



Western Grammar School

KNOWLEDGE IS THE ULTIMATE SOLUTION

NL 17, Vol 3, Issue 2, Term 1 2014

Jamadi ul Thani 1435 H

*"O you who believe!
seek assistance through patience and prayer;
surely Allah is with the patient."
(002.183)*

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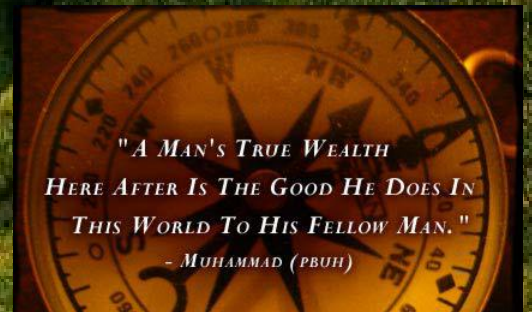
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**"Difficult roads
often lead to
beautiful
destinations."**



Our Prime Focus

We have discussed this topic in the past, and will continue our discussion every now and then, as it is the most important aspect of our educational philosophy. We strongly believe that if the behaviour and attitude of a student towards his life is corrected, everything else automatically follows. If a student is disrespectful towards his teachers, parents, fellow students, friends, school community and towards the property of the school, and persists in causing disruption and damage to the educational

environment, he/she can never earn any respect and furthermore, can never learn anything effectively during his schooling. As such, our prime focus is upon managing the behaviour of the students.

We have developed a very effective behaviour management system and have set up policies to implement this system. Most of our Professional Development (PD) sessions incorporate this topic in the agenda. Our discipline policy is also constantly improving through our experience of implementing behaviour management systems, strategies and through thought provoking sessions on related topics. In our first PD of Term 1, 2014, our coordinators and I gave a lot of information on this topic through PowerPoint presentations. On the PD of 11th April 2014, we have planned activities to demonstrate and display the importance of this topic. At the end, prizes will be given to the participating and winning staff members. With this information, I am requesting all the parents to be a part of our behaviour management system, and to attend to all the correspondence we are constantly sending you for your understanding about this very important issue. Doing so will no doubt help in forming the best character possible for your children. *Irfan Afzal*

Firstly, I would like to extend a warm welcome to all parents, staff and the wider community. In my previous message, I welcomed two groups of students; namely the Kindergarten and the new High school students. I would say they have settled in very well and have now adjusted to their new and exciting routines with dedication and commitment. As the first term of 2014 comes to an end, students are well aware of the academic and behavioural expectations of WGS. Our classrooms have been buzzing with dynamic teaching and learning activities across all years and all key learning areas.

Amongst our many goals, it is a priority to cultivate a learning environment within our classrooms that achieves two main objectives. Firstly, we aim to improve students who have previously been underachievers, bridging the gap between their past progress and their current stage of schooling. Secondly, we intend to facilitate and refine high achievers, providing the inspiration and direction required for them to channel their talents and skills effectively. Our dedicated staff are employing all means to make this a reality. I also want to take this opportunity to provide some light on the much-anticipated NAPLAN examinations. In particular, I would like to discuss, or rather clarify, the 'big picture' regarding NAPLAN. What is the purpose of NAPLAN? What do these examinations tell us about the student? Firstly, these NAPLAN examinations are designed to assess cumulative literacy and numeracy skills which the child has developed over previous years of schooling, *not* to assess short term literacy and numeracy progression. For this reason, providing extra emphasis on these examinations in the form of NAPLAN specific preparation will not provide an accurate reflection of the progressive literacy and numeracy skills that should have been gained by the student over years of education. ACARA, the regulatory body responsible for NAPLAN, makes it clear that these nationwide examinations test core elements of the curriculum. Hence, the best preparation schools can adopt is to teach the curriculum effectively. Every time a student sits in an English or Math lesson, they are, by definition and by design, preparing themselves for the skills required to succeed in NAPLAN.

In addition to this, the NAPLAN results only provide a 'snapshot' of a student's performance at one particular point of time. This prompts the question, how should we interpret NAPLAN results? While keeping this discussion brief, I want to emphasise that as parents, teachers, and the wider community, the most appropriate frame of mind we should have while looking at the results is one enshrouded by the word 'improvement'. We should be asking 'How much improvement has there been since your last NAPLAN examination?' We should encourage and applaud students who have shown progression and movement through their respective stages. A student who has moved from a band 3 to a band 5 deserves appreciation for 'succeeding' in his or her NAPLAN endeavours just as much, if not more, than a student who has remained stagnant at a band 7 or 8 level.

