<sup>th</sup> - Craig Neill
- 5<sup>th</sup> - Siôn Davies

### S3 girls

- 1<sup>st</sup> - Claire Manson
- 2<sup>nd</sup> - Sophie Henderson
- 3<sup>rd</sup> - Katrina Taylor
- 4<sup>th</sup> - Abbie Clark
- 5<sup>th</sup> - Jessica Ireland

### S4 boys

- 1<sup>st</sup> - Ally Barnes
- 2<sup>nd</sup> - John Carlisle
- 3<sup>rd</sup> - Connor Manson
- 4<sup>th</sup> - Mark Gallagher
- 5<sup>th</sup> - Matthew Holden

### S4 girls

- 1<sup>st</sup> - Ailie Bryson
- 2<sup>nd</sup> - Kellie Carmichael
- 3<sup>rd</sup> - Gillian Watret
- 4<sup>th</sup> - Judi Park
- 5<sup>th</sup> - Mhairi Dalgiesh

### Senior boys

- 1<sup>st</sup> - Jack Taylor
- 2<sup>nd</sup> - Ally Taylor
- 3<sup>rd</sup> - Cameron Williamson
- 4<sup>th</sup> - John Holden
- 5<sup>th</sup> - Vince Coleman

### Senior girls

- 1<sup>st</sup> - Stephanie Barnes
- 2<sup>nd</sup> - Laura Kennedy
- 3<sup>rd</sup> - Isla Murgatroyd
- 4<sup>th</sup> - Katherine Maxwell
- 5<sup>th</sup> - Molly Beattie



## Parent Council News

The Parent Council is currently working with staff and pupils to stage a Health and Wellbeing Event in the school at the end of June. This fits nicely with one of the core elements in the Curriculum for Excellence and hopefully will show how diverse this subject is. The event will be set around healthy eating and four zones entitled 'Feel Good', 'Look Good', 'Be Good' and 'Do Good' and there will be interactive displays as well as information points. Pupils

and their families will be invited to come along and have a go at whatever they fancy - a quick health check, a team game, food tasting or perhaps a mini-pamper session. Please put the date in your diary: **Thursday 30th June 2011, 4pm - 7pm.**

A big thank you to everyone who took part in and supported our Burns Supper in January - our first in the Bailey Hall. Despite lower attendance than usual (due to several events occurring on the same night) a great time was had

by all with the added bonus of raising some funds for school activities.

A warm welcome to Debbie Johnson who has recently joined us as Secretary.

And finally a wee reminder - our meeting dates, minutes and agendas are regularly posted on the school website - please feel free to contact us or attend any of our meetings if our discussions are of interest to you. We are here to represent the voice of all parents.

## Careers Advice: Volunteering helps you learn new skills



**Entry to College and University is very competitive. Academic Performance is only part of the picture; equal weight is now being given to factors such as motivation, work experience and personal experience. Employers have also got increasing numbers of school leavers to choose from.**

Volunteering is an option that can help you to become more attractive to Employers, College and Universities during these very challenging times. Recently **Volunteer Scotland** has "observed that the population, particularly young people, are getting very canny at using volunteering to gain new skills and

experience. Whether you are a pupil/student looking to use volunteering to gain experience to get entry onto a course, or whether you are looking to change career direction, or to retain skills for future employment, volunteering can offer a wide range of skills, experience and sometimes qualifications to help you on your way.

Volunteering experience can look very good on a CV, especially if you present this as learning and skills that you have developed through volunteering and employers will often value it just as much as employment history. It's also a useful stepping stone for those who have been unemployed for some time or are trying to get back to work after a period of ill health.

Volunteering activity on a CV can also demonstrate that you acted on your own initiative, can make a commitment and have a value base.

Organisations who engage volunteers are often willing to give references and this can demonstrate your reliability, personal qualities and transferable skills such as time management, problem

solving, communication and team work.

In 2008 research undertaken by Volunteering England said that volunteering improves life expectancy and vitality more than any other activity. Volunteering helps you gain confidence, gives you the chance to try something new, make new social contact and get a real sense of achievement."

### Further Information and Search for an Opportunity:

[www.volunteerscotland.org.uk/](http://www.volunteerscotland.org.uk/)  
Home

### Volunteer Development

**Scotland:** [www.vds.org.uk](http://www.vds.org.uk)

### Careers Adviser Contact Information:

Maurice Gilligan, Careers Adviser, Careers Scotland Centre, Loreburne Centre, High Street, Dumfries, DG1 2BD

**Email:** [maurice.gilligan@sds.co.uk](mailto:maurice.gilligan@sds.co.uk)  
Tel 01387 272500



## Year Book Update

This year's edition of the school yearbook is on course to be re-

leased at the end of April/early May and will cost approximately £6. The yearbook covers all major school events and includes interviews, articles and class photographs. There is a high possibility

that everyone will appear at some point in the book. Led by Mrs Blackburn, the group has been working hard to create a book that reflects life in Wallace Hall Academy - well done to all involved.