

رمضان كريم

# Western Grammar School

KNOWLEDGE IS THE ULTIMATE SOLUTION



Term 2, Issue 11, 2013

Sha'ban 1434 H

## IN THIS

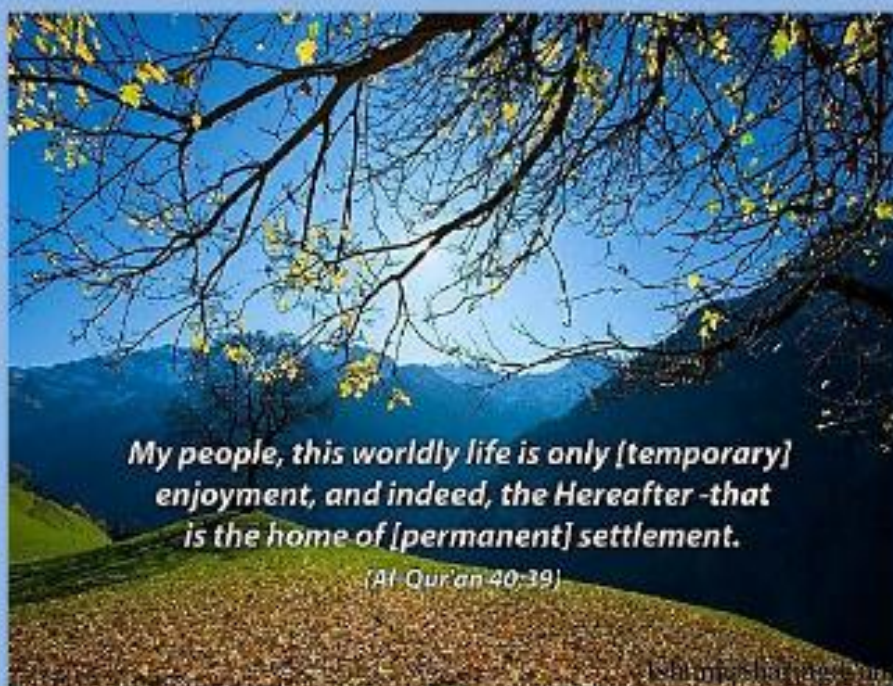
## ISSUE

- A Day with the Chairman Pg2
- Message from Ms Qadan Pg3
- Inside the Classrooms Pg3-6
- Fire Drill Pg7
- Admin Memos Pg8

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY AND FORTHCOMING

## EVENTS

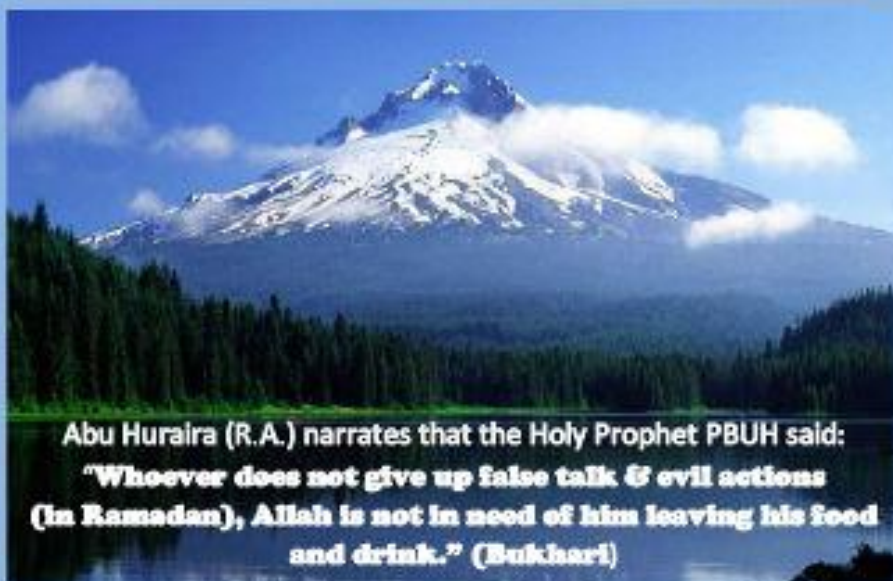
- Last day of Term 2 4 July, '13
- Ramadan (tentative) 9-10 July, '13
- First day of Term 3 16 July, '13



