

WESTERN GRAMMAR SCHOOL



Issue 37 Term 1 Thursday 13th April, 2017

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15 Cannery Road, Plumpton NSW 2761 Ph: 02 9677 9229 F: 02 9675 4060 www.wgs.nsw.edu.au E: admin@wgs.nsw.edu.au "The believers are but brothers, so make reconciliation between your brothers and fear Allah that you may receive mercy."

Quran 49:10



KINDERGARTEN

Assalamu Alaikum,

Aaaaand look at that! First term of Kindergarten has already come to an end! It's been a fantastic term! We have made great friends and have learnt so much! It's amazing to see how much we have grown this term. Although this term was jam packed with heaps of learning to be done, we always took time aside to have fun and enjoy our first year of school as much as we could.

In Maths this term Kindergarten have learnt about whole numbers, addition, patterns, division and mass. In English we have covered topics like comprehension, grammar, phonics and writing. Science and Technology was filled with fun facts about farms and living and non-living things, and in History, we learnt about the past and present. The best thing that we learnt, however, was covered in PDH and that was how to behave with our friends and how to be great friends with one another.

In Kindergarten we are remembering to share our things with our friends, keep our hands to ourselves, colour in the lines and trace on the lines, but the best thing we try to do is play with everyone and help one another.



















As Term 1 is coming to an end, all students have settled down and adjusted into classroom routine. We enjoyed Harmony Day, a fantastic day where students dressed up in colorful cultural clothing and had lots of tasty food. Our class has continued with their procedural writing. Students have written a procedure on growing a plant followed by an activity where they grew their own cress. They were thrilled with the growth of their plants.

In reading, students are progressing at a good rate and improving their reading strategies and sounding out. For mathematics, students have been hands on with the concept of length, groups of things (multiplication) and sharing (division) and have grasped it very well. In science, students have been working in groups to design and build an effective barrier to protect the worn-out grass within the school grounds. Moreover, a big congratulation is owed to our new Class Captain Aizah Ali Shah and Vice-Captain Zubair Rahman. Well done to the both of you for being sensible and always following school rules.

I hope everyone enjoys the break but I encourage all parents to read with their children and revise their IQRA books. It has been a great term and I look forward to an even better Term 2.

-Ms. Yusofzai



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Assalamu Alaikum,

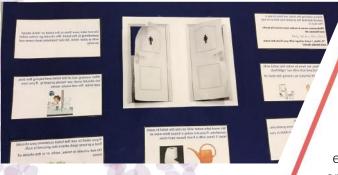
In the second half of Term 1 we have continued to practice procedures, such as following the steps for planting sunflower seeds and for learning how to brush your teeth. Our class has also been reading consistently on a daily basis.

In mathematics we have been using informal units to measure things and learning multiplication and division especially by using grouping. Meanwhile, in history, we enjoyed an incursion which was filled with fun and educational activities on changes that occur over decades. Moreover, we have invited elderly guests to speak on the lifestyles they had in the past.

For science we studied weathering and made barriers to allow damaged grass to grow again. In Creative Arts, we practiced some dance movements, while for PDH, we have been looking at road safety and bike safety. Overall, there has been immense improvement in the students' work and, insha'Allah, they will continue to grow and learn during the rest of 2017. I look forward to working with them and exploring the world around us through our class subjects.

May Allah bless our students and give them more knowledge. Ameen.

-Ms Shabnam

















Assalamu Alaikum dear parents,

Our class has had a very exciting time during this term. We enjoyed Harmony Day where the students shared and explored various traditional food and learnt about different cultures.

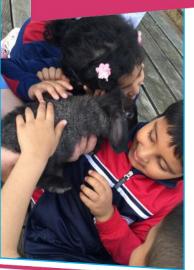
For history, we have been exploring Technology: Past and Present. The unit focuses on the effects of changes in technology. In order to further supplement this topic, we arranged an incursion that gave the students the opportunity to observe plays representing families of the past and present in a fun way. The students looked at the lifestyle in the past and recognised the changes that have taken place and how technology has advanced over the past decades from VHS tapes to DVDs, radios to internet and other improvements.

For maths, students have been studying different methods to learn addition and subtraction using hands-on materials and technology to enhance their learning experience. Furthermore, they used a range of mental strategies and concrete materials for multiplication and division. In Science, we are continuing the unit *What's That Sound* and students are enjoying learning all about how sounds are made and change.

Thank you in advance for your support and cooperation.

