



WESTERN GRAMMAR SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

Issue 38 Term 2 Friday 16th June, 2017

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KINDERGARTEN

Assalamu Alaikum,

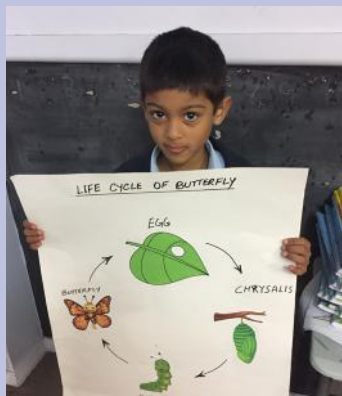
Farewell to another term of awesomeness in the Kindergarten classroom! Let's see, we've had an excursion to Featherdale Wildlife Park, we've started praying with the Jaamaa't, we've experienced our first Ramadan in school, and we've completed our Term 2 assessments.

Let me say we have made great progress! This term we have been intensely focusing on guided reading and can I just say well done to Yasser, Omar, Khadija, Huda, Sara, and Bilal Ahmad for being our top readers! They love reading and are eager to devour the next book! In Maths we have been learning about graphs, grouping, subtraction, and 3D objects. In English we have been focusing on Mem Fox's books, our class favourite being, 'The Magic Hat'. Science has consisted of us learning about different materials and textures. History and PDH have encouraged us to focus on ourselves and the people we love.

By faaaar the highlight of this term was our excursion to Featherdale- we absolutely loved it! When I asked Kindergarten what they loved the most they said *everything*! From the koalas to the kangaroos, Kindergarten loved every bit of it! To top off a perfect day, each student was gifted a koala to remember the fantastic day!



-Ms Rana



Assalamu Alaikum Parents,

Ramadan Mubarak! Insha'Allah we all make the most of this blessed month. Term 2 has been a very busy and fun filled term. Our excursion to Featherdale Wildlife Park consolidated their learning and was a very exciting day where students got up close with different animals. Year 1 has done very well with writing this term and each student has developed better writing skills. Students have learnt how to write information reports on different animals I am proud of my students' reading levels as there has been a great improvement this term. Keep up the fantastic reading Year 1!

In Science, students have been learning about different materials and how they change shape and state. Students predicted what would happen to chocolate left in the sun and carried out the experiment, proving their predictions correct. They were very enthusiastic scientists with their favourite part being when they ate their chocolate treats! Maths has been hands on and engaging this term with students grasping the concept of Area very well. Our class has been getting creative by making different area shapes and finding the area of objects around the classroom. We have been enjoying Creative Arts this term and have produced multiple artworks, including a self-portrait.

-Ms. Yusofzai

YEAR 1

YEAR 1 & 2

Assalamu Alaikum,

This term we have been writing information reports on various Australian animals and our knowledge on this topic was reinforced by our trip to Featherdale Wildlife Park. Our class enjoyed the excursion and loved the hands-on experience with the Australian animals.

In Mathematics we have studied addition and subtraction using number lines, money and two dimensional shapes. In PDH we have been studying parts of the human body, fingerprints, and using Venn diagrams to find out the similarities and differences between students. Furthermore, we have been melting chocolates and ice as part of a science experiment. This was fun and exciting for the class. For History we learnt about Ramadan and Eid and compared it to other religious celebrations. We also made Eid cards. For CAPA we have created wonderful art by using the outlines of our hands to make vegetable men and painted autumn artwork.

Overall, this term had shown immense improvement in the students' reading levels and I ask Allah (S.W.T) to bless our future leaders to become even better in the coming years.

-Ms Shabnam



YEAR 2

Dear parents,

Year 2 is exploring many exciting topics this term. We have been writing about the life cycles of living things. We especially enjoyed writing about butterflies and trees, both oak and apple trees. We have linked procedure writing to our learning about life cycles and science. In Maths we were hands-on with measurement and took the challenge of filling items with rice. It was amazing!

In Science we planted radish seeds and observed them growing. We now know the different stages of the radish plant and can describe it. We are so proud of how they are growing. PE has had some surprises such as balloon team games. One windy day we were running all over the yard and working well in teams.

