



# Western Grammar School

KNOWLEDGE IS THE ULTIMATE SOLUTION

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“And hold firmly to the rope of Allah all together and do not become divided”

(Surah Al‘ Imran 3:103)

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Dear Parents, Guardians and staff of Western Grammar School,

We are at the end of term three of 2015. I just realised that I have been absent from the front page of our newsletter for a very long time. In fact it has been very busy time for me as the school is growing rapidly and we need to cope with the demands of its growth.

Alhamdulillah the construction of the building is half way through and there are areas seeking urgent attention most of the time. We are committed to providing our students with quality facilities in 2016. Inshallah Year 10 will start in 2016 and we will have successfully completed another target. As mentioned previously, our prime goal is to establish a quality educational institution. We are striving for the best and we are hopeful that we are not far from reaching our ultimate goal Inshallah.

Western Grammar School continues to strive in order to provide quality education. I am proud to say that we have an excellent working environment and highly committed staff. As far as academic and extracurricular activities are concerned, term 3 has been the busiest term of the 2015 year. Students participated in Science Week, Book fair, Character parade and Athletics Carnival. We can confidently say that WGS is becoming a compelling need of the community, Alhamdulillah. I am thankful to Almighty (SWT) and all those who became part of the foundation of WGS.

It is our aim to produce responsible and caring individuals that can contribute to the betterment of the Australian Community. This cannot be accomplished without parents' participation and commitment. Your valuable feedback and cooperation are vital to meet the requirements of this challenge. Therefore I request all the parents to be a part of Western Grammar's growing family. Last but not least, please make sure to make lots of dua for the school during these esteemed days of Dhul-Hijjah.

Eid Mubaraak and take care during this term break!

**Mr Irfan Afzal- Principal**

Assalamu Alaikum,

Western Grammar School has grown rapidly while consistently maintaining a commitment to excellence in teaching and learning over the recent years.

The school Board has continued its tireless pursuit this year to ensure that the strategic plans required to achieve our vision are in place. We have been working diligently with senior management staff to ensure that the resources and recent developments provide our students and staff with access to the best in technology and learning methods.

I will encourage our learned teachers to continue developing initiatives to improve the quality of the educational outcomes. I am sure that our cooperation and collaboration between parents, teachers and governing body will lead our school to a higher level of achievement Insha'Allah.

Our new school building is on track to be completed by the end of this year and we thank all parents for your patience during this time.

We request your ongoing support and together we can continue our success and make Western Grammar School one of the best in Australia Insha'Allah.

JazakAllahu Khairan

**Mr Subhan Ali – Chairman of the school board**



# Education Matters

## Mathletics

Mathletics is a new initiative that Western Grammar School has taken on board this term. It is a very exciting and engaging maths resource that students have access to from home. Students will be able to further enhance and excel their skills at maths using Mathletics. They will learn new concepts in a fun way. Mathletics gives each student their very own personal learning space. Filled with targeted curriculum content, interactive tutorials and support, alongside engaging games and rewards, Mathletics is the world's most used education and maths website. It is the next generation in learning, helping students enjoy maths and improve their results. Mathletics covers the full Kindergarten to Year 12 curriculum.

Over 1200 curriculum activities targeting the Australian curriculum outcomes, each one automatically evolving as students' progress in understanding. Pre and post assessment plus interactive and video support is also available. With additional problem solving games, a virtual avatar store, bonus credits and weekly award certificates, Mathletics keeps students engaged and on task right across the school year.

Students earn points for each correct answer within Live Mathletics and curriculum activities.

A weekly target of 1000 points earns a student a certificate, building through bronze, silver and gold across the school year.

Credits are awarded for improvement over personal bests to spend on virtual avatars. Top scoring students are showcased on the Mathletics homepage live Hall of Fame!

### HOW TO EARN POINTS:

1 x correct test answer = 20 1 x curriculum answer = 10 Live Mathletics: 1 x correct answer = 1 point 1 x correct bonus level answer = 2 points First place = 5 credits High score = 10 credits

NOTE: You can only receive one certificate each week.

