



WESTERN GRAMMAR SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

Issue 39 Term 3 Tuesday 22nd August, 2017

“Allah will exalt in degree those of you who believe, and those who have been granted knowledge.”
Quran 58:11

What's Inside

PRIMARY NEWS	PG 2-6
EXPLORING THE EVOLUTION OF THE AUSTRALIAN BIOTA	PG 6
ADVICE FOR HSC SUCCESS	PG 7
POETRY & DRAMA	PG 7
MACBETH MADNESS	PG 8
BREWONGLE FUN	PG 9
ISLAMIC STUDIES	PG 10
SPORTS	PG 11
EARN & LEARN	PG 11
CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE	PG 12
UP TO DATE	PG 12



15 Cannery Road,
Plumpton NSW 2761
Ph: 02 9677 9229
F: 02 9675 4060
www.wgs.nsw.edu.au
E: admin@wgs.nsw.edu.au

KINDERGARTEN

Assalamu Alaikum,

Hooray!! Now we're well into Term 3! What an accomplishment, Kindergarten has finished 2 terms of the academic year! We've finished our half yearly assessments, had 3 excursions, finished parent teacher interviews, advanced in our reading levels and almost perfected our maths!! We've done really well so far and Insha'Allah we'll do even better in the future.

In our Kindy classroom this term we've been focusing on procedures, patterns and addition. We've learnt about different places in geography, healthy eating and lifestyles in PDH and different seasons in Science and Technology. We've made the alphabet come to life with w w w watermelon, p p p penguins and j j j jellyfish!

This term has been especially exciting because we have Mr Khan who comes in on Fridays and does an extra PE lesson with us which is absolutely fantastic! So far Mr Khan has taught us amazing new tricks in soccer and about great sportsmanship... Every day is a new crazy, fun filled learning day in the Kindergarten classroom and we love it very much!

Well, that's it for now, we've got to go prepare for our character parade, science week, book week, numeracy week and soon our Kindy graduation... Lots to do!

-Ms Rana



Assalamu Alaikum Parents,

Welcome back to a busy fun filled Term 3!

Year 1 has finished learning about History for this term and has started studying Geography. Students enjoy learning about natural and human features in the environment and were fascinated when we used Google Maps to observe the school and Plumpton. We also enjoyed an excursion to Brewongle which helped consolidate their learning.

In English Writing we have focused on recounts and narratives. Our class can write great weekend and holiday recounts. We are concentrating on adding more detail to make their writing more interesting. Mathematics has been very enjoyable thus far for students as they have been exploring chance. They were excited to graph data and find out the most popular class fruit and favourite ice cream flavour. The winner was strawberry for fruit and vanilla for ice-cream. In Science, students have been exploring different products, their uses and investigating their design. We learnt about the importance of recycling and got creative by reusing plastic bottles to make rockets.

Please ensure you are reading daily with your child and logging it in the reading journal and that your child is practicing their spelling words through the LCWC technique.

-Ms. Yusofzai

YEAR 1

YEAR 1 & 2

Assalamu Alaikum,

Alhamdulillah, it is amazing to see the Year 1&2s progress significantly academically, especially in reading and writing. They have shown substantial improvement in many areas of learning. We are looking at narratives and recounts where they have done diary entries for the first time and have shown some excellent pieces of work.

In Mathematics, we have been learning three-dimensional shapes, chance and data. The students loved making actual 3D shapes and we enjoyed making a tally of vehicles passing by on Bottles Road as one of our activities. In Science, we have been looking at lunch boxes, pencil cases and other objects' designs, limitations and weaknesses. We enjoyed walking around the school and describing the natural, human and managed features for Geography while for PDH we have been discussing relationships. For creativity, students have made masks and sent messages using hand signals and so forth. The students are doing new weight shifting moves for sports. It has been a very enriching journey so far.

-Ms Shabnam



YEAR 2

Assalam Alaikum, ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls.

We welcome you to the exciting events and adventures of Year 2 in Term 3!

