



• Issue 34, Term 3 • Friday 23rd Sep, 2016

Western Grammar School

Newsletter

THE PROPHET SAID: "KNOWLEDGE FROM WHICH NO BENEFIT IS DERIVED IS LIKE A TREASURE OUT OF WHICH NOTHING IS SPENT IN THE CAUSE OF GOD." -TIRMIDHI

What's inside?

Principal's Message	Pg 2
Chairman's Message	Pg 2
Inside the Classrooms	Pg 3-7
Islamic Studies Department	Pg 8
Kidz Korner	Pg 9
Book Week	Pg 10
Footy Colours Day	Pg 11
Sports	Pg 12
Announcements	Pg 12

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Book Week Special:
Find Waldo within
our Newsletter!

Principal's Message



Dear Parents, staff and community of Western Grammar School,

Once again we have seen one of the greatest events of the year. Performing Hajj can be an experience that changes a person forever. Millions of people from around the world leave behind their differences and join together in what could possibly be one of the largest gatherings in the world. This is a great example of love, unity and harmony. People are coming and speaking thousands of different languages, belonging to various different colours and cultures, and yet they are all in one dress, performing the same actions.

We should promote this culture of togetherness and harmony and display this conduct wherever we live, creating bonds between people and not rifts. The bonds of unity between people and communities are assurances of love, peace and harmony. On the other hand, rifts cause confrontations and can destroy societies, causing frustration, anxiety and depression amongst the people and taking away any hope of peace or tranquillity. One of the objectives of Western Grammar School is to produce generations who can live together with mutual respect and build strong and peaceful communities. This concern for the wider community of Australia is priceless and has many positive wide-ranging effects. At Western Grammar, creating this sense of unity is one of our main objectives.

I urge the school community to be part of this journey as an active participant in order to achieve such high objectives. 2016 has been a busy year where most of our efforts were dedicated towards building infrastructure and forming teams. For 2017, one of our goals is building connections within the school community and with the wider communities of Australian society. Our year book for 2016 will be a display of those connections and I hope all the readers will emulate these constructive and positive efforts.

Mr. Irfan Afzal

Chairman's Message

Assalamu Alaikum,

Once again we have witnessed an important and auspicious occasion of Eid Ul Adha. The ten days of Hajj were not only days where we were given opportunity by Allah SWT to seek rewards but they were also days that reminded us about the importance of living as a community. Those of us who have had the great privilege of performing Hajj this year and in past years will remember the feeling of unity that is experienced when people from all different cultures and nations join together for one purpose. At Western Grammar, we should build off of this feeling to create a community that lives and works together as one.

As the Islamic year reaches an end, the school year is quickly racing to the finish line as well. Alhamdulillah, 2016 was a year of great achievements and we have been meeting every target and milestone that has been set before us. In 2017 we will be having our very first HSC classes and will be working hard towards building better facilities to cater for our expanding student base. The days are not far when WGS will be achieving its ultimate target - to become the leading educational institute in the community. I hope parents, staff students and the entire community of Western Grammar School will march with us shoulder to shoulder to achieve such high targets.

Wassalam.

Subhan Ali

Board Chairperson
B.Arch, RAIA, GradDipBS, GradCertFM, CFM

Kindergarten

Wooooooooooooow!!! It's the end of Term 3 already! KA and KB have been having such a fantastic time. It seems as though the term just started! It's been an amazing term! We've had our:

Sports Carnival – Super fun and we learnt many new games and exercises, but most importantly we learnt the importance of team work!

Science Week – We learnt about volcanos erupting and robots moving. We looked into space and felt different materials! Well done to Nusaibah Ahmad for winning the WGS Kindergarten Scientist title.

Character Parade – Not only were we shown new books and stories but we were given the chance to see a brilliant character parade! Congratulations to Mustafa Malik and Fawaz Sattar for getting best dress prizes.

Numeracy Week – We do maths all the time in our classrooms but actually participating in the competition was an amazing experience! We truly challenged ourselves when we competed. Well done to Zakariya Al-Shible from KA and Muhammad Zubair Islam from KB for coming first.

Footy Colours Day – Did we all look fantastic or did we all look FANTASTIC! Everyone came in their sports jerseys and told the class all about the teams they support!

