

Western Grammar School

KNOWLEDGE IS THE ULTIMATE SOLUTION

NL 22, Vol. 3, Issue 7, Term 4 2014

Nov 7, 2014, 14 Muharram, 1436



**When your ambition is big
Then your efforts should be even bigger**

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Dear Parents, Staff & Students,

Assalam Alaikum wa Rahmatallah wa Barakatu,

It is indeed a great blessing of Allah SWT for giving me the opportunity to lead the school board since 2013. Western Grammar School has grown from infancy to stability within the last 2 years and, Insha'Allah, there are exciting times ahead.

The Board will continue its efforts to support the development of this school in its endeavour to serve the Islamic community of Western Sydney. We have exceeded our

target of 100 students that we projected in the first term of 2014. The Board as a whole, and through its committees, has addressed various issues including improvements in its governance responsibilities throughout the year. In addition two new board members have joined us this year - one of them is a parent of WGS student. Both of them are highly skilled and qualified persons and they will add value to the school board Inshallah. I welcome brother Wazad and Jawad.

Western Grammar School motto, "Knowledge is the ultimate solution", is a very fitting advice relevant to any moment in time. Today, the world needs peace more than ever, as knowledge is misinterpreted by many decision makers. Knowledge is not only the solution of every problem, but it is the key for eternal success. The world is in need of rational thinkers that can only be nurtured through correct teaching. The students of WG are taking small steps in the toughest times in our history when life has become so cheap; cultural understanding fading away; and self-interests are thriving. The efforts to develop and provide the correct environment will Insha'Allah become the largest steps over time for Western Grammar School. The journey for our children has begun with WGS and performance, with time, will testify this fact. Western Grammar School continues to strive in order to provide quality education to our children. The staff and students of WG - please continue with your dedication to provide and learn the best qualities in education in order to be the best ambassadors of Islam and caring citizens of Australia and the world. This journey that you have taken with Western Grammar will leave a mark in history and leave a legacy behind for generations to come Insha'Allah. May Allah guide you & provide you with courage, patience & dedication in this journey.

In conclusion, my very sincere thanks to fellow Board members for their commitment and I look forward to their support throughout 2015. I also extend my thanks to the mentors and teachers of WG. You have taken pride in your work and collaborated with your colleagues in all educational matters within a team environment. You kept the interest of the students first. I would also like to welcome the new teaching staff members who have recently joined our WG team.

Lastly, we breathe without thinking – it is natural but worst still is we breathe without thanking Allah, so please always remember Allah for his blessings and mercy upon us.

Subhan Ali JP, B.Arch, RAIA, GradDipBS, GradCertFM, CFM
Board Chairperson.



Dear Parents, Guardians and Staff of Western Grammar School,

It is a very busy time of the year, yet paradoxically, it is hard to think of any detailed message. Nevertheless, it is important to keep you updated with the rapid and recent progress of Western Grammar School. Alhamdulillah, the Development Application for the construction of the new building has been approved by the Court. Procedures for the construction of the new building will start soon, Inshallah, and WGS will have vastly improved facilities in 2015. I therefore thank Allah for His help and for making such a difficult task possible for us to achieve.

I would also like to thank the parents, teachers, staff and the members of community and school board for their valuable contributions. I strongly believe WGS will continue to serve as a leading institution in Australian society. Western Grammar School will prove its contribution to society through performance and by setting an example. As usual, I conclude my message with the request to the members of Western Grammar for continuation of their affiliation with Western Grammar.

Kind Regards, Irfan

Inside the classrooms

KINDERGARTEN

Assalamualaikum,

Kindergarten has had an awesome start to term four. Masha Allah, students have come so far and have grown and matured in all aspects of learning and behaviour. I am very proud of each and every student of mine for their improvements and achievements. The year is coming to an end and things are starting to get exciting. Kindergarten's journey is now coming to an end, and we are now starting to wrap up the finals aspects of this year's learning and preparing for the upcoming exams, graduation and transition into Year one.

Class time has been very busy for our little kindys this term. In English this term, students have been very highly engaged in learning about Australian animals. Well done kindergarten for your outstanding news presentations about Australian Animals! Students are having a great time learning about ways to communicate in science. They have been given the opportunity to explore various mediums of communication. In HSIE this term we are learning about 'Our Needs', which includes food, shelter, clothes and love. Students are starting to differentiate between needs and wants. In PDH, we are covering a very important topic 'Keeping myself safe'. Students are learning about caring relationships, trust, safe and unsafe situations, road safety, car safety and internet safety. I would also like to thank parents for putting in great effort in assisting your child with their homework throughout the year.



