

NEWSLETTER



WESTERN GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Issue 66 | Term 2 | Friday 25th June 2021

VISION

Our vision is to be an exceptional Australian educational institute based on Islamic teachings.

Our mission is to provide quality education in a caring environment producing ethical, resilient, life-long learners.

Our motto is *"Excellence through Learning"*

Our core values are:

- Work hard and smart
- Grow purposefully and holistically
- Succeed academically and ethically



Deputy Principal's Message

By Dr Zachariah Matthews

Sadly, today is my last day at WGS. I would like to convey my deepest thanks and appreciation to the School Board and the Principal for granting me the opportunity to work at WGS. It has been an invaluable and rewarding experience filled with professional learning and growth.

The fact that WGS has graduated three separate cohorts of HSC students since its inception is outstanding and a testament to the vision, dedication and hard work of its principal and his devoted team.

The most satisfying achievements include: supporting the Islamic ethos of the school; improving student wellbeing and mental health; enhancing the staff performance appraisal process; streamlining the operational management; and engaging staff in the process of formulating a revised vision and mission—publicised for the first time above.

I am leaving for a position at another school to help with a renewed focus on its Islamic ethos. I will be forever grateful to Mr Irfan Afzal and the WGS family. I wish the school, its students, staff and community well and pray that Allah grants WGS the success it deserves. I will miss you all.

My final reminder—quality faith, discipline and sleep!

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Notices

School Fees

Fees paid by parents play a major role in enabling WGS to meet its operating costs. Therefore, prompt payment of fees is highly appreciated.

Uniform Shop Timings

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the Uniform Shop will only be open on Mondays and Thursdays from 8:30am-10:30am. Parents should contact the school office for assistance.

National Sorry Day

On Wednesday 29 May WGS took part in National Sorry Day activities at school. National Sorry Day is a day to acknowledge the strength of Stolen Generations Survivors and reflect on how we can all play a part in the healing process for our people and nation. While this date carries great significance for the Stolen Generations and other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, it is also commemorated by Australians around the country.

Year 3-6 students wrote apology letters which will be mailed out to the National Sorry Day committee and be sent out to Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islander people to read. All primary students completed the National Sorry Day hand activity which was displayed on the bulletin board. Secondary students learnt about it and wrote reflections in class.



"Education is simply the soul of a society as it passes from one generation to another" – G.K. Chesterton



Nan Tien

On the 27th of May, the Year 11 and 12 students visited the Nan Tien Buddhist Temple for their Studies of Religion excursion. The students had a guided tour of the complex followed by a practical lesson of Chinese calligraphy and origami. Students then enjoyed lunch and prayer at the beach before returning to school.



Harmony Cup

On Monday the 24th of May, a team of Year 5 and 6 students represented WGS at the Harmony Cup Inter-School Basketball Competition. The students played short 10-minute games against various Islamic schools in the Western Sydney region.

These events allow Muslim students to interact with others from our local community in an environment that promotes shared Islamic values.

Both boys and girls teams played very well, showing remarkable courage, team spirit and sportsmanship.

The students had a great day filled with laughs and excitement and look forward to joining in for the next round of competition, Insha'Allah.



Important Dates

Friday 25 June: Last Day of Term 2 (early finish at 2:30pm)

Monday 28 June to Friday 9 July: School Holidays

Office Hours School Holidays: 9am to 2pm (office closed Friday 2 and Monday 5 July)

Monday 12 July: First Day of Term 3

Monday 12 to Friday 16 July: Qurban Fundraiser

Monday 19 July: Hajj Prac and Abaya Day

Tuesday 20 to Wednesday 21 July: School Closed for Eid TBC

**may be subject to change*

Australia's Biggest Morning Tea

On Friday the 21st of May, Western Grammar School participated in Australia's Biggest Morning Tea, a community event in which money is raised to assist those affected by cancer. Leading up to the day students engaged in class competitions to see which class could raise the most money.

On the day of the morning tea, there was an abundance of support with staff bringing a variety of different food to sell. Students also showed initiative through their active role in preparing, selling and purchasing the goods. The food sold included mini pizzas, croissants, fruit cups, chocolate cake, salad wraps, burger sliders, jelly cups and more. Almost \$3000 was raised for the cause. A big thank you to everyone involved!



Hadith of the Week



Palestine Charity Drive

Alhamdulillah students and staff of WGS raised \$10,200 for the Palestine Appeal organised by a group of Year 12 students. These students were affected by the recent humanitarian crisis there and wanted to do something to help. They motivated students and staff to donate through a week-long fundraising campaign.

Significantly, two classes collected more than \$1,200 each—Kindy and Year 9. Well done to all students and their families who donated generously showing concern for those less fortunate.

The money collected was presented by WGS Principal Irfan Afzal to a representative of the charity, AusRelief, on Friday 4 June 2021. The charity will ensure that the money is used to provide much needed emergency health care and food assistance in Palestine.



Parenting Talk

On Saturday 19 June, WGS Principal Mr Irfan Afzal presented a talk on the challenges faced by Muslim youth to parents. He outlined some of the main challenges they face at this time and how parents can equip themselves. The main thrust of his talk was for parents to become more aware of the strategies needed to deal with these challenges and parent effectively.

Dr Zachariah Matthews, the deputy principal, spoke briefly to parents beforehand of student exams and how parents can help their children develop good routines and habits.

