

WESTERN GRAMMAR SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 47 TERM 4 THURSDAY, 26TH OCTOBER 2018

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"ALLAH WILL EXALT IN DEGREE THOSE OF YOU WHO BELIEVE, AND THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN GRANTED KNOWLEDGE." QURAN 58:11

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1ST HSC COHORT OF WGS

KINDERGARTEN

WITH MS RANA AND MS SAADIYAH

A 5 h 2

Assalamu alaikum

That's Term 3 done and we've accomplished so much. Alhamdulillah, Kindergarten achieved wonders last term. Everything is happening so fast. We've started practicing for our graduation and end of year presentation already!

In the Kindergarten classroom, students have learnt about our different places of origin in Geography lessons while our PDH lessons informed them about safe places and people. For Science and Technology, students enjoyed learning the different seasons in the year and how to recognise them. Additionally, English was filled with heaps of reading, writing and learning grammar and punctuation. Currently, Kindergarten are learning about procedures and how to write them.

We've had great fun with all the exciting things we've done in Term 3, including the Swimming Program and Teddy Bear Picnic. Kindergarten really enjoyed Teddy Bear Picnic day. All students worked hard throughout the term and showed improved learning and positive behaviour within the classroom and playground. It was great to see everyone participate and enjoy this well earned reward. Furthermore, I'm glad that we were able to give students the opportunity to learn how to swim. It was great fun! This activity has taught the students important and valuable skills. I am very proud of all my students who attended.

We're ready for Term 4 and are looking forward to even better times and experiences in our wonderful Kindergarten classroom.

-MS RANA &
MS SAADIYAH (TA)



ALHAMDULLILAH,
KINDERGARTEN HAS DONE
WONDERS THIS TERM!



Assalamu alaikum parents,

What wonderful writers and remarkable readers Year 1 have become!

Science and Technology has been a highlight this term as students have incorporated their knowledge of materials into making their own lunchboxes out of cardboard. They thoroughly enjoyed making these and I was impressed with their ideas and designs.

Drama has also been very fun this term. Students have improved their acting skills and they enjoy their weekly drama games and activities. We have been rehearsing a Little Red Riding Hood play. Our class is enjoying it and are excited for their final performance with costumes and props.

In Mathematics, students have extended their knowledge of fractions, time, and patterns, and have improved their addition and subtraction skills. In Writing, students have explored poetry and have written great rhyming animal poems.

This term we also had multiple fun events. Students had the opportunity to attend swim school which they had a fantastic time in. Science week was also amazing with great projects entered into in the competition. Well done to the competition winners!

Overall we've had a blast! I look forward to a fun filled busy Term 4.

-MS SALEM



Year 2

Assalamu Alaikum,

Masha'Allah! Year 2 have had a fantastic Term 3. We have accomplished many goals and exceeded expectations so far. We have been utilising our time to deepen our understanding of Literacy, to improve our reading comprehension skills and Numeracy to improve our understanding of 3D objects, mass and division. We have explored the local area of Plumpton and have learnt to identify Australian states and territories in our Geography lessons. PDH lessons have focused on how to take and use medications correctly and toxins that exist within our body and environment including pollution and rubbish.

Last term, Year 2 participated in many exciting events including the Swimming program and Books to Life Performance incursion.

A huge congratulations to all students who participated in the Swimming Program. K-6 students underwent 6 weeks of swimming lessons at Little Fishes Swim School. A great improvement in independence and coordination was noticed shortly after beginning the program.

During Book Week we participated in a K-6 literacy incursion. The "Walk in the Bush" performance explored the award winning picture book in an interactive play involving a cheeky cat 'Iggy' and Grandpa's adventures to the Blue Mountains.

"The best part was when Grandpa chose students to sing while birds sang squawking noises".- Izac

"The group photo was the best part, grandpa came into the middle of the audience and got Iggy and Manha to take the photo"-Enaya

-MS BOYD



Assalamu Alaikum,

Alhamdulillah! Year 3 students have had a successful Term 3. Each student has come so far and has 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 last term.

Class time has been very busy for our Year 3. In English, students have reached half way through their focus book 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory'. Well done Year 3 for your excellent effort in all activities based around this book! Students had a great time learning about heat in Science. They were given the opportunity to explore and do experiments around heat and solar energy. Students had a blast with the 'ice cube' melting race. In HSIE we concluded the topic of 'National Parks' by making rules and regulations to preserve the historic heritage of parks for future generations.

For sports, every Wednesday students entered the class with a huge smile ready to dive into swimming classes this term. Swimming was a huge success and a great learning experience for kids. Furthermore, Year 3 received their NAPLAN results this term. Mashallah, many students produced amazing results and well done to parents for helping them revise at home.

I would like to thank parents for their great effort in assisting with homework and news throughout the term. I look forward to an exciting and successful Term 4 ahead, Insha'Allah.

-MS DEAN

-YEAR 3-

Welcome back to a new term!

Last term, Year 4 participated and improved their skills in many educational activities.

For English, the students have been exposed to a range of multimodal texts. As a class we have enjoyed reading books such as 'Rowan of Rin' and many stories on Story Line Online.

During Term 3, the students participated in Shared Reading experiences involving a variety of comprehension activities. For writing, Year 4 have been learning about persuasive text expositions.

For PDH, students were provided with the opportunity to learn about Disease prevention. They further learnt about how to increase awareness about pollution and how it can affect lives.

Our Geography Unit, 'Places are similar and different', allowed Year 3 to explore many topics including: The Australian Continent, Aboriginals Connection to Land, Australia's Neighbours and Similarities and Differences Between Places.

In Science and Technology students have been learning about 'The Process of Production'. This unit was made for WGS students to observe their local environment, to note materials that are natural or made by a process and how these materials are used in the environment and as a part of our everyday life.

Alhamdulillah, Year 4 has had a successful Term 3. We thank all parents for their cooperation. Your continued support is very much appreciated.

-MS EL-KHEIR

-YEAR 4-



YEAR 5

Assalamu Alaikum,

Last term was extremely productive and fruitful. Year 5 have been participating in challenging and stimulating tasks to boost their academic learning.

During Week 9, our class undertook their Term 3 assessments. They worked hard, studied persistently and were thoroughly prepared to excel.

In Literacy, students are continuing to develop their reading and comprehension skills. We are reading the novel 'Girl Underground' and answering questions related to the text. Year 5 have become confident readers and are applying strategies to analyse and interpret a variety of textual sources.

Furthermore, our class have finally completed their picture book and included many textual features such as table of contents, glossary, index and a reference list.

In Mathematics, students are building their number skills whilst integrating finance and budgeting, measurement and data. Our class has established a strong foundation that enables them to adapt and transfer mathematical concepts.

I would like to congratulate Year 5 on achieving outstanding results in their NAPLAN. Our class average was above the national average. Term 3 has been a fantastic success!

-MS AFSHAR



Assalamu Alaikum,

It was with great pleasure that I was afforded the opportunity to take over duties as the Year 6 teacher during the second half of Term 3. In the short weeks that I have been with Year 6, I have found the class to be a wonderful melting pot of many different skills, abilities and characters.

As a teacher who has seen, taught and nurtured many students of all levels and backgrounds, I choose not to judge a student on their ability to read, write or successfully complete a maths equation. Each student has the ability to succeed and compete in life in many different ways. Each student has skills and talents, some hidden and some not, which will allow him or her to become a strong representative of faith, country and humanity.

Last term, Year 6 had the opportunity to visit Plump-ton Park which is located opposite to the school. This unique park is home to a critically endangered ecological community - The Cumberland Plains Woodland. Only 2-5% of the original woodland remains across Sydney. Our Year 6 students had the privilege of conducting a structured survey of the fauna and flora. Excursions such as these help inspire our students to become responsible and caring citizens who can make informed decisions and choices for their own futures and the future of Australia and its inhabitants.

-MR KHAN

YEAR 6

Community & Culture

THE STUDENTS OF WGS
HAD AN AMAZING HAJJ
EXPERIENCE THIS TERM,
WITHOUT EVEN LEAVING
THE SCHOOL!



STUDENTS DRESSED IN THEIR CULTURAL
CLOTHES FOR EID AND BROUGHT IN A GOLD
DONATION FOR CHARITY!

ISSA

"The Islamic Schools Association of Australia (ISAA) is the peak body representing Islamic schools in Australia and Alhamdulillah a growing number of schools across Australia is on board.

ISAA seeks to lobby and represent Islamic schools in particular and the Independent schools sector in general." The Islamic Schools charter is based on the Holy Quran and the teachings of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

ISAA had their Annual General Meeting on the 20th October, 2018 at the Minaret College in Springvale Melbourne. ISAA journey was shared by Mr Salah Salman and Principals' of Islamic schools across Australia represented their schools and shared their latest school news.

The mission and vision of the ISAA was also on the agenda and appreciated by all present.



ISLAMIC STUDIES

THE PROPHET MUHAMMAD ﷺ SAID:
““SAVE YOURSELF FROM HELL-FIRE EVEN BY GIVING HALF A DATE-FRUIT IN CHARITY.”

Assalamu Alaikum Wa Rahmatullahi Wa Barakatuhu

Once again, our students had an excellent opportunity to witness and re-enact the full procedure of Hajj. In the build-up to this great Hajj experience, students of all grades were exposed to the theoretical practices surrounding the pilgrimage as well as the spiritual and practical aspects of Hajj.

The day began very early for the Hajj organisers and volunteers as they rushed around to prepare the Hajj venue and set up the various props, signs and written instructions. Once all preparations were completed, the gates were opened!

The first class to arrive at the “Hajj terminal” were our very cheerful and excited kindergarten students. They lined up eagerly in front of our improvised immigration desk and waited patiently to receive their passports and further instructions from our immigration officials and the official Hajj guide. Our young pilgrims were then escorted to the tent city of Mina where they recited the “Talbiyah” and got ready for the journey to the plains of Arafat. At Arafat our pilgrims raised up their hands to their Lord and prayed for forgiveness for themselves and for the nation of Islam.

At the next stop, Muzdalifah, our pilgrims took rest for the night and collected pebbles to be thrown at the Jamarat the next day. Next our pilgrims went on to pelt the Jamarat at Mina and then proceeded to slaughter an animal and cut their hair at Makkah. Our young pilgrims were then taken to Makkah where they made the Tawaf around the Ka'bah and walked between the Safa and Marwah. The Hajj experience came to an end when the students had their passports stamped and were given a refreshing date and a small cup of the blessed Zamzam water.

The same experience was shared by all the primary students as well as students from Years 7 and 8. Our Hajj experience was further enhanced with the return of our Shaykh, Mr. Hakeem from his own Hajj trip. Mr. Hakeem shared with us his invaluable insights and experiences from his Hajj trip which made us all feel a yearning to one day, God willing, undertake the journey to the holy lands.

-MR KHAN



SHAKIRS SHELF

For this newsletter, I thought I'd include advice on how parents can help their teenage children do better at school by including them in everyday tasks. I have listed some ideas below for your consideration.

Ask Your Teen's Opinion- Encourage discussion as much as possible in your house. Ask your child for their opinion about political and social issues, or about books, movies, and TV shows. Listen carefully and prompt them to express their ideas thoughtfully, backing up their claims with evidence. This will help tremendously with exposition writing.

Encourage Reading Aloud - Encourage your adolescent to read aloud, and tell stories to, younger siblings. Reading remains a large issue for most, if not all, students at our school, so any reading at all will help.

Help Develop a Homework Routine - Help your child develop a consistent homework routine. Make sure that they not only review what was covered in school that day, but also help them learn how to keep track of long-term assignments as well as revise previous topics weekly. You can help them be consistent with this routine by asking what they're working on, how they're progressing with long-term assignments, and whether they need any help. Revising previous content is of utmost importance too, as we don't want children to forget concepts and skills which they spent many hours learning! This is especially important for maths.

Highlight Math in Sports - For boys and girls, sports provide an engaging way of exploring a host of mathematical concepts. For example, any cricket fan knows that the game can't truly be appreciated without an understanding of some essential statistics, like a player's batting average. Soccer is also full of statistics, such as the percentage of passes a team completes, or the possession of the ball. If your child is passionate about a sport, encourage them to explore it through math.

Use Shopping to Practice Math - Make a habit of asking your child to help out with the shopping by calculating which items are better buys. For example, is it better to purchase 2 six-packs of 250 mL cans, or two 2-liter bottles that cost the same price? How much do you save per item when something is priced as "buy two get one free"? This will drive home the importance and relevance of these skills, so they're more likely to pay attention to and retain these concepts when learnt at school.

-MR SHAKIR

ENGLISH ANGLE

Subhan'Allah, Term 3 is already over! This term was filled with enjoyable moments in and out of the classroom.

The anticipation was finally over when the Year 7 and 9 students received their long awaited NAPLAN results. As a Year 7 English teacher, I was highly impressed by the remarkable bands students had achieved in areas of reading, spelling and writing conventions. While it is inevitable that some grades could have been improved, I am sure this will be a motivating factor for the Year 7 students to work harder and achieve higher bands in 2020, in which they will complete the final Year 9 NAPLAN test. For now, I strongly believe every student should be commended for their studying efforts and be encouraged to continue striving for success, In Shaa Allah. Well done Year 7 and Year 9!

Another exciting event occurred earlier this week where the Year 10 students organised and ran small businesses in the school. Students effectively collaborated in their small groups to brainstorm, organise and execute a small business that satisfied the needs of their target market. After counting the total amount made, students jumped up and down in excitement as they found they made a great profit, Alhamdulillah! Their dedication, time and effort definitely paid off! The level of teamwork and effort in running their business was impressive and every student should be commended for the success of their business.

Congratulations to every student of WGS for the continuous effort they have put into their assessments. I look forward to seeing you all next term for a fun-packed and educational term.

-MS AZIZ

FIRST AID

-MR QURESHI

As part of the preliminary HSC PDHPE course, Year 11 and 12 students undertook a first aid course facilitated by a professional with many years of first aid training. The course proved to be a very beneficial experience overall and both Year 11 and 12 students thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

The course was run for a full school day and it began with students having to fill out some details and paperwork. Soon after though, students initiated the first aid course.

The instructor was a very friendly and a humorous gentleman who made everybody feel very comfortable. Students were eager to contribute and they had multiple opportunities to practically demonstrate their first aid learnings. A number of mannequins were also made available in order to practice first aid procedures. Whilst we may have unfortunately failed to resuscitate all of them, most of them came out of the experience unscathed!

Students also learned what to do in cases of emergency and how to deal with various injuries and medical conditions. They were able to bandage each other up in order to simulate what may be required of them in possible real life situations.

One particular student, for some strange reason, appeared to have an obsession with treating a snake bite by sucking out the venom. The instructor quickly explained that such a technique only works in Hollywood and that a snake bite should absolutely not be treated that way!

Afterwards, students were given certificates and cards showing that they are now qualified to deliver first aid. We are all very proud of our students who completed the course and are glad that – if the need arises – they will be able to deliver potentially lifesaving first aid.

10 TIPS STUDIES OF RELIGION HSC

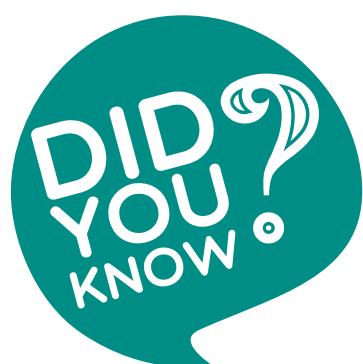
The HSC Studies of Religion exam requires students to bring in plenty of content knowledge and recall concise and specific information. This sea of information needs to be readily applied to a wide range of examinable extended response questions, ten in total to be precise, which can seem intimidating if the correct approach is not taken. Therefore success in Studies of Religion is not only determined by content knowledge and application, but also how well you can strategically plan. The exam format that is provided by NESA provides very clear and concise guidelines and parameters which in turn should heavily influence your overall study plan and exam approach. For example, Religion and Belief Systems in Australia post-1945 and Religion and Non-Religion will only be tested in objective response and short answer format and therefore no essay practice is required for these topics.

How to maximise marks in section two of Studies of Religion HSC Exam (15 marks)

General Advice

- The short answer section is looking for students to be very precise and to the point.
- Be sure to be meticulous in addressing the action verb provided in the question
- Section 2 questions range from 2 to 8 marks. Use this as a general guide for the amount of separate points of information you should include.
- Make sure you clearly differentiate between the contribution and impact for Significant person.
- Ensure you can concisely match each contribution with its related impact.
- Ensure you can differentiate between the contribution to the development and expression of the religious tradition.
- Do not simply describe chosen significant person from a historical perspective.
- Make sure you clearly know the difference between ethical teachings and issues.
- Ensure you can map these ethical teachings back to the central paradigm of the chosen religion.
- During exam revision practise plenty of questions with stimulus quotes to ensure you can apply your information with confidence.

-MR MALIK





-MR AHMED

ATHLETICS CARNIVAL...

Monday, the 3rd of September was a cold and dark day with rain forecasted for the majority of the day. But Alhamdulillah, despite a minor drizzle which sprinkled early in the morning, we were still able to commence our annual sports carnival for 2018 as planned. The WGS students were full of enthusiasm for yet another thrilling sports carnival. Once again, it was the Blacktown International Sports park that the WGS 2018 Sports Carnival took place at.

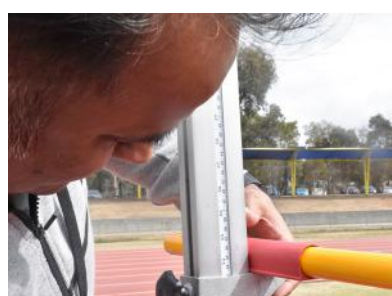
A sea of color was surely visible from all parts of the park and tremendous house spirit was clear amongst all those who attended. There was a di-

verse range of sporting events and competitions held which only added more value to the beauty of the day. Not only was this level of student event participation very satisfying to see, but also a compelling view due to the high standard of competition particularly amongst our senior students. There is no doubt that this competition sparked new sporting talents of our WGS students.

The carnival kick-started with the 50-meter sprint from our lovely K-2 students on the main tracks, followed by the 100-meter sprint and long jump by middle school students. Various novelty activities were held including

the egg-and-spoon race, bean-bag race and sack race by K-2 students. The 400-meter sprint and high-jump events were then held. The day was credited with a rewarding break for lunch time and prayer. The day resumed with K-2 students competing in the track-and-field long-jump race, and middle year and senior students competing in relays and shot puts.

Indeed, the day was full of fun, color, games, tremendous competition and house spirit. It was a lovely day to conduct the carnival and all those who contributed to the day went home full of achievement and more enthusiasm for the next 2019 sports carnival.



GRADUATION DAY



Assalamu Alaikum,

The 25th of September 2018, Western Grammar School celebrated the achievements of, and said our good-byes to the following students:

Hussein Moheich, Jawad Shinwari, Monim Rana, Ayisha Chamma, Bushra Najam, Aiesha Faytrouni, Amirah Zraika, Isra Zaman and Shayma Al Khafaji.

As young adults now, they will be moving into the real world, making decisions and finding their own way through their lives. This is a time of great decisions, where forks in the road will be



consistent and the trials of life will become their own. This is their time to shine, and utilise the great teachings from the Quran and our Beloved Messenger (saw). The parents of these Year 12 students have spent their lives guiding them and preparing them for these future moments. This is where we will see the fruits of their hard work and sleepless nights. We thank the parents of these students for supporting their children throughout their lives, and we ask Allah (swt) to grant them great rewards for their sacrifices and efforts in this loving task.



These students have worked hard for these moments. The past year has been tough on them, stressful to the point of tears, and now it is almost over. The HSC has now begun. The end of this step in their lives is almost over and the next step is just moments away.

We offer our continued support to these wonderful students, and know that they will be working extra hard in the coming exams and losing sleep through their studies. May Allah grant each of them patience and endurance in the next couple of weeks and guide them to the best of success, not just now, but throughout their future lives.

-MR NADEEM



MESSAGE

**HSC EXAMS
END**

AFTER WEEKS OF INTENSIVE EXAMS, YEAR 12 STUDENTS WILL FINALLY BREATHE A SIGH OF RELIEF!

9

NOV

PUPIL FREE DAY

TEACHERS PD - STUDENTS ARE TO REMAIN AT HOME

26

NOV

**KINDERGARTEN
GRADUATION**

THE KINDERGARTEN CLASS OF 2018 GRADUATE! BEST OF LUCK!

11

DEC

**YEAR 6
GRADUATION**

THE YEAR 6 CLASS OF 2018 GRADUATE! BEST OF LUCK!

11

DEC

END OF TERM

TERM 4 ENDS, LOOK FORWARD TO A WELL-EARNED BREAK

13

DEC

**ANNUAL
FUNCTION**

PARENTS ARE INVITED TO COME AND WITNESS EXCITING PERFORMANCES AND THEIR CHILDRENS ACHIEVEMENTS

13

DEC

**AUSTRALIA
DAY**

MONDAY 28TH JANUARY 2019 - PUBLIC HOLIDAY

26

JAN

2019 - TERM 1

STUDENTS COME BACK TO A FRESH NEW START 2019 BEGINS!

29

JAN



Assalamu Alaikum

Alhamdulillah, another year of achievements is being concluded and the past 3 terms have been largely successful. With some hurdles towards the rapidly embracing success. 2018 has been a busy year where most of our efforts were dedicated towards building further infrastructure and forming teams.

Our first batch of HSC students was one of the major tasks and together with the school team we have worked very hard to boost up the academic level of our students. Our teaching

staff prepared abundant resources for HSC students and senior staff helped through preparing timelines and study planners for each student in order to keep their attention and focus principally upon their subjects. Alhamdulillah, our students have responded positively to the great efforts of the WGS team and they showed significant progress towards the end of their course. Their exams are currently in progress and we are expecting a reasonably good outcome of students and WGS teams' efforts.

For the HSC cohort of 2019 we have more time to utilise our dedicated team, we believe that with their coordinated efforts we will further produce better results as a new school. Part of our 2020 vision is to focus upon the performance of HSC and our expectation is that our school will achieve a high rank in the state. The addition of Mr. Zulqarnan Malik as Assistant Principal and some more senior staff expected to join WGS in 2019 will definitely enhance the confidence level of the school board and management.

The progress of WGS is evidence that we are marching in the right direction. It is also part of the school vision that without the proper welfare of the students it is almost impossible to expect high academic achievements. Peace of mind and the wellbeing of students is essential and to develop their attitude for the best outcome of their career as a successful and educated generation, and one with much to offer.

For all the afore mentioned and more we are in progress to improve our welfare system. We also look forward to preparing documents and resources to guide and help our students for their proper career planning, future academic and other achievements. Future development of the infrastructure and purpose-built educational facilities are part of forthcoming major achievements. We hope that we will continue our journey confidently and your support is imperative for the success of WGS and its' future endeavors.

I would like to extend my warm thanks to the teachers and staff who have worked with us and helped in creating a positive and pleasant working and educational environment within our school. I would also like to show my appreciation for the parents and members of the wider community who have supported us throughout our journey for past six and a half years.

Warm Regards

IRFAN AFZAL
PRINCIPAL