Mathletics is a part of student's homework and a requirement of the school. If your child has not registered and paid for Mathletics, please do so in order that they do not miss out on this fantastic learning tool.

**Ms Qadan – Primary School Coordinator**

## School Leading Learning program for 2015

The program's core objectives are to review, refine and develop a school improvement plan targeting quality teaching and quality learning. We are working closely with the Association of Independent Schools NSW, allowing us to tap into a wealth of professional learning resources, seek guidance from experienced educators and develop professional networks. Our aim is to channel all available resources to align specific teaching practices with the profile of students at Western Grammar, with the aid of ongoing teacher professional development.

### Phase 1 - Data collection

This forms perhaps the most crucial phase of the program. To date, our teachers have spent more than 70 hours collectively gathering student data and preparing the grounds for analysis.

### Phase 2 – Data Analysis and consolidation

After evaluating the results of phase 1 we identified student weakness and thereby created class profiles.

### Phase 3 – Developing a school self-assessment policy

This was followed by a consolidation of all class profiles to form a school wide focus area. This is a summation of all individual and class profiles which involved selecting ONE priority area as the target of improvement for 2015/16. This area has been identified as student writing. We will be focusing on improving student writing, specifically on the following elements: ideas, cohesion, paragraphing, text structure, sentence structure, punctuation and spelling.

### Phase 4 – Developing a school improvement plan

This will involve providing professional learning in the identified focus groups and priority areas through ongoing professional development and training sessions. This will enable our teachers to providing lessons that can facilitate student writing in the above mentioned areas.

Academic excellence forms a major part of a successful school, community and nation. This school leading and learning program will better equip the staff at Western Grammar School towards achieving excellence.

**Mr Malik – High School Coordinator**



# Inside the classrooms

## KINDERGARTEN

Asalaamualaikum,

Alhamdulillah kindergarten has made excellent progress throughout term three. Through the various activities that were scheduled in this term, we have seen a large number of students excel in all aspects of learning.

In English, kindergarteners have made fantastic effort in writing sentences and recounts about their holiday/excursions. Personal hygiene was our main focus in PDH and students have now become experts about germs and how to get rid of them. Students had a fabulous time learning about community helpers in HSIE. They also learnt about fire safety and are now able to differentiate between good fires and bad fires. Students chose a community helper they would like to be and did awesome artwork on it. Well done to all the students for putting in great effort in the term 3 topic exams.

Our book character parade was a great success. Thanks to all the parents who put effort in dressing up their child and encouraging them to read. Well done to our adorable Zena Mustapha for her creative 'Dorothy' costume from the Wizard of Oz book.

Alhamdulillah, our Featherdale Wildlife excursion was also a great success. Students had a great time interacting with Australian Wildlife. They were given the opportunity to pat animals and feed them. The laughter and excitement continued throughout the whole day as they had their first-hand experience with native animals.

The Athletic Carnival was also held this term which saw students getting very excited to join their team colours. It was absolutely beautiful to see the students dress up in team colours on the day, cheering for their team mates. Amidst competition, it was great to see students having fun and enjoying their time on the field. A big well done to all students who participated in the events - I was very impressed!

It is amazing to see how far kindergarten has come in term 3; however we will work together in achieving bigger and better things in the final term. Alhamdulillah, I could not be happier with where kindergarten is at this stage of the year, and I am excited to finishing the year with great achievements from each and every student.

**Ms Dean**





# YEAR 1

Assalamu Alaikum,

Alhamdulillah a successful Term 3 has come to an end! Our wonderful group of Year 1 students are demonstrating both growth and maturity in their attitude towards learning. The students have produced wonderful work, where they demonstrated working both independently and cooperatively. Alhamdulillah, I am very proud of the results students produced in their Term 3 exams and the excellent effort put at home by the parents to prepare the students. I am very proud of each and every one, well done!

Our excursion to Featherdale Wildlife Park was a wonderful learning experience for the Year 1 students, as they were able to observe and make a connection with their prior knowledge of animals and their shelters to the environment that is built for some of Australia's native animals at the Wildlife Park.

Also adding to the excitement of Term 3 was our Athletics Carnival which was a great success. Year 1 students have demonstrated great sportsmanship. They participated with great enthusiasm and cheered on for their team members, which was an absolutely delightful sight, Alhamdulillah.

