

# WESTERN GRAMMAR SCHOOL

# NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 44 TERM 2 THURSDAY, 31<sup>ST</sup> MAY 2018

## WHAT'S INSIDE

PRIMARY NEWS

2

OLD SCHOOL  
SELFIE

6

SHAKIR'S SHELF

6

THE TEN TYPES OF  
WGS STUDENTS

7

BOOKS, TWEETS &  
LITERARY LEAPS

7

ISLAMIC STUDIES

8

FOOD DRIVE

10

KIDZ KORNER

10

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE  
COUNCIL

11

UP TO DATE

12

ADMIN MANAGER'S  
MESSAGE

12

"WHOEVER OBSERVES FASTS DURING THE MONTH OF RAMADAN OUT OF SINCERE FAITH, AND HOPING TO ATTAIN ALLAH'S REWARDS, THEN ALL HIS PAST SINS WILL BE FORGIVEN."



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# KINDERGARTEN

WITH MS RANA AND MS SAADIYAH



Assalamu Alaikum and Ramadan Mubarak!

First and foremost, I would like to wish everyone a very happy and blessed Ramadan on behalf of our Kindergarten class, may Allah grant us the ability to take full advantage of this holy month. In Kindergarten we've been preparing for Ramadan in full force! We've been reading books about Ramadan and have been having discussions about what we should be doing to please Allah. In the spirit of this month we also decorated our classroom and made Ramadan Kareem posters. Our very first Ramadan at school has proven to be a fantastic and joyful experience. Even though we're not fasting ourselves we are very thoughtful and considerate of the people who are.

This term we have been focusing on our letters, sight words and reading. Our focus in English has been imaginative texts and we absolutely love it! We let our imaginations run wild with the texts and try to create our own stories too. In Maths we've been looking at subtraction, sharing and whole numbers—our favourite by far though is graphs! We have class votes to collect data to fill in our graphs. It's very informative and engaging! In Science and Technology, we are learning about the environment around us and the different materials in it; it's quite interesting.

We're looking forward to the end of term for Eid and our excursion!

Here are a few things you can do with your child:

- Read one book every day at home
- Practice sight words every day and revise previous week sight words
- Play sight words games and practice alphabet sounds

If we can do this, we'll definitely be the best!

Thank you

-MS RANA &  
MS SAADIYAH (TA)



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. Students have learnt how to write information reports on different animals such as koalas, kangaroos and whales. Year 1 has done very well with writing this term and each student has developed better writing skills. Moreover, I am very pleased and proud of my students' reading levels as there has been a great improvement this term. Keep up the fantastic reading Year 1!

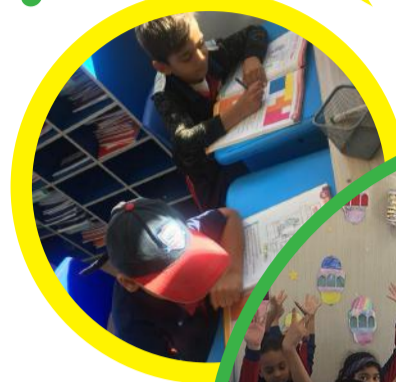
In Science, students have been learning about different materials and how materials can change shape and state. Students predicted what would happen to chocolate when left in the sun and then carried out the experiment, proving their predictions were correct. They were very enthusiastic and keen to carry out the experiment with their favourite part of course being when they ate their chocolate treats!

Mathematics has been hands on and engaging this term with students grasping the concept of Area very well. Our class has been busy getting creative by making different area shapes and finding the area of objects around the classroom by using blocks. Additionally, students have been enjoying Creative Arts this term and have produced multiple artworks, including a self-portrait.

Overall a fantastic start to the term

-MS SALEM

Year 1



Year 2



Welcome back students to Term 2! It was exciting moving into our new classroom where we feel right at home.

