

WESTERN GRAMMAR SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 49 TERM 1 MONDAY, 4TH MARCH 2019

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KINDERGARTEN

WITH MS ANITA AND MS SANJANA

Assalamu Alaikum,

Subhan Allah, the Kindergarten class of 2019 has had a terrific start to Term 1. Ms Anita and I, Ms Sanjana, are very excited to see all students grow and learn during their very first year at school! Our Kindy kids have settled into their morning routine which consists of singing along to phonics songs, days of the week and counting from 1 to 20.

For English, students have been learning about sounds of the alphabet in a special sequence. They are further being introduced to 'sight words' each week. This will be used in various reading and writing activities throughout this year.

Furthermore, Kindergarten is learning to protect themselves from the sun by wearing a hat outside and slapping on some sunscreen! Students have been made aware about safe play, sharing and how they should interact in different environments.

They are incorporating prayers into daily routines, saying Bismillah and constantly remembering Allah.

-MS SANJANA AND MS ANITA



YEAR 1

"My cupcake is so pretty."
- Sana Rashidi

"Can we eat the smily face?"
- Amreen Khan

"I LOVE CUPCAKES!"
- Yassmin El-Masri

"Can we have a cake fight?"
- Abdul Hakeem

"Can I eat the frosting?"
- Yahya Noori

"I loved the frosting and
sprinkles."
- Aaliya Safa



Assalamu Alaikum,

Alhamdulillah! Year 1 has made an exciting and adventurous start to the year.

In Science, students have been fascinated with the weather and making sundials to tell the time from the sun while History lessons consist of learning about families in the past and the present.

In PDH, students have been learning all about safety where they received a visit from a familiar friend Healthy Harold who taught them all about the importance of safety!

- Students have mastered addition and subtraction in Maths and have further challenged themselves to use mathematical operations to add and subtract difficult equations.

Last but not least, Year 1 has been learning how to write procedures in English. Students partook in writing a procedure on how to decorate a cupcake. Year 1 executed this procedure fantastically and thus were rewarded with decorating their very own cupcake. This activity was definitely a good treat for the students. I was blown away at Year 1's artistic and decorative talent!

Overall, I am so proud of each and every one of the students in Year 1. Students have been working hard and are working towards becoming independent learners Insha Allah. Stay tuned for many more exciting activities and adventures from year 1.

May Allah SWT continue to make this a blessed year!

-MS SALEM





Dear parents,

Welcome back to a new year

I hope you had a relaxing time and are ready for another exciting term. This term the children will be engaged in many activities and your continued support will very much be appreciated.

Students in year 2 have been learning about 'What is a good friend?' This includes the qualities and characteristics a good friend should possess and getting along with others. Students had a great opportunity to take part in the Life Education: Healthy Harold "Growing Good Friends" module.

'Growing Good Friends' is a fun interactive learning experience that aims to empower children to make safe and healthier choices. The students enjoyed watching the animated stories and engaged in hands-on activities and games with their peers.

Furthermore, they have also explored what contributes to positive health and wellbeing such as: nutrition, physical activity, personal safety, positive relationships and understanding health messages.

Year 2 further enjoyed creating a friendship flower and wrote an acrostic poem about friends.

Thank you in advance for your support and cooperation.

Kind regards,

-MS EL-KHEIR

-YEAR 2-



F = Faithful

R = Remarkable

I = Imaginative

E = Energetic

N = Nice

D = Dependable

S = Supportive

-YEAR 2 STUDENTS

ISLAMIC STUDIES

THE PROPHET MUHAMMAD ﷺ SAID:
"GAINING KNOWLEDGE IS COMPULSORY UPON EVERY MUSLIM"

Assalaamu Alaikum,

All Praise is due to Allah the Lord of the worlds, and All Thanks is due to Him for all the favours He has bestowed upon us. We welcome you all to Western Grammar School 2019, an institute where we believe that knowledge is the ultimate solution. We are very fortunate, by the Grace of Allah, that He has Blessed us all to be together in the WGS family where we uphold Islamic education to the highest degree.

By the Blessings of Allah, we have started this year, 2019, with high enthusiasm and hope to achieve great results throughout the year. The Islamic Department is fully dedicated and committed to helping and educating our students to the highest degree and we hope that the students and parents are fully satisfied with what we can offer.