*My people, this worldly life is only [temporary] enjoyment, and indeed, the Hereafter -that is the home of [permanent] settlement.*

(Al Qur'an 40:39)

ishamshahar.com



Abu Huraira (R.A.) narrates that the Holy Prophet PBUH said:  
**"Whoever does not give up false talk & evil actions (in Ramadan), Allah is not in need of him leaving his food and drink."** (Bukhari)



# Messages



## **A day at Western Grammar - By Chairman School Board**

I left Melbourne on 5 June at about 9 pm with passion and enthusiasm to spend a day at Western Grammar School. Certainly Western Grammar is in its inception, but it is a great challenge for me and for the team of Western Grammar to turn a dream of having very reputable and useful institution into reality. So with such excitement I arrived at Western Grammar School early morning of 6 June 2013.

Brother Irfan warmly welcomed me, I was very pleased to meet with each and every team member of Western Grammar. Being an Architect, engineer and a Facility Manager of an institution with 6 campuses catering over 30,000 students I observed the school site very closely and looked at the available resources and facilities. I was impressed with the high standard of cleaning and the general upkeep of the environment at the campus. I also refreshed my thoughts on the new building plan and master plan of Western Grammar School.

At about 9.30am delegation from AIS arrived for an intense meeting. Our Academic Manager Ms Mona Qadan gave a very impressive presentation about the performance of students at Western Grammar and showed few short videos on students whose academic performance increased since joining Western Grammar. She also showed video clips on positive feedback from some parents about our school. Mr. Irfan Afzal explained about the exceptional growth of enrolment and major reasoning for rapidly growing image of the school. He also explained about the emerging need of new facilities and new building. I represented school board and explained about the status of current facilities and future visions of school board in terms of schools facilities requirements. At about 12pm the meeting concluded and lunch was served to all who attended this meeting.

Spending the whole day at Western Grammar was a great experience for me to join the school family. I also had opportunity to meet the staff individually. We discussed the importance of keeping the family together and focusing on the vision of the school in planning for the future, taking necessary steps required to cater for the growth of school. Staff performance and school environment was another important point of discussion. I was pleased to see such a healthy and pleasant working environment at the school. I categorically mentioned during the meeting that I have not seen such an environment in any of the previous organizations and institutions I worked for. Although it is a new school and less number of staff in its infancy, a sound footing is required to be left as a legacy for future. The seed is planted and is growing and will need nurturing to bear fruits in future. I was glad to see the commitment of the staff to meet the challenges ahead in a collegiate manner.

Just before the school break and to conclude my day with Western Grammar, I had the opportunity for a group photo with all students and staff members. Finally I appreciated the principal "Mr Irfan Afzal" hospitality, his performance and performance of Western Grammar School. Well done and keep up with the great team work. I left extremely satisfied and contented.

Subhan Ali JP

Chairman School Board



## Message from Ms Qadan

Assalam O Alaikum dearest parents and guardians,

We have approached the end of the first semesters for 2013, term 2. Subhanallah it was as if it were yesterday that I was welcoming all parents, teachers, students and community members to term 2. Alhamdulillah students at Western Grammar School have had an extremely productive term. Students have been busy with work presentations, NAPLAN, revision, and exams. Their hard work has paid off with achieving great results. Many students have achieved the set outcomes and have worked beyond the expectations set by teachers. To reward students' great achievements this term, many of them received awards during assembly on the last day of school (4<sup>th</sup> July, 2013). We thank parents who attended this very special assembly to encourage their children for accomplishments this term.

