

## Walter Hooper visiting Slovakia

May 12-13, 2010

On May 12 – 13, 2010 Mr. Walter Hooper, a writer, literary critic, trustee and literary advisor of the estate of C.S. Lewis, visited Bratislava. He was the last secretary of C.S. Lewis and he remained very close to him till the end of Lewis's life. He visited our school on the occasion of the award ceremony of the literary competition organized by Church Elementary and Middle School Narnia and C.S. Lewis Bilingual High School, Bratislava, for the 9th year. He was accompanied by our friend Tom Burbeck thanks to whom this visit could occur.

In the afternoon Walter Hooper talked to an audience of the school community and invited guests on the topic: My Life with C.S. Lewis. The hearts of younger as well as the older participants were won by wit, intelligence, and life wisdom of this lively 80-year-old man, the last member of the famous Oxford group of Inklings, which included C.S. Lewis as well as J.R.R. Tolkien and his son Christopher.



On the occasion of the visit we decided to name our gradually growing school library after him – **Walter Hooper Library**. Mr. Hooper contributed to the new library with a gift of two of his books.



The students of Narnia met W. Hooper during a big Opening on Thursday morning. He amused his young audience by stories of cats and Lewis's gardener. Mr. Hooper answered all the questions of our students that were asked in English. A lively and intelligent discussion continued during the English lesson of our 7th graders. We said good-bye to our precious guest on Thursday noon before he flew back to Oxford in the afternoon.