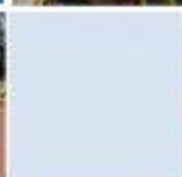
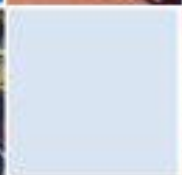




Western Grammar School



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• Issue 33, Term 3

• Monday 29<sup>th</sup> Aug 2016

# Western Grammar School Newsletter

THE PROPHET (ﷺ) SAID, "A STRONG BELIEVER IS BETTER AND IS MORE LOVABLE TO ALLAH THAN A WEAK BELIEVER, AND THERE IS GOOD IN EVERYONE,"  
- MUSLIM





## Deputy Principal's Message



Assalamu Alaikum parents,

We start by thanking Allah SWT for the favours He has bestowed on us. Our new building has been completed, we have an increase in student numbers and resources, and we are starting Year 11 in 2017 Insha'Allah.

This is a testament to the hard work and dedication of the staff and school board. May Allah SWT reward them all immensely.

We are excited at the prospect of what the future holds with your continued support. At WGS we believe that every child should be loved, respected, feel safe and supported. Every child has great potential and it is our task to help them achieve personal excellence and become active and contributing citizens of the local and wider community of Australia.

We are implementing various strategies to improve the academic performance of all students. At Western Grammar School, we endeavour to work for the improvement of everyone, irrespective of their academic levels, as we believe they are all an *amaanah* from Allah SWT. We are constantly looking for ways to improve and, insha'Allah, with regular feedback from parents and staff, we will be able to improve our school and become one of the leading educational institutions. In order to achieve this, we have purchased brand new computers for our computer lab and have updated our library with new books and resources.

Our sports carnival was a huge success and, Alhamdulillah, the venue chosen this year was one of the best available and was used during the Olympics in 2000. We thank all the students and parents for their participation and hope you all had a day of fun with the WGS family.

-Anwar Gallie



Western Grammar School has started a new reading initiative for its High School students. Every day, students silently read from their chosen books for ten minutes. This program is one of the many steps WGS is taking towards better literacy and reading levels.

## Announcements

- Book Week: 22<sup>nd</sup> August to 26<sup>th</sup> August
- Character Parade: 26<sup>th</sup> August
- SRC Bake Sale: 26<sup>th</sup> August
- Primary Assessments: 23<sup>rd</sup> August to 2<sup>nd</sup> September
- Eid Ul Adha: 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> September
- Parent Teacher Interviews: 23<sup>rd</sup> September
- Girls' Camp: 23<sup>rd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> September





Assalamu Alaikum,

We've had yet another fantastic term filled with many amazing and adventurous things!

Kindergarten had its very first sports carnival last week and really enjoyed all the different races and events they participated in. This week kindergarten was given the opportunity to participate in a national writing competition. We are very proud of what they have written and are amazed by the ideas they had!

Our classrooms are filled with eager book parade chatter! The students have been constantly discussing their favourite books and the characters they would like to dress up as. Many of our students have also participated in the Premier's Reading Challenge. It's absolutely fantastic to see so many students reading with their families!

In PDH, students created amazing healthy bodies after they learnt about the benefits of eating healthy foods and why it is necessary. In HSIE, we have been learning about wants and needs. Students have enjoyed this topic very much and created amazing money sacks that showed their understanding of this topic.

Both Kindergartens had their first assembly this term! They performed puppet shows, phonics songs and dressed up for their special performances. Alhamdulillah, we've had a great start to the term.

**Miss Rana and Miss Hamoui**







Assalamu Alaikum,

1H has had an exciting and event-filled time in Term 3. We went on an excursion to Plumpton Park as part of our HSIE program – 'Wet and Dry'. We observed different types of lands and the living things in each type, for example, we saw lots of different kinds of birds at the lake. After a day of discovery and fun, we had a picnic, which included snacks and healthy sandwiches made by our admin staff.