On a final note, it is a pleasure to be part of an institution that is dedicated to facilitating, mentoring and developing successful Australian Muslims who can make a significant contribution to our local and wider community. I would like to thank all the staff of WGS for all their hard work this term and wish them a relaxing and safe break.

Usman Malik

Inside the classrooms

KINDERGARTEN

Assalaamu Alaikum,

Alhamdulillah, kindergarten has had a wonderful and successful first term of school. Students have grown tremendously, both socially and academically. They have had a very productive term; the kids have learnt many new sight words and can now recognise and fundamentally read sentences... well done Kindergarten! This term, the kids have spent a lot of time getting to know each other and making friends, they are also starting to work in groups to discuss work material and completing activities.



Our excursion visit to Calmsley Hill City Farm was great fun and full of excitement. Kindergarteners were very excited to go on the bus and enjoyed the ride to the venue. Students were given the opportunity to explore farm life, meet and play with the animals, milk the cows and ride on a tractor. Kindergarteners were very engaged during the dog show, sheep shearing show and whip show. They were able to participate in the shows and effectively contribute in discussions with the farmers. The excitement didn't wear off for kindergarten at the end of the day: as we boarded the bus to head back to school, there were excited discussions about their favourite farm animals. Our kindergarten kids have now become experts in farm life, and would be fantastic in looking after farm animals of their own!



On a separate note, parent-teacher interviews went really well and it was very nice to meet all the parents and discuss the work and progress of their children. I hope all my students and their families have a fantastic and well deserved holiday, and Insha'Allah we'll see you all ready and energised for term 2.

YEAR 1

Assalamu Alaikum, Alhamdulillah term 1 has been very exciting and productive. I have witnessed great improvement from all students with regards to their literacy and numeracy skills. It has been a great pleasure and a rewarding experience watching year 1 excel in their learning; this has been achieved with the hard work and assistance from the parents at home as well as the hard work from the students in class.

As you are all aware, Year 1 participated in an excursion to Calmsley Hill City Farm, which all the students enjoyed. In fact, not only did the students find the

trip enjoyable, it was also an excellent educational experience. While at the farm, students were able to look at different types of shelters, as well as all manner of living and non-living things which we have been studying in Science.

I am looking forward to another great term Insha'Allah, and have many exciting activities planned. *Ms Pinar*



ISLAMIC STUDIES & ARABIC

Assalaamu Alaikum (wrwb) Parents and Students,

By the grace of Allah (swt), we have reached the end of Term 1 2014. This term has been a great learning platform for me, as I got to know all my students, as well as their capabilities, strengths and weaknesses. This has also meant that the education that I give has improved every step of the way.

Many students from all grades have continuously impressed me throughout the term with their learning and understanding capabilities. The students have embraced the Islamic/Quranic/Arabic studies well, and have achieved amazing results.

I'm proud to inform you that 10 of my 30 Kindergarten students have received 100% in their exam. These students are: Moaaz R., Zain A., Maryam S., Raniya M., Ahsan M., Malatef D., M. Ibrahim U., Sarosh R., Noah B., and Shanum N. All Kindergarten students have achieved pleasing results with an average mark of 82%.

My year 1 and year 2 students have also impressed me with their achievements. With an average class mark of 85% in both grades, two students from year 1; Rumaisha S. and Saarim Q., and three students in year 2; Zahir B., Saad M., and Ahmad A. have surpassed all expectations by scoring 100% in their exams. Year 5 to 8 boys have been climbing high throughout this term with Amir Z. topping the 5/6 Boys with a mark of 88%, and Umar A. scoring the highest in the whole class with 98%.

The students of Western Grammar have proven themselves as great seekers of knowledge, following the path of our beloved Prophet Muhammad (S). Their excellent achievements and results express great determination from the students themselves, you as parents and all teachers at Western Grammar.

May Allah elevate us in status and make Western Grammar the greatest garden of knowledge and virtue.

Mr Hakeem

Year 5-8 girls were asked the following question:

What have you learnt in Islamic/Quranic/Arabic studies this term that has impacted or changed your life? Explain how. Here are some of their answers.

Eamaan Z. (Year 6): Islamic Studies: for our Islamic studies I learnt a lot of new things. I was really excited to learn more and more. Everyone had turns to read. In that way everyone would concentrate and pick up what they are learning about.