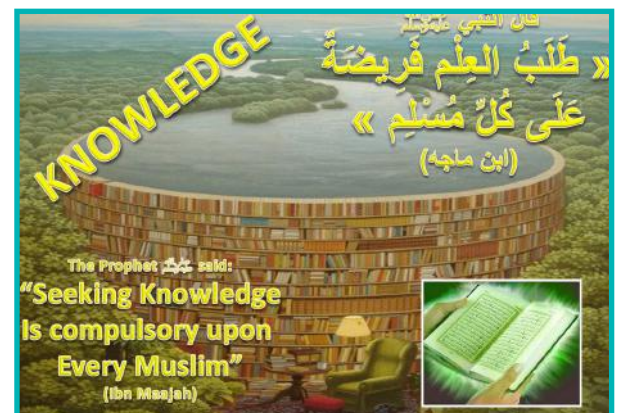
The Islamic Department consists of six members this year; Mr. Hakeem, Mr. Tarek, Mr. Badar, Mr. Ahmed, Ms. Fatima, and Ms. Saamiya. Alhamdulillah, we have a very strong and dedicated team who are committed to imparting their knowledge to our students.

In addition to all Islamic department subjects, Islamic education is being taught in almost every class through the incorporation of its knowledge, values, morals, and ethics. During morning assembly, students are being taught various short ahadith within the theme of the week, recitation of surahs and supplications. Short Islamic reminders are also conducted after Dhuhr prayer as well as Jumu'ah khutbas every Fridays.

At WGS, we believe the success of the students, teachers and the school in general, can only happen with collaborative effort. We encourage the parents to join hands with us in helping their children complete all tasks, homework and assignments given, being prepared for all lessons by having the required books and stationary, and studying before all exams. To improve this collaboration, the Islamic Department is issuing weekly letters with all necessary information regarding the Islamic department lessons. Please ensure you read these letters to be well informed regarding the Islamic department. InShaAllah, through this collaborative effort, we believe we could be one of the greatest schools in Australia.

We ask Allah (swt) to bless this school, its students, parents, teachers and staff with success both in this world and the next.

-MR HAKEEM





HEALTHY HAROLD,

A giraffe mascot paid a visit to Western Grammar School and taught students from years K-6 about healthy living. Students participated in programs such as decisions, safety rules, growing school friends and Bcyberwise.



WELFARE

Assalamu Alaikum

Shakespeare says “Uneasy lies the head that wears the crown,” and that is the destiny of a counsellor since he/she counsels the one who suffers in solitude.

This year the Welfare team will be overlooked by Dr Zachariah Mathews and includes: Dr Munazah - Welfare coordinator, Ms Kaukab - School Counsellor, Ms Sannah - School Nurse.

I, Ms Kaukab, had the pleasure of joining the school six weeks before the summer holidays. My role as a school counsellor is to address issues such as disruptive behavior, low attention span, developmental delay, sadness and anxiety. By using Face to Face Counselling, Cognitive Behavior Therapy, Anger Management and Relaxation Therapies, students are able to share their views and gain new perspectives on their situations.

It is important to consult staff members and converse about the needs of children in or out of the classroom. Interviewing the students individually, and in groups, is then necessary. All meetings are private, maintaining confidentiality, and parents, along with the school executive, are informed as this becomes imperative.

All of the above require note-taking and report-writing, carried out by myself, including the documentation of students’ involvement with me as their School Counsellor.

-MS KAUKAB NAGI

PRIMARY COORDINATOR

Assalamu Alaikum,

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all students, parents and staff to a new academic year at Western Grammar School. By the grace of Allah, I have been given the opportunity to overlook matters concerning all primary years in a coordinator's capacity. I have a wonderful team of dedicated and passionate primary school teachers who spend countless hours before and after school preparing fun and engaging lessons for their students.

We would like to welcome our new teachers to the school and hope they enjoy the teaching experience at Western Grammar School. Joining our team this year we have Ms. Anita Beer and Ms. Sanjana Rahman as our new Kindergarten teachers, Mr. Zoheb Khan as the Year 4 teacher and Mr. Hamid Ahmed as the Year 5 teacher.

This year we have introduced a number of new programs and learning aids to ensure our students have the best opportunity to advance their academic skills. Parents would have, by now, received the login details for the ABC Reading Eggs. Students are free to roam the website and engage in the many fun lessons and games. Teachers will monitor each student's progress and will also be able to assign work to students individually as well as to the whole class. We have also introduced Primemaths as an excellent resource for mathematics for all primary years and we have already received positive feedback from both teachers and students.