Years K-2 explored Featherdale Wildlife Park and the fascinating and interesting animals they found there. Many of our classmates had done speaking and listening reports on animals such as the wombat, koala, parrot, water dragon, crocodile, and goanna and it was great to see these creatures in real life. Being brave is hard but we touched a baby python, a shingle back lizard, a tawny frog-mouth bird and a koala.

As the term is coming to an end, students are continuing to build skills and knowledge in the Creative Arts, with our focus on music being very successful this term.

-Ms Boyd



Year 3

Assalamu Alaikum,

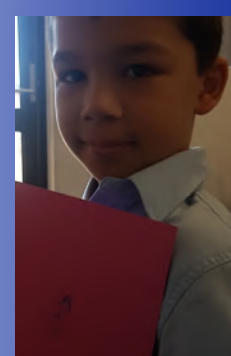
Term 2 is coming to an end, and we have been working extremely hard in the Year 3 classroom. Alhamdulillah, NAPLAN has ended on a positive note, and we thank all the students and parents for their efforts throughout this process. Students tried their best in both Literacy and Numeracy and I am extremely proud of their achievements.

In English, students have been learning all about proper and common nouns, as well as learning how to write a proper narrative and persuasive text. They 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.

Our class has enjoyed learning about 3D shapes and their properties, it's exciting to see how many students work on their prior knowledge of this topic as they gain new information. Alhamdulillah, this term has been a fantastic success and I wish you all the best during the term break. Ramadan Mubarak to everyone!

-Ms. Abbas



Year 3&4

Assalamu Alaikum,

Ramadan Mubarak to all parents. This term has continued to be an exciting learning opportunity for the Year 3&4 students. Our class has been participating in numeracy and literacy experiences that have enhanced their knowledge and skills.

In English, Year 3&4 published their imaginative texts and completed reading the novel 'I am Jack'. This novel is a wonderful book that recognises the importance of children reading and addresses important issues such as bullying. In Science, we did experiments and investigations on different forces, and we found that forces can be exerted by one object on another through direct contact or from a distance. In History, we looked at significant icons in Australia such as The Three Sisters in Katoomba and we studied the interesting dreamtime story that is associated with it. For sport we focused on a number of different team sports such as T-ball and cricket, which helped students build their communication skills.

This term has ended positively, and I am very grateful to have been part of the journey. I look forward to Term 3 Insha'Allah.

-Ms. Pinar



Assalamu Alaikum,

YEAR 4

Year 4 have continued their good efforts. This term they enjoyed participating in fun activities that helped them enhance their learning.

Our class has worked very hard this term and progressed steadily. In English, we have been studying informative texts. Year 4 has learnt to compose their own informative texts by incorporating a variety of literary techniques. For shared reading, we have been reading the novel *I am Jack* by Susanne Gervay. They have shown a lot of enthusiasm in reading the novel and demonstrated great improvement in their comprehension.

Year 4 has also enjoyed learning Mathematics this term. They have been introduced to difficult Mathematical concepts such as equivalent fractions and learning how to cross multiply. Students have also increased their problem solving skills and critical thinking. In Science, we have been exploring the concept of forces. Students have participated in many experiments that helped build their understanding.

I wish students a wonderful break and I look forward to seeing everyone back for Term 3.

-Ms. Afshar



Year 5

Assalamu Alaikum,

Wow! Term 2 has ended. It has been a productive and testing term. Year 5 overcame many challenges and achieved a lot within a small frame of time. In the space of six weeks, we met both the government's and the school's deadlines on our endeavour to improve your child's education, with students completing their NAPLAN exams and continuing on to excel in their school exams as well.

This term, we completed NAPLAN preparations and carried out the tests to ACARA's expectations and standards. We took time to ensure your child was as prepared as possible. During their exams, I treated them with motivational snacks every morning before the tests to encourage them and to show my appreciation.

Furthermore, we have been learning about states of matters in our Science course. Our History classes on the other hand, have thrown us back in time, helping us learn about the gold rush. We have delved into the lives of gold miners and got the feel of their lifestyles. Year 5 has also been focusing on writing information reports in their English classes.

Ramadan commenced from Week 6 of this term and as a gift for my students, I presented them with Welcome Ramadan goodie bags. This was only to embed the love for our month of Ramadan in their hearts. May Allah accept our efforts Ameen.

