

# Western Grammar School

KNOWLEDGE IS THE ULTIMATE SOLUTION

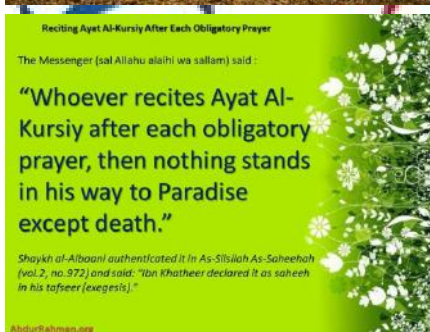
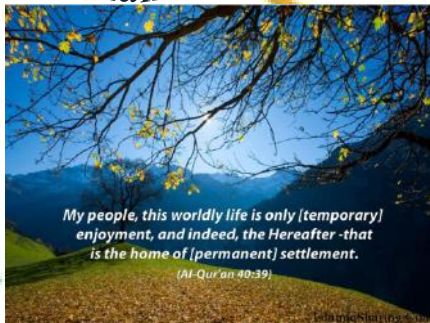
# 2014

Read with the name of your Lord

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Dear Parents, Staff & students

Assalamu Alaikum wa Rahmatallah wa Barakatu

What a busy and fruitful wind-up to 2013. Following our 2013 annual assembly and graduation in December 2013, we saddled up for the 2014 challenges. I, along with Dr Zafrullah, brother Sari Awwad and Irfan attended staff Professional Development session on Friday 13 December 2013.

In this workshop we work shopped a gambit of what we agreed upon and we have indeed moved to an action plan for 2014. Dr Zafrullah talked and inspired the staff with his experiences and brother Sari regarding teachers as role models.

I would like to welcome you again to the WGS. We now have 125 students complementing the start of 2014. Alhamdulillah, WGS staff members are ready to welcome you and your children. They are all recharged after a good break to tackle the demands on them Insha'Allah. They are dedicated to providing a unique, individualized, accelerated educational program that is shaped by Islamic values integrated with the state curriculum, preparing students for higher learning, leadership, service and community building. WGS is a fully-accredited school. Students are equipped for tomorrow's challenges through an enriched, integrated curriculum that fosters their development and empowerment to be productive Muslim Australian citizens.

Our students at WGS are engaged in reading, writing, discussing and hands-on quality teaching, utilising critical thinking skills through advanced technology to enhance their learning, equipping them for 21st century challenges Insha'Allah.

Alhamdulillah, with your support, WGS is progressing and growing year after year. Your support is empowering us to develop and improve educational programs and all other school aspects for our beloved children. Finally, on behalf of the Western Grammar School board, I wish to welcome the new staff, students and parents. Insha'Allah we look forward to a prosperous 2014, and we will continue to work for the benefit of the community for the sake of Allah.

May Allah SWT bless those who are devoting their sincere efforts to help our students to be successful leaders and make WG the best school in the community Insha'Allah.

Fi'aman'Allah

Educationally;

**Subhan Ali JP**

**B.Arch, RAIA, GradDipBS, GradCertFM, CFM**

**Board Chairperson**



Dear Parents, Guardians and staff of Western Grammar School,

Assalam O Alaikum

Words are inadequate for thanking Almighty Allah (SWT) for providing us with the ability to work for this noble mission of establishing an educational institution with the purpose of playing a role in forming the character of our next generation. After that, I must express my gratitude to the parents, community, teachers, staff and the school board for their valuable contributions. Similarly, I must also thank the exceptionally helpful, kind and professional staff of the Board of Studies, Association of Independent Schools, IOT and other authorities. On the basis of our previous performance and the extremely positive feedback from the community and

parents, I strongly believe that 2014 will be an extra-ordinary year of growth for Western Grammar School. 2014 will prove to be a big milestone in the long journey ahead. The exceptional advantage we have this year is a young, energetic and dedicated team at Western Grammar School. I hope students and parents will continue to enjoy the learning and schooling of Western Grammar in 2014 and beyond. As usual, I conclude my message with the request for members of the Western Grammar family to continue their affiliation with Western Grammar School.

