

Wallace Hall

NEWSLETTER

January 2017

Together we grow, learn and achieve



Top of the class



Wallace Hall has been placed joint 26th in the Sunday Times' list of the 50 best Scottish state secondary schools. The results are based on 2015's exam results. Head Teacher Barry Graham said: "We are delighted with this news. Our success is down to the hard work of all our pupils and staff and the support we receive from parents and the whole school community. We aim to continue this good work and look forward to our pupils achieving another set of excellent results this year."

Primary Pupil Council

Primary Pupil Council members recently paid a visit to Mr Graham's office. They spent some time telling Mr Graham about what they have been discussing at their Pupil Council meetings and sharing their ideas with him on how to make Wallace Hall a place where everyone can "grow, learn and achieve".



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National Poetry Day



The theme of National Poetry Day this year was 'Messages'. As one of the poets whose work was featured in this year's Scottish Poetry Library postcards, writer Hugh McMillan dropped in at Wallace Hall to lead some creative writing workshops with a number of classes, from S1 to S6. Pupils had the chance to write short poems delivering a message, some serious and some hilarious. Formats ranged from text messages to birthday messages and many were displayed within the English department. Spin-off activities included messages in a bottle created by Mrs McMillan's S2 class who had been reading *Treasure Island*, in which several characters are marooned on an island.



Contacting the school

The telephone number for Wallace Hall is 01848 332120 with the fax number 01848 332564. The email address for our secondary is: gw08officewallace@ea.dumgal.sch.uk and for the primary/nursery it is: gw08officewallacehal@ea.dumgal.sch.uk.

Our office staff are your first point of contact. They will be pleased to deal with any enquiry you wish to make regarding your child and to put you in touch with the relevant member of staff. Outside office hours you may leave a message on our answering machine. Please contact us if you have any problems. We are here to help. Visit the school website: www.wallacehall.co.uk for the latest news and information about the whole school.

Rotary Young Chef Competition



first place and going forward to represent the area at the district final which will be held at West Lothian College, Livingston, in February. Barry Graham, Head Teacher at Wallace Hall, said: "Morag has a real flair for cooking and I have been really impressed with the dishes she has produced for the competition. It is a huge achievement to reach this level of the Young Chef competition and I wish her the very best of luck in the final."

The local heat of the Rotary Young Chef competition was held in the new hospitality suite at Wallace Hall Academy.

Representing Wallace Hall were S6 pupils Morag Stewart and Carly Thomson. After sampling

some delicious plates of food, professional chef Tony Budde judged Morag's menu to be in first place. Morag then went on to compete in the next stage of the competition which was held at Kirkcudbright Academy. She continued to impress, winning



Festive Fun at the Fair

The annual Christmas Fair held in Wallace Hall on Saturday 10th December from 2 - 4.30pm was a huge success. Lots of people of all ages and stages flocked to the event ready to enjoy some festive fun.

Almost 30 stalls filled the Bailey Hall and The Street with a wide variety of gifts and produce on offer for that last minute Christmas present. Wallace Hall pupils had their own stalls with pupils in the primary making a variety of Christmas decorations

and treats over the past few weeks to sell at the event, while the secondary pupils were in charge of the raffle stall, which had a selection of groaning hampers and a beautifully decorated Christmas cake on offer as prizes. Mr Gilius and his team of pupils served teas, coffees and a selection of delicious home baked treats to those ready for a wee refreshment.

Of course, for many of the younger visitors, a particular highlight of the day was a visit to Santa's Grotto. Helped by his



team of Elves, Santa carefully listened to his young visitors' Christmas wishes and handed out small presents for them to enjoy meantime. The activity area set up in the Primary Hall was also a huge success with lots of craft activities and games laid out for all to enjoy.

Alice Bainbridge, one of the organisers of the event, said: "I was delighted that this year's Christmas Fair was so well supported by pupils, parents, staff and members of the wider community. There was a terrific atmosphere in the building with lots of fun being had by all. Thank you to all of the stall holders for bringing along their delicious produce and crafts and to everyone who supported the event."







Zoolab visits Wallace Hall Nursery and Primary



Zoolab visits Wallace Hall Nursery and Primary

Alton Towers Trip

report by Emily Kennedy



Senior Physics and Business Management pupils were recently given the opportunity to go to Alton Towers recently to learn about different aspects of the theme park.