-Ms. Asad



YEAR 6

Assalamu Alaikum,

Masha'Allah! Year 6 has worked hard this term and my students have made me proud with their efforts and achievements. Anyone want to travel to Japan? This term we worked with informative texts and Year 6 produced great travel brochures for Japan. They researched everything travellers need to know about going to Japan including their culture, traditions, food, customs and places to visit. Ever wondered what happens during a volcanic eruption? Well, Year 6 can show you. They created their very own eruptions using baking soda and vinegar. It sure was an explosive learning experience. Students also created their very own math board games, showing off their skills of adding, subtracting, dividing and multiplying and using problem solving strategies to race to the finish. Our class warmly welcomed the blessed month of Ramadan this term. We created beautiful Ramadan greeting posters to display in our classroom. We are very privileged to be fasting together this year as it has helped strengthen our stamina and perseverance as a class, Alhamdulillah. I would like to wish all parents a blessed Ramadan, May Allah accept our fasting and duas, Ameen.



-Ms Rukiye

WRITE FOR FUN

MS. IMAN FAKOUA

Our fabulous students at Western Grammar took the initiative to participate in the 'Write for FUN,' competition. Their brilliant compositions which ranged from short stories to poems reflect their understanding of sensory imagery and poetic techniques and forms. The following composition is a clear reflection of the type of writing that we do in our classrooms!

Shadows of ink black darkness seemed to hide behind the ruby red curtains, awaiting us. It slyly slipped out from behind its masked hide out, its thunderous footsteps would not go unnoticed, its sharp nails appeared strong and scissor-like reminding the onlookers of its sinister nature and capabilities. They gawked and sat mesmerized unaware of the looming dangers that appeared before them...in one ingested breath it released a fire that surpassed the burning blades of hell. Anguished screams filled the theatre as fire cut across the exit, people scurried about but to no avail- it was too late. The end of humanity was upon them, and the age of the dragon had finally arrived...

Assalamu Alaikum,
 Ramadan Mubarak to everyone! I hope everyone is doing well, and is busy making full use of Ramadan and the multitude of blessings this month offers. In this article, I wish to talk about Carol Dweck's Growth Mindset theory.

Our mindset determines a lot about us and what we achieve. There are two types of mindsets: fixed mindset and a growth mindset. Students with a "fixed mindset" believe that our character, intelligence, and creative ability are set in stone, and we can't change them in any meaningful way. They further believe that good marks are a result of natural

intelligence, and on the converse, believe that poor marks in exams are evidence of failure and a lack of intelligence, and feel shame over poor marks. Students with a "growth mindset," on the other hand, thrive on challenge and see failure not as evidence of unintelligence, but as evidence of not having tried hard enough.

It is crucially important that we advocate a growth mindset in our children. Alhumdulillah, Allah in His great wisdom has given us brains which continuously learn new skills and concepts throughout our lives. We can improve ourselves – this is fact. As such, we need to adopt

this mindset, and continuously encourage our children to do so as well. When our children do get good marks, we must be careful and never attribute the good marks to them being smart – always link good marks to hard work. And when our children don't do so well, in any aspect of life, we should always attribute this to a lack of hard work – not just hard work on the night before the exam, but hard work on a daily basis!

Inshallah this will result in our children valuing hard work and linking success with hard work – which is most definitely the case!

-Mr Shakir

SCIENCE STUDIES

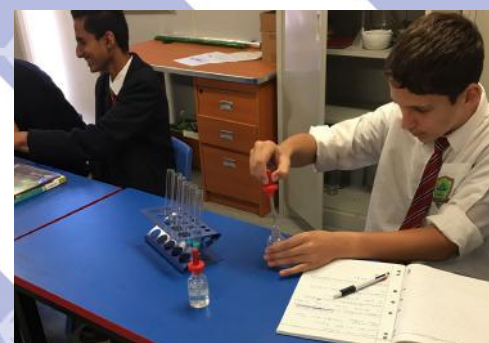
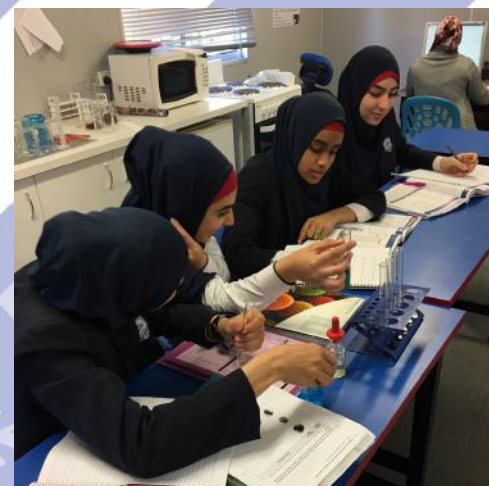
Alhamdulillah it was a productive end for Term 2, 2017. Students showed great interest and perseverance towards Science and most students excelled this term as reflected in their assessment.

