



Dear Parents, Staff & students

Assalamu Alaikum wa Rahmatallahi wa Barakatu.

I wanted to visit school especially in the middle of the year to personally experience the situation of our facilities and student performance. Friday the 20 June, my visit to school campus gave me great satisfaction that the school is progressing in all its endeavours towards the overall development and personality of the Western Grammar students. Academic excellence along with co-curricular and

extra co-curricular activities completes the process of education. The school newsletter is a platform for the students and staff to express their creative pursuits with thought and imagination. WGS continues to pride itself on the mental, physical, emotional, and spiritual development of its students. To this end of holistic education, we strongly believe that educational excellence cannot be achieved solely through book knowledge. At the WGS, it has been our aim to provide the right environment for young minds to take wing and fly. WGS prepares the students for pathways for a globalised future, where changes take place every second and decisions have to be taken on the spot. The Principal, Mr Irfan, along with the dedicated staff, are committed in shaping the future of our students' academia and spiritual upbringing. We need the continuation of parents support to maintain their children in achieving the objective of learning and a smooth journey full of joy and discoveries. I extend my warm wishes to the Principal, staff and students of Western Grammar School, to continue this journey on the road to excellence for our students. May Allah make the sapling grow into a sturdy tree and spread its branches!

And may Allah SWT bless those who are devoting their sincere efforts to help our students to be successful leaders and make Western Grammar the best school in the community, Insha'Allah. Ramadan Mubarak to all the parents, students, staff and to the supporters of WGS & the community.

#### Subhan Ali (Chairperson School Board)

#### Marhaba Ramadan

Whoever kept the fast with true faith and accountability will enter Paradise (Al-hadith). This is one the most effective messages related to fasting. I always view the rituals in terms of their effects on our daily life and to the life of the entire human society. The above Hadith gives good news of entering Paradise to those who fast in the month of Ramadan subject to true belief and self-accountability. Obviously belief is a major part of every act, if one does not believe the benefit and importance of any action, why would one do it? And if one does any action without true belief or without any aim, he will never be able to achieve the true benefits related to the action. Fasting is one of the most effective rituals which contains countless benefits provided it is performed with true belief in it, and accountability during performing this deed. Self-accountability is something generally ignored by the people and hard to do. It is easy to judge others and make accountable for anything, it is generally difficult to present oneself for audit and trail. Fasting is an act that gives a wonderful opportunity of self-accountability, no one is watching us, no one is forcing us to remain hungry and thirsty for 12 to 18 hours a day.

There is an opportunity to think why are we doing all of this. And that is why Prophet Muhammad has said in another Hadith, "Whoever fasts throughout the day and never gives up lying, cheating and bad deeds, Allah does not need him to remain hungry and thirsty." Last week and this week the theme of the week at WGS School was about the benefit of Ramadan. I believe that students of WGS have gained beneficial knowledge about Ramadan. It is now the duty of the parents to supplement our efforts by making sure that their children are reaping the benefits of Ramadan. May Allah (SWT) protect us all from the catastrophes of this life and life hereafter (Ameen). All the best and Ramadan Mubarak.



# **Education Matters**

s teachers, we were once seen to be responsible for only ensuring that subject knowledge was taught. Beyond this, there was minimal scope and the expectations of society were parallel along this line of thinking. The above role was plagued with the assumption that a child's ability to learn is independent of his social and emotional settings. How times have changed! We now come to know that, as teachers, we are not simply teaching a 'student', rather a complete human being and acknowledging that the social and emotional setting of that student influences every part of that given student. Whether we have come to this conclusion through research or by experience, this phenomenon of student learning is one of great depth and complexity.



The more we understand our students in relation to their social and emotional settings, the more effective our teaching will be.

The essence of social and emotional learning views a student and her/his ability to learn not as an independent phenomenon but rather as one that is dependent on variables such as the socio economic and social political status, family situations, health and general wellbeing. The most effective teachers will therefore embark to bring all of these variables into a healthy equilibrium. As such, taking the time to manage students, developing rapport, showing care about students and understanding them as complete human beings is the very foundation of effective student teaching.

