

Western Grammar School Newsletter

Issue 53 Term 3 Friday, 5th July 2019

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HAJJ *at* Western Grammar



"Hajj. A journey that starts of by seeking for his forgiveness and culminates with giving out forgiveness to others"

- Umar Khaled

Assalamu Alaikum,

On Friday, the 9th of August 2019, Western Grammar students were able to experience the rituals of Hajj by participating in a practical demonstration at school.

All the important stations of Hajj were setup for students to be taken on a tour of the steps of Hajj. This included being in Ihram, heading to Arafat and Mina, performing Tawaf and Sa'ee and offering a sacrifice.

Students enjoyed drinking Zam Zam water as part of the experience. Despite the wind impacting the setup and size of the replica Kaaba, all students were very keen participants. Alhamdulillah!



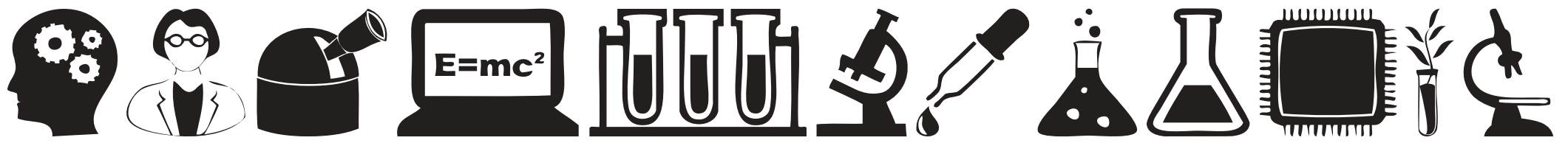
Islamic Studies

"{And (remember) when your Lord proclaimed, "if you are grateful, I will surely increase you (your blessings and favour). But if you deny, indeed, My punishment is severe."}
(Quran 14:7)

Assalamu Alaikum,

-Mr Abdullah Hakeem





National Science Week

Assalamu Alaikum,

Western Grammar School celebrated National Science Week from 12th - 16th August 2019. Students participated in competitions, attended science shows and even conducted PAL (peer assisted learning) sessions about the Moon.

The school science team aimed to encourage and inspire students to have a passionate and dedicated approach to science.

Alhamdulillah, it was a successful week with lots of smiles, laughter, amazement and joy! Thank you to all the teachers and student volunteers who made this week possible.



GIANTS WALK ABOUT



Primary

Assalamu Alaikum,

In Week 6, on the 26th of August 2019, students from Years 1 and 2 had the honour of meeting and interacting with members of the indigenous community.

Students were introduced to Aboriginal culture, painting and artefacts which enhanced their understanding of Australia's first people.

Students were thrilled by the animated dance performance at the conclusion of events as they were invited to imitate various Australian animals.

Thank you to the staff at Giants Walk About for organising and hosting this important educational event at their premises.



Kindergarten Drawings



CARE

R E S P I T E C E N T R E



W E L F A R E

Alhamdulillah!

On the 7th of August 2019 students from Year 11 and 12 visited the 'My Home Disability Services Centre' in Birrong. The visit was organised in conjunction with the charity 'Brothers In Need.'

Students hosted lunch for the centre and its clients as well as presented the centre with donations from the school, a hoist sling and swivel cushion.

They also ran a cupcake decorating activity with clients, who were excited and keen participants.

The centre caters for and provides critical services to adults with intellectual disabilities.



FIRST AID

Our Year 11 students completed a first aid course at school on the 26th of August 2019, as part of their PDHPE subject. First aid knowledge and skills are valued by individuals and communities.

Trained first aiders can provide safety and security in any situation and assist casualties until medical assistance arrives. Basic first aid knowledge can make a difference in life threatening situations

DEBATING TEAM

Selected students from Years 7-10, participated in the Islamic Schools Debating Competition. It was run in collaboration with the Masters Academy and other Muslim schools. The Competition consisted of a series of debates run across Terms 3 and 4, hosted by various Muslim Schools taking part in the competition.

Our students were warmly hosted by Irfan College in what turned out to be an exciting and insightful day for all.



Stage 4 students debated on the topic 'Selective schools should be banned' and argued some fair points, before Irfan College took the win. Stage 5 students debated on the topic 'Should students be taught another languages?' in what was an interesting and engaging discussion, with a victorious outcome for WGS. This experience provided students with the opportunity to demonstrate their language and speaking skills, in a supportive and competitive environment. Students enjoyed the day and eagerly look forward to participating in future debates in this competition.

Go Active



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On the 7th of August 2019, 7-12 girls were invited to participate in the GoActive Sports Tournament held at Merrylands Park. They participated along a number of other Muslim schools.

Students played competitive games of cricket, soccer and basketball and were exceptional in their display of sportsmanship, friendship and teamwork.

It was a great experience for the students who thoroughly enjoyed the day.

Bachar Houli AFL

On the 14th of August 2019, students from Year 9 and 10 boys participated for the first time in the annual Bachar Houli AFL Cup, alongside their peers from 11 other schools in what was a magnificent display of positive collaboration and camaraderie.

