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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY AND FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- Queen's Birthday 10 June, '13
- Last day of Term 2 6 July, '13
- Ramadan (tentative) 9-10 July, '13
- First day of Term 3 15 July, '13

"Verily it is We Who have revealed
the Book to you in Truth:
so serve Allah,
offering Him sincere devotion"

(Al Qur'an 39:2)

Hadith:

The Prophet PBUH said, " A Muslim is one who avoids harming Muslims with his tongue and hands & a Muhajir is the one who gives up all what Allah has forbidden. " *Narrated by Abdullah bin 'Amr , Bukhari Vol 2, Hadith #9.*

Words of Wisdom

"Education is the ability to listen to almost anything without losing your temper or your self-confidence." *-Robert Frost*

"Education without values, as useful as it is, seems rather to make man a cleverer devil." *-C. S. Lewis*

Messages



Message from the Principal

OUR PRIMARY FOCUS

Alhamdulillah we are in the fifth week of term 2; time is flying like a rocket and challenges are evolving with the speed of time. WGS is growing day by day Alhamdulillah. Activities are increasing, our commitment and passion is on test almost every day. To create the best educational environment we (school & parents) must be aware of the social, psychological, intellectual and physical necessities of our children. So far our primary focus is upon building the best educational environment and we are striving for that.

The term environment refers to the surroundings or state in which a person, lives or functions. Environment also refers to the complex social and cultural conditions which affects the nature of an individual or community. The total environment of a child comprises of three main aspects or factors of life- the family, the school and the company (friends) of a child. The school's educational environment can only be effective if the other two are corresponding with it. The school has no control over the environment of the family and the company of young children. It is very important that parents must guard the two I have mentioned above. To be consistent about the development of the personality of our children, it is important that the above mentioned aspects must complement each other. Therefore parent-teacher coordination and cooperation is very important. Parents should play positive and constructive roles in the affairs of school. Avoid any negativity about education and learning in front of children as they may become affected from what they hear from adults.

Alhamdulillah we are working very hard in providing all the necessities for social, psychological, intellectual and physical need of our students. We are vigilant about the environment of our school. We have developed policies to deal with social and cultural issues including bullying and any type of discrimination or misconduct. Alhamdulillah our environment is very pleasant and almost free from all such problems. As we progress we will constitute a parent body to enhance the coordination and collaboration among the school and parents. Rewards and detentions policies and procedures are also implemented and it is important for parents to be aware of the benefits of them all. Our educational approach is motivational and lots of positive reinforcement is used by teachers while interacting with our students. Inshallah in the upcoming newsletter, I will further explain about our reward system and detention policy.

I request parents to come forward and be part of Western Grammar School's community. Give us feedback; if you are satisfied about the progress and performance of your child or if you have any concern, your input is vital for progression of the school. Let us join hands to deliver comfort, peace and prosperity to our next generation, to the community, society and finally to humanity at large. Alhamdulillah we are on track to follow our vision.

Irfan Afzal.

Message from Ms Qadan

Assalamu Alaikum,

Dear Parents/ Guardians,

Subhanallah it is already week 4 of term two. This term has started off extremely well with students being very productive in their classrooms. NAPLAN after school classes were very helpful in assisting the year 3 and year 5 students prepare for the NAPLAN test. I would like to thank Mr Malik, Ms Shabnam and all parents who worked extremely hard in assisting with NAPLAN preparations.

Term 2 is a reporting term, therefore students will be assessed on literacy and numeracy outcomes set for term 1 and 2 Insha'Allah. Exam week will commence in week 7. Parents are to assist students in revising and preparing for the half yearly exams.

Our AFL sports program has kicked off with a fantastic start. K to 6 students participated in their first AFL lesson in week 3. They were eager to begin their lessons with professional footballers.

Ms Qadan (Academic Manager/Coordinator Primary)



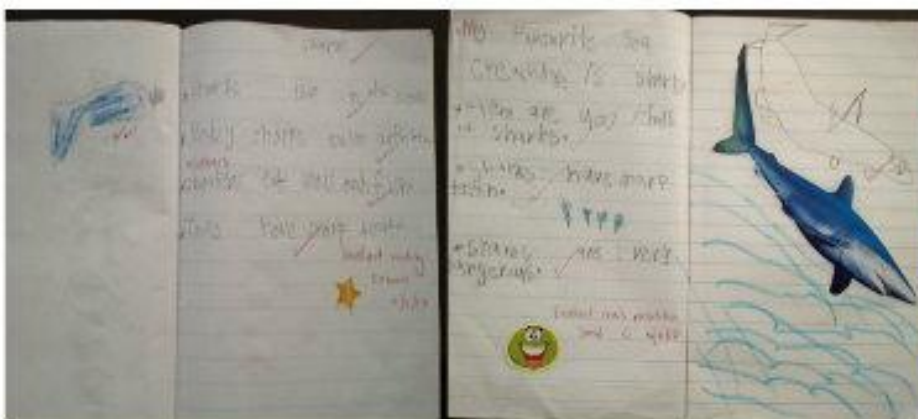
Inside the Classrooms

Kindergarten

Assalam u Alaikum Dear Parents,

Kindergarteners have had a fantastic start to term 2. We have been exploring numerous letters from the alphabet, and using them to form words.