As teachers, we are not simply passing information from brain to brain; rather it is a more complex process where it is, firstly, a transfer of understanding from heart to heart, and secondly, a transfer of knowledge from brain to brain. The more we understand our students in relation to their social and emotional settings, the more effective our teaching will be. Imagine knowledge as a vehicle undertaking a journey from the teacher and the projected destination being the student. Thus, in such a scenario, in order to most effectively and efficiently reach the destination (student learning), the path must be known. Once the path is known, we can avoid hazards and pave out a clear path to the destination. Imagine travelling this path blind, how can we make it to the destination? Understanding a student's social and emotional setting, such as their family situation, health and well-being and their personality allows teachers to identify the path. Consequently, they can then transfer knowledge through this path and avoid potential hazards that may cause academic inefficiencies in this journey of education. \*\*Matik\*\*

**Personal Development Thought** 

"I do not think much of a man who is not wiser today than he was yesterday." Abraham Lincoln

## **Learning Every Day**

You are never too old to stop learning, and we should all look to learn something new every day. I had read a number of years ago that a great question to ask your children each night is: "What did you learn at school today?"

Let's ask the question of ourselves: What have I learned today?

# Inside the class rooms

#### KINDERGARTEN

Assalamu Alaikum Parents,

Kindergarten has had a successful term two Alhamdullilah! We have already reached the half year mark! Our beautiful Kindergarten students have grown in both maturity and attitude towards learning. They are now well aware of what is expected from them in being a good Muslim at Western Grammar School and they try their best to display themselves in that manner. Kindergartens have been very busy this term learning many new sight words and how to spell. They have come a long way in writing skills this term and this was evident in their weekly news presentations on sea creatures; keep it up! Kindergarten undertook their first formal half-yearly exams and students put in great effort and produced fantastic results.



Our excursion to Sydney IMAX and Aquarium was a fabulous learning experience in which students were given a firsthand experience with marine life. Alhamdulillah, the day was well planned and the weather was perfect. The excitement Kindergarten students showed when first entering IMAX was a sight to see and during the documentary sessions all student were highly engaged and amazed looking at the sea creatures through their 3D glasses. The fun and smiles was not over as we walked to Sydney Aquarium. Students were able to identify sea animals before they were told and this is due to their background knowledge learnt in class; well done! Students had an outstanding experience walking through the glass tunnel, where they were delighted to see sharks, sting rays, some large turtles, and many more fish. We also got the opportunity to play 'I spy' and count the sea animals as they swam by. Students really enjoyed the sensory pool where they had the opportunity to touch some star fish and rocks. Overall, the term went extremely well and I look forward in seeing you all next term.

I wish all the families of students in Western Grammar a fantastic holiday and Ramadan Mubarak to you all! May Allah bless our students with great wisdom and good knowledge. See you all next term Insha'Allah!

#### YEAR 1

#### Assalamu Alaikum,

Year one has experienced a very busy term with their half yearly reports. Students worked extremely hard revising in class and at home in all key learning areas, producing excellent results in their exams tabarak'Allah! In class, year one has been striving to improve their reading and have thus far been successful.

This term year one was fortunate to participate in an excursion to IMAX and Sydney Wildlife Zoo. At IMAX students watched Under the Sea 3D and discovered all the sea creatures that live beneath the ocean. Year one watched a snake and crocodile show and observed the different habitats of a large variety of animals at Sydney Wildlife Zoo. The excursion allowed students to build on what they have been learning in science. Year one had a very enjoyable and educating experience at Darling harbour. \*\*Mr Pivar\*\*





#### YEAR 2





Students making their drought land in groups

Assalamu Alaikum,

Alhamdulillah, my class has been working extremely diligently this term, with the homework, assessment tasks and exams. The good results reflect that the students have been learning and paying attention in class. However, instead of being content with their achievement, we need to strive for excellence. Hence, Inshallah with more hard work and dedication, we will accomplish the goal. As expected there are some students who need to put in a lot more effort than the others. For the low achievers', it is recommended to read every day to flourish in English, while for Mathematics they need to do a lot of practice. Completing the homework is essential, especially for students who are not naturally gifted academically. Moreover, looking at the curriculum areas of English we have revised exposition, explanation, procedure and discussion. In Maths, we have covered fractions, length, area, volume and 2D shapes. The students enjoyed the CAPA classes as they made creative artworks of spiders and various faces. Also, in Science they made beautiful artwork of a drought-affected land, while studying about the importance of water. In addition, in HSIE, the pupils located their place on the globe using the 'Google Maps' with exhilaration. Finally, in PDH we looked at the school environment and discussed the safety measures which could be taken to improve the school environment. Ms Shabnam





#### **YEAR 5 & 6**

Subhanallah, time really does fly! I write this column with a tinge of disbelief at how fast this term flew by. With NAPLAN at the start, half yearly exams in the middle, and half yearly reports at the end, Term 2 was extremely busy for Year 5/6.