Our journey begins with our amazing transformation from occasional readers to voracious book worms. We have been exploring and immersing ourselves in many genres of books. We like to read out loud, to ourselves, to others, to toys, parents and even pets. We revel in the language and vocabulary that presents to us daily... So Shhhh! We're reading! ... Our journey continues along the path of knowledge to....

Our Geography unit this term has accentuated our mapping and direction skills. We can identify the local area of Plumpton and route our way to school.

The last stop on our journey takes us to the dramatic and theatrical Creative Arts domain to explore Drama this term. We pull the imaginary rope and try to escape the imaginary box with our mimes. Lights, camera, action! We enjoy performing our Readers Theatre and story based plays to our mesmerised class audience.

What a wonderful term we are having in Year 2.

-Ms Boyd



Year 3

Assalamu Alaikum,

This term has been a flourishing time for Year 3! Although it has been flying past, it has been extremely productive and fruitful. Year 3 students have been participating in challenging and stimulating tasks in class to boost their academic learning. This week, our class undertook their Term 3 assessments. They worked hard, studied persistently and were thoroughly prepared to excel.

In English we are reading 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' and our class is loving the text. They are imagining and designing their own chocolate bars and rooms, and are beginning to think outside of the box. Year 3 is having fun studying our new subject: Geography. We are exploring Australia as well as the places around us. Mr Khan has joined us on Fridays to teach the students soccer skills and strategies, the students are eager to participate in more physical activities, especially with the Sports Carnival coming up soon.

-Ms. Abbas



Assalamu Alaikum,

Year 3&4

The Year 3&4 students have had a fantastic start to this term. They have started the term full of energy after a well-deserved break. We have been busy in all aspects of the curriculum and all students have been working very hard mashaAllah!

For Literacy, we are focusing on many different aspects of writing, such as text structure, sentence structure, descriptive vocabulary, paragraphing and particular aspects of grammar that are most prominent in the persuasive writing genre. In Mathematics, we are covering number skills whilst integrating patterns and algebra, measurement, chance and data. During library sessions, students have been eager to borrow various books and become thoroughly involved in literature. In Science, students have been exploring aspects of heat. They have conducted various experiments to see how heat is transferred in different conditions.

Insha'Allah, in the later editions of this newsletter, we can write about all the wonderful assessments and activities your children have completed. Until then I hope we can work together to get the best out of our students till the end of the term.

-Ms. Pinar



Assalamu Alaikum,

YEAR 4

Year 4 has worked very hard and has overcome many challenges this term. Our focus for these past few weeks has been on persuasive texts. Students were given the opportunity to compose their own exposition letters. They also learnt about the grammatical features and structure relevant to these types of texts. Year 4 has shown great determination and did extremely well in this task. Students continued to develop their comprehension and reading skills by participating in fun and educational learning activities.

Our class has continued to excel in Mathematics. Year 4 has enhanced their multiplication skills by using an area model to multiply large numbers. They have also learnt about whole numbers and number patterns as well as developing strategies on partitioning decimals. Our class worked both independently and in collaboration with their peers while learning these concepts. Year 4 has enjoyed Creative Arts this term as they participated in drama and theatre performance. They worked cooperatively in small groups and utilised their imagination by taking on roles. It is exciting to see the class so eager to learn!

-Ms. Afshar



Assalamu Alaikum,

It has been lovely to see all these beautiful smiling faces each morning and hear exciting tales from the students. This term students are really working hard in all areas of literacy as we focus on improving reading levels across the board. To achieve this, a reading log book has been introduced where students are recording what they read each night. This will enforce a regular habit of reading which will in turn improve their reading and writing abilities. Students in our class are reading a novel every week and answering questions about different pages of their books, which is helping them improve their comprehension skills. In Maths, students are building their number skills whilst integrating finance and budget, measurement, chance and data.

Our Geography program, about different places around the world, is very interesting this term. Our class is involved in lots of group activities where they need to research different countries. We have been doing lots of drama activities in our class, where students are given scripts and they have to role play. Student thoroughly enjoyed this lesson. Also, thank you to all the parents who came in for the parent teacher interview, it was really nice to meet you all. I hope we can work together to build our students' learning skills.