Year 10 students have been learning about precipitation reactions with Ms Yasmin and a lab experiment helped solidify their concepts. This experiment involved a range of chemical reactions that the students had learnt about in class. In a precipitation reaction, two solutions of soluble salts are mixed, resulting in an insoluble solid (precipitate) forming. The results were impressive and the students were excited to learn more.

and requires consistent learning and understanding. Any difficulties that students face while learning it could be as a result of their inability to comprehend the skills, knowledge and understanding behind simple concepts and the connection to everyday living. Revising the basics regularly and revisiting topics often will help create a stable foundation for further improvement.

Science teachers will continue to support and guide our students to be the best they can be. We pray Allah SWT will bless them with every success, now and in the future, Insha'Allah.

-Ms. Nazmun



Science itself is like a new language

Featherdale Wildlife



On Monday 29th May, K-2 embarked on their journey to Featherdale Wildlife Park. Students were very excited leading up to the excursion and when the day finally arrived, they were thrilled. When we first got to the park, we were given park passports and had a fruit break followed by a nocturnal encounter with bats and a bilby. We encountered lots of different species of birds: from eagles, to macaws to small finches. We saw dingoes, a giant crocodile and then toured the reptile section to find different reptiles such as lizards, snakes and frogs. They enjoyed getting close to the farmyard animals including a calf, a donkey and rabbits. Feeding and patting the kangaroos was a highlight for students. Multiple big fluffy wombats were seen as well as an echidna and a Tasmanian devil!

We then headed over to their lesson at the learning burrow where they were greeted by four different animals. This was the highlight of the excursion. Students got up close with a koala which was the cuddliest and fluffiest, a scaly lizard, a tawny frogmouth which looked like an owl and a snake which was the scariest. To end the day, students enjoyed their lunch in the picnic area and were tired from their adventure and ready to go back to school. Our students were following rules and had their best manners and behaviour on display which was great to see. Both teachers and students had a fantastic day at the wildlife park!

-Ms. Yusofzai



Go Active Sports



On the 17th of May, the Year 7-10 girls participated in the annual Go Active Tri Sport tournament. This tournament is aimed to encourage young girls to become active and aware of the importance of being healthy, to encourage sportsmanship and to give them an opportunity to have fun. Leading up to the game, the girls practiced regular drills and the rules of the games in sports classes, lunch time and even after school. This attracted the attention of Sarina, a professional netball player from the UK who plays for the Giants. She commented on the great team work and sportsmanship that our school displayed.

The girls played three sports, netball, soccer and Oz tag. They displayed commendable sportsmanship and won several games, defeating 5 schools. Although this was not enough to get them through to the finals, it was still an amazing accomplishment and their defeat did not stop them from cheering on other teams in the finals and playing a friendly game of netball with Amity College. Two of our students were recognized for their sportsmanship and received fair play trophies; congratulations to Manahil and Sakina on their brilliant effort and manners!

Go Active provided the girls with a tasty sausage sizzle and plenty of fruits and water, but first, the girls prayed Dhuhr beautifully in congregation, which encouraged other Muslim schools to pray as well. The girls had an amazing day and are eager to attend the next Tri sport tournament next year InshaAllah. **-Ms. Suzan**



careers expo

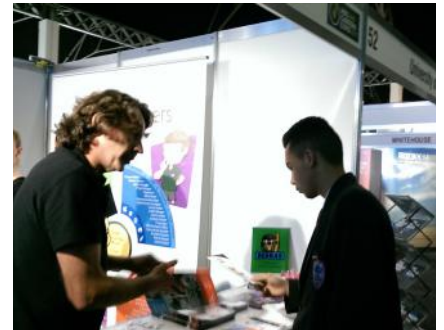
YEAR ELEVEN'S VENTURE INTO THE WORLD

On Thursday 1st of June, the Year 11 students visited the HSC Careers Expo at the Royal Hall of Industries in Moore Park. It involved a number of stalls showcasing different universities and career options available to them. While walking around the venue, we discovered that there are many different future pathways and careers that we had been unaware of.

