

NEWSLETTER



WESTERN GRAMMAR SCHOOL
Issue 67 | Term 3 | Wednesday 18th August 2021

VISION

Our vision is to be an exceptional Australian educational institute based on Islamic teachings.

Our mission is to provide quality education in a caring environment producing ethical, resilient, life-long learners.

Our motto is *"Excellence through Learning"*

Our core values are:

- Work hard and smart
- Grow purposefully and holistically
- Succeed academically and ethically



Principal's Message

The third term of the academic year began in lockdown, but Alhamdulillah, Western Grammar School was well prepared to take on the challenge of online schooling, not only in terms of academics, but also in terms of meeting the additional needs of our students to help during this difficult time.

Many people have found themselves slipping into anxiety and depression during times like these. WGS has set itself apart from the rest by taking a real and authentic interest in the well-being of our community and providing activities that cater to the needs of our staff, students and parents regarding their welfare and well-being. We did not suspend our scheduled operation of the school, instead we created platforms that can be used by students and their families, keeping them busy in positive and productive activities. Our teachers have outdone themselves with the well-being-focused initiatives they have undertaken, and it has been wonderful to see everyone participate in them whole-heartedly.

We strongly believe that this difficult time can be utilised as a positive opportunity for creating strong bonds and connections within the family. It has always been the goal for Western Grammar to become an institute that focuses not only on the academic education of our students, but also their moral character, fortitude and mindset, preparing them to become upright citizens who contribute to their society in positive ways. The success of these aspirations has truly been visible these past weeks, Alhamdulillah.

I would like to thank not only the staff, but also all the parents who have dedicated their time and energy to help their children learn and grow. **-Mr Irfan Afzal**

Notices

School Fees

Fees paid by parents play a major role in enabling WGS to meet its operating costs. Therefore, prompt payment of fees is highly appreciated.

Uniform Shop Timings

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the Uniform Shop will only be open on Mondays and Thursdays from 8:30am-10:30am. Parents should contact the school office for assistance.

Online Escape Room

On Monday the 26th of July, the Islamic Department organised an online Eid Scavenger Hunt for the primary students and their families and an online Escape Room challenge for the high school students.

This competition was set up to create a fun-filled family event giving students, parents, and teachers some excitement during this lockdown, especially during Eid Al-Adha.

Primary students were tasked to find items in their home that was in line with the theme "Going to Hajj" and "Planning an Eid Party". High school students were challenged with an Escape Room, where they solved puzzles and riddles to save a teacher.

Students, parents and teachers had a great time participating in the competition. Congratulations to all the winners and well done to everyone who joined.

*"Education is not preparation for life; education is life itself."
- John Dewey*



MasterChef Competition

Our well-being competitions have well and truly kicked off with a bang and we are so pleased to see the students participating and enjoying the healthy competition.

Week 4's competition was MasterChef all the way. And it was for the whole family! Families were given a list of 10 ingredients with which to cook up a storm. They had to use at least all 10 ingredients listed.

And the results were deliciously good to look at (since the judges couldn't taste any of it). What a difficult job the judges had this time round!

Prizes were awarded to the two best entries. Congratulations to the Abbadi and Khalil families!

Well-being Competition

The WGS Well-being Team were very excited to introduce an initiative while students are doing remote learning.

To keep students engaged, active, motivated and connected students were asked to capture a photo or drawing of something in or around the home or immediate neighbourhood (5km max) that they are grateful for and write why they are grateful to have it.

Prizes were awarded for the best entry for primary school and high school students separately.

Congratulations to Aydin Ahmad (Year 1) and Noora Qashou (Year 9)



One thing I'm grateful for is having working eyes to see. I couldn't imagine being blind and not seeing what's around me. Besides the fact that I have to wear glasses 90% of the time, I still get to see colour, the views, everything

Important Dates

Week 6:

M-F Science Week
Tue Y12 Parent/Teacher interviews

Week 7:

M-F HSC Trial Exams

Week 8:

M-F Literacy Week

Week 9:

