

Western Grammar School

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 52

TERM 2

THURSDAY, 4TH JULY 2019

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Mufti Menk visits WGS



"Hardship is actually a gift from the almighty. If you endure and stay firm, no matter how difficult, He'll reward you and elevate your status."

- MUFTI MENK

Assalamu Alaikum,

Mufti Ismail Menk from Zimbabwe paid a surprise visit to Western Grammar School on Tuesday, 11th June 2019. It was an honour for our school to host such an influential Muslim Scholar.

He addressed and motivated all students and staff through his teachings and spoke about the achievements after facing difficulty. Mufti Menk made the connection between fasting in Ramadan followed by celebrating Eid as an achievement of fasting in the month of Ramadan. He additionally advised students to endure the difficulty of studying for exams as this effort would lead to rewards of success.

Before leaving, he reminded us to always respect one another, have good character and serve humanity with kindness and compassion.



Islamic Studies

"{And (remember) when your Lord proclaimed, "if you are grateful, I will surely increase you (your blessings and favour). But if you deny, indeed, My punishment is severe."}

(Quran 14:7)

-MR ABDULLAH HAKEEM

Assalamu Alaikum,

All Praise is due to Allah (swt) the Lord of the worlds, and all thanks is due to Him for the blessings He has bestowed upon us. We have now completed half the year and students have done a remarkable job completing all their half yearly assessments, Alhamdulillah.

There were many activities that took place in the last half of this term. At first, we had an amazing Eid party at school conducted by Ms Rafiq and her team. The students had a wonderful time enjoying delicious snacks and lunch together, exchanging Eid gifts, enjoying different activities such as; jumping castle, laser skirmish, target shooting, arcade games, face painting, photo booth, henna, and much more. To see the smiles on students' faces throughout the day brought satisfaction and contentment to us and we hope that we continue this trend in the future.

Students at WGS were astounded with the surprise visit of Mufti Ismail Menk. He was invited to Sydney for the Eid festival and spared some time to visit our school and speak to the students. Students were amazed and privileged to finally get that chance to meet one of the most famous Islamic scholars in the world. He spoke to the students about the importance of Ramadan and Eid and answered many questions posed by our students. WGS teamed up with Brothers In Need organisation and conducted a homeless run where students were asked to bring certain care products to help the homeless in the city. Students then helped put together approximately 60 care packs including a beautiful message inside.

On a Saturday night, the senior boys along with some teachers went to the city in Martin Place and took some time handing out food items and the care packs to the homeless. It was definitely a humbling experience in which students were able to realise the blessing that Allah has given them. This experience was then shared with the students in school and a whole week was dedicated to the theme 'Gratefulness' where students were taught about being grateful with all the blessings Allah has bestowed upon us.

Finally, students throughout the school sat their major assessment task which was their half yearly exams. The students were given exams in which everything taught from the beginning of the year till now was tested in all Islamic Department subjects.

Two weeks was dedicated for the theme 'Tawwakul (Reliance in Allah)' where students were taught how to do their part and have trust in Allah in any test, trials or exams that may come in their life.

I pray and hope that students have benefitted this semester and apply everything they have learnt in their life. May Allah bless our students, parents and staff members of WGS and pave the way for a better and brighter future. Ameen!



DENTAL CHECKUP

Assalamu Alaikum,

Health screenings, including dental checkups are an important part of ensuring children get the school year off to a great start," said Dr. Dale Mayfield of Kool Smiles Dentistry.

Western Grammar School implemented a back-to-school dental visit scheme. A dental team came in and cleaned students teeth from Kindergarten to Year 12. They checked for cavities while also making sure that your child is keeping up with good brushing and flossing habits.

Remember, by seeing your dentist on a regular basis and following daily good oral hygiene practices at home, you are more likely to keep your teeth and gums healthy!

-DR ZACHARIAH MATTHEWS



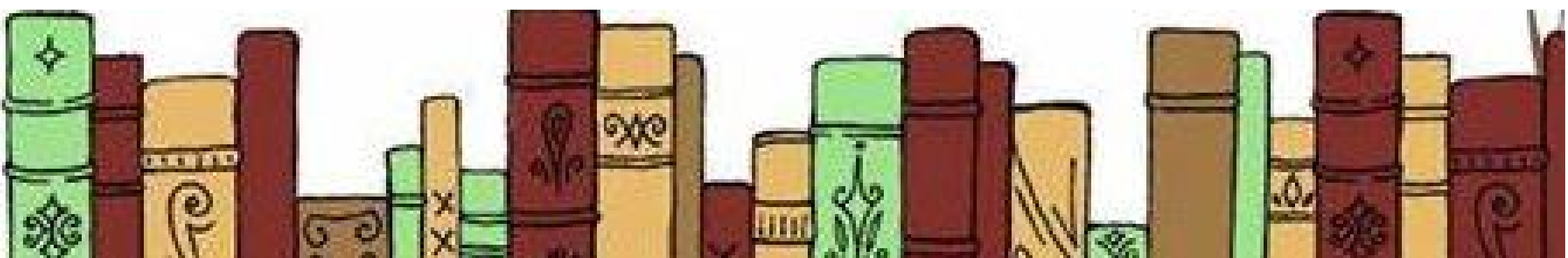
Writing a **book** in a day

Assalamu Alaikum,

On the of June 2019, seventeen students from Years 5-11 engaged in the 'Write a book in a day' activity during and after school.