All students have also received their half yearly reports on the last day of school. Please read your child's report thoroughly and keep in mind that your child's results do not reflect his/her exam marks or grades. The report is an overall achievement of compiled results and efforts achieved in the classroom.

Kindergarten, Year-1 and Year-2 went on an excursion on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> June. Alhamdulillah the weather pulled off, and students were able to enjoy their trip down to Darling Harbour. It was unfortunate that the year 3 to 6 excursion had to be postponed due to the wet weather. However, they were able to attend their excursion the following week Alhamdulillah.

At Western Grammar School we have a high standard of safety for our students, staff and parents. During week 8 all students and staff underwent a practice evacuation drill. All students and staff were well prepared and organized for this drill. Classroom teachers did a tremendous job at ensuring all students were escorted to the emergency area safely and the roll call was done to ensure all students were present. Well done all staff and students!

We have reached that blessed time of the year where an honored guest will stay only for a short time, welcome O Ramadan! Allah S.W.T says in the Holy Quran "O you who believed, decreed upon you is fasting as it was decreed upon those before you that you may gain Taqwa. A limited number of days..." [Al-Baqarah, 2:183-184]

As you may have received admin memo that Western Grammar School hours has been reduced during the month of Ramadan. School will start at the normal time of 8.20am and finish at 2.30pm. The school day will be shorter, therefore I kindly request that all parents work hard with your children during this month. Please do not neglect reading with your child on a daily bases for 10 to 15 minutes. Your child's homework will be slightly reduced during Ramadan.

During this month encourage your children to wake up for the early morning meal (Suhoor). Read Quran with your children on a daily basis, encourage your children to break their fast with dates and water. Take your child to the masjid to perform Salaatul Taraweeh, Qiyaam, or Tahajjud. Be a good example to your children with applying the best manners during this month Insha'Allah.

End of term 2 marks the departure of one of Western Grammars' most valuable staff member, Mrs. Sbbet. On behalf of Western Grammar staff I would like to thank you for your commitment, and dedication to the school and your students throughout term 1 and term 2. You are exceptional educator and a great asset to our school. As one chapter in your life closes, a new one opens. May Allah S.W.T make your journey of motherhood easy and bless you with righteous, pious offspring's. Western Grammar staff, students, and parents wish you all the best. You will be greatly missed!

Have a lovely break and see you all next term Insha'Allah! *Ms Zadan (Academic Manager/Coordinator Primary)*



## Kindergarten

Assalaamu Alaykum

Subhanallah it's the end of term 2. Kindergarten students have been very busy this term in the classroom with productive learning. Kindergarten students have learnt many new sight words and learnt about different sea creatures. After investigating these creatures they wrote an information report about them. Kindergarten students have come a long way in their writing skills this term. Well done kindergarten!

Students in kindergarten attended their second excursion this year. We went to Sydney Aquarium at darling Harbour in week 9. Alhamdulillah the weather was fine, students enjoyed the long bus ride to the city and admired the beautiful scenery on the way. Once we arrived at the Aquarium, kindergartens were so eager to hop off the bus and get into the Aquarium. The smiles on their faces were priceless and they were full of excitement. We had the chance to listen to a penguin talk, and watched the feed show. Students enjoyed walking through the glass tunnel, where we saw sharks, sting rays, lots of fish, some large turtles, dugongs and many more. Students really enjoyed the sensory pool where they had the opportunity to touch some star fish and rocks. We then made our way to the lunch area and had an enjoyable lunch time with lots of chatting about the sea creatures. The excitement didn't wear off for kindergarten at the end of the day, as we boarded the bus to head back to school there was so much discussion about their favourite sea creature which they saw at the aquarium. I hope all my students and their families have an enjoyable break and a Ramadan Mubarak. Stay safe and I will see you next term Insha'Allah. Wasalaamu Alaykum







