



Western Grammar School

KNOWLEDGE IS THE ULTIMATE SOLUTION

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Abu Huraira reported: The Messenger of Allah (PBUH) said, “On the first night of Ramadan, the devils are chained, the Jinn are restrained, and the gates of Hell Fire are closed and none of its gates are open. The gates of Paradise are open and none of its gates are closed. A caller announces, ‘Oh seeker of good, come near! Oh seeker of evil, stop short!’. Allah will save them from the Hell Fire and that is during every night of Ramadan.” - (Sunan At-Tirmidhi 682)

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Assalamu Alaikum,

We are halfway through Term 2, Alhamdulillah, and it has been a great and productive year so far. Our school is steadily expanding with new teachers, new students and soon, a new building. Alhamdulillah, the construction process is going smoothly and we should be able to enjoy the results in just a few short months. Inshallah we will have access to new classrooms, libraries and labs soon. Until then, we thank you for your patience during the construction period.

This is an exciting time for Western Grammar School as we expand our horizons and find ourselves able to reach out to a wider community.

When we educate our students, we instil in them important moral and Islamic values, and this goes on to affect the society they live in. Our students are the Muslims who will one day lead the future Ummah inshallah, and it is our responsibility to ensure that they are given the best education, and we thank all the parents and teachers for helping us achieve this. Please make dua for our continued success Inshallah.

Sheikh Anwar Gallie

Assalamu alaikum

I 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? 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.

Mr. Malik – High School Coordinator

Dear Parents/Guardians,

It is an absolute delight to be back at Western Grammar School. I have missed all staff, students and parents during my maternity leave last year. The wonderful working environment of WGS is what keeps bringing its staff back. We are truly blessed to have such a wonderful team at WGS who strive extremely hard in working with each and every child to ensure they reach their full potential. I'm proud and excited to be working with such dedicated and professional people again.

Half Yearly examinations will commence in week 6, Monday the 25th of May. It is vital that students take these examinations seriously as their results will be used in their report cards. I kindly ask parents to assist their child in studying for the exams, and to ensure they come to the exam room fully equipped with the correct stationary.

As you are aware reading is a crucial part of your child's academic performance. It is a long life skill that they will use day in and out. Therefore please encourage your child to read every day for at least 15 minutes. This will assist your child in excelling at reading Inshallah. *Happy reading!!!*

Ms Zadan - Primary Coordinator

EDUCATION MATTERS

Be prepared!

Whether you're fumbling to find a pen or haven't done the homework, coming to class unprepared is basically asking for trouble and actually getting ready to get confused. Even worse, you likely won't be learning as much as you're worried about being asked for your homework by your teacher, or you'll be distracted trying to find a pen and paper to take notes. Being prepared for class every day is an essential part of being a good student and will improve your educational experience immensely. If you're not quite sure what that being a prepared student entails, here are some tips to help you get ready for class the right way.

- **Always keep your bag fully stocked with supplies.** That means having all your books for the day, having a calculator if you use it in class, and having MULTIPLE pens (of all colours) – in different parts of your bag. Additionally, keep a small folder with paper or a little notebook with you so that even if you somehow forget or misplace your book, you'll have something to write on. Other supplies like tissues, sticky notes and tabs can be useful as well.
- **Use the syllabus to know what is being covered and what is coming up.** There should never be mystery surrounding when things will be covered or due in class. It's all right there on the syllabus from day one. Ask your teacher to explain the plan for the term. All teachers will be more than happy to see a student who is serious about learning. Have the plan jotted down in your diary.
- **Do your homework and assignments seriously and on time.** There really isn't much of a point to going to school if you are not doing your homework or assignments. Not only will you fall behind in your work, but frequently you'll be missing out on valuable discussions and further learning.
- **Review before class.** It never hurts to go back over your notes from last class before you head to your upcoming class. A quick review will help you remember where your teacher left off and get all the information fresh in your mind.
- **Be organised.** There are few better skills to learn as a student than solid organisation. Being able to find your notes, homework and other class essentials will go a long way towards helping you be prepared and getting the grades you want.

