



Western Grammar School



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Western Grammar School

Newsletter

THE PROPHET (ﷺ) SAID, "FAITH CONSISTS OF MORE THAN SIXTY BRANCHES
AND HAY'A (MODESTY) IS A PART OF FAITH." —SAHIH BUKHARI



Principal's Message



Assalamu Alaikum,

After much anticipation, we have had the good fortune to witness another Ramadan. As this blessed month rushes to an end, we need to consider what the purpose of Ramadan and fasting really is, and whether or not we have achieved it.

In the Quran, Allah says, **"O you who have believed, fasting is decreed upon you as it was decreed upon those before you, so that you may have *taqwa*."** (2:183)

So according to this verse, the main purpose of fasting is to attain Taqwa. Generally *taqwa* is translated to mean "God fearing." In various other places in the Quran, the word *taqwa* appears to describe different situations. In the verses regarding Hajj, Allah (SWT) says that when you leave for Hajj, take the necessities of travelling with you, but the best necessity is *taqwa*. Similarly for nikkah, for correcting the relationships and affairs among people, for being a witness or for performing any action that requires dealing with the people or worshipping Allah (SWT), the word *tawqaf* is always used. So *taqwa* contains vast and deep meanings and expressions.

Ubayy bin Ka'b (r) was once asked by Umar (r) "What is *taqwa*?" and he replied **"What would you do if you had to walk through a path of thorns?"** Umar (r) said **"I would roll up my sleeves and protect myself from them."** Ubayy (r) said, **"That is *taqwa*."** The Prophet (saw) was once heard saying that "*taqwa* is here", and then he pointed to his heart three times. From this we can understand that *taqwa* is actually a state of the heart. When a person has *taqwa*, they fear Allah and they act upon that fear by protecting themselves from anything that would bring Allah's displeasure. They stay away from all evil deeds and do not commit any sins and are always thinking about how their actions appear to Allah. *Taqwa* also has the effect of making people do good deeds as a result of their love for Allah. The lowest level of *taqwa* is to obey Allah and not disobey Him. To achieve the highest level, one must at least distance themselves from anything that could earn the anger of Allah (SWT).

As Ramadan is ending, we need to question ourselves and find out if we have achieved the purpose for which we fasted and did lots of ibadah. Did we achieve real *taqwa*, have our hearts softened or not, did we forgive everyone, did we purify our intentions, can we say that our hearts are totally free from jealousy, hatred, ill feeling and animosity? Are we closer to Allah now than Before Ramadan? Did our life style change during and after Ramadan. If the answers to these questions are positive, then we have attained some *taqwa*. I make dua that Allah (SWT) makes it easy for us to achieve the real essence of *taqwa*, and that we all have a happy Eid!

-Irfan Afzal





Assalamu Alaikum,

What an end to this fantastic term!

This term, Kindergarten went on an excursion to the Casula Powerhouse Arts Centre. The students were very excited to go riding on the bus! They created their own possum masks, lamington instrumental boxes, and played drama games in English based on the books by Mem Fox.

In the classroom, Kindergarten has been enjoying practising their handwriting movements on whiteboards. They've also shown excellent effort in learning how to write sentences and drawing pictures based on their experiences.

In Mathematics, students have done a brilliant job identifying 3D objects we see in our environment. They also beautifully created their own 3D objects! Moreover, students have shown a great understanding of capacity. They were able to use cups and bowls of various sizes with rice and pasta to determine if the objects held the same amount, lesser amount or if they were overflowing!

Kindergarten definitely got into the Ramadan spirit this term, and students completed amazing Ramadan artwork in class. We also created a dua jar in which students wrote down duas throughout the week and on Friday mornings Mr Hakeem undertook amazing whole class dua! We should also mention that KA also did exceptionally well in their first ever stage assembly. Although they were a little nervous at first, all the excitement kicked in when KB came to the hall and, in a show of support, yelled "TabarakAllah!"

We wish all students a safe and happy holiday and are looking forward to next term insha'allah!

