



Issue 1 • Friday 11th March, Term 1 • 2016

Western Grammar School

Newsletter

The Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said: "One who treads a path in search of Knowledge has his path to Paradise made easy by God..." – Riyadh Us-Saleheen, 243

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Principal's Message



Assalamu Alaikum,

Dear parents, guardians, teachers and students

I welcome you back to the new school year in 2016 and hope you all had a peaceful and enjoyable school break. We are very excited to start the New Year as we have many new initiatives during this year. Alhumdulillah, our school is growing at a rapid rate; as usual there is an influx of new enrolment applications and our waiting list is growing. As a result, new staff have joined the dedicated and enthusiastic team of Western Grammar.

Our new school building is nearing completion and it's a matter of a few weeks before we will start moving in Insha'Allah. This is a testament to the dedicated efforts of the school board, the staff and the continued support of the parents. Alhumdulillah, this is our first year with Year 10 students and, due to the continued interest and demand of the parents, soon we will have Years 11 and 12. With new and improved facilities, parents are keen to keep their children in the best learning environment of Western Grammar, therefore it has been decided by the school board to start the process of having Year 11 and Year 12 as soon as practically possible Insha'Allah.

We will be conducting information sessions with all Year 10 students and parents to discuss issues related to the HSC. This will be an opportunity for you to come forward and give us your valuable input and get clarity on any questions you might have. I am thankful to the parents and school community for their trust and ongoing support. I assure you that we will respect your trust through our performance. As usual, I conclude my message with the request to the members of Western Grammar for the continuation of their affiliation with Western Grammar.

Wassalam,
Mr Irfan - Principal

Primary Coordinator's Message

Assalamu Alaikum,

I would like to welcome all the parents, students and staff to an exciting new year at Western Grammar. My name is Ms Priscilla Abbas, and with the blessings of Allah (SWT), it is my great pleasure to be coordinating the Primary Sector of Western Grammar School. My aim as a coordinator is to ensure students are educationally enriched with innovative programs and interactive lessons. I work with a productive and eager team of primary school teachers who are assisting your child to be the best they can be.

In the upcoming weeks, K-6 will begin their Term 1 assessments. Parents will be notified of the subject, sub-topic and date of their child's assessment. If you have any queries about these assessments, please feel free to contact myself or your child's teacher. Primary students are also keen to begin competing for our annual Spelling Bee. Students will be given the words to practice, and then compete against their peers. They will also have a chance to be nominated for the National Premier's Spelling Bee for 2016. This is an enjoyable motivation for students to become further involved in aspects of Literacy. This term, our respect rules have been implemented. Students have familiarised themselves with the ways they can respect themselves, other students and our school.

Over the term, your child's academic level will be monitored and assisted to ensure their performance level increases. Teachers will communicate with parents frequently so that information about your child is consistently updated. I anticipate an exciting term, and a great beginning to another successful year.

Ms Abbas- Primary School Coordinator



Kindergarten



Assalamu Alaikum,

A B C D E F Gee... What a fun start to the year we have had!

A warm welcome to both you and your child. We are very happy to see our newest students handling school life so well. All students are continuing to make a smooth transition from preschool or home to the school environment. The Kindergarten teachers are excited to be working with you and the students. A big thank you to all the parents who contributed photos to our class book.

For English, students have begun a formal **phonics** program which introduces each sound of the alphabet in a special sequence. A group of 'sight words' is being introduced each week that builds upon, and will be used in, various reading and writing activities throughout the year. Every week students learn a specific letter of the alphabet. We do many engaging, fun and innovative activities based on this letter! All of our students have been put into reading groups for guided reading sessions. We love reading, and being put in groups has helped students learn to read based on the level they are at.

This term we have been very busy mathematicians! We have learnt about patterns and whole numbers and addition. Each week we learn about a new number and then we practice how to read, write and count to it!

We are learning about school days, about the students' rights and responsibilities at school, about safe play and about how they should interact with their different environments.

We incorporate prayers into our daily routines and constantly remember Allah.

-Ms Rana & Ms Byrne





Assalamu Alaikum,

Year 1 has had an excellent start to 2016. We have various exciting learning opportunities scheduled for our class this year. Insha'Allah, we are planning to have either an excursion or incursion each term. In Term 1, Year 1 & 2 are going to go to the Sydney Observatory as part of our Science curriculum.