The Year 11 class visited a wide variety of seminars and presentations which gave us helpful tips and advice about where students' interests could lead them and which pathways they can undertake to fulfil their career goals. In one of the presentations, students were given tips on how to maximise learning. Students also attended various seminars in their specific subject areas and the presenters highlighted the many things that could be done to enable a smooth transition into university, some of which were getting involved in afterschool study groups, being on top of schoolwork by having good time management and having confidence in yourself and your abilities.

Overall the HSC Careers Expo was a highly enlightening experience for Year 11 students who will soon have to make some important career decisions. Students are always welcome to discuss any issues related to their study and careers with myself, the teachers and the school principal.

Mohammed Nadeem
Career Advisor



STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

Asalaamualaikum,

The SRC of 2017 has made a good start. So far, we have conducted the teacher's morning tea and organised the school's first GALA day with sausage sizzle where we raised over \$700. After Ramadan, we hope to continue the Eid celebrations by organising an Islamic Dress Day and an Eid Party. Some other events planned are World Children's Day, World Teacher's Day and a number of fundraising Cake Stall Days.

To end our message, we would like to thank you for your support and in turn, we are always available to listen and consider any new suggestions or ideas to improve our wonderful school.

SRC Team



NAPLAN 2017

Earlier this term, students sat for their three days of National Assessment Program, Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) tests that were given to students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 across Australia.

These tests are an assessment undertaken to gain a better understanding of student educational abilities in the areas of Spelling and Grammar, Writing, Reading and Numeracy. This year's tests began with the Language Conventions paper which assessed students' spelling and grammar skills, along with their understanding of punctuation.

The second test undertaken was a persuasive writing piece that saw the students planning, writing and editing their own personal persuasion piece under timed conditions. Next, the students sat for the Reading test, which was followed up by the Numeracy test.

It is important to be aware that NAPLAN testing is meant to analyse a student's progress over the years. Additionally, these papers give an insight into student performance on the day of the test only. Classroom teachers perform many assessments of students over the year and have a more detailed understanding of student performance and ability - which is reflected in their gradings and comments on both mid and end of year reports. The results of NAPLAN testing will not be available until later in the year and parents will be notified of these results.

-Ms. Asad

Islamic Studies Department

SHOUT
OUT

**“O you who believe! Fasting has been mandatory upon you, as it was made mandatory for those before you, so that you may attain piety.”
(Quran 2:183)**

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 hope that your fasting is going well and we pray to Allah to accept all our fasts, night prayers, quran recitation, and all our good deeds, Ameen!

Alhamdulillah, by the grace of Allah, this short term has been jam packed with Islamic activities for the students in our school. These activities include; a charity drive “Feed the Fasting”, “All about Zakah” with the National Zakat Foundation team, charity posters and signs, Wednesdays and Thursdays hadith reading and understanding, a Quran competition, Islamic Studies half yearly examinations, and a high school girls Iftar program. In the past few weeks, students have also been receiving a great amount of knowledge about Ramadan. Students have formed groups within their classes to raise funds to feed the needy, fasting families around the world. Our students have shown tremendous dedication throughout these activities and we hope to continue similar activities in the terms ahead Insha’Allah.

As you are all aware, we are heading towards the last 10 days/nights of Ramadan, and Laylatul Qadr could be in any of these nights. We would like to take this opportunity to remind ourselves and all parents, teachers and students to increase our worship and pray for the success of our school, staff, and students. We thank you all for your support and we ask you to help us achieve the vision of the school to provide quality Islamic and secular education to our students to produce great future leaders. May Allah bless us all, and an early Eid Mubarak to you all!