Stop being that kid in class who's always rustling around, struggling to come up with answers, is missing a pen and lost his book, walking in late and perhaps even talking in class because they don't know what's going on. Instead, start prepping for class ahead of time leaving your mind free to focus on the lessons your teachers are presenting.

Mr. Shakir

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Use of Mobile Phones & Other Electronic Items:** The use of mobile phones, games and other electronic devices during school hours is strictly prohibited and against the school policy. If a student brings his/her mobile phone to school out of necessity, phones should be handed in to the office in the morning and can be collected in the afternoon. The school will conduct random checks and if a student is caught with a mobile phone or any such device during school hours, it will be confiscated and only the parents will be able to retrieve it from the office.
- **Uniform Reminder:** Parents are requested to abide by the uniform policy. Students should come to school in neat, clean and presentable uniform. Parents are advised that the school will only allow navy beanies to be worn. School hats are preferable.
- **Parents attending Assembly:** Parents are requested not to attend the daily assembly. It is a cause of obstruction to the students and staff members. Parents will be given opportunities to attend end of term assemblies and other award functions Inshallah.
- **Classroom Visits:** Parents are requested not to visit the classrooms. Please drop off your child/ren in the assembly area in the mornings. If, in the case of an emergency, you need to pick up your child/ren from school early then please call the office before you arrive at the school.
- **Pickup Time:** Home time for all students is **3:20 pm**. When picking up your child please remain in your cars so that traffic is not obstructed. Use Cannery road to gain access into Bottles road to avoid traffic congestion and hindrance to other road users. The staff makes their best effort to dismiss the students as efficiently as possible and we need complete cooperation from parents Inshallah.
- **School Fees:** All Term 2 fees are now overdue. Parents are requested to pay all outstanding fees by the end of next week.

Inside the classrooms

KINDERGARTEN

Assalaamu Alaikum,

Alhamdulillah we have had an awesome start to term two. I have been so excited and proud watching the growth of kindergarten in all aspects of learning. Kindergarten students are becoming more engaged in their studies and have developed an eagerness to dive into the day's lessons. The students have grown tremendously, showing more responsibility in the classroom environment and respecting others around them. They have shown outstanding effort in reading and writing. Students are also learning how to use the computer during library sessions and have been typing their very own sentences using their sight words.

In English speaking and listening sessions, kindergarten have been learning about sea creatures. We have been focusing on a sea animal each week and writing information about them. I am so proud with the amount of effort each student in kindergarten has put in their presentations, and they are now looking forward to having a real life experience with sea creatures at the Sydney Aquarium. This has had a huge impact in building their self-esteem and confidence in speaking out in public.

In HSIE, we are currently studying the unit 'This is Me' where students are exploring their special characteristics and building their skills of comparing their backgrounds, culture and past experiences. HSIE is linked very closely with PDH, where students are recognising that everyone is unique and are becoming aware of ways in which people grow and change. In Science, we are learning about built environments, and students are having a more physical and hands-on experience in investigating the way their homes and schools have been built to fulfill certain needs.

Exams are just around the corner and Inshallah all our students will produce great results. I would like to advise parents to assist in revising for the exam. May Allah bless our wonderful group of kindergarteners in becoming knowledgeable and successful people as they grow in the future. Keep reading and writing! ☺

Ms. Dean



YEAR 1

Assalamu alaikum Parents.

Allow me to introduce myself. My name is Ms. Akhter and I am the new Year 1 teacher at Western Grammar School. I am very excited to be your child's teacher and looking forward to making the rest of the year a wonderful learning journey.

As we have come halfway through term two, Year 1 would love to share with you what they have been learning.

For HSIE we are learning about transport, recognising all the different transports that are available. We also found reasons why people use transports by working together as a class, brainstorming and categorising into groups.

