



WESTERN GRAMMAR SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

Issue 36 Term 1 Friday 10th March, 2017

What's Inside

Primary School News	pg 2-6
High School News	pg 6-7
Centennial Park	pg 8
Library News	pg9
Islamic Studies	pg10
Sports	pg11
Kids Korner	pg11
Principal's Message	pg12
Up to Date	pg12

"And He sent down rain from the sky and made every kind of species grow on the earth"
Qu'ran 31:10



15 Cannery Road,
Plumpton NSW 2761
Ph: 02 9677 9229
F: 02 9675 4060
www.wgs.nsw.edu.au
E: admin@wgs.nsw.edu.au

KINDERGARTEN

Assalamu Alaikum,
Alhamdulillah, our Kindy class has had an amazing start to Term 1. We have 28 students in our class and we are all very excited to see how we grow and learn during our very first year at school! Our Kindy kids have settled into their morning routine which consists of singing along to phonics songs, months of the year and counting from 1 to 100. We have also been building our confidence in public speaking by discussing the topic of the week with the class.

Every week students are eager to learn a new letter of the alphabet, and we have completed many engaging activities related to a variety of letters. In week two, students used the letter A to create an alligator and then a mouse with the letter M. For Maths, we have learnt how to add numbers and create patterns. We're also planning an excursion to a farm after learning all about farm animals in Science class! Students have been provided with many hands on activities that allow and encourage them to improve their fine motor skills. We are looking forward to a fun and effective term where we can support and encourage students to learn, grow and build their self-confidence in an Islamic environment.

-Ms Rana & Ms Saadiyah



Assalamu Alaikum,

It has been a great start to the term so far with students smoothly adjusting to Year 1 and the daily routine. We have been learning various topics across the KLA's. For History, we have been learning about families past and present. Students have made their own fabulous family trees and have been exploring and discussing the differences and similarities between present and past families. In Mathematics, students have been learning to count by 2s, 5s and 10s; they have been exploring odd and even numbers; and the place value of numbers. Students have also been learning to count on in addition and count back in subtraction to become better mathematicians. Science has also been lots of fun. Students have been learning about the weather and the sky. They made sundials and enjoyed marking the time based on the shadows of their pencils to track the position of the sun. In English, students have been working hard to write procedures but have had fun making Aboriginal painted sticks and a rainbow pull kite. In PDH, students have learnt to become safe citizens and make safer choices. Keep trying your best Year 1!

-Ms. Yusofzai

YEAR 1

YEAR 1 & 2

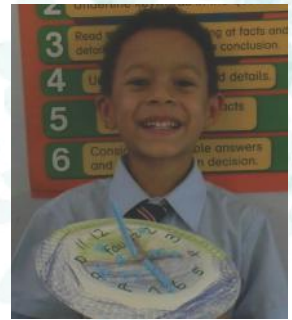
Assalamu Alaikum,

It is a pleasure to have a new set of students to teach this year. We have started off this term with an intense effort in improving the reading levels of our students. So far, it has been a journey to instil a love of reading in these little children. We read together in class every day and children are reading at home with their parents as well.

In English, for writing procedures, we have painted Aboriginal sticks which the pupils enjoyed. We are learning to recognise verbs and adjectives, and also how to use capital letters and full stops. For Mathematics, we have been using counters, ice-cream sticks and base-ten blocks to learn place value, counting, patterns, addition and subtraction. For History, we are studying past and present families and have made family trees. In Science, we are looking at weather and making lovely sundials. Our class took the sundials home to observe the shadows at different times of the day as explained and showed at school. In PDH we are discussing safety, while in Creative Arts we are learning dance movements such as the 'Chicken Dance'.

The students have been working very hard and inshaAllah their efforts will be awarded.

-Ms Shabnam



YEAR 2

Dear parents,
Welcome back to a new year!

Year 2 has had a fantastic time this term. Our children have been engaged in many activities and your continued support will be very much appreciated. We have lots of great personalities in our class who are eager to participate in a wide range of activities and enjoy learning.