With Kind Regards

**Irfan Afzal**

Assalamu Alaikum,

I would like to extend a warm welcome to all parents, staff and the wider community. I feel proud to have been part of Western Grammar's milestones and achievements of 2013, and feel privileged to continue to be part of this journey in 2014. I will be working under an additional capacity this year as Academic Coordinator. This provides me with many opportunities to assist with Western Grammar's core key performance indicators, such as delivering quality teaching and learning within the classroom; instilling a behaviour management philosophy driven by intrinsic motivation, self-esteem and God consciousness; and bridging the gap between our school and the wider community. It is a pleasure to take all of these challenges on-board while acknowledging that I will be supported by a teaching team that is full of dedication, enthusiasm and talent.

It is also a pleasure for me to be involved with our new high school students. I will be teaching English, Math and PDHPE. These Students have started 2014 with a concentrated focus on numeracy and literacy where prior learning outcomes are being revisited and strengthened. This will provide the students with the cognitive thinking skills necessary to maximise their future learning opportunities, as numeracy and literacy form the foundation of all Key Learning Areas in stage 4. Furthermore this will allow students in year 7 to prepare for their upcoming NAPLAN examinations in early term 2.

Moving forward, the success of your child is heavily dependent on the co-operative effort of teacher and parents. For this reason, I urge all parents to take an active interest in their child's schooling. Please keep up to date with the progress of your child's homework, assessments tasks, social interactions with peers and any other concerns which your child may have. Spending even 10 minutes a day having a friendly discussion with your child in relation to his or her schooling will have a significant impact on their confidence and anxieties, and will also broaden communication channels with their teachers. This will also allow your child to maximise opportunities for learning and future success.

Lastly, I want to especially welcome two groups of students. Firstly our new Kindergarten students. It is always very special to see these boys and girls beginning their formal education journey. Western Grammar feels extremely privileged to initiate this very special journey for them. Secondly, our inaugural high school students who are the leaders of Western Grammar today, and the leaders of our communities in the long term, Insha-Allah.

Regards, *Mr Malik*

### STAFF DINNER & FAREWELL TO MS QADAN

WGS staff is our family, and it is really hard to see when somebody leaves from this family for good. Ms Qadan-our academic coordinator, Ms Zaarour and Ms Eman left the school due to their family commitments. These remarkable teachers were given a farewell, and a great staff family dinner was arranged in a restaurant to acknowledge and strengthen this family relationship by providing them an opportunity to sit together and socialise in an informal gathering.





## JOURNEY TOWARDS HIGH SCHOOL

It is our pleasure to announce that the high school classes have started this year with the students of year 7 & 8. We are striving to provide as many facilities as possible to cater for the needs of our high school students. It is inevitable that we have to start year 9 in 2015. For that reason, WGS is aiming to have a new building with more facilities by the end of 2014. The efforts of the Western Grammar administration team and the school board are commendable for achieving all set goals in such a short period of time, and for their vision and skill in embracing this rapid growth. Admin



Proposed Extension in the school building – Artistic view



## End of Year Assembly 2013

Another challenging year has ended, leaving us with a lot of lessons and sweet memories. The end of year assembly on 12<sup>th</sup> of December 2013 marked the official end of a very busy year at Western Grammar School.

Everything was happening for the first time in WGS history, and everyone was aware of this fact at the back of their minds. This led to a conscious effort by students and staff alike to make this program a success.

Alhamdulillah, this inaugural program by the team of WGS was remarkable and was pulled off almost flawlessly. We must extend our heartiest gratitude to all of the community members, our friends and parents who offered their sincere support and services on the day.

Around three hundred guests attended the ceremony, and the program concluded with a nice dinner. We received a lot of positive feedback from our well-wishers, which shows the concern and interest of the community in the school affairs of Western Grammar. Thank you all once again. See you next year.

Admin





## Year 6 Graduation



The year 6 Graduation was a very special moment for our year 6 students. It allowed us to acknowledge their achievements and celebrate their success. Feelings of excitement, relief and accomplishment filled the hall, but these feelings have subsided and have now been replaced with feelings of curiosity, challenge and motivation, because they have initiated their secondary school journey.

In the years to come there will be hundreds or perhaps thousands of students that will graduate from Western Grammar, but the class of 2013 will always hold a special place, as they will be Western Grammar's first batch of graduates. Umar Asad, Rami Al Turk, Abdul Saboor Akram, Saalihah Khan, Zainab Khan, Nafeesah Mustafa and Mariam Drame will always be remembered as the pioneers and the first graduates of year 6, as well as the inaugural batch of High School students at Western Grammar.