-Miss Rouba and Miss Rana





Assalamu Alaikum,

This term has continued to be an exciting learning opportunity for the Year 1 students. We have introduced daily silent reading in order to improve our reading skills. We are also continuing other reading activities, such as guided reading groups, shared reading and home reading. Year 1 is learning how to write descriptions in English. In Mathematics, we have begun learning about grouping and sharing using various hands-on objects. For Science, students have designed and created a shelter for a toy; they tested its useability using a spray bottle filled with water. This assisted their scientific and critical thinking skills.

Many exciting things have happened in 1H in the past few weeks. We went on an excursion to Taronga Zoo. We watched the Seal Show, the Bird Show and looked at other animals along the way. Unfortunately, our excursion was cut short due to rain. Year 1 students displayed maturity in following instructions throughout the day. Year 1 also enjoyed the incursion conducted by Healthy Harold. They learnt about different parts of their bodies and their functions.

1H has also been completing activities to celebrate Ramadan. They have been enjoying completing various craft projects while learning about Islam and regularly place donations the classroom charity box. It has been extremely encouraging to see their positive attitude towards doing good deeds.

-Ms Lamia



Year One & Two



Assalamu Alaikum,

After the half yearly exams, we have been practicing writing information reports and explanations. This week, we are looking at descriptive texts. We have been studying these texts and then practised writing them independently (after we had shown how to do so). In Mathematics, we are learning how to share, how to read bar graphs and to understand probability. We have also turned learning about 3D shapes into a hands on activity. In History, we have been doing some activities on past and present families, while in Science we have been discussing how to maintain a garden and looking at various animals and plants. (We will also be designing a vegie patch from recycled materials in the classroom). In PDH, we had the 'Healthy Harold' incursion which the students enjoyed a lot. Currently, we are revising the parts of the body and jointly constructing a class list of common needs, such as food, care, love, education, fun and safety. During sports, after warming up, they play with parachutes. In Creative Arts, we are focusing on 'Music', with students practicing the nasheed 'Animals Love to Hear Quran'. Subsequently, they will be performing it in the Year 1 and 2 assembly.

-Ms Shabnam



Year Two



Assalamu Alaikum,

A warm welcome and Ramadan Mubarak to all parents. We are already at the end of Term 2, and it has been an absolute pleasure teaching my special students. In Science, the students have been learning about Living and Non-living things. In this unit, the students learnt about describing features of living things and ways in which they grow and change. They explored how living things depend on places in their environment in order to meet their needs.

During our excursion to Taronga Zoo, the students investigated the diversity of animals and micro-organisms, as well as their interdependence and interactions with each other and their environment.

As a class we have enjoyed reading and discovering a lot of books, such as 'The Magic Finger' and some other books about manners. The students participated in the life education program 'Healthy Harold'. The program covered healthy eating choices and the function of vital organs in the body such as the heart, lungs, brain and kidneys. Year 2 really enjoyed the interactive activities in this program, such as helping Harold safely prepare for a party, and they look forward to learning more about the things they discovered in the fun-filled van.

-Ms El-Kheir



Inside the Classrooms

Year Three



Assalamu Alaikum,

Term 2 has continued to be a delightful success. Students have been participating in a variety of literacy experiences that have enhanced their knowledge and skills. The Premier's Reading Challenge has begun and students have been reading a variety of interesting texts in class. It is great to see each student enhance their passion for reading and widen their vocabulary as they progress through more complex texts.

The students enjoyed their writing workshop excursion which exposed them to aspects of creating and publishing fact and fiction stories. The students were given strategies on how to create characters, settings and illustrate their own individual pieces.

This term, Year 3 also explored facts about the human body as they embarked upon their journey into vital organs on the 'Healthy Harold' incursion. The students learnt about how the body functions and what we need to do to remain healthy and active. Each student was given the opportunity to identify various organs and their locations in the body, as well as meet Harold the Giraffe!

Alhamdulillah, each Year 3 student has progressed significantly in their academic abilities. It is lovely to see their skills enhance as each day passes.

-Ms Abbas



Year Four

Assalamu Alaikum,

We have wrapped up Term 2 with a bang, and it has been an absolute joy. Year 4 has excelled across the board and worked very hard to achieve impressive assessment results. In English, Year 4 published their information texts and completed reading the novel called 'I am Jack', which is a wonderful book that recognises the importance of kids' reading and literacy. In Maths, we studied the depth of 3D shapes and designed 3D cities using cut out templates. In Science, students learnt how products, tools and force could be used to their advantage and entertainment, and we conducted various experiments to tie in with the unit. Our class also enjoyed the opportunity to learn about staying healthy and safe during the 'Healthy Harold' incursion. The interactive activities that they participated in helped solidify a lot of concepts that they have been learning in class.