Nevertheless, the term has been a fun, if challenging, journey, and the class has progressed a lot. This is especially true for Maths, where we have focused heavily on fractions and decimals, and students are starting to get a solid understanding of these topics and their applications to daily life. Drama has been another popular topic, where we have been doing Reader's Theatre. Students have been reading their parts, understanding them, and then acting them out – and in the process, have been increasing their comprehension of texts, as well as fluency and expression of their reading.

Science was also noteworthy, with Year 5/6 carrying out a couple of interesting and fun experiments, and I hope have begun to look at the wonders Allah has created around us and the extreme complexity of the interactions of these materials.

All in all, a successful term, and I look forward to teaching the class in term 3. As always, in closing I would strongly suggest that all students in Year 5/6 increase their reading, and implement a program of ongoing revision at home. Further, students should have a set daily time purely for homework, and start to view homework as a pathway to success, rather than a burden and a chore. *Mr. Shakir* 

Assalamu Alaikum. So much has been done in such less time! This term has gone by extremely quickly and students have been proactive in multi-tasking simultaneous assignments and examinations hand in hand.

For CAPA, students have been engaged in both geometrical designing as well as oral performances on the Arabic nasheed 'Tala Al Badru', in which most students have performed well with great enthusiasm. For HSIE, students have been delighted to undertake an in-depth film study on 'Rabbit Proof Fence', thereby increasing their understanding of the British Colonisation of Australia as well as the hardships faced by Aboriginals at the time.

For PDH, students are learning about different types of safety measures to undertake and implement in practical situations. Particular attention is being given to sun protection and types of drugs (smoking, etc.). For Science, students have been very excited to learn about Australian native animals, such as the Tasmanian devil, and have respectively submitted outstanding assessments.

I'd like to acknowledge that for English [Shared Reading], students have been undertaking an in-class group project on a novel study. Students have been very keen and excited to partake in this project. Students have also been organised into four teams for the task with [student chosen] names of: Crystal Girls; Golden Girls; VIM Monsters, and; Sunna Soldiers. InshAllah the winning team shall be announced next term.

Overall, students have performed well in most KLAs and improved significantly in given areas. Students should be looking forward to their upcoming reports. Don't stress, most reports are pleasing©.Wassalam, *We Sadiah* 



Year 5/6 reading in class.



#### **YEAR 788**

Year 7 and 8 students have had a busy and productive term. They have been working hard in class, they have been doing assignments and most recently they had the half yearly exam. It has certainly been a busy term but the students have got through it well. In History we finished our study of Ancient Egypt and we started studying China. The students very much enjoyed learning about the first Emperor of China who was an amazing man who started building the Great Wall and he built a tomb for himself and he united all the Chinese Kingdoms into one empire. His name was Qin She Huangdi and the students really liked learning about him. At the end of the term we have been studying Japan. In Science we studied habitats and interactions and learned about different types of animals and they places that they live in. We also studied classification in which we learned how different animals are divided into different groups. In design and technology, students studied food technology and learned about cooking, menus and recipes. We studied many different types of food. We have now finished our study of Ancient History and next two terms students will study Geography. Alhamdulillah it has been a successful term. Mr Ponton





Chairman talking to the students at WGS

#### ISLAMIC STUDIES

يَأْيُهَا ٱلَّذِينَ ءَامَنُواْ كُتِبَ عَلَيْكُمُ ٱلصِّيَامُ كَمَا كُتِبَ عَلَى ٱلَّذِينَ مِن قَبْلِكُمْ لَعَلَّكُمْ تَتَّقُونَ

"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 (swt) to make this Ramadan the best for us so far, and through this, achieve the ultimate prize of Jannah.

This term has been very challenging for both teachers and students with a nine week term and strong competition. I was absolutely amazed by the progress and improvement of some of the students who tried very hard to achieve the best.