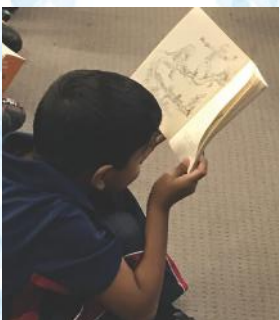
This term, Year 2 has been exposed to a range of multimodal texts. As a class we have enjoyed reading and discovering books such as 'The Magic Finger' and many stories on Story Line Online. We also participated in Shared Reading experiences involving a variety of comprehension activities, predominantly related to Dreamtime Aboriginal stories.

For Maths, the students have been working with hands on materials and technology. We used strategies and informal recording methods for addition and subtraction involving one and two digit numbers.

Year 2 has been exploring technology past & present for History. This unit provides opportunities for students to explore the changes and continuities in technology over time as well as their effects. For Science, the unit *What's That Sound* has the students fascinated by different sounds. Students investigated and learnt about different types of sounds and how sound may be produced.

Thank you in advance for your support and cooperation.

-Ms El-Kheir



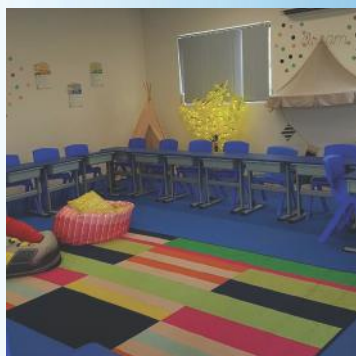
Year 3

Assalamu Alaikum,
Term 1 has commenced with a wonderful and eager bunch of Year 3 students who are keen to explore many new aspects of the curriculum. In English, students have been writing persuasive arguments to convince readers to accept their opinions about various topics. They have done extremely well in this task, and we have created a 'burger' system so students can break up and layer their writing like a sandwich. In Mathematics, we have been exploring multiplication and division and have been learning new ways to practice our timetables. Our class is learning through hands-on lessons and interactive

and digital technologies, which allows students to learn in visual and collaborative ways. Year 3 has also been learning about the history of our local community. It is wonderful to see the students comparing past and present aspects of Mt Druitt and Blacktown.

I am extremely proud of each and every student in my class. I will continue to support and guide them to be the best they can be. I pray Allah SWT bless them with every success, now and in the future, Insha'Allah.

-Ms. Abbas



Year 3&4

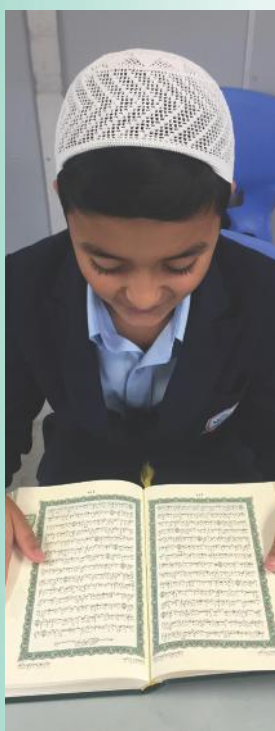
Assalamu Alaikum,

Alhumdulillah, Term 1 has begun on a positive note and Year 3-4 has embarked on an exciting educational journey. We have been very busy working really hard!

In English we have been focusing on persuasive writing, and students have amazed me with their progress and ability to construct their own writing. We have also been reading Charlotte's Web as a class. In Science, we have taken off on a journey studying the Sun, Moon and the Earth. This unit has provided opportunities for us to ponder over what Allah SWT has created and His magnificence.

We have been very enthusiastic in History as we have been identifying some of the holidays and celebrations that are celebrated all over the world. We have also been studying the history of Mount Druitt and have been looking at some of the landmarks of this suburb. I have been blessed to teach Year 3 and 4 this term and will keep working hard to create the best learning environment possible. If Allah wills, this journey will end on a positive note, and we can set sail for Term 2.

-Ms. Pinar



Asalamu Alaikum,

Alhamdulillah, Year 4 has had a wonderful start to 2017. Students have embarked on a variety of learning opportunities this term. They have shown great determination and enthusiasm in all areas of learning.

In English, Year 4 has been busy enhancing their writing and reading skills. They have created a range of imaginative texts to the best of their ability and were encouraged to use adjectives and new vocabulary. Students have analysed techniques authors use in their stories and have applied this strategy into their own writing.