We jumped straight into fun and learning as soon as this term began. In English, we have been learning about the text type 'Procedure'. We had lots of fun making party hats and paper bag monsters by following instructions as a class. We practise our speaking and listening skills during news sessions every day.

In Mathematics, our class has been learning about place values, addition and subtraction, as well as odd and even numbers. In HSIE, we are learning about celebrations from our culture and other cultures and in PDH, we have been learning about safety.

In PE, students are having fun making their own movements and patterns and we have been learning about the weather in Science classes. Students made their own weather predictions and learnt to record the weather. They have also made their very own sun dials!

I recommend that everyone reads as much as they can at home. I encourage you to take your children to the local library and let them pick out a few books to read for the week. I also strongly recommend study ladder activities to improve your child's skills in English and Mathematics.

— Ms Hossain



Year Two



Assalamu Alaikum, welcome back to a new year!

I hope you had a relaxing time and are ready for another exciting term. This term, the children have been engaged in many activities and your continued support will be very much appreciated. For English, the students have been exposed to a range of multimodal texts. As a class, we have enjoyed reading and discovering a lot of books, such as 'The Enormous Crocodile' and a lot of stories on *Story Line Online*. During Term 1, the students participated in shared reading experiences involving a variety of comprehension activities predominantly related to Dreamtime Aboriginal stories and Folk tales.

For Maths, the students have been exposed to an array of hands on materials and experiences. Technology has been incorporated as well. The students used a range of strategies and informal recording methods for addition and subtraction involving one and two digits. Furthermore, they used a series of mental strategies and concrete materials for multiplication and division. The unit provides opportunities for students to explore the changes and continuities in the ways technology has changed over time. The unit also focuses on the effects of changes in technology. Students are fascinated by different sounds. They investigated and learnt about different types of sounds and how sounds are produced. Thank you in advance for your support and cooperation.

—Ms El Kheir

Year Three

Persuasive Writing



Assalamu Alaikum,

Term 1 has commenced with an enthusiastic group of Year 3 students who have been keen to explore many new aspects of the curriculum. In English, students have been completing persuasive writing tasks by choosing their own topics and influencing readers to follow their opinions. They have done extremely well in this task, and we have created a burger system so students can break up and layer their writing. In Mathematics, we have been exploring Australian currency and place value. The students have thoroughly enjoyed using play money to make various 'purchases'.

I have ensured students are learning through hands-on lessons and interactive and digital technologies. Students have been a part of a fun, yet educationally enriching learning environment.

In Creative Arts, students have been exploring aspects of symmetry, colours and craft insects. Creative arts lessons are certainly a favourite in our class!

I am extremely proud of each and every student in my class. I will support and guide them to be the best they can be. I pray Allah SWT bless them with every success, now and in the future, Insha'Allah.

-Ms Abbas

Year Four

Assalamu Alaikum,

Alhumdulillah, Term 1 has begun on a positive note and Year 4 has embarked on an exciting educational journey. We have been very busy working really hard!

In English we have been encouraged to use new vocabulary that we have learnt during reading. Along the way, we have been exposed to reading activities that include the exploration of descriptive texts to identify the structure of various text types. In History, we have sailed away on a journey studying the *British Colonisation of Australia*. This unit has provided opportunities for us to engage in role play and develop our oral presentation skills.

We have been very enthusiastic in Science and Technology as we have been identifying some factors that are needed by plants and animals to survive. 4T is the first year that has grown a garden bed for the school. Our garden is looked after every day, and Alhumdulillah, we have organic fresh produce growing! I have been blessed to teach Year 4 this term and will keep working hard to create the best learning environment possible. If Allah wills, this journey will end on a positive note, and we can set sail for term two.

-Ms Tajjour



Assalamu Alaikum,

Alhamdulillah, we have taken off and 2016 is gathering educational momentum. It has been an absolute joy getting to know my new students and see them immerse themselves in the learning experiences. From learning about multicultural Australia in HSIE to learning about different muscles and motor-neuron skills in PDHPE, the students of Year 5 & 6 continue to improve and showcase a general zeal for education in our classroom and sporting arenas. Our CAPA focus this term links in with the HSIE topic of *Australian Identity and Personal Identity*, and students have started preparing an "I am" picture book to be displayed in our classroom and at the end of year assembly. Keen to show off their work to parents and the wider community, many have developed artworks of the highest calibre. Student engagement with the program is uncovering hidden talents in both artistic expression and emotional intelligence.

