



21 November 2017

NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents/Guardians

Assalaamu Alaikum WRWB

Sounds of Light

Sounds of Light concert will be held on Saturday, 25th of November at the Sydney Olympic Park Sports Centre commencing at 6.00pm. The charity concert held on behalf of Human Appeal, Australia, is a unique family event tailored to alleviate the hardships and distress faced by many needy children. All students received a flyer promoting this event. Students of Malek Fahd will take part in the combined choir to sing the Australian National Anthem to commence the concert.



School Uniform

Many parents have raised concerns of the school uniform for girls during the summer months. I have made a number of enquiries and can report that it is a process of some six months to manufacture and deliver a uniform that is not "off the shelf". The school is considering the development of a summer uniform for girls. Any change of the School uniform will be done in consultation with parents and the approval of the School Board. To assist with the financial burden to parents, it is usual for schools to have a two to three-year phase in of a new uniform.

Mobile Phones and Poor Behaviour

The use of mobile phones during School hours is becoming extremely problematic. Our Welfare Co-ordinators have drafted a revised School Discipline Policy which includes tougher penalties for the use of mobile phones. I accept that students may need a mobile phone to assist them coming to and going from school; a practice used by so many schools. However, if students are seen with their phone out during school hours they can expect to have it taken from them, given to Welfare Co-ordinators and parents asked to come to the school to



collect the phone. We need parent support to assist us in this matter. Our focus is on the delivery of curriculum and the phone issue is becoming a distraction from our central focus. A reminder to parents and students that the School does not accept poor behaviour and bullying. There is no place at Malek Fahd for students who display repeated poor behaviour.

Leadership Structure Changes

During my first year I have taken the opportunity to review current school structures and their capacity in meeting the needs of our students. In keeping with the framework of the school structure model developed last year by Dr Bennett, and in consultation with the school executives and staff, I have focused on developing the area of Wellbeing(Welfare), Kindergarten to Year 12, for the three campuses; Co-Curricular Sporting; and Leadership at Greenacre Secondary.

Wellbeing (Welfare) There will be a three tiered approach to the wellbeing and welfare support of our students. At Greenacre Campus there will be eight Year Advisors for boys and girls, Years 7 to 10; and, four Welfare Co-ordinators Years 7 to 12 (as per the current structure). There will be four Heads of Wellbeing with a role of overseeing the wellbeing of Primary and Secondary (boys and girls) across the three Campuses. They will be responsible for the wellbeing and its impact on the learning and development of the Secondary and Primary students, with a particular focus on Greenacre Campus. Part of the wellbeing direction for the School is to develop a Wellbeing Team comprising of the Principal, Deputy Principal, Sheikh, Heads of Campus, Counsellor, Secondary and Primary Curriculum Co-ordinators and School Nurse. The core team will be responsible for developing and driving the implementation of a whole school vision and approach to the promotion of health and wellbeing at Malek Fahd.

Part of the restructure includes the introduction of **Home Room** period for Greenacre Secondary. This will be a 10

to 15-minute period where the allocated Home Room teacher will meet daily with students to discuss issues and implement pastoral care initiatives. It will be an important time for the Year Advisor to meet with students and address issues as they arise.

In 2018 our **School Counsellor**, Ms Khalaf, will temporarily step back from this role to develop the Careers program of the school. The Primary Counsellor, Ms Dana Al-Jamal, will become full-time and assist the Counselling of Greenacre Secondary students.

I have appointed Mr Ali Dib as **Secondary Head of Campus, Greenacre**. His key focus will be the successful and smooth day to day operation of the Secondary Campus.

We are **expanding the Secondary co-curricular sporting program**. The PDHPE and Sporting Department is expanding and the demands on Mr Dablan's (Head of Department) time have increased. I have appointed Ms Mitchell (girls) and Mr Merhi (boys) as Co-Curricular Sport Co-Ordinators to further expand the after school hours sports program in the Secondary campus. We want students to take up the opportunities offered to them to develop their sporting skills.

A number of **Curriculum Co-Ordinator roles** across the three Campuses become vacant at the end of this year. I am in the process of interviewing staff for these positions. Mr Oubani has been appointed Acting **IST Co-ordinator**.

I thank and congratulate Mr Dib, Mr Oubani, Ms Mitchell and Mr Merhi on their respective appointments and anticipate to be in a position to announce, in the coming days, the Welfare leadership team and curriculum co-ordinators.

Before and After School and Holiday Care and Preschool Services

Earlier this Term, parents of Hoxton Park and Beaumont Hills took were surveyed on their interest for a Before and After School and Holiday Care services to be offered at these campuses. Parents were very receptive to these services. I am in the process of making application to the Department of Education for these services. It is anticipated they will be operational early 2018. Parents at the Greenacre Campus will have the opportunity to undertake a survey in the near future. I am now in the process of developing a survey for the development of a Preschool service for each of our campuses. This service would be for children of 3, 4 and 5 years of age.

After School Pick Up and Parking

The end of the school day, the rush of students to catch the bus and greet their parents is exciting but also has the potential for accidents. We have a strong staff presence to supervise and control student movement. However, my great concern is the parents who park on the road across from the School and beckon their child to cross the busy road. This is not a safe or preferred practice. I further request parents to assist the School and for the safety of your child not to continue this practice.

Annual Academic Awards Presentation Days

All parents are cordially invited to the Annual Academic Awards Presentation Days to celebrate the achievements of our students of 2017.

Beaumont Hills Campus

Years K – 4 students at our Beaumont Hills Campus will be having their Presentation Assembly on **Tuesday, 28th November** at 9:30am. The Presentation Assembly for Years 5 – 12 will be held on **Thursday, 30th November** commencing at 9:30am.

Hoxton Park Campus

The end of year presentation at Hoxton Park Campus will take place on **Wednesday, 29th November**. Please make note of times for each stage.

Stage 1 – 9.00am to 10:55am

Stage 2 - 11.30am to 1.00pm

Stage 3 – 2.00pm to 3.00pm

Greenacre Secondary Campus

Years 7-11 Annual Academic Awards Presentation Day will be held on **Friday, 1st December** from 10.00am to 12.00pm in the School Hall.

Greenacre Primary Campus

Our K - 6 assembly will be on **Monday, 4th December** at 9:45am. It will run for approximately an hour.

Umrah 2018

The School is again in the process of preparing to take students for Umrah during the April School holidays, 2018. We will be working closely with LMA to arrange, at the lowest possible cost, this wonderful experience which will be led by our School Chaplain, Sheikh Fawaz. We are expecting the cost to be around \$4000.

Yours sincerely



Mr Bruce Rixon
Principal