

NEWSLETTER



WESTERN GRAMMAR SCHOOL
Issue 64 | Term 1 | Wednesday 31st March 2021

VISION

Western Grammar School seeks to foster in our students understanding and respect for each other and for the diversity of multicultural communities in Australia.

Students are encouraged to be innovative, creative and problem-solving individuals.

Students strive to achieve their personal best in an ideal educational and Islamic environment. They will be able to take their place with pride in the community and in the world.



Deputy Principal's Message

By Dr Zachariah Matthews

Alhamdulillah Term 1 has been productive and engaging for students. To start off, SRC elections were conducted in weeks one and two as part of the school's leadership development program. In week three, a graduate forum was held for Year 11 and 12 students to gain valuable insights from students who had completed their HSC studies at WGS. Our Year 6 students were overjoyed to participate in an inter-school harmony soccer cup tournament, thoroughly relishing the experience.

A variety of other activities in Term 1 engaged students on topics ranging from sun-safety, Clean Up Australia, women's rights, and harmony week. It is always pleasing to see students don their vibrantly-coloured cultural dress with pride and to experience diversity being celebrated. The highlight of Term 1 was the final in week nine of the public speaking competition for Years 5-12 which saw four students present powerful and thought-provoking speeches.

With Ramadan around the corner, we take this opportunity to wish all our students and their families well during this blessed and beneficial month. May Allah (swt) make it a spiritually rewarding period of growth and development for all.

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Ramadan Prep

Ramadan is not far away and it is vital that we actively work on mentally, spiritually and physically preparing for the blessed month. Below are some useful tips.

1. Repent sincerely and continuously
2. Refrain from those little everyday overlooked sins
3. Replace bad habits with good habits
4. Make lots of sincere du'aa (supplication)
5. Seek knowledge. Act on it. Share it.
6. Schedule Quran into your day and try to understand some of it
7. Make a list of goals you would like to achieve during Ramadan

"Who fails to plan, plans to fail"

Choose to Challenge

On Monday 8th March, staff and students at WGS engaged in a series of events to acknowledge the vast contributions of incredible women from the past and present.

Purple hijabs were worn to commemorate the symbol of "Justice" and conversations were held with students to challenge cultural stereotypes which do not form part of the faith.

With the theme of 'Choose to Challenge', the students both male and female were educated about the ways in which they could challenge bias and stereotypes in our communities, in order to advocate for a sound understanding of Islam's perspective of women.



"Ideas without action aren't ideas. They're regrets" – Steve Jobs

Clean up Australia

As part of the Clean Up Australia Day initiatives, students at WGS were escorted by teachers to Plumpton and Alroy Parks where they energetically participated in cleaning and disposing of rubbish to promote a cleaner and more sustainable local environment. Recyclable bags and gloves along with biodegradable plastic bags were used for safety purposes.

The students continued their learning over that week by pledging to continue to 'Step up, to clean up'. Step up actions suggested by students have been to reduce unnecessary paper wastage, recycling and reusing products and cleaning their playground after recess and lunch.



Disability Centre

In week 6 Western Grammar's Year 10 students visited the My Home Disability Centre in Birrong to hand over a cheque of \$4,600 that was collected by school students, staff and families.

It truly was an eye opening and heart-felt visit with special moments had by students as they interacted with the centre's clients. The visit was further enhanced by a Feature Creature presentation where students got up close and personal with some friendly reptiles. It was a wonderful experience that left everyone very excited. Thank you to the team of Brothers in Need for their sponsorship of lunch for everyone and organising the Feature Creature presentation. A special thanks to all who donated money toward the centre.



Important Dates

- Thu 1 April: Last day of Term 1
 - Mon 19 April: First day of Term 2
 - Fri 23 April: Quran Comp Final
 - Wed 28 April: Iftar Y3-6
 - Thu 29 April: Iftar HS Girls
 - Fri 30 April: Islamic Quiz Comp
 - Fri 30 April: Iftar HS Boys
 - Tue 11 May: NAPLAN starts
 - Thu 13 May: School closed Eid TBC
 - Fri 14 May: School closed Eid TBC
 - Mon 17 May: Eid Party
 - Fri 21 May: Biggest Morning Tea
- *may be subject to change*

Farm Excursion

On 10th of March Kindergarten and Year 1 went on their first excursion of the year to Calmsley Hill City Farm. The bus ride there was full of excitement, anticipation and big smiles. All classes had an educational tour guide farmer who informed students about farm animals and took them around the farm.

Students had the opportunity to meet animals up close and participated in an hands-on animal encounter. Students enjoyed and were highly engaged during the 'Stockwhip Demonstration', 'Working Dog' and 'Sheep Shearing' shows.

Alhamdulillah it was a successful and fun first excursion of the year. Students were exhausted and had a good rest on the bus ride back to school.



Hadith of the Week

SUPPORT



قال النبي ﷺ
«الْمُؤْمِنُ لِلْمُؤْمِنِ كَالْبَيْتِ إِذَا يُشَدُّ بِعَضُدِهِ بِعَضُدِ»
 (متفق عليه)
 The Prophet ﷺ said:
“A believer to another is like a building, each part supporting the other”
 (Agreed upon)

ANTI-BULLYING



قال النبي ﷺ
« أَنْصُرْ أَخَاكَ ظَالِمًا أَوْ مَظْلُومًا »
 (البخاري)
 The Prophet ﷺ said:
“Help your brother, whether he is the oppressor or the oppressed”
 (Bukhari)

RESPECT



The Prophet ﷺ said:
“A Muslim is he whose tongue and hands other Muslims are safe from”
 (Al-Bukhari)
 قال النبي ﷺ
« الْمُسْلِمُ مَنْ سَلِمَ الْمُسْلِمُونَ مِنْ لِسَانِهِ وَيَدِهِ »
 (البخاري)

CLEANLINESS



قال النبي ﷺ
«الطَّهْرُ شَطْرُ الْإِيمَانِ»
 (مسلم)
 The Prophet ﷺ said:
“Cleanliness is half of Faith”
 (Muslim)

Seek to Speak

On Thursday 25th of March, Western Grammar School held its second annual Seek to Speak Public Speaking Competition grand final. Alhamdulillah, it was a successful event that saw four competitors compete for the titles of Junior and Senior Champion. After a tightly contested final, Ubaidullah Hasim was crowned Junior Champion and Rufaidah Saputra was awarded the title of Senior Champion—our warmest congratulations to them both!

During the event there were elements of audience interaction where students got to participate, and teachers were also given some difficult questions! Our winners, as well as our runners up, were awarded custom competition trophies to keep as memorabilia from the event.

With this competition, the focus was on participation and we had 62 participants from Years 5 through to 12. To reward those who gave it a shot, all participants were invited to attend an exclusive lunch where they were also given achievement awards.

Following this year's successful competition, we look forward to holding it again—bigger and better insha'Allah—next year.