-Ms. Asad

Year 5



YEAR 6

Assalamu Alaikum,

Alhamdulillah, Year 6 has started this term positively. They have already engulfed themselves in the exciting new topics we are focusing on this term. For Science, students planted their own seeds to investigate how the physical environment would affect the growth of their plant. Every morning students checked the progress of their plant, realising that plants need to adapt to their environment in order to survive.

Geography lessons were introduced this term, encouraging students to think globally. There have been big discussions in class about the diversity of languages, cultures, traditions and religions around the world. We even wrote our names in different languages! Students are also keen to persuade this term. They have written a range of texts and many letters to the editor that are sure to persuade you...



-Ms Rukiye

Микаил

Mikail

Bulgarian

フセイン

Hussein

Japanese

扎里亚

Zaariyah

Chinese

Year 11 Biology

EXPLORING THE EVOLUTION OF THE AUSTRALIAN BIOTA

Throughout the term, Year 11 has been exploring the final topic of Preliminary Biology; Evolution of the Australian Biota. The module is based on the study of past environments to understand how the implications of our present-day actions can affect our environment, particularly the distribution of flora and fauna. Furthermore, the topic increases students' understanding of the applications and uses of biology, the implications for society and the environment and current issues, research and developments in biology.

In order to investigate the topics in detail, Year 11 students undertook a series of hands on activities as a form of formative assessment to confirm their ability to apply their understanding

of the topic. Some of the activities students performed included:

- Extraction of DNA from strawberries and Kiwi
- Reconstructing plants and labelling their parts
- Taking apart a flower and labelling its components
- In class quizzes and class discussions
- In class research projects and more

Year 11 students have completed an assignment evaluating the classification and adaptations of various Australian fauna and flora. Overall, biology students performed well in the final assessment before the Year 11 yearly exams. Best of luck to them all!





Advice for HSC Success

The HSC year can push you to your physical and mental limits. Remember, take this as a challenge and know that we can never realise our best until we are pushed to our limits. The HSC rewards **hard work, consistency, organisation** and **dedication** as opposed to aptitude or how 'smart' you are. Here are some tips to help you through this journey.

Organisation

Plan out your terms by noting key dates such as excursions, assessment tasks and other extra-curricular activities. Timetables can be effective but if it doesn't work for you that's ok. It's wise to backward map from your main objectives down. This will ensure you don't lose sight of your end goals.

Past Papers

Do not think that past papers are useful only before exams. You should attempt past papers as you move through your content and skip those questions that you haven't covered. Attempting past paper questions are one of the most effective ways to prepare for exams.

Daily revision

Success is all about establishing positive work habits. Revision enables students to recall and retain information. Only through consistent revision can students recall relevant and large amounts of information for exams. Students should be revising at least 1 hour per subject per week in addition to all assigned homework.

Self-motivation

Every student should be asking themselves why they are doing the HSC. What motivates them to do their best? What are their future goals and aspirations? Success in the HSC is all about establishing positive work habits and routines driven by self-motivation.



This term, Western Grammar School Year 9 students were introduced to a new program titled Poetry from Different Cultures. The unit exposed and engaged students with diversity and exposure to different cultures around the world and the aesthetics of language through poetry.

Students were taught to understand and familiarize themselves with the power of language to explore and express views that are either theirs or others, and to engage with the aesthetic dimensions of

