



Western Grammar School

KNOWLEDGE IS THE ULTIMATE SOLUTION

NL. 18, Vol 3, Issue 3, Term 2

23 May 2014, 23 Rajab 1435 H

In This Issue

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE PG2

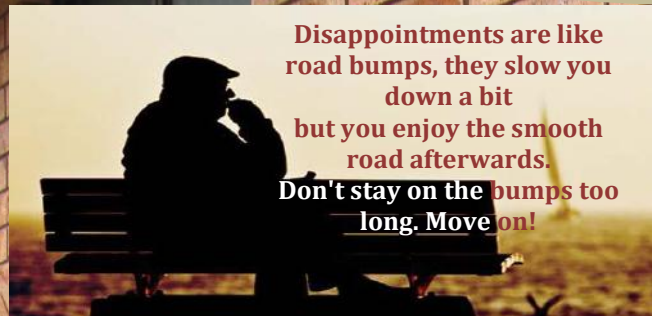
COORDINATOR'S MESSAGE PG2

INSIDE THE CLASSROOMS PG 3-6

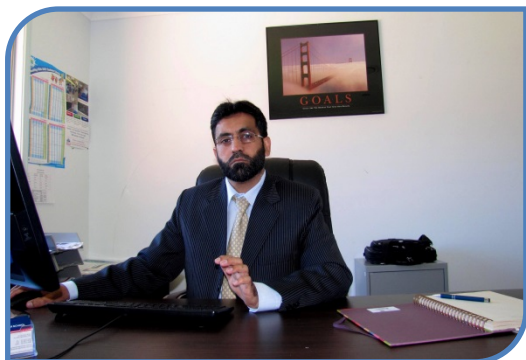
ISLAMIC STUDIES PG 6

STUDENTS CORNER PG 7

SPORTS PG 8



Our New School Uniform



Dear Parents / Guardians

The second term has only just passed its halfway point, and yet so much has already been accomplished. Students from years 3, 5 and 7 have finished their NAPLAN tests. In addition, the half-yearly exams are approaching, and teachers are gearing up their students for this by dedicating an entire week to revision. It seems like we are settling very well in our routine teaching and learning activities. But routine activities are not sufficient enough to achieve the highest targets.

More is needed in planning to achieve the best learning outcome as we intend to make our institution a landmark for the local community. We are constantly pondering and thinking to include anything and everything in our master plan which can help in achieving the bigger goals.

First priority goes to three main factors: infrastructure, facilities and environment. We are striving for the improvement of our facilities, there are difficulties but eventually we will achieve our targets Inshallah. I hope and strongly believe that by the end of this year 2014, we will have our new building ready for use. In terms of our educational environment, so many factors constitute a good educational environment, we are extremely vigilant about this and Alhamdulillah it is a part of our procedure and is happening daily.

Some areas are still under development and one of them is the preparing and providing the school uniform. Initially we decided to have the school uniform exclusively designed for us with our own color scheme and preferred material. Unfortunately this proved to be more difficult than our expectations. There are so many limitations and problems in finding the material of our choice and at the same time to make it cost effective which is why it took us a considerable amount of time to provide the complete uniform to our children. We have made vigorous efforts to achieve this target. Unfortunately, a few items are inconsistent with our expectations and we are trying our best to address these issues. I call them as teething problems and I hope we will be able to resolve them soon.

I must apologise for any inconvenience to the parents and request all parents to be patient for a while. I always request for their cooperation in each and every matter, and do so for this matter. I also extend my gratitude to those who have raised their concerns directly with us with an intention to improve the situation at hand. We invite parents to be part of WGS. I always commend that communication, coordination and cooperation are the most important ingredients for the best operation of any institution.

Nufan Afzal

Maximizing your child's learning is high on the agenda for many parents. As parents we all hope that our child not only meets educational expectations but exceeds them. And in this context, we are all too familiar with the role teachers and the school play on this journey. Parents and students need to familiarize themselves with the reality that these teachers are in fact only facilitators of a student's education and skills.

This term 'facilitator' is more in line with the commonly agreed upon idea that a child's success is highly dependent on support and reinforcement at home. This comes in the form of parents setting a positive attitude towards their child's learning and being a part of this journey. The second form brings me to my main point, which is revision and homework. Earlier, I mentioned that teachers are facilitators of education whereby they provide all necessary means for a successful education of a student. They only plant the seed of knowledge. It is up to the student and parents to water and nurture this seed by revisiting and exploring all concepts taught at school.