FARM 學題體 為图

Ms. Rana









"Ms Rana, are we going to the

farm today?" I was asked this question every single day until the 24th of March,

when finally the amazing event took place... Kindergarten's first excursion to the farm! It was an amazing experience and each child enjoyed it very much. We have made and have shared many memories on this adventure and enjoyed every bit of it!

This term Kindergarten has been learning about farm animals in science and technology. They have thoroughly enjoyed learning about this topic, however, being able to go to the farm and experiencing everything first hand was just phenomenal for them. At the farm, students saw so many animals including mooing cows, woolly sheep, cute horses, cheeky foxes, noisy ducks and furry camels. We had a great time and even got to milk cows, pet rabbits, chickens and horses and ride on a tractor! But by far the most exciting and enjoyable thing we did was ride on a bus for the first time!

After a hard day of exploring the farm, we watched the 'Whip Cracking' show. It was great fun and Huda was able to have a go at cracking the whip- she did a fantastic job! The next show we watched was the 'Dog Show', it was funny to see all the sheep run away. The last show we watched was the 'Sheep Shearing Show', it was cool to see how the wool is taken off the sheep. At the end we cooled off by enjoying cold ice blocks and licking delicious lollipops.

It really was a great day and it was a pleasure to share this experience with our beautiful class.

















Alistory Incursion Ms. Yusofzai







On Monday 20th March Years 1 and 2 had a visit from the Wanabees. Students experienced an educational interactive play about a time traveler exploring his own family history, making stops in the 1920s, 1950s, 1980s and 2000s. This incursion addressed the history outcomes of *Families: Past and Present* for stage one. Students developed a deeper understanding of the different eras as they learnt about the clothing, technology and activities popular during those times. Through questioning and the activities, students could apply what they had already learnt in class about families in the past. They were very intrigued and enjoyed watching the performance as the man made multiple stops in the past. The background scenery, clothing and technology changed as the era changed. The play was engaging, informative and made the students laugh at times. Additionally, students were taught different hand movements to match the era and enjoyed being tested on this.

The highlight of the incursion was the hands-on activities with real historical artifacts. Students were given the opportunity to look at and touch multiple artifacts from the past such as cassettes, vinyl records, video tapes and radios. Students were then placed into groups and involved in matching the correct picture with the era. They did very well in this activity and were involved and engaged. Overall we had a great time watching the performance and loved the hands-on experience.















Assalamu Alaikum,

What a delightful term Year 3 has had! We have had great experiences to enhance our learning, including a wonderful trip to Hoyts Cinema in Wetherill Park to further increase our historical knowledge. Year 3 has begun after-school NAPLAN classes which have assisted the students' literacy and numeracy skills further. They have continued to practice how to write both narrative and persuasive writing pieces, as well as all other elements of English including reading, grammar and vocabulary. We have announced our class captains as

Ashaf Mohammed and Raniya Muhammed- a big tabarak'Allah to these lovely students. Our class pet fish Goldy has made a splash in our classroom, assisting students to take responsibility and ownership. Students love feeding Goldy each morning and afternoon and we make it a class experience to keep him safe and clean. Harmony Day was another event that students thoroughly enjoyed. With henna, cultural readings and exciting activities, students enjoyed experiencing the world of diversity at their school.

Term 1 has been a wonderful time, and I wish students a happy break and look forward to seeing their bright faces again next term when we have more exciting events to participate in and interesting topics to learn.

-Ms. Abbas











Assalamu Alaikum,



Alhamdulillah Term 1 has ended on a positive note. Year 3 & 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 all students.

In English we have been studying imaginative texts and Year 3 & 4 has been working really hard to compose and publish their own imaginative texts. This term was a very eventful one with students participating in Harmony Day and our excursion to the cinemas. Both of these days were very exciting and the students had a fun time. The first term of 2017 has been an amazing time, and I am very grateful to be part of the journey. I look forward to Term 2, where we have more exciting events and interesting things to learn as a class.

I would like to leave you with an inspirational quote: "A teacher is like a candle, it consumes itself to light the way for others."

-Ms. Pinar

Assalamu Alaikum,

Term 1 has been an eventful and exciting time. Our class has worked very hard and they continue to improve in all learning areas. Alhamdulillah, this progress is evident in their assessment results which will be available in their portfolio in Term 2.

In English, students have been practicing writing an imaginative text. They have implemented many techniques learnt from famous authors, including Anthony Browne and Judy Bloom. Year 4 are great mathematicians. They pick up mathematical concepts fairly quickly. Students have learnt angles, shapes and fractions and are eager to pick up more concepts in the coming terms.

