

WESTERN GRAMMAR SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 50 TERM 1 FRIDAY, 12TH APRIL 2019

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“READ IN THE NAME OF YOUR LORD WHO CREATED”

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Year 3

Assalamu Alaikum,

Mashallah! What a fantastic start to Term 1, 2019. Year 3 are extremely hard-working students and have excelled in many areas this term.

Term 1 has brought many exciting events. We incorporated the literacy online program, 'Reading Eggs', into every guided reading session. Students enjoyed this task every English lesson. Further, we have been looking at different novels and studying how a novel is structured.

Science lessons have been interesting this term as students investigated the Solar System. Year 3 learnt about how day time turns to into night time.

See if you can solve this science joke - (answer at the bottom)

Joke: Why wasn't the moon hungry?

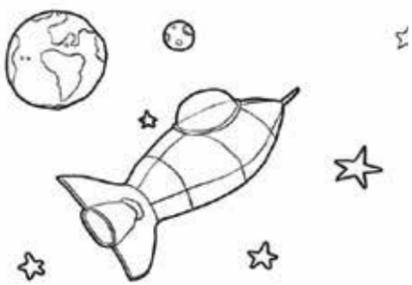
Math lessons have been challenging with difficult numeracy problems. Additionally, we have been using 'Prime Maths book'. Ms Boyd enjoys the giant pile of marking to do every day.

In PDH, Year 3 students have described the emotions they often find difficult to control. As you can see, anger is very frightening in their eyes!

Overall, it has been a great Term 1. Go team!

Answer: Because it was full!

-MS JUSTINE BOYD



Year 4

Asalaamu Alaikum,

Alhamdulillah, what a spectacular start to the year!

For Term 1, we have been focusing on collaborative and team building activities to foster a sense of cooperation and community. Healthy competition and team games have been enjoyed by all students which includes interactive technologies and online quizzes. There are incentives to winning, however the Year 4 students know our class motto very well; 'it's not about winning or losing, it's about getting involved and having fun while learning.'

Other activities, including drawing and writing competitions, have also played a vital role this term. Themed weeks we've had throughout Term 1; such as anti-bullying, sun safety and harmony week have been incorporated into the competitions. Students brought out their inner flare with vibrant colours, foods and clothing. We have also begun our return-and-earn collections: where students collect plastic bottles for earnings and use the money on classroom supplies and equipment.

As a class this year, there is a significant focus on the culture of reading, so I urge all parents to get involved with reading activities at home and inshallah it will greatly benefit the students.

All in all, Year 4 have been a great pleasure to teach, and I do hope to get involved with many more great activities as the year progresses.

-MR ZOHEB KHAN



Assalamu Alaikum,

I am delighted and honoured to have joined Western Grammar School as the Year 5 teacher. I am proud to say that our first term has been extremely enjoyable as well as very productive. Students have had the opportunity to be involved in many exciting activities and events, including participation in the Anti-Bullying Poster Competition, Harmony Day, and the excursion to Canberra. As we approach the end of Term 1, I am pleased to say that Alhamdulillah all Year 5 students have successfully completed their Term 1 assessments.

By the grace of Allah, students have already begun to prepare for NAPLAN, which draws ever nearer. For Numeracy, we have covered many topics including Whole Numbers, Measurements, Multiplication and Division. Students have also been completing some NAPLAN past papers, which is an indispensable technique for the preparation of any exam. Inshallah, we will continue to use such methods to prepare until the tests begin next term. I have high expectations of Year 5 students' performance in NAPLAN.

Our students have also completed many engaging tasks for other subjects such as Science, History, and Arts. With new programs and learning aids becoming available to us this year, Inshallah the students will have every opportunity to improve their academic skills while also enjoying their learning.

Last but not least, it was an absolute pleasure to be able to accompany the Year 5 and 6 students to Canberra for an excursion. The students visited the Parliament House and the science museum Questacon where they were able to experience many educative and entertaining activities. The students absolutely loved it and I hope that Allah will grant us more such opportunities in the future.

I would like to thank you for your support and cooperation. Should you have any inquiries, please do contact me as I would be delighted to speak with you.