If we want our child to surpass a basic level of understanding of all content studied, by no means should we rely only on school. This becomes more evident as a child moves through their respective stages of schooling making it more and more crucial to revise, reinforce and water the seed of knowledge so the child can develop a deep and thorough understanding of content taught at school. I can clearly say that unless there is a systematic and comprehensive home study regime, your child will not be able to effectively absorb what is taught at school and will only gain basic understanding of their school work – and I say this with regards to all KLAs.

Mr. Malik

KINDERGARTEN

Inside the classrooms

Assalaamu Alaikum, Alhamdulillah we have had a positive start to term 2. I have noticed that the kindergarten students are becoming more engaged in their studies and I feel that students have a general 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. I do hope that this growth will continue throughout the learning year. During English speaking and listening sessions, kindergarten students have been learning about sea creatures. 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 skill of comparing their backgrounds, culture and past experiences.



Students excited with their fantastic jellyfish artwork.



Students created beautiful starfish for our kindergarten



Taking ownership of their learning

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 fulfil certain needs. They will also be involved in designing a new classroom and will be working in groups to create a plan for their new design. May Allah bless our wonderful group of kindergarteners in becoming knowledgeable and successful people as they grow in the future.

Ms Dean

YEAR 1

Assalamu alaikum, after a well-deserved break, year 1 has returned back to school feeling energised and excited for the learning that awaits them. Students have settled in extremely well this term and have been introduced to new topics for all the key learning areas. We will be exploring 'Transport' for HSIE, where students will be investigating different modes of transport and how they allow people or things to travel from one place to another. Throughout term one students focused on living things for science; during term two students will use the knowledge gained in term one and apply it to how living things adapt to different seasons. Inshallah we will complete this unit with an excursion to IMAX and The Australian Wildlife Zoo. In PDHPE, we will be looking at Personal Safety and ways that we can protect ourselves: physically, mentally, emotionally and socially. For CAPA, students will be learning about Puppetry and how to design and make our own puppets. For English, we will be looking at the text types 'Explanations' and 'Responses'. Students will continue to receive a weekly list of new words to learn and revise. For Maths, we will focus on one topic area each week. These will be various topics from the numerous mathematical strands required by the syllabus.

Ms Pinar



Reading Time



YEAR 2

Assalamu alaikum, this is a very demanding term with the students revising for the exams and NAPLAN. The year two's have covered a lot in this duration. We have commenced a new topic in PDH, Science and HSIE. In HSIE we are looking at 'Our Place on the Globe' where the students have been enlightened about the continents of the world and the oceans. In Science we are studying 'The Water Cycle' which allowed us to do stimulating experiments such as observing the steam from the electric kettle forming water droplets; water seeping down from the land to the oceans and rivers. In PDH we are exploring the space and caring for the environment. For English we are discussing exposition and explanation. Moreover, in Mathematics we have calibrated a bottle and I have demonstrated displacement. There is a beautiful exposition written by Rufaidah of year 2. *Ms Shabnam*



YEAR 3 & 4



YEAR 5 & 6

Assalamu alaikum,

Term 3 has started with a bit of pressure on students, parents and teachers. However, with NAPLAN out of the way, Year 5/6 is looking forward to an exciting and a hands-on term two.

In Science we will be looking at solids, liquids and gases, and attempt to do some experiments to observe the properties of a variety of materials. In Maths, we are using Play dough and other physical objects to learn about how and why fractions work the way they do, and we will move on to geometry towards the end of the term. And in English, we're complementing reading by doing Drama with Reader's Theatre scripts. In other words, we will attempt to act out some of the texts we will be reading.

I'm also excited to inform you that, Inshallah, Year 5/6 will be implementing a levelled reading program over the next few weeks. This will mean that students will be reading a variety of texts at their own level, which will have numerous benefits. As always, I would like to encourage parents to promote reading in the daily lives of students, and perhaps take out time to take kids to the local library for borrowing and reading of books.