Kindergarteners are beginning to construct their own sentences using their weekly spelling words. We have been focusing on the structure of sentences for this part of the term.



Description by Emaan (Kindy)

Samiullah's News display book (Kindy)



Octopuses made by Kindy kids



Making an umbrella after a busy week of learning the letter Uu (kindergarten)

Our focus unit for this term is 'Under the Sea' for English. We have read many factual books and narrative stories about sea creatures and life under the sea. Kindergarteners have also started their News presentations in week 3. Their first topic was based on their favourite sea creature. Students loved to be the centre of attention when it came to their turn at presenting their news to the class. To further bring this unit to life, students have been creating different sea creatures during their Arts and Craft lesson.

Kindergarten students have settled in extremely well this term and have adjusted well to routine lessons such as mathematics. Students have been engaged in all the hands on learning that takes place during Maths time.

Kindergarten students have quickly developed their counting skills. Students are able to count, recognise and write numbers from 0 to 20. Tabarakullah kindergarten!

Students had their first AFL lesson in week 3, and they loved it! They were all engaged in practicing their kicking, catching and throwing skills. These skills are vital for kindergarten students to master at this stage, as it will assist with their body coordination and awareness. *Ms Zadan*

Library

In the library, the students were given an insight into the history of ANZAC day by discussing its significance in Australian national history. ANZAC day is celebrated on 25th of April each year in the remembrance of the fallen soldiers. Students were given opportunity to explore history of ANZAC day. They were further explained ANZAC day as under:

ANZAC stands for Australian and New Zealand Army Corps. Anzac Day is a national public holiday and is considered by many Australians to be one of the most solemn days of the year. Marches by veterans from all past wars, as well as current serving members of the Australian Defence Force and Reserves, with allied veterans as well as the Australian Defence Force Cadets and Australian Air League and supported by members of Scouts Australia, Guides Australia, and other uniformed service groups, are held in cities and towns nationwide. The Anzac Day March from each state capital is televised live with commentary. These events are generally followed by social gatherings of veterans, hosted either in a public house or in an RSL club.

Children from kindergarten to Year three were given an activity to colour the poppy flower while students from year 3 to year 6 were asked to write a short note about their understanding of the significance of this day in Australian history. *Ms Hina*



Kindergarten showing their skills at AFL



Year 1 & 2

Assalamu Alaikum,

After a well-deserved break, our class has returned to school feeling energised and excited for the new learning which awaits them. We will be exploring a new unit for HSIE, titled 'Transport', where students will be exploring the different modes of transport, their uses and how they allow people or things to travel from one place to another. Insha'Allah we plan to complete the unit and finalize the experience with an exciting excursion. In Science, we will continue looking at living things but will be focusing on how the seasons and the sun impact on them. In PDHPE, we will be looking at Personal Safety and ways that we can protect ourselves; physically, mentally, emotionally, socially and so on. For CAPA, students will be learning about Puppetry and how to design and make our own puppets. For English, we will be looking at the text types 'Explanations' and 'Responses'. Students will continue to receive a weekly list of new words to learn and revise. For Maths, we will focus on one topic area each week, these will be various topics from the numerous mathematical strands as per stated in the syllabus. It is important that students

demonstrate their ability to do their work independently. Please ensure that your child completes homework, it is vital for them to revise their work weekly. Daily revision has a significant impact on how well they perform in their weekly tests and exams. It is also very important that students are reading their home readers on a daily basis as well as reading a wide variety of other books. Please continue to support the school by looking after and returning the home readers on a weekly basis. Lost books incur a \$10 fee. I look forward to another productive and successful term! May Allah SWT increase their will to learn and help them achieve their full potential. *Mrs Sobet :)*

Year 3 & 4

Alhamdulillah, it is good to see our students back and excited to learn as usual. Term 2 is extremely exciting for students as we begin to explore the Science unit 'Stuck on You'. Students were eager to get hands-on experience with magnets. This topic involves magnetism which will inspire our kids to discover the electrical energy in objects. In HSIE we have started 'Australia: You Are Standing in it', where we have discussed various places in Australia to visit, particularly, the Blue Mountains as part of our heritage.