It is exciting to see students excel in Mathematics. Year 4 has put tremendous effort into learning mathematical concepts. They have developed strategies to solve addition and subtraction problems of up to 4 digits. Their understanding of whole numbers has also increased, as well as their skills in rounding off numbers. Our class has participated in fun and educational learning activities. Students have been creatively engaged in exploring the techniques of famous artists. This has been most enjoyable for students as they actively participated in developing their own unique artwork.

I am looking forward to the growth of the students as the year progresses. Year 4 have demonstrated great potential in academic study. I will continue to apply various teaching strategies and develop a learning environment that allows students to reach their full potential inshallah.

-Ms. Afshar

YEAR 4



Year 5



Assalamu Alaikum,

Welcome to Year 5 at Western Grammar School. What a great start to the term the Year 5s have had! Our first few weeks were spent getting to know each other and developing friendship skills, resilience and strategies for dealing with conflicts. We are looking forward to a productive and enjoyable year together. Our class has settled back into school life in a positive manner and are working towards completing a successful year at WGS.

This term we are learning about lots of interesting things and inshallah students will have great learning experiences. In English, students are focusing on writing persuasive texts. We have also established a strong focus on writing and editing in class, with students consistently practicing these skills which will benefit them in their NAPLAN tests next term. In Maths, we are emphasising problem solving and applying mathematics in real life situations. We are continuing our History topic on *Australia as a Colony* this term. In Science, we are looking at adaptations of animals and plants.

The students have settled well into the new routines of Year 5 and we thank parents for your support with diaries, homework, punctuality and uniform. We look forward to a successful term inshallah.

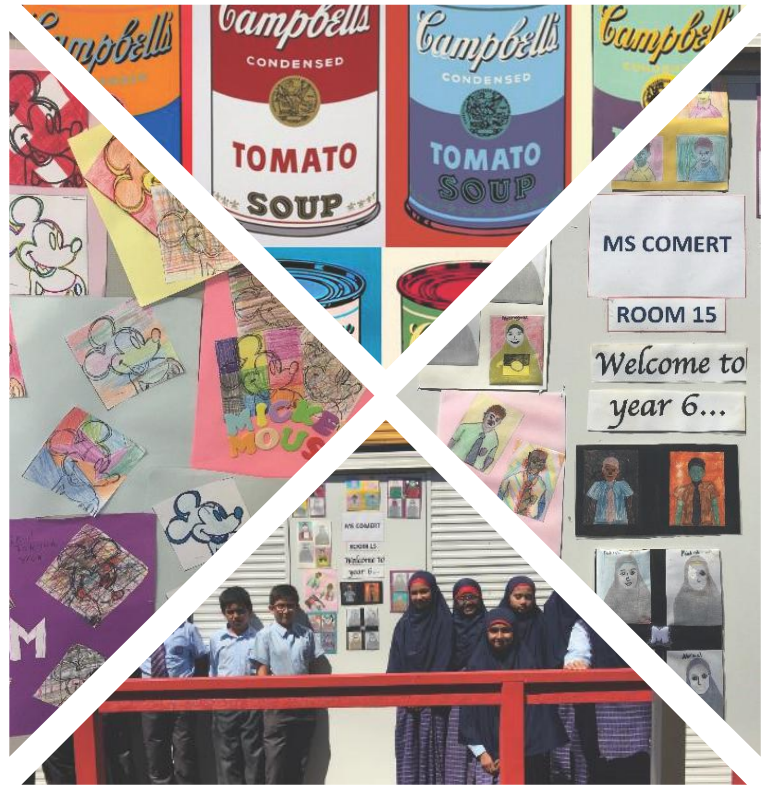
-Ms. Asad

YEAR 6

Assalamu Alaikum,

This year is off to a brilliant start and our Year 6 class has already made great progress in all subject areas. We've been working on different projects and activities this term. Year 6 has created magnificent art pieces based on "Pop Art." Popular Art, also known as Pop Art, is an art movement founded by Andy Warhol. His works use repeated expressions of popular items, brands, people and things using unusual colours, patterns and designs. This art style also incorporates many types of media, including hand drawings, paintings, printmaking, photography, silk screening, sculptures, films and music. This term, our class used his artistic techniques to creatively reproduce their own versions. Check it out - you might feel inspired to create your very own piece of "Pop Art"!