This term has ended on a positive note, and I am very grateful to have been part of the journey. I look forward to Term 3.

-Ms Tajjour



Inside the Classrooms

Year Five & Six



Assalamu Alaikum,

The second half of the term has been a fruitful one. We have worked hard at making homes with "earthquake proof foundations" in class, and we have looked deeply at the effects of natural disasters both in Australia and around the world. The students also worked hard at writing informative texts centring on these global issues. We have learnt about storyboarding and put up excellent examples on the walls in our brand new classroom. All the while, we have acknowledged the traditional owners of the land, reading many poems and stories written by and connected with the Aboriginal people of this nation.

Some students scored excellent marks during assessment week and they should be proud of that. Enjoy your holidays and we look forward to seeing you all again in Term 3.

-Mr Ibrahim

The Creative Mind

Assalamu Alaikum,

We had a pleasant Term 2 in the world of Visual Arts for Year 7&8 students this year!

Who would have thought that colour, form, line, shape, space, texture, and value are the elements within any artwork we see!? These art foundations are called the 'Elements of Art', which is what the students have studied this term. Each of these elements has its own unique characteristics. Students have learnt skill sets to illustrate and represent these elements. There were many enjoyable practical lessons for each element, such as drawing replicates of a still life fruit display with a light source, implying value, and collecting different textures to paste into visual arts diaries.

We then moved onto an exclusive three week topic of 'street art'. Is this art form vandalism or art? "Curiosity is the wick in the candle of learning," as William Arthur Ward has said. It's an engaging opportunity to learn about the art we see in the public space, the history behind some of these forms, and postmodern evolutions of what street art has become. Interestingly, the Islamic world has recently caught on to this style, using street art to express political and social statements. Students studied artists Banksy and El-Seed, and how they create a relationship between faith, expression and art.

Finally, well done to the students of Year 7&8 for the amazing Eid cards they created for the Syrian refugees!

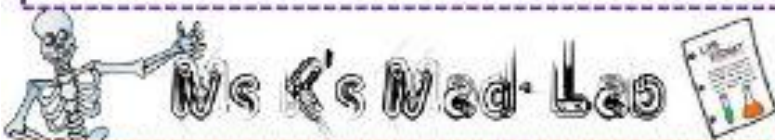
Ms Ozge Susan



El Seed's calligraphic street art



Amir Zraika "Street Art"



Assalamu Alaikum,

Alhamdulillah, it was a great end for Term 2, 2016. Students showed great interest and perseverance towards Science, and most students excelled in Science this term as reflected in their half yearly exam. Science itself is a new language and requires learning and understanding. As a teacher, it becomes really challenging trying to gain students attention and keep their focus. Some students believe Science is not important, or find the subject really hard. This may be a result of their inability to comprehend and understand the basics skills, knowledge and understanding behind simple concepts and the connection to everyday living. As a teacher, I have tried and I will continue trying to put extra time and effort in bridging these gaps and InshaAllah, with effort from both the students and parents, they will be able to broaden their horizons and understand its significance for education. JazakAllah.

-Ms Khan

WELFARE TALK

Students' behaviour plays a vital role in their learning and general approach to life now and in the future. As teachers and parents, we need to adopt simple rules that will help them succeed academically and improve their wellbeing. One important rule is to make sure students have an effective routine at home that will assist them to adjust to the school way of life. For example:

- Getting up 15–30 minutes earlier to be well prepared.
- Making a list of jobs and tasks that your child can do for themselves in the morning.
- Allowing your child to try to deal with their problems, emotions or arguments independently. Don't jump in and solve everything for them without giving them a chance.
- Solving conflicts you have with your child through discussion rather than punishment. Work together to come up with a solution you both agree to.