While I cannot write about their individual brilliance here, I can say with complete truth that every one of these students excelled and were special in their own way, and made me very proud as their teacher.

Mr Malik





# Inside the classrooms

## KINDERGARTEN

Kindergarten of 2014 has had a fantastic start in the new school year. The children have been settling in well into their class and have begun engaging with their newfound learning environment. Students have gradually eased into their daily routine which consists of morning dua'as, learning the date and weather of the day and also their prayers. We have been conducting daily news sessions where students build confidence in public speaking whilst sharing their news and experiences with the rest of the class. We have now started to develop number sense in students, and have been doing a lot of activities around this area of study. Every week students are excited to learn the letter (alphabet) of the week and are engaged in the many activities that we do around that specific letter. Our students have been put into reading groups and guided reading sessions. We aim for students to develop a sense of love towards reading and learning how to read during these sessions. For HSIE, we are currently studying the unit 'School Days', where students are learning about their rights and responsibilities at school, making friends and learning about school safety in the playground. In Science we are having a fantastic time continuing with the topic of weather and seasons, learning about the seasons and creating inspired artworks and paintings related to the topic.



Learning to read during guided reading session



Engaged in their class work



Fantastic artwork painting of the summer season

Students have now been learning about farm animals and their shelters in English and we are looking forward to exploring life on the farm and various animals that live on the farm. I am looking forward to a successful term Insh'Allah, where I can help students to learn, grow and build their self-esteem in a developing Islamic environment. It gives me great pleasure in seeing the leaps and bounds the students are making each and every day. *Mrs Dean*



Children learning to pray and make dua.



## YEAR 1

Assalamu Alaikum,

Year 1 have settled back into school and are looking forward to an exciting and positive year ahead, with many interesting and rewarding activities planned. The students have settled into their class routines and are enjoying the challenges of Year 1. This term, we will be exploring the need for shelter in HSIE and the different shelters that are available to us. In Science, we will be looking at living and non-living things. This unit will be completed with an excursion to the farm to allow students to explore different living and non-living things. For PDHPE, Year 1 students are looking at personal health choices and sun safety. For CAPA, students will be constructing their own shelters and creating non-living things. In English, Year 1 students will be exploring 'Explanations' and 'Descriptions'. Students will continue to receive a weekly list of new words to learn and revise. In Maths, we will focus on one topic area each week; these will include different topics from the numerous mathematical strands as per the syllabus. Please ensure students complete their homework each and every week to allow students to excel to the best of their abilities.

Ms Pinar



## ISLAMIC STUDIES & ARABIC

In the name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful

Read with the name of your Lord who created (everything), (1) He created man from a clot of blood. (2) Read, and your Lord is the most gracious, (3) Who imparted knowledge by means of the pen. (4) He taught man what he did not know. (5) (Surah Al-Alaq)

Assalaam Alaikum Students and Parents,

Alhamdulillah, by the grace of Allah (swt), Islam/Quran/Arabic studies have started this year with great interest from the students. New textbooks have been issued and parents are advised to help their child in any difficulty they may have in their work at home.

We are very fortunate to have a school that caters for our religious duties, therefore I advise the parents to be mindful that WGS is strict when it comes to Islamic rules and beliefs. Parents are advised to help their child understand the Islamic religion, and to help implement it in their lives for the success of this life and the hereafter. The first step towards imparting Islamic teachings to our children is to gain Islamic knowledge ourselves, and thereafter become Muslim role models for them as well as our society.

Students at WGS will be studying various topics in Islamic studies throughout this term, including; 'Aqeedah, all about Allah, Our Prophet Muhammad, Quran, Hadiith, and the stories of Prophets. Almost all grades have similar topics to study in this term, but to varying depths, depending on their year. The higher levels have more in-depth, advanced studies.