Year 6 is enjoying all the challenging projects and subjects that we're covered so far and, Insha'Allah, their final year in Primary will help pave the way to a successful time in High School in 2018.



-Ms Rukiye

Mr. Shakir's Shelf

Alhumdulillah, with the pleasure and grace of Allah (SWT), Years 8-11 have started off the year with enthusiasm and interest.

This seems to be especially true for the Year 11 students in Business Studies and CaFS, which our students are taking seriously and with great dedication. In addition to this, students in Year 9 have been delighted with a #thuglife approach to Mathematics – Mathematics makes so much sense, and is such a delight to learn, when students take an interest in it. Nevertheless, Mathematics requires dedication and hard work if one is to excel in it, and unfortunately, very few students are willing to put in the hard work required. And of the few that are willing to put in the hard work, most don't know how to "study".

Which brings me to the main point of this article. "Study" does **not** mean 'homework'. These are two separate and distinct terms. Homework must be done in order to learn current content and keep up with the classwork. "Study" means "revision". In other words, "study" means to go over content from previous weeks and terms – again and again and again. As a good general rule of thumb, 1 hour a week per subject should be dedicated towards revision. Students who really wish to excel should be making notes and summaries of knowledge they are gaining in school as they learn it (in other words, as a sort of voluntary homework each night). Then, these notes and summaries can be used for revision in future weeks and months.

This is all good in theory, but it will simply not happen without parent intervention, at least in the starting stage. Parents need to take out time from their undoubtedly busy schedules, and enforce a homework/study routine and good work ethic. Not only will this instil the value of education into our children, but it will also ensure our students are gaining the best education possible. While tutors are helpful when a child needs to catch up with his or her peers, the above is all that is necessary in most cases for students who are able to keep up with school work.

I make dua that Allah helps us throughout the year, and enables our students to understand the importance of ongoing revision.

-Mr Shakir

It is pleasing to see our Year 10 students make a smooth transition into Year 11. Students have now completed their first assessment task for many of their preliminary HSC subjects and have received feedback. The teachers have been working hard to consolidate their learning and prepare them to respond to the challenging questions we often see in the HSC examination papers.

All students were issued with an HSC assessment booklet and calendar for Term 1 2017, as well as a copy of the school

assessment policy. I would highly recommend that students and their parents become familiar with our new senior assessment policy and examine the assessment schedules and requirements for each of their courses.

Often these tasks and deadlines can lead to feelings of stress and anxiety. Many kids fear letting their family down, so be wary of setting unrealistic expectations! Some worry they can't do as well as a sibling or friend, or feel overwhelmed about what lies ahead in their post school life. We need to understand that people under pressure become

supersensitive and explosive from time to time. Family members are usually the first targets. Try not to overreact. Despite this, we need to set realistic targets and goals. Not all HSC students will go on to university – but they can still have a wealth of excellent and satisfying career options. There are also many pathways to tertiary education for those who want to follow the traditional path. It is important to encourage a **healthy balance between work and leisure**, and overworked students should be encouraged to participate in regular social gatherings of their interest.

Elephant's Toothpaste

Year 8 Science students have been exploring different chemical reactions to investigate the etiquettes and techniques of working in the laboratory. Students observed a demonstration by their teacher, Ms Nazmun, called Elephant's Toothpaste. As we know, it is very important to brush our teeth to keep them clean, but what about elephants? They also need to keep their teeth clean! That is why year 8 have decided to observe the demonstration that could make an elephant's teeth glistening white.

This experiment involved a range of chemical reactions that the students had learned about in class. Year 8 were initially impatient during the experiment as they could not see a reaction taking place. Some students thought that it would not work, while others were hopeful of its success. However, when the final reactant was placed in the solution, the result displayed an exciting red colour. Year 8 students were impressed with the result- a foamy substance shot up from the top of the glass cylinder! This was the Elephant's Toothpaste!