In our Kindergarten classrooms we've been super busy finishing all of our assessments. Alhamdulillah we've completed them all and have done a great job! This term in English our focus was learning about procedures. Our incursion was a great test to see how well we could do! In Maths we've been learning about time and have made some fantastic clocks!

Until next term, enjoy your holidays Kindy!





Assalamu Alaikum,

1H has enjoyed an eventful term in Term 3. We had an excursion to the local park to explore wet and dry environments, followed by a delightful picnic. We also had our book parade, Footy Colours Day and Eid Party. In class, we had a chance to make a pencil holder out of re-useable containers as part of our Science lessons.

This term was also the beginning of regular library lessons for our class. Students are enjoying and improving in reading skills due to these lessons. Some students have started reading with Ms Dean for extra support. Continuous support from both home and the classroom have resulted in a significant improvement in reading for many children in our class.

We look forward to a productive and enjoyable Term 4 and we wish you all a great term break!

-Ms Lamia



Year One & Two



Assalamu Alaikum,

Overall there has been improvement in the results of the students in all areas. They adjusted to the classroom environment very well. It was amazing to see some students being able to perform with such confidence and clarity in their play for the assembly. At the same time there were some outstanding pupils who learnt their lines in such a short time. TabarakAllah to all of them. We have been using pan-balance to compare masses, time and multiplication. In English we are learning verbs, writing narratives and poetry. It is astounding to see that with a little bit of guidance and practice, some of our kids can come up with beautiful poetry themselves. The students planned and made lunch boxes in groups other than their recycled item for the assessment as part of their science lesson. For HSIE the students made turtles and we discussed how animals in wet and dry environments can affect the whole community. In PDH they are learning how to deal with emotions and relationships with peers. More so, for creative arts the students are performing marvellous plays. May Allah give our children more knowledge and guidance to achieve even better outcomes.

-Ms Shabnam

Year Two

A warm welcome and Eid Mubarak to all parents.

We are already at the end of Term 3, and it has been an absolute pleasure teaching my special students.

Our class has had a fantastic time this term. The students are working cooperatively and independently. We have lots of great personalities who are eager to participate in a wide range of activities and enjoy learning. Our focus this term has been on planning, composing and reviewing a range of persuasive texts for a variety of purposes on familiar topics for known readers and viewers

2 E has had a very exciting time during this term. The students had a Character Parade during week 6. Year 2 had a great time demonstrating their characters and they all looked absolutely stunning.

Furthermore, Year 2 is studying about "Families Past and Present" as part of the History curriculum this term. This unit provides opportunities for students to explore, through stories told, the reasons why certain people, events and days are important to themselves and their families. The unit focuses on continuity and change in different families, looking at the value of what is retained and why changes are made.

-Ms El-Kheir



Inside the Classrooms

Year Three

Welcome back to our classroom! Year 3 has had an eventful start to Term 3, and we have gained an abundant amount of knowledge through various events and activities. Science Week enlightened the students' understanding of how the body works, how robots function and all about our solar system. It was great to see the students doing their own ice melting experiment as they timed how long it took for ice to melt under varied heat conditions. In English, the students have been learning about procedural writing. They have been creating recipes for their peers and writing detailed steps for their friends to follow. It's great to see the students use more adjectives in their sentences as they continue to write more comprehensive pieces. In PDH the students have been making healthy choices about their lifestyle. They have been creating exercise regimes, healthy lunchboxes and food schedules that they believe would benefit young students like themselves. Year 3 thoroughly enjoyed literacy week as they read many texts of their interest. We visited the library and read books of various cultures. Insha'Allah, our last term will be filled with the same positive and eager attitude towards learning.

-Ms Abbas



Year Four

Assalamu Alaikum,

What a wonderful term it has been. This term was filled with extracurricular activities and we found ourselves exploring all aspects of the KLAs. This term, Year 4 participated in Science Week where they thoroughly enjoyed science experiments while exploring various concepts during their science incursion. I was very pleased by Years 4s participation in book week as it was enjoyed by all and it was great to see Year 4 incorporate drama in front of the parents. Numeracy Week also took place this term and students enjoyed partaking in all the activities, especially the jelly bean guessing game. Well done to Ammar Zaman for winning the Year 4 numeracy competition. Finally Year 4 showcased their "who will buy" movie where every student had the opportunity to display shopping from various eras. Little did I know that I have a bunch of super stars in my class! I was taken aback by their ability to act and transform into their characters. Alhamdulillah, the term was filled with positive energy and inshallah we can see the same results next term.