Arabic & Quran: In Arabic and Quran we are learning tajweed/vocab words and memorizing surah Mursalat. My favourite part of learning is tajweed. Because of tajweed my memorization has improved a lot. I even memorized the whole surah. Learning tajweed with Mrs Davids has also made it easier for me to read Arabic.

Saalihah K. (Year 7)

I have learnt the names of Allah & about Promises. Allah (SWT) never breaks His promises & we do. I have learnt to try not to break our promises cause Allah has made so many promises & He has fulfilled them. But I think about it, have we fulfilled our promises that we have made.

Areej J. (Year 7)

In Islamic Studies I have learnt the Sahih Sitta and Allah's promises and the compilation of the Quran. In Arabic I have learnt a lot of the Tajweed rules that have made my recitation more clear and correct. In Quran we learnt the Surah Al-Mursalat. I learnt the meaning which made me more aware about the Day of Judgment and influenced me to spend my youth praying and worshipping Allah (swt).



Isra Z. (Year 8)

Arabic – I have learnt new Arabic word and the meanings, which has changed my life because it will be easier to learn the language of Allah.

Quran – I have learnt a whole new surah and what it means and that is benefit to me because now it will be easier to understand the Quran.

Islamic – I learnt many new things like the 99 names of Allah. Before I knew a few but now I know more and now I will be able to use them in my duaas.

Amirah Z. (Year 8)

I have learnt a lot of Duas and memorized them so I can say them before I do something. I have also learnt Surah Al Mursalaat and I can say it during my prayers. In Arabic class I learnt the tajweed of letters so I can always pronounce and read them properly now.



YEAR 2

Assalaamu Alaikum wa rahamatullhi wa barkatuhu. The students of year 2 have adapted well to the classroom routines and are now very much familiar with what and how to do things. It is a pleasure having many students being able to read, write and comprehend better than when they first started. I feel I have made a difference already even though this is only the first term. Insha'Allah as we go further ahead there will be more significant differences made. In Maths, some students have grasped the concept of trading in 2-digit addition and subtraction and telling time very well, while others may need more practice. Insha'Allah as we progress in these topics, these concepts will be reinforced. In science, there were experiments done with small and large rubber bands on a hollow cardboard (like a guitar) to observe the sound differences. Moreover, there were experiments done with cardboard boxes, foam, clothes and tissues to see the differences in the alarm clock sound. In HSIE, the students have a better understanding of how families were in the past and how they are now. We have made timelines and used the book 'My Place' as an exercise to identify the structural difference in the past and present.

For PDH we had an exciting incursion where the students had a first-hand experience with using microscopes to see blood cells, observe fingerprints, examine different parts of the body using models, and much more. In creative arts, the students got to paint on foam and used oil pastels to colour the flowers and fish. Then we brightened up the room with their beautiful artworks. There is an impressive piece of writing by one of our year 2 students, Inaayah A. There were some more inspiring pieces of writing by some other students which will be displayed in the upcoming newsletters Insha'Allah. I am proud to share that Mohamed A. Z. has learnt all his multiplication tables. *Ms Shabnam*



YEAR 3 & 4

Assalaamu Alaikum,

Alhamdulillah, Term 1 has seen the Year 3/4 students productively creating a pleasant and academic environment within the classroom. Students are lucky to have a classroom in which they can feel calm and comfortable. While this term involved introduction and familiarisation with the core curriculum for each KLA, it is an honour for me to express that I am extremely proud of my students' improvement. Some students were shy, uncomfortable and weak in terms of academic performance at the beginning of the term, but I can now say, with great pride, that these students have already developed a great level of comfort and improvement at this early time of the year, MashAllah.

I would also like to mention the incursion we had at WGS from Fizzics Education; students were very elated and exultant at being able to experiment with the variety of scientific resources provided. Students also enjoyed a plethora of diverse activities related to the human body phenomenon. I would also like to take the opportunity to thank the parents for their colossal support and cooperation in relation to the Term 1 examinations and assessments. Most students surprised me with their great marks, and I believe the credit goes to their parents/guardians for reinforcing the need for their children to study/prepare effectively for the exams – JazakAllah Khair. In closing, I still have the same old request – please ensure your child reads regularly at home. I wish you all a very enjoyable and safe term break, InshAllah. Wassalaam, *Ms Sadiqah*

YEAR 5 & 6

Alhamdulillah, Term 1 has gone by very quickly and productively. The children have settled into the class routine, while at the same time I have started to learn the strengths, weaknesses and personality quirks of all the students.