For Maths we are learning about data. Students are collecting and interpreting information, then making their own tally charts.

Half-Yearly exams are coming up very soon. Please make sure to revise the lessons done each day with your child. Inshallah if they put in the hard work, Year 1 will produce amazing results!

Ms. Akhter



YEAR 2

Assalamu Alaikum,

My name is Mrs El-Kheir, and together with Ms Qadan, we are the teachers for Year 2. We will be working extremely hard to establish our classroom as a happy, challenging, and safe learning environment where we all do our personal best.

We are already half way through Term 2, and it has been an absolute pleasure teaching my lovely students. For HSIE, students are learning about "Transport". In this unit, they will identify different forms of transport and the purpose of different types of transport. The students will share their personal experiences of forms of transport. Finally, the students will suggest some ways in which forms of transport have changed over time.

For Science, students are learning about the seasons of the year, why do seasons occur and how the sun impacts on the seasons.

I look forward to teaching and getting to know each student of Year 2 and sharing the curriculum with them, while also enriching and sparking their interests.

Wassalam!

Mrs. El-Kheir



Assalamu alaikum,

It is a pleasure to have an opportunity to give a message to the parents about what the students are doing in school and how they are progressing.

A lot of extra classes have been taken for NAPLAN for the year 3s. We have been constantly practicing past year papers and discussing the answers in the extra classes. Inshallah, all our students' efforts, commitment and hard work will be rewarded. We are now approaching towards half yearly exams and there will be a lot of revision done in week 5 for the exams in week 6. Allhamdulillah, we have covered a lot of topics in Mathematics which all be tested in the half yearly exams including addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, length, perimeter, area, time, 2D and 3D shapes.

In English, we have thoroughly covered persuasive writing and narrative. In PDH we are looking at safety on road, out in the sun and everywhere. In addition, in Science we are studying heat, and contact / non-contact forces. Further, in Human Society and its Environment (HSIE), we are learning about the colonists and the Aboriginal people. In Creative Arts we are drawing and painting bicycles.

All the best to all the pupils for their half yearly exams!

Mrs. Shabnam



YEAR 5 & 6



Assalamu Alaikum,

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome everyone to Term 2. Alhamdulillah the students have been striving for accuracy and precision in all their work. It has been a great pleasure to get to know my students. Despite the wonderful diversity of personalities, the goals of every student coalesce and together they achieve great results.

This term our unit for HSIE is 'Federal Government and Democracy'. Earlier this term, we were given the opportunity to travel to Canberra. This experience was great fun and the students participated in various hands-on activities. This excursion elevated the students' knowledge on their HSIE topic. Studying the material world of 'Let's Celebrate' as their Science and Technology topic, let the creativity of the students emerge. We experimented the science behind slime. The students thoroughly enjoyed this activity and it enhanced their understanding of the states of matter. Our CAPA focus this term is about Australian Artists. The students have analysed the Ned Kelly series by Sidney Nolan. The students recently did their NAPLAN tests. The tests examined their mathematical, comprehension, spelling, grammar and punctuation skills. Some of the students had been dedicating their Saturday mornings to attending NAPLAN classes and they have benefited immensely. Inshallah through all their hard work, dedication and commitment, they will get the results they want.

I would like to conclude with homework. Students should be taking time out to work on the areas they find difficult. Please feel free to speak to me about any issues regarding homework or any other concern. I will continue to help the students in any way I can Inshallah.

Mrs. Shonia

SCIENCE LAB

Assalamu alaikum

Alhamdulillah it was a great start for term 2, 2015. It is an honour and pleasure teaching Science to Years 7, 8 and 9. The staff, management and the students created a very welcoming environment and a very overwhelming experience. I'm very excited and looking forward to a productive and rewarding year. The Science Lab is functioning well and students enjoy using it for their practicals. Year 7 got the opportunity to test density by making different coloured layers of water, and making a water cycle, while Year 8 got the opportunity to dissect a heart. Year 9 started with a bang when they got the attention of the whole school while burning a balloon.

