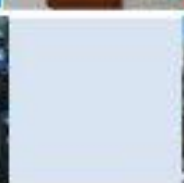
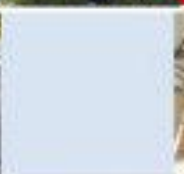




Western Grammar School



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Western Grammar School Newsletter

"O my Lord! Increase me in knowledge."

(Quran 20:114)



Principal's Message



Assalamu Alaikum,

Term 4 has almost come to an end, and with it, the educational year of 2016 has concluded, but behind the scenes, we will be vigorously working to set up facilities and resources for the more challenging year of 2017.

2016 was a tough and demanding year with many challenges and difficult tasks but Alhamdulillah, we have achieved all of our targets and have accomplished a lot.

We will start next year by taking a critical look at this year's performance to review some of the concerns and issues that unexpectedly popped up. In addition to this, we will be working on two main fronts in the following year: building the WGS team and improving our infrastructure.

As far as our team is concerned, Alhamdulillah, we have been able to find staff members who are dedicated, sincere and honest. The WGS family is growing alongside the school, and in 2017 we will have some very experienced new team members joining us. It is my pleasure to welcome them at Western Grammar School and I hope they will find WGS to be the best and most pleasant working environment. Sadly, some of our staff are going on leave or leaving the school for personal reasons and I must thank them for their contributions and wish them a fond farewell. Alhamdulillah, we have been lucky in finding the right people for our team, and while we regret to see old friends leave we look forward to a new year with new possibilities.

In terms of improving our infrastructure, we have made significant progress in 2016 with the construction of our new purpose-built school building. This development left a remarkable impression on the school community, the BGA and other school bodies. The new building provided enhanced facilities and amenities and now that it is complete, we are working toward the construction of a new primary building that will tentatively start during the break between Term 1 and 2. We have many plans for further expansion, and the developments that we have already made have had a huge impact that has led to an influx of enrolments for 2017. We endeavour to fulfil the demand of the community, however I must apologise to the parents and students who were unable to gain admission due to the limited spaces.

As 2016 ends, we still have many challenges to overcome and ongoing targets to consistently achieve, the most important on which is serving the community to our level best. 2017 will bring greater tests and expectations, and we look forward to meeting it with unwavering determination, passion and commitment. I strongly believe that we will exceed the expectations of our school parents and of the community with the will of the Almighty and the hard work of our dedicated team. As our school grows in different ways, we will remain true to our primary purpose of providing a quality educational environment for young minds. I urge everyone to actively participate in helping us achieve such high level objectives.

I pray you all have safe and pleasant holidays.

-Mr Irfan Afzal

Kindergarten



Assalamu Alaikum,

Aaaaaaaannnnnd that's the end to another terrific term with Kindergarten! This term has to have been the best term yet! Even though we haven't had many excursions or events take place in school, we've grown much closer as a class! As usual we've had a hectic term, 4 weeks into the term we had our final Kindergarten assessments. We've all done very very well in them! Although we were studying very hard in school for these assessments, we didn't forget to have fun and let off some steam by having races with our friends just before we went home.

It's been an absolute pleasure to teach Kindergarten this year. We've seen each other grow and blossom into the terrific people we are now! KA and KB have shared many memories with each other and have ideas for more adventures for the few days they have remaining as Kindy kids. Together, we enjoyed the fire safety incursion where the local fire brigade showed up on their fire truck and showed us how to stay safe in case of a fire. They even let us try on their special jackets and take a look inside their trucks. Kindergarten really enjoyed the incursion and some of us even plan to be firefighters when we grow up!

2016 has gone by so quickly! It's hard to believe how much our kindy kids have grown in such little time. Now, at the very end, all that's left of this year is our GRADUATION and end of year assembly! Keep an eye out for our performance it's going to be super-duper spectacular.

I look forward to seeing all of Kindergarten after the break. Until then, have a great holiday!





Assalamu Alaikum,

1H has had an eventful year and is continuing to do so this term. The students have improved in reading and writing since the beginning of the year and have also developed their mathematical and scientific thinking skills.