Year 5 and 6

-MR HAMID AHMAD



ISLAMIC STUDIES

“Allahumma baarik lanaa fee rajab wa sha’baan wa balighnaa ramadaan,” (O Allah, bless us in the month of Rajab and Sha’baan and let us witness Ramadan).

All Praise is due to Allah, the Lord of the worlds, and All Thanks is due to Him for all the favours He has bestowed upon us. The end of Term 1 is now upon us, and Alhamdulillah what a wonderful term it has been for Western Grammar School.

Things have been nice and vibrant in the Islamic Studies department and this has been made possible with the hard work of the teachers and students and the co-operation of the parents. We would like to extend our appreciation to the parents for supporting their children on their journey to seeking a deeper understanding and a greater appreciation of the deen of Islam.

This term, students have been busy studying many different topics in Islamic Studies and Arabic and have been memorising a range of Surahs with their tafseer. Congratulations to all those students who have performed exceptionally well in all term one assessments in the Islamic Department and all the best to everyone for next terms half yearly exams.

The blessed month of Ramadan is just around the corner. The Prophet (s) and his companions used to prepare for Ramadan many months before it. One of the ways they would prepare is that they would increase their voluntary fasts in the month of Rajab and Sha’baan, and the other way is they would increase making dua to Allah to let them witness Ramadan again; “Allahumma baarik lanaa fee rajab wa sha’baan wa balighnaa ramadaan,” (O Allah, bless us in the month of Rajab and Sha’baan and let us witness Ramadan).

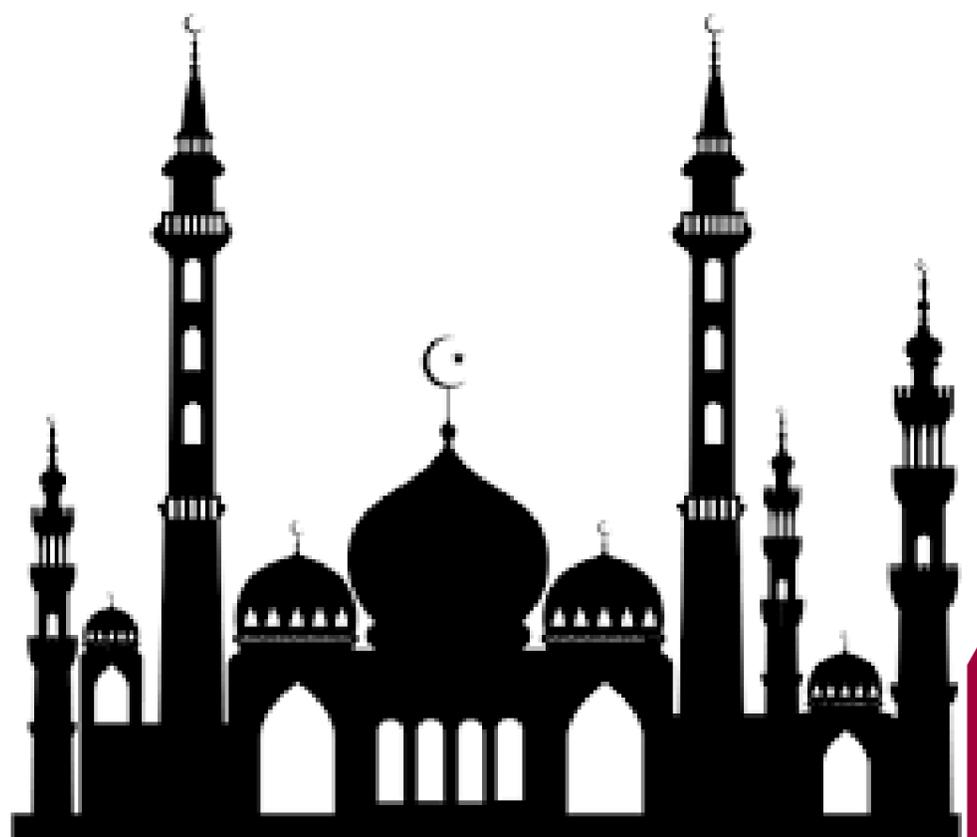
As we are now in the month of Sha’baan, let us all prepare for Ramadan by fasting some of the days. The best preparation for any activity is by practicing that activity. Therefore, we Muslims should prepare for this blessed month by practicing it now to be ready to meet Ramadan with happiness and contentment. May Allah bless you all and accept your fast in Ramadan.