Science itself is a new language and requires learning and understanding. As a teacher it becomes really challenging trying to gain students attention and keep students focus. Some students believe Science is not important or find Science really hard. This may be a result of students' inability to comprehend and understand the basics skills, knowledge and understanding behind simple concepts and the connection to everyday living. As a teacher I will try to put extra time in bridging these gaps and InshaAllah, with effort from both the students and parents, will be able to broaden their horizons and enable them to understand the significance of education.

Ms. Khan



MR SHAKIR'S SHELF

Assalamu alaikum

It has been an exciting term so far! With NAPLAN over, and half yearly exams approaching, this term has no doubt been stressful so far. Nevertheless, my Year 7/8 English students have shown astonishing brilliance and creativity in writing poetry, and I feel no words I say can do them justice. So without further ado, I present just a small sampler of Year 7 and Year 8 students' finest work during 2015. I note here that we have focused on free verse poetry only for the time being.

The clock is ticking The flies are buzzing I feel sleepy -Aayah.	Gone whale watching, Gone for hours... Theres no whales about, I wanna go home. - Mariam Drame	The children jump on trampolines while talking over colourbond. Going to neighbours house to play ball riding bikes around the block at 12'o'clock. Hitting back the volleyball Dodging flying waterbombs Thrown across the lawn. - Areej
A massive kick Everyone cheers The footy game has started. - Beenish	It's Maths class I sleep Detention! - Rami	

Mr. Shakir

ISLAMIC STUDIES & ARABIC

"O you who believe! Fasting has been prescribed for you as it was prescribed for those before you so that you may achieve Taqwa (closeness with Allah).

(Surah Al-Baqarah, Verse 183)

Assalaam Alaikum wa Rahmatullaahi wa Barakaatuh parents and students,

Ramadan Mubarak to each and every one of you! A blessed month is almost upon us; a month where rewards are multiplied, a month where sins are forgiven, a month that elevates the status of the Muslims, and that is the Holy month of Ramadan. We are very blessed to have such a month so make the most of it and try hard to achieve the maximum reward from your Creator. I pray to Allah to make this Ramadan the best for us so far, and through this, achieve the ultimate prize of Jannah.

It is now half way of term 2 and the students are all in their half yearly exam mode. Exams for Islam, Quran, and Arabic will commence in week 7 and, through the support of parents and teachers, students should be ready to achieve excellent marks. Week 6 will be their revision week for these subjects and we will cover everything needed for the exams.

The introduction of the Iqra books has sparked great interest among the students. These books will enable students to become fluent in reading the Quran, providing they revise the lessons at home regularly. We hope that all students who need a particular Iqra book have purchased it already, so that they will not fall behind the rest of the class.

We are proud to announce that Western Grammar School has been chosen to participate in an amazing initiative. Six selected students from primary school; Farhaan Ali, Faisal Ashraf, Anas Mohammad, Maryam Asad, and Fatimah Gallie, had been selected to recite Quran for Ramadan TV. Ramadan TV is a global initiative and television program run by Mercy Mission every year during Ramadan. This year will be its 2nd year running in Australia and its 5th year in the UK Inshallah. Mercy Mission is a non-profit Muslim community development movement across the globe that welcomes and works with all people regardless of race, religion or nationality towards achieving their vision. Their vision is to create a world where every Muslim is able to live faithfully to their belief.

Ramadan TV is a half an hour show on channel 44, TVS (Sydney). It is a community channel and free to air TV, meaning you don't need a special box. Its airing time will be 5am-5:30am during the month of Ramadan Inshallah. I advise all to watch this Islamic program, while having your Suhur, to gain maximum benefit during Ramadan and to see our five special students on it.

We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate these five special students, and their parents, for their efforts in Quranic Studies. May Allah bless them, and all students from WGS, and make them the righteous future leaders of our community.