This term was filled with academic excellence, with students also taking part in fun learning activities. Year 4 had a wonderful day at the excursion to the cinema. It was a great opportunity for them to extend their knowledge in writing a review whilst having fun. Harmony Day was just as exciting. In class, we learnt about different cultures and shared various traditional foods.

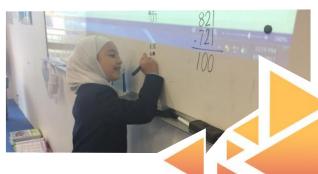
Year 4 has shown a lot of enthusiasm in their learning. I am looking forward to next term and watching them progress in their academics.

-Ms. Afshar









Assalamu Alaikum,

Alhamdulillah, the second half of Term 1 has been as hectic as the first. It has been an absolute joy to get to know each of my students and their learning abilities.

This term, students focused on learning persuasive and narrative writing. They absolute loved writing narratives and I read a lot of great stories. Year 5 is working hard to build their writing skills and Alhamdullilah they are all great writers with lots of great ideas in their mind.

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 term assessments and responded well to the math course implemented earlier. In history, students have been learning about Australian Colonisation. They enjoyed using their narrative skills to present their history project to the class.

Apart from that, students are focusing on NAPLAN and building on their literacy and numeracy skills. For next term there is already a range of topics and strategies eagerly awaiting their time to be introduced to our class. The first term of 2017 has been an amazing time, and I am very grateful to be part of the journey. I hope that you can enjoy the short time off and look forward to starting a fresher and bigger term soon.

YEAR 6

Assalamu Alaikum,

Alhamdulillah, we have successfully come to the end of the first term of 2017. Our class has now become a family, bonding with each other, showing care, honesty and respect to each other.

This term we have done many activities inside and outside the classroom. In History class we held mock parliamentary debates which highlighted the process in which a bill is passed to become a law in Australia. Students enjoyed this and really got into the spirit of being politicians. We also became architects building models of energy efficient houses – great experience! We got our hands on different types of circuits during our incursion about electricity that brightens us all. We also got active playing many competitive games of Oz tag during sport lessons and learning about different cultures during Harmony Day.

We have shared many experiences that will be remembered this term. We will continue to build on these beautiful memories throughout the year, Insha'Allah. I wish all students a safe and enjoyable break, and look forward to seeing everyone after the break.

-Ms Rukiye



Wired In

Ms Suzan

If you were to choose one object that represents who you are, your personality and character, what would you choose? An ice-cream? A bicycle? Or perhaps a pair of glasses? This was the very question the Year 8 Visual Arts students were to ponder on during their exploration of their inner selves.

Over the term, students completed a series of tasks that helped guide an exploration within themselves. Likes, dislikes, nationalities, religions and other artists who have also used 'the self' were investigated. We looked at powerful artists that subjected themselves as artwork within their art, such as Frida Kahlo, Shirin Neshat, and Andy Warhol.

Students were also put to a challenge prior to their art projects called 'continuous line drawing'. This included students drawing something without lifting their pencil off





their page! We then moved up a level to an art style called 'blind contour'. This required students to draw their friend without looking at their pencil and paper whilst drawing, purely using their senses to accurately draw what they see and paying very close attention to observed detail.

After gathering a collection of information about themselves, students worked on a wire sculpture, in which their hands and an object of their choice were to be represented as a reflection of their identity. Alhamdulilah, I am really proud of the Year 8 students who produced beautiful sculptures relevant to their personalities. A few examples were: grapes, ice-cream, donuts, cricket bats, abstract faces and gymnasts.

MATH BOOKS COMPLETE IRDADY OF COMPUTERS OF PRICE OF SCHOOL STATES OF THE PRICE OF SCHOOL STATES OF THE PRICE OF THE PRICE

The year has started really well for the Year 7 to 11 students with a lot of content covered and learnt. Students are showing high levels of motivation towards learning Maths and are making great progress.

In my experience of teaching the subject, I have observed that Mathematics is a difficult area for students to comprehend, mainly because they lack the foundations. Studies have shown that Australian students are lagging behind in numeracy compared to other countries. Below are some tips to use for creating a better understanding of the subject.

1. The two key components to effectively understanding Mathemati-

cal concepts is repetition and practice. We cannot learn and understand new skills by practicing them once or intermittently- we need to practice them repeatedly every day and only then can we grasp the concept. Hence it is very important that students practice Mathematical concepts every day, so it stays fresh in their mind and gets stored in their long term memory.