On a final note, I would like to ask parents to encourage and congratulate all students on whatever marks they receive for NAPLAN. Positivity in such high pressure and perceived high stakes examinations is vital for the mental health and well-being of our children. *Mr Shakin*

Assalamu alaikum,

It was lovely to see all my students returning back to school with great enthusiasm, passion and lovely recounts of their holidays. Apart from the usual Numeracy and Literacy, this is what students are up to this term:

Science has a lot to offer – Australian flora and fauna as well as a great visit to Sydney IMAX and Sydney Wildlife Zoo coming up. For PDH, students are learning about the importance of living in a safe environment and undertaking protective measures to protect themselves from harmful effects of our environment. Finally, for CAPA, students are studying a theme song (Tala Al Badru) and learning about Islamic Art such as calligraphy and geometrical designing. Let's not forget that assessment tasks and half-yearly examinations are also around the corner.

Now let's get to NAPLAN. All I want to say is – it's over! We taught, students studied, and parents worried☺. It's all over and done with now. The only thing that remains is to pray for good results. Again I would like to reinforce that NAPLAN is not a content based examination – it is a skills based examination. We will do no justice if we categorise our children on the basis of what grade they achieve in NAPLAN – a single grade is definitely not an effective measure of where she/he truly stands. There is always room for improvement and a poor grade in NAPLAN doesn't mean the end of the world. Stay positive and use your child's NAPLAN grade as a measure of boosting them for improvement rather than reprimanding them ☺. *Ms Sadiq*



YEAR 7 & 8

Assalamu alaikum,

It has been a good start to term two. The students have been enthusiastic and we had a new student join the class recently; he is a bright student and has fit in well. But we have a busy term ahead, the students have had their NAPLAN tests and the half yearly exams will be coming up soon. In History, we have been continuing our study of the Ancient Egyptians. One topic we have done so far this term is mummification: the students found it very interesting to learn how the Egyptians mummified their pharaohs, other people and even animals such as cats, baboons and crocodiles could be mummified. In Design and Technology, students have been learning about Food technology and as a part of this, students have learned how some foods are healthier than others and we need to eat certain foods to get the nutrients we need. For example we need to eat meat so as to get the right amount of iron in our bodies. In Science we have been studying Mixtures and how different substances such as oil and water don't mix and we have learned how salt can be separated from salt water by using evaporation. We will start the next topic soon which will be Habitats and Interactions. It has been a good start to the term but it will be a busy one ahead. Thankfully it is a short term of only 9 weeks and we are already one third of the way through; time is passing quickly!

Mr Ponton

ISLAMIC STUDIES

Assalaam Alaikum (wrrwb) Parents and Students,

By the grace of Allah (swt), term two has started with great expectations and high hopes for the students of WGS in Islamic/Quranic/Arabic studies. The students in term one received exceptional results in these subjects and therefore, Ms Davids and I are working hard to maintain and even exceed this level of competence of our students. The strategies being used this term to develop the capabilities and higher achievements of students are based on our understanding of the students themselves and their achievements in term one.

For Islamic studies this term, the kindergarten students are learning about the early years of the Prophet Muhammad (S) and Islamic ethics, such as; greetings, good behaviour, honesty, brotherhood, and good manners. Year 1-4 students are studying the five pillars of Islam ranging from intermediate to advance studies depending on their grade. Year 5-8 students are studying the stories of the Prophets which include; Nuh, Dawud, Sulaiman, Musa, and Isa (peace be upon them all). They are studying in depth about their lives and lessons we can derive from their stories.

In Arabic studies this term, kindergarten students are completing all the Arabic letters and learning different words that begin with these letters. They are also studying the Arabic numbers and short Arabic phrases. Year 1-4's are studying from the Arabic textbook 'Quran Recitation Made Easy,' learning different rules and grammar based on their grade with some Arabic phrases. Year 5-8 students are studying from their Advance Tajweed Book where they will study, in depth, how to read and write the Arabic language. They are also expected to understand some words given so that next term they will be ready for speaking and listening in Arabic.

For Quran Memorisation and Tafsir, kindergarteners are memorising Surah; Al-Nasr, Al-Kaafiroon, Al-Kauthar, and Al-Ma'un. The Year 1's are studying Surah Al-Bayyinah, year 2's Surah Al-Mutaffifeen, and year 5-8's Surah Al-Insaan.

We pray to Allah to see our students achieving a great level of understanding of our beautiful Deen and developing themselves to become better Muslims and citizens of Australia. With your help as parents, your child will excel in all fields of study at WGS and will Inshallah achieve tremendous results in their Half Yearly Exam in week 6 and 7. May Allah grant us all success.