Mr Hakeem – Islamic Studies Coordinator



STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

We are happy to announce the introduction of the Student Representative Council at Western Grammar School in Term 2. This is a very exciting opportunity for the students to represent their school and develop leadership qualities which is an integral part of the S.R.C. The S.R.C plays a vital role in developing students' confidence and communication ability. It also teach students effective ways when participating in the local community's decision making process. As a result, all of our students will Inshallah be articulate, sophisticated, active members in our society and be excellent role models and an inspiration for the younger students in Western Grammar School. S.R.C elections will be held soon, with nominees expected to make speeches as to why they should be elected to this position and how they will represent students. Parents will be invited to the swearing ceremony. This opportunity will benefit our students today and in the future Inshallah.



SPORTS



Primary School

K-2 students have been introduced to and are learning a variety of gross motor skills necessary for participating in sports, are doing sprint running, and learning to maintain balance using controlled body movements and participation in basic games. They have been participating in activities which aimed to develop their spatial awareness, body awareness and locomotor skills. Students participated in games that were both engaging and beneficial for their bodies. We start off our lessons with an exciting warm-up activity and then practice the skill. We then use the skill we have learnt in a fun game and finish off with a warm-down. Alhamdulillah we have tried our best to use the limited space we have to make our sport lesson a great learning experience for all kids.

High School

What a start! Term one flew away, so did the soccer balls. Our students had begun the process of developing skills in various round ball games throughout the PDHPE lessons. Term two will involve exciting new sports. The school is about to introduce many sporting opportunities for our students; including different sporting venues during extreme weather. The preparation for the school's Athletic Sporting Carnival next term has started. With a growing school, this year's Athletics Carnival will be colourful, exciting and louder than ever before... and I can't wait Inshallah!



NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY



Western Grammar School is participating in the **Premiers Reading Challenge 2015**. Participating in the PRC program is one of the strategies being used by our school to improve reading and comprehension skills across K-9. The challenge aims to encourage a love of reading for leisure and pleasure in our students. It is not a competition but a challenge for each student to 'read, read more and to read more widely'. To qualify for NSW Premier's Reading Challenge, students in **Kindy to Year 2** need to read **30** books and students in **Year 3-9** need to read **20** books. Each child has been given a student's reading log sheet to record the books read. This record must be submitted to the class teacher by **31st of July 2015**. Once your child has read the required books they are to hand in their reading logs to the office.

The **Islamic Book Fair** will be held from the **5th - 12th June 2015**. Parents are welcome to come and look at our book displays during the day. The school will be getting 20% off all sales in Islamic books for the library. Therefore we strongly urge the parents to participate in this book fair and help the school. Wish lists will be sent home with students on Friday 5th June Inshallah.

CANBERRA EXCURSION



On 23rd April, Year 5- 9 students attended the HSIE field trip to Canberra. The field trip was an important task that enhanced the students' understanding of Australian History, Civic & Citizenship concepts. This excursion relates specifically to the unit Democracy Foundation, as well as 'Australia in World War 1 and the ANZAC legacy', and allowed students to investigate the natural and human impacts of our physical environment of our national capital city, as well as conducting field work tasks. This excursion provided great insight of the democratic process in our country. It also acted to prepare our students for the upcoming S.R.C. elections; these will take place in Term 2 at Western Grammar School. Students participated in an open senate debate and voted on legislations before the house audience.

It was an early trip to Canberra and a late arrival. We thank the teachers, parents, students for their patience, as well as our Principal who attended the excursion and participated in all of the activities. Students visited the Australian Parliament House, the War Memorial and the Old Parliament House. We had lunch at the famous park facing the Old Parliament House, where many historical events took place, including the current location of the Aboriginal Embassy. The Canberra trip also included Zuhr prayer in Canberra's largest Masjid. It was a very successful excursion Alhamdulillah. Our students participated effectively and behaved very well throughout the excursion as shown in the photos below. Thank you again for all the staff that made this possible.