Islamic Department Coordinator

-MR ABDULLAH HAKEEM

Ramadan Activities Shout Outs!

- Quran Competition
- Iftaar Program
- Tarawih Program
- Special Ramadan Lessons
- Charity Drive
- Session on Zakah
- Eid Cards Making Activity
- Eid Gifts
- Eid Celebration.



GRANDPARENTS DAY

WESTERN GRAMMAR SCHOOL HELD A GRANDPARENTS LUNCH FOR KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS. THIS EVENT WAS SPECIAL AND ENCOURAGED KINDY STUDENTS TO LOVE, RESPECT AND CARE FOR THE ELDERLY.



WELFARE

Assalamu Alaikum,

The Welfare team hosted a grand parents' luncheon on Tuesday, 9th April 2019.. The grandparents of our Kindergarten students were invited to attend a special lunch in their honour.

The theme centred around showing respect for and valuing the elderly, and especially grandparents.

Dr Munazah, the Welfare coordinator, was Master of Ceremonies for the program. This included presentations from a group of Year 2 students, a guest speech by Dr Shabbir Ahmed and gifts and cards from the Kindergarten students to their grandparents.

Mr Irfan Afzal welcomed guests and later also thanked Dr Shabir for his inspiring words. Kindergarten had a great time and were extremely happy having their grandparents visit them at school.



PRIMARY

-MS SANJANA AND MS ANITA

The kindergarten students of WGS had the special opportunity of visiting Calmsley Hill farm on the 20th of March 2019.

Students enjoyed learning about dairy cows and the process of food. They were excited to see a variety of animals on the farms. These included calves, alpacas, sheep boars, camels and goats.

Kindergarten entered a nursery animal enclosure with young lambs and kid goats. They enjoyed the thrill of the tractor ride and were fascinated with the sheep shearing show. Students arrived back at school exhausted after what was an amazing experience!

A special thankyou to our parent volunteers, Ms Amira and Ms Khan for their time and effort!



SECONDARY

-KAAMIL MALIK

On Monday, 1st April 2019, Year 11 Chemistry Students visited ANSTO research laboratory in Lucas Heights. Students participated in a range of activities, revolving around different technologies that help improve the quality of life around the world, using nuclear research.

Year 11 had the opportunity to explore nuclear laboratories and interact with core chemistry principles through inquiry, experimentation and practice.

Overall it was a great experience!

WGS Vice Captain



INSPIRE-CONNECT-PLAY!

Congratulations to the WGS high school students who participated in the 'INSPIRE - CONNECT - PLAY' Female Football Festival.

Football United held a football festival at Valentine Sports Park for over 150 girls today in partnership with Football New South Wales, the Commonwealth through the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's Council for Australian-Arab Relations (CAAR), The Lebanese Muslim Association (Go ACTIVE) and Sydney FC.

Participants from nine different schools came together for the same cause of learning new football skills, meeting new people and most importantly having fun.

Western Grammar School gained recognition for their fantastic work as two Year 11 students, Zeina M and Yazmin B, were selected to play in the finals, with their team winning the game.

Well done to all the girls who participated today. The teachers at Western Grammar School are extremely proud of you!



-MS OZGE SUSAN

SRC EVENT

The independent Islamic School, Unity Grammar College, which hosted international speaker and spoken word poet, Amal Kassir, invited student leaders from different schools, including our school to a special event on 28th March 2019.

Members of our Student Representative Council (SRC), from years 9 to 12, attended the event. It was an exciting opportunity for our students to learn from an inspiring and motivational speaker and to meet with peers from other schools.



