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Western Grammar School

Newsletter

THE PROPHET MUHAMMAD (PBUH) SAID: "A BELIEVER IS LIKE A BRICK FOR ANOTHER BELIEVER, THE ONE SUPPORTING THE OTHER." - SAHIH MUSLIM

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Western Grammar School

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Deputy Principal's Message



Assalamu Alaikum,

I would like to once more extend a warm welcome to new and returning students and parents. We are confident that your association with our school will be, or will continue to be, rewarding for your family and the school Insha'Allah.

In providing quality education relevant to the needs of our students, we rely on a close working relationship between parents and the school. We are committed to encouraging parental involvement in our school and to providing parents with the best possible information on their child's progress.

It is important for the parents to understand that regular attendance of the students is very important for their learning. When a child misses a day of school, they are missing seven hours of instruction each school day that is delivered by a teacher. Upon their return to class, a student will inevitably be behind because they have missed instructional experiences that cannot be replicated outside of a classroom setting. Therefore, timely arrival of the student and maximum (100%) attendance is necessary.

Insha'Allah our school building is in its final stages and we are hopeful that it will be completed by the start of Term 2. With a growing school and requests from parents, we've decided to apply for Years 11 and 12 at WGS Insha'Allah. We are excited by the prospect that students will be able to complete their schooling at Western Grammar School.

We will endeavour to provide regular updates on any new developments, and seek your duas for our continued success Insha'Allah.

-Mr Gallie

High School Coordinator's Message

Assalamu Alaikum,

Students have almost completed their first term at Western Grammar School. While one might think that 12 weeks serves only as a limited indicator of academic performance and student behaviour, their ability to absorb what they hear, see and feel in the classroom bears testimony to a swift transformation in many of the students' behaviour and studies in all areas, including numeracy, literary and conduct. In addition to this, we have been focussing on operationalising the school ethos in the classroom through the integration of positive attitudes and values.

The classroom environment is also filled with positive reinforcement and many reward systems. The end of term is fast approaching and, for many students, this means winning the various competitions that they competed in for term one, including the spelling bee, maths challenge and our Quran competition. I'm sure the students are looking forward to the prizes and rewards they will receive for winning.

In addition to this, high school students enjoyed their first excursion of the year as they recently came back from Minnamurra Rainforest. They enjoyed themselves much and had a chance to experience a subtropical and warm temperate rainforest with giant roots creeping across the forest floor, thick strangler figs wrapping around trees and raucous bird calls in the canopy above.

Lastly, amongst our many goals, it is a priority to cultivate a learning environment within our classrooms that achieves two main objectives. Firstly, we aim to improve students who have previously been underachievers, bridging the gap between their past progress and their current stage of schooling. Secondly, we intend to facilitate and refine high achievers, providing the inspiration and direction required. Insha'Allah, we will achieve these goals and Western Grammar School will continue to enhance its positive learning environment.

-Mr Malik

Kindergarten



Assalamu Alaikum,

Time flies when you're having fun! That's exactly how we feel this term in the Kindergarten room. We've had many special experiences that we've shared with each other. We have been on our first excursion, participated in our first spelling bee and enjoyed our very first Harmony day! We have also finished all our assessments and have done exceptionally well Alhamdulillah!

We had a fantastic time at the farm learning about different animals, what they do and how they are all different. The sheep-shearing show and the dog rounding-up show were very interesting, as well as educational to watch. The best part of our excursion was when we got to milk a cow. Some of the other animals we saw included chickens, sheep, dogs, kangaroos, camels and koalas.

Our first school spelling bee was very exciting, everyone practiced spelling 3-4 letter words in front of our class and then our top 5 spellers competed in front of all the primary students. Some of the words were really tricky, but little Ismail ibn Abdullah proved them to be not too challenging and won the contest in Kindergarten.

Harmony day was so much fun, everyone came to school in their cultural attire and discussed their culture with each other. We have a very multicultural class with people coming from Pakistan, Fiji, Lebanon, Palestine, Jordan, Australia, Bangladesh, Somalia, Iraq, Libya and Indonesia. The best part of Harmony day was being able to eat all the yummy foods from different countries and listening to stories read by Ms Abbas in Spanish, Ms Shabnam in Hindi and Ms El-Kheir in Arabic and French.

