

Western Grammar School

KNOWLEDGE IS THE ULTIMATE SOLUTION

NL 20, Vol. 3, Issue 5, Term 3, 14

25 Aug 2014, 28 Shawwal 1435 H



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Beautiful Colours of EID



Assalam o Alaikum

Western Grammar School continues to strive in order to provide quality education. I am proud to say that we have an inspiring working environment and highly committed staff to accomplish the short term and long term objectives. Our first priority is to establish the quality educational and learning environment. To achieve this prime objective an improved and up to mark infrastructure is imminent and inevitable. The School is trying its level best to improve the infrastructure as per demand of the parents and local community.

Government has approved funding for the construction of new building. Unfortunately the outcome of DA is pending and construction of new building will be started as soon as we have a positive outcome of DA.

As far as academic and extracurricular activities are concerned, term 3 has been the busiest term of the year 2014. Students went through Mufti day, Science Week, Book fair, book character parade and so on. Parent-teacher interviews have been completed last week. Sports Carnival is due this week on 27 August 2014. Similarly the activities at Western Grammar are evolving with the rotation of days and nights. We are confident that WGS will definitely flourish and will become a compelling need of the community, Insha'Allah. Therefore I always urge all the parents to become a part of the foundation of WGS. It is a challenge for us to build a characterful and responsible future generation of Australian Muslims. This cannot be accomplished without your participation, strong commitment and serious attention to this challenge. Your valuable feedback, coordination and cooperation are a key to meet the requirements of this challenge. Therefore I request all the parents to pay attention to our message and usual reminder, and be an important part of Western Grammars' family.

At the same time we are adamant in providing maximum support and opportunities to the dedicated team of our teachers for their professional development and learning. SLL is progressing and our teaching staff is actively working to assess the areas of need for the further improvement of their students' academic level. I must thank the entire teaching staff for their dedicated efforts and I believe they are gaining a lot of experience and benefits through our SLL scheme.

2014 is rapidly passing and almost 66% of the year is already gone past, I am looking forward towards a flourishing Western Grammar in 2015 and beyond. I encourage the staff, students and parents to continue with dedication and help us make this school an icon and benefitting amenity for the local community. *Irfan Afzal*

I am very pleased to inform you that Western Grammar has commenced our School Leading Learning program for 2014. The program's core objectives are to review, refine and develop a school improvement plan targeting quality teaching and quality learning. We will be 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. Relevant and reliable data will form the basis on which informed decisions will be made. 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 – Due to commence week 8 term 3, this process will aim to evaluate the results of phase 1 and identify student weakness and thereby create class profiles.

Phase 3 – Developing a school self-assessment policy - This will be followed by a consolidation of all class profiles to form a school wide focus area. This will be a summation of all individual and class profiles which will involve selecting ONE priority area as the target of improvement for 2014/15.

Phase 4 – Developing a 1 year school improvement plan – This will involve providing professional learning in the identified focus groups and priority areas through ongoing professional development and training sessions.

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*

Inside the classrooms

KINDERGARTEN

Assalam o Alaikum,

Kindergarten has had an energetic start to term three with Ramadan and Eid celebration falling within the term. Our Eid Millan was fantastic; students looked beautiful in their cultural clothes while meeting and well-wishing one another. We conducted fun activities throughout the day, talked about our Eid experiences and shared delicious sweets and treats brought in by students. Our science day was a great success! Well done to my students for presenting our fantastic 'Salt water experiment'. This term has a lot of exciting events coming Insha'Allah, with book character parade, athletics carnival and weekly AFL lessons which we have started. Students have grown so much both physically and mentally. It is amazing to see some students writing full sentences and producing recounts of great quality.