### Year 1 & 2

Assalam Alaikum, Alhamdulillah we have reached the end of the term, thus completing a semester of the year. And what a year it has been, Alhamdulillah I am proud of the efforts and accomplishments of each and every student in my class. They have matured as students and have grasped the learning attitude needed to achieve. They are a lovely bunch of students, beautifully mannered, respectful, and patient and are always willing to try. It has been an enjoyable 6 months and I believe that the students have not only enjoyed their schooling but have embraced the new content. They have all shown the potential to achieve and be successful individuals. With a conscientious approach to encouraging them to try and to never give up, they will be able to instill and apply this attitude in the classroom. Let's show them that we believe in their abilities, so that they can grow and believe in their own potentials. I'd like to take this opportunity to extend a great big Jazakum Allahu Khairan to Ms Dean who has shared the role of teacher to our class. With a sense of sadness, this will be my last contribution to the Western Grammar newsletter this year as I will be leaving to begin a new very blessed journey of motherhood Insha'Allah. I thank Western Grammar for the support and opportunity.



I pray that Allah swt will allow this school to continue to grow and thrive, Alhamdulillah we are very fortunate to have access to such institutions which provide an Islamic environment and proper education for our young believers Masha' Allah. Have a safe and productive break! (Mrs Sabet :)

### Year 3 & 4- From Ms Jennet Shabnum

Alhamdulillah, we had ample time to revise for the exams. In the past few weeks we had been reinforcing addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, fractions and decimals. We did a lot of hands-on activities such as bingo games for fractions and decimals, discs for addition, subtraction and multiplication. I have noticed a lot of improvement via revision. In addition, there were a lot of revision questions taught on the board. Moreover, in English we did activities on homophones, synonym, antonyms, verbs and nouns as part of revision. The students are preparing a power point presentation on places to visit in Australia in the ICT classes, whereby they will be learning many computer skills (using power points, cutting, copying, pasting, typing, changing fonts etc.) They are also watching a movie on 'James and the Giant Peach'. In HSIE, we studied maps where they learnt the skills to read and interpret maps & use keys. They looked at different types of sites and made brochures. Under sites we have studied Blue Mountains for which we went for an excursion as part of a natural site in NSW which has an aboriginal legend behind. At the same time, the students are also presenting on aboriginal culture as part of their assignment. In science, the students were demonstrated a lot of fascinating and exhilarating experiments on static electricity, electromagnetism and how a compass works. They saw videos on various experiments done on magnetism as well. The students were very excited to learn and enjoyed the activities. For PDH we looked at the skeletal system, muscular system and respiratory system in more detail. Colourful charts and worksheets were used.

These were also one of those intriguing lessons. In CAPA, we looked at painting of artists on cyclists on post cards to show how artists portray their feelings. Thus the students are to show their creativity in their paintings. Insha' Allah all our efforts will be rewarded in the exam results.

*Mrs Shabnum*





### Year 5 and 6 - Purpose, Ownership & Motivation

As the first half of the year is coming to an end it is worthwhile looking at some of the achievements of year 5 and 6 and what they have learnt highlighting activities which they have been participating in and knowledge that was cultured within the classroom. The teaching and learning focus for this semester laid its foundations on three qualities which dramatically improved the student's ability to absorb knowledge and most importantly allow students to apply theory into practical situations, in other words application of knowledge. The three qualities are purpose, sense of ownership and motivation. It is worthwhile noting that even as adults these factors play an important role in our life no matter what capacity we are functioning under, we need a purpose, sense of ownership and motivation in all facets of life. I recall many times during the year where students would question why they were given a particular activity and what use does it have in real life. Across all the KLA's these questions were asked ranging from Mathematics to PDHPE. I believe that this is a totally legitimate question and as educators and mentors we need to be able to answer this effectively to the students. From experience, taking out the time and answering these questions can at times be difficult especially when the question is being posed not out of pure curiosity but



Excursion in Blue Mountains - Students are on bush walk



rebellion. However, by giving them a satisfactory response and communicating the purpose of the activity we make the student realise that the activity in itself is not always the purpose but the deeper implications and lessons hidden within it are what is really being offered. When purpose is established it then acts as a catalyst for the remaining two qualities, sense of ownership and motivation. The benefits of sense of ownership play a different role from the above mentioned. They help refine the students' quality and presentation of work. Human nature demands that whenever anything is linked back to us, whether it is tangible or not, we like it to be nice and of the best quality.