In Quranic studies, students are memorising and understanding different surahs (chapters) of the Quran depending on their year. Kindergarten students have commenced with short surahs such as Surah Al-Faatihah, An-Naas, Al-Falaq, Al-Ikhlās, and Al-Masad. Year 1 is memorising Surah Al-Adiyat and Al-Zalzalah and Year 2 Surah Al-Infitar and Al-Mutaffifin. Year 3 to 8 students are memorising Al-Mursalat and some have started on Al-Insaan, as almost all of them stand upon a similar academic level.

As for Arabic studies this term, students are focusing more on reading and writing the Arabic language. Kindergarten and Year 1 students will focus more on basic Arabic while higher grades will study at a more advanced level.

Ms Davids and I are very delighted to be teaching these subjects to the students at WGS and, with the help of the parents, we will impart a good quality Islamic education which will benefit our students in this life and in the hereafter, Insha' Allah.

Wa Jazzakumullaahu Khair. Mr Hakeem



## YEAR 2

Assalamu-alaikum Parents and Caregivers. This newsletter has once again provided us with the opportunity to inform you about what we are covering this term. For English we are implementing the new Australian curriculum. We have already discussed narratives and information reports and will further discuss recounts as the students' progress. In Science, the topic is 'What's that Sound?', where the students are learning about different types of sounds, how they are made, how they are detected and so forth. Some students have made excellent musical instruments which should be commended. In HSIE, we are studying 'Past and Present Family Life' where we will see the similarities and differences between families in the past and the present. In Mathematics, we have covered whole numbers, addition and subtraction and are now on patterns and algebra. In PDH we are looking at 'Special me Special you', where we are looking at internal and external body parts. We will be going on an excursion to Physics Education to enhance the students understanding of the human body. Finally, in CAPA, the topic is 'Fish and Sea Creatures' where the students get to draw and paint the sea and the creatures within and at the same time develop their creative skills. May Allah (s.w.t) bless us all to be able to work together for the betterment of our future leaders and make us all successful. *Ms Shabnam*

## YEAR 3 & 4

Assalaamu Alaikum,

It is a pleasure to be part of the WGS family, Alhamdulillah. 2014 has commenced with a beautiful and enlightening stance both for my students of Year 3/4 as well as myself. Term 1 is particularly exciting due to its fresh and introductory nature as well as exhilarating topics for each Key Learning Area. I am sure my students are extremely energised for the new learning which awaits them this year.

Along with the usual Literacy and Numeracy KLAs, students have commenced the study of Science with an interesting unit: '*A Look Inside the Human Body*'. In this unit, students learn in detail about the human body as being one of the living things with the most excellent, sophisticated and amazing systems in nature, whom Allah SWT fashioned in due proportion. Students are also studying about '*Healthy and Unhealthy Foods*' for PDH with a great emphasis on Islamic jurisdiction about a healthy diet.

Moreover, for HSIE, students have been undertaking a cultural study on '*India*'. Many students have been able to relate to the course at large due to their very own backgrounds. Various topics such as Indian food, dress sense, customs, religions, beliefs and transport are being covered. Students have also gained a practical experience of Henna [*Mehndi*] on their hands to feel what it would be like to partake in an Indian festival. Alhamdulillah, students are enjoying a lot as they are exposed to a variety of teaching pedagogies in which practical activities are endorsed where appropriate.

For CAPA, students have commenced a study of '*Home Among the Gumtrees*' which intends to build public confidence of the students, while at the same time effectively meeting the academic strands of Visual Art, Drama, Dance and Music.

As we near the NAPLAN epoch once again, Year 3 students are revising intensely for NAPLAN and Insha-Allah auxiliary classes will be offered specifically for NAPLAN students in Term 1/2. During NAPLAN preparation sessions, consistent and in-depth one-on-one teaching pedagogies are being tailored to the needs of all Year 3 students to ensure that they try their level best to achieve the set outcomes for literacy and numeracy. Finally, I request the parents of all my Year 3 and 4 students to ensure that their child maintains an effective reading routine at home, as reading is the key to central success for literacy. I wish all the students the very best of luck for their NAPLAN. May Allah SWT increase the strength and will of all students to learn effectively and achieve the very best level of their full potential. Wassalam, *Ms Sadiyah*

## YEAR 5 & 6

Alhamdulillah, with the pleasure and grace of Allah (SWT), Year 5/6 has gotten off to a great start. Whether it is Antarctica in HSIE, Relationships in PDH, or Exposition Writing in English, Year 5/6 consistently come up with work that surprises me. This is particularly true for Visual Arts, where we are learning about 3-D landscape drawings.