Let's take a look at what's happening in Year 2:

- Information writing about the marine animals
- Exploring new sporting games with Year 1 and Kindergarten
- Planting seeds and observing how they grow - what will they become? Vegetables, fruit or herbs—maybe even a tree, vine or a plant.
- Following all the steps to be the best learners we can be, including trying our best and showing pride in our work.
- A daily secret student is revealed at the end of the day to earn a stamp for our chart. Who might it be today?
- Learning all about internal and external organs

In the month of Ramadan, we are:

- Writing, drawing and colouring our individual Ramadan books
- Opening our daily Ramadan good deeds calendar—each day has a different good deed that we can do for someone else
- Decorating the classroom window with beautiful lanterns and flags
- Raising money for charity. We raised \$937.60 to feed families for Iftar, we are so proud of our hard work and generosity.

We are only half way through the term, but we have many other exciting adventures ahead of us!

-MS BOYD

Assalamu Alaikum parents,

Ramadan Mubarak to you and your families. Insha'Allah a blessed month ahead. Year 3 have coloured and made fantastic Ramadan decorations for the classroom—we have lovely lanterns hanging in our class and on the windows.

Year 3 have been busy bees this term. Alhamdulillah NAPLAN is now over. Students rigorously prepared for these tests which will pay off, Insha'Allah. Across English this term, students have been working hard on their writing skills. They have shown great improvement and progress. Our class has shown enthusiasm and excitement when we researched the Venus Flytrap, a carnivorous plant, for our information reports! Ms Baluch even lent us her actual Venus Flytrap plant! Furthermore, we're eager to find out what happens next in *Charlotte's Web*.

For Mathematics, we've focused on learning and applying different addition and subtraction strategies to solve problems. Students looked at arrays and made different arrays to show multiplication problems. They've understood how to apply different strategies to solve questions. Our focus in Science this term is living things. Students categorised living things and looked at the different characteristics of living things. They have been very engaged with this exciting unit of learning. History has been all about change and continuity and we have been exploring local sites in our area that have changed. We even created a timeline of changes for Western Grammar.

Overall students are progressing well this term! **-MS YOSUFZAI**

## -YEAR 3-

Dear parents,

Welcome back to Term 2 and Ramadan Mubarak!

For English this term, the students have been exposed to a range of multimodal texts and have been learning about informative text writing. As a class we have enjoyed reading and discovering a lot books such as 'I am Jack'.

Our unit for Science has been 'The Force of Movement'. This is an important unit which enables WGS students to learn how products, tools and force can be used to their advantage and entertainment. Our class examines all types of forces to see their suitability for certain tasks. Students produced tools and games to exhibit their learning and understand how certain forces, tools and movements can make tasks easier and enjoyable. As we go on, students will look at surrounding tools, products that use magnets and forces of movement used in their local environment and discuss their observations and analyse each item.

Our unit for History has been 'Australia, you're standing in it' and it has provided opportunities for students to explore natural, heritage and built features in Australia. The unit focuses on investigating and evaluating the significance of particular sites and places and what people value about them. For Maths the students have been exposed to a range of hands on materials and experiences. We're having a lot of fun learning new things this term!