Moreover, in English we have reinforced plurals and other spelling rules and practised persuasive writing. While in Mathematics we practised a lot of hands-on activities for measurement, addition and subtraction, and fractions and decimals. In CAPA students have drawn pictures of bicycles. The students were very excited to learn about the human body parts as part of their PDHPE on 'The Muscular System'. Furthermore, Year 3 students have been revising studiously for NAPLAN with the extra classes in the afternoons and Saturdays. May Allah SWT reward their hard work and effort. Many NAPLAN questions were



discussed to give them enough practise for the final NAPLAN exam. Finally, we will be preparing for the half yearly exams this term. Insha'Allah this term will be even more rewarding and successful for all of us. *Ms Shabnam*

Year 5 and 6

It's that time of the year again, NAPLAN. I'm sure the much awaited NAPLAN examinations are on everyone's minds including teachers, students, parents and the wider community. Next week all those hours of afterschool classes, extra study and the mental preparations will be put to test all throughout the nation. Our students at Western Grammar have worked hard and have done what they can to prepare for these exams. I'm sure they will be well pleased with their endeavours.

Having said that I want to take this opportunity to provide some light on these much anticipated examinations and would like to discuss or rather clarify related issues regarding NAPLAN. What is the purpose of NAPLAN? What do these examinations tell us about the student and how we should correctly interpret these NAPLAN results? Firstly these NAPLAN examinations are designed to assess cumulative literacy and numeracy skills which the child has developed over the years and not assess short term literacy and numeracy progression. For this reason the Department of Education Schools believe that providing extra emphasis on these examinations and NAPLAN specific preparation will not provide an accurate reflection of the progressive literacy and numeracy skills that should have been gained by the student over years of education. In addition to this, the NAPLAN results only provided a 'snapshot' of a student's performance at one particular point of time. This prompts the question, how should we interpret NAPLAN results? While keeping this discussion brief I want to emphasise that as parents,

teachers, and the wider community the most appropriate frame of mind we should have while looking at the results is one enshrouded by the word 'improvement'. When it's that time of year again and the NAPLAN results are released we constantly hear one question, what band did he or she attain in numeracy? Or what band did he or she attain in reading? Or statements such as 'He or she got band 8, they have done so well!'. Are we asking the wrong questions and making the wrong statements? We should be asking how much improvement has there been since your last NAPLAN examination? We should be praising students who have shown progression and movement through their respective stages. A student who has moved from a band 3 to a band 5 should deserve the title of 'succeeding' in his NAPLAN endeavours just as much if not more than a student who has remained stagnant at a band 7 level.

By the time we read this our students would have already completed these NAPLAN examinations and regardless of what remains I think all our students deserve a big pat on the back for all their effort and preparations in the last 8 weeks. *Ms Usman Malib*





Students Corner

Art work of our students





Administration Memo

POINTS TO NOTE

Kids Lunch Idea



Chicken and Vegetable Rice Paper Rolls

Ingredients:

- 12 large rice paper rounds
- 1 green oak lettuce, leaves separated, washed, dried
- 1/2 large barbecued chicken, skin and bones removed, meat shredded (see note)
- 1 red capsicum, thinly sliced
- 1 Lebanese cucumber, halved, thinly sliced
- 1/2 cup beansprouts, trimmed
- sweet chilli sauce, to serve

Method:

1. Half-fill a shallow dish with warm water. Dip 1 rice paper round in water. Place on work surface. Stand for 20 to 30 seconds or until soft enough to roll without splitting.
2. Place lettuce along edge of rice paper. Top with chicken, capsicum, cucumber and beansprouts. Roll up, folding up edges to enclose filling. Cover roll with a damp tea towel to prevent it drying out. Repeat with remaining rice paper rounds and fillings to make 12 rolls. Cut in half. Serve rolls with sweet chilli sauce.

- We have canteen every Thursday. Parents who wish their kids to have the lunch, are requested to give their children \$3 to purchase canteen food for their lunch. All the proceeds go towards expanding our library
- Fees for term 2 are now due. If fees haven't been paid, please do so ASAP.
- Please do not park in the allocated bus lanes or drop off zone; that area is allocated for a quick drop off and pick up of the students only.
- Uniforms including jumpers and hats are available at the office. Parents are requested to ensure that their child comes in full uniform.
- Please pick and drop off school children in the allocated zones
- Please ensure that your child arrives early everyday so that he/ she does not miss out on his/her studies especially the morning assembly. If, by some misfortune, the student is late, please make sure he gets a late note from the office.
- If your child is sick, please inform the office so that we know why he/she is absent.
- If your child is absent for some reason other than sickness, please make sure you fill out a leave application and have it approved by the principal.
- For security and protection of our students, parents are requested to avoid going to the classroom area. For any urgent need please contact the reception during school hours. Late students should be dropped off at the office. Students who arrive after 8:35am are late, and will require a late note from the office. Please do not escort your child to the classrooms if they are late.