I'm proud to inform that 6 of my Kindergarten students out of 31 have achieved above 90% overall results for Islam/Quran/Arabic throughout the two terms. These students are; Hiba, Zoha, Ibrahim, Raniya, Shanum and Sundus. All kindy students have achieved pleasing results with an average mark of 84%.

My year 1 and year 2 students have also impressed me with their achievements. With an average class mark of 77% for year 1 and 83% for year 2, four students from year 1; Rumaisha, Saarim, Muaaz, Bashaar, and five students in year 2; Zahir, Ahmad, Ammar, Inaayah, and Rufaidah, have blown me away by scoring above 95% overall.

Year 5 to 8 boys have been climbing high throughout the two terms with Sameed (year 6) placing first with a mark of 93% overall, followed by Umar (year 7) with 90%.

The students of Western Grammar have proven themselves as great seekers of knowledge following the path of our beloved Prophet Muhammad (S). Use the month of Ramadan to make plenty of dua for Allah to increase our knowledge and to stick to the path of goodness. May Allah elevate us in status and make Western Grammar the greatest garden of knowledge and virtue.

Mr Hakeem.

**Sunnah of Eid dul Fitr:** Eid dul Fitr is the greatest festival for all Muslims. It is a day, after the month of fasting, to enjoy, eat and drink, visit our friends and relatives and seek forgiveness from Allah (swt) and from each other. A significant religious ritual that goes together with Ramadaan is Zakatul-Fitr. It is an obligation for every Muslim, even the new born baby to pay Zakatul-Fitr before the Eid salaah. If it is paid after the salaatul-Eid it becomes sadaqah. It may even be better to pay Zakatul-Fitr 3-4 days before the Eid day to the needy families so that their children also can enjoy Eid like the rest of us, with new cloths and whatever else they may need. **Mos S Davids** 



# STUDENT'S CORNER

#### Yr 3/4 student response on a theme of the week:

The theme of the week that had changed my life is Patience. I am starting to get more patient and patient at home. Patience means you have to wait. You have to lots of patience. Patience is very important. You shouldn't wing. Wing means that you don't want to wait. It means you want the thing straight away. When you are small, you wing ALOT. But as you get older, you start getting more and more and more patient. That is why patience has changed my life. K. Al-Turk (Year3)





#### Books are better than T.V

Introduction: I believe that books are better than T.V. Firstly, books gives information about something. You can get books in Library and shops. You can read at home or at school. Secondly, books make you smart. Books are important so you can know new words. Some people read their favourite books.

Thirdly, it makes you read properly. If you read books you won't have spelling mistakes. Books have pretty pictures. Finally, there are lots of kinds of books. Sometimes you can write your name on your books. I love book because it's good for you. R Saputra (Year 2)

Let's look into our history,

Some amazing people have left footprints behind,

For us to follow successfully,

Guiding examples we will find,

They will guide us amongst darkness and fuss If we follow there will be victory,

Our leaders answer many questions that trouble

The answers in our history

By Isra Z Yr 8

**U**sama just adores chicken.

Some people are just plain old pickin'.

And people are lookin'.

Merely they're all sookin'

All over just a piece of chicken.

Most people say it's chicken, nothing much.

Others say it's magnifecent even without the

**H**alal chicken is the best I say.

Add a drink and it's worth the pay.

**M**any people say it's too much of a bother.

Even i could ask my dear old brother.

**D**one that, been there, it's the best thing you could ask for.

Western Grammar School is so cool Even though it doesn't have a pool So give us a call with your mobile phone That's if you don't really moan Every year we'll give your child a great education Really we aren't an animation Now I'll tell you we're really good at sport

#### **Excursion**

When we went to the excursion we saw possum's and a snake show then we went to look at the crocodile's then we went to IMAX. We watched about under the sea then we went to school. We had a fun day and we didn't want to go home. S Qazi





# Famaan's S

Sunday, August 30, 2006

## From a flow to a trickle.

For a few days now the valley river that came straight from This morning The people of Rin had woken up to see that the river had gone from a flow to a trickle. By the afternoon it had stoped not a single drop left.

A meeting was held between all the villagers straight away. The dicision

that everyone ha agreed on was that they will climb the the mountian But first moutnains was reducing. they will have to consult the mad sheba wich many trust. A younge boy of Rin is told to pick the 2 most ripe cheese.

