



MALEK FAHD ISLAMIC SCHOOL

ABN: 41003 864 891

KNOWLEDGE IS LIGHT & WORK IS WORSHIP

www.mfis.nsw.edu.au

7th April, 2017

NEWSLETTER Week 10 Term 1 2017

Term 1 has come and gone so very quickly. I thank everyone for a terrific term and excellent attitude to classroom studies. There have been so many wonderful activities undertaken by students of all years across each of the Campuses... many classes before and after school as well as Saturday morning... a number of sporting and co-curricular events and the enthusiasm, motivation and commitment of all staff as they strive to achieve their best for our 2400 students. You all are so very impressive and I am most appreciative.



Harmony Day



Harmony Day was a celebration of our cultural diversity: beautiful colour, inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone. It is a day of cultural respect for everyone who calls Australia home. It coincides with the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

At Malek Fahd we are a school of some 2400 students and 260 staff. With some 29 different cultures and ancestry heritage at our School, we truly celebrate diversity. In celebrating our diversity we stand shoulder to shoulder as Australians and students of one school; Malek Fahd Islamic School. It is important that we, as a school, embrace and share our uniqueness and our qualities with the wider community.

We have four distinct campuses (two at Greenacre) so Harmony Day was celebrated over three days. Each Campus celebrated with assemblies, parades, cook-fests, art competitions, student performances and presentations that were all so very impressive. The day was a perfect way to celebrate the diversity of cultures and the uniqueness of each child.

Beaumont Hills included in its celebrations a smoking ceremony of welcome by **Uncle Wesley Marne**, a 94-year-old Indigenous Elder. Photographs and presentations are on the School website. Congratulations to the Captains and SRC leaders of each Campus for their magnificent leadership and presentations during Harmony Day.



Shoe Boxes for Syria

The compassion of our community is amazing and expressed in no better way than with the *Shoe Boxes to Syria*. This year, more than 700 boxes were donated by our families to be shipped to Syria destined for children who are very poor and orphaned. Thank you to our students and parents for their very generous consideration of those in need. Special mention and thanks to our Counsellor, **Ms Ghani**, for her drive, dedication and care for this project.



Trip to Mecca for Umrah

Sheikh Fawaz Kamaz is planning a trip to Mecca for Umrah during the April school holidays. Arabic teacher **Mr Isam Hlies** and 10 students will accompany our School Chaplain, **Sheikh Fawaz Kazam**. We wish them a very safe trip and a deep and spiritual journey.

Gifted and Talent Opportunity



Eman Wehbe, Zakiah Tahir, Rafsan Khondker, Ahmad Adam have been selected by Sydney University to participate in a three-day July workshop for the University's Gifted and Talented Discovery Program in Science. Only students in the top 10 percent from NSW, ACT and Queensland are selected. We are very proud of their achievement and thank **Mr Faruk** (Coordinator of the Gifted and Talented Program) for his leadership and encouragement. The University has generously waived the usual fee for this course.

Commemorating ANZAC DAY



Year 10 students once again participated in the NSW Association of Independent Schools Commemoration Service at Hyde Park, Sydney, on Wednesday 3rd April. Students laid a wreath on behalf of the MFIS community to remember the fallen and their sacrifice for our country. *Lest we forget.*

During the holidays, a free exhibition titled *Spirit Of Anzac Centenary Experience* will be held from 15 to 27 April at the International Convention Centre, Sydney. This award-winning, interactive exhibition features more than 200 artefacts from the Australian War Memorial. It tells the story of our nation's involvement in the First World War. You can watch a preview of the exhibition [here](#).

They will also be hosting some fun and educational activities, in conjunction with the Australian War Memorial, from Monday 17 to Friday 21 April 2017. [Click here to book in for the Free Children's Activities](#)

Student Leadership

This week our School Captains **Saad Ahmed** and **Juwariya Malik** represented our School at Federal Parliament for a Schools Leadership Program. This civics and citizenship program offers Year 12 student leaders an opportunity to develop their knowledge of our system of government, parliamentary proceedings and the role of the Governor-General.

Hoxton Park School Captains **Muhsin Dean** and **Mahnoor Laiq** spent a day at Parliament House in Canberra with the local Member for Werriwa, **Anne Stanley MP**. Muhsin and Mahnoor said that 'sitting close and witnessing our Prime Minister debate the Opposition was amazing. The experience was eye opening and showed us what really goes into running our wonderful country'. There are a number of exciting leadership opportunities at the School. Earlier this term, a number of Year 9 and 10 students engaged in **Stand Out, Step Up** one-week immersion program and were very positive

about the experience. We are also looking at working with E-Lead to implement a three-day program **Rise Above** at School in the Term 2 holidays for Years 9 and 10 girls. Please see **Mrs Bragg** for details.

Girls' Camp (Years 7 to 10)

This camp will be held April 26 to 28. It will incorporate a special program of leadership skills within the daily camp program. The **HALOGEN Foundation Conference 2017 (Darling Harbour)** will be offered to all Year 9 and 10 students. This conference is attended by more than 100 schools across the State. It provides a great opportunity for our students to learn and engage with present and future leaders in the community. Please see **Mrs Parker** for details.

Positive role modelling and Islamic values

Girls have started a Program on Fridays in which they prepare a talk for fellow students on exemplary behaviour and practising Islamic values in everyday life. Thanks to our Islamic studies teacher, **Ms Mona Hamdoun**, for training the students for these invaluable talks.