If you have any questions, queries, suggestions or complaints please feel free to contact me or the respective teacher. Details on how to contact teachers were sent out at the beginning of the year.

-MR BASHIR KHAN

SECONDARY COORDINATOR

Assalamu Alaikum,

When it comes to advice for HSC exam success there is a surplus of information available. Using extensive student data paired with years of HSC marking, 3 key performance indicators have been identified that students can use to measure their progress.

1. Content Knowledge (Ingredients)
2. Application (Method of cooking)
3. Writing (Presentation of food)

Imagine that your HSC exam is going to be a cooking competition. On a known day you will be asked to attend where a judge will request you make a dessert of his choice. Contestants can bring as much ingredients as they wish but the actual dessert will only be known on the day of the contest.

1. So the first step is to bring as much ingredients as you can to give you the best possible chance of making any dessert requested. These ingredients can be considered content knowledge. Bring as much as you can!
2. The next step is to know what to do with these ingredients and how to put them together. The method of cooking therefore relates to the application of the content - selecting relevant content after decoding the exam question and linking it to the syllabus points.
3. Finally, the presentation of the dessert will determine the quality of the finished product. After decoding the question, the content knowledge should be presented in a logical and coherent manner, reinforcing the importance of being able to write well.

-MR USMAN MALIK

MAINTAINING ROUTINE

Assalamu Alaikum

The first day of school is one of the most nerve-wracking experiences that teachers, parents and students have to deal with. Excitement and anxiety intertwine to churn our stomachs and make us feel regretful for not taking more advantage of the holidays. But we finally feel at ease when we see the familiar faces of our peers and eventually ease back into our daily school routines. One of the most important practices that are part of the WGS routine is starting every interaction with “Asalaamu Alaikum,” glorifying Allah, and then providing important lessons from the teachings of the Quran and Sunnah.

We have also incorporated this in our classrooms by starting with Bismillah and ending it with a supplication. It is these daily practices that encourage a positive Muslim identity in our students.

In Shaa Allah, this year is going to be an exciting year for our WGS students as the teachers have worked tirelessly to organise a multitude of academic and social activities and events that will engage every student; these include incursions, excursions, project-based learning and hands-on learning activities.

Additionally, as NAPLAN will take place in term 2, we have incorporated numerous reading, writing and listening activities to ensure students succeed academically. Pre-tests have been completed to attain informal assessment that allows teachers to identify students’ current level of understanding in literacy, and thereafter designing and executing lessons that aim to improve this. The literacy strategies we are currently using will be continued beyond the NAPLAN examination as we believe students should continually practice the literacy knowledge and skills.

Overall, the beginning of this term has been positive. I encourage students to continually reignite their drive to succeed academically, socially, mentally and spiritually throughout the year, In Shaa Allah.

-MS HANAN AZIZ

STAYING CONNECTED

Assalamu Alaikum

It is now week 4 at Western Grammar School and time has already flown past faster than we anticipated.

This year we look forward to engaging in a lot more team-building, quality and fun games along with some serious knuckle busting effort to strive towards an excellent academic year. This is not just for our own personal growth, but for the Western Grammar family as a whole.

Teachers and students alike need to be proud of our past achievements. We look forward to creating and upholding a myriad of new accomplishments for the year ahead.

As a Maths teacher, I look forward to discovering the brightness within all students who are getting there, and excelling those who have already found their inner mathematician!

It is an exciting time for all of us as we push ourselves harder in order to reach our goal of a higher academic standard than we did last year. We believe in all of you, and we know that you all have it in you, it is simply a matter of tapping into that part of you and utilising it to its full potential.

Having a positive mindset and being self-confident tends to solve so many problems. It is encouraged that students have a mentor figure who generally exhibits positive qualities.

-MR MOHAMMED NADEEM

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

Students of Western Grammar School waited with anticipation on Friday, 22nd of February, as the Student Representative Council (SRC) election results were announced.

This student-based organisation helps promote school spirit and leadership amongst students in this school and outside of school, when on excursions. Members of this organisation will demonstrate leadership qualities by serving as good examples of behaviour through their words and actions.

Mr Usman Malik, the high school SRC coordinator and Mr Zoheb Khan, the primary school coordinator facilitated the taking of the membership oath by all SRC members. Elected students were awarded their badges by our 2019 high school captains, Yusir Al-Mosewy and Amaan Rafiq.

The Deputy Principal, Dr Zachariah Mathews, congratulated the new SRC members and wished them well in their leadership roles.