> The villagers question: Will she accept it? Will they get there answers? Will they save there village?

Above: Eamaan Zaman (Year 5/6) converted Chapter 1 and 2 of class text into a newspaper article.

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Go ahead I know your thinking they must have a caught

Ring the bell

And all will be well

My, my, give us a hand

My pleasure is in my school's land

And we love Islam

Really we aren't a barn

So help us today

Choose which way you want to say

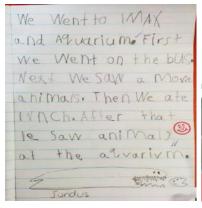
How would you like your child to be smart?

Oh really, we won't fall apart

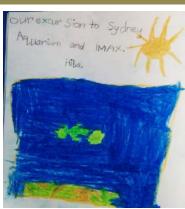
Only if we have your support as a tool

LOL, what was I talking about? Western Grammar School!

#### Acrostic Poem on WGS by R Ali Yr 4









Islamic Book Fair

Western Grammar School had its first ever Islamic book fair, and what a success it was! As the month of Ramadan is just around the corner, the book fair provided the students and parents an opportunity to buy Islamic books and provide support for our school. There were a large number of Islamic books to choose from and our students had a great time previewing the collection in their library session. Teachers and library staff helped the students to make wish lists and then they came back with their parents to purchase their selection of books and other items. Ramadan and Eid banners, Eid Mubarak badges and balloons were a big hit amongst the students.



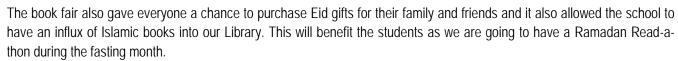












Jazak'Allah to all students and parents who supported our book fair. Also, a big thank you to Ms Noorah and Ms Afaf for decorating our library for the book fair. Ms Hina

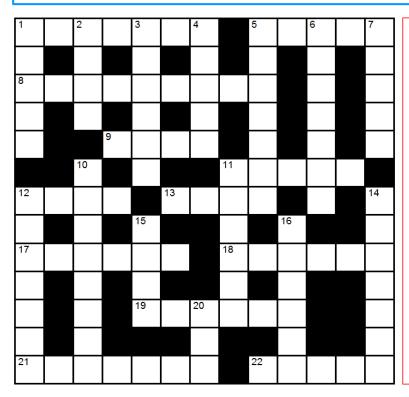
## **PUZZLES AND CHALLENGES CORNER**

#### 2014 Maths Challenge

For this mind boggling puzzle, you must use the numbers 2, 0, 1 and 4 with the maths operations +, –, x, / (divide), ^(raised to a power), sqrt (square root), ! (factorial), !! (double factorial) and brackets (for grouping) to write expressions for the numbers 1 through 100. Go ahead and have a try, even the teachers are scratching their heads!

#### Spell Up

We are always trying to improve our students' literacy; now is the time to test it! Google has invented a new game to test your spelling. This game is for older students (Year 5-8). Go to **spellup.withgoogle.com** to have some fun. ©



#### How many words can you make?

For this game, make words up from the nine letters in the box below. You don't have to use all the letters but every word MUST contain the middle letter 'E'. See how many words you can make! Extra points if you can figure out the word that uses all nine letters!



Target: 60 words!

#### Down:

- 1- Multiplications, additions, divisions subtractions Get all that then we'll move on to fractions
- 2- Not wild.
- 3- Find this in envelopes and in the alphabet.
- 4- In pokemon, ekans evolves into
- 5- Pumba was a warthog, Timon was a \_\_\_\_\_
- 6- The original residents of different places Maoris and Aboriginals are two such races
- 7- A prophet who was the cousin of prophet Isa (a).
- 10- A blue gem or precious stone.
- 11- I am a woodcutter, standing tall this is what I yell when a tree's about to fall.
- 12- When someone hurts me, I will avenge hurting them back, this is my \_\_\_\_\_
- 14- The sum of the numbers divided by the number of numbers.
- 15- Cause pain or injury.
- 16- A small animal that is usually used to catch rabbits.
- 20- If you find a mouse with a long tail who's fat, then the likelihood is that it's actually a \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Across**

- 1- Roald Dahl's super-smart character who could move things with her mind
- 5- Used to buy things
- 8- A schedule, like the one that tells you when you have English and when you have Maths.
- 9- A type of table used in school.
- 11- Stories, fables.
- 12- You do this with books, and newspapers too, you do it with words- any words will do.
- 13- Fishermen use this as fish food.
- 17- When liquids are heated, they turn into...
- 18- A gentle wind through the trees, through the meadow it whispers and weaves the answer to this riddle is the word \_\_\_\_\_
- 19- An extreme fear.
- 21- The tallest mountain in the world.
- 22- A distinctive appearance or design.