-Mr Goys

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Islamic Studies Department

Assalamu Alaikum Wa Rahmatullaahi Wa Barakaatuh parents and students,
All praise is due to Allah (swt), The Lord of the worlds, and all thanks is due to Him for the blessings He has bestowed upon us. We hope that your fasting is going well and we pray to Allah to accept all our fasts, night prayers, Quran recitation, and all our good deeds, InshaAllah!

Alhamdulillah, this term has been jam packed with Islamic activities for the students in our school. These activities included charity drives to feed the fasting and also to help those in need, a session named "All about Zakah" with the National Zakat Foundation team (presented by Mr Davids), and making Eid Cards for those who are less fortunate. During the last part of this term, lessons were focussed on Ramadan and its blessings. We also had our Islamic book fair that was very well supported by students, staff and parents Alhamdulillah.

ICharity had a Charity Drive at our school to help those in need. The students managed to collect a total of \$2,900 in just over a week, and the student to collect the most was Raniya Muhammad from Year 2 who collected an astonishing total of \$400!

During lunch time students were listening to the Quran being recited by various students and staff members, with tafseer from Sheikh Anwar Gallie.

As you are all aware, we are now in the last 10 days/nights of Ramadan, and Laylatul Qadr could be in any of these nights. We would like to take this opportunity to remind ourselves, and you all, to increase your worship and pray for the success of our school, staff, and the students. We thank you for your support and we ask you to help us achieve the vision of the school to provide quality Islamic and secular education to our students to produce great future leaders. May Allah bless us all, and an early Eid Mubarak to you all!

-Islamic Studies Department



High School Students
A session with the NZF
team, "All about Zakah"



WGS Students' Eid Cards



Lunch time
Quran session
with Sheikh
Gallie

Islamic Book Fair

Assalamu Alaikum,

Alhamdulillah, our school has welcomed Ramadan with a lot of Islamic activities and events. One of these was the Islamic Book Fair, where the WGS library team arranged a two week book fair filled with religious books, toys and accessories. The Book Fair was a huge success, with several of the items selling out almost instantly. A lot of the kids enjoyed buying decorations for Eid and picking out presents for their siblings and friends.

In the end, the students raised around \$2,750 dollars, and 30% of this money was given to WGS to buy some of the books and resources required by the school. Jazakallah to everyone who contributed.

-WGS Library Team





Kidz Corner

Describe Miss Wobble (Book character)

Yusra Malik, Year 1

Shes nice and She woBBled... She is nice and She is pretty and She wears white and black. She has pretty gold hire (hair). She wercks (works) at the café. She is not mean. Miss Wobble is so nice.

How Do Birds Fly?

Zakia Mustapha, Year 1/2

Birds can fly because they have wing that they can move up and down. not all birds come in all shapes and sizes. birds use their wings to fly away from danger. birds also use their wings to fly away from pepole. birds fly away from every one. Birds have strong chest to move their wings up and down. birds move direction with their tail feathers. Birds can fly up to the rooftops.

The Trip to Jordan

Zain Al-Shible, Year 2

In 2014 my family and I went to the airport to go to Jordan. My uncle drove us there. First, we saw shops. Then I asked my mum "can we buy from the shops" my mum said "sorry but no." Afterwoods (afterwards) we were waiting a very very very long time. My mum gave us some fruit, biscuits and some lollies. Finaly we went in the airoplane. It was frizing (freezing).

The River

Raiqa Zaman, Year 3

On a cold stormy morning there lived two girls named Jenafie and Netalie they were best friends and lived in a house next to a river. One day Jenafier and Netalie wen out to have a ride on a boat. They were having lots of fun, then in the midle of the river the boat's engine stoped and the boat wasn't working. Netalie asked "Now what do we do? we have to wait here" No we don't have to wait here "said Jenafier," we could go up the hill by swimming, she said.

The Gondwana Rainforests of Australia

Noora Qashou, Year 4

When Gondwana was first formed, it was covered with rainforests and that's what gave it its name. The Gondwana Rainforest is located in south-east Queensland, and it is ordering the New South Wales-Queensland border, however, the largest Gondwana Rainforest is found in Tasmania.