When we arrived at Alton Towers, we were given our tickets and were allowed to go into the park to enjoy all of the rides before we went to the workshop which focused on either Business Management or Physics. There were so many incredible rides like Oblivion, Nemesis and Thirteen but my favourite was either Galactia or The Smiler!

At our workshop we were shown a short video about Alton Towers and the people who run it. Then everyone who took Physics on the trip found out about how



the combination of speed and gravity affected us whilst we were on the rollercoasters. We learned more about the acceleration and velocity of rides such as "Rita: Queen of Speed". We were then let loose in the park again to make the most of the time we had left. We managed to squeeze a few more rides in before we got on the bus to head back to Thornhill.

Thanks to all the staff who organised the trip - we had a great day and learned lots about how the theme park operates.



In the footsteps of Joseph Thomson

Pupils of Wallace Hall were delighted to welcome back Maasai tribe elder Ezekiel Katato.

Ezekiel returns to the area every few years to pay tribute to Joseph Thomson, the Penpont born explorer who in the 1880s led his

expedition through Maasai land, befriending and earning the respect of the people en route.

Ezekiel spent some time in both the primary and the secondary, talking about his life as a Maasai elder and describing the Thomson trail which has been developed

along 65 miles of the 1500-mile route the explorer followed. This was a fantastic opportunity for the school.

BBC reporter Willie Johnston filmed Ezekiel during his visit to Wallace Hall Academy, and this was later shown on national television.





WHPS support Children in Need



Wallace Hall Art and Design pupils Lauren Johnstone, Marly Baker, Alice Gonlag,

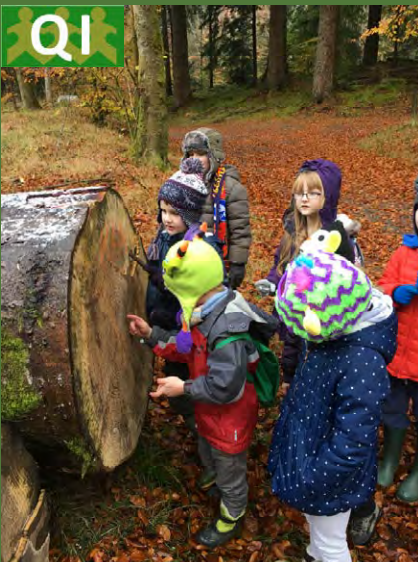
Portfolio Oomph

Chloe Lancaster and Maia Smyth recently attended a one day 'Portfolio Oomph' workshop at Gracefields Art Centre with Julie Read who worked at Edinburgh College of Art.

The workshop was organised to help pupils with their portfolios

in preparation for submission to university or college Art and Design courses.

Alice Gonlag said: "I found the workshop really helpful and I now better understand the level and type of work that is expected in a successful portfolio."



Queensberry Initiative (QI) Project Officers had a very busy morning on the Queensberry Estate in early November when Primary 2 pupils from Wallace Hall joined them on a Woodland Walk.

Woodland Walk with QI

During the morning the pupils explored the woodland environment and identified tree species and looked for signs of woodland animals. They learned all about the different methods of seed and nut dispersal.

After a woodland story and healthy snacks in one of the beautiful heather huts at Drumlanrig, the pupils finished their morning by creating colourful and imaginative tree art on the lawn. This was great fun and a very creative way of helping the pupils remember all the facts they had learned earlier that morning.



S1 Artists display their work



Photograph shows L - R: Sean Thornely-Kyle, Heather Lamb, Matthew Johnstone, Laura Hampson, Bailie Paterson, Chloe Walden and Emily Goodburn with their framed artwork.

Explaining Energy

report by Josie Fairley Keast



Keith Anderson, Chief Corporate Officer of Scottish Power, recently paid a visit to the school to give a special assembly to S5 and S6 pupils.

He talked about the work Scottish Power is currently doing around the country and what they are hoping to achieve in the future, including plans for an increased level of smart technology monitoring energy use in the home. He then



went on to explain the work and apprenticeship opportunities available in the organisation for school leavers.

Ms MacNicol, who organised the visit, said: "By providing examples of his vision for the energy sector, Mr Anderson encouraged students to consider employment skills and to look towards a future career where, as he put it, they could 'dream, inspire, create and deliver.'"

While he was at Wallace Hall, Mr Anderson enjoyed coffee and scones in the new Hospitality restaurant.