I would like to say a big well done to the Year 1 students for all their hard work this term. Wishing you all a wonderful term break. Hope to see you all smiling and ready to learn in Term 4 InshaAllah.

**Ms. Akhter**



# YEAR 2

Assalamu Alaikum,

2E have had a very exciting time during this term. The students had a Book Character Parade during week 6. Year 2 had a great time dressing up as characters from their favourite books and they all looked absolutely stunning. As a class we have enjoyed reading and discovering a lot of books such as 'The Cat In The Hat', 'The Magic Finger' and a lot of stories on story line online.

The students have been studying about "Japan" as part of the Human Society & Its Environment curriculum this term. We worked cooperatively to create a 'Japan Notice Wall' inside the classroom which showcases the students' participation in learning activities. The students learnt about Japanese greetings, gestures, images and the similarities and differences between Japan and Australia, national symbols, traditional costumes, festivals and Mount Fuji.

As part of the unit, in week 10 the students went on an excursion to Auburn Japanese Gardens. The students observed various Japanese blossoms and Japanese lake, mountains, waterfalls and landscaping. The students viewed the Zen garden, tori gate, moon gate, zigzag bridge, tea house and turtle rocks.

The students in 2E have developed into independent young learners who achieved exceptional academic and social success. I am very proud of their accomplishments and know they will continue to succeed in the future.

**Ms El Kheir**



## YEAR 3 & 4

Assalamu Alaikum,

Alhamdulillah, it has been a wonderful term and the students of 3/4H have worked really hard. Lots of activities happened during this term to keep the students engaged and motivated.

During this term, students are studying the novel *Paper Planes* for English and so far are enjoying reading it. The story inspired the students to create their very own paper planes and they competed against each other to see whose plane could fly the furthest in the school Paper Plane Competition. The students became very competitive and 3 students, Ahmad Asad, Zahir Balfas and Ibrahim Khan went beyond 10m and advanced to the next level. These 3 students were part of 800 students from other schools that advanced to the next stage of the competition.

For Science, students learnt about how things can change its form through melting and freezing. Students demonstrated with various experiments to show the processes. Students have learnt a great deal about Australia in HSIE in the unit of 'Australia, You're Standing In It'. Students learnt about some of the beautiful icons all around Australia and this was evident through their project. Students have learned about the different states and territories of Australia and briefly looked into some interesting facts about each state and territory.

3/4H did many hands-on activities to understand the different concept of Mathematics covering the topics of Numbers and Algebra and Measurement and Geometry. Students are also enjoying Athletics and love competing with one another in the challenges. Students have been enjoying the different art forms creations in Creative Arts. It is great to see the amazing artistic creations of the students in 3/4H.

Our Character Book Parade was a huge success Alhamdulillah and the students looked amazing in their costumes.

Majority of the students of 3/4H competed in the Athletics Carnival and I was proud to see the students taking part in most of the events. MashaAllah and I hope you all do even better next year Insha'Allah.

Insha'Allah we will continue to strive hard to make it a productive year for all the students of 3/4H. Looking forward to next term with the continuation of the hard work from the students of 3/4H.

**Ms Hakeem**



## YEAR 5 & 6

Assalamu alaikum,

Currently the year 5 and 6 are learning percentages, measurement and perimeters. While in English they are learning the use of quotation marks, capitalization in titles and so forth. Currently, they are reading a book called 'How to Train a Dragon' as a class and following it up by asking relevant questions.

In HSIE, they are studying about pollution and its effects. Inshallah they will be doing presentations in class on 'Cause of Pollution in Rivers and their Remedies'. This will help them to learn the topic better while also developing their public speaking skills.

In Science, we are studying "Earth's Place in Space". They have been doing experiments in the form of role-plays, where they were testing theories to explain observable movements of the Sun and Moon.

Last but not least, in CAPA, they are presenting and acting out role-plays. A few weeks ago, they were able to perform three plays in front of the primary school in the fortnightly special assembly. It was a pleasure to see them acting out Ancient Egypt and forest adventures and Aboriginal dreamtime stories. I wish Year 5/6 all the best in all their endeavours.