We love reading



Learning about money

Though things are certainly a little more exciting this time of year, I would like to give a small reminder that the end of year exams are just around the corner and I would like the students to be prepared for them. With a little effort and a final push we can get all the wonderful students of kindergarten 2014 to achieve wonderful and outstanding results, Insha'Allah! May Allah increase our children's knowledge and keep them humble. **Ms Dean**



Sorting & grouping

YEAR 1

Year one have started term four with enthusiasm and excitement; they have settled in after a well-deserved break. This term students will be learning a variety of different topics in all key learning areas Inshah' Allah.

In English we will be focusing on writing, specifically recounts and expositions. Students will continue writing in their journal; Year one love to share their experiences and events from their weekends. We have also started the news presentations for this term. A lot of effort and thought has gone into the presentations so far; Tabarakallah to both the students and parents for their assistance.

In Science, the unit of work that we will be covering is 'Toy world – How does it move?'. In this unit, the students will be involved in a variety of activities which will assist them in developing a comprehensive understanding of the concept of motion. They will be given opportunities to identify where motion exists around them and to describe the various types of motions. In particular they will investigate how applied forces (i.e. push and pull) can make things move.

The topic that we will be covering in HSIE will be 'Families- Identifying us' - this unit will provide the opportunity for students to identify and explain the cultural and traditional lifestyle in family life by looking at the ever changing concept of a family. Students will develop an appreciation for differences in lifestyles and customs as well as religion and culture. Students will gain an insight into how people live, giving them a wider cognitive scope when thinking about their place in the world.

In Mathematics, students will cover various topics from the numerous mathematical strands as per the syllabus. I am looking forward to a wonderful last term with my amazing Year one class, Insha'Allah!

Ms Pinar



YEAR 2

Assalam o Alaikum,

This term requires the pupils to work extremely studiously to excel with flying colours in their yearly exams, with a lesser focus on content coverage this term. For English via formative assessment it was discovered that the students grasped the concept of concrete and abstract nouns very well. This term we will be focusing more on narrative and persuasive writing to prepare them for next year. In Maths, we are discussing and completing 'Targeting Maths' as part of revision. They will continue to have weekly short tests as part of revision. In PDH, we are looking at the environment and making positive health choices. In addition, we are emphasising on positive relationships and taking responsibility for our actions.



Inaayah & Malikah with their food pyramid posters

The students created superb posters of the food pyramid as part of their assessment task and presented it impressively. At the same time, we are practicing a play 'The Old King' as part of CAPA, which the pupils are very exhilarated about.

In Science, we are studying 'Watch it Grow'- they are observing the mealworms grow and change in stages in the dark. As part of HSIE, we are looking at 'Places can be Special' where we are discussing places we visit and so forth. Insha'Allah we will have a valuable outcome. **Ms Shabnam**

YEAR 3 & 4

Assalaamu Alaykum,

A colossal and hearty welcome back to WGS! It's been lovely to see all my students start Term 4 with a fresh, healthy and enthusiastic stamina.

Students have started their competitive group projects for Shared Reading on 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory'. The students have been organised into groups named (by the students): 'Lucky Finders', 'Wonka Girls', 'Oompa Loompas', 'Willy's Workers' and 'Candy Creators'. Students have been enjoying themselves and winners will be announced in the next newsletter. For HSIE, students have embarked upon an extremely crucial yet informative topic – 'Major World Religions'; students are learning about the evidence of monotheistic and polytheistic religions, particularly the Abrahamic religions.



Zuhaira showing her poster on growing from a baby to a kid.



Yr 3/4 students working on their exciting Shared Reading group projects - Charlie & the Choc Factory



Yr 3/4 Students working on their CAPA Papier Mache Vases collaboratively

Students have shown great enthusiasm for this topic, and will soon start to compose a whole-class extra-large magazine on the religions they have studied.

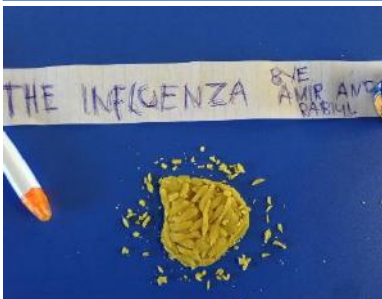
For PDH, students are learning about the importance of achieving optimal health in all areas of life. Students will soon start an in-depth case study on Liam Hoekstra, who is deemed as the world's strongest kid for 2014. This will assist students in understanding the diversities of abilities that Allah SWT has granted within humankind.