Leaving Home Day



In December we were delighted to welcome representatives from the Police, Fire Service, UWS Accommodation, TAP Employment, Santander Bank, and First Aid to deliver

sessions to all our S6 pupils on how to keep themselves safe when they leave home for the first time.

Each presenter covered topics such as how to keep safe at the end of a night out, the use of fire

extinguishers and the risk of fire, what a landlord would expect of a tenant, how to make a good impression at an interview, how banks work and how to budget and how to deliver basic first aid to those in need.

It was a fantastic day and we would like to express our thanks to the presenters who gave up their time and to the S6 pupils that participated.

Particular thanks go to Cammie Walker for stepping up and delivering the first aid sessions (unfortunately the Paramedic had been called away on the morning so was unable to deliver any sessions). He was a brilliant presenter who clearly showed his peers how to administer CPR, how to put someone in the recovery position and how to keep themselves safe in the event of an emergency. Well done Cammie.



Higher Drama Performance

The Higher Drama class held their performance evening in early November, performing ten original short plays on the theme of 'Family Matters'. Thanks to all who turned up to support the class on the night.







Advanced Higher Drama Performance

The Advanced Higher Drama class also recently presented their original play, 'Till Death Do Us Part', both as an evening performance and again to senior classes later in the month.

Music Concerts

To help prepare pupils for their SQA practical music examinations, pupils are being offered the chance to perform in a series of lunchtime concerts in the Drama Studio.

The first of these concerts was held a few weeks ago. A very appreciative audience of staff and pupils listened to performances from Shona Buckley (guitar), Mhairi Morton (piano), Bethany Nicholson (vocals and guitar) and Eve Watson (vocals).

Nick Riley, music teacher, said: "All of the pupils did really well, delivering technically accomplished pieces. Performing in public is excellent preparation for the pupils' practical music examinations and helps develop confidence and stagecraft. The audience thoroughly enjoyed all the performances. Thanks to all the pupils who took part and all who gave up their lunchtime to come and support our very talented young musicians."



Creating castles and catapults

report by Josie Fairley Keast

As part of a recent topic, P1 invited their families into the school to help them build some castles of their own. Using cardboard boxes and other materials found at home, the class created drawbridges, doors, towers and even moats.

Another part of the topic was to make weapons such as catapults at home to be used as props on the day. Orla said: "I made a flag out of paper. It was all different colours." Arthur said: "I liked making a drawbridge". Archie S said: "I made a catapult with Dad. It launches things like stones." Ben said: "It was really good having everyone in."



Erasmus Trip to Budapest

report by Eleanor Burns, Freya Donald, Lauren McKinna,
Freya Sale, Saranne Scott and Eilidh Thomson



On Sunday the 9th of October, the Erasmus group left Wallace Hall Academy at 11 am and headed to Edinburgh airport, where we had time to meet the Scottish football team before flying to Cologne, Germany. After a four hour wait, we finally arrived in Budapest, Hungary at around 9 pm, where we were excited to meet our hosts for the week.

On Monday morning we made our separate ways to Xántus János, the school our hosts attend, travelling by trains, trams, buses and the metro. When we arrived we were given a tour around the school and then began our project work. After a few hours at the school we got a tour bus around the city and

saw some of Budapest's most famous sites, including Heroes' Square and Buda Castle, before having some time to ourselves.

The next day we continued our project work, and then we visited the Hospital in the Rock, a nuclear bunker which was used as a hospital during the Second World War. That night we saw the city with our hosts and did some shopping. On Wednesday we had the opportunity to learn some Hungarian dances in the school before we went to the Budapest Parliament, which was built according to a similar design to Westminster. The security was very high, but the inside was very beautiful. Again, we spent the evening shopping and seeing more of the city.

For our final full day in Hungary, we presented our projects to the other groups and to two other classes in the school, which was a great chance to talk with some of the pupils. We were joined by some of the Belgians in seeing more of the city before spending the last night with our hosts. Sadly, we then had to depart Budapest on a 6.30am flight to Brussels. After some time in the airport, we flew to Edinburgh and arrived back at the school in the early afternoon.

The trip was a fantastic experience which surpassed many of our expectations, and we will never forget the friendships and memories we have made. Thanks to Mr Harley and the Erasmus group for giving us this opportunity.



An eye for design



Lottie Bramley, an S5 pupil at Wallace Hall, has been working with members of the Durisdeer Village Committee to raise money for the village hall funds.