Once purpose and sense of ownership have been established they both act as the fuel for motivation for the student. On top of this within the classroom the teacher can implement many motivational techniques ranging from verbal praise to rewards. So we can see there a systematic hierarchy being applied. The Purpose first allows the student to begin the activity, then sense of ownership brings quality to the work and then finally motivation acts like driving force to encourage the student to further pursue what has been: .....*Continued*



taught and to repeat this positive attitude in future. Having reflected about this it is very interesting to note that within all of creation we can see a miniature representation of divine knowledge. This is also true for such things as the systems of governance and that man-made polices and rules. For example I have discussed that purpose, sense of ownership and motivation are qualities that if the educator implement, it can dramatically increase the quality of teaching and learning.

In relation to motivation there are many verses in the Holy Quran which remind the believers about the reward which Allah has waiting for them. The believers are motivated to strive the complete there duties and achieve their goals just like the students are motivated to complete their work and achieve certain academic milestones. *Mr Usman Malik*



Students of Year 3-6 with their teachers at Blue Mountains excursion



At Western Grammar, Students' and staff safety is our primary concern. It is our responsibility to educate everyone at school about the safety and security of the people and assets. Fire drills are important to ensure the safety of all students and staff members. It is important to follow the fire drill procedure as carefully and efficiently as possible. In order to avoid commotion and confusion in the event of a real fire, fire drills are performed regularly. The purpose of fire drills is to keep the staff ready at all the time to deal with the situation of emergency specially if fire occur in the building. Correct evacuation of all students and faculty also makes the job easier for fire fighters to do their job. Evacuation is not enough however, everyone must clear a path for the fire trucks to come through and put out the fire as quickly as possible.

To rehearse this emergency with our students and staff we had an announced fire drill where the whole school was evacuated. Fire alarm went on, all work in the class rooms was ceased, and children were quickly lined up and evacuated to emergency assembly point. All staff was at their appointed posts and Ms Shabnam (Warden) checked rolls after it was marked. All rolls were collected after drill. After this fire drill, feedback was given by the teachers and report was prepared and filed.

We will be doing fire drills at least twice every a year, one will be announced and one will be unannounced. This Drill was announced.







# Administration Memo

## POINTS TO NOTE

- Please note that we will have only one week break between term 2 and Term 3.
- The last day for term 2 (for students) is 4<sup>th</sup> of July 2013. School will reopen on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> of July.
- We will observe reduced timings during Ramadan i.e.; school will start as usual at 8:20 am and finish at 2:30 pm.
- Please do not park in the allocated bus lanes or drop off zone; that area is allocated for a quick drop off and pick up of the students only. Please do not obstruct the entry gate at the time of pick up and drop off times, to avoid inconvenience to the road users.
- New logo of the school is introduced, for future correspondence new logo will be used.

## WGS ANNUAL REPORT

We are proud to announce that our first annual report for year 2012 has been published and is available for public viewing. Anybody who is interested to see the report can follow the below link.  
<http://westerngrammar.com.au/AnnualReports/AnnualReport2012.html>

This report is a comprehensive summary of our academic and extra-curricular activities throughout last year, our financial summary & our future plans etc. We are happy to receive your feedback about the report and overall performance stated in the report.



Western Grammar staff and students with the Chairman School Board



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](mailto:admin@westerngrammar.com.au)