They are having a great time doing addition and subtraction stories using hands on materials to visually aid them in their studies. For Science this term we are currently learning about 'back to nature', where we are identifying the differences between natural and man-made things, as well as the importance of compost and recycling. In PDH, the topic we are currently covering is personal hygiene; we are learning about germs and the ways to protect us from it by hand washing, cleaning your teeth, nails, hair and skin protection. Please remember to wear your school hat every day during recess, lunch and sports. In HSIE, we are now starting the unit 'workers of the community' which includes job categories such as police officers, fire fighters and ambulance services. Kindergarteners have put in great effort learning spelling words and are confidently placing spelling words into constructed sentences. I would like to encourage all students to focus more on reading and comprehending texts. Keep in mind 'The more you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you will go.' - Dr Seuss. *Ms Dear*

YEAR 1

Assalamu Alaykum, Alhamdulillah year one have returned to school feeling enthusiastic and ready for a fun filled term. Students have been introduced to the new topics that they will be focusing on. Year one will be exploring a range of different signs and symbols that they may be exposed to in the environment for Science, in PDHPE we will be looking at relationships and communication. In English we will be focusing on recounts and procedures. Students will be exploring Japan for HSIE, they will be learning about the language, dress and food.

Students will be participating in an Auskick Program for PE; representatives from NSW Auskick will be coming to the school every Wednesday morning to run through some drills and skills that are related to AFL. Students will practice throwing, catching and kicking and AFL ball and most of all learn how to have fun while enjoying in physical activity in sha Allah. *Ms Pinar*

YEAR 2

Assalam-o-Alaikum,

We have another half year to aid our students to do even better. There is still a lot to be accomplished. Insha'Allah, we will achieve our target by the end of the year with flying colours. This term in HSIE, we are studying significant people and places. In Science, we are looking at 'Mixtures'. Some of our students came up with splendid experiments for the science week for which they should be commended. I would like to thank the parents for their ongoing support. In English we are revisiting explanations, persuasive writing, recounts and narratives.



We are now emphasising the use of compound sentences rather than simple sentences. Moreover, students have produced excellent pieces of work in ICT classes. In Maths, we just finished chance and are now revising 'Whole Numbers', especially decimals, place values, and different approaches to 'Addition and Subtraction'. For Creative Arts, we are making different shapes. For PDH, we are studying about making decisions, nutrition and health. *. Ms Shahnam*

YEAR 3 & 4

Assalaamu Alaykum,

Belated Eid Mubarak! I hope you all had a wonderful and productive Eid holiday, InshAllah. Students have demonstrated a fresh start to the new term for which many exciting things have been planned. As promised last term, I would like to announce the winning teams of the group project students were engaged in for shared reading: Crystal Girls [1st], Sunna Soldiers [2nd], VIM Monsters [3rd] and Golden Girls [4th]. Congratulations to Crystal Girls for attaining first place. An excellent effort by Tasmia, Shakaya and Sameeha!

Further, for PDH, students are studying about the importance of 'Interpersonal Relationships', particularly in terms of Islamic jurisdiction. For HSIE, students have been studying about 'Multicultural Australia'. For Science, students are studying about various forces and simple machines. The Science Day held this term has been a great experience for students. Year 3/4 students successfully participated in an experiment relating to Chemistry. Students used milk, food colouring and detergent to create a burst of beautiful colours in various types of milk. I'd like to praise the following students for their excellent performance: Raiyan, Ruhab, Abdul-Rahman, Safiyyah, Shakaya and Fatima. Well done, my young scientists!

Further, for CAPA, students have been working on 'Origami Art'. They have found the concept of origami extremely spectacular. Students have produced beautiful origami flowers and are now working on the production of origami books. For English [Text Types], students have been working on procedures and have thereby created a whole-class healthy recipe book. A special thanks to Khaled [artistic graphics] and Mohsin [excellent writing] for their extensive assistance in the construction of the book! InshAllah, there is a lot more to come. *Ms Sadiq*



Year 3/4, Shared Reading Group Project: The Giraffe and the Pelly & Me



CAPA, Production of Origami Flowers

YEAR 5 & 6

Alhamdulillah, Year 5/6 has had a great start to Term 3. We have been studying Area and Geometry for Maths, the 3 tiers of Australian Government for HSIE, and Bullying for PDHPE. The students are taking a keen interest in Origami (CAPA), and enthusiastically make our weekly designs. We are looking forward to the more complicated designs that will be studied later in the term. We have also started an innovative, research-proven spelling program and are extremely pleased with the progress of students in spelling. Year 5/6 have been focusing heavily on basic punctuation and grammar over the past few weeks, and Insha'Allah will see improvements in their basic writing skills.