Using seasonal photographs of local views taken by Elma Clark, Lottie designed and edited the calendar in school during lunchtimes and morning intervals. This was a very time consuming task which required a keen eye for detail and a high level of photographic editing skills.

The calendar was a huge success; all 400 copies were sold in time for the New Year raising just over £1000 for hall funds in the process. It is hoped that Lottie will be presented with a Saltire Award later this year for the time she spent volunteering on this project.

Photograph on the left shows Lottie being presented with one of the calendars by Mrs Jane Paton, Secretary of the Durisdeer Village Committee.

D&G School Sports Journalism Project Launch

report by Sam Godfrey, Edan Hoddinott, Simon Jaupi and Todd Wilson



On Thursday 3rd November schools from across the region travelled to Dumfries Academy for the launch of School Sports Journalism. The Wallace Hall representatives were Sam Godfrey, Edan Hoddinott, Simon Jaupi and Todd Wilson.

The day began with an introduction and welcome from Louise Coupar, head of school sports in the region.

Next, there were group activities where participants discussed what makes a good journalist. Then there was the opportunity to interview ex-professional athletes such as Chris Jardine who played for Annan Athletic and Rangers, and Senga Thompson, a champion table tennis player who represented Scotland in many worldwide tournaments.

In the afternoon, there was time to write about one of the athletes who had been interviewed. Journalists also had to come up with questions for Rio bronze medallist Sally Conway and ITV presenter Lori Carnochan.

First, Lori told participants about her experience as an interviewer and reporter, and how you always had to be ready for anything. Camera functions were demonstrated along with the setup, recording and sound. She later interviewed Sally Conway live on Facebook. All the journalists were interested in this and got to ask their questions for Sally and Lori.

We then had the chance to take photos with Sally and Lori. Sally even brought her Rio medal and some of us were lucky enough to hold it!

Winning the argument



Amy Brown and Nathan King represented Wallace Hall in the first round of the Donald Dewar Memorial Debating Tournament in November. Run

by the Law Society of Scotland, the competition is held annually to support pupils in the development of their debating skills.

The motion for the first round debate was that '*Referendums should be abolished!*' Our team presented the case in favour of this motion against Dumfries Academy who opposed it. Amy and Nathan fought their corner in the discussion, and were praised for their presentation skills and persuasive arguments by the judges. They successfully made it to the second round where the motion to be debated will be that '*This house would permit the use of performance enhancing drugs in professional sports.*' It should be an interesting and very lively discussion.

The picture shows Amy and Nathan, together with the other participating pupils from Moffat Academy and Dumfries Academy.

Going for Gold



Avid reader Anya Graham was the first pupil in this year's S1 to complete her Silver Award for reading. Bookworm Anya has read well in excess of the 15 books that are needed to achieve the Bronze and Silver awards, and is now well ahead with her Gold reading award too. Congratulations, Anya!

Paired Reading

Our Paired Reading programme is now in its second year and continues to be very successful.

Each S1 and S2 pupil has a personal reading period each week and works towards Bronze, Silver and Gold awards for reading. To encourage the S1 and S2 pupils to read more, Sixth Year volunteers attend these classes and spend time each week with the pupils discussing books, reading aloud and helping the younger pupils choose suitable books from the school's well-stocked library. S6 pupils gain valuable experience in developing their people skills at the same time as helping others improve their literacy and their enjoyment of reading. Thanks to their support, most of our S1 pupils have already achieved their Bronze award and several have also finished the Silver level – an impressive achievement.



Jade Davidson and Ellie Hyslop reading in the Library



S1 Trip to Belmont

Together we grow, learn and achieve



S1 Trip to Belmont

Together we grow, learn and achieve



S1 Trip to Belmont



S1 Trip to Belmont

S4 Prelim Study Support

report by Eleanor McKie

In December last year, S4 students were given the opportunity to participate in a study skills morning that was arranged by Mrs Andrews.

Senior students were selected by Mrs Andrews to provide S4s with presentations as part of the workshop. These included activities such as creating a study timetable, finding SQA past papers online, learning how to deal with stress and learning about career options and higher education.

Many students found it interesting as it helped them deal with their concerns relating to exams. Bethany Wade said: "I felt that I benefitted a lot from the study support and I am less stressed than I was prior to the

workshop." James Taylor added: "The sessions were helpful. A lot was learned that will hopefully

remain in our heads when exam time comes around." Mrs Andrews commented: "The whole day went really well and had a positive impact on the pupils."