Islamic Studies Department

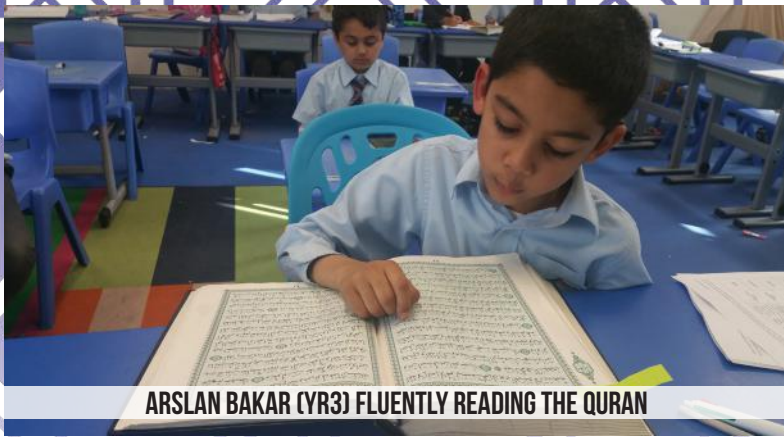
A total of 3,300\$ raised for charity in one week! Ma-sha’Allah!

Year 3&4 raised the most money- an amazing **866.34\$**

Abdullah Sajid Hasim of Year 3&4 contributed the highest amount of charity

Faisal Ashraf of Year 7 won the St. Mary’s masjid **Quran Competition**, competing against 70 participants!

Laylatul Qadr is quickly approaching, don’t forget to **prepare!**



ARSLAN BAKAR (YR3) FLUENTLY READING THE QURAN



HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS PREPARE RAMADAN GIFTS



ENJOYING ACTIVITIES BEFORE THE SCHOOL IF TAR



KINDY STUDENTS WHO HAVE PASSED OR ALMOST PASSED IQRA BOOK 2. WELL DONE!



ABAYA DAY



CHARITY DRIVE POSTER



RAMADAN WEEK IN THE LIBRARY



STUDENTS LEARN 'ALL ABOUT ZAKAT' FROM BR. ISMAIL DAVIDS



STUDENTS DRESS UP FOR ABAYA DAY

Assalamu Alaikum,

The primary sports lessons are very much enjoyed by our students. The kids have been practicing non-locomotor static tasks, locomotor movements, springing, landing and rotations. The Year 1 and 2s have been playing 'Stuck in the Mud', parachute games, jumping over hoops and many more.

Moreover, the Year 2s were running, skipping, balancing a beanbag on their head, spinning a hula hoop, throwing, and practicing their catching skills, dribbling skills and balancing skills.

The Year 3s were playing non-locomotor tasks, statics and hand stand lead ups. Furthermore, the Year 5s have been learning about travelling on different body parts, jumping, landing and rolling. All the classes have been playing various fun games to complement with the lessons. These physical lessons are very vital for the optimal performance of our kids holistically.

Ms Shabnam

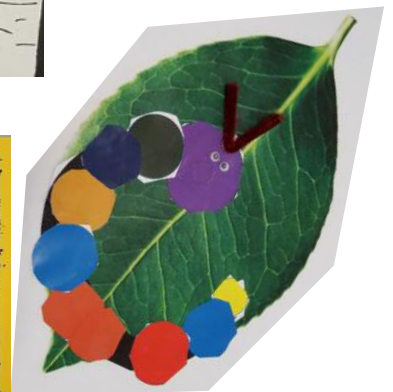
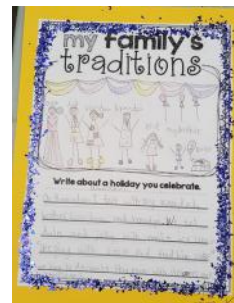
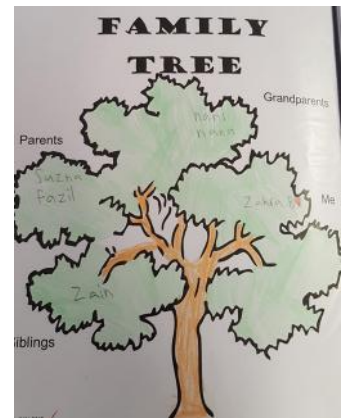