2. Mastering the times-tables is an essential foundation of Mathematics. In fact, once they learn the strategies of effective multiplication, students will be able to solve many mathematical problems with ease, because instead of focusing on figuring

out the multiplication, they can focus on learning the new concept.

3. Learning strategies for effective addition and subtraction is also an important component of Mathematics due to reasons mentioned above.

The following websites are great for mastering mathematical concepts:

- www.varsitytutors.com/ aplusmath/games
- www.varsitytutors.com/ aplusmath/flashcards
- www.thegreatmartinicompany. com/multiplication.html





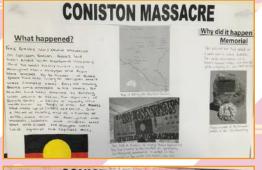
We live in a land where education is valued and accessible for all, regardless of race and religion. We live in a land where our children do not face the struggles many of their counterparts do, scattered around the world. We live in a land where we can educate our children in an Islamic environment. Alhamdulillah.

But what of its history? What kind of strokes painted this great landscape that we call home?

As Australians, we owe it to the first inhabitants of this land to acknowledge their history. We must acknowledge their trials and tribulations, especially in the context of our current blessings. With this in mind, students of Year 9 studied Making a Nation as part of their History course. Students investigated the events and the individuals that made our nation what it is today. A vital part of this course was investigating the suffering of the Indigenous

people. Students were given the task to investigate Aboriginal massacres around the country. It is an undeniable and distressing fact that has painted parts of our history black, but we must not turn our heads the other way, pretending it did not happen. Our Year 9 students were intrigued by the long history of Muslims in Australia. The past reveals to us a thriving relationship between Muslim Indonesian fishermen and Aboriginals who were in contact based on trade and culture. Alhamdulillah, through this activity, students were able to develop empathy for the anguish suffered by the first inhabitants. Students were also appreciative of the many blessings and opportunities available to them.

-Ms Younis







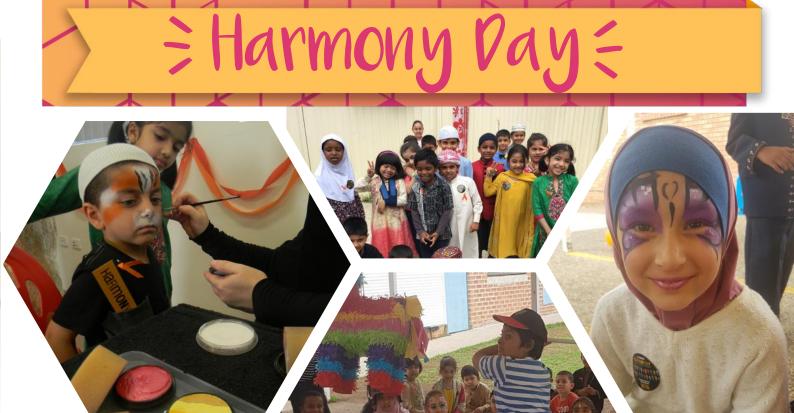


In Week 8, students of Year 5 & 6 enjoyed an incursion on electrical circuits by Fizzics Education. It was a 90 minute hands-on science workshop where student learned how electrical circuits work. In class, we have been covering related topics in science, with students of Year 5 learning about adaptation and students of Year 6 learning about electricity. The incursion was fun and informative and the students learned a lot about different types of electrical circuits. Fizzics Education provided a highly appropriate, engaging and entertaining approach to the topic of electricity.

The session began simply by introducing the basics of open vs. closed circuits and then slowly various circuits were introduced. It was open ended and students were provided with a clip-on electrical circuit board, which they shared between two people to create their own circuits. There were 180 separate circuits layout which they could make. Students were taken step by step through each circuit and once students had a firm understanding of the content, they explored it at their own pace.

It was highly engaging for students and they enjoyed the session. Thank you Ms. Rukiye Comert for organising such an interactive and informative incursion for the students.





Harmony Day was a very eventful day for Western Grammar School. Every year, on March 21st, we celebrate diversity and culture within our community in Australia. Our diversity makes Australia a great place to live. Harmony Day is a celebration of our cultural diversity — a day of cultural respect for everyone who calls Australia home.