The highlight of the term was obviously the IMAX excursion in Week 9. The excursion itself was quite an adventure, due to circumstances outside our control. However, it was somewhat fitting for the topic, as the students got a small taste of the hardships Shackleton and other Antarctic explorers would have faced!

Looking into the future, we have the holidays coming up, as well as the NAPLAN examinations in mid-May. The students have been given a group work task to do with their friends over the holidays, and I look forward to their group presentations in Term 2. As for NAPLAN, I would like



to reassure all parents that NAPLAN preparations have been started long ago, and have been mixed in with regular lessons. We will continue to prepare students up to the last day possible.

Apart from that, I'll take this space to echo my request from the parent-teacher interview day; I humbly entreat all parents to keep an eye on the diaries of their children, as this is a vital communication channel between us. Further, I would like to see the students of year 5/6 develop a habit and love of reading books. We will be focusing heavily on reading for the remainder of the year. If there is anything the parents can do to facilitate this process, please join me in this endeavour. *Mr. Shakin*



The first term has gone by very quickly, but it has been a good term for the Year 7/8 students. In History, we have been studying Ancient Egypt; we have made model Obelisks out of paper as well as pyramids out of paper and cardboard. The students have been particularly interested in the pharaohs, such as Ramses 2, who had almost 200 children and married 4 of his own daughters. Ancient Egypt has been a very popular topic and we will continue studying it next term. One big highlight of this term was the excursion to Macquarie University Museum. The students really enjoyed this; they watched a PowerPoint presentation about ancient Egypt, and they got to touch special artefacts that were hundreds or even thousands of years old, including an ancient Greek coin which was 2400 years old. The students also went on a tour around the museum itself, which holds Egyptian, Greek and Roman artefacts. In Design and Technology class the students have been making their own websites, which has been a really fun and educational activity which the students have enjoyed. In science, they have been studying the water cycle, water management and rocks. These exciting activities will continue next term, and I hope Term 2 will be just as fun and educational as the first. *Mr Ponton*



STUDENT'S CORNER

This page is to encourage our young writers. Whatever they have written has been typed in without any corrections or omissions. We encourage them to increase both the quality and quantity of their writing and share their writings on this page. We believe this will provide them with an opportunity to be exposed to the realm of solid writing and help them enhance their writing abilities.



On the farm:

"We went on Tuesday to the farm. First we go on the bus. Then we had recess. Then we played in the park. I felt the chicks. I patted the cows. We saw the goats. I saw a camel. Then we had lunch. Then we went on a tractor ride. I saw three shows.

The first show one man did the whip. Next show the farmer sheared the sheep. Then we saw the dog show. We went back on the bus to go back to school. I felt so good." **Zain A.-Kindergarten**



On the farm:

"On Tuesday we went to the farm. First we went to the bus. Then I saw the sign of the farm. I saw cows. I saw a puppy. I milked the cows. I ride on the tractor. I patted the bunny. It felt soft. We went back on the bus. I felt very good." **Shanum N.-Kindergarten**

On the holiday I wat to the puk and I play on the slip I had fun. I wuz playg gamz with my friend we hab somush fun. **Mnahil M.-Yr1**



The Princess

Once upon a time there was a princess named princess Lovharts. She had a birthday party in her caste. three days before her party she had chicken spots on her face fat tears Rolled down her cheeks princess Lovhart's mum said I'll call the doctors. the doctor said he will give hes some medicine. before the party the princess felt better and she put on her prettiest dress on ever She had a lovely time at her party !!!! **Innayah A.-Yr 1**

These extracts have been taken from student assessment task for PDHPE – "how to cope with change and challenges in life in relation to changing schools" Mr Malik

Changes in this lifetime bring about tough decisions, as for getting used to changing from one school to another you will notice many differences in the way things are done in your new school as compared to your previous school. For example, rules, students, timings, teachers, friends and academic expectations. These are what many people face when changing schools. But that doesn't mean you should forget the previous school. Of course not! Keep in touch with everyone and maintain strong connections from your previous school.