Jazak Allah to Ms Rafiq, Ms Yasmin and all the teachers involved with assisting the students.

-MR ZULQARNAN MALIK



FEATHERDALE WILDLIFE PARK

Assalamu Alaikum,

-MR BASHIR KHAN

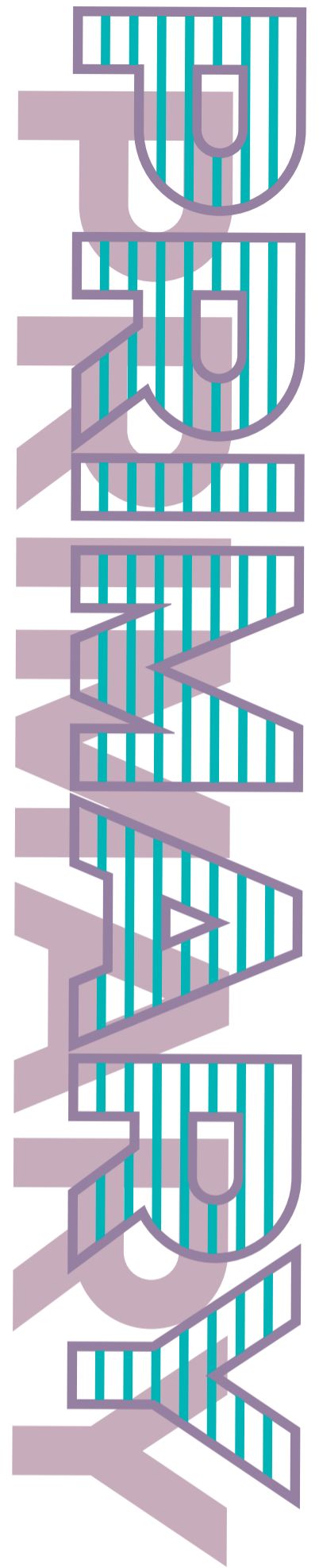


On 1st July 2019, Year 5 & 6 students were afforded the opportunity to get up close and personal with some of Australia's most iconic animals when they visited Featherdale Wildlife Park.

Kangaroos, wallabies, dingoes, wombats and koalas were some of the many animals on display at the park. Students were amazed at the range of Australian birds and reptiles at the park. Students were especially left in awe at the size and beauty of Australian raptors such as the Brahminy Kite, a powerful owl, and the grey Goshawk.

Thank you to Featherdale Wildlife Park for hosting our students for the day.

Students then enjoyed a scrumptious bbq and run around in the beautiful and spacious Nurranginy Reserve at Doonside.

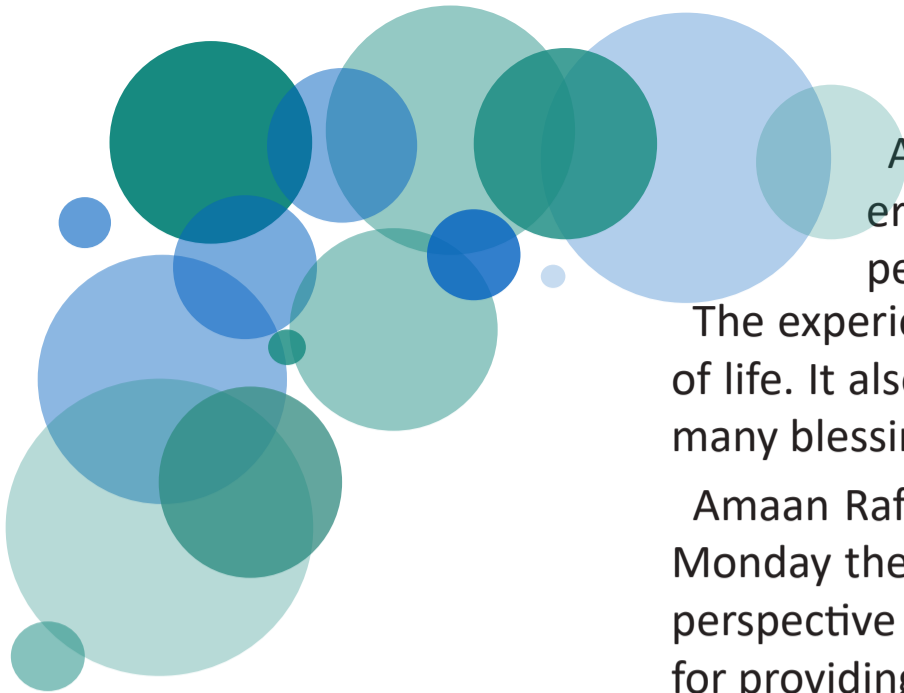


CHICKEN HATCHERY

Year 3 have investigated living things with enthusiasm as they share their chicken hatchery experience with Western Grammar School.