**-MS EL-KHEIR**

## -YEAR 4-



# YEAR 5

Assalamu Alaikum,

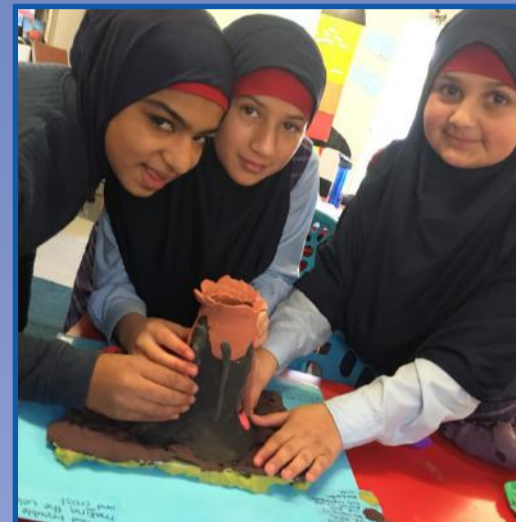
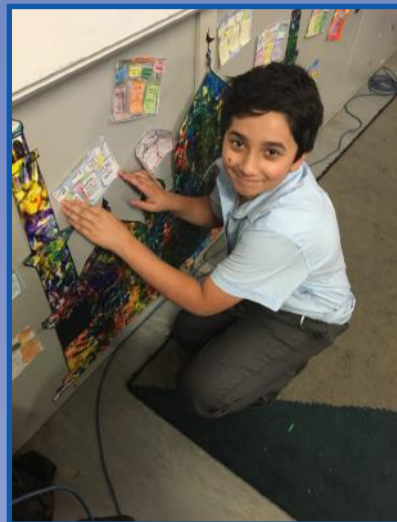
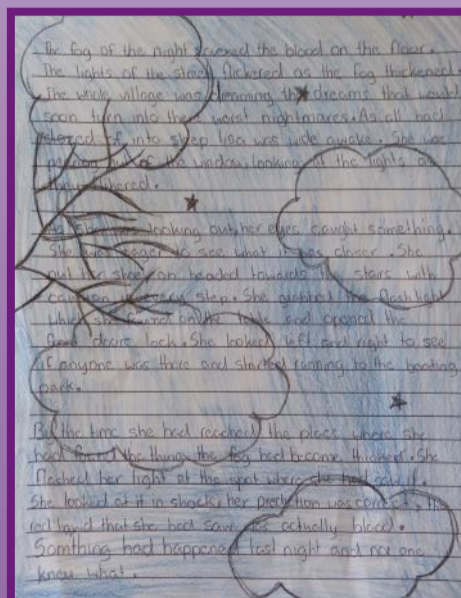
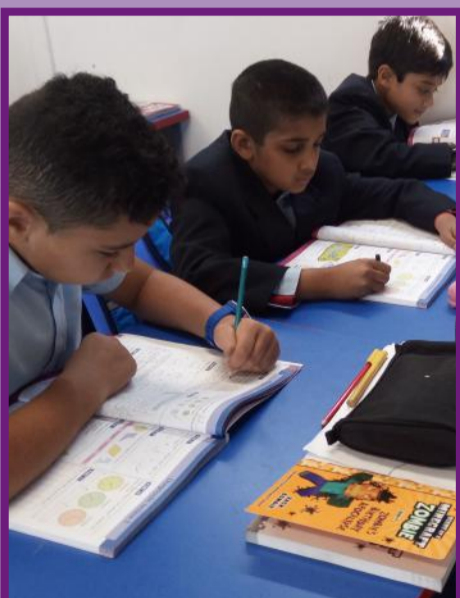
Ramadan Mubarak to everyone! Alhamdulillah, our class has finally completed their NAPLAN exams. Year 5 have tried their very best and I am extremely proud of their efforts.

It has been a productive term for our class. In English, students are developing their skills in writing information reports. We have been analysing the techniques and languages used in various informative texts and students were encouraged to implement these techniques and vocabulary into their report. Year 5 has also put tremendous effort into learning mathematical concepts. They have developed their critical thinking skills and gained strategies to solve more complex word problems. We also focused on fractions and decimals. Students are able to compare and order decimals and convert decimals into fractions. Well done Year 5!

Our class has also enjoyed learning science. Our topic for this term is the states of matter. Year 5 have been busy observing and comparing the differences in the properties and behaviour of solids and liquids. They have conducted various experiments to develop their understanding of this concept. It is exciting to see the class so eager to learn!

Insha'Allah, in the later editions of this newsletter, we can write about all the wonderful assessments and activities your children have completed.

-MS AFSHAR



Assalamu Alaikum,

So far this term, Year 6 has had a lot of fun in class. We have made tsunamis and volcanoes as part of our STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) lessons. Through our STEM lessons we have learnt so much! It has really been a blast. Year 6 believes Ramadan is a time for reflection and bettering ourselves so we have set goals we would like to achieve before the end of Ramadan. Some of our goals include: reading the entire Quran by the end of Ramadan, fasting the whole Ramadan, doing good deeds and giving as much as we can in charity and sadaqah in this blessed month of Ramadan.