PARLIAMENT HOUSE



WAR MEMORIAL



WGS students had a great learning experience about the effects of war through hearing stories of individuals' bravery and tenacity.

OLD PARLIAMENT HOUSE – MUSEUM OF DEMOCRACY

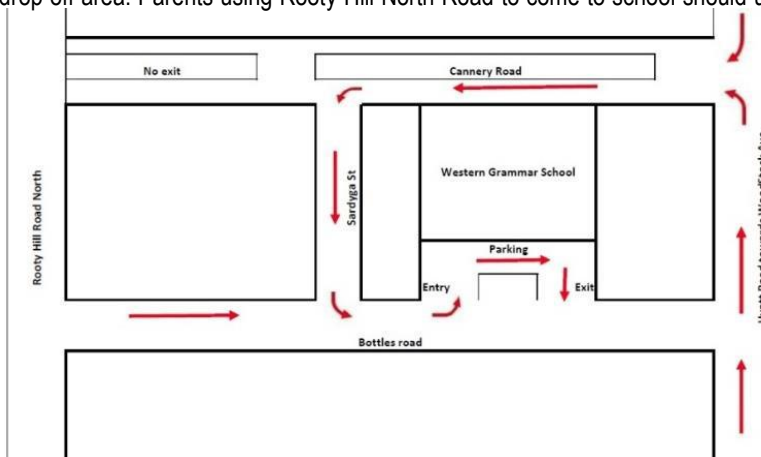


WGS students participated through a hands on quiz and re-enacting an old debate.

IMPORTANT REMINDER/ANNOUNCEMENT

Your cooperation regarding the traffic management of the school is important for the smooth operation of the school and for the greater benefit and growth of the school. Please adhere to the following instructions and Inshallah picking up your kids will be easier.

All parents are requested to use the Bottles Road entrance for pickup and drop off. Cannery road entrance is strictly not allowed for pick up and drops. We have attached a map as a guide for parents to follow so that traffic congestion can be minimized at home time. Parents travelling from Mt Druitt coming on Hyatt Street should turn right on Cannery Road, left on Sardya Street and then left again on Bottles road for picking up their child/ren. Parents travelling from Oakhurst Road should turn left on Cannery Road, left on Sardya Street and left again on Bottles Road to access the school pickup and drop off area. Parents using Rooty Hill North Road to come to school should use Bottles Road to access pick up and drop off area.



Lunch Box Idea: Pizza Scrolls

Ingredients:

- 2 cups Greek-style yoghurt
- 2 cups self-raising flour
- 1 cup Italian tomato cooking sauce
- 3 cups mozzarella cheese, grated
- 100g left over chicken (or beef if you prefer)
- 1 tbsp Italian herbs and spices blend



Method:

1. Preheat oven to 190°C. Line a baking tray with baking paper and set aside.
2. In a large bowl, combine the yoghurt and self-raising flour and mix until a ball forms. Turn out onto a floured bench and knead for 5 minutes. Add extra flour if the dough is too sticky.
3. Roll the dough into a large rectangle of even thickness using a rolling pin.
4. Spread tomato sauce evenly over the entire dough surface.
5. Sprinkle left over chicken and 2 cups of cheese all over the tomato sauce.
6. Shake over the Italian herbs.
7. Roll the dough into a log, starting at the short side. Slice into 2cm pieces and place cut side up on tray.
8. Sprinkle with remaining cheese.
9. Bake for 20-25 mins until golden.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Public Holiday Queen's Birthday – 8th June
- Islamic Book Fair – 5th-12th June
- ICAS Spelling - 16th June
- ICAS Writing – 17th June
- Parent Teacher Interviews – 22nd -23rd June
- Last Day of Term 2 – 26th June



Office: 15 Cannery Road, Plumpton NSW 2761,
Parking: 16 Bottles Road, Plumpton NSW 2761
Ph: 02 9677 9229 Fax: 02 9675 4060, Email: admin@wgs.nsw.edu.au