As the eggs were incubating off the premise, we followed the embryo growth and development daily, awaiting their arrival. We take our duty as carers very seriously. The entire school has come to support our chicks with daily visits. Although they are cute, they are noisy classmates to have! Cheep Cheep!

-MS JUSTINE BOYD



FEED THE HOMELESS

Alhamdulillah some of our year 11 and 12 students joined Brothers in Need in the city to distribute food and care packs to about 60 people on Saturday 29th June 2019

The experience was an awakening for the students as to the harsh realities of life. It also made all those who participated appreciate with gratitude the many blessings they enjoyed.

Amaan Rafiq, WGS School Captain, spoke a few words about the event on Monday the 1st of July and said "Looking at the homeless people puts us in perspective of what we have and we should always be grateful to Allah swt for providing so much to us. Alhamdulillah!"

More can and should be done for the homeless!

-DR ZACHARIAH MATTHEWS



WELFARE



On 8th June 2019, in collaboration with Little Helpers, selected students from years 9 and 10, visited the St Francis Residential Care Home in Plumpton.

Dressed in their Eid clothes, students took a selection of cakes and fruit to host morning tea for some of the elderly residents.

Students enjoyed spending time with them and had the opportunity to listen to their life stories.

A huge thank you to Little Helpers and Western Grammar School staff who accompanied the students on this excursion.

MR ZULQARNAN MALIK



NAIDOC WEEK

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Week celebrations are held across Australia each July to celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. NAIDOC week is celebrated not only in Indigenous communities, but by Australians from all walks of life. The week is a great opportunity to support your local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

Shakaya Rashidi created the art piece above to display at Western Grammar School. This mosaic celebrates connections between Aboriginal and Muslim people.

INDOOR SKYdiving

There's no parachute, no jumping, and nothing attaching you to planet earth! Students simply leaned forward, inside a giant glass tunnel, into a column of air, and floated effortlessly into flight, guided by qualified instructors.

Year 9 and 10 students had the opportunity to partake in the latest action sport – indoor skydiving! Using wind tunnel technology students were able to experience the exhilaration of skydiving indoors, as well as learning about body flight techniques, and how physics and mathematics are also required to fly.

-MS OZGE SUSAN



H S C C A R

On Thursday, the 27th June 2019, students from Year 10-12 attended the HSC Career Expo 2019. The Western Sydney Careers Expo provided resources and information for tertiary courses, career and employment options, the HSC examinations, study strategies and the gap year to all students. Year 10 and 12 students had the opportunity to attend seminars on ATAR calculation and its importance and how to apply for courses on the UAC website. Overall, students found this excursion valuable to their current position at school and their future pathways to fulfilling their dreams.

-MR ZULQARNAN MALIK



HSC Countdown
COUNTING DOWN TO YOUR FUTURE

14

weeks

06

days

19

hours

07

minutes

53

seconds

Nan tien Temple Excursion

-MR USMAN MALIK

Students in Year 11 and 12, as part of Studies of Religion, visited the Nan Tien Temple on Thursday 20th June 2019. It is the largest Buddhist Cultural centre in the Southern Hemisphere. Situated in Berkeley, it has beautiful gardens and amazing Chinese architecture. Students thoroughly enjoyed participating in various cultural activities such as origami and Chinese calligraphy. In addition to this, students had the opportunity to engage in interfaith dialogue which focused on the importance of education and respect. Thankyou to Mr Usman Malik, Mr Hakeem and Ms Yasmin for organising this great experience!



EEER EXPO



EID PARTY party

On the 7th of June 2019, Western Grammar school hosted an Eid Party and festival for students at school.

The event was to celebrate the completion of the fasting month of Ramadan. Students and teachers had an enjoyable time with activities ranging from jumping castle, laser tag, face-painting to arcade games.

A huge thankyou to Ms Hajar and her team for her efforts in organising and running this special day.





SKOOL LOOP



Dear Parents, Caregivers, Families, Staff and Friends of Western Grammar School,

Western Grammar School is introducing a school app for our parents and community members. This is available to the whole school community to download for free to their smart phones and devices. The school app will allow for instant viewing of school events, receiving of notifications, easy advice of absences, access to school contact details and instant accessing of information about the preschool via a parents smartphone or tablet. We envisage this app will greatly enhance our communication to the whole school community and will work alongside other school communication tools.