In our class room we have been doing heaps of work! We learn our letters, numbers and sight words every week and are learning how to read too! Because only one student can get a Student of the Week award, by the end of each week, we are all constantly trying our hardest to work to the best of our ability. Insha'Allah, Kindergarten will continue to try their best for the rest of the year as well.

-Ms Rana & Ms Byrne





Assalamu Alaikum,

This term has been an exciting start to the year for Year 1. We had an excursion to the Royal Botanical Gardens and Sydney Observatory. Students had a chance to observe various types of Australian plants and have recess at the 'Cadi Jam Ora' part of the Gardens. Students displayed beautiful behaviour as they filed into the bus for the journey to Sydney Observatory. At the Observatory, they watched a presentation about hot and cold weather. They had lots of fun holding up paddles labelled 'hot' and 'cold' to guess the kind of weather displayed on the screen, such as a melting ice cream truck! After that, students learnt about different ways of measuring different types of weather – temperature, wind, humidity and others. They took turns in reading thermometers and other measuring devices. Finally, they launched their very own rockets using plastic bottles, water and a bike pump!

Year 1 also had a friendly but fierce competition in the Spelling Bee this term. In our class round, everybody tried their absolute best and showed a great attitude towards learning. Our finalists were: Loujane Abbadi, Adam Khodr, Bisma Rahman, Tahsinul Islam and Zakariya Ali. All of them took on the challenge exceptionally well, but in the end, Adam Khodr won the competition for his class. Well done!

Term 1 has been a great start for our class and insha'Allah, they will only get better from here on out.

-Ms Hossain



Year Two



Assalamu Alaikum

Year 2 has had a very exciting time during this term. During the excursion to Sydney Observatory Museum Applied Arts & Sciences, the students experienced the oldest working telescope in Australia! They looked through the solar telescope. Further, the students learnt how to use the planisphere and looked at Indigenous astronomy, such as 'Emu in the Sky' and other sky stories that highlight and contain explanations on how the sky works, including how the tides are linked to the phases of the moon. These stories are vital in Australian Indigenous culture. We've also been discussing some other Aboriginal dreamtime stories as well.

On Harmony day, the students shared and explored various traditional food. In the classroom we've counted in different languages such as Urdu, Hindi, Italian, Arabic, Spanish, French and Bangladeshi. We sang the song 'one, two, three, four, five - Once I caught a fish alive' in both English and French.

Moreover, we've read a book in the Arabic language and translated it to English. The book is called 'Yum! Let's Eat'. It talks about children from different parts of the world exploring different foods and various eating traditions.

-Ms El-Kheir



Year Three



Assalamu Alaikum,
 Term 1 has continued to be a wonderful success. Year 3 students are increasing their knowledge in all areas of the curriculum and successfully preparing for NAPLAN in mid-May Insha'Allah. Our enthusiastic class captains have been selected, and we are pleased to announce Muaaz Khan as Year 3's Class Captain, and Saarim Qazi as our Vice Captain.
 In English, students have been enjoying writing newspaper articles and story maps about the texts they read in class. Year 3 are continuing to read 'Charlotte's Web'. It is wonderful to see the students so eager to read and reflect on this exciting novel. In Mathematics, students have been learning about time and the tasks they complete during certain hours of the day. They have created their own digital and analogue watches and thoroughly enjoy telling the time during our lessons. Furthermore, students have been learning about geometry; students have created their own geometry people using various geometric shapes. In PDH, students have been learning about the skeletal system, and have created and labelled their own skeletons.
 Year 3 is a visual and artistic group of students who love implementing their facts into works of art. I thoroughly enjoy watching them increase their knowledge in fun and educational ways.