Amal is a Muslim woman, born and raised in Denver, Colorado, to an American mother and a Syrian father. She is a Ted X speaker and has addressed audiences in 10 countries and over 45 cities. She has conducted workshops, given lectures and recited her poetry in venues ranging from orphanages to refugee camps, from universities to community spaces for the public.

-DR ZACHARIAH MATTHEWS

ANTI-BULLYING WEEK

Bullying. No Way! Take action every day

Western Grammar School participated in a number of events as part of its Anti-Bullying Week campaign from 11th- 15th March 2019.

Definition:

1. Misuse of power
2. Ongoing and repeated
3. Behaviours that can cause harm

Types of Bullying:

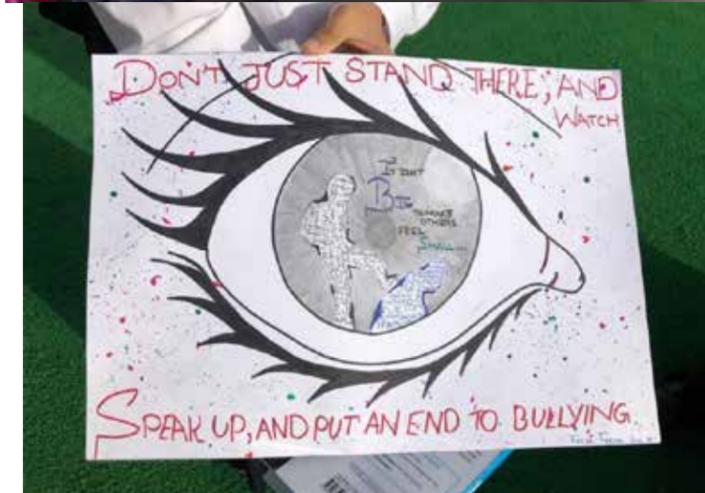
1. Verbal: Name calling, insulting, teasing etc.
2. Physical: Hitting, shoving, intimidating etc.
3. Social: Excluding, gossiping, isolating etc

At WGS, students were shown videos by the NSW government informing them of the different types of bullying and behaviors that can cause great harm. During sport lessons, students were advised to co-operate with their coach, teammates and opponents and treat all players equally. Verbal abuse of officials or other players, deliberately distracting or provoking an opponent is not permitted in any sport.

Students were given short reminders in morning assemblies. They learnt about the Islamic implications on bullying, how to help victims and the bully by using different methods of stopping oppression.

Special assemblies were held at WGS for 'National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence.' Students' short stories and spoken word poems were presented. Merit awards were also handed out to the best and fairest sport, as well as drawing and poem competitions. The poem titled "Dear Bully", which was presented by a Year 9 student, was extremely powerful in the message it conveyed.

The Prophet (PBUH) said: "Help your brother, whether he is the oppressor or the oppressed." (Bukhari)



HARMONY WEEK

week

Assalamu Alaikum,

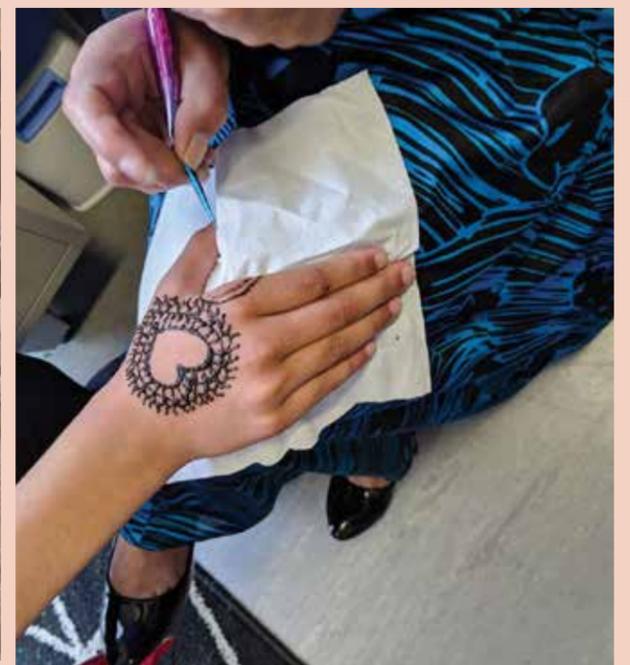
From the 18th-22nd March 2019, Western Grammar School held Harmony Week activities. This coincided with Thursday 21 March 2019, Harmony Day, and the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

As part of the Harmony Week campaign, WGS focused on "Say No to Racism".