In conclusion, the day was a great success and will hopefully be recreated for next year's S4s.



Senior pupils secure their Saltire Awards



Photograph above L - R: Lorna Rideout, Mhari Prentice, Sarah Wilson, Deri Ronan, Kerri Canham, Niall Holden, Lucy Doig, Suzie Wedge, Charlie Geddes, Niamh McQuarrie Parkes



Photograph above L - R: Morgan Tate, Giorgia Rinaldi, Maisie Cronie, Mairead Haugh, Gregor Black, Neil Macdonald, Mrs Fraser, Greig Dunbar, Emily McVicar, Morven Dobie, Mrs Andrews

On the 5th December a number of our senior pupils in S5 and S6 received Saltire Awards. Our pupils have been working very hard volunteering in a number of different areas, including local community support, school activities and even spending a summer in Tanzania! A special mention goes to Sarah Wilson, Niamh McQuarrie Parkes and Hannah Brown. These S6 students all received a 200 hour award for their work with Camp International. Well done girls!

Queensberry Initiative Career Mentoring



Queensberry Initiative (QI) Career Mentoring Programme held its grand finale for this year on Monday 12th December with senior pupils from Wallace Hall Academy taking part in panel interviews. This was a

fabulous opportunity for them to practice their interview skills in a safe environment.

Cammie Walker, S6, said: "I felt really nervous but it was a nice way to learn more about the skills I will need in an interview situation. The

Queensberry Initiative mentors gave me feedback and some pointers on how I can improve including my handshake, eye contact and just general confidence so that I can sell myself to potential employers."

You're Hired

report by Andy MacKay

Thornhill and District Rotary Club recently conducted mock interviews at Wallace Hall Academy. Almost 100 students from the fifth and sixth years were involved in this programme, which has become an annual event.

Students were invited to present their ambitions and aspirations in a simulated interview process with Rotarians offering advice and guidance. Kerry Fraser, who organised the interviews says: "We very much welcome and appreciate the connection with the local Rotary Club. Our students look forward to the interviews and our

feedback endorses that they value this dialogue."

The Rotary Club has participated in the mock interviews for many years now and Andy MacKay, president of the Thornhill and District Club

enthusiastically backs Rotary's involvement: "Our club looks forward to the mock interviews and we are always impressed how articulate, confident and well-focused the students are at Wallace Hall."



Her Majesty the Queen's Birthday Lunch



Some of our primary pupils enjoyed a delicious birthday lunch for the Queen in the sunshine!

Crime Day

report by Emily Kennedy



dance from last year's school show, a bucket of cold water being poured over his head and whipped cream in his face.

Everyone had a great day and we are extremely grateful to Mrs Andrews, PC Carter, Craig Bennison and Ben and Sean Wicks for all the hard work that they put in to make the day so thoroughly enjoyable!

To all of the National 4/5 Modern Studies pupils, the week leading up to Friday 18th November was very exciting as Mrs Andrews had let us know that PC Carter, our community police officer, was coming in to school to talk to us. We thought that we would only be out of our normal timetable at the start of the day so PC Carter could talk to us about what his job involves and what he deals with on a day to day basis. Little did we know that Mrs Andrews had organised a 'Crime Day' for us all and we would be spending the whole day trying to solve a case.

Whilst getting the so called 'talk' at the start of the morning, former pupil Ben Wicks had entered through the back doors of the Bailey Hall. Most of us know that Ben is regularly in school and thought nothing of it. A few moments after this, Mrs Andrews realised her purse had gone missing and that it was our job to find out where it was. We were separated into different groups with some working on chasing up CCTV footage and others asking teachers around the school for eyewitness accounts. The group I was in consisted of myself, Jack, Ben S, Jasmin and Annabelle, which then got split into procurator fiscal and defence. We worked very hard with Barrister and University Lecturer Craig Bennison to find out

what we had to do in these roles and how we were to go about proving Ben innocent or guilty. We then received an anonymous tip off that the purse had been spotted outside in the woods so PC Carter helped us to carry out a proper police search to find it. Once the purse had been found, Ben was interviewed and questioned about his involvement in the crime. Our group had been working hard during the day to put together all of the evidence to form a case for or against convicting Ben. Myself and Jack were prosecution and required eyewitnesses such as Sean Wicks and Aidan Montgomery. The defence side fought very hard to prove Ben innocent however the jury came to the decision that he was very much guilty. His sentence involved a





A Cracker of a Christmas



Photos show Wallace Hall Primary pupils and staff enjoying their Christmas lunch, prepared and served by Alison Kennedy and her team.