The other teachers in the staffroom will bear witness to my own burgeoning interest in the subject because of the talent in my class.

Perhaps the greatest challenge for me as a teacher, however, is overcoming any dislikes and negative attitudes towards the subject of Maths. This is especially true because of the great disparity of Maths knowledge in Year 5/6. Maths is a subject where each consecutive topic relies heavily on the foundations laid by the previous topics. As a result, students who fall into the trap of falling behind in maths risk facing incomprehension and difficulty with future topics, which only puts the student even further behind.



As we are starting with the basics of Maths, it is crucial that students keep up at this point of the year. Therefore, I think it is appropriate at this stage to strongly suggest to parents to take out time from their undoubtedly busy schedules, and establish a homework routine for the children. **It is vital that all homework is completed.** Homework is a pillar of modern education, and parents helping their children with homework will undoubtedly notice a marked improvement in results for all subjects. Further, there is no greater way to teach our children the importance of schooling than to take an active role in their education.

In any case, I thank Allah for the favours he has shown us, and I make dua that the rest of the term flies by productively and with as much joy as these first few weeks. Ameen. *Mr. Shakir*



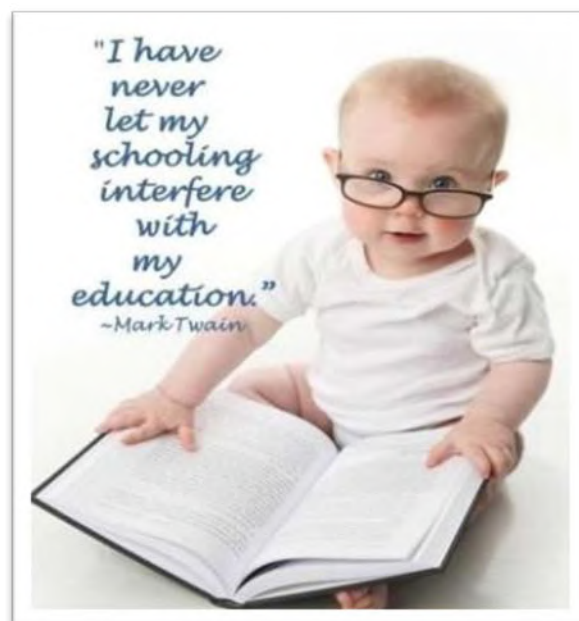
## YEAR 7 & 8

The students in Year 7 and 8 have made a good start to the year. In my class they have been studying History, Design and Technology and Science. In History we have been studying ancient history and investigating how historians and archaeologists investigate the past. We have studied things such as radio carbon dating and we have studied Otzi the iceman who was a 5300 year old man buried in the Alps in Italy. Students found it very interesting to learn about him especially when you consider he had shoes made out of grass, a copper axe as well as other Stone Age artefacts with him. In Science, we have been learning about the different fields of science such as astronomy, biology and physics among others and we have

learned about the laboratory, solids, liquids and gases as well as other areas of science.

In Design and Technology, students will soon start their major design project. This term students will learn how to design a website and then they will create their own websites. The students have been very excited about this and are really looking forward to it.

It has been a good start to the year and a few other students have joined the class as time has gone on. The students are a cheerful and bright group who is keen to learn and have a good attitude towards their studies. Later on in the term, we will go on an excursion to the Maquarie University Museum which is a Museum where the students can actually touch some of the artefacts and this is something the students have been really looking forward to. It looks like we will have a good term ahead, Insha'Allah. *Mr Ponton*





# SPORTS CORNER



Alhamdulillah, WGS is becoming an educational home to more and more students as time goes by.

Due to the growth of students this year, students from Years 3-8 are taken to a local field nearby the school accompanied and supervised by 7 teachers.

Boys and girls play sports in separate areas. Boys are currently undertaking a tournament of Soccer. It is amazing to see the immense talent that some of our students hold. Every week, a 'Man of the Match' is selected and awarded.



On the other hand, girls from Years 3-8 take part in a plethora of different sporting activities. Most girls have different choices as to what they want to play. Therefore, an amalgamation of different sports is undertaken to meet their interests. Most popular sporting games played thus far include Dodge ball, Soccer, Relays and Bull-rush.