Natural Disasters

Raiyaan Ali, Year 5/6

...Now to our last topic, Earthquakes. Earthquakes are dangerous. The closer you are to the epicentre, the more damage you will face. Earthquakes are caused when techtonic plates move against each other and rumble the rocks to an extent where they break and the pressure caused by it causes an Earthquake, simple right? Earthquakes happen but most of the time we can't feel them, but when we can... Houses fall down, building collapses, iconic landmarks all destroyed. Now there is a solution to that, rubber mixed with metal buildings they are earth-quake proof.

Graffiti Vs. Street Art

Ali Ali, Year 7

- Graffiti is a historical art form that has envolved our time.
- Gang art was the beginning of graffiti, but it was soon transformed into something more individual.
- Started off with simple names, but soon grew into big, fancy designs.
- the goal was to show your dominance in the art.
- At first, artists just wanted their name out there.
- Soon they began developing masterpieces, or pieces, to further distinguish themselves.

Big Bang Theory

Amirah Zraikah, Year 10

The earliest implications of the Big Bang occurred as a result of deep space observations that were conducted in the early 20th Century. In 1912, American astronomer Vestro Slipher conducted a series of observations of spiral galaxies and measured their Doppler Redshift. In most of the cases, the spiral galaxies seemed to be moving away from our own. In 1922, Russian cosmologist Alexander Friedmann developed what are known as the Friedmann equations, which were derived from Einstein's equations for general relativity. Friedmann's work showed that the universe was likely in a state of expansion.

Healthy Harold



This term our school was visited by Healthy Harold and his friends. Our primary classes all enjoyed the opportunity to climb into Harold's van and learn about different aspects of staying healthy and safe in an interactive way. Kindy students loved helping Harold prepare for his friend's party by sorting out different foods into their food groups and helping him get to the party safely. The van had a realistic model of the human body and the Year 1&2 students enjoyed watching different organs light up as they learnt about them. Year 3 studied these organs in depth and discovered a lot of interesting facts about the heart and the different types of blood cells. All of the classes were taught how to develop strategies and practice the skills required to avoid unsafe and unhealthy lifestyles. Year 4, for example, learnt about caffeine and its effects on their physical and mental health, and Year 5&6 learnt about the dangerous problems that can arise from staying up late and playing games.



Abaya Day



On the 17th of June, the Student Representative Council of WGS arranged an Abaya Day for the whole school. All the students and staff came to school dressed up in bright and colourful Islamic clothing. The celebration was a huge success. All the students' clothes looked bright, cultural and very religious. In the month of Ramadan, we need to be humble and generous and our students did not disappoint. We raised \$105.00 for charity and we appreciate all the students and volunteers who helped during this day. The existence of countless starving, poor, hungry and destitute Muslims in the world points to the need for this essential teaching to be put into practice. Muslims may not realise how their wealth could strengthen whole communities. Giving charity correctly is crucial to both the well-being of the needy as well as the ultimate happiness of the wealthy. The Prophet emphasised this principle repeatedly. WGS, as always, is ready to give charity for the sake of Allah and help those who really need it.





Sports



Assalamu Alaikum,

This is the end of Term 2 and the Kindergartens have been practicing a lot of elements of moving, partner activities, and circuit activities, including springing up and down on the spot, bending knees slowly as feet return to the floor, 'Cat and Mouse' games and so on. In the meantime, the Year 1s have been playing parachute games and partner activities like 'Dog and Bone' with bean bags. The Year 2s are jogging on the spot and listening to their heart beats while the Year 1 and 2 composite classes have been playing with parachutes while creating ocean waves and 'Fox and Geese' games. The Year 3s are having a wonderful time with gymnastics, practicing springing, leaping, hand stands, lead ups, mounting and dismounting. Year 4 have also been rolling and engaging in elements of movement and composition. These include, but are not limited to, 'Human obstacle courses' and 'Anatomy clumps' games. We finished the term off with year 4 with 'Spinners' and 'Red light, Green light' games. Finally, the Year 5s and 6s are involved in high jump, shot put, discus and other competitive athletic skills.



Announcements

- Term Break: 29th June – 17th July
- ICAS English: 2nd August
- Science Week: 8th August – 12th August
- Sports Carnival: 15th August
- Book Week: 22nd August – 26th August
- Character Book Parade: 25th August
- SRC Bake Sale: 25th August