Students are also being exposed to the great amalgamations of lifecycles that Allah SWT has created for all living things. Science is, therefore, providing students with a key understanding of Allah SWT's wisdom behind all lifecycles. For CAPA, students are creating Papier Mache vases. Students have just started the first phase and will continue to work upon their models in the upcoming weeks.

All in all, students are enjoying themselves with exciting hands-on activities and group work projects, while also preparing themselves efficiently for the most awaited yearly examinations. All the best to all my WGS students for your yearlies! Inshallah, you will all exceed our expectations! **Ms Sadiah**

YEAR 5 & 6

Below: Science Play dough models of various bacteria/fungi/viruses.



Subhanallah, it's always a surprise how fast time flies! This newsletter signals the rapidly dwindling time we have left, and I hope that 2014 was a wonderful and memorable year for all students!

In terms of studying, Year 5/6 has been finishing off Area/Perimeter, and starting Algebra and Probability. We are studying Japan for HSIE, Microbes for Science (with many interesting experiments conducted/planned this term), First Aid and Safety in PDH, and writing complete and advanced expositions in English Writing. The experiments in Science seem to be of particular interest to the students, and understandably so – they are educational, but very fun at the same time.

With the Yearly exams approaching in Week 7, I wish all students the best of luck, and strongly advise them to make a study timetable. Week 6 will be revision week, and students are encouraged to make the best use possible of this time. However, I strongly discourage students from relying solely on revision week and work in class for revising. There is a lot of content to cover, and revision at home is essential.

Moving into the future, as always, I strongly recommend to parents that they do the utmost possible to encourage reading in our children's daily lives. As most of us speak English as a second language, we really need to read as much as possible, in order to improve on all aspects of literacy, including comprehension, grammar, punctuation, expression, fluency, vocabulary, and even writing. **Mr Shakir**



EDUCATION MATTERS

Last week, Western Grammar School was privileged to conduct our orientation for our 2015 kindergarten students. For parents, this is one of the major highlights of their child's life, as it marks the beginning of institutionalised teaching and learning within a formal setting. It was a pleasure for me to address the parents, even though I only had a brief introduction. I touched on some very important and relevant points during my short speech, but I would like to take this opportunity to continue this discussion and elaborate on these points.

In order for parents to maximise the benefit derived from their child's schooling, it is crucial to gain a deeper understanding of the purpose of schooling in the early years. Parents should have a clear understanding of the objectives of schooling in these precious and delicate years and how they can best facilitate these goals for their child. A school takes on a great responsibility in taking on these young learners with the aim of developing the total child. For these young boys and girls, it is a time to develop self-esteem, confidence, identity, sense of belonging and community. These are the very foundations that will later drive motivation, hard work, academic success, leadership, active citizenship and purpose in their lives. While we need to monitor academic progress, emphasis needs to be placed on developing the right frame of mind towards education and learning. Many times, as parents and teachers, we fall into the trap of having predetermined thoughts about what will define success in a child's schooling. However, we must understand that success will only come after a crucial foundational quality - the motivation to succeed. Only when the child is fuelled with high levels of motivation will success come. We must remember that parents are the single most influential factor for a child's motivation to succeed.

The above mentioned factors are crucial for a successful transition into Kindergarten. While the formal setting for education commences at Kindergarten, learning begins from the very beginning of a child's life. For this reason, I believe that there needs to be greater awareness in the parent community in relation to preparing your child for Kindergarten. The time that is spent with your child before schooling is perhaps the most valuable time in their lives. There is no substitution for the time you spare for your child. It is quite appropriate here to mention that fathers need to try their best to be part of this wonderful experience. Their involvement and interest in their child's schooling and development has great benefits. They need to travel side by side and be the pillars of their child's journey.