Parent Advisory Committee (PAC)

Parents have requested the opportunity to contact the Parent Advisory Committee. I am pleased to advise that parents now have access to the Parent Advisory Committee through the Chair **Dr Fariha Dib Kak** by emailing pac@mfis.nsw.edu.au

NAPLAN

The NAPLAN tests for Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 will be conducted from 9 to 11 May.

Tuesday 9 May	Wednesday 10 May	Thursday 11 May	Friday 12 May
Language Conventions (Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar) Writing test	Reading test	Numeracy test	Catch-up Test

The results of the tests provide important information to schools about what each student can do and will be used to support teaching and learning programs. Parents will receive a report indicating their child's level of achievement. Each student's level of achievement will be reported against the national minimum standard.

MFIS Athletics Carnival - Greenacre



This year, the Secondary School held the boys and girls carnival on the same day. Boys were at the Crest athletics track, Bass Hill, and girls were at Sydney Olympic Park Athletics Centre. I was impressed by the students' excitement and energy displayed throughout the day.

In all, 25 records were broken; 20 by the boys and five by the girls. We must mention **Jihad Alameddine's** impressive performance with a personal best that broke the School record of 1.5 metres in the high jump.

I thank staff for their hard work throughout the day and students' efforts and a special mention to the organisers and **Mr Dablan** and **Mrs Parker** and their team. Mr Dablan looks forward to taking a strong MFIS team to the ISD zone athletics carnival in Term 3.



Boys carnival results
1 st Green by only 18 points
2 nd Blue
3 rd Red
4 th Yellow
Girls carnival results
1 st Yellow by only 2 points
2 nd Red
3 rd Green
4 th Blue
Overall winners
1 st Green
2 nd Blue
3 rd Red
4 th Yellow



Australian Football League Gala Day.

Girls from Years 8 and 9 endured the heat on 29 March as they developed the fundamental skills required to participate in an Australian Football League Gala Day. The Year 9 Team led by captains **Laeba Ahmed** and **Ayisha Tamer** took victory by winning the entire competition, while the Year 8 teams were strong competition with impressive skill and talent.

Special thanks to **Yash Kammoun** and **Amna K-Hassan** from the Auburn Giants who are youth girls coaches and organised the event.

Notice from the NSW Ministry of Health – measles outbreak

There is an outbreak of measles in south western and western Sydney. At least nine people acquired the disease in the region in March.

The reported cases include children and infants who have attended childcare centres and secondary schools. There is potential for the measles outbreak to spread as the infected young people have large social networks both within and outside of their schools. Some have travelled on public transport while infectious.

Measles is highly infectious and anyone who isn't vaccinated is at risk of infection if they have contact with an infected person. Immunisation is effective in preventing measles. It is important for everyone to ensure that they have received at least two doses of measles containing vaccine (MMR). Infants and young children are vaccinated at 12 months and 18 months of age. Older children and adults born in or after 1966 should ensure that they have been vaccinated with two doses.

If you are not certain that you have had two doses of measles vaccine, you should visit their GP as soon as possible for free vaccination. The first sign of measles is usually a high fever, a runny nose, cough, and red, watery eyes.

The rash usually starts on the face and upper neck and spreads over the body, hands and feet and lasts for four to seven days. People with measles symptoms should seek medical advice as soon as possible by telephoning the emergency department or GP, stay home from work or school, and limit activities to avoid exposing vulnerable people, such as infants. Further information about measles is on the NSW Ministry of Health website:

<http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/factsheets/infectious/measles.htm>

2017 Student Residential Address Collection

The Australian Government Department of Education and Training is undertaking the 2017 Student Residential Address Collection. **As a parent/guardian you do not need to provide any information directly to the department.** The only thing you need to do is ensure your address

details are up-to-date with our school. If you need to update your child's/children's residential address details, please contact *School Office immediately*.

We will provide the department with de-identified address information for all of our students' families. This means we will provide addresses but no student names. The *Statement of Addresses* notice which we recently sent to you provides more information.

Frequently Asked Questions from parents:

- **Why is the collection being done?**

The department is collecting student residential addresses for all non-government schools. This is part of a routine process that occurs approximately every four years, with the last collection undertaken in 2012. The collection is done in line with the Australian Bureau of Statistics Population and Housing Census. With the Census data being released later this year, it is timely for the department to update its data.

- **What do I need to do?**

Nothing! You don't need to provide any information to the department – our school will do this on behalf of all of our students' families. However, please make sure your address details are up-to-date with our school.

- **Is my personal information secure?**

Yes. The school provides the department with de-identified student residential addresses. The department will not see personal information that identifies individual families.

Office Hours

In the holidays, the office at each Campus will operate on shortened hours of 9am to 3pm.



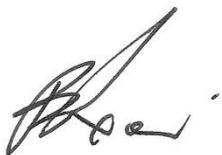
Best wishes to **Mrs Basmah Hamdoun** of the Greenacre office who is about to begin maternity leave.



Term 2 begins Wednesday 26th April

Thank you to parents for your unswerving support and encouragement for our teachers and school. I wish everyone a very safe and restful holiday. I look forward to seeing you all back bright and re-energised for productive Term 2.

Wasalaam



Mr BRUCE RIXON
Principal