SPORTS



KIDS KORNER

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





WORD Find

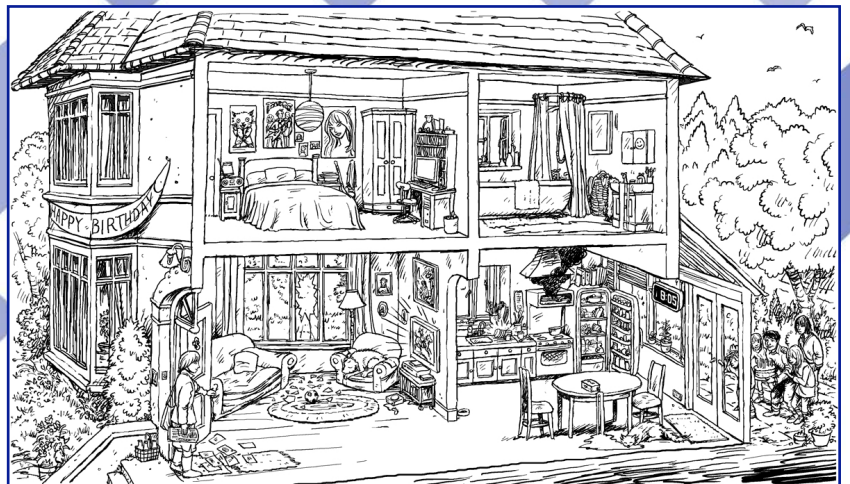
- ACTIVE
- ASSESSMENTS
- BELIEF
- BREAK
- CAREERS
- CELEBRATION
- DATES
- DEEDS
- DHIKR
- EARTH
- EID
- EMPATHY
- EXAMS
- EXCURSIONS
- EXPO
- FAITH
- FASTING
- FEATHERDALE
- FOOD
- FOOTY
- GOOD
- HADITH
- HAJJ
- HEAVEN
- HUNGER
- IFTAAR
- ISLAM
- LAYLATULQADR
- MASJID
- MONTH
- NAPLAN
- PATIENCE
- PIETY
- PRAYER
- QURAN
- RAMADAN
- RECITATION
- REFLECTION
- RELIGION
- REVELATION
- REWARD
- STUDYING
- SUHOOR
- TAQWA
- TARAWEEH
- TERM
- TEST
- THIRST
- WORKING
- ZAKAT

GAME TIME



SPOT THE DIFFERENCES

These two houses may look the same, but there are a few differences between the two pictures... Can you find all the differences? Grab a pen and circle all the ones you can spot!



UP To Date

16 June: Last day

End of Term 2! We pray that everyone has an enjoyable and productive break. Eid Mubarak!

10 July: First day for teachers

Teachers return to school on Monday

11 July: First day Term 3

Students return to school on Tuesday after a long break. Get ready to learn!

18 July: Photo Day

Dress your best for photo day! Keep your memories of this school year in physical form

21-25 May: Science Week

Experiments, research and scientific exploration!

Message From the Primary Coordinator



Assalamu Alaikum,

It has been wonderful to see our students so eager to learn even as Term 2 comes to an end. This term has been productive, challenging and engaging as well, with events such as our Annual Spelling Bee, Abaya Day and several exciting excursions helping students learn more about

the subjects they cover in class.

Our school continues to flourish as we implement more technology usage throughout our lessons in K-6. Students are now using the class iPads to analyse strategies in both Literacy and Numeracy. As academic records are documented, we have seen a vast improvement in student results throughout all key learning areas, and we have seen reading levels rapidly increase, with comprehension skills improving as well.

We would like to introduce our fantastic new staff member Ms Justine Boyd, who has taken on the role of our new Year 2 teacher. We wish her great success in our school as she works hard to ensure the students continue to progress academically. It is great to see our teachers so eager to go the extra mile for our students with Ms Boyd implementing our new homework hub during lunch on Mondays and Thursdays. During this time, students can go to the classroom and obtain assistance from Ms Boyd with any classwork or homework.

Our primary teachers have put together brilliant portfolios of their students' work and these will be distributed to parents at the beginning of the next term insha'Allah. Once distributed, your child's parent/teacher interview will be organised and you will have the opportunity to discuss your child's progress thus far. Due to Term 2 being a shorter term and with Ramadan having commenced, we have ensured all interviews take place during Term 3 for your convenience.

I would like to remind parents to continuously check their child's bag for any school notes or messages and to read.

As Ramadan continues swiftly, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all staff, students and parents a blessed Ramadan, and may Allah accept all your dua and fasting insha'Allah

Happy Ramadan

-Ms Priscilla Abbas