Moving forward, I want to discuss some practical strategies we can use to not only better our children for schooling, but to also support their learning through these early years. Often we can feel overwhelmed with the thought of teaching math, reading or writing to our children without being qualified teachers. But the truth is that these can be all done very easily during the day through informal learning and teaching. These should not be taught in isolation, rather integrated into daily household activities and made to be fun and purposeful. For example, counting food items at snack time, using the calendar to count down the days before Eid, involve your child in the use of digits on a phone, cut fruit into specific shapes and ask them to identify, play games that involve identifying letters such as 'I spy', make library trips often, encourage them to have favourites and read to them on a daily basis. By the time they start Kindergarten they should at least have been exposed to basic numeracy and literacy concepts. Lastly, it is very important to know that your child's teacher plants the seed of knowledge and it is up to us parents to water and nurture this seed throughout their schooling. Hard work, patience and guidance are qualities that both teachers and parents share. These will bear the fruits of success in due time. **Mr. Malik**

ISLAMIC STUDIES & ARABIC

* إِنَّ عِدَّةَ الشُّهُورِ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ اثْنَا عَشَرَ شَهْرًا فِي كِتَابِ اللَّهِ يَوْمَ خَلَقَ السَّمَوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ مِنْهَا أَرْبَعَةٌ حُرْمٌ ذَلِكَ الْدِّينُ الْقَدِيمُ فَلَا تَظْلِمُوا فِيهِنَّ أَنْفُسَكُمْ *

"Verily, the number of months with Allāh is twelve months (in a year), so was it ordained by Allāh on the Day when He created the heavens and the earth; of them four are Sacred, (i.e. the 1st, the 7th, the 11th and the 12th months of the Islāmic calendar). That is the right religion, so wrong not yourselves therein" (Surah At-Tawbah, Verse 36)

Assalaam Alaikum Wa Rahmatullaahi Wa Barakaatuh parents and students,

Alhamdulillah, we have entered a sacred month, known as the month of Muharram, in the year 1436AH. This is the first month in the Islamic calendar, and it is a month where deeds are multiplied. In this month, we have a sacred day called the day of 'Ashoorah. On this day, Musa (AS) and his followers were saved from the army of Fir'aun. It is highly recommended

to fast on this day because of our love for Musa (AS) as mentioned by the Prophet (SAW). May Allah protect us and give us success as He did for Musa (AS) and his followers.

Term 4 at WGS has started with students all geared up for their final exams. Revision week for Islam, Quran, and Arabic will be in week 7, while the exams for these three subjects will be in week 8. We encourage the students to study wisely before the exam dates so that they are ready and well prepared.

An advice I would like to give to the students of WGS is to not study and memorise for the intention to do well in your exams, rather to study and memorise for the intention to please Allah alone. Implement the studies in your life by understanding its lessons to become better Muslims for a great future. If you can master this intention for every subject, not only will your exams become easier, but these exams will only become a small part of your greater success. That greater success is nothing else except Jannah. So strive hard to achieve it.

May Allah make these exams easy for you. Make plenty of dua for the help of Allah to become successful in this world and in the hereafter. **Mr Hakeem**

STUDENT'S CORNER

Which one of the Prophets stories you studied did you enjoy the most and what lessons have you learnt from it?

I loved the story about Musa and Firoun. It was very good but the best part about the story is the lesson. ~~Know matter~~ no matter how strong you are Allah is stronger.

Farhaan A-Yr 5

Journal by **Mubasshir Yr 1**

On the weekend my dad came back from budget car and truck rental. My dad took my huffy green machine bike out of the garage. I played with it. Then I went to the backyard. My dad done a barbeque. He cooked lamb chops and sausage.

Excursion (Recount) - Saad A of Yr 2

On Wednesday we went to the Featherdale Wildlife Park as part of class work. At 8:30, we went on the bus. For half an hour we were in the bus. When we arrived there we had recess. After that, we went inside. Then we saw some very fascinating and colourful birds. They were very noisy.

Later on, we saw other animals like koala bears, kangaroo, peacock, emus, iguana and so forth. Before we went back to school we fed some kangaroos vegetables and had lots of fun. Finally, we went back to school with happy memories.

ROBLOX [Online Computer Game] (Text type: Description) – Year 3

ROBLOX is a bunch of games all packed into one website. ROBLOX has different categories of games such as Horror, Adventure, Military and much more.

ROBLOX needs a password and account if you want to play this epic game. ROBLOX is blocky and has many famous people like stick Masterluke, Builder Man, Telamon and more. ROBLOX's memberships are known as "BC", which means "Builders Club".

ROBLOX's main currency is "tix", which means tickets. You get 10 tix each day when you log on to ROBLOX. ROBLOX's second currency is called "ROBUX". And how to get it? You can either trade tix for it or buy a ROBLOX game card and redeem it for robux or BC.