Students from a mix of private and public schools including MFIS, Unity Grammar, Granville Boys, Irfan College, AICS, Strathfield South, Belmore Boys and Punchbowl Boys competed with mutual respect, shaking hands at the whistle irrespective of the scoreline.

The boys enjoyed participating in a new sport and together enjoyed a traditional sausage sizzle to close the day's proceedings.

We look forward to being a part of this wonderful annual tradition in 2020 and beyond, Insha Allah!



WGS RITs FAITH SHIELD 2019

On Tuesday the 3rd of September, 15 of our year 7 and 8 students participated in the 2019 Faith Shield Football Competition, competing against Irfan College, Australian Islamic College of Sydney, Malek Fahd Islamic School and Unity Grammar.

It was an exciting day for our students who have some genuine football talent. Despite a rough start, our boys made it to the semi finals, which was a great achievement in itself.

Above all, despite the rivalry, the engagement was respectable, with students shaking hands at the end of every match, and the day was an enjoyable one.

Western Grammar would like to congratulate the winners AICS on a very well deserved title!

Football Competition

Western Grammar School hosted Irfan College high school boys in a sports day and football (soccer) competition on the 8th of August 2019. Alhamdulillah, the day was a resounding success with students and staff thoroughly enjoying themselves. A variety of sports were played, including Oztag, football (soccer) and cricket.

Following Dhuhur prayer and a delicious pizza lunch, the main event commenced - an All Stars match pitting the best players of WGS against the best players of Irfan College. As the day's showpiece, the match certainly didn't disappoint.

At the very last moment of the match, WGS star midfielder Adama Konateh managed to somehow twist and turn through Irfan College's defences, craft himself a shooting opportunity and let fly with a thunderous attempt - burying the ball into the back of the net only seconds before the final whistle was blown! At this, WGS staff and students broke out into rapturous celebrations and ran on to the field to congratulate the victors and likewise congratulate Irfan College All Stars on an astonishing match that held the best of its drama till the very end.

Both teams played incredibly well, with grit, determination, flair and technique all on display. Trophies were presented to the winning teams before the day wrapped up. Both teams left having shared the spoils and having experienced a great day of sport and brotherhood. Beyond the sports themselves, a highlight of the day was the wonderful sportsmanship on display from both schools. Both sets of students played hard but fair and with respect and dignity.

A special thanks to Irfan College PDHPE coordinator Mr. Said Kabalan for assisting in organising the day. We sincerely look forward to another meeting with Irfan College soon insha Allah!





BOOK Week

From the 19th to the 23rd of August, Primary school students came dressed in their favourite book characters for Book Week's parade this morning. Many parents came and attended the event.

Book Week aims to motivate students to read and develop a love for reading. The first Quranic word revealed was "iqra" (read).

Judges looked for the most creative homemade costume of a book character. The winners were certainly well deserved given the effort they put into their costumes.

The winners of the Book Week colouring, wordless comic and short story competitions were awarded their certificates in the primary school assembly.

Congratulations to all students who participated.



WEEK

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SKOOL LOOP



Dear Parents, Caregivers, Families, Staff and Friends of Western Grammar School, Western Grammar School will be using the Skool Loop app for. This is available to the whole school community to download for free to their smart phones and devices. The school app will allow for instant viewing of school events, receiving of notifications, easy advice of absences, access to school contact details and instant accessing of information about the preschool via a parents smartphone or tablet.

Principal's message

Timeline:

Debating Excursion	10 Sep
Athletics Carnival	11 Sep
Year 7 Vaccination	7 sep
Eye examination	16-20 Sep
Parent Info Session	18 Sep
Blue Mountain excursion Years 3&4	19 Sep
princess Ball	20 Sep
Blue Mountains excursion Year 5&6	
Reptile Incursion	
Last day of term 3	



Assalaamu-alaykum warahmatullaahi wabarakaatuh

Term 3 has yet again been busy in terms of student welfare and wellbeing.

An information session was held in week two for parents of year 12 students. The session focussed on several items including year 12 exam stress and how parents can assist, study guidelines and how to approach the final exams. Year 12 stress is real, and students are encouraged to follow simple strategies to help them cope; such as getting good quality sleep, eating healthy, exercising regularly, avoiding distractions, etc. May Allah (swt) guide and bless all our students to do well in their exams.

In week three our year 11 and 12 girls visited a disability services centre in Birrong. The entire school participated in a charity drive beforehand to buy equipment for the centre. The purpose of the visit was to hand over the gift, a hoist sling, share lunch with the visitors and engage them in a cupcake decoration activity. Students gained valuable insights into the challenges faced by people with disabilities and were reminded to be ever thankful for the blessings they themselves enjoy.

This term also saw the Eidul-Adha celebrations with a mock hajj activity at school arranged the Friday before. Despite the wind hampering the setup of the stations on the day, students still got to experience the rituals of the pilgrimage excitedly chanting the talbiyah (pilgrimage invocation) and circumambulating the Kaba.

We take this opportunity to remind parents to install the free Skool Loop app on to your phones if you have not already done so. This app allows the school to easily send messages and letters to parents. Please remember to join the relevant year groups with the passwords provided to your child and to turn on notifications.

Zachariah Mathews- Deputy principal