However, the substance formed is a dangerous hot substance that is harmful if it comes in contact with the skin or ingested, as it contains a variety of acids and bases. Year 8 concluded that this toothpaste might be suitable for stripping colour out of the elephant's teeth, but it's definitely not suitable as a toothpaste!

-Ms Yasmeen



▲ This experiment is sometimes called "Elephant's Toothpaste" because it looks like toothpaste coming out of a tube.

Centennial Park



A place where thick, detailed tree trunks canopy the landscape; a place where every shade of green can be seen; a place where possums hide, kookaburras laugh, and bats sleep; a place where the beauty of nature, the creation of Allah (swt) is evident right before our very eyes. Welcome to the Centennial park excursion for the Year 11 Biology class.

Students were taken to Centennial Park bright and early on Wednesday morning of week 6, where they experienced a hands-on approach to this term's Biology topic, 'Local Ecosystems.' Students used data collecting field equipment such as hygrometers, anemometers, and electrical conductivity metres to collect information that assisted them to form an environmental opinion of an urban open space, while simultaneously assisting their project and assessment work in the classroom. Their practical interactions allowed them to see, feel and listen to nature firsthand. They then applied their existing knowledge of the local area while measuring biotic and abiotic factors and relating these to competitive, symbiotic and trophic relationships within an ecosystem.

Alhamdulillah, the class had a great time interacting with the new equipment, environment and knowledge for their Biology task. Jazakumullah Ms Yasmeen, for organizing a refreshing experience for the Year 11 students this term.

-Ms. Suzan



Library News



Harold Howe once remarked, "What a school thinks about its library is a measure of what it feels about education." Ever since it's opening in 2012, Western Grammar has been dedicated to improving its library. Starting as just a handful of books in a small corner of a room, our library has been progressively growing into a great collection of hundreds of books for people of all ages and backgrounds. But a library is not just a collection of books- it is an environment that builds communities and acts as the centre of education and discovery. Our library at WGS is a safe space for students to come and read up on their interests whenever they are free. By encouraging a love of reading, libraries create a self-motivated interest in learning- an invaluable skill that leads to progress and improvement in every aspect of a child's life. Alhamdulillah, this year our library has grown in gigantic leaps. We have acquired all of the resources of another library that unfortunately closed down. With this enormous addition, our school can now provide students and teachers with an even wider range of stories, text books, levelled readers, encyclopaedias, reference books and much much more. We have also obtained library software that allows us to organise our collection and register student borrowings easily. Our library has embarked on a series of changes designed to benefit students and staff, and this acquisition is a huge step towards our final goal of a community library that is accessible to everyone.



Islamic Studies Department

SHOUT OUT

"Read in the Name of your Lord Who Created. Created man from a clinging substance. Read and your Lord is the Most Generous. Who taught by the pen. Taught man what he knew not."
(Quran 96:1-5)

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 should all glorify Allah for allowing us to study and be together in this garden of knowledge, Western Grammar School, and we ask Him to continue to shower His Blessings on us in the future.

By the blessings of Allah (swt), the year 2017 has started with great enthusiasm with bright new faces as additions to our school. The staff of the Islamic Studies Department (ISD) are in full swing to help, teach, and mentor our students for a bright future as great Islamic role models in our community.

WGS takes Islamic Studies as the number one priority, and therefore, all students receive an abundance of Islamic knowledge, not only from their Islamic Studies teachers, but also through their class teachers. All class teachers have been trained to use Islamic examples in their lessons, constantly remind students to have Islamic morals and ethics, and provide assistance to the Islamic Studies teachers when needed.