**Ms Shabnam (replacing Mr Shakir while he is on Hajj)**



## ISLAMIC STUDIES & ARABIC

***“And complete the Hajj and ‘Umrah for the sake of Allah. But if you are prevented, then offer what can be obtained with ease of sacrificial animals.”***

**(Quran 2:196)**

Assalaam Alaikum Wa Rahmatullaahi Wa Barakaatuh parents and students,

As we reach the end of our third term, it excites us to inform you that over the past two weeks, we have been focusing on the virtues of the first 10 days of Dhul-Hijjah, Hajj and Sacrifice (Qurbani). Students across the school have been discussing the process of Hajj and have been given practical demonstrations of some of the rituals performed during Hajj. This will give the students a good understanding about what the pilgrims have to do to undertake this spiritual journey.

There has been much interest amongst the students as many of them are aware that Mr Malik went last year and this year we have Mr Shakir from Year 5/6 performing his Hajj. We wish him all the best throughout his journey and we ask Allah to accept hajj as the reward of an accepted Hajj is Paradise.

Hajj is the fifth pillar of Islam. The Prophet said, “Hasten to perform Hajj, for verily one of you does not know what might happen.”. (Musnad Imam Ahmed)

Upon whom is Hajj compulsory? A Muslim, mature, sane, free, and the one who has the ability (physically, financially, has safe passage and a mahram for females)

What are some of the places on visits during the Hajj? Makkah, Mina (which includes the jamarat), Arafah and Muzdulifah

What is the cloth that the Pilgrims wear? An Ihram – This is two pieces of cloth or towel that the males wear. The females wear normal clothing. The boys have been practicing this in their classrooms.

What should be recited when in the state of Ihram? The Talbiyah: *Labaik Allahuma Labaik, Labaika Laa sharikalaka labaik, Innal hamda wa ni'mata laka walmuk, La sharikalak*. Students have been practicing this in the class to get into the spirit of things.

What is Qurbani (also known as Udhiyyah)? This is the sacrifice of a livestock animal during Eid-Al-Adha. The practice of Qurbani can be traced back to Prophet Ibrahim. Ibrahim dreamt that Allah ordered him to sacrifice his son. This story had been elaborated in the classroom throughout the two weeks.

During this exciting time, we would also like to welcome our new staff member to the Islamic Studies Department, Sheikh Ikramullah Ahmad, who is teaching Quran and Arabic studies. We are very pleased to have him as a new addition in our school and we believe he will have a great impact on the students at WGS.

The students of WGS have proven themselves as great seekers of knowledge following the path of our beloved Prophet Muhammad. We are all looking forward to see the fruits of their hard work through achieving pleasing results in their term and yearly exams. We encourage the students to use their holiday break wisely and do their studies on a regular basis.

Hope you all have a wonderful two week break and an exciting Eid-ul-Adha celebration. We ask Allah to bless us all and to unite us in Jannatul Firdaus. Ameen!

### Islamic Department





# SRC ACTIVITIES



## Bakelicious



Assalamu Alaikum,

Alhamdulillah, the Bakelicious event at Western Grammar School was a success. The work done by the Student Representative Council for the successful execution of the event was efficient and effective. The students made and sold various baked goods and drinks throughout fantastic book parade on Friday the 21<sup>st</sup> of August. Alhamdulillah, we were pleased to see that all items were sold out very quickly. The money raised from the Bakelicious was \$400+ and we are very proud and thankful to everyone who participated in this excellent event. Inshallah, the school plans to use the money to enhance the school's resources and establish a fund for the SRC to execute their events throughout the year. Congratulations to the SRC for a successful cake sale and well done on their commitment and effort.

Alhamdulillah, this event has taught the SRC excellent business skills besides the leadership skills they have achieved in their daily roles. The SRC are planning to follow this event with many similar events throughout the rest of the year Inshallah. May Allah give them success in all their endeavours.

**Mr Goys**







# Book Character Parade



Assalamu Alaikum,

Alhamdulillah we had a very successful Scholastic Book Fair in Week 6. Book sales exceeded our expectations and our library had an influx of new books worth \$450! The students will have the opportunity to enjoy reading the new books during their library sessions. Thank you to all parents who supported the school by purchasing books from the fair.