Don't think negatively as it would make you feel down. Don't cry because it's over. Smile because it happened. - Dr. Seuss- **Farah O. – Year 7**

Dear Maha! I understand the difficult time you are going through. Our lives are very special and change sometimes occurs for our benefit. The important thing you have to understand is that change can bring many positive things into our world. Change isn't something you have to get stressed over. I know what you thought when this particular change of changing schools came into your life. When I moved high school during my adolescence, the same thoughts went through my mind, I came through this situation and now I am helping others with the same situation **Beenish T. – Yr 7**



One major change that you might come across when changing schools is a different behaviour policy and rules. There are many ways you can cope with this change such as; apply that certain rule at home so you can get used to it,

ask your friends to always remind you about the rules. Change in school discipline is very tough especially if you have come from a soft school. Just keep in mind that strict rules are for your benefit and trust me teachers don't do it because they hate you it's because they care about you. **Zainab K. -Yr7**

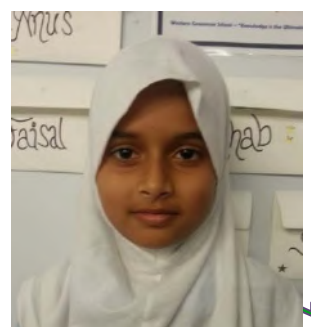
Parents of Bullies Should Have to Pay a Fine – Agree or Disagree

Parents of bullies Should have to Pay a fine – by Tasmia N. (Year 4)

Should parents of bullies have to Pay a fine? I strongly believe that Parents of bullies should have to pay a fine.

First of all bullies are very mean and that means their Parents aren't training them to be good at home. Next bullies are not fun at all and many students do not like school because of them.

Firstly, can be very naughty they steal other kid's money and Push and kick other students and then



Pretend they never did anything and always get into trouble.

Secondly, if Parents of bullies train them to be really really Good they might not even get into that much trouble at all.

Thirdly, bullies make school so less fun! and if the Parents Pay a fine maybe just maybe they might learn a lesson.

Fourthly, bullies make students not want to go to school anymore. It's even bad for the teacher if bullies be naughty in the Playground or in the classroom.

Finally, I believe that Parents of bullies should have to I repeat should have to Pay a fine of at least \$100! So if You are Parent of a bully start training them to be good or Start Paying alright!

Parents of Bullies *shouldn't* have to pay a fine by Raiyan A. (Year 4)

Should parents of bullies have to pay a fine? Well I truly believe they shouldn't have to because they are the ones who are doing it. They just can't control there body. It just won't be fare. They should pay themselves.

Firstly there the ones who are doing. The parents don't come to school or hurt people. Well do they? They would probably try to make understand. They just won't listen. It won't be nice to pay a billion dollar bill and a \$100 fine. Would it?

Secondly it won't be fare. The parents are have just come back from work and a \$100 fine in mail box. The children hurt and parents pay. Will that be fair? What if they are orphans or the parents are poor or if the mum is a widow?

Thirdly, they are the ones who can't control themselves. It's there responsibility to take control. If they cannot control now. Imagine you having to pay a life time of fines. Fourthly they should pay themselves. I will show discipline to them. They will learn themselves like this It will be fare like this They do the crime they pay the time. In conclusion I enthusiastically believe that parents of bullies should not have to pay fines because there the one who is doing it, It won't be fare. There the ones who can't control themselves. They should pay themselves. I hope you agree with me.



ADMIN NOTE

Kindly note the following important information

- **Parents** are requested to always make appointment with teachers to see them for feedback or any concerns they may have about the schooling of their child.
- **Assembly** commences at 8:20 am. It is compulsory that all students attend the school assembly in the mornings. Constant lateness will cause embarrassing and unpleasant consequences to your child.
- **School gates** will open at 3pm. School ends at 3:20pm. Parents are requested to pick up their child/ren on time.
- **Canteen** - Please write down the **name and item** clearly with correct money in an envelope.
- **Medical certificates** are to be provided for any child who is absent from school. Please make sure your child brings a sick note immediately upon their return to school.
- As advised in the last newsletter **all parents** are requested to use the Bottles Road entrance for pickup and drop off. **Please do not use the Cannery Road entrance unless you have to visit the school office after morning assembly.** Often gates at Cannery Road will be closed in the morning and afternoon.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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|------------------------|----------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| • Last Day of the term | 10 th Apr, 2014 | • NAPLAN Preparation days | 19April, 3May, 10 May 2014 |
| • Good Friday | 18 th Apr, 2014 | • NAPLAN Test days | 13, 14 and 15 May 2014 |
| • Easter Monday | 21 st Apr, 2014 | • Uniform Shop opening | 23, 24 and 25 April 2014 |
| • First Day of Term2 | 29 th Apr, 2014 | (Parents will receive text message about exact details for uniform) | |



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