-Ms Tajjour



Inside the Classrooms

Year Five & Six



Assalamu Alaikum,

Hello again. The end of term has again been characterised with assessments and revision activities. But it has not all been tests and speeches. The second half of the term was also dotted with fun days and activities that encouraged your children to pick up a book, improve their maths and help with the fight against cancer. These programs and their associated activities not only enriched your child's education it also created greater social awareness of problems and challenges faced by the general community. Apart from the aforementioned undertakings, Year 5 and 6 also participated in an anti-drug campaign. This was part of their PDH program and taught them how to say "no" to harmful drugs and why consumption of illicit substances is so disdained in Islam. Other fun days and fundraising lunches helped make the end of Term 3 rich with plenty of exciting memories.

-Mr Ibrahim

Page | 6



SHAKIR'S SHELF

Term 3 is ending, and with an extremely short Term 4, the year is almost over. This term, Year 7 has been studying Chance and Probability and have recently studied the role of probability and chance in board games such as the classic game of Risk. This topic is of great interest to students, and they have been passionately playing and analysing various risky plays. Maths is a subject which can be applied in many aspects of life, which is why it is vital that students acquire 'math sense', or in other words, a thorough familiarity and comfort with numbers.

In Year 7, 8 and 10 English, we have been studying Film. Year 10 are studying Director's Vision and Miyazaki's oeuvre (and Studio Ghibli), and started off by analysing the classic, heart wrenching *Grave of the Fireflies*, while Year 7 and 8 have been looking at the classic cartoon *Lion King*. I am pleased to report the interest displayed by the students in this subject, and anticipate the story boards/mini comic strips which students will produce as the assessment task for this unit.

With the Yearly exams approaching very quickly (Week 3 of Term 4), I wish all students the best of luck, and strongly advise them to make study timetables. While I normally recommend students relax over the holidays, the yearly exams are far too soon after the break, so students are encouraged to make the best possible use of this time. There is a lot of content to cover, and revision at home is essential. **Constant, ongoing revision is key!**

-Mr Shakir

ANCIENT EGYPT

The students of year 7 and 8 recreated some magnificent artefacts that were used or made in Ancient Egypt.



The Sound of Music

Academic literature shows that the right song or musical soundtrack in an advertisement can do a number of things. Not only can it increase attention, making an ad more likely to be noticed, viewed and understood, but it also enhances enjoyment and emotional response. Most importantly, the right soundtrack can demonstrably increase sales.

There is no doubt that sound can play a significant part in our daily lives and we may often find ourselves replaying the same melody from an advertisement over and over again in our minds with or without wanting to. Year 7 and 8 students explored various techniques of sound being used in advertisement to achieve its end purpose. This term students were challenged to create their own advertisement for an Islamic product, and produce a theme melody to enhance the product using the learnt techniques. An array of ideas and analytical planning took place and the production captured the minds of many. Alhamdulillah, it was a great experience for imagination, creativity and originality to take place and I am very proud of each and every student.

Fabulous effort!

-Ms Susan

Islamic Studies Department

"Pilgrimage is a duty men owe to Allah; those who can afford the journey; but if any deny faith, Allah stands not in need of any of His creatures." (Surah Al-Imran, 3:97)

All praise and thanks to Allah, The Exalted, The Lord of the Universe. May the choicest blessings and peace of Allah be upon the last Messenger and Prophet Muhammad (SAW), his family, companions and all those who follow his footsteps.

Alhamdulillah, with the grace of Allah (SWT), we have just ensued the season of Hajj which is one of the pillars of Islam. It is the perfection of faith and true surrender to the Almighty. It is a stage in which man can develop himself spiritually. It is a time when the pilgrims forget their own hearth and home, their comforts and amenities of life, their spouses and children, their hard-earned wealth, their friends, relatives and everything they possess, therefore leading to the conclusion that Hajj is the best training ground for absolute and complete surrender to the Divine Command. We ask Allah (SWT) to accept the Hajj of all those Muslims that went to perform this great obligation and to accept all their prayers, Insha'Allah.