CAPTAINS

WGS Captains of 2019:

Yusir Almoosewy (Yr12) & Amaan Rafiq (Yr12)

WGS Vice Captains of 2019:

Taktum Alkhafaji (Yr11) & Kaamil Malik (Yr11)



PRIMARY SCHOOL SRC

Captains: Husna Alikozay & Saarim Qazi (Yr 6)

Vice Captains: (Yr 6) Ammarah Muhammad & Eesa Malik

SRC: (Yr 5) Ashaf Mohammed, Zoha Fatima Jaffery

SRC: (Yr 4) Zakariyah Ali, Bisma Rahman



HIGH SCHOOL SRC

Captains: Yusir Almoosewy & Amaan Rafiq (Yr1 2)

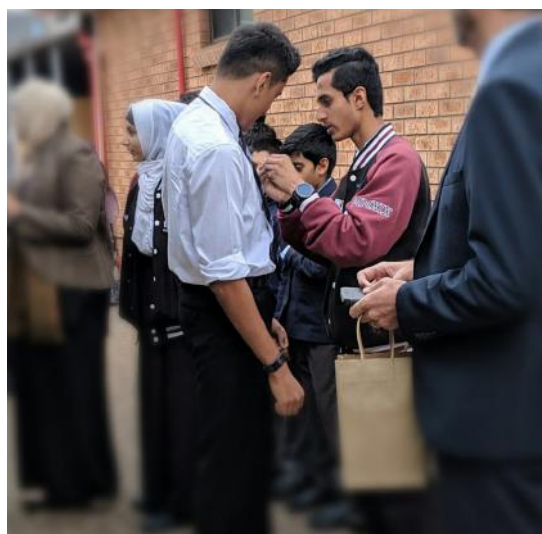
Vice Captains: Taktum Alkhafaji & Kaamil Malik (Yr 11)

SRC: (Yr 10) Ali Ali, Iesha Bakka

(Yr 9) Yasmeen Chandab, Tahir Mahomed

(Yr 8) Marwa Mehraby, Yahya Malik

(Yr 7) Malikah Shameem, Saifudeen Khan



SUN SAFETY WEEK



PROTECT YOURSELF IN FIVE WAYS FROM SKIN CANCER

Western Grammar School introduced 'Sun Safety Week' this year and engaged in running Sun Safety initiatives from 11-15th of February.

Australia has one of the highest rates of skin cancer in the world. In 2013, more than 2,200 Australians died from this almost entirely preventable disease. Evidence suggests that childhood exposure to UV radiation contributes significantly to the development of skin cancer in later life. Educating school children and reducing their UV exposure is expected to have a major impact on the future incidence of skin cancer in Australia.

At WGS, as part of our duty of care, one of our school rules is that students should wear hats when outside. This rule applies to all students from kindergarten to year 12.

Students were shown videos by the Cancer Council demonstrating the correct way of applying sunscreen. Primary school further participated in drawing competitions. They were asked to create a 'Slip,Slop,Slap,Seek,Slide' campaign message. They were all winners!



K-12 ended the week with 'Casual Hat Day' and were allowed to wear any hat they chose to school. Gold-coins were collected and all donations made went towards welfare support. *More information on page 11*



CASUAL HAT DAY



Assalamu Alaikum,

As part of Sun Safety Week, students were encouraged to wear any hat of their choosing to school.

Wearing a sun-protective hat is a simple and effective strategy for reducing ultraviolet radiation to the face, head and neck.

If children could become accustomed to wearing a hat when outdoors at school it would increase the likelihood that they will routinely wear one for non-school outdoor activities as well.

At Western Grammar School, we believe it is important to educate school children on UV exposure and how it can negatively impact health and wellbeing.

Students were encouraged to give gold-coin donations which were collected and donated to welfare support.

Causal Hat Day allowed all students and staff at WGS to get involved and understand the importance of sun safety.