Once again, we would like to emphasise to parents that WGS strictly enforces a 'No Hat No Play' policy. It is also recommended that your child wears sunscreen to school to ensure health and safety at all times.

Finally, we would like to express that our students are showing a great improvement in terms of their physical stamina. May Allah (SWT) increase the physical and intellectual stamina of all our students.

Chart Position

	Team	Points	Games	Wins	Losses
1	Asad FC	9	3	3	0
2	Oozma Kappa	7	3	2	1
3	Mighty Ducks	5	3	1	2
4	Plumpton United	3	3	0	3
Round III					
Plumpton United < Mighty Ducks				26/02/2014	
Asad FC > Oozma Kappa				26/02/2014	
Round II					
Mighty Ducks < Asad FC				19/02/2014	
Plumpton United < Oozma Kappa				19/02/2014	
Round I					
Asad FC > Plumpton United				12/02/2014	
Mighty Ducks < Oozma Kappa				12/02/2014	





### News from the Library

Alhamdulillah, students have enjoyed their time in the library this term. More books are now available for all Year levels and Insh'Allah additional books will be made accessible in Term 2.

Premier Reading Challenge notes will be handed out to all students in March. Parents please encourage and inspire your child/children to participate in this reading challenge. Reading is very beneficial for students as it assists them in grasping different concepts in English and increases their knowledge and imagination.

Book donations are very welcome as our library is still growing. *Hina Rafiq*

### Western Grammar Canteen

The WGS canteen believes in serving children freshly made food every day. Our food is completely free of artificial flavouring, artificial preservatives and artificial colouring. We use fresh fruits and vegetables, fresh meats and dairy products. All of our items are 100% Halal.

The quality of our canteen is highly divine in terms of service and food products. We sell scrumptious food at extremely affordable prices.

While the canteen is still undergoing further development, there is no doubt that the school community, teachers and students inclusive, are extremely proud and satisfied with the variety of fresh food items provided.

As we cultivate further, any changes to the menu will be notified at the earliest convenience.

*WGS Canteen Team*

### Admin Memo / Reminders

**Pick Up and Drop Off:** All parents please pick up & drop off your kids Only from Bottles Road. Parents & visitors can come from Cannery Road.

**School Uniform & Uniform Shop:** Our uniforms will be available from the end of March and we will inform parents with more details.

**Canteen:** Our canteen is now opening daily. Canteen time table and food list can be obtained from the office.

**No Photos of student:** We request all parents not to take photos of children without school permission during school hours even if it's your own child.

**No Classroom Visit:** Parents are requested to refrain from accessing the classrooms at any time without the prior arrangement & permission of the management.

**School Fees:** School fees for term 1 are now overdue, parents who have still not paid their fees, are requested to do so at their earliest.

### Our Pride- Students of the Week for Term 1, 2014

Wk	Kindy	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3/4	Year 5/6	Year 7/8
2			Ahmad Asad	Tasmia Naveed	Yazmin Baxter	Areej Jaffery
3	Zakia Mustapha Ashaf Mohammed	Rumaisha Saputra	Inaayah Ali	Ruhab Nafeh	Sakina Toma	Mohamed Darwiche/ Mariam Drame/ Alina Tariq
4	Amina Afraz Zain Al Shible	Bashaar Zaman	Malikah Shameem	Taimoor Asif	Shahroz Asif	Amirah Zraika

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- |                                     |  |                       |   |
|-------------------------------------|--|-----------------------|---|
| • Parent/ teacher Interviews (tent) | 17 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup> Mar, 2014 | • Easter Monday       | 21 <sup>st</sup> Apr, 2014                    |
| • Year 7 Vaccination                | 4 <sup>th</sup> Apr, 2014                    | • First Day of Term 2 | 28 <sup>th</sup> Apr, 2014                    |
| • Last Day of the term              | 10 <sup>th</sup> Apr, 2014                   | • NAPLAN Test dates   | 13 <sup>th</sup> – 15 <sup>th</sup> May, 2014 |
| • Good Friday                       | 18 <sup>th</sup> Apr, 2014                   | • ANZAC day           | 25 <sup>th</sup> May, 2014                    |



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