Paying our Respects

As part of the school's Remembrance Day events, our Head Girl and Head Boy, Lucy Doig and Josh Notman, visited the Commonwealth War Graves at Morton Cemetery in Thornhill to pay their respects to some of the brave men and women who died fighting for their country in World War One or World War Two.

Lucy and Josh were accompanied by well-known Penpont historian

Gladys Cuttle, and Revd. J. Stuart Mill, Church of Scotland Minister of Durisdeer Thornhill, Penpont, Keir and Tynron.

Lucy said: "Our visit to the war graves was a very moving experience. It brought home to us the sad reality of war and highlighted how many young people lost their lives in the conflicts. Thank you to Gladys and Revd. Mill for making the visit so memorable for us."



Primary pupils enjoy a Christmas panto





Printmaking Elective



A group of S3 and S4 pupils have been learning about Printmaking with artist Sarah Keast. Printmaking is a way of making images by using printing blocks and stencil.

The pupils have had a chance to try out several different printmaking techniques starting with mono-printing with acrylic sheets. This involves rolling ink onto acrylic sheets then using brushes and tools to draw into the ink.

The class then moved on to lino cutting pictures and cards. Pupils learned about reduction printing in several stages, making prints then cutting away more of the block before printing the next colour over the top. In term two they tried screen printing. This involves printing using screens covered with a mesh and a stencil. The pupils produced designs and made stencils using a photo emulsion and light box and screen printed



their own bags and pencil cases. This term we are making larger scale prints and trying book binding techniques.



Recently, Higher and Advanced Higher Biology students went on a trip to Edinburgh Zoo.

To fit in with their course, the Advanced Higher pupils decided to make ethograms based on chimpanzees. This involved studying the chimpanzees behaviour for a certain amount of time to see how long they spent on different activities.

The Higher students listened to an interesting lecture relating to Unit 3 of their course which helped them develop their knowledge and understanding. After that, the students were able to see the panda enclosure where the two pandas were eating and sleeping. This was a rare opportunity as one of them was actually awake!

Once all the work was completed we were able to have an hour of free time which allowed us to explore the zoo and see the variety of animals kept there.

Visiting the Zoo

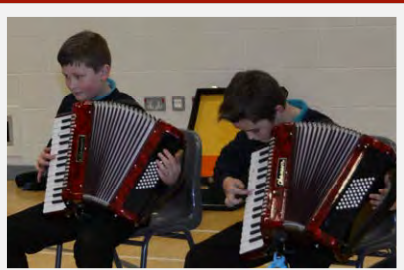
report by Caitlin Harley



Accordion Opportunity



Since August 2016, Primary 5 have been involved in a Creative Scotland Youth Music Initiative project... everyone in the class has been learning the accordion!



Mrs Kate Picken (Youth Music Development Officer) offered Primary 5 the opportunity to have Accordion lessons, with Mr Keith Dickson, for 32 weeks! Mrs Picken couldn't have chosen a better teacher for the class. Mr Dickson has been fun and inspirational and the whole class really enjoy their lessons and are working hard to learn how to play the accordion.

On the 8th December, Primary 5 invited their friends and family to a Christmas themed 'Accordion Performance' in the school. The



audience were treated to a fantastic afternoon of music followed by tea, coffee and home baking. The class, in four groups, entertained their audience with super renditions of Winter Wonderland, Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer, Silent Night and Jingle Bells.

The event was such a success that the class can hardly wait for their next performance with Skerryvore on 1st March! They will also be taking part in the DDMFA Accordion Event on the 25th March. Exciting times ahead for Primary 5! Thank you Mrs Picken and Mr Dickson for the opportunity.



Celebrating Pupils' Achievements

We are very keen to celebrate our pupils' achievements in the school newsletter, whether these achievements happen in school or in the pupils' own time. However, we cannot do this unless we know about them. To help us with this process, we would ask that parents and/or pupils send us an email at gw08officewallace@ea.dumgal.sch.uk, detailing any achievements and attaching any relevant photographs. Thank you.

Bridging the Digital Gap



from U3A and listening to their life experiences. I think that they did learn quite a lot from us, particularly about social media, and that they will feel more comfortable using technology now."