With an increased focus on writing and mathematical skills, and not only for NAPLAN, we have pushed students to develop an understanding of fundamental mathematical principles. In this first term we have laid a platform of the basics of mathematics, with the aim that students will soon develop to tackle and overcome more complex and challenging math scenarios. Thus far, we have challenged students to learn about and build upon previous knowledge of basic skills through rigid testing and teaching of whole numbers, patterns and sequences and, as of late, fractions and decimals. It is with undue restraint that I encourage parents to remind students to focus greatly on these math principles and fundamentals, as all math to come in future years will be built on their knowledge and understanding of what they will learn this year!

The English language is not only the main means of communication in this country, but also the means to obtaining greater recognition and rights within the Australian community. Moreover, writing is an essential skill that branches out into all the key learning areas, not just English. This term, our focus was on narrative writing and exposition, and our aim was to absorb and practice as many skills as possible in order to contribute to good writing. To achieve this end, we have looked beyond the grammar heavy focus of past years and focused greatly on understanding texts, interacting with texts and introducing students to greater understanding of texts. Through exploration of themes, lessons and stereotypes, students have been put on a course saturated with "better English", yet concentrated on a love of literature. I would like to conclude through a statement of the best book; The Quran teaches that Allah "taught man eloquence" (55:4) and through the mastery of language do we engage best with one of Allah's greatest gifts.

-Mr Ibrahim





The Creative Mind

Assalamu Alaikum,

Alhumdulillah, the Year 7 and 8 students have started this year with great determination in Visual Arts and Design & Technology. Many students are already showing tremendous talent in art making and are excelling in designing products.

In Visual Arts this term, students are studying viewpoints in Art and the elements of Art. Students are showing great levels of understanding and are creating masterpieces for each activity given. They have been given a recent assignment where they create Arabic calligraphy based on their name. Students are very excited to complete this assignment and I am looking forward to see the finish product.

In Design & Technology this term, students are studying *Introduction to Technology, Factors that Influence Design, and The Design Folio*. Students have become experts in identifying the needs and wants of people and coming up with brilliant ideas for future products. Some of these ideas include: a multi-purpose hairbrush that could straighten, curl, and gel hair with a press of a button; a toothbrush that could change its bristles to soft, medium, or hard depending on how sensitive your teeth are that day; school lockers with a mini fridge in each locker, and many more. I hope to see some amazing designers in the future Insha'Allah.

-Mr Hakeem



Words Work



Assalamu Alaikum,

In English we have been focussing on narrative writing. Here are some samples from the talented students of Year 9:

Farah Qashou:

On a cold and rainy morning, I was awoken to the sound of thunder striking endlessly along with the rain swiftly moving through the gutters. As I rose from my bed I could see the beautifully designed curtains shifting effortlessly along the frosty window. I looked outside and saw the puny leaves rustling amongst the cavernous tree. The sight looked fantastic. As the cold air entered my room I stiffly walked back to my perfectly warm bed and closed my eyes as I entered into an effortless slumber.

Beenish Tariq

I wake up sleepily to the sound of thunder and lightning, the dogs barking and trees collapsing. I grabbed my slippers and dashed out the door dragging my brother along with me. The sound of raindrops falling to the ground kept ringing in my ears, the thunder and lightning grew stronger and louder by the minute. But, then all of a sudden everything went silent and stopped. "What is going on?" I thought. My brother quickly slipped on his raincoat and left, shutting the door behind him. In curiosity, I peeked through the window sighting a huge man-like figure towering in front of my house. I was terrified everything was just gloomy and dark, the environment seemed so odd and quiet. Not knowing what to do, I rushed out the door grabbed my brother and pushed him back into the house.

Tamima Rahman:

Belle excitedly wandered through the lush greenery with a carefree grin on her face. She had always been curious about the intriguing woods that surrounded her house but could never gather the courage to visit them. However, today she had decided would be the day she put her curiosities to rest and finally venture into the place that both terrified and excited her. As she currently walked cheerfully towards a destination she wasn't exactly sure of yet, she mentally applauded herself for finally mustering up the courage to discover the wonderland that was literally in her own backyard.