Additionally, school assemblies were held in which students were selected to greet WGS in different languages.

Students further spoke about what Harmony means to them as individuals and spoke about their cultures.

K-12 ended the week with Cultural Food and Cultural Dress Day. WGS celebrated cultural diversity, encouraged values and provided fun ways to learn about sense of belonging.



"We are all one but different."

CULTURAL FOOD DAY

As part of Harmony Week, students were encouraged to wear a traditional outfit representing their culture.

Multicultural Dress Day was held on Friday 22nd March 2019. Students came together and were smartly dressed displaying their ancestral heritage. Together they celebrated their different cultures and traditions.

We also had Shakaya Rashidi, a Year 8 student at WGS, talk about her Aboriginal ancestry.

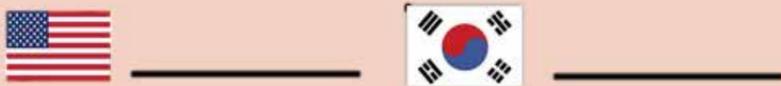
She spoke about the stolen generation and provided details of the experience of her particular tribe.

Shakaya inspired peers at Western Grammar.

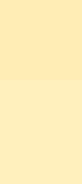
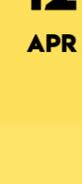
The high school assembly concluded with a play by students about bullying and the role of bystanders.



Guess the flags below:



Different, but the same!"



END OF TERM 1

END OF TERM !! LOOK FORWARD TO A WELL-DESERVED BREAK

12
APR

TERM 2 STARTS

INFORMING AND PROVIDING STUDENTS WITH ADVICE ON HOW TO APPROACH AND TACKLE BULLYING

29
APR

RAMADAN!

FASTING WILL INSHA ALLAH BEGIN WEEK 2, TERM 2

5/6
MAY

ADJUSTED TIMES
START: 8:20AM
END: 2:30PM

NAPLAN

YEAR 3, 5, 7 & 9 WILL BE UNDERTAKING THEIR NAPLAN EXAMS— GOOD LUCK!

14
-
16
MAY



Assalamu Alaikum,
Term 1 is coming to an end and we can look back on a productive time as far as welfare and student wellbeing is concerned. Some of the main campaigns coordinated by the Welfare and Behaviour Management teams included Sun Safety Week, followed by Anti-Bullying Week and Harmony Week. The Anti-Bullying Week focussed on what bullying is and what bystanders can and should do. Harmony Week included events such as multicultural food and dress. We also had one of our students tell the story of her Aboriginal ancestors.

In response to the devastating tragedy in Christchurch, some of our primary school students wrote messages of sympathy by preparing condolence cards which were posted to the Al-Noor Mosque.

Our year 9 to 12 SRC members visited Unity Grammar to listen to international speaker and spoken word poet, Amal Kassir, from the US. Everyone present was emotionally moved by the inspirational words she spoke. Students also had the opportunity to meet with peers from other schools.

We look forward to Term 2 with Ramadan the main event inshaAllah

ZACHARIAH MATHEWS- DEPUTY PRINCIPAL



Alhamdulillah, here we are at the end of yet another term, a term which brings us to the threshold of the opening of the new Western Grammar School Building which will officially come into use at the beginning of Term 2, InshaAllah. How exciting!
I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff for their hard work and care for the children at our school. Thank you also to all of you for your support throughout the term; the school community continues to be a real strength here at Western Grammar School. I would like to wish you all the very best for the term break and look forward to welcoming you all back, refreshed, for what will be an exciting, academic year.

There are a few things to share before we break up for the holidays:
Students will be given holiday homework to continue their NAPLAN revision.
Parents are advised to make sure that their children take their exercise books and text books home so that they can complete any work they have missed.

ZULQARNAN MALIK - ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL