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Western Grammar School

Newsletter

ALLAH WILL RAISE THOSE WHO HAVE BELIEVED AMONG YOU AND THOSE WHO WERE GIVEN KNOWLEDGE, BY DEGREES. -QURAN 58:11

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Deputy Principal's Message

Assalamu Alaikum,

Term 2 has reached the half way mark and students are eagerly preparing for their half yearly exams. Please make sure that they study in advance to ensure that it doesn't become too overwhelming for the students.

Students must revise all booklets sent home and exam notices should have been received by all parents by now. If you are unclear or have questions about the exams, please contact your child's class teacher as soon as possible.

Ramadan is fast approaching and we ask Allah SWT to grant us all a blessed month filled with forgiveness Insha'Allah. May we make the most of the opportunities Allah SWT is granting us as we don't know if we will be as privileged again.

Lastly we have moved into our new school building and the kids are very happy with our new facilities. New activities are also being introduced and we have seen lots of excitement from both staff and students.

We thank all those working hard behind the scenes to make WGS a success and in a short period of time since inception we've grown from strength to strength Alhamdulillah. This is not possible without your support as parents and we urge you to continue supporting us in the years ahead.

JazakAllahu Khairan,

Sheikh Anwar Gallie

Deputy Principal

Primary Coordinator's Message

Assalamu Alaikum,

The primary section of Western Grammar School has been extremely busy over the previous weeks. Our subject committees have been working very hard to implement new and exciting opportunities for students to explore various aspects of each key-learning area. This term, students will be engaged in events that enhance each child's literacy abilities.

The NSW Premier's Reading Challenge will begin and each student will be given the opportunity to explore quality literature in an engaging manner.

Western Grammar also took part in the annual Whitlam Institute Writing Competition, which allowed students to write about what matters in the world or specifically to them. It was great to see each student creatively write about and explore various issues that they consider to be important.

NAPLAN examinations have finished, and we are proud of the effort each student placed into their preparation. Thank you to all the parents who ensured their child attended each after school session. Our primary team has gained a valuable new staff member; WGS welcomes Ms Rouba Hamoui as the new Kindergarten teacher. We wish her a rewarding journey in our school.

Over the term we will be updating parents about the events and curriculum activities we have set for your child. We look forward to seeing these opportunities support and progress the knowledge of each and every student.





In the last five years, the number of preteens and teenagers who use social media has jumped dramatically: over 95% of all teens aged 12-17 are now online and more than half of all adolescents log on to a social media site more than once a day. Because of this, a large part of their social and emotional development occurs while they are online and this can have some severely detrimental side effects both on their mental health and their social skills. Some of the main risks that teenagers face include cyberbullying, accessing inappropriate content, and not understanding personal privacy issues.

Cyberbullying & Predators



Cyberbullying, or online bullying, can occur to any young person online and often leads to depression, anxiety, isolation and occasionally suicide. Many parents assert that the social media platforms on which their children sign-up are secure since they only socialise with school friends and people they know. However, depending on the privacy settings, strangers or even friends can send messages anonymously that insult or make fun of their peers. Because creating a fake account online is so easy and websites do not perform background checks, strangers can quickly become predators who first befriend and then blackmail young children. Zainab Kader, a social worker who specialises in working with children, asserts that it is becoming more prevalent for perpetrators to be close relatives, family friends, or someone that the family trusts.

Privacy Issues & Inappropriate Content

Teenagers who lack an awareness of privacy issues often post inappropriate messages, pictures, and videos without understanding that what goes online, stays online. Because of peer pressure and a desire to seek attention and recognition, teens will often post revealing pictures or release personal information such as their location or their plans. Actions like these are not only harmful for them in the present but can also cause them problems in the future.

On the flip side of revealing inappropriate content is accessing it. Many social media sites display ads on their pages that may be inappropriate. In some instances, teenagers may seek out content like this or encourage their peers to post revealing pictures. To combat this, parents can install software that hides advertisements and prohibits access to certain websites.