The message of Harmony Day is, 'Everyone belongs', and the day aims to engage people to participate in a variety of activities. Western Grammar School celebrated the day with enthusiasm and excitement. We enjoyed Henna art, piñatas, face painting, cultural story readings, a cake stall and a variety of cultural foods.

Students were asked to wear orange or dress up in traditional clothing. Many of our students dressed in their culture's outfits and participated in fun filled activities throughout the day. It was a day filled with colour, activities, speakers, and a harmonious environment, but of course the highlight of the day was the abundance of food that was provided by the students

We would like to thank Kim Soltani and Alina Tariq for their wonderful assistance on the day. We would also like to thank the parents and staff of Western Grammar for making the day so eventful! Western Grammar school raised a little over \$400, all of which will be donated to an Islamic charity.



STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

The Student Representative Council (SRC) is made up of a group of students from Year 7 to Year 11 who represent the student body and work to improve the school. Each SRC member is elected through votes by the high school students and the position gives them opportunities to be involved in the decisions of the school. Through involvement, SRC students develop leadership and decision making skills whilst working collaboratively.

Alongside the Year 11 Captains and Year 10 Vice-Captains, the SRC elect their executive positions including the Presidents, Vice-Presidents, Secretary, Minute Taker and Treasurer. The Student Council operate a number of sub-committees which are currently: School Improvements, Student Wellbeing and Community Services. Students work alongside the Assistant Principal and the SRC Coordinator to organise events, fundraise for charities and resolve issues raised by students. Students can look forward to a number of interesting events and fun days organised by our team.

The SRC has the following aims:

- Providing students with opportunities to share in discussions, speak at assemblies and represent student opinions in various forums.
- Participating in relevant extra-curricular activities
- Participating in local community groups and events
- Encouraging the development of leadership in students
- Modelling to all Western Grammar School students' effective participation at school.









MEET THE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

CAPTAIN	AEISHA	HUSSEIN
VICE-CAPTAIN	TAMIMA	AMMAN
YEAR 11	AMIRAH	MONIM
YEAR 10	LAYLA	YUSIR
YEAR 9	TAKTUM	MUSSA
YEAR 8	SHOG	HUDA
YEAR 7	LAMIAH	TAAHIR















Pslamic Studies — Department

SHOUT T

"O mankind! Verily We have created you as a male and a female, and have made you into different nationalities and backgrounds so that you may know each other. Verily the most honoured amongst you in the sight of Allah is the one who is the most righteous. Indeed, Allah is All-Knowing, well acquainted."

(Quran 49:13)

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 due 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.

With the Grace of Allah, we are nearing the end of a jam-packed Term 1. The students have shown tremendous improvement and dedication in Islamic Studies, Arabic, Hifth, and Iqra, with many presenting their amazing talents in their assignments and exams. Some students have excelled in Iqra studies, passing and upgrading to the next level. We have a couple of students in Kindergarten who have passed book 1 and others are on the verge of passing. We are pleased with the overall achievements and we believe students are well prepared for the half yearly exams coming up next term.

This term, students have been focusing on brotherhood, caring for others, and strengthening our ties with one another. They have memorised many ahadith regarding these topics in the morning assemblies, learnt a lot of lessons during Friday khutbahs, and had plenty of reminders especially on Harmony Day. We ask the students to remember these lessons, apply them in their lives and teach them to others. These ahadith will be posted around the school to remind students about their importance. We ask the students to please use this upcoming school break wisely with a bit of rest, enjoyment, worship, and revision, especially as the half yearly exams and Ramadan are just around the corner. We hope to see students fresh and energetic for Term 2, trying their best to achieve great results Insha'Allah. May Allah reward us all!

Islamic Studies Department

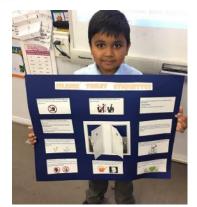
Congratulations to Loujane Abbadi and Adam Khodr from Year 2 for being the youngest WGS students to pass all 6 IQRA books and start Quran!

TabarakAllah!

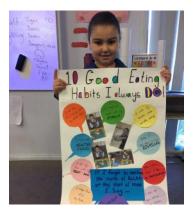
A few of our excellent Kindy students have finished Book 1 of IQRA. **Congratulations** Yasser, Huda, Asma, Khadija and Sara

Half Yearly exams coming up in Week Five of Term Two

Get ready for our annual **Quran Competition** in Week Eight of Term Two









Unfortunately (as far as sports is concerned), there has been a lot of rain over the past few weeks. As a result, the students have been unable to go to the park very often. Nevertheless, despite the rain, the High School students have been doing sports in the hall. Students have been playing table tennis, indoor soccer and dodgeball. This has been extremely fun, and the frantic pace of those indoor activities is tremendous for developing gross motor skills and basic sporting skills. For example, indoor soccer is great for developing quick passing, accurate shooting (due to smaller goals), and learning the importance of all the players pushing forward for attack, but also falling back to defend when the ball is lost.