The Book Character Parade was also a great day with a lot of thought and effort put into the costumes. Once again I thank parents for actively helping their children with their costumes. Jazakallah Khair to parents for taking time out of your busy schedules to attend the parade.

Premier Reading Challenge is over however parents please continue to read PRC books with your children. These can be incorporated into next year's Premier Reading Challenge log. Inshallah, all students who participated in the Premier Reading Challenge will receive their certificates towards the end of Term 4. Well done Western Grammar for taking part in this great reading challenge!

**Ms Hina**





# ATHLETICS CARNIVAL



Assalamu Alaikum parents and students,

I would like to thank all staff, parents and students who made our sports carnival such an exciting and successful day Alhamdulillah. The Western Grammar spirit was surely on display. Alhamdulillah students enjoyed the day and really got into chanting for their respective teams. The day was beautiful, the competition was tough and we were amazed at the talent of our students and teachers. We also had a few parents joining in and racing against our male staff in the 100m race at the end of the day. We must thank all parents for your support throughout this wonderful occasion.

We identified a few students with exceptional talent and they were allowed to compete at the Doonside Athletics Club on their open day.

We're very pleased to announce that Adama Konateh of Year 8 came 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the 800m race competing against state runners! Also well done to Mariam Drame! She performed excellently as well. Alhamdulillah we are very proud of them!

Each team did excellently. Red team's Mr. Hakeem showed his spirit with a red beard! Green team excelled in their organisation, appointing students to ensure the area was kept clean and their chants were original not to mention loud! But Blue team showed everyone their incredible athletics skills by leaving everyone else in the dust! Mashallah they won this year's Athletics Carnival! **GO BLUE!!!!!!**

**Mr Anwar Gallie- Assistant Principal**





# ATHLETICS CARNIVAL





# Announcements

- **Use of mobile phones & other electronic items:** It has been observed that students are bringing mobile phones to school. This is against school policy and parents need to write a letter to the school stating why it is necessary for their children to have mobile phones during school hours. The school will conduct random checks and if a student is caught with a mobile phone and any other electronic device during school hours, it will be confiscated and only the parents will be able to retrieve it from the office.
- **Holidays during term:** Parents are urged to go on holidays during term breaks so that their child/ren do not miss out on any learning time at school. Missing school for long periods can result in the student not being promoted to the next class in 2016.
- **Lost Property:** Ensure that all your child's belongings are clearly labeled with their name printed on each item, especially uniforms and lunch boxes, to avoid losing them. We have sports jackets and blazers in the lost property with no names on them. Any parent whose child has lost a sports jacket or blazer to please see the office personnel.
- **Medical certificates:** Sick notes are to be provided for any child who is absent from school. Please make sure your child brings a sick note/medical certificate immediately upon their return to school.

## Lunch Box Idea

### Ingredients:

- 5 cups Rice Bubbles
- 2 cups vanilla marshmallows (200g)
- 100g butter, chopped
- 50g white chocolate, melted
- 2 tbsp rainbow chocolate chips

### Method:

- Grease a 16cm x 26cm (base) slice pan. Line with baking paper, extending paper 2cm above edges on all sides.
- Place Rice Bubbles in a large bowl. Place marshmallows and butter in a large microwave-safe bowl. Microwave on HIGH (100%) for 1 minute, stirring every 30 seconds or until mixture is smooth. Add to Rice Bubbles. Stir to coat well.
- Press mixture firmly and evenly into prepared pan. Drizzle with white chocolate. Sprinkle with rainbow choc chips. Refrigerate for 2 hours or until set.
- Cut into 20 bars. Wrap each bar in plastic wrap. Refrigerate until required.



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Last day of Term 3 – 17<sup>th</sup> September
- PD Day for teachers – 18<sup>th</sup> September
- Kindergarten orientation – 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> October + 3<sup>rd</sup> November
- Labour Day Holiday – 5<sup>th</sup> October
- First day of Term 4 – 6<sup>th</sup> October



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