Many of the behaviours that teens display online is caused by a lack of judgement. The part of the brain responsible for making judgements, the prefrontal cortex, does not fully develop until a person is in their twenties, and therefore, making the correct decisions online can be difficult for them. It is imperative that parents have regular, respectful discussions with their children about how they conduct themselves online, what they post and how to maintain their privacy. These conversations will help build a level of trust and will make children more comfortable with discussing any problems or bullying that they might face online. It is also important that parents familiarise themselves with the sites that their children use and keep themselves updated.

Oftentimes, it is the parent's lack of knowledge that creates a divide between themselves and their child. Allowing unrestricted use of social media without close supervision is extremely risky.

Parents have a huge part to play in ensuring kids are protected and not exposed to the dangers in society. Allah SWT says: *O you who believe, save yourselves and your families from a fire whose fuel is men and stones; over it are angels, stern and strong.* (Surah 66, Verse 6)

PREVENTION IS BETTER THAN CURE. WE URGE PARENTS TO NOT ALLOW CHILDREN TO HAVE ACCESS TO CONTENT THAT MIGHT CAUSE THEM HARM.



Assalamu Alaikum,

WOW!!! What a year! It's already Term 2 and we're having a fantastic time! We've got heaps of learning to do, an excursion to go to and we are preparing for our first Ramadan in Kindergarten! We've had loads of fun so far.



Science: Kindergarten has participated in "hands on" learning experiences using their five senses to observe the materials in their environment. The work samples on the left display the kind of textures we feel by touching things!

English: In English this term, Kindergarten has been reading books by the Australian author Mem Fox. Students have joined in fun learning experiences learning about different Australian foods and animals, the different states and capital cities of Australia, as well as creating their own possum characters!



Mathematics: Aeroplanes, trains, trucks and cars! Kindergarten grouped themselves into different categories of transportation to represent and compare data on their picture graphs!

- Ms Rana & Ms Hamoui





Assalamu Alaikum,

Term 2 has been an exciting term for Year 1. Our focus has been on literacy and several students have shown significant improvement in reading and writing. Students have also improved in their speaking and listening by preparing their news sessions beforehand. We have been learning about different kinds of animals and writing information reports on them. Students are looking forward to their excursion to Taronga Zoo to see some of those animals in real life. In Mathematics, we are focusing on our skills of addition, subtraction and area and have delved into calculating with coins. We are learning about different kinds of materials in Science and focusing on the ways different materials can be manipulated. Students are loving their experiments, conducted using everyday objects, such as using chocolate and ice to observe melting. In Creative Arts, we are using different kinds of materials to make beautiful visual art, ranging from rainbows to sheep! Reading is an integral part of improving literacy. Although we read every day at school, both individually and as a class, it is important that students are reading at least fifteen minutes every night. It is more fun to read when parents and other family members get involved. One of the many ways of getting involved is asking questions about the book – characters, main events and other important aspects. It is also a great idea to involve the children's imaginations by asking them to imagine being inside the story

-Ms Lamia



Year One & Two



Assalamu Alaikum,

As a class, Year 1 & 2 have had a lot of hands on experiences such as learning how to put numbers in order, number patterns, 2D shapes, addition and so forth. The students enjoyed planting and observing worms for science. In PDH, the students cut and pasted the parts of the human body. In HSIE, we are studying the changes in the environment. For English, they have been reading a lot and started reading the book 'The Giraffe, the Pelly and Me' along with other guided reading books. They will be learning information reports this term and they have already started writing some themselves using their guided reading books. In Sports, they are enjoying doing warm ups and chasing their partners with bean bags. Most of our time was spent on revision for the half yearly exams, therefore all the best to students in their exams. As always, the students cannot produce excellent results without the parents' support and co-operation.

-Ms Shabnam



Dear parents,

Welcome back to Term 2

For English, the students have been exposed to a range of multimodal texts and have been learning about explanation writing. As a class we have enjoyed reading and discovering a lot of books such as 'The Magic Finger'.