This term, the library has provided an extra opportunity to improve the students' reading habits. Each week, the students read books from the library during their library lesson and borrow one book to read at home. In the classroom, we have regular silent reading and guided reading sessions to improve fluency. Many students in our class have improved in their reading tremendously from the beginning of the year. This can be seen by the change in our Reading Tree, which shows each student's reading level represented by a branch and leaves. 1H performed very well in presenting the assembly in week 3. They prepared a play and a song to perform in front of their parents. They also had a lot of fun making the masks for both items. Each and every student deserves a massive congratulation for his or her effort in the assembly as well as everything else that they have achieved in this term.

-Ms Lamia



## Year One & Two



Assalamu Alaikum to all the parents,

This term we have covered a lot in a very short time. In English, we learnt how to write a recount and now we are learning how to write a narrative with a lot of examples. We have also learnt connectives, punctuation, prepositions and plurals with spelling rules. In Mathematics, we have been studying whole numbers, addition using tens frames, fractions, three dimensional shapes, chance and data. For HSIE, we have been doing a lot of fun activities such as making jellyfish for wet environment animals and models for wet and dry places. We are also learning wet and dry natural and built environments in Australia. In Science, we have made posters of how to reuse plastic bottles to make pencil holders, pot plants and decorations. Furthermore, we are studying recycling, the materials that products are packaged in and their advantages and disadvantages. In PDHPE we are discussing things and people we treasure, what to do when there is an argument and talking about our feelings for things we care for. Finally, for Creative Arts, we are learning and practicing communicating using body and sign languages. This will also be incorporated in the play for our assembly. May Allah bless our students and give them knowledge to excel in life and in the upcoming exams.

-Ms Shabnam







Assalamu Alaikum

The students of Year 2 have had a fantastic start to this term. We have lots of great personalities who are eager to participate in a wide range of activities and who enjoy learning. Our Science unit for this term is 'Water in My World'. This unit focuses on natural resources such as water and it allows students to understand that water is an integral part of the Earth's resources and it must be conserved. To further extend the children's learning, Year 2 went on an excursion to Plumpton Park Wetland to study the wet environment present. The students observed the water bodies and investigated the plant and animals that lives in them. We all enjoyed having a picnic at the park after completing the investigation.

Our structured writing lessons involved composing persuasive texts (Expositions). Students were reminded to use self-correcting techniques and consider sentence structure, punctuation, grammar and the purpose of their writing.

This term we continued integrating inferential comprehension skills into our literacy, grammar and language activities. The students have been exposed to a variety of multimodal texts which further enhanced and scaffolded their reading skills. As a class we have enjoyed reading and discovering a lot books such as 'James and the Giant Peach'.

-Ms El Kheir



## Year Three



Assalamu Alaikum,

Welcome to Term 3! Our Year 3 students have been busy in all aspects of the curriculum. To collaborate with our drama lessons, Year 3 performed in front of the camera to display what they want to be when they grow up. This video was played at their assembly which, Alhumdulillah, most parents attended. Last week, the Year 3 students competed in the Athletics Carnival. They practised for it by playing traditional games of shotput and bean bag races, as well as learning sprinting fundamentals and shorter distance race strategies and skills. 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. In English, students have been thoroughly engaged in the novel 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory', and continuously anticipate reading the chapters in shared reading lessons. So far, Year 3 has continued to build greater confidence in themselves as learners. I have been impressed with them as they have enthusiastically approached their work with greater independence and creativity when given opportunities to direct their own learning. This term is set to be a busy one, but promises to be filled with both excitement and achievement!

-Ms Abbas





# Year Four

Assalamu Alaikum,

It has been lovely to see all those beautiful smiling faces at lines each morning and hear exciting holiday tales from the students! This term, students have been working hard in all areas of Literacy. This term's writing focus is persuasive writing. Students are learning how to plan and organise a text that persuades and captures the reader's attention. Our programme includes 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 Maths, we are covering number skills whilst integrating patterns and algebra, measurement, chance and data. Our HSIE unit for this semester is 'Who will buy'. This unit provides opportunities for students to explore the goods and services that provide for the needs, wants and responsibilities of consumers and producers. Year 4 is really enjoying this term as we have lots of extra activities planned out. On a final note, Year 4 will be showcasing all their talent this term and we would like to say 'stay tuned'!

-Ms Tajjour



Inside the Classrooms

## Year Five & Six



Assalamu Alaikum,

It has been another hectic start to yet another term. Can you believe we are in the second half of the year already? The students have come prepared after their first two-week break of the year. This term we have had a firm focus on improving reading levels across the board and have already churned through our first novel of the term. Students have also been given a chance to use the library and choose their own books to read. Every Monday and Friday the class gets an opportunity to soak in the winter sun while enjoying a novel of their choice. At WGS, it's never enough to just have kids read, it is also important to let our students know how enjoyable reading can be. In other areas we have gazed into rainforests and habitats and the students will soon have a chance to do their own home assignment on the two topics. Insha'Allah, in the later editions of this newsletter, we can write about all the wonderful assignments 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.

-Mr Ibrahim

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# Seeds of Knowledge

Maximizing your child's learning is high on the agenda for many parents. As parents, we all hope that our child not only meets educational expectations but exceeds them. And in this context, we are all too familiar with the role teachers and the school play on a child's educational journey. Parents and students need to familiarise themselves with the reality that teachers are only facilitators of a student's education and skills. The term 'facilitator' is more in line with the commonly agreed upon idea that a child's success is highly dependent on support and reinforcement at home. This support comes in the form of parents setting a positive attitude towards their child's learning and being a part of their journey. The second form of support and reinforcement brings me to my main point, which is revision and homework.

Earlier, I mentioned that teachers are facilitators of education whereby they provide all necessary means for the successful education of a student. They only plant the seed of knowledge. It is up to the students and parents to water and nurture this seed by revisiting and exploring all the concepts taught at school. If we want our child to surpass a basic level of understanding of all the content that is studied, by no means should we rely only on school. This becomes more evident as a child moves through their respective stages of schooling, making it more and more crucial to revise, reinforce and water the seed of knowledge so the child can develop a deep and thorough understanding of the content that has been taught. I can clearly say that, unless there is a systematic and comprehensive home study regime, your child will not be able to effectively absorb what is taught at school and will only gain a basic understanding of their school work – and I say this with regards to all KLAS.

In addition to this, revising concepts taught at school does not have to assume a typical classroom setting. Learning should be dynamic and interesting. This can be easily achieved in a home setting with your children. Dynamic learning can meet many objectives such as bonding with kids, teaching them house chores and showing them practical uses of their learning which in turn will motivate your children. The following website provides wonderful examples on how you can make math a part of your house. <https://nzmaths.co.nz/math-our-house>

-Mr Malik

## SHAKIR'S SHELF

Alhamdulillah, with the pleasure and grace of Allah (SWT), the High School students are really starting to hit their stride this term.

This seems to be especially true for Year 7 Maths. We have been doing Algebra and Algebraic equations, and the students are Masha'Allah starting to really understand the foundational concepts of equation solving. This is a topic which a vast majority of students struggle with all over the world, and it continues to challenge students till the very end of their secondary studies. I am extremely happy and proud of our Year 7 cohort, who seem to have understood algebraic equation solving. I pray that they continue to improve on this topic and that they retain the confidence they now feel.

Year 9 Commerce is doing a very interesting assessment task. We have studied E-Commerce and the rise in the buying and selling of goods through internet commerce. Our subsequent topic was 'Promoting and Selling'. Linking the two topics together, we have been researching and surveying and have come up with some items which students need (pens, pencil cases, USBs etc). We then researched these items and found out the wholesale price of buying these goods directly from manufacturers in China, through Alibaba.com and AliExpress.com websites. We have every intention of ordering these items, then coming up with a marketing campaign to promote and sell these items far cheaper than the retail price of these items from popular retail stores! This is a very authentic and realistic Commerce activity, and will Insha'Allah lay the foundation for our future successful entrepreneurs and HSC Business Studies students.

As always, I would like to finish with advice to parents on establishing a homework routine for the children. It is vital that all homework is completed. Homework is a pillar of modern education, and parents helping their children with homework will undoubtedly notice a marked improvement in results. Further, there is no greater way to teach our children the importance of schooling than to take an active role in their education, and emphasising and ensuring all homework is completed is the first step in this endeavour.

I make dua that Allah helps us throughout the year, and enables our students to understand the importance of education.

-Mr Shakir



# Islamic Studies Department

Assalamu Alaikum parents,

Alhamdulillah, we are half way through Term 3 and students have been making lots of progress in Islamic Studies. This term students have learnt the importance of the remembrance of Allah SWT. The one who engages in dhikr has the highest rank of all before Allah.

Allah SWT says; *"Those who believe, and their hearts find satisfaction in the remembrance of Allah: By remembering Allah, truly satisfaction comes to the heart"* (13:28).

For this reason, we encourage students to be on time during morning assemblies (which start at 8:20 AM) where students are learning these very importance *adhkaar* (remembrances).

Abu Sa'id narrates: The Prophet (SAW) was asked, *"Which of the servants of Allah is best in rank before Allah on the Day of resurrection?"* He (SAW) replied: *"The ones who remember Him much."*

Abu Dharr [Ra] narrated that Rasulallah [SAW] said: *"Should I not tell you of one treasure of the unlimited treasures of Paradise?"* I replied spontaneously, *"Oh Rasulallah, that would be an honour indeed!"* Rasulallah (SAW) said: *"That rare treasure is La Hawla Wa La Quwata Illa Billah."* ("The strength to do good and to refrain from evil comes from the grace and mercy of Allah!") - (Ibn Majah)

We pray that we are amongst those who constantly stay in the remembrance of Allah SWT and that we are able to see the rewards of it in *Akhirah* Insha'Allah.

Please ensure that homework is completed regularly for Islamic Studies, Iqra, Hifth and Arabic on a weekly basis. This is to ensure all students are making steady progress. If there are any concerns, letters will be sent home to parents to address the issue as a matter of urgency.

Wassalamu Alaikum WarahmatUllahi Wabarakatu

**Islamic Studies Department**







# Kidz Corner

Healthy Eating





# Athletics

## Red Team 1<sup>st</sup>

On the 15th of August 2016, Western Grammar School became a blur of red, blue, green and yellow as the school attended the annual Athletics Carnival at Blacktown International Sportspark. The event was a huge success Alhamdulillah, with over 300 people attending.

The enthusiasm of students, teachers and parents alike could be seen on arrival with many of the attendees wearing their house colour or the house colour of their child/ren. Some parents went to the extent of buying coloured decorations including pom poms to cheer for their team which gave the children the encouragement they required.

## Green Team 2<sup>nd</sup>

## Yellow Team 3<sup>rd</sup>

## Blue Team 4<sup>th</sup>





# Carnival



Throughout the day students from Kindergarten to Year 2 partook in a number of sporting activities, such as egg and spoon races, sack races, 50m races and other events. All the children were bursting with excitement and were eager to show their parents the ribbons they had won for first, second or third place in all the events.

Students from Year 3 onwards enjoyed a number of different activities including shotput, long jump, high jump, and several races where many were able to display their exceptional athletic ability. All of the students showed great sportsmanship and team spirit, and the infectious atmosphere of excitement even inspired the teachers to compete in a race of their own.

We commend students in all years for their participation and enthusiasm on the day and would like to thank the WGS staff. Without their highly appreciated efforts and support, the day could not have been the great success that it was. We look forward to future events and, once again, thank parents for their efforts and encouragement.

-Layla Gallie, Year 9







Science Week is an annual festival held in August as a celebration to raise profile and increase students' understanding and appreciation of Science, innovation, engineering and technology. It also highlights the roles that these subjects play in maintaining and improving our society, economy and environment. The aim of this week is to engage and inspire people of all ages through Science. Opportunities were provided for all students to participate in events and activities that showcase Science and encourage younger people to consider continuing studies in the area. Everyone had an opportunity to conduct experiments in front of their peers and other teachers. From volcanoes to experiments with nitrogen gas, most students showed great talent in their scientific explorations. The theme this year was Drones, Droids and Robots. We had some exciting displays and exhibitions from both primary and High School. Students not only made robots, they also made models of what they are currently learning or have learnt in Science. To ensure students enjoyed and made the most of Science Week, we also had an incursion by *Fizzicks Education*, where students witnessed some cool experiments such as Hoover Crafts, Ping Pong Scatters and Rocket Launchers. Our Science Week was full of flavour of creativity, inspiration and fun. JazakAllah to all students and parents for making it a success.