Mr Hakeem



Pondering on Science

STUDENT'S CORNER

My Favourite Seafood

In seafood my favourite are fish and prawn. I like crispy prawn with barbecue sauce, it is yummy. I love to eat fish and prawn in coconut milk with rice, its creamy and sweet in taste. I also like fish and prawn biryani and fried rice. We should eat seafood because seafoods are good for health. Seafoods are good for eyes, heart and joints. So eat healthy and live healthy. **Arslan B. (Kindy)**



My favourite Sea Creature

My favourite sea creature is dolphins. Dolphins are sea creatures. They are very fast swimmers. Dolphins are mammals. Dolphins eat fish and squid. Dolphins are pink, white, black and grey. People train dolphins to do tricks. Dolphins are friendly and I like them because they are nice. **Zoha J. (Kindy)**

Once upon a time there lived a girl called Alisha. She wanted to go to the swimming pool. So she called her mum and dad and she said can I go to the swimming pool and her mum and dad said yes you can. So she went to the swimming pool and she said I want to swim. Then she swam and swam. Then she saw a starfish and a rock. She said to her mum I saw a starfish and a rock. Then she went back home and she bring the starfish and the rock home. (the end) **Rumaisha S. (Year 1)**



What have you learnt in Islamic/Arabic/Quranic studies this term that has impacted or changed your life? Explain how?

I've learnt alot in Islamic Arabic and Quranic of somethings I shouldn't do or what I should do because before I learnt all these rules and importance I was curious of what I have to do to be a righteous muslim, so now, I am pleased that I've learnt this and ready.

Themes of the Week – My view

Learning our Islamic values, as well as education is important for a successful life and future. That's what we get here, every week. The themes of the week help us remember our daily roles in life - like patience, respecting elders & others, being truthful and our rights to Allah upon being a Muslim. There are many themes of the week I enjoyed & ofcourse my favourite respecting Elders.

We have learnt respecting Elders is an important part of life. We must respect them whether or not we know them, especially our parents. Respecting parents I learnt we are not even allowed to say 'UFF' to them. Mercy is another of my favourite theme. We learnt our Beloved Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) was merciful not only to people but also to animals, plants, insects and all of mankind and we should too.



One theme of the week I learnt we should implement in over daily lives is patience. We should be patient in everything we do in every way we can even if it is preventing ourselves from doing sins or something that is disliked by Allah. Another form of patience is trying our best to do something good no matter how hard it is. Even if the surrounding environment is against any good deed and that may benefit us and the humanity at large. Some examples you might experience in your life for the above to patience are: Prevent watching movies, delaying prayer, playing video games, stealing (snacks), tempting bad habits, watching inappropriate things your parents might not know, and so on.

There are many other great themes of the week like: Cleanliness, good friends, leaving bad habits, & etc. The themes of the week will not only benefit students of WGS in this word but also in the hereafter. **Eamaan Z - Year 5/6**

SPORTS



Sports at WGS is exciting and dynamic. We have a variety of groups within the school, resulting in a variety of activities.

The Kindergarteners have been introduced to and are working on the development of gross motor skills, such as sprint running and maintaining balance using controlled body movement, while also learning teamwork. A favourite game is "Traffic Lights". Year 1 students are also developing locomotor skills, through hopping, running and skipping, as well as non-locomotor skills, such as stretching, twisting, balancing, throwing, catching, kicking and dribbling. These are learnt through sporting games.

Girls in Years 3-8 are engaged in a plethora of sporting activities. The girls play a mix of sports such as dodge ball, soccer, poison ball, bull-rush and relays. Girls have been organised into two separate teams and they enjoy playing hard together to win. It is a pleasure to witness the development in their teamwork skills and their physical stamina.



The boys in Years 3-8 have recently completed the inaugural WGS Soccer Cup. We were delighted to see the fun and enthusiasm with which the boys participated, and the level of sportsmanship displayed in all games. It is with great delight that we announce the winner of the tournament:

Congratulations Asad FC!

Moving on into term 2, we have started another tournament, and this time the sport that is being played is Touch Football. While many students are unfamiliar with this sport, the students are again participating with great enthusiasm and delight. In fact, students have even replaced their sport of choice during normal lunch time to touch football! We look forward with great anticipation to the results of the WGS Touch Football cup, and to the rapid development of touch football skills of all students.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Queen's Birthday 9th Jun, 2014
- Half Yearly Exams 10-14th Jun 2014
- Ramadan Book fair 23-27th Jun, 2014
- Last day of the Term 28th Jun, 2014
- First Day of Term3 14th Jul, 2014