For Maths, the students have been enjoying a range of hands on materials and experiences. Technology has been incorporated as well. The students used a range of strategies and informal recording methods for addition and subtraction involving one and two digit numbers. The students learnt about naming and describing the features of the three dimensional objects. Through hands on activities, the students created three dimensional shapes. Furthermore, the students estimated and measured volume and capacity by filling containers with uniform informal units and counting the number of units used.

For Science, students are learning about living and non-living things. In this unit, students describe the features of living things and the ways in which they grow and change. They also explore how living things depend on places in their environment to meet their needs.

-Ms El-Kheir

Year Three



Assalamu Alaikum,

Term 2 has commenced and we have been working extremely hard in the Year 3 classroom. Alhamdulillah, NAPLAN has ended on a positive note, and we thank all the students and parents for their efforts throughout this process. We have now entered our brand new classroom which is full of enjoyable areas that students can learn in. We have created a reading corner which allows students to read a variety of texts in a comfortable setting, and we have a lot of visual stimulation surrounding our walls.

In English, students have been learning all about proper and common nouns, as well as learning how to write a proper narrative. In order to expand their knowledge in this area, Year 3 attended a writing workshop that built on these skills.

Our class has enjoyed learning about 3D shapes and their properties, it's exciting to see how many students work on their prior knowledge of this topic as they gain new information.

-Ms Abbas

Year Four



Assalamu Alaikum,

Alhamdulillah, our ship has landed in Term 2, our anchor is down and we have been exploring the land. With a brand new classroom and atmosphere, Year 4 has been working very hard and I have seen a marvellous jump in their work and attitude. In English, Year 4 has been studying the writing process and they are learning about the grammatical features and structures relevant to writing an information text. This week, we attended a writing workshop in the Powerhouse Museum in Casula to improve on the skills they learnt in class. The workshop was an interesting experience and helped our class learn new techniques that will make their writing stand out. Year 4 has also enjoyed learning mathematical problems. Students are exploring and generating solutions to real-life problems and investigations which provide opportunities to utilize mathematical language in reflecting upon and communicating findings. Alhamdulillah, their motivation never ceases to amaze me and I am very lucky to have Year 4.

-Ms Tajjour



Year Five & Six



Assalamu Alaikum,

It has been a productive and testing start to Term 2. We had many challenges to overcome and many milestones to achieve within a small window of time. In the past four weeks we have met both the government's and the school's deadlines on our endeavour to improve your child's education. In Year 5, we completed NAPLAN preparations and carried out the tests to ACARA's expectations and standards. We also took time to ensure your child was as prepared as possible for these exams. Moreover, we have begun a quest to the Earth's core as we discover the beginnings and ends of natural disasters in our science course. Our history course on the other hand, has thrown us back in time, helping us learn about primary sources. We have delved into the lives of early settlers and colonisers and how Aboriginals first interacted with the "white man". Year 5 & 6 have also gone on their much anticipated excursion to Casula Powerhouse Museum where the students interacted with local writers and artists in a bid to help improve and inspire them to become better writers whilst encouraging them to be critical thinkers.

-Mr. Ibrahim



SHAKIR'S SHELF

One of the best ways to help your child do better in school is to incorporate their lessons in everyday discussions and activities. Below are some suggestions to get you started.

Ask Your Teen's Opinion: Encourage discussion as much as possible in your house. Ask your child for their opinion about political and social issues, or about books, movies, and TV shows. Listen carefully and prompt them to express their ideas thoughtfully, backing up their claims with evidence. This will help tremendously with exposition writing.

Encourage Reading Aloud: Encourage your adolescent to read aloud to and tell stories to younger siblings. Reading remains a large issue for most, if not all, of the students at our school, so any reading at all will help.

Help Develop a Homework Routine: Help your child develop a consistent homework routine. Make sure that they not only review what was covered in school that day, but also help them learn how to keep track of long-term assignments as well as revise previous topics weekly. You can help them be consistent with this routine by asking what they're working on, how they're progressing with long-term assignments, and whether they need any help. Revising previous content is of the utmost importance too, as we don't want children to forget concepts and skills which they spent many hours learning! This is especially important for Maths.