Mon Year 11 Final Exams

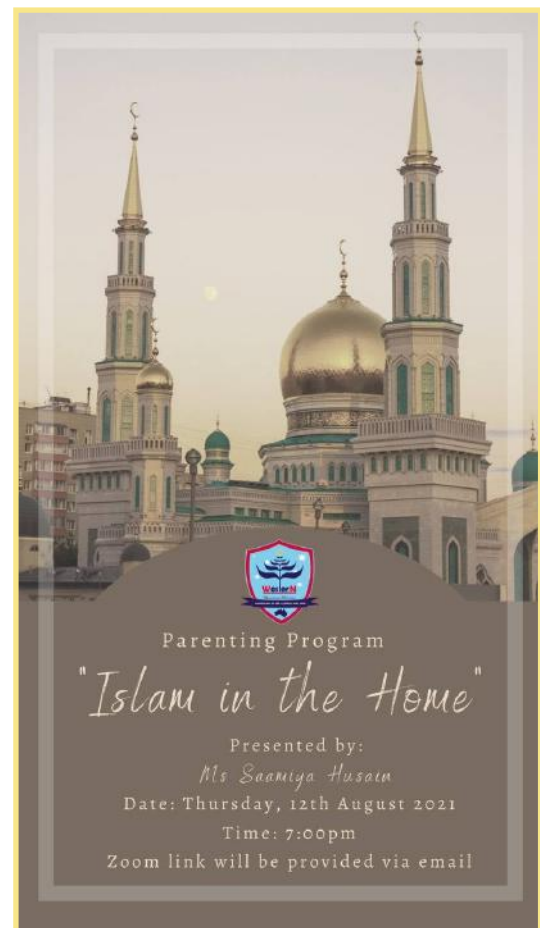
Islam in the Home

Alhamdulillah, Western Grammar School's Parenting Workshops have continued despite the lockdown.

Our most recent workshop was held on Zoom and featured Sister Saamiya Husain, who spoke on the topic *Islam in the Home*. This subject, though always relevant in our lives, is particularly helpful now, when families are spending much more time together at home. It is essential that we use this time effectively to establish good Islamic behaviours both within ourselves and our children.

Sister Saamiya's talk raised important points of discussion and suggested ways in which we can convert our goals into everyday actions to achieve them. She spoke about how we can serve our purpose as parents in creating a nurturing Islamic environment at home and how we use this time to strengthen bonds with our family.

JazakAllah to all the parents who attended the session. May Allah guide us and our families onto the straight path.



Hadith of the Week



10 Days of Dhul Hijjah

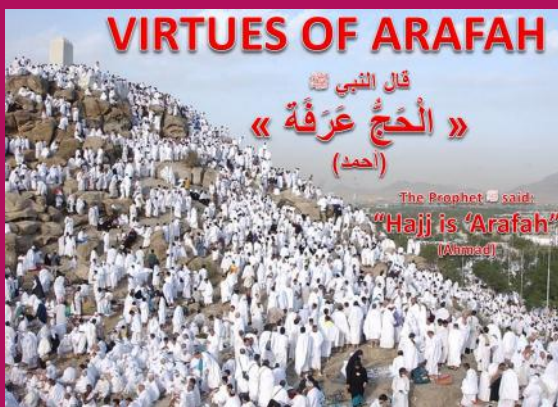
قال النبي ﷺ
« مَا مِنْ أَيَّامٍ الْعَمَلُ فِيهَا أَفْضَلُ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ مِنْ أَيَّامٍ عَشَرَ ذِي الْحِجَّةِ »
 (أبي داود)

The Prophet ﷺ said:
"There are no days where the good deeds are loved most by Allah than in the first 10 days of Dhul Hijjah" (Abu Daood)

VIRTUES OF ARAFAH

قال النبي ﷺ
« الْحَجُّ عَرَفَةَ »
 (أحمد)

The Prophet ﷺ said:
"Hajj is 'Arafah"
 (Ahmed)




قال النبي ﷺ
« الْمُؤْمِنُ الْقَوِيُّ خَيْرٌ وَأَحَبُّ إِلَى اللَّهِ مِنَ الْمُؤْمِنِ الضَّعِيفِ »
 (مسلم)

The Prophet ﷺ said:
"A strong believer is better and more loved by Allah than a weak believer"
 (Muslim)

PHYSICAL HEALTH



قال النبي ﷺ
« أَفْضَلُ الصِّيَامِ بَعْدَ رَمَضَانَ شَهْرُ اللَّهِ الْمُحَرَّمُ »
 (مسلم)

The Prophet ﷺ said:
"The best of fasts after Ramadan is in the month of Allah, Muharram"
 (Muslim)

VIRTUES OF MUHARRAM

Principal's Morning Tea

One of the last in-person events held before lockdown was the Principal's Morning Tea for Term 2 in Week 10.

The event was held to recognise the efforts and dedication students have demonstrated towards their academics and behaviour throughout the term.

WGS Principal, Mr Irfan Afzal, presented the selected students with a certificate, gifts and an appetising morning tea to reward their efforts and achievement.

Congratulations to all recipients! May you continue to serve as great role models to your peers and be consistent on the path to greatness. Well done!