-Ms Abbas

Year Four

Assalamu Alaikum,
 Alhamdulillah Term 1 has ended on a positive note. Year 4 has worked very hard this term, achieving great results and improving in all areas. It has been such a pleasure getting to know each of my students and their learning abilities. This term has been a great starting point with lots of enthusiasm from Year 4. Their enthusiasm has been clear throughout their history presentations as all students participated and dressed up as their chosen convicts. In English we have been studying authors' writing techniques and Year 4 has been working really hard to compose and publish their own imaginative text. We have also sold all produce from our organic garden and plan to start again next term insha'Allah. Alhamdulillah this journey has ended on a positive note, and we look forward to Term 2.

-Ms Tajjour



Assalamu Alaikum,

Alhamdulillah, the second half of Term 1 2016 has been as hectic as the first. It has been an absolute joy these last few weeks with many new and exciting educational programs put in place. From learning about multicultural Australia in HSIE to going on a Science of Discovery excursion to the Powerhouse Museum, the students of Year 5 & 6 continue to improve and showcase a general zeal for education in our classroom. Our CAPA focus remains highly linked to our HSIE topic of Australian Identity and personal identity, and students continue to work on their "I am" picture book.

During maths in the second half of the term, we learnt fractions, ratios, shapes and angles. Some of the students produced excellent results in their end of term assessment and responded well to the math course implemented in Term 1. These assessments will be available in the portfolios given to parents at the end of the term. For next term there is already a heap of papers and strategies eagerly awaiting their time to be introduced to our classrooms.

It is with great excitement that I inform you that the students will be completing their second novel in one term! We moved on from "Holes" and added another title to their literature assembly. The novel itself focusses on stereotypes and the plight of refugees, two issues we, as Muslims, struggle with on a daily basis. The students have shown a great enjoyment in reading, especially when we have been able to contrast readings with clips and films. The next time students say they don't enjoy reading; ask them why they enjoyed it so much in Term 1 2016!

I hope that you can enjoy the short time off with the students and look forward to starting a fresher and bigger term soon.

-Mr Ibrahim





The Creative Mind

Assalaam Alaikum,

Alhamdulillah, by the grace of Allah, we have reached the end of a successful Term 1. Many students have completed this term with tremendous effort in both Visual Arts and Design & Technology.

In Visual Arts this term, students have completed three elements of art; Line, Shape, and Colour. They have been experimenting with multiple tasks and have been improving their drawing skills. Students were given an assignment this term where they had to complete an Arabic calligraphy work of their name. I am very happy to say that the students blew me away with their talents and I hope they do the same with many more tasks up ahead. Well done!

In Design & Technology this term, students have completed the topic 'Designers at Work', where they studied teamwork, design process, and the responsibilities of designers. Students are also studying how to write a design folio where they first learn to identify a problem or a situation and discover a solution that is in the form of a product, system, or an environment. I am very pleased at the progress of the students and I hope they will continue their great effort next term.

-Mr Hakeem



Words Work



Assalamu Alaikum,

Alhumdulillah, with the pleasure and grace of Allah (SWT), Years 7-10 are ending the term with enthusiasm and interest. This seems to be especially true for English Year 10. Students are finishing reading 'To Kill a Mockingbird', a classic novel about understanding, empathy, racism and mindless prejudice. Alhumdulillah, there are few things better than hearing students reading with interest, then afterwards praising the book as well as admitting that the lessons from the book have made an impact on their life. In this case, some students have mentioned that they have been able to put themselves in other peoples' shoes in order to understand and forgive them. It is a joy to hear students share how school lessons are changing their life!

Perhaps the greatest challenge for me as a teacher, however, is attempting to interest students in Mathematics. This is especially true because of the great disparity of Maths knowledge amongst various students in high school. Some students have formed a fallacious opinion that they "can't do maths" or that "it is too hard". This is often a result of a weak foundation in maths, as maths is a subject where each consecutive topic relies heavily on the foundations laid by the previous topics. As a result, students who fall into the trap of falling behind in maths risk facing incomprehension and difficulty with future topics, which only puts the student even further behind. As we are starting with the basics of Maths, and Algebra for the Year 7 students, it is crucial that students keep up at this point of the year, and do their utmost to catch up on any topics which they are unfamiliar with. 'Khan's Academy' and similar websites may prove to be invaluable in such a task, and in some cases, be a viable substitute for a paid tutor.