ROBLOX's quote is complicated, as ROBLOX has a lot of building games. Here's the quote: ROBLOX, what will you build?

To conclude, ROBLOX has to be the best game EVER. Come JOIN me.

Khaled's profile name: DragonRobot6. – **Khaled, Year 3**

English [Shared Reading – ‘Charlie and the Chocolate Factory’] – Short Response to Chapter Reflection Question – “Predict what this newspaper title means: WONKA FACTORY TO BE OPENED AT LAST TO LUCKY FEW”. – Year 4

I think that the article in the newspaper means a lot to Charlie Bucket. I think that Charlie along with a few other people will come into Mr Willy Wonka’s chocolate factory and see it. I also think that one lucky person will keep the factory. However, I think there will be a kind of competition and the winners will only get to go in the factory.

These are the people I think will go to the factory: Augustus Gloop, Veruca Salt, Violet Beauregard, Mike Teave and of course Charlie Bucket. Furthermore, I think Charlie will win the competition last. This is the following order I think they will win: August Gloop 1st, Veruca Salt 2nd, Violet Beauregarde 3rd, Mike Teave 4th and Charlie Bucket 5th. However, I think they will be allowed to take one adult with them. The adult I think Charlie will take is Grandpa Joe. That’s why I think the newspaper article is so important to Charlie Bucket because he will finally get to see what is inside the factory of Willy Wonka. – *Tasmia N., Year 4*

Matilda- Book Review

Matilda is a book written by Roald Dhal and is a chapter book. This book is about a girl Matilda who is very smart and has great knowledge. The main characters are as follows Matilda, Ms Trunchball, Mr. and Mrs. Wormwood, her brother and Ms Honey. She is a very polite and respectful girl, unlike her family who are bad role models to her. She soon finds out that she has super powers. My favourite part of the book was when she used her super powers on Ms Trunchball, the mean Principal. I liked it because it was interesting to read and very funny. Do you think her powers were real?

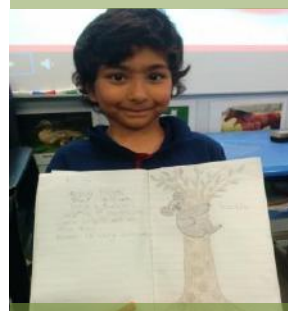
Aayah M Yr-6

FROM THE LIBRARY

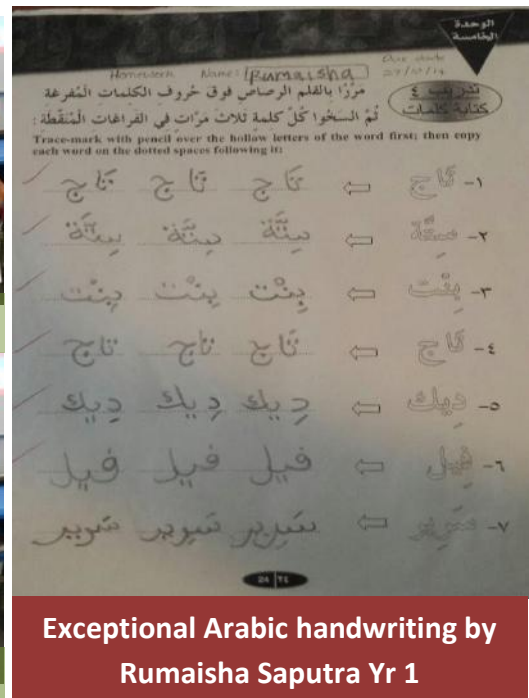
Starting of term 4, students have enjoyed their Library session with many activities, such as watching documentaries relating to their classroom learning, reading and colouring in. WGS library has many books available for all year levels, in order to provide benefit for our students. Year 5/6 were asked to write a book review about their favourite book, and were given a mark out of 8. Aayah Muhammad came first with a mark of 7.5/8. Please encourage your child/ren to borrow books from the library and read. *Ms Hina & Ms Noorah*



Arslan - Kindy



Sana - Kindy



Exceptional Arabic handwriting by Rumaisha Saputra Yr 1

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Last day of the Term 18th Dec,2014
- Recycling Week 10th-14th Nov, 2014
- Revision for Exams 10th - 14th Nov,2014
- Annual Exams 17th -21st Nov, 2014
- Annual Assembly 18th Dec, 2014
- 1st Day Term 1,2015 29th Jan, 2015



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