Highlight Math in Sports: For many students, sports provide an engaging way of exploring a host of mathematical concepts. For example, any cricket fan knows that the game can't truly be appreciated without an understanding of some essential statistics, like a player's batting average, or the run rate required for a team to win. Soccer is also full of statistics, such as the percentage of passes a team completes, or the possession of the ball. If your child is passionate about a sport, encourage them to explore it through math.

Use Shopping to Practice Math: Make a habit of asking your child to help out with the shopping by calculating which items are better buys. For example, is it better to purchase 2 six-packs of 250 ml cans, or two 2-liter bottles that cost the same price? How much do you save per item when something is priced as buy two get one free? How much is an item now, after the marked 30% reduction, and is it cheaper than the alternative? This will drive home the importance and relevance of these skills, so they're more likely to pay attention to and retain these concepts when learnt at school.

-Mr. Shakir



Assalamu Alaikum,

Alhamdulillah, it was a great start for Term 2, 2016. It was great teaching Year 7, 8, 9 and 10. Year 7's have started the topic 'Mixtures' and enjoyed doing filtration experiments. Year 8 had a chance to do brain, kidney and heart dissections as practicals and Year 9 studied the benefits and theory behind electrical energy. Year 10 had a really busy term and had lot of fun making glow sticks, jelly enzymes and ocean currents. There were lots of assessments due in Science this term and I would like to thank parents for their continuous support and the students for completing the assessments on time. Inshallah, they will continue putting in the extra effort and will maintain their dedication throughout the term. All the best to all high school students for their Half Yearly Exams. JazakAllah.

-Ms Khan





Assalamu Alaikum,

Our students have been learning about giving Sadaqah and helping the less fortunate. This has been practiced among the students and staff with the donation of the Syrians gift items. Gifts were given to Syrian refugee families at the Welcome BBQ, an event organised by the Salvation Army and the National Zakat Foundation.

With Ramadan around the corner, this theme of helping others will certainly be continued to be promoted as the rewards are certainly greater in Ramadan.

Here's a 5 week plan to help you get ready and make the best of this holy month.



Week 1: Get Yourself Motivated- Start with making Dua'

Recite the following dua' repeatedly throughout the day and every day leading up to Ramadan:

Allahumma barik lana fi Rajab wa Sha'ban wa ballighna Ramadan

When the Prophet (saw) sighted the moon of Rajab (two months before Ramadan) he used to pray to Allah in the following words:

"Allahumma barik lana fi Rajab wa Sha'ban wa ballighna Ramadan"

O Allah! Make the months of Rajab and Sha'ban blessed for us, and let us reach the month of Ramadan (i.e. prolong our life up to Ramadan, so that we may benefit from its merits and blessings) [Narrated by at-Tabarani and Ahmad]

You can also listen to Islamic lectures on your way to work or school. Choose a scholar and topic that you feel will motivate you and get your heart in the right state.

Week 2: Build up the Habit of 'Fasting & Prayers'

Start making up the missed fasts and then fast as many days as possible in Shaaban.

"I asked Aisha about the fasting of the Prophet (saw). She said: 'He used to fast until we thought he would always fast. And he used to not fast until we thought he would always not fast. I never saw him fast more in any month than in Shaaban (other than Ramadan). He used to fast all of Shaaban; he used to fast all of Shaaban except a little.'" Sahih

Start to pray Qiyam ul-Layl after 'Isha, start getting up for Tahajjud; you only need to wake up half an hour before you normally would for Fajr.

Week 3: Recite and Reflect Upon the Qur'an

Allocate a certain amount of Qur'an to read every day and ensure that you read this amount regularly.

Get a translation and a Tafsir book in your local language to help you better understand the Qur'an and get closer to Allah.

Week 4: Make Tawbah Nasooha

We all make mistakes, but Alhamdulillah we can always repent.