This Ramadan, the boys in Year 6 have tried to do sports that are not as demanding as the sports we regularly participate in at the local park on Wednesdays. We have played cricket and football. The cricket skills of Daniel, Adnan, Saad, Mohamed Ali and Muawiyya have improved since before Ramadan and are continuing to improve. The Year 6 girls have been practising their kicking and have also improved. Our class SRC representative, Saad Ashraf, has started to propose some fun activities for our class which we are looking forward to. Thanks for reading our article.

-DANIEL HILABI,  
YEAR 6 STUDENT

# YEAR 6

# OLD SCHOOL SELFIE

Assalamu alaikum,

We live in a culture that is so saturated with images, it may be difficult to imagine a time when only the wealthiest people had their likeness captured. The wealthy merchants of Renaissance Florence could commission a portrait, but even they would likely only have a single portrait painted during their lifetime. A portrait was about more than likeness, it spoke to status, position, personality and sometimes a representation of the painter's perspective of the person. Portraits took a long time to paint, and the

subject would have to sit for hours or days, while the artist captured their likeness.

The Year 7's travelled through the history of portraiture and have learnt how to draw faces proportionally. We had a close look at Vincent Van Gogh and how he represented his own portrait. Colours, shapes and composition are all factors that tell the story behind the portrait, and we learnt this in Van Gogh's artworks.

The features of the face will be the next focus chapter in the following week, and I am very excited to see all the fantastic artworks the Year 7 students will produce.

-MS SUZAN



## SHAKIR'S SHELF

I want to stress the importance of getting 100% serious in your studies at the start of your preliminary HSC. This is for several reasons, and I will discuss each one briefly below.

1. A lot of the content you learn in Year 11 is **directly** examinable in your HSC exam in Year 12. Most subjects lay the foundations in year 11, and then build on these foundations in Year 12. To re-use an overused cliché, it's very hard to build something without a solid foundation. In fact, up to 30-40% of the HSC exam for maths subjects will be comprised of Year 11 content. The point is, **you must study hard because your HSC has already started!**

2. The study habits you develop in Year 11 will carry over to Year 12. One of my Year 11 teachers made us write down the following at the end of our workbooks: **"My performance in Year 11 will be mirrored in Year 12."** This is true for the vast majority of students.

3. Year 11 should be treated as a practice run for the HSC. If you try your absolute best in Year 11, you will still make mistakes. You can then learn from these mistakes and improve on them in Year 12. If you start trying hard in Year 12, you will then make these mistakes in Year 12—and it will be too late to do anything about them, because all assessment tasks in Year 12 count towards your HSC. If you make a mistake—bad luck, it will contribute to your ATAR, and there's really nothing you can do about it.

Lastly, **I will end with the most important way to do well in your HSC—constant, on-going, daily/weekly revision of content learnt in class.** Nothing else will improve your marks nearly as much as this. The HSC is NOT an IQ test or some other type of intelligence test. Year in, year out, we see that the students who study the hardest are the ones who achieve their goals. In fact, the HSC can be seen to be a metaphor for life itself in this sense. The ones who try will surely achieve. So start trying! You will definitely get the mark you deserve—either way. If you don't try, you will get a poor mark because you deserve it. If you do try, Insha'Allah you will also get the mark you deserve!

-MR SHAKIR

# WITH 10 TYPES OF WGS STUDENTS

-MR BADAR

## 1- THE COMEDIAN

The Comedian either thinks they're funny or genuinely is funny. Mostly the former. If it's the latter, and depending on the brand of humour, even the teacher may be forced to smile :)

## 2- THE GHOST

The Ghost is there but is not there. The Ghost never answers questions, or says anything, ever. It's like this student barely exists.

## 3- THE BRIGHT SPARK

For some reason, somehow, The Bright Spark has perfected everything—literacy, numeracy, artistic expression, you name it. The Bright Spark might be in Year 8, but knows Year 10 maths.

## 4- THE SLEEPER

The Sleeper sleeps. At least once every day. Sleepers are generally late, and if early, they miss their name when it's called out during roll call because they're too busy sleeping.

## 5- THE MOTHER HEN

The Mother Hen is like the second teacher, responsible for behaviour management because, ahead of time, this student is already performing the role of a mother to all the children of WGS.

## 6- THE SPORTSPERSON

"Lets play sports, sir!" rings the all-familiar voice. Really belongs in the Olympics, not a classroom.

## 7- THE WANNABE COOL KID

"Bruh, this history lesson is lit. Nah, fam, you're no longer my bae". No further commentary.

## 8- THE EXCESSIVE QUESTIONER

The curious, the very, very curious Excessive Questioner. The Excessive Questioner is fearless, and has more than one irrelevant question per class.

## 9- THE TIMID ONE

One can depict the trajectory of The Timid One's self-esteem and confidence levels using the exponentially decaying distribution. The only thing that stops their confidence levels from touching asymptote is iman in the existence of Allah.

## 10- THE TOILET KID

"Sir, can I go toilet", calls the toilet kid, who thinks they came to WGS to spend time rendezvousing with other students in the toilets.

# BOOKS, TWEETS AND LITERARY LEAPS

Screens. Texts. Snaps. Insta. Tweets. Posts. Hashtags. VR. Likes.

We occupy a world within which our minds think, act and read digitally. The physical page, the hard cover and the folding of corners have given way to swipes, screens, homepages and bookmarks.

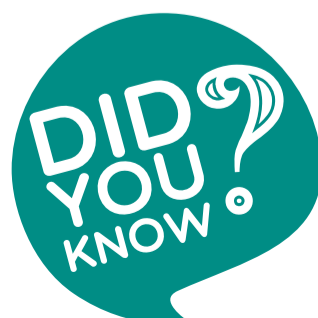
This term for English, Year 11 students are studying the module entitled "Contemporary Possibilities". Through it, we have been discussing how meaning can be constructed through texts beyond novels and books—how screens and digital media may well be the future of literature and expression. That is not to say that the book—the cultural icon that it is and should very well be—is dead, but that literature may once again have to transcend form, re-evaluate function, and embed itself into a new world of technological reading. Literature and the depth of meaning that comes with it seems to have an uncanny ability to metamorphosise such that humanity is never without the weight of the word, despite the possible absence of ink.

In class we have been having invigorating debates that swing to and fro like an indecisive pendulum on topics of technology, literature, meaning and representation. This has been complemented and instigated by the close study and scrutiny of texts of the digital variety – websites, videos, social media and more.

In order to grasp the true extent of the contemporary possibilities afforded to us through technology and the positioning of literature within it, we must understand the communicative potential that we now have, quite literally, at our hands. Social media feeds, posts, memes, tweets and more are all examples of texts unbounded by spines, spirals or pages—one could perhaps even say that new literary frontiers have been uncovered through technology.

But regardless of whether our fingers turn pages or swipe screens, one thing is certain—literature is here to stay.

-MR QURESHI



# ISLAMIC STUDIES

**“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.”**

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 Ramadan has been jam packed with Islamic activities for the students in our school. These activities include: Charity Drive (Feed the Fasting), Food Drive with the National Zakat Foundation team, high school boys and girls Iftar program, high school boys Tarawih program, Quran competition, Ramadan quiz competition, and Eid Art competition.

We have so far completed the Charity Drive and have successfully collected \$8450 within two weeks. This amount has smashed last year's collection of \$3300. We would like to thank all the parents and students involved in this drive. Your money will feed approximately 170 needy families throughout Ramadan in many parts of the world. May Allah reward you all and place blessings in your wealth.

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 you all, to increase your worship and pray for the success of our school, staff, and the 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!

**-MR HAKEEM**

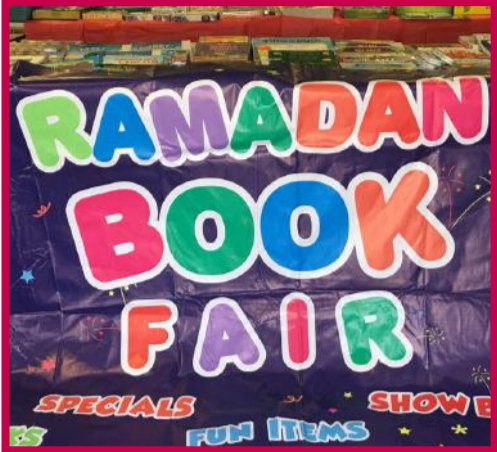
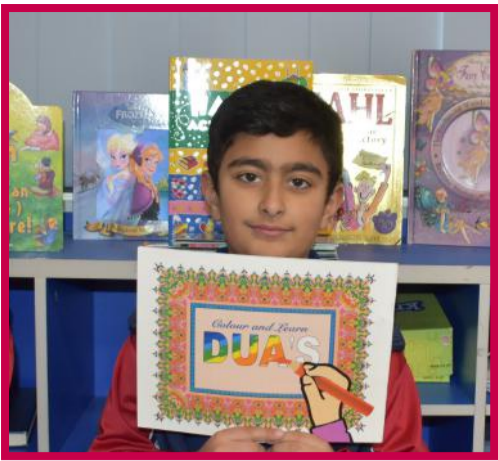
**\$8,450 CHARITY RAISED FOR CHARITY DRIVE 2018**

**HIGHEST AMOUNT OF CHARITY RAISED BY A CLASS - \$1,216.60 (YEAR 7)**

**SAALIAH KHAN (YEAR 11) CONTRIBUTED THE HIGHEST AMOUNT OF CHARITY - \$820**

**PREPARE FOR LAYLATUL QADR!!!**

**SHOUT OUT**



# FOOD DRIVE

28<sup>TH</sup> OF MAY – 4<sup>TH</sup> OF JUNE 2018

## THIS RAMADAN, BE A HUNGER HELPER

Help us feed your brothers and sisters who are refugees, don't have enough money, or who come from broken homes. Bring your food donations to school for collection by the SRC before the fourth of June.

### WHAT WE NEED

RICE

CEREAL

FLOUR

OLIVES

DRIED BEANS

LONG LIFE MILK

OIL

CANNED FOOD

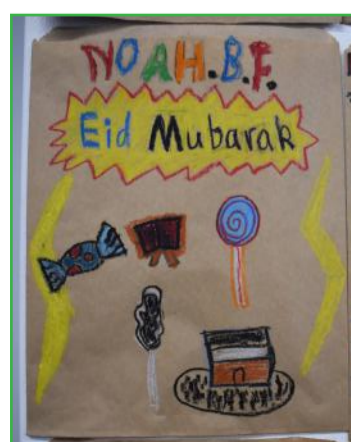
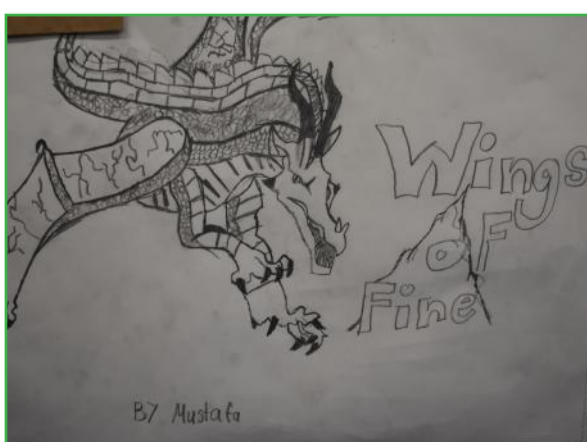
SALT

PASTA

BISCUITS

LENTILS

## KIDS KORNER



# STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

**The Student Representative Council (SRC)** is made up of a group of students voted for by the high school students. This opportunity for students to practice leadership is important, as it builds their life skills and also involves them in the decisions of the school, whether it be facility improvements or future developments. Our SRC has student representatives from Year 7 to Year 12.

The SRC operates a number of sub-committees which include School Improvements, Student Wellbeing and Community Service. To support the SRC students, a teacher and the Assistant Principal work with them. Their projects include organising SRC events, fundraising and communicating and resolving issues raised by students.

Within the SRC, the Executive representatives include the male and female Presidents and Vice Presidents, Secretary, Minute Taker and Treasurer.

The office bearers of the SRC are elected by the SRC students. The Captains come from Year 12 and the Vice-Captains from Year 11. Through involvement, SRC students develop leadership and decision making skills and abilities whilst working collaboratively.

The SRC has the following aims:

- Providing students with opportunities to share in discussions and represent student opinions in various forums.
- Participating in relevant extra-curricular activities
- Participating in local community groups and events
- Facilitating and speaking at assemblies
- Encouraging the development of leadership in students
- Modelling to all Western Grammar School students' effective participation at the school.

Other activities and fundraising events, including donations to charities, involve:

- Fundraising appeals for natural disasters
- Mobile phone recycling with proceeds donated to Youngcare Australia
- Earth Hour
- School mufti days
- School fundraising events
- National Tree Day
- Clean Up Australia Day
- Sun safety at school sporting events
- World Teachers' Day
- Attendance at student leadership conferences
- Lunchtime movie and quiz activities.

This year's Student Representative Council looks forward to a busy and successful year.



## TIMELINE

### QUIZ COMPETITION

DO YOU KNOW YOUR FACTS? JOIN THE COMPETITION TO FIND OUT!

### QURAN COMPETITION

STUDENTS FROM ALL CLASSES COMPETE BY MEMORISING AND RECITING THE QURAN

### ABAYA DAY

CELEBRATE ISLAM ON THIS MUFTI DAY, WEAR YOUR ABAYA OR ISLAMIC CLOTHING TO SCHOOL!

### PUBLIC HOLIDAY

NO SCHOOL ON MONDAY, 11<sup>TH</sup> JUNE

### EID HOLIDAY

EID MUBARAK EVERYONE! HAVE AN EXTRA LONG WEEKEND TO ENJOY THIS OCCASION

### EID PARTY

WESTERN GRAMMAR IS CELEBRATING EID WITH A SCHOOL WIDE PARTY! DRESS UP AND BRING SOME TREATS.

5  
JUN

8  
JUN

8  
JUN

11  
JUN

14  
JUN  
TO  
15  
JUN

18  
JUN

# MESSAGE



Assalamu Alaikum,

As the Admin Manager, I firmly believe that the Administration Department is the main office serving as a focal point around which all sections of the school revolve. Our office staff are the face of Western Grammar and they deal with staff, students, parents and visitors in a friendly manner as well as answering numerous phone calls. 2018 has been a busy year for the admin staff as the school has grown considerably and hence we have had to look after more students, teachers and parents.

This year we have had a lot of changes regarding the facilities of the school. As you are all aware, the old K-2 building has been demolished and we are moving towards the next step which is the start of the construction of the new building. We appreciate your patience as we continue the process of expanding the school.

2018 is also a milestone year for Western Grammar School as we have our first batch of Year 12 students sitting for their HSC exam. This is certainly a landmark achievement for Western Grammar to achieve in such a short time and it is a step towards making Western Grammar the best school in our region.

This term has been filled with exciting events. With the start of Ramadan, our teachers and staff have been organising initiatives for our students and this year, the school has been more active in the community as well, with several fundraisers and charities. Staff and students are actively participating in raising funds or bringing in food items and I have to thank the parents for their input in making these charity drives successful ventures.

Alhamdulillah, it is wonderful to see how the school and its community has grown in the past seven years, and I look forward to seeing more progress in the future. I pray that we all have a successful Ramadan and Eid Mubarak to everyone.

**HINA RAFIQ,**  
**ADMIN MANAGER**

## FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK

Like our newsletter? Keep up to date by following us on Facebook! We regularly post photos, videos and other posts to keep you in the know about Western Grammar School. Whether it's the latest news, upcoming events or a few pics for #Throw-BackThursday, you'll love seeing our posts on your FB feed.

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