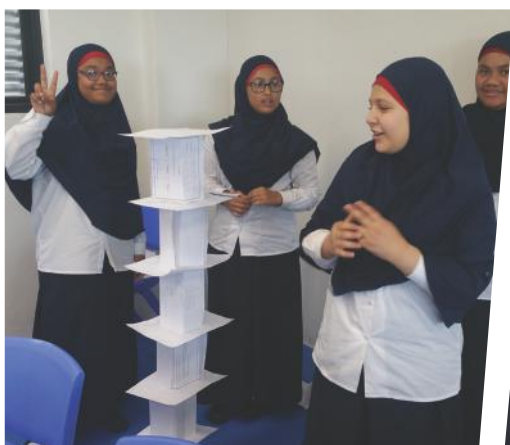
Just over a year ago, the ISD introduced Iqra books for students struggling in reading Arabic. By the Grace of Allah, these students have excelled immensely and we will continue with this scheme until students reach the level required to be highly fluent in their reading. We urge parents to support us in this endeavour by encouraging your child to read and revise their Iqra books at home so that they can become fluent and finish all six books early. We are also proud to state that all Iqra lessons are one-on-one with the teacher for better quality teaching.

The new little additions, Kindergarten students, have started their schooling life with great enthusiasm for Islamic Studies. They show great levels of confidence and are trying hard to understand and complete all lessons and activities. Parents of kindy students will be given weekly notifications for all lessons and activities taught throughout that week.

We ask Allah (swt) to bless our students, our staff, and the parents of this great school with the goodness of this life and the hereafter. Aameen!

-Islamic Studies Department

In Week 10, all classes from Year 1 to Year 10 must hand in their Islamic Studies and Arabic Assignments. May Allah make it easy for you.



Assalamu Alaikum,

Welcome to another new year where students are enjoying their sports lessons throughout the week and particularly on Wednesdays. Sports has always been seen as fun time for our students as they discover new games and activities to play, but while they're having fun, they are also learning important skills and abilities such as spatial awareness and locomotor skills.

Our Kindergarteners have been crawling, walking, waving, sliding and more, while the Year 1s are learning twisting, turning and various locomotor and non-locomotor skills. The Year 2 class has been learning leaping, kicking and two-handed striking. The Year 3 class is learning and practicing circuit and aerobic exercises. The Year 4 class is learning aerobics by jumping, hopping and skipping. As for the Year 5 class, they have been playing 'Live and Dead Touches', along with small games activities and passing and receiving. The Year 6 class is also playing fun games involving a lot of skills. Overall, all the classes are enjoying their sports lessons and becoming healthy and active pupils.

-Ms. Shabnam

SPORTS



KIDS KORNER



A CATEGORIC COLLECTION OF CREATIVE, CRAZY, CAPTIVATING AND CLASSY KID-CREATIONS

"Health is not valued until sickness comes"



UP To Date

6-17 March:

Primary Assessments

Students from Kindy to Year 6 will have their assessments over a two week period.

21 March:

Harmony day

Harmony Day is back again! Dress up in your culture's clothes and celebrate Australia's diversity.

7 April:

Interim Reports

Students receive their results for their Term 1 assessments.

13 April:

Last day

End of Term 1! Time to enjoy the break.

24 April:

First day Term 2

Back to school!

Message

From the Principal



Dear Parents, teachers and students,
First of all, I would like welcome you to the 2017 academic year and to express my best wishes to all the teachers, students and parents of Western Grammar School.

We are very excited to start this year as we have many new initiatives planned. This year the first batch of HSC students have joined us, and we

are determined to equip them with the abilities and skills needed for success by adopting various strategies and plans. This year's Year 11 class will be the first WGS grade to undertake the HSC examinations, and we are endeavouring to help them produce the best results. It is our belief that 2017 will mark the beginning of another step forward in the educational progress of WGS. An extensive construction programme will, insha'Allah, result in more modern classrooms and the latest equipment being available to the students of Western Grammar School. In addition to our dedicated team, our new and improved facilities are playing a vital role in enhancing the learning environment of Western Grammar.

You, as parents, have entrusted your children to us for their education and well-being. As educators, our primary aim is to take responsibility for your children and provide them with the best education possible.

As Aristotle once said, "Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all." It is important that we march our children ahead with an ethos of moral values and principles. We need to teach them the respect of parents, elders and teachers. Without learning this, it is almost impossible for them to learn anything valuable that is required for their success in life. Whilst we aim to fulfil this goal, it is pivotal that you, the parents, assist us by effectively communicating with us.

We need to help them grow and develop into sensitive and responsible citizens of the future. Let us work together with greater cooperation, vision and passion.

-Mr Irfan Afzal