The Prophet (saw) said: "All the children of Adam constantly err, but the best of those who constantly err are those who constantly repent." (Tirmidhi)

Week 5: Think About Charity and Allocate your 'Zakat & Sadaqah'

Think of ways you can benefit your community and the ummah with charitable acts.

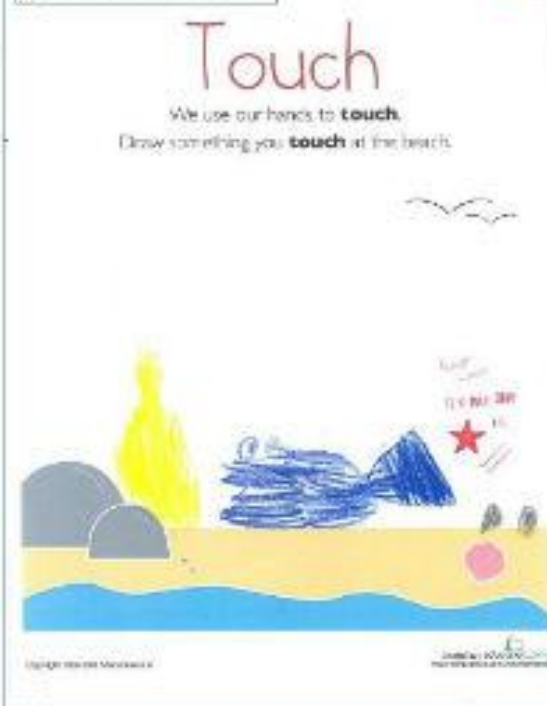
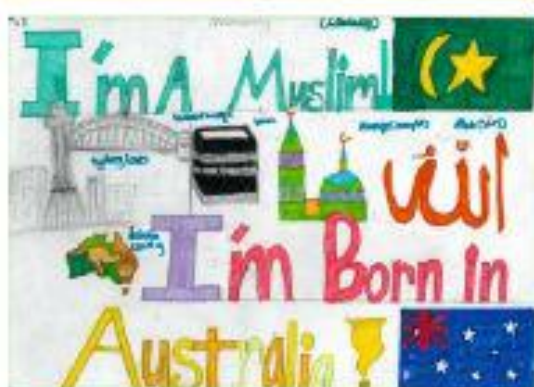
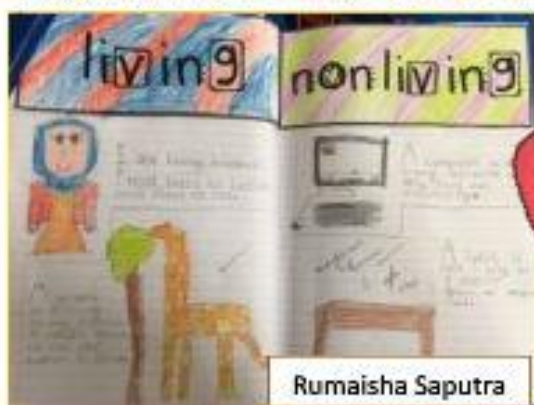
Be imaginative, try and involve as many people as you can and remember that even the smallest act of kindness counts as charity.

We also encourage you to calculate your Zakat, if you are due to pay it, and allocate the amount you want to pay for Sadaqah in Ramadan and set it aside. As you do so, make an effort to read about the plight of those less fortunate than ourselves. This will have the two-fold effect of making you grateful for what you have and wanting to do more for charity.





Kidz Corner



My best friend Ruzaidah

Ruzaidah Saputra is her name,

Ruzaidah Saputra plays my game.

She is a very caring friend,

Belongings of hers she loves to lend.

She's pretty, nice and sweet,

Her writing is oh so neat!

Ruzaidah has a beautiful smile,

I get sad when I don't see her for a while.

She's always very helpful,

For that I'm deeply thankful.

Ruzaidah and I make a wonderful team,

Growing up together in W.G.S is my dream!