I think it is appropriate at this stage to strongly suggest to parents to take out time from their undoubtedly busy schedules and establish a homework routine for the children. It is vital that all homework is completed. Homework is a pillar of modern education, and parents who help their children with homework will undoubtedly notice a marked improvement in results. Furthermore, there is no greater way to teach our children the importance of schooling than to take an active role in their education, and emphasising and ensuring all homework is completed is the first step in this endeavour.

I make dua that Allah helps us throughout the year and enables our students to understand the importance of education.

-Mr Shakir



We R' Mad Lab



Assalamu Alaikum,

Alhamdulillah, it was a great end for Term 1, 2016. Students showed great interest and perseverance towards Science. Year 7 completed the topic 'Earth's Resources' while Year 8 acquired an understanding of body systems. Year 9 developed an understanding for heat, light and sound and electromagnetic radiation. Students are now aware of the different types of radiation in the electromagnetic spectrum and how it relates to their everyday life. The assessment tasks and other forms of assessment enabled students to approach the lessons in an amusing and exciting manner, while addressing all the compulsory outcomes from the Science syllabus.

JazakAllah.

-Ms Khan

Islamic Studies Department

"Blessed is He who sent down the Criterion (Qur'an) upon His Servant that he may be to the worlds a warner."
(Al-Furqaan: 1)

Assalamu Alaikum Wa Rahmatullahi Wa Baraktuh,

All praise and thanks is due to Allah (SWT), The Lord of the Worlds. We thank Him for everything He has given us and ask Him for forgiveness for all our shortcomings. By the blessings of Allah (SWT), we have reached the end of a long and successful term. All students have done extremely well in all aspects of Islamic studies, including Arabic, Islamic Studies, Memorisation and Iqra. They have all performed exceptionally well in their Arabic and Islamic Studies quizzes and have demonstrated outstanding skills and creativity in their assignments. Furthermore, with the grace of Allah (SWT), the Qur'an competition, which was conducted in the last week of the term, shed immense light over the various talents that the students of our school possess. It was absolutely amazing to see how beautifully our students recited the Qur'an. Although each class proved exceptional reciters, we had to select only one winner from each class. Below are the names of our talented winners:

Kindergarten: Ismail Bin Abdullah **Year 1:** Luqman Hosh **Year 2:** Betim Saliji
Year 3: Uthmaan Gallie **Year 4:** Rufaidah Saputra **Year 5:** Fatimah Gallie
Year 7-8: Alishbah Asad **Years 9-10:** Blerim Saliji

Lastly, we would like to take this opportunity to wish all the very best to all of our students and hope that they enjoy their long awaited holidays. At the same time, we would also like to encourage and remind our students to practice their Islamic duties in these holidays. We would like to request parents to remind their children to be punctual and diligent in their daily prayers. Please remember us in your Duas and prayers!

-Islamic Studies Department



Spelling Bee



On March 11, Western Grammar School hosted its very own spelling bee. Alhamdulillah, all the students participated in the friendly competition, but the following students took home the awards for their classes:

Ismail Bin Abdullah	K	Adam Khodr	1
Ammar Sataar	2	Eesa Malik	3
Noora Qashou	4	Fatimah Gallie	5/6
Manahil Anwar	7	Aayah Mohamed	8
Farah Qashou	9	Amirah Zraika	10





Kidz Corner

سماوات Position

- 1 Draw a sun above the barn.
- 2 Draw grass below the barn.
- 3 Place the sheep on the side of the barn.
- 4 Place the cow on the other side of the barn.
- 5 Draw a basket roof to the cow.