This term, we focused on presenting structural arguments in the form of writing expositions. Year 1 demonstrated great understanding and enthusiasm as they delved into debating several topics. We also solidified our spelling and grammar skills on a weekly basis. Students have worked hard to increase their reading levels and many have shown great results. In Maths, we have explored the ideas of volume and capacity and have engaged in hands-on activities such as measuring water. We also made clocks with moveable hands using paper plates as we learnt about reading a clock. Year 1 learnt some new strategies to consolidate our addition and subtraction skills. In Science, students are learning about push and pull toys. They have designed and created their own toys out of materials that they collected from home, such as plastic bottles. Some designs and executions have been very impressive and have shown deep scientific thought process.

As we finish the year, I would recommend each of my students to keep up the enthusiasm for learning that they have developed and shown. Reading at least fifteen minutes each day at home is incumbent in improving their skills of vocabulary, concentration and comprehension. Students will also benefit from regular revision of mathematical concepts at home.

-Ms Hossain



Year One & Two



Assalamu Alaikum,

Allahamudullilah, we have come to the end of another successful year where the pupils have enhanced holistically. This term has been very busy with the annual exams. We have been revising a lot on addition, subtraction and comparing masses on the balance. In literacy we have been studying the structure and features of persuasive writing; this was covered in the exams as well. We have been investigating the forces of push and pull in water and air for science. While in history we have been looking at different people's stories and maps in over the decades and the changes that have occurred from the book 'My Place'. Moreover, basically for creative arts we have been practicing the Nasheed at the same time rehearsing the play. For PDH we have been looking at the food pyramid and the emergency services provided for the people in the community. At the same time we are looking at the warning signs and precautions to be taken when taking medicines.

Overall, it was an efficacious term and I wish all the best to all the students. Have a fun holiday and come back next year ready to learn.

-Ms Shabnam





Year Two



Welcome back to our final term in Year 2.

It has been a terrific year of teaching my lovely Year 2 students. They have worked extremely hard this year and should be pleased with their progress!

This term, we have covered a lot of new topics and consolidated previous ones. In English, we continued integrating inferential comprehension skills into our literacy, grammar and language activities. The students have enjoyed reading and discovering a variety of books such as 'James and The Giant Peach' a lot of online stories, which helped enhance and scaffold their reading skills. Furthermore, as a class we have composed persuasive texts (Exposition). Students were reminded to use self-correcting techniques and consider sentence structure, punctuation, grammar and purpose of their writing.

In Mathematics we've revised all the Maths strands in class, including all the mathematical concepts learnt throughout the previous terms and applied known strategies and knowledge in problem solving.

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 Insha'Allah. I look forward to watching all student's progress through their remaining years in school.

Thank you for your ongoing support throughout the year.

Ms El Kheir



Inside the Classrooms

Year Three

Assalamu Alaikum,

Welcome to Year 3, Term 4. We have had a short, yet occupied term full of hands on activities and exciting experiences.

This term students have been engaged in reading a variety of novels, from 'Charlie and the chocolate factory' to 'Paper Planes'. Students thoroughly enjoy all aspects of literacy and have become more confident when reading aloud in front of their peers. Our class has also been learning about recycling over the past few weeks and how it can help the environment. Students now know what needs to be reused, reduced and recycled and this knowledge will go a long way in helping to create a more sustainable future.

In Maths, students have been exploring more complex problems in various topics. It is great to see Year 3 exploring a variety of mathematical problems through the use of concrete materials and ICT. With the term coming to an end, I have been so proud to see the achievements of all my students. Each child in Year 3 has flourished both socially and academically. Insha'Allah, each of my students will continue to thrive in their studies and remain the eager and ambitious individuals you see before you.

-Ms Abbas



Year Four

Assalamu Alaikum,

Where has the year gone? It's a question we all ask ourselves as we have put in all our best effort for Term 4!

It has been a very busy term, with a variety of tasks planned and the final assessments completed before commencing an exciting end of term. In English, students focused on writing and wrote a narrative based on the adventures of Rowan of Rin. Responding to literature, students explained how the author represents characters and important events in the story.

In history our inquiry unit for this term was "Early Australian History" starting with the arrival of aborigines and other key events through to 1800. This term, students had the opportunities to develop their understanding of number, fractions, decimals, time, money and rounding. Students were encouraged to continue their work with rapid recall of multiplication tables and related division facts. Term 4 has ended extremely well, Year 4 adjusted to the year's routines and have continued to show their vibrant personalities with everything they do. They are now more focussed and have become independent in their learning.

I am extremely proud of the Year 4 dynamics, particularly as they have shown great maturity. I am very sad to say farewell Year 4 and I wish you all the best in your future endeavours! I will miss each and every single one of you

✍ Mrs Tajjour



Inside the Classrooms

Year Five & Six



Assalamu Alaikum,

Like the last leg of a marathon, Term 4 has only heated up the competition. By midterm the students completed their final assessments, studied and revised the year's content and continued to learn and discover new and fascinating facts of the world around them. 5/6 have gone about tracking the sun and learning how we see. They've gone to the park to punch, lift, squat and lunge as they tested the limits of their small bodies in boot camp style training.

Maths and English continued as usual. With our last couple of weeks around the corner it may seem like the finish line is in sight, but just like a long distances runner they'll need to dig deep to finish the race on a high. So I appeal to carers to cheer on the students and encourage them to finish their journey off with as little left in the tank as possible. And remember, it all begins again next year in the latter part of January. Have a safe holiday.

-Mr Ibrahim

Preparing for Year 11

As exciting and meaningful as it may appear, Year 11 can be equally daunting and stressful for not only students but their families. For this reason it is crucial to educate ourselves and become familiar with coping strategies and general advice to avoid a shadow of stress and anxiety that can often loom over this rewarding journey.

We need to ensure we appreciate our children as they will often be feeling very stressed, even if it's not obvious to us. Many kids fear letting their family down so beware of setting unrealistic expectations. Some worry they can't do as well as a sibling, or friend. Many kids are feeling overwhelmed about what lies ahead in their post school life. We need to understand people under pressure become supersensitive and explosive from time to time. Family members are usually the first targets. Try not to overreact. Despite this, we need to set realistic targets and goals. Not all HSC students will go on to university – but they can still have a wealth of excellent and satisfying career options. If they don't get the HSC marks they needed and still really want to go on to tertiary education later, there are many other pathways. Interestingly, the success rate of mature age students is much higher than for those who go straight from school. It is also important to **encourage a healthy balance between work and leisure**. Sometimes as parents we can oversee there need for this, therefore encourage them to join a sports club or participate in regular social gatherings of their interest.

-Mr Malik



We K's Med-Lab



Assalamu Alaikum,

Alhamdulillah it's the end of Term 4, 2016 for our high school students. We were able to complete our Science syllabus on time before our Yearly exam. Year 9 completed topics on Diseases and Body Coordination, Year 8 finished the topic on Chemical and Physical Reactions while Year 7 focussed on the topic of Habitat and Interactions.

I am very proud of what my students have achieved in their yearly exam and in other assessments and the knowledge they gained of the Living World, Chemical World, Physical World and Earth and Space. We also had an opportunity to be part of the Into Science program. Into Science is an online virtual experiment website that enabled students to learn and do experiments that would be otherwise difficult to do in school labs. I would like to thank all the parents for their support and for helping students achieve their goals and wish all the students the very best for next year. Jazak'Allah.

-Farisha Khan

The Great Outdoors

Assalamu Alaikum,

In 2015, we planned our school's first ever camping trip and this year we followed up with two more trips. We believe that these excursions have a uniquely positive impact on our students. The camp environment provides a safe place to engage in and learn essential life skills and enhance knowledge of our religion in a pristine environment from a caring role model staff. By allowing campers to choose their activities and their own experiences, a student is empowered to make his/her own decisions; open himself up to the experience—good or bad; be able to grow in the knowledge that "I made a good choice on my own..." or "Next time, I'm going to try something different." This process is an essential life skill because it encourages responsibility and perseverance in a child. At WGS we encourage and promote this excellent initiative to maintain a solid school culture that equips our students for the next century. Insha'Allah, we will continue these camps in all the years to come.

-Mr Qoys

Islamic Studies Department

"When the victory of Allah comes and the conquest, and you see the people coming into Islam in multitudes, then glorify and praise your Lord and ask forgiveness from Him, verily He is the One Who forgives."

(Surah An-Nasr)

Assalamu Alaikum Wa Rahmatullaahi Wa Barakaatuh parents and students,

All Praise is due to Allah (swt) The Lord of the worlds, and all thanks is due to Him for the blessings He has bestowed upon us. By Allah's Will, we have reached the end of the year 2016, and due to this, we should glorify and praise Allah and ask forgiveness from Him, as quoted in the above verse. The Prophet was commanded to do so when he became victorious in the conquest of Makkah and people were accepting Islam in multitudes. Therefore, due to the success of our school, the students, and the staff this year, we praise and thank Allah for this success and ask that He may forgive us in all our shortcomings.

Alhamdulillah, the students of WGS have completed their yearly exams and we are very pleased with the results of many students. We congratulate all the students who have achieved top marks in their exams and for all those who have tried their best. May Allah reward them all and we hope they can do even better next year. We also want to congratulate our special Kindy students who have performed an exceptional job in their exams scoring an average of 82% in Islam and 80% in Quran. They have all tried really hard and have adjusted to this school very well.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to remind all the students to continue with their regular daily prayers during the holidays, revise all the surah's memorised and keep up with reading their Iqra books. If students continue studying Iqra at home during their break, they can pass many pages or even books in the beginning of next year. We would also like to thank you, the parents, for believing in us, and for supporting us in taking the school towards success. May Allah reward you all and we ask Allah (swt) to help us achieve the school's vision of providing quality Islamic and secular education to our students to produce great future leaders. May Allah bless us all, and enjoy the holidays!!!

Islamic Studies Department





Kidz Corner

Together we can make a difference



Girls Camp



For three brilliantly sunny days, the girls of Western Grammar School went to Milson Island for their very first school camping trip- and what an experience it was. From the very moment we stepped off the boat and onto the island, our days were jam-packed with activities and events. We made campfires and burnt marshmallows, explored the island in a hiking adventure, pushed our paddles through the Hawkesbury River in our canoes and swam with the ducklings. Each and every one of the girls enjoyed themselves to the fullest and spent their free time playing basketball, chess and tennis, taking scenic walks and learning more about each other.

The camping trip was an excellent opportunity for us to improve ourselves and the combination of Islamic talks, team building activities and exciting events helped us achieve this and left us feeling motivated and ready to take on the world (or at least take on sneaky kookaburras who try to steal our food.) We had an amazing time on the island and can't wait for next year's camp.



Boys Camp



Alhamdulillah, the 5 to 10 boys went to camp at Berry. It was a great experience for everyone. I, Farhaan, stayed in a room with my friends Talha, Rabiul, Shaheer, Haroon, and Zuhayr. We did heaps of activities such as Archery, Rock Climbing, Soccer, Pizza Making, Swimming, Canoeing, Basketball, and sitting around the camp fire listening to the traditional songs made by Mr Qoys.

The food there was of the top quality, it was so heavenly it's not funny. They cooked for us things like Wraps, Burgers, and delicious breakfasts. It was a great experience for me because I got to know everyone personally. I learnt that going outside and interacting with nature and each of my brothers and excellent teachers is better than watching TV or talking on the phone. I learnt that it's not bad to be out of my comfort zone such as in rock climbing, I am not a fan of heights and yet I went to the top, blind folded and touched the roof.

Farhaan Ali & Mr Qoys





Sports



The kindergartens are performing locomotor and non-locomotor skills using the elements of dance moving body parts, responding to imagery and composition. The Year 1s are practicing flexibility, coordination, locomotor skills, non-locomotor skills, and relays and balancing. At the same time the Year 1 and 2s composite class are practicing running, walking, jogging at different angles and exploring various ways of jumping. More so the Year 2s have been performing locomotor and non-locomotor skills using the elements of dance moving isolated body parts. Also they are doing whole body movements as well. Furthermore, while the Years 3s are playing 'Funky Cowboy' and 'YMCA with a twist' the Years 4s are learning the dance steps. In addition, the Year 5 and 6s have been having catching (Wiffle ball), throwing, fielding, batting and base running. The pupils have been playing soccer and other fun games as well. Finally, the high schools have had a parent volunteer joining them at the park for sports to teach the students proper ways of doing push-ups and boxing. I hope all the pupils had enjoyed and learnt a lot from these activities. Have a wonderful holiday and all the best to all.

-Ms Shabnam



Announcements

- End of Year Assembly: 2nd December 2016
- Last day of school: 1st December 2016
- Admin Return to School: 17th January 2017
- Staff PD: 23rd to 25th January 2017
- First Day of School: 30th January 2017