Alhumdulillah, the sun was shining during Week 9, so we were able to go to the park and play both soccer and touch football. As usual, this opportunity was welcomed by the High School boys, who all participated with great zeal and enthusiasm.

We look forward to starting our annual T-Ball series of games in the coming weeks and next term. The teachers are particularly looking forward to the annual teachers vs students game... hopefully we can bring home the imaginary cup again this year! The bragging rights are real, boys!

Mr Shakir

SPORTS





KIDS KORNER

A CATEGORIC COLLECTION OF CREATIVE, CRAZY, CAPTIVATING AND CLASSY KID-CREATIONS













1																
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ANIMALS BRFAK CAPTAIN **CHILDREN** CIRCUIT COUNCIL COW **CULTURE** DAY DOVES **ELECTIONS** ELECTRIC **EXCURSION** FARM **FRIENDS** FUN **GOAT GRAMMAR HARMONY**

INCURSIONS LEADERSHIP MOVIE **PAST PRESENT** PRINCIPAL REPRESENTATIVE RESPECT SCHOOL SCIENCE SHEAR SHEEP **SHOWS SPORTS STUDENT TERM** TIME WESTERN **WORLD**





In 2010 on World Maths Day, 1.13 million students from more than 235 countries set a Guinness World Record for correctly answering 479,732,613 questions. How many can you answer?



The Challenge: Using four 4's and any operations, write equations that have the numbers from 0 to 20 as the answer. You may use factorials and square roots as well.

Examples: $17 = 4 \times 4 + 4 \div 4$ 8 = 4 + 4 + 4 - 4

The Prize: Bring your completed list of equations to Mr Shakir for fame, fortune and a spectacular prize...

Riddle Me This?

- Q1. What has to be broken before you can use it?
- Q2. What goes through a door but never goes in and never comes out?
- Q3. What is harder to catch the faster you run?
- Q4. I am the beginning of everything, the end of time and space, the beginning of every end, and the end of ev-

place. What am I? ery

- Q5. The more you take, the more you leave behind. What
- Q6. I'm the part of the bird that's not in the sky. I can swim in the ocean and yet remain dry. What am I?
- Q7. Poor people have it. Rich people need it. If you eat it you die. What is it?

7. Nothing wobsha A .a 5, Foosteps

4. The letter 'E' 3. Your breath 2. A keyhole

1, An egg!

UP To Date

From the Vice Principal And Andrews Principal An

13 April: Last day

End of Term 1! We pray that everyone has an enjoyable and productive break.

24 April: First day Term 2

Back to school! A fresh start with a fresh mind.

3 May: Writing Competition

Primary students compete in our annual writing competition.

10 May: Spelling Bee

Are you R-E-A-D-Y? Get prepped for the event that everybody's buzzing about.

15-19 May: Primary Assessments

Students from Kindy to Year 6 will have their Term 2 assessments



AAssalamu Alaikum all, Alhamdulilah, we have come to the end of a successful Term 1 and this year we've seen an increase in student numbers and have had new staff members join our team at WGS. We thank everyone for their hard work during Term 1 and make dua that we continue to improve Insha'Allah.

Our focus this term has been to improve the literacy levels of our students. Developing skills in both literacy and numeracy is vital for success in education. Literacy skills in particular provide us with the keys to understanding, learning, and applying knowledge throughout our lives. It is most important that parents provide support, understanding and guidance for their children as they embark upon this exciting and challenging journey of learning to read.

Both boys and girls need male and female role models in literacy- it is essential that your children learn reading, language, and thinking skills from the men as well as the women in their lives. Make sure that your children see you and other adults in their lives reading for information and for pleasure. Children will learn to value reading from the role modelling you provide for them.

To see an increase in the levels of literacy amongst our students, it is important that parents work together with our school to improve their child's skills and abilities. Parents are encouraged to take their children to the library to get them interested in reading.

I urge parents to make sure students are reading as much as possible during the school break to further build on the efforts of our teachers at WGS.

JazakAllahu Khairan for your continued support.

Mr Anwar Gallie Vice Principal