-Mr Malik



We R' Mad Lab



Assalamu Alaikum,

Alhumdulillah, it has been a great start for all WGS high school students. Year 7 students are on the topic "Properties of Substances" and are learning about the different aspects of science while Year 8 is studying cells, mainly focussing on plant and animal cells. Year 9 and 10 are studying different types of chemical reactions. WGS always aims to provide the best education to all students and to enhance students' knowledge and understanding in all aspects of life. For this reason, in Science, we have committed ourselves to the *Into Science* Program. *Into Science* is an innovative and flexible program that helps students enhance their scientific skills and their understanding of Science. Science can be a challenging subject for some, so students need to be always prepared for class, take out time at home to revise daily, and complete all their assignments and homework on time. Jazak'Allah.

-Ms Khan

Islamic Studies Department

"Read in the Name of your Lord Who Created man from a clinging substance. Read and your Lord is the Most Generous. Who taught by the pen. Taught man what he knew not." (Quran 96:1-5)

Assalamu Alaikum Wa Rahmatullaahi Wa Barakaatuh parents and students,

All Praise is due to Allah (swt), The Lord of the Worlds, and all thanks is given to Him for the blessings He has bestowed upon us. We should all glorify Allah for allowing us to study and be together in this garden of knowledge, Western Grammar School, and we ask Him to continue to shower His blessings on us in the future.

By the blessings of Allah (swt), the year 2016 has started with great enthusiasm with bright new faces as additions to our school. The staff of the Islamic Studies Department (ISD) are in full swing to help, teach, and mentor our students for a bright future as great Islamic role models in our community.

WGS takes Islamic Studies as the motivating factor for students. All students receive adequate Islamic knowledge, not only from their Islamic Studies teachers, but also through their class teachers. All class teachers have been trained to use Islamic examples in their lessons, constantly remind students to have Islamic morals and ethics, and provide assistance to the Islamic Studies teachers when needed.

Mid last year, the ISD introduced Iqra books for students struggling in reading Arabic. By the Grace of Allah, these students have excelled immensely and we will continue with this scheme until students reach high fluency in their reading. We urge parents to support us in this endeavour, and to encourage your child to read and revise their Iqra books at home so that they can become fluent and finish all six books early. We are also proud to state that all Iqra lessons are one-on-one with the teacher for better quality teaching.

The new little additions, Kindergarten students, have started their schooling life with great enthusiasm for Islamic Studies. They show great levels of confidence and are trying hard to understand and complete all lessons and activities. Parents for kindy students will be given weekly notifications for all lessons and activities taught throughout that week.

Lastly, we would like to announce that there will be a Quran Competition in Week 12 this term and we encourage all students to start revising and reading the Quran with proper tajweed (pronunciation). Prizes will be given to the winners from all grades and we hope to see an even stronger competition this term.

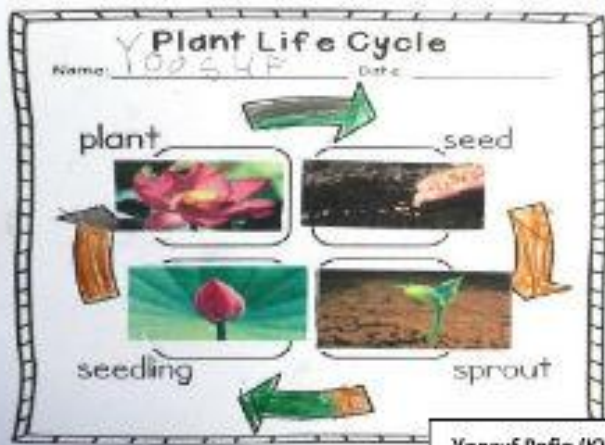
We ask Allah (swt) to bless our students, our staff, and the parents of this great school with the goodness of this life and the hereafter. Ameen!

-Islamic Studies Department





Kidz Corner



The boy has a ball
 He throws it
 the ball
 lands in the water
 and sinks.

The boy throws the ball
 The ball sinks in the water.