# **SPORTS**

During PE, Year one participate in warm up games such as stuck in the mud and statues, then move into



mini drills to practice basic throwing and catching techniques, finishing off with a modified basketball game and a cool down. Year one has been working on their hand and eye coordination this term and has thus far been successful. They have mastered dribbling, catching and throwing a basketball Masha 'Allah. Year 2 always commence with warm up exercises where the students are able to stretch and prepare for the activities ahead. Year 2 have been practicing kicking, throwing, skipping, goaling and catching skills since term 1. Consequently, they have improved in these skills. A tremendous enhancement has been seen in skipping skills. The boys are now able to play soccer with good cooperative skills. They have displayed the ability to work together in teams as well.

Next term the lower primary students will be participating in an AFL program that the school has organised. Representatives from AFL NSW will be visiting the school to give the students an opportunity to take part in an Auskick program Inshah' Allah.

#### Kindergarten:

In PE this term, kindergarten students are participating in varied physical activities and at the same time learning the importance of maintaining a healthy lifestyle. Students have learnt variety of skills and are now able to apply it during games. Through games students are starting to learn team work and playing fairly with a bit of a challenge involved.







# Fruit Wands



# **Ingredients**

- 1/2 seedless watermelon, peeled, cut into 1cm-thick slices
- 1/2 honeydew melon, seeded, peeled, cut into 1cm-thick slices
- 1/2 rockmelon, seeded, peeled, cut into 1cm-thick slices
- Bamboo skewers

## **Method**

▶ Use 3cm and 4cm-diameter flower, heart and star-shaped pastry cutters to cut shapes from watermelon. Repeat

with honeydew melon and rockmelon.

➡ Thread shapes on to skewers, using one of each melon type per skewer. Enjoy!

# FROM THE LIBRARY

Students have enjoyed their time in the library with activities such as reading, colouring in, watching documentaries, reading and writing book reviews and recounts that have enhanced classroom learning. WGS library has more books available for all year levels and Insha'Allah additional books will be made accessible in Term 3.

Parents please encourage and inspire your child/ren to finish the premier reading challenge during the school holidays. Reading is very beneficial for students as it assists and increases their literacy skills. If your child has not started the challenge, there is still time to log in the books.

Premier Reading Challenge is finishing on the 15th of August 2014. Passwords will be sent out in the first week of Term3 so that parents can log in the books on the PRC site. Reading logs can also be sent to the school.

All book donations are welcome. Ms Hina & Ms Noorah









#### Fundraiser by Year 7 & 8

On Tuesday 24th June, after several weeks of preparation, the capable girls of Year 7 and 8 held a fundraiser for the school. The girls were setting up their stalls for most of the day and at lunchtime it began. The air of excitement was palpable! There was face painting for Kindergarten and Year 1 which produced some ferocious tigers and beautiful butterflies. The teachers helped with making henna designs on the girls. Food stalls including sausage sizzle and hot chips were available. The kids had a lot of fun playing at slime keys

> and in guessing which baby photo belonged to which teacher! Alhamdulillah the kids had a bundle of laughs and the girls raised more than \$700 for the school! Special thanks to Mrs. Qashou for providing the hot food items and Mrs. Tariq for helping with face painting. And of course thank you to the parents!

#### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Last day of the Term

27<sup>th</sup> Jun, 2014 28<sup>th</sup> Jun, 2014

1<sup>st</sup> Ramadan (tentative)

First Day of Term 3

14<sup>th</sup> Jul, 2014

Eid ul fitr (tentative)

28<sup>th</sup> Jul, 2014



Office: 15 Cannery Road, Plumpton NSW 2761, Parking: 16 Bottles Road, Plumpton NSW 2761

Ph: 02 9677 9229 Fax: 02 9675 4060, Email: admin@westerngrammar.com.au