Nick Riley, PT of Social Subjects with responsibility for Electives, said: "This has been a new venture for the school and one that has proved to be very successful. We are always open to working with the community and through this Elective the school students discovered how valuable their own skills are and how much they enjoyed sharing them. It was interesting to observe the easy interaction between Wallace Hall pupils and the U3A students and it was obvious that both sides got satisfaction from the experience. This is just the start of our partnership, with the next venture being a Cookery Elective which will be led by U3A students."

A chance conversation between Barry Graham, Wallace Hall Head Teacher, and Delia Holland, University of the Third Age (U3A), led to an opportunity to 'Bridge the Digital Gap' between 5th year students at the school and members of U3A in Dumfries.

Over the course of seven weeks, the students spent their Elective periods helping U3A members better understand the vagaries of social media, maximise the use of a tablet, get to know their computers better and improve the security on their mobile phones.

Faye Harkness, one of the pupils helping, said: "I really enjoyed meeting all of the visitors



Dancing the night away

report by Josie Fairley Keast



In the weeks leading up to Christmas, staff and pupils alike embraced the festive spirit with the annual series of dances. As always, every dance was well attended, with music for the junior and senior dances provided by the Jim Gold Duo and the David Kennedy Scottish Dance Band respectively. Head girl Lucy Doig, one of the many sixth year students who helped with the junior dances, said: "All three dances were a huge success, and it was great to see pupils from every year group getting into the festive spirit."

The first dance to be held was the S5-6 dance, which included a meal provided by Mrs Kennedy and staff, presented by Mr Gillius and his team of servers. Attendees were piped into the hall by Robbie Logan, and went on to have a great night of dancing and entertainment. For the senior pupils who plan to leave school at the end of the year, this was a particularly important event. Sam Murphy, S6, said: "I had a really good time at my last school dance and I feel that it was a fitting end to my time at Wallace Hall."

By contrast, the S1-2 dance held the following Monday was the first major school event for many of the pupils attending. Despite still being fairly new to many of the dances, students kept up with the steps extremely well, and met the prize dances with an unmatched enthusiasm. Skye Bonnar, S1, said: "It was nice to do something bigger than what we'd done before in primary."

The final event of the year was the S3-4 dance, which was particularly well-attended. Students were introduced to the annual Square Tango dance-off, a chance to showcase skill and flair to a panel of judges. This contest is not featured in the S1-2 dance, but soon becomes a staple of later

years. Jennifer Clark, S3, said: "This dance was different because everyone knew the dances better and people didn't stand on your feet as much."

As according to tradition, all three dances ended with the singing of 'Auld Lang Syne' in anticipation of the Christmas and New Year celebrations to come. To sum up the events and what they mean to the school, head boy Josh Notman said: "I have enjoyed taking part in the Christmas Dances throughout my time at school and it was great to see the same sort of enthusiasm with the younger pupils. Thank you to all the staff and pupils who gave up their time to make the dances such a fantastic experience for everyone."









Enjoying Orienteering

Report by Arland O'Hara and Fergus Bainbridge



Every Friday for the past couple of weeks, P7 pupils have ventured out towards the secondary playground to learn more about orienteering from Mrs Graham and Tim and Helen from Solway Orienteers.

First of all we always have a catch up and talk about the tasks ahead. Step by step, Tim, Helen and Mrs Graham encouraged us by giving us progressive courses, each one slowly getting longer and

trickier than the previous one. James Hobman said: "I am enjoying this opportunity very much and think Tim and Helen are really friendly leaders who are very good at their job."

Just like James, everyone thought it was amazing that we got this great activity on a Friday. Almost every time we go no one is bothered that we are out in the freezing cold or that we are missing Golden Time. Lauren Frame

commented: "So far it has been very enjoyable learning new skills and developing my knowledge of orienteering."

We have absolutely loved the orienteering sessions and really appreciate that we have had the chance to find out more about the sport. As a class we are eager for our next couple of sessions."

Miss Meegan said: "The children had lots of fun working together. We used our mathematical and geographical skills to complete tasks successfully."

Amazingly in our last session all of the groups passed the orienteering course in under 15 mins - a new class record for the Solway Orienteering team. In first place on the X course was the successful pair of Arland and Lucas, and on the XX course James and Fergus were the pair who marginally beat the opposition.

Throughout the course of our sessions we have enjoyed our time with Tim and Helen and would like to thank them and Mrs Graham for working with us.

The regional schools' orienteering championships for both primary and secondary pupils will take place on Friday 17th March. Pupils interested in taking part should see Mr Mack.