Hanna Shaaban (K)



Aiesha Faytrouni (10)



Loujane Abbadi (1)



Atikah Taufiq (3)



Bisma Rahman (1)



Shaheer Ul Hasan (8)



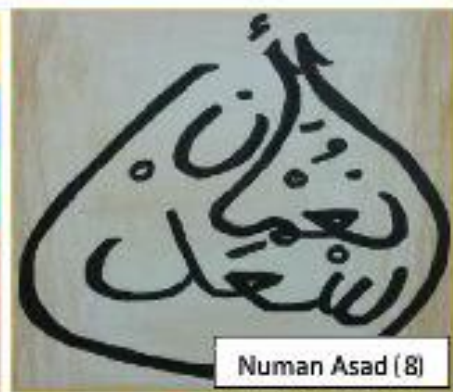
Rumaisha Saputra (3)



Abeeha Asif (1)



Zuhaira Salim (4)



Numan Asad (8)



Amirah Zraika (10)



Yusra Malik (1)



Zakariya Al-Shible (K)

Harmony Day



Harmony Day on the 21st March, celebrates Australia's cultural diversity. It's about inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone. It is a day for all Australians to embrace cultural diversity and to share what we have in common. The central message for Harmony Day is that 'everyone belongs', reinforcing the importance of inclusiveness to all Australians. Alhamdulillah, Harmony Day 2016 was a great success for Western Grammar School! The students and teachers had an amazing day. It was filled with culture, colour and diversity. Islam's glorious diversity, of course, is something that we acknowledged and celebrated on Harmony Day. Children dressed in their culture's outfits and participated in fun filled activities throughout the day. But of course the highlight was the abundance of food that was provided by the students; and we would love to thank the parents for the delicious contributions. Our diverse lunch was filled with flavour, spices and a taste of all cultures. JazakAllah and we look forward to celebrating our diversity in 2017 insha'Allah.

-Ms Tajjour and Ms Byrne



Powerhouse Museum – Year 5 & 6



One of the highlights of this term was the recent excursion to the Powerhouse Museum in the CBD. Year 5 & 6 took the more scenic route into the city and crossed the harbour bridge. Many of the students gleefully pointed out the Opera House and named the type of angles the buildings' architect based his design on (quiz them and see if they can recall). This was an excellent opportunity to point out to students the direct link between their classroom and the "real world". At the museum kids got to see a Mars rover and the expert at hand answered questions. At the end he exclaimed pleasure at the advanced questioning he received, and declared the kids "some of the smartest he's seen"! The day was a great success and the students represented themselves, the school and Islam in the wider community by showcasing their thirst for scientific knowledge. Mashallah!

-Mr Ibrahim





Assalamu Alaikum,

SRC stands for Student Representative Council. The Western Grammar School SRC unit is a peer elected group which represents the students of Western Grammar School. The SRC also encompasses the school captains and vice captains. The SRC aims to:

- Take action to improve the quality of school life for all students through student leadership programs.
- Foster future leaders through the program.
- Allow the students to have a voice in the way the school functions through their SRC.

The SRC elections were held in week 7 and the ceremony announcing and celebrating the elected students was held during morning assembly in week 8. The school captains, vice captains, class captains (K-4) were officially presented with their new badges alongside the SRC representatives for Years 7 to 10. All members of the new SRC team had to read and sign the new WGS Leadership Expectation form.

Last but not least, I would like to thank the SRC team of WGS 2015. That team laid the foundation of the ongoing leadership initiative at WGS. The SRC representatives for 2015 were an incredible group of students who were enthusiastic, innovative and caring. They led by example with a positive attitude and were great ambassadors for the school. Team WGS 2015 received their certificates of appreciation during morning assembly in week 8 as well.

Thank you to all the students who nominated for the SRC elections. We really appreciate your positive input. Big thanks to Mr Gallie and the office staff for their assistance during the election period.

-Mr Qoys
SRC & Welfare Coordinator



Leadership Team 2016

Captains

SUBEER BARRUUD
MONIM RANA
LAYLA GALLIE
TAMIMA RAHMAN

School Captain
Vice-Captain
School Captain
Vice-Captain

SRC Members

FATIMAH GALLIE
LAITH ASAD
IESHA BAKKAH
FARAH QASHOU
SAHAR SALIH

ZEINA MOHEICH
ALI ALI
AMIR ZRAIKA
BLERIM SALJI
AMIRA ZRAIKA

Announcements

- Last day of Term 1- Friday 15th April
- First day of Term 2- Tuesday 26th April
- ANZAC day – 25th April
- Photo Day- 3rd May
- Writing Competition- 6th May
- NAPLAN- 10th, 11th and 12th May