YOUSUF



Safety at Home

Bisma Rahman (1)

There was a boy his name
 was Ali. He was the best boy in the
 class. He did not like to
 do anything wrong. He would
 always do the right thing.
 He was very kind and
 his friends loved to play
 with him.

Zakariya Ali (1)

Narrative

When	At night
Who	Jaggy, Kangaroo, crocodile, Dingo
Where	In the sky and on the ground
Problem	Little star fell off the edge
Resolution	His friend came and helped him go home

Zoha Jaffery (2)

Detail #1: Every 3 children can be much
 better than one or two children.

Detail #2: Secondly, children should be
 encouraged to help each other.

Detail #3: Thirdly, children can be
 very much better than one or two children.

Closing Sentence: I believe that we
 should not be lazy.

One half

Zoha Jaffery (2)

In Hurry Picture Story Writing

This guy is a super busy. He
 hates to wait. What is he doing?
 He is running to work. Is he wife
 having a baby? Tell me story
 below.

He is running because
 I am late for work.

puuff puuff I am tired
 Push my leg cause my leg
 I have to still go to work
 but I have to go home
 to see my wife because
 my wife is having a
 baby I do not do what
 to do right now

Amani Abbas (3)

Minnamurra Rainforest



On Tuesday, the 23rd of February, Years 7-10 went on an excursion to Minnamurra Rainforest. In this excursion, we learnt about the many species of flora and fauna that live in the rainforest. We were shown around by two rangers who were very experienced at their job. They were also extremely knowledgeable and kept everyone captivated.

We learnt about the trees, how they benefited the environment, the history of the rainforest and how it is important for our ecosystem. We went through the different levels of the rainforest, while learning their functions and how the flora and fauna survive there. At the excursion, we were fortunate to see many animals, some of which were rare such as a Wallaby! After the rainforest, Mr Qoys surprised us with a visit to Kiama Beach, where we ate lunch and hung out with our teachers and friends.

Overall, it was a wonderful trip and we would like to thank Mr Qoys for organising this day for us.

-Aiesha and Amirah (Year 10)



Imax Theatre- Year 3 and 4



On Wednesday, the 2nd of March, Year 3 & 4 attended an exciting and event filled day at the IMAX Theatre at Darling Harbour. The students enjoyed a 3D documentary about the planets, our solar system and the life cycle of various bugs. The students learnt vital information about the sun, earth and moon; how bugs obtain food and hide from their prey; the types of skin insects have, as well as the lifecycle of a butterfly. Students took a lunch break by playing at the park and enjoyed looking at the beautiful scenery of the city.

It was great to see students trying to catch the images that came to life through three dimensional technology. It was a fantastic way for students to further develop their knowledge in Science & Technology.

-Ms Abbas & Ms Tajjour





Sports



Sport gives students an opportunity to participate in physical activities which are filled with fun and excitement. The students get to practice kicking, leaping, catching, throwing, skipping and many other tasks. There are various activities going on at every year level.

The Kindergarten students are engaging in parachute games, partner activities, relays, spatial awareness, and throwing, while the Year ones are mostly focussing on swaying, swinging, twisting, walking, running, galloping, hopping, sliding, and 'body part dance'. Meanwhile, the Year twos are practicing leaping, kicking and two-handed strikes. The Year threes are having circuit exercises such as shuttle runs (there and back = 1 lap), skipping, star jumps (out and in = 1 jump), box jumping (jump left, right, forwards, backwards = 1 jump), squats against the wall (put your whole back against, squat down so that your knees are bent to 90° and hold it). Furthermore, the Year threes are engaging in free standing squats, burpees (jump up and down and push up = 1 burpee) and line jumps (1 line = 1 lap). The Year fours are learning about various warm ups, the body, cool down and closure activities. The Year 5 and 6 students are playing 'Live and Dead Touches', ball control, dribbling, small games, 'Rainbow Flip' and passing and receiving. These diverse physical activities are going to enrich our students with the strength and stamina they need.



Announcements

- Spelling Bee Competition- Friday 11th March
- Primary Assessments- Monday 14th March- Thursday 24th March
- Harmony Day- Monday 21st March
- Public Holidays- Friday 25th March & Monday 28th March
- Year 7 Immunisation- Tuesday 29th March
- Writing Competition- Thursday 31st March
- Last day of Term 1- Friday 15th April