Lastly, for Science, we have been studying the Solar System. This seems to be of extremely great interest to all the students, even though some students had surprisingly unique and creative notions of how our solar system works. In any case, Year 5/6 has had a productive term so far, despite numerous interruptions due to Ramadhan and Eid - speaking of which, a belated Eid-Mubarak from all of Year 5/6!

As usual, I end with a strong recommendation to increase reading at home, and to involve students in minor financial transactions and calculations, so as to drive home the importance of numeracy and literacy into the children. Education is for the sake of real world application after all! *Mr Shakir*

YEAR 7 & 8

The students have made a good start to term 3 and have really settled in. We have one new student who has joined the class recently, but most of the students were here last term. The students have finished History for the year and have now started Geography as a subject which they will study for the rest of this year. Some students are sad and miss history, but others don't seem to mind. Students have been studying human and physical environments. In Science, students have studied ecology and are learning about ecosystems and different types of relationships between organisms. In design and technology, the students have been learning about computer programming and doing activities on the computer to teach them about computer programming concepts. They have been using a website called code.org and people such as Bill Gates, the co-founder of Microsoft, and Mark Zuckerberg, the co-founder of Facebook, endorse this website and can be seen on the website. The year has passed very quickly; we are already more than half way through the year and half way through term 3. It's not long to go and soon it will be the end of the year. *Mr Ponton*

ISLAMIC STUDIES

The Prophet Muhammad (S) said: "إن الله قد أبدلكم بهما خيرا منهما يوم الأضحى ويوم الفطر"

"Verily, Allah has replaced other celebrations with better ones (for us in Islam), and they are Eid-ul-Adha and Eid-ul-Fitr"

Assalaam Alaikum (wrwb) Parents and Students,

EID MUBARAK to each and every one of you! I hope you all had a blessed Ramadan and an enjoyable Eid celebration. By the grace of Allah (swt), term 3 has initiated with great expectations and high hopes for the students of WGS in Islam, Quran, and Arabic studies. Ms. Davids and I are hoping to see great improvements and more concentration heading up to the term 3 exams and the yearly exams in term 4.

Kindergarten this term are concentrating on the life of Prophet Muhammad (S) after prophethood in the Makkan period. They are also studying about Islamic customs such as; how to use the toilet, cleanliness, eating, and how to make Wudu. As for Arabic, they are focusing on basic tajweed of the Quran including Harakat and Tanween (both reading and writing). They are also learning basic words and speaking basic sentences.

Year 1-4 students are studying about selected Prophets and Islamic ethics this term for Islamic studies, with the intermediate and advance levels based on their year. As for Arabic, the students have advanced to a new level concentrating on speaking and understanding the Arabic language. They have started studying from a new Arabic textbook which will engage them more in Arabic conversations.

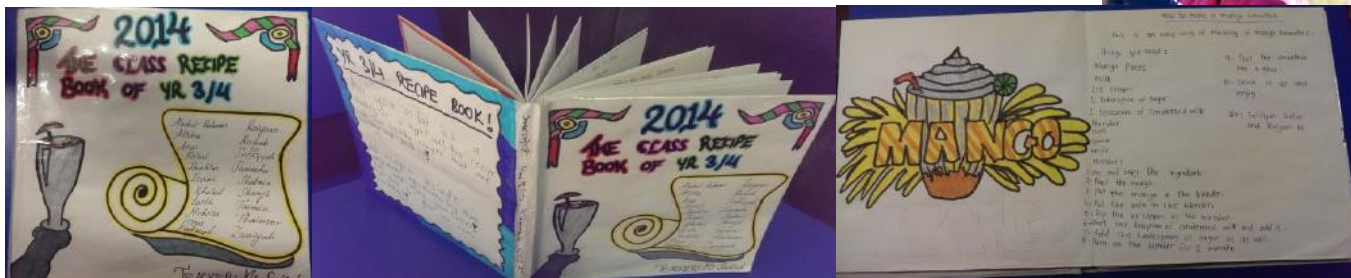
Year 5-8 students are concentrating on studying about the great women in Islam and the Unseen world. These groups of students have also climbed their way to start speaking and understanding the Arabic language. They have started studying from a new Arabic textbook which will, Inshallah, enable them to achieve this goal.

Our students have shown tremendous improvements in these three subjects and we pray to Allah (swt) to see these students achieving even higher and develop themselves to become better Muslims and citizens of Australia. With your help as parents, your child will excel in all fields of study at WGS and will Inshallah achieve tremendous results in their term 3 exam in week 9. May Allah grant us all success. *Mr Hakeem*

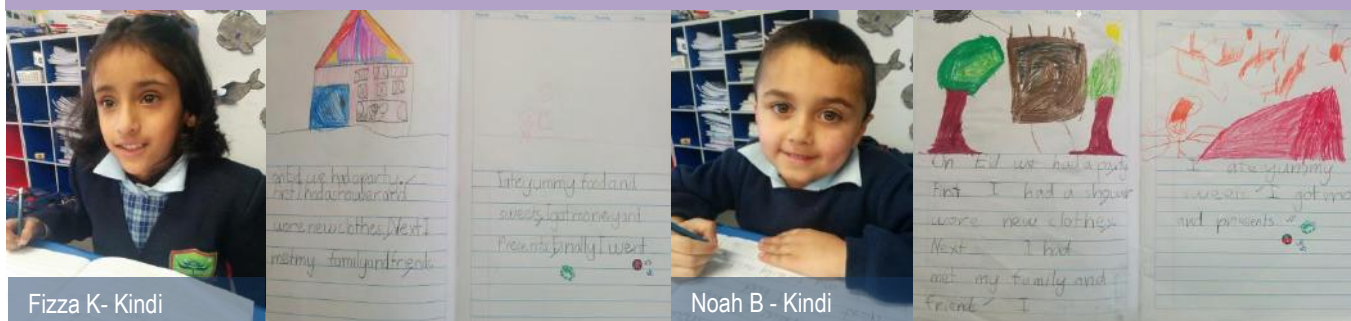


STUDENT'S CORNER

My day at school; Yesterday at school I had English. Then I had recess, I had some delicious cookies. Later on the recess bell rang so we had to go back to the classroom. For half an hour we had Arabic and we played a quiz and I was last. Then it was lunch I had some shapes. After that I played with my friends. Later on it was prayer time. After we finished we had some English. Finally it was home time! My mum came and we went back home. I started to do my homework and my sister was reading Quran. Then my dad came and my sister was being naughty. *Adia M*



Year 3/4 Class effort in composing a healthy recipe book [English – Text Types → Procedures]



Descriptive Writing -

1. After swimming the astoundingly small panda wearing 50 flosses and a Juba danced grumpily showing big feet have fun is what he said. *Hassan Year 5*
2. After birth, the tiny little dinosaur, the prehistoric Spinosaurus, jumped horridly, displaying an enormous set of sharp dangling teeth; "shoot it" was my first distinction. *Rabial Year 6*



WGS students have presented spectacular experiments with great poise and enthusiasm for the Science Week 2014. Students enjoyed a hands-on opportunity to see the wonders of Science and the Chemistry it entails. The experiments included exploring the reaction of ice and food colour, the production of slippery and gooey slime, the difference of water and salted water, the reaction of milk and food colouring to form a beautiful burst of colours and the creation of artificial gas to blow up a balloon using vinegar and soda. WELL DONE to all the WGS scientists who participated!



MUFTI DAY

EID MUBARAK to the entire WGS Community! WGS students enjoyed a marvellous and extremely beautiful 2014 Eid Milan. Thank you to all students and parents of Western Grammar for taking the effort to bring delicious food to the Eid Milan party. It has been a really exciting and fantastic Eid celebration, particularly after a month of happy and productive fasting! Students have shown up with exquisite colours on Mufti Day which represents the beautiful Islamic tradition that WGS enforces. WGS students are our most cherished youngsters and seeing them in bright and beautiful clothes only fosters our deep admiration for them. May all our beautiful WGS children flourish into confident, versatile, well-informed, well-educated and faithful Muslims who will set a classic example for history to remember – InshAllah.

'For beautiful eyes – look at 'fitna' free stuff. For a beautiful face – stay natural. For a beautiful attitude – refrain from bad deeds. For a beautiful look – wear the uniform that Allah gave you. Stay Perfectly Beautiful!'



SPORTS



Our Junior Primary is participating in the AusKick AFL program, run by representatives of AFL NSW. They are learning fundamental motor skills for future physical activity and sports participation, as well as the basics of fitness conditioning, including how to train and practise, and the basic principles and importance of health and nutrition. Further, through specially arranged physical activities and games, important mental and psychological skills are being nurtured. These include self-motivation, self-responsibility, self-management, persistence, resilience and a 'best effort always' attitude. Most importantly, they are having a blast! **Upper primary** and the high school students are enjoying playing a WGS invented Frisbee game, which forces team work and co-operation. Students are not allowed to run with the Frisbee, and must pass in order to score a goal, similar to the way a goal is scored in soccer. Feedback for the game has been immensely positive, and many kids who were not participating or enjoying football and soccer are having a lot of fun in this new sport. Even the teachers are being pushed to their limits, with the constant stopping and running! The girls are also playing amongst themselves in teams, and seem to be enjoying it just as much.

FROM THE LIBRARY

It's a celebration of reading and Western Grammar School will be participating in Book Week to enhance this sentiment. As part of the Book Week, we will be having a Scholastic Book Fair and a Book Character Parade for students to take part in.

Book fairs are fun events that help our students to get excited about reading. They not only benefit students through encouraging literacy, but a portion of the sales come to our school as books for our library. For these reasons it is important that parents and guardians support our Book fair venture wholeheartedly.

The Book Fair Week will start on the Monday 18th and will finish on Tuesday 26th August. Students will be able to view the books on Friday 15th August and make their wish lists. Parents are also encouraged to visit the fair from Monday-Friday 8.30am -2.30 pm to peruse and purchase books for their child/ren.

Book Character parade was a great success. Parents and students alike enjoyed themselves immensely.

A big thank you to Ms Muknoon for her diligence and huge effort for decorating the library with the garden theme for our book fair.



Scholastics Book Fair

Admin Memo

- Photo day is on 6th September, Parents will receive a separate admin note for that as well.
- Book fair is on from 18-26 August. Please visit the school library and buy the wonderful books for your kids and encourage them to read books.
- Sports Carnival is scheduled on 27th August. This event will take place at Charli Bali Reserve like it did last year. **Students are to be dropped at the school** in the morning. Parents are invited to join us at the reserve and encourage our students at this event.
- Our lost and found box is now full of the items being left over by the students. All parents are requested to come over and collect your lost items like jumpers, sports jackets, lunch boxes etc.
- WGS is participating in a reading competition by ISRA, please encourage your child to participate. Books are available at school to buy.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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|----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| • Book Fair | 18-26 Aug, 2014 | • Tree Planting | 11 th Sep, 2014 |
| • Athletics carnival | 27 th Aug, 2014 | • Last day of Term 3 | 19 th Sep, 2014 |
| • Photo Day | 4 th Sep, 2014 | • First Day of Term 4 | 8 th Oct, 2014 |



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