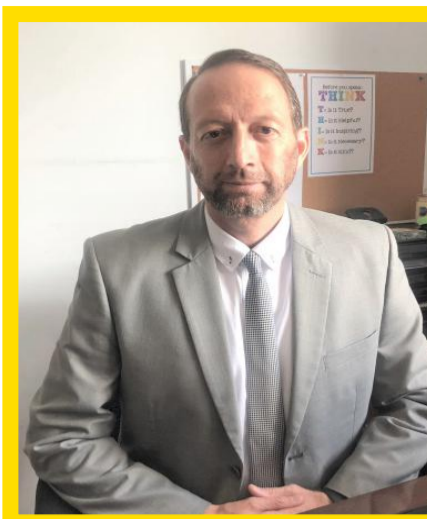
The app is funded totally free to the school by sponsorship of businesses for a small annual fee of \$275. There is a limited amount of how many businesses we will feature. We would appreciate it if you would consider featuring your business in our school app, however there is no pressure for you to do so. We wanted to give you first opportunity before we approached any other businesses.

The school app has gone live, and we would very much appreciate your decision as soon as you're able. All artwork can be done complimentary for you.

For further information please feel free to contact Ashleigh Farries at The Skool Loop App Ashleigh@skoolloop.com or phone 0800 203 493.

-ASHLEIGH FARRIES

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



Assalaamu-alaykum warahmatullaahi wabarakaatuh

As term 2 approaches the end, students can look forward to a well-deserved break. Parents can assist their children by ensuring that they spend their holiday time in a balanced and productive way with spiritual, social, recreational and academic activities. In particular, the use of devices at home should be carefully regulated so that students do not spend an excessive amount of time in front of screens. We encourage you to install the Family Zone app provided by the school if you have not yet done so. This app will help you regulate their use of the internet.

We would like to once again advise parents not to give their children internet-accessible phones until they have graduated from school. Current research clearly demonstrates that these devices are having a negative impact on school-aged children.

Two main events that took place towards the end of term 2 included dental care and feed the homeless. Almost fifty students had their teeth checked and cleaned. They were also advised of the importance of good dental hygiene - brushing teeth at least twice a day is essential – after breakfast in the morning and before going to bed at night. Spend at least 2 minutes brushing, ensuring that all areas are cleaned – teeth, gums, tongue and palate.

With the Feed the Homeless project, students and staff donated food and hygiene items which were placed into 54 care packs. The care packs in conjunction with the charity Brothers in Need were taken by year 11 and 12 students to Martin Place in the city on Saturday 29th June and distributed to the homeless. Five teachers accompanied the students on the eye-opening excursion which highlighted the need to be grateful and to show empathy for those less fortunate. We take this opportunity to thank parents for their generous support of the school's charity initiatives. May Allah (swt) reward you abundantly and bless your families.

ZACHARIAH MATHEWS- DEPUTY PRINCIPAL



Assalaamu-alaykum warahmatullaahi wabarakaatuh

The second half of Term 2 has been an exciting and a very busy term. Many events such as the Quran competition along with the Holy Month of Ramadhan took place. The Quran competition amazed parents and teachers with the talent of the students in how they were reciting different verses from the Holy Quran. The students also sat their Half Yearly Assessments over a period of two weeks with more dedication and interest. The school will analyse the student results during the term break and will get in contact with parents of concerned students.

The school is hoping for a better outcome after the Term 1 analyses and Assistant Principal and parent meetings. The school arranged several excursions such as the Temple Visit for the subject of Studies of Religion for year 11 and 12 were students learnt about Buddhism, Year 9 and 10 students of PDHPE visited the indoor Parachute house where they had the chance to experience indoor sky diving, the Year 5 and 6 students visited Featherdale Park and the Year 3 and 4 students went bowling.

In regards to future prospects, the Year 10 and 12 students had a chance to visit the Careers Expo at Homebush to get a better understanding of subject selection, how to prepare for the HSC exam and ATAR. Selected students from Year 5 to 12 also completed a whole day activity in "Writing A book in a day". The students worked in a team environment and wrote a book which will be gifted to the Children's Hospital to share our care and love. Alhamdulillah the term will end with Parent-Teacher interviews where parents will be able to share with the teachers the academic success or concerns of their children.

I wish all students and parents/guardians with a restful, happy and healthy break.

ZULQARNAN MALIK- ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Timeline:

KRISPY KREME 5 JULY

LAST DAY OF TERM 2 5 JULY

AFFORDABLE UNIFORM SHOP OPEN 5 JULY

TERM 2 HOLIDAYS 6 - 21 JULY

FIRST DAY OF TERM 3 22 JULY

PHOTO DAY 5 AUG