Wallace Hall v Dumfries High School

Together we grow, learn and achieve



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Senior Boys' Hockey Team



On Wednesday 9th November the senior boys' hockey team played in the regional tournament at King George V in Dumfries. The boys played against teams from Lockerbie Academy, Dalbeattie High School and Kirkcudbright Academy. The squad is made up of mostly S4s who learned a lot playing against more experienced S6 players. This will be excellent preparation for next year's tournament. Mrs Miller was very happy with the boys' performance.

Regional Football

Report by Aidan Dobie and Finlay Bainbridge

On the 3rd of November the D&G Regional Football Squad made their way up to Toryglen Football Centre in Glasgow.

Unfortunately the weather was not so good. The pupils from Wallace Hall who were part of this squad were Aidan Dobie, Matt Gibson, Charlie Brown and Finlay Bainbridge.

The game kicked off at 1pm. Glasgow got off to a better start by scoring two goals in the first 15

minutes. Shortly after their second goal, D&G scored with a header from a free kick. Half-time was beckoning but 20 seconds after the half-time whistle should have sounded, Glasgow made it 3-1 going in to half-time. In the first half the Glasgow boys had a lot of joy down the right-hand side of D&G's defence.

At half-time three substitutions were made by D&G. The game started rather slowly with no real

chances falling to either side for the first 15 minutes. D&G were creating a few chances but just couldn't finish them off. For the rest of the game Glasgow dominated and this was confirmed by the final score of 6 -1.

After the game there were complimentary drinks and snacks which were most enjoyed by all of the boys. Squad favourite was the tuna and sweetcorn sandwich.

Overall, it was a rather disappointing game but there were definitely things that the team can be proud of against such a talented opposition.

Junior Girls' Football Team



The Junior Girls' Football Team enjoyed their first tournament of the year at Palmerston Indoor Arena just before Christmas.

The girls gave a great account of themselves and were lucky enough to benefit from the coaching skills (and motivational tunes) of Mr Josh Notman! Well done girls!

Wallace Hall Golf Champions



Thanks to Thornhill Golf Club for hosting the 2016 Wallace Hall Golf Championships.

It was a glorious, sunny day and course conditions were excellent. Competition was fierce with eleven golfers stepping up to the challenge.

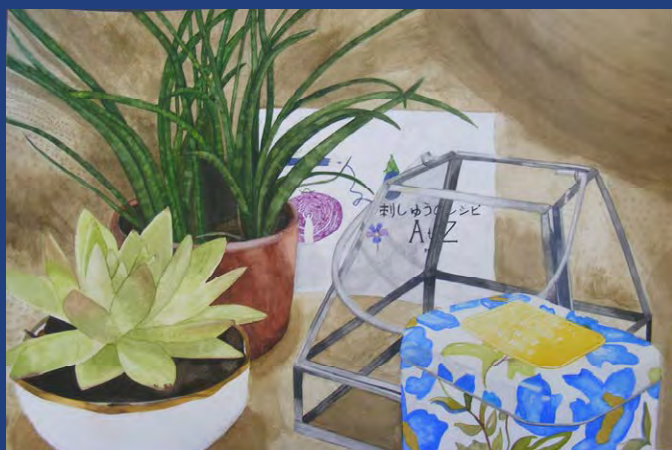
Winners were (L - R) Zara Weir, Harry McCabe and Aaron Grierson. Congratulations to them all.

Heading for the finishing line



Wallace Hall pupils took part in the Upper Nithsdale Triathlon. The 3 disciplines involved were swimming, cycling and running. Well done to all who took part.

Art and Design pupil work



Alice Gonlag



Maia Smyth



Chloe Lancaster



Ellie Thorburn

Stationery Shop in the Library

The following items of stationery are for sale in the school Library: pencils (40p), pens (40p), erasers (40p), sharpeners (40p), protractors (50p), highlighters (40p), 15cm rulers (40p) and 30cm rulers (40p). As a result of pupil demand, scientific calculators (£10.00), headphones (£2.50), headphone jacks (50p) and jotters (60p) are also now on sale. Any profit that is made from this venture goes towards purchasing new resources for the Library. We also accept donations of good quality books for our Library, in particular junior fiction, senior fiction and current study skills books. Please hand any book donations in to Mrs Menzies in the Library. Any books that are not suitable for our shelves will be taken to a charity shop. Thank you.