She makes me happy when I'm upset,

Grief and worries instantly I forget.

We often call each other after school,

She's also funny and extremely cool.

Ruzaidah and I have a special bond together,

Insha Allah I pray we are united in Jannah forever.

AMEN!

Inaayah Ali





SRC Term Planner

Week 8- Friday 17th May: Fundraiser

Teachers' tea party

Week 9- Friday 17th June: Abaya Day

Students and staff are encouraged to wear Islamic attire to celebrate the holy month of Ramadan. Students will also be encouraged to donate money to the poor and needy in our community

Week – Thursday 30th June: Staff & Family Iftaar

The SRC and Ms Hina will help organise a wonderful night for the staff and their families to break their fasts in our new building. Delicious food & desserts will be served to end a long day of fasting during the last few days of the term



SRC Reports

The end of term Fun Day was an outstanding success. With great weather, enthusiastic staff and excited students, the Fun Day was a huge hit with everyone involved. The variety of sporting activities between the students and the staff teams were full of passion and excitement and very competitive indeed. Walking through the crowds, you could see happy students and teachers. Squeals of delight could be heard from students of all ages as they scored points against their friends and teachers. The most abundant comment I have received from many students is that "there was something for everyone". There was a positive buzz throughout the entire day. This Fun Day was the result of a mighty effort from many people. I would personally like to congratulate everyone involved, particularly the 2016 SRC team whose commitment and effort was invaluable in making this event possible. I'd also like to thank Western Grammar School which fosters valued partnerships with parents and the wider community.



Library News

Alhamdulillah, our library at Western Grammar School has been re-established and will provide a bigger and better reading environment to help our students achieve enhanced literacy skills. To encourage students to read more, WGS has once again participated in the Premier's Reading Challenge, which invites students to read a variety of different books within their level. All Students from K-10 have been handed PRC forms for the current year. PRC books can be found in our school library and also in local libraries. Parents, please encourage and inspire your child/ren to participate in this reading challenge. Reading is very beneficial for students as it assists them in grasping different concepts in English and increases their knowledge and imagination.

To welcome the month of Ramadan, Western Grammar School will once again hold the Islamic Book Fair. Parents and students are requested to support the school in our quest to make this book fair a huge success. Information regarding the fair will be sent home with students as the day draws near.

Thank you to parents who have donated books to the WGS library. Donations are very welcome as our library is still growing.

JazakAllah Khair

Ms. Hina



Sports



Alhamdulillah, this term so far we have been practicing a lot of locomotor and non-locomotor skills from years K-6 as part of our PDHPE curriculum and the students have been having a lot of fun outside in a new environment. The Kindergartens have been practicing non-locomotor skills such as static, where they were to balance on one, two or three body parts and locomotor skills such as jumping, skipping and walking along a line on the ground. They were also springing, landing and doing rotations. The Year 1s were jumping over a line, side to side and from hoop to hoop. They were also rolling balls to their partners and skipping ropes. The Year 2s were practicing their throwing and catching skills, dribbling skills and balancing skills. The Year 3s were playing a fast moving game involving changes of direction, speed and use of space. For example, "Streets and Lanes" and "Fruit Salad" as part of warm-up and twisting, curling, stretching while sitting and standing in a hoop as part of non-locomotor skills. More so the Year 4s have been exploring a variety of locomotor skills in relay activities which involves 'Crab crawl', 'Hoop skip' and 'Seal Roll'. The Year 5 and 6s were sprinting, running, jumping and throwing using advance tactics to improve scores.



Announcements

- Primary & HS Exams: 30th May – 3rd June
- Islamic Book Fair: Coming soon
- Year 7 Immunisation: 31st May
- Islamic Studies Exams: 14 June – 17 June
- Cyber Bullying: 10th June
- Queen's Birthday: 13th June

Due to the limited amount of places available next year, parents are requested to submit their enrolment forms for any new students as soon as possible. WGS cannot ensure that siblings will be accepted if they are enrolled late.