Once again, we have reached the end of yet another successful term. There were some outstanding highlights this term, including a Hajj seminar for all high school students conducted by Sheikh Anwar Gallie. In this seminar, numerous issues pertaining to Hajj, Umrah and Eid-ul-Adhaa were discussed including the way to perform Hajj and Umrah step by step.

Furthermore, there were special classes conducted for high school in regards to Eid-UI-Adhaa and its significance during Week 8. Alhamdulillah, all students have benefitted from these lessons and we ask Allah (SWT) to increase them in knowledge.

As we are all aware, Term 4 is almost upon us and all students will be undertaking their final examinations. We urge all students to utilise the upcoming holidays efficiently in order to prepare well and achieve excellent results in all their examinations.

We ask Allah SWT to grant all our WGS students great success in all their subjects, examinations and assessments – Insha'Allah.





Kidz Corner



Book Week

once upon a time there
lived a young girl
the day



For one day every year, Western Grammar School becomes a superhero's hideout, a princess's castle, a boarding school for wizards and a hundred other fairy tale destinations. Instead of our normal students, we are suddenly overrun with characters who have hopped out of their books and are ready to fight crime and solve mysteries. We meet celebrity personalities like Superman, Red Riding Hood, Tweedle Dee and the chivalrous Knights of the Round Table. What an honour it is to be able to meet our favourite characters in the flesh! But these fantastic and unbelievably amazing events only happen once a year - during our annual Character Parade.

As part of the Scholastic Book Fair week, the annual Character Parade was held on Friday, 26th August. It was a fantastic occasion as students came to school dressed as their favourite characters from their favourite books. It was great to see the parents attending our event and partaking in the SRC cake stall. The students displayed a variety of creative costumes and presented them in front of parents in the hall. Our winners were delighted to receive a \$10 scholastic book fair voucher. We would like to thank everyone who attended and thank you for making the day such a memorable occasion!





Footy Colours Day



This term we worked closely as a school with the National Rugby League to develop our students' motor skills. The men from the NRL set up in our local park obstacle courses and ball skills programs to help your kids move their muscles and develop skills to better their lifestyles. The day was full of fun and sun and was held on the 8th of September to coincide with the schools Footy Colours Day. At the park, the children engaged with other members of the community and learnt some of the most basic and fundamental rules to one of Australia's national sports. After learning some skills like the side step and dummy, students then participated in an Oztag game to put these newly learnt skills to the test. The day was also held to expose students to one of society's greatest challenges, the challenge to cure cancer! The Footy Colours Day was our way of doing our bit in this shared struggle to end one of nature's worst known diseases. To help the fundraising along, we had cake stalls at discounted prices. The entire day was sponsored by staff and goes to show how committed and passionate some members are about the health of our community. We would also like to thank the parents who gave their kids change to be donated and who knows; maybe it'll be one of those coins that gets us over the line.





Sports



Assalamu Alaikum,

Term 3 has been a term filled with different sports activities. We had our Sports Carnival earlier on and have recently had our Footy Colours Day where members of the NRL came to teach us about Australia's favourite sport. The students of Years 3-6 went out to the park and had a session with the NRL players. They wore jerseys and also had a cake stall to raise money for cancer research. It was a fun day where everyone played footy games for sports.

The Kindergartens have been practicing relays while the Year 1s have been having coordination activities for shoulders, hips, legs and arms. Furthermore the Years 2s are learning spatial and body movements. The Year 1 & 2s are also learning shoulders, hips, legs and arms activities with landing positions in the game of 'Riverbank' and when sitting in the game of 'Duck the Goose'. Year 3s are learning manipulative skills like dribbling, kicking, trapping and other footy games. More so, the Year 4s have been learning kicking and other footy games. The Year 5s have been practicing Shot Put and Discus while the Year 6s have been practicing movement in hoop, with ribbon, movement stations and enhancing their locomotor skills via commando course.



Announcements

- Term 3 last day: 22nd September
- Term 4 first day: 10th October
- Girls' Camp: 23rd September – 25th September
- Year 7 Immunisation: 17th October
- High School Assessments: 31st October – 4th November
- Primary Assessments: 31st October – 4th November
- Islamic Studies Assessments: 24th October – 28th
- Boys' Camp: 18th to 20th November
- Annual Assembly: 2nd December

