



9 March 2018

NEWSLETTER



Dear Parents/Guardians

Assalamu Alaykum WRWB

It is with pleasure that I update you on the School and the activities in each of the three Campuses. During the first weeks of the Term, staff and students have been extremely active in the preparation and delivery of lessons. Staff are providing additional lessons before and after school and Year 12s are engaging in Saturday classes. I am most grateful to our dedicated staff who are working so hard to encourage and support the growth of your child.

Interim Reports

Over the next few weeks, parents will receive an Interim Report that will reflect how your child has settled into their academic school year. The Interim Report is for all Primary students and Secondary students Years 7 to 11, across all three campuses. It is new to Primary students this year.

The Interim Report is not an academic report. The Interim Report will provide a five level classroom profile rating of A (outstanding) to E (unacceptable) reflecting your child's application, contribution to learning, completion of tasks and classroom behaviour. You are welcomed and encouraged to discuss your child's Interim Report with your teachers and Coordinators. Later this Term, Parent-Teacher Evenings will be held for all Primary students, during which time you will have the opportunity to discuss your child's academic progress.

Mr Ben Marsh, Business Manager's Farewell

Earlier this year I wrote to the College Community to inform that our Business Manager, Mr Ben Marsh, had tendered his resignation and would leave us on Friday, 16th March. Mr Marsh has a considerable commute to work and has accepted a significant leadership role as CFO, a few minutes from his home and young family. Though at the School for a short time, Mr Marsh's contribution has been very significant. Not only has he continued to refine the financial operational side of the School across the three campuses, Mr Marsh has worked tirelessly behind the scenes assisting me, the Board Chairman, Dr Bennett and the Chair of the Finance Committee, Dr Edwards, as well as the whole Board, on

many other matters. As Board Secretary, Ben worked very closely with the Board Chairman and lawyers in the preparation of material for the recent court cases.

I have invited Mr Marsh to act in a Consultancy capacity until the new Business Manager is appointed and had the opportunity to settle into the new role.

On behalf of the School community, I congratulate Mr Marsh on his excellent work for Malek Fahd and wish him every success in the future.

Interviews for Mr Marsh's replacement have been undertaken and I anticipate I will be able to announce the new Business Manager in the very near future.

Anti-Bullying

Our School has zero tolerance for bullying. Across all three campuses, we are actively discussing bullying, ways to identify and prevent bullying and building resilience. The National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence (NDA) is on 16th March 2018.

We are proud to say that our school has registered for the NDA, and thus is an official NDA school. During that week, our school will focus on ways to reduce and prevent bullying through a range of activities, including the distribution of wristbands which say 'Take a stand together. Bullying. No Way!', in-class activities and discussions, and workshops which will take place throughout the year. This will be an ongoing initiative as our school does not tolerate bullying in any form, and there will be consequences for those who partake in bullying.

In order to address the seriousness of bullying we are also having Anti-bullying competition. This competition will involve student producing a visual representation of the effects of bullying and the winner will receive a \$100 rebel voucher. The final date of submission will be the 16th of March.

If your child talks to you about bullying:

1. **Listen** calmly and get the full story.
2. **Reassure** your child that they are not to blame.
3. **Ask** your child what they want to do about it and how you can help.
4. **Visit** www.bullyingnoway.gov.au to find some strategies.
5. **Contact** the school.
6. **Check in** regularly with your child.

BULLYING. NO WAY!
www.bullyingnoway.gov.au

At our school we aim to create a safe and supportive school community for everyone. Sometimes, it can be difficult for parents or carers to know what to do when their child talks to them about bullying. You are an important part of our work to prevent bullying and to respond effectively if it happens. *Stopping bullying involves everyone.*

Mother / Daughter Dinner

The School is very focused on the wellbeing of our student, your daughters. This year, I introduced a series of roles to support the wellbeing of the students. Year Advisors, Welfare Coordinators and Heads of Wellbeing. As with all the staff, they are all awesome people and fantastic role models.

An initiative developed by the Year Advisors is the inception of the Year 9 and 10 Mother and Daughter Dinner at Al Aseel on Wednesday evening 7th March organised by Ms Bashir and Ms Mitchell. Over 100 daughters, mothers and staff will be in attendance together with Sheikh Fawaz and Mr Ahmed.

This was a wonderful evening enjoyed by all. It was a first for Malek Fahd and came about by the inspiration and innovation of our Year 9 and 10 Year Advisors Ms Mitchell and Ms Bashir.



Harmony Day

Harmony Day celebrates Australia's cultural diversity. The message of Harmony Day is 'everyone belongs', the Day aims to engage people to participate in their community, respect cultural and religious diversity and foster sense of belonging for everyone. Each of our campuses are hosting a Harmony Day celebration.

Greenacre High Campus – 20th March 2018

Hoxton Park Campus – 21st March 2018

Beaumont Hills Campus – 22nd March 2018

Greenacre Primary Campus – 28th March 2018

Primary Curriculum

Mathletics and Reading Eggs usernames and passwords have been sent home this week. Mathletics and Reading Eggs are a fantastic tool to help your child reinforce and complement concepts and skills learnt at school. As students' progress through the activities they are able to