Sun Safety Wordsearch

Q	P	D	F	J	H	Z	Q	K	L	S	Q	C	U	K
X	D	L	W	A	Z	Y	V	I	C	V	M	G	X	H
F	K	L	K	F	P	O	S	X	R	N	B	T	E	G
E	T	O	E	C	H	A	T	Z	K	W	R	J	D	G
S	C	N	C	S	O	V	T	S	W	O	W	H	A	F
W	A	G	D	J	B	L	K	A	U	W	W	M	H	B
B	O	S	M	E	V	A	B	S	J	M	A	P	S	C
B	Y	L	U	Y	H	X	E	N	W	W	E	T	J	N
W	W	E	K	H	D	R	Q	P	U	X	K	W	E	K
W	V	E	B	T	S	W	B	G	A	S	R	J	K	R
K	B	V	I	N	R	T	Z	K	T	R	A	O	H	W
K	T	E	W	B	W	L	Y	M	L	X	A	N	C	B
C	O	S	K	L	O	E	W	F	G	A	Q	S	H	F
M	B	S	E	S	S	A	L	G	N	U	S	B	O	T
F	V	R	W	R	K	G	Z	H	E	R	C	I	U	L

hat

long sleeves

parasol

shade

sun block

sunglasses

trousers

water



SOCCER GALA

OUR HS GIRLS' SOCCER TEAM KICK OFF WITH INTERSCHOOL SPORTS

14
MAR

ANTI BULLYING WEEK

INFORMING AND PROVIDING STUDENTS WITH ADVICE ON HOW TO APPROACH AND TACKLE BULLYING

11-15
MAR

HARMONY WEEK

CULTURE, DIVERSITY, TRADITION! IT ALL COMES TOGETHER ON HARMONY DAY

18-22
MAR

CANBERRA EXCURSION

YEAR 5 AND 6 STUDENTS WILL TAKE A TOUR OF THE AUSTRALIAN PARLIAMENT HOUSE AND QUESTACON

28
MAR

END OF TERM 1

END OF TERM 1! LOOK FORWARD TO A WELL-DESERVED BREAK

12
APR

SCHOOL TRANSPORT

WGS WILL HAVE AVAILABILITY OF TRANSPORT. PLEASE CONTACT ADMIN TO FILL OUT AN 'EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FORM.'



Assalamu Alaikum

Welcome to 2019! I am delighted to welcome our Deputy Principal Dr Zachariah Matthews. Dr Zachariah will be looking after the welfare of our students since their spiritual, physical and mental well-being is crucial to achieving outstanding academic results.

I am extremely pleased to announce that our first cohort of 2018 produced excellent results in their HSC exams. One student who joined in year 11 with an average mark of 20% achieved above 80% in the HSC and is now enrolled in a university degree.

Eighty percent of our students are doing a degree of their choice at universities. Our priority at WGS is the academic improvement of all students. Based on a just and balanced approach we are committed to providing the care and support that our students need in order to excel. Our anticipated academic achievement in 2020, as per our vision, will be an evidence of our genuine and sincere endeavours for our future generation.

I would like to offer my appreciation to the WGS community, (students, staff, teachers, parents and others) who have helped us on our journey so far. Together, our combined efforts have been instrumental in shaping the futures of our students and together, we can continue to grow and become a positive influence on the world around us.

IRFAN AFZAL, PRINCIPAL



Assalamu Alaikum, I greet you in the name of Allah (swt), Most Gracious, Most Merciful.

It is with great joy that I write this message as the new deputy principal of Western Grammar School. My name is Zachariah Matthews and my journey to this educational leadership position started off with clinical pharmacy in hospitals, lecturing at university, then to pharmacy management which was followed by leadership training and development.

I am very excited to join Western Grammar and help contribute to its further growth and development.

My transition into the school has been seamless and I have been warmly welcomed by the principal and staff into the school family.

My main area of passion is mentoring young people to help set them off on their own journeys of discovery, personal growth and positive legacy building. I plan in my initial phase at the school to look, listen and learn before focussing on student wellbeing and the facets that help make a vibrant and wholesome learning environment. The wellbeing of our students is a shared responsibility of the school, home and community. I look forward to working with parents to ensure that your expectations of the school are realised inshaAllah.

ZACHARIAH MATHEWS- DEPUTY PRINCIPAL



Assalamu Alaikum,

I would like to welcome all new and returning students and staff at Western Grammar School. I hope you all had a restful break and are completely refreshed and ready for a great new start in the school year.

2018 was a year of growth and improvement. This year Western Grammar School aims to provide a supportive and stimulating learning environment for all students with our helpful staff on board. With the construction of our new building nearly completed

we aim to provide well maintained facilities. Effective student wellbeing and discipline procedures in place will allow students to achieve academically to the best of their ability.

We firmly believe that every student at Western Grammar School can experience success and go on to graduate as a responsible, resilient and confident young adult.

The cooperative effort of parents and teachers is vital and together we can help students achieve a great academic result.

ZULQARNAN MALIK - ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL