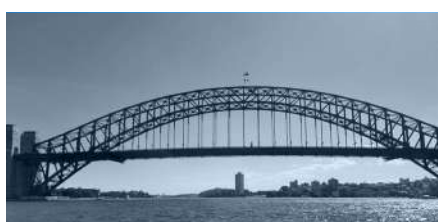


WESTERN GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Newsletter

30TH MAY 2025

ISSUE 88



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Deputy Principal's Message

ZULQARNAN MALIK

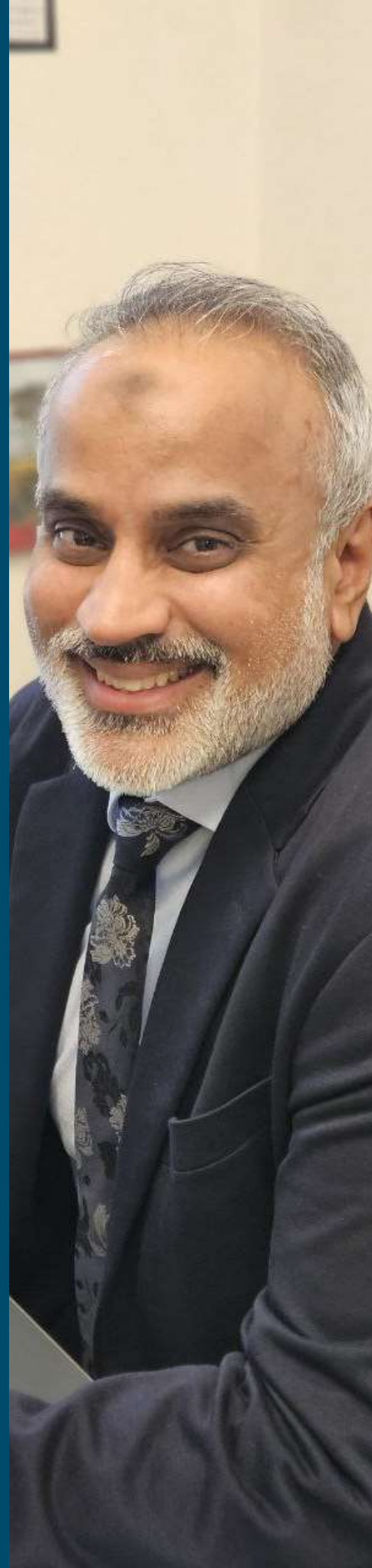
Alhamdulillah, we are already halfway through Term 2 and we have had many highlights over the past five weeks. From the Robotics program for primary school to Careers Day for high school, to parenting programs and excursions, our students have been busy growing and learning every day.

Term 1 was also busy, with many highlights, including completion of NAPLAN for our Years 3, 5, 7, and 9 students, and the exciting ISD Sports Competition, where our teams showed great spirit and sportsmanship. Year 12 students worked hard in their Half-Yearly Exams, demonstrating their commitment to excellence.

Our high school students enjoyed an exciting and refreshing camp that took place at the end of last term. Events such as these encourage holistic growth through guided work and play. Our camps are always a highlight for the school, and this year was no different.

Now, having entered the blessed ten days of Hajj, I encourage our WGS community to emulate the core teachings of this time through perseverance and patience. We are quickly approaching the half-yearly exams, and these attributes will lead to success insha'Allah.

I am incredibly proud of the dedication and effort displayed by all students across all year levels, from Kindergarten through to Year 12. A big thank you to our staff, families, and students for their continued support. I look forward to another exciting term ahead and have a happy Eid!





Celebrating Eid

SH ABDULLAH HAKEEM

Anas ibn Malik reported: The Messenger of Allah ﷺ arrived in Medina during two days which they were celebrating. The Prophet said, "What are these two days?" They said, "We would celebrate these two days in the time of ignorance." The Prophet said, "Verily, Allah has replaced these two days with two better days: Eid al-Adha and Eid al-Fitr."

(Sunan Abu Dawud)

In Islam, we are blessed with two celebrations, Eid al Fitr and Eid al Adha, both filled with spiritual significance and communal joy. Allah has given us these two Eids over any other celebrations and is sufficient for the believers. These are not merely festive days, but opportunities for Muslims to reconnect with their values, reflect on the blessings of Allah, and express gratitude.

Eid al Fitr: Obedience and Gratitude

Eid al Fitr marks the end of Ramadan, a month of fasting, self-discipline, and spiritual growth. It is a day of thanking Allah for giving us the strength to complete the fasts and for allowing us to grow closer to Him. At WGS, we encourage our students to embrace the deeper meaning of this celebration. It is not just about sweets and new clothes, but about the joy of having worshipped Allah and the unity of the Ummah in shared gratitude. Through teaching about Zakat al Fitr, the communal Eid prayer, and the importance of forgiveness and togetherness, we hope to instill a love for this beautiful day in our students.

Eid al Adha: Sacrifice and Submission

Eid al Adha, the greater of the two Eids, commemorates the unwavering submission of Prophet Ibrahim (A.S.) and his willingness to sacrifice for the sake of Allah. It is a powerful reminder that faith is not just in words, but in action, sacrifice, and trust in Allah's plan. This Eid occurs during the days of Hajj, linking us to the global Ummah and reminding us of the unity, equality, and humility that Islam teaches. For our students, Eid al Adha is a chance to reflect on the importance of obedience, compassion, and generosity. The act of Qurban (sacrifice) teaches us to give from what we love for the sake of others, while reinforcing the message of care for the poor and needy.

As we observe these two blessed occasions, let us encourage our children to see Eid not just as a celebration, but as a reflection of their identity as Muslims, rooted in devotion, generosity, and unity. May Allah allow us all to benefit from these days, accept our deeds, and fill our homes and hearts with lasting joy.

Careers Day

On the 22nd of May, Western Grammar School in partnership with 5 Before 5, proudly hosted its annual Careers Day, a vibrant and inspiring event designed to equip our senior students with the knowledge, clarity and motivation to confidently navigate their future career paths.

The day began with over 20 professional guests from a diverse range of industries, including healthcare, engineering, education, law, IT, entrepreneurship and business. These guests generously gave their time to introduce their professions, share their career journeys and provide one-on-one mentoring sessions with students from Years 10, 11, and 12. These interactions allowed students to explore potential pathways, ask questions and make valuable connections with experts in the field.

A special focus was given to our Year 12 students, who attended tailored workshops on early offer schemes and UAC (Universities Admissions Centre) applications. These sessions demystified the tertiary application process, offering step-by-step guidance, tips on making competitive applications and a clear overview of post-school study options.

To conclude the day, students and parents were invited to attend an engaging seminar titled "Navigating Your Career Pathway." This informative session explored how students can align their interests and values with long-term career goals, emphasising the importance of flexibility, resilience and lifelong learning in a constantly evolving workforce.

Careers Day was more than just an information session; it was a day of inspiration and empowerment, helping our students see the possibilities ahead of them and take the first confident steps toward their future. We extend our sincere thanks to all the professionals, staff, and parents who contributed to making the day a success.



Creative with Collage

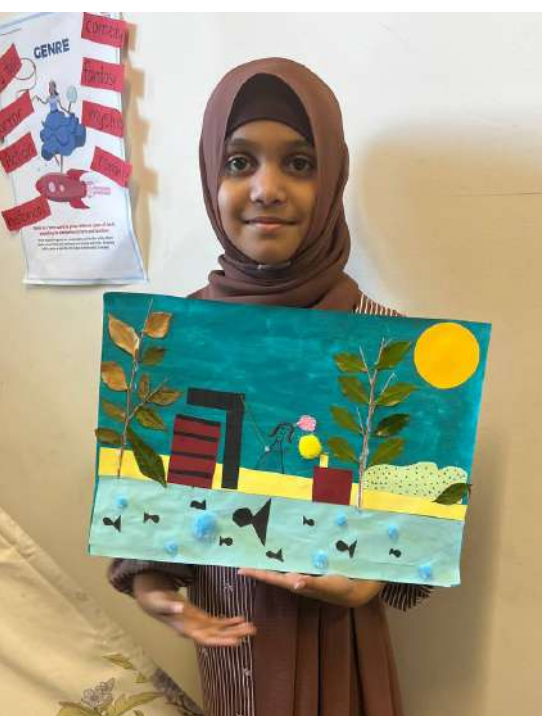
Year 4 students have been having a blast in visual arts, diving into the fun and creative world of collage! They've taken inspiration from the amazing artist and author Jeannie Baker, learning how to layer different materials to make textured and eye-catching artworks.

Jeannie Baker is famous for her beautiful collage illustrations in books like *Window* and *Where the Forest Meets the Sea*. Her detailed work, made from paper, fabric, and natural materials, really sparked our students' imagination and gave them a new appreciation for this unique art style.

After checking out Baker's work, students jumped into making their own collages. Using a range of materials—fabric, textured paper, and natural elements—they played around with layering and composition to bring their ideas to life.

This hands-on experience wasn't just about making art; it was also about storytelling. The students explored how different textures and colours can create moods and tell stories without using words.

Each artwork is completely unique, showing off the creativity and personality of the young artists. It's been wonderful to see their ideas come to life in such imaginative ways!

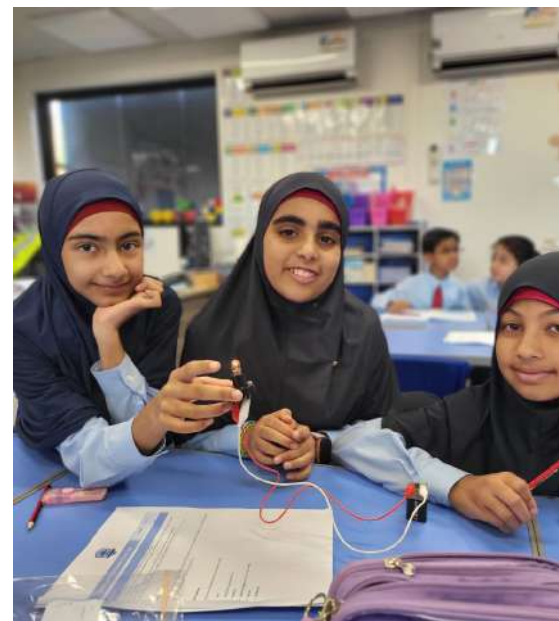
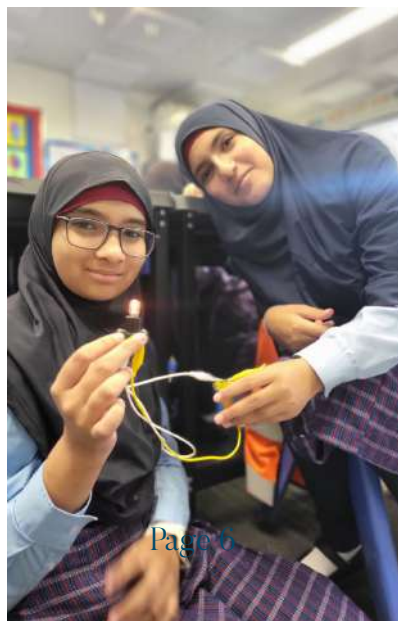


Year 6 Shines Bright!

This week, our Year 6 students put their problem-solving skills to the test in an exciting science lesson on electrical circuits. With no instructions given, their challenge was to make a light bulb glow using wires, a battery, and a bulb.

Through trial and error, teamwork, and creative thinking, the students successfully completed the task, demonstrating their understanding of how electricity flows through a circuit. Their enthusiasm was evident as they experimented with different connections and celebrated each small success along the way.

This hands-on activity not only reinforced key science concepts but also encouraged resilience and collaboration. Well done to our budding electricians for their perseverance and curiosity! We can't wait to see what they'll discover next in their science journey.



Taronga Zoo Excursion

HAMID AHMED

On Thursday, 3rd April 2025, Year 12 Business Studies students set off on a memorable excursion to Taronga Zoo, combining hands-on learning with stunning harbour views and plenty of fun along the way. The day began with an early meet-up at the local train station, followed by a train ride into the city. Excitement was already in the air as students boarded a ferry at Circular Quay, cruising across Sydney Harbour with the Opera House and Harbour Bridge providing an unforgettable backdrop.

Arriving at Taronga Zoo by boat only added to the adventure. From the moment we entered, students were free to explore the beautifully designed exhibits, getting up close with elephants, giraffes, and even the majestic lions. Whether it was watching a cheeky chimpanzee or snapping selfies in front of the seal enclosure, the day was filled with laughter, sunshine, and plenty of walking.

In between all the exploring, students took part in a business-focused session

that tied directly into our HSC content. We studied SWOT analysis by discussing Taronga Zoo's strengths, such as its strong brand reputation and unique location; its weaknesses, including the costs of maintaining such a large facility; opportunities like expanding conservation programs; and threats such as competition from other attractions and the impact of weather or pandemics. It was a great chance to see how classroom theory applies to a real-world organisation.

After a few final stops at the zoo shop and one last look at the harbour views, students boarded the ferry again—tired but happy. The excursion was the perfect mix of education and enjoyment, giving us a fresh perspective on business while also letting us relax and have fun together outside of the classroom.

It was an amazing outing—one which Year 12 will never forget. May Allah give us many more of such outings.





Harmony Day

A VALUABLE OPPORTUNITY
TO REFLECT ON HOW OUR
DIFFERENCES ENRICH US

This year, students celebrated Harmony Week through a range of meaningful activities that promoted diversity, respect, and unity across our school community. Rooted in both Australian multicultural values and Islamic teachings, the week provided a valuable opportunity to reflect on how our differences enrich us and how we can live together harmoniously as one united community.

What made Harmony Week even more significant was that it coincided with the blessed month of Ramadan — a time when Muslims are encouraged to deepen their compassion, generosity, and sense of community. This overlap served as a powerful reminder that the values celebrated during Harmony Week — kindness, respect, and togetherness — are also core principles of Ramadan. It allowed students and staff to recognise how different cultures and faiths share the same universal values, strengthening our collective commitment to live with understanding and harmony.

Throughout the week, teachers delivered engaging lessons that encouraged students to explore various cultures and reflect on their own heritage. Students enjoyed storytelling, craft activities, and learning greetings in different languages. They also shared personal stories, and engaged in thoughtful discussions on inclusion, identity, and the dangers of racism. Islamic perspectives were explored through Qur'anic verses and Hadiths during

morning assemblies, emphasising how Islam encourages peaceful coexistence and respect for all people, regardless of race or background.

On Friday, the school community celebrated Harmony Day with a vibrant display of cultural attire. Students and staff came dressed in traditional clothing that represented their heritage, filling the school with colour, pride, and a sense of belonging. These moments led to many meaningful conversations, allowing students to share the stories behind their cultural dress and learn from one another, further strengthening the bonds of respect and curiosity.

More than just a celebration, Harmony Week at WGS served as a powerful reminder of the values we strive to live by: respect, inclusion, understanding, and unity. These are not only key aspects of Australian society but also deeply rooted in Islamic teachings, as reflected in the verse:

“O mankind, indeed We have created you from male and female and made you peoples and tribes that you may know one another.”

(Surah Al-Hujurat 49:13)

May the themes of Harmony Week, enriched by the values of Ramadan, continue to inspire our school community to live with compassion, respect, and unity throughout the year.

High School Camp

A MEMORABLE JOURNEY OF FAITH, FUN, AND RESPONSIBILITY

From Wednesday 9th April to Friday 11th April, our high school students from Years 7 to 12 embarked on a truly enriching and unforgettable experience at our annual school camp. This year's camp was held in the picturesque coastal region of Nelson Bay, with the girls based at Soldiers Point and the boys at One Mile Beach, approximately 12 km apart, ensuring full segregation and supervision in accordance with Islamic guidelines.

Under the careful watch of dedicated female and male staff, students enjoyed a safe, respectful, and structured environment, with every moment thoughtfully planned to promote learning, personal growth, and Islamic values.

The theme of the 2025 camp was "Cleanliness is Half of Faith", and students took this to heart. From the moment they arrived, they were taught the importance of keeping their cabins, surroundings, and shared spaces clean, tidy, and well-maintained. With twice-daily inspections, students took responsibility for washing dishes, removing rubbish, making beds, tidying bathrooms, and organising personal belongings—a practical and powerful reminder of the Islamic emphasis on hygiene and order.

Beyond cleanliness, the camp provided rich opportunities for students to engage in real-life skills and hands-on learning. They took turns with cooking, cleaning, grocery shopping on

a budget, and even fishing—all under teacher supervision. These experiences taught them essential life skills such as time management, teamwork, punctuality, and responsible decision-making.

Each day was filled with exciting outdoor activities, from beach sports and nature hikes to campfire games and open-air meals. Students were also nurtured spiritually with daily Islamic reminders, helping them reflect on how faith connects to every aspect of daily life—even in the wilderness.

The camp aimed to encourage students to step outside the classroom and into nature, fostering a deeper connection to their peers, their environment, and their deen. It was a space for them to grow socially, develop leadership qualities, and embrace independence in a fun and supportive setting.

We are proud of how our students represented themselves and their school, and we commend them for their effort, enthusiasm, and commitment to upholding the values taught throughout the camp.

This year's camp will surely be remembered not just for the laughs, activities, and adventures—but for the lasting lessons in faith, responsibility, and cleanliness.

Until next year, inshaAllah!



High School Camp