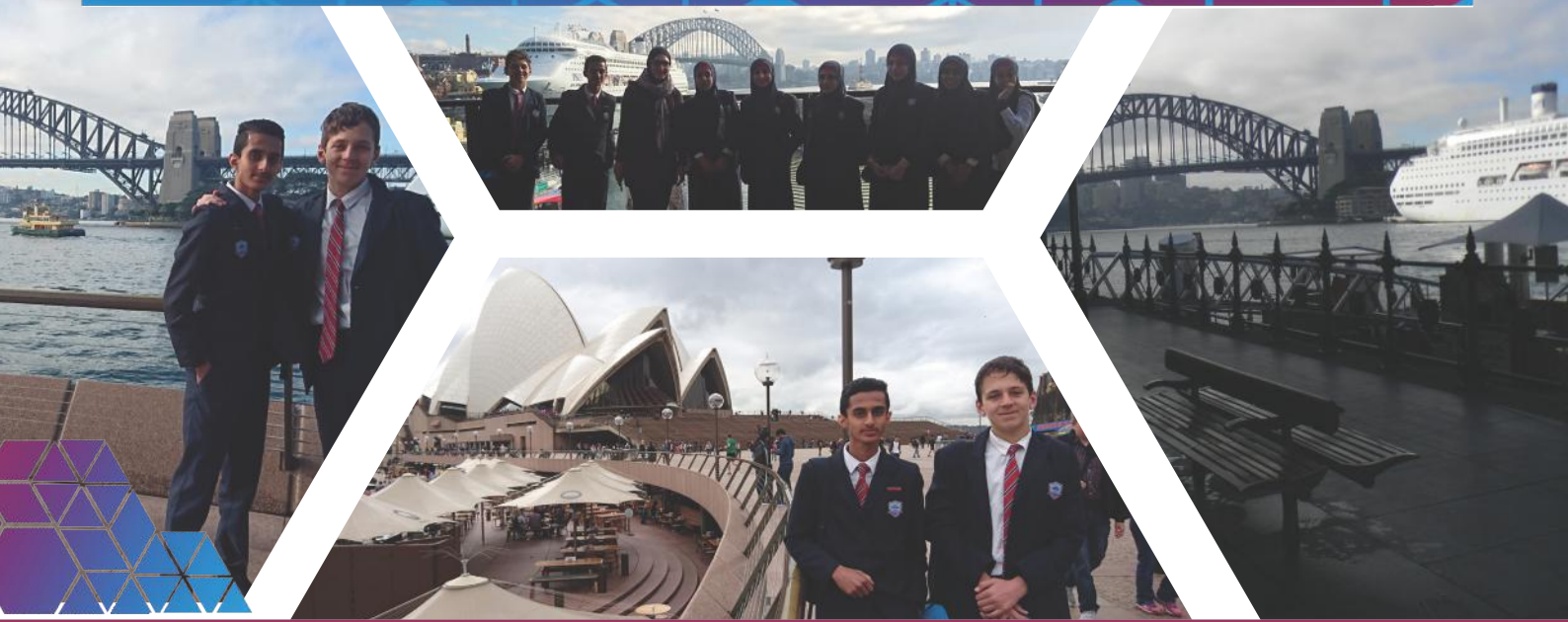
cultural experiences. Students were introduced to poems that provided insight into the cultural, social and political perspectives sourced from other countries and other times.

Western Grammar Year 7 students have been introduced to the elements of drama and its variations as they engage in a range of texts from the Elizabethan era. Students explored the social, cultural and historical context of 17th century England for the purpose of representing the society in the form of a collage. They

have also been introduced to the language of and features of scripts. Students have also been exposed to, and been involved in, the art of role play.

Our Year 8 students have been studying the traditional forms of news media and the language and structures used in the past. Students have also examined contemporary methods of news reporting, including print media, online newspapers and social media reporting.

Macbeth Madness



The morning of Thursday, the 3rd of August, brought a wave of fresh faced and chattering Year 10 students to Mt Druitt station. Rubbing away the visible remnants of sleep, the English students rushed to board the arriving train and hasten their arrival to the Sydney Opera House.

During the course of Term 2, our Year 10 class studied playwright William Shakespeare's tragedy, "Macbeth". The in-depth study we conducted involved extensively exploring the appropriation of the play into a graphic novel and analysing visual techniques and structure. After writing various essays on the play's enduring themes and use of language, our appreciation for the play and its thematic elements was heightened during the excursion. We experienced for ourselves the tragic rise and fall of its eponymous hero through a thrilling 90-minute production at the Sydney Opera House. The clever integration of modern references to the 400-year-old play was surprising and maintained relevance to the world today – with Macbeth occasionally facetimeing his destructive deeds. We remained immersed and entertained throughout and afterwards enjoyed lunch at a contemporary food court with an array of diverse outlets. Before we went home, we prayed the Dhuhr salah and made our journey back to the train station. The ride home was full of lots of laughter, corny jokes and most importantly, content grins.

BY TAMIMA RAHMAN



BREWONGLE FUN



Where did we go? Brewongle! Why did we go? For Geography! What did we do? Have fun!!

This term Kindergarten, Year 1, Year 1/2 and Year 2 went to Brewongle Education Centre for their geography excursion. We had a blast! From the long bus ride to the amazing experience in nature, K-2 absolutely loved it! Shortly after arriving at Brewongle we were introduced to our guides who explained to us how to greet and respect the land we live on. We were told that we were currently on 'Darug country' and we should pay respect to the original owners of the land. After that Kindergarten adventured off into the wilderness where we saw Wendy the wallaby and were acquainted with a blue tongue lizard, Stumpy, for whom we created shelters. Then we created maps using twigs, leaves and rocks that told a story. While Kindergarten was doing this, the rest of the troops made memory sticks using things they found in the wilderness to remember Aboriginal seasons. They then went on a bug and insect hunt- it was pretty cool! If that wasn't enough they managed to explore different habitats of various animals and used cameras to investigate their homes and see what was inside. To end a great day we were lucky enough to catch a glimpse of our beautiful Hawkesbury River and were mesmerised by its magnificence.

All up we had a pretty remarkable day- we had the best time ever and learnt so much!

BY MOMIL RANA



Islamic Studies Department

SHOUT OUT

"Indeed, those who have said "Our Lord is Allah," then remains steadfast, the angels will descend upon them, (saying), "Do not fear and do not grieve, but receive glad tidings of Paradise which you were promised." (Quran 41:30)

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. Alhamdulillah, Term 2 has started with refreshed faces after a long Eid break. We went through a well revived month of Ramadan and I urge everyone to stay steadfast on the Deen of Islam to gain the pleasure of Allah (swt) and the ultimate reward of Paradise.

Alhamdulillah, WGS ran a successful Quran competition at the end of last term with many students competing for the first prize. Students were asked to recite Surah Al-Faatihah and a selected surah from what they have memorised this year in school. They were tested in fluency, pronunciation, and confidence.

We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all the winners for the WGS Quran Competition and also all those who were selected to participate. As for all those who were not selected, Insha'Allah all the best for next year.

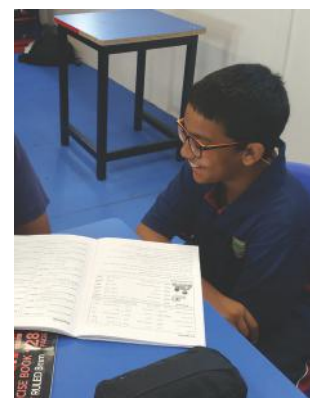
This term, the Islamic Department has issued all students (with the exception of Kindergarten) assignments in both Islamic and Arabic studies. I urge all parents to help their child/ren to complete their assignment on time, to encourage them to put great effort in it, to encourage their child/ren to regularly practice their surah memorisation and to practice their Iqra book on a daily basis. We all need to encourage the children to become close to the book of Allah, as indeed, success lies in His book alone.

Hajj is almost upon us and the Islamic Department is organising a week this term to host a mock Hajj for the students. Students will be given a presentation on "All About Hajj" and will be doing a mock Hajj in school. The school will be set up like Makkah and class by class, the students will be asked to complete all the main hajj rituals. This is an innovative idea to help students understand Hajj and create love for this great worship. May Allah bless you all and give success to all the students in this life and the hereafter!

-Mr. Hakeem

The following are the winners for the Quran competition 2017:

Kindy: Asma Bajwa
Year 1: Mustafa Malik
Year 1/2: Ismail Abdullah
Year 2: Loujane Abbadi
Year 3: Betim Saliji
Year 3/4: Abdullah Sajid Hasim
Year 4: Atikah Taufiq
Year 5: Rufaidah Saputra
Year 6: Nashrah Islam
Year 7/8 Girls: Alishbah Asad
Year 7/8 Boys: Faisal Ashraf
Year 9/10 Girls: Ayah Mohamed
Year 9/10 Boys: Blerim Saliji & Adama Konateh



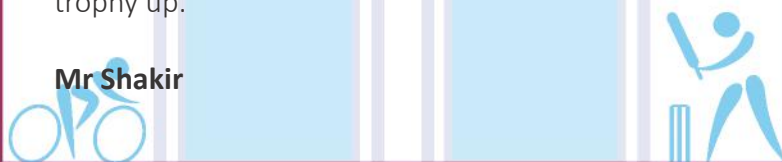
Assalamu Alaikum,

Alhumdulillah, the High School boys have been getting into touch football over the past few weeks. The weather has been great so far this term on most Wednesdays, if a bit cold. Nevertheless, as you can see from the pictures, the boys play with great passion and enthusiasm.

In fact, Mr Ahmed has set up a touch football tournament which is played during recess, lunch and Wednesday sport, and the teachers have also entered in a team! The tournament is proceeding and has captured the imagination and interest of most of the high school boys. The competition is fierce, and the arguments fiercer still! (Ahmed and Ali, was it really an obstruction / shepherd? Come on boys...)

I look forward to announcing the results of the tournament in the next newsletter, with a special picture of the teacher's winning team holding the trophy up.

Mr Shakir



SPORTS



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Stick

Complete a Sticker Sheets.



Give back

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Dear Parents,

This year we will be participating in the Woolworths Earn & Learn program again. Through this program we will be able to get new educational resources and equipment for our school – and all we need you to do is shop for your groceries at Woolworths.

From 26th July to 9th September, we're collecting Woolworths Earn & Learn Stickers. You will get one Sticker for every \$10 spent. Place the Sticker onto a Woolies Sticker Sheet and when it's complete, the Sticker Sheet can be dropped into the Collection Box here, next to the school office.

If you'd like to know more visit woolworths.com.au/earnandlearn

-Ms Afaf

UP To Date

21-25 August: Science Week

Experiments, research and scientific exploration! Science week is jam packed with activities for everyone.

28 August-1 September: Literacy Week

Character parades, bake sales, story readings and more! Get ready for Book week!

28 August-1 September: Numeracy Week

Math competitions and quizzes galore!

13 September: Athletics Carnival

Ready! Get set! Go! The annual athletics carnival is just around the corner. Which team will win this year?

22 September: Last Day

Pack your bags and head home- last day of Term 3!

Message From the Chairman



Assalamu Alaikum,

Alhamdulillah, we have already passed the halfway milestone of the 2017 school year. Over the past two terms, our school has been successfully meeting all the objectives and goals that we have set out to achieve. This year we have welcomed our very first HSC Year 11

class and are looking forward to the positive results Insha'Allah. As WGS continues to expand, we will continue to improve our high standards for education and environment.

In the coming weeks, millions of Muslims from around the world will be coming together to perform Hajj in our Holy city of Makkah. This is one of the greatest acts of worship in Islam and it is an example of how we should try to live in our society. During Hajj, people from diverse cultures and backgrounds leave behind their differences and work harmoniously for a single objective – to please Allah SWT. This unity and cohesiveness is essential for us in our daily lives if we want to achieve the high goals that we have set out for Western Grammar School, which is to create the best educational environment for the growing minds of our future leaders. In Islam, the task of teaching and educating others has been elevated highly, and with the right intention, it can become a means of earning good deeds. Therefore we must exert ourselves to complete this task with the devotion and passion it requires, whether it be as teachers, parents or in any other position at this school.

I encourage the school community to put forward their best efforts as we face the challenges of the final two terms of this year. With many events and functions still to come, we must ensure that we take full advantage of the opportunities that Allah (swt) has provided us with. In the coming blessed days, we must pray for our continued success and that we may work together as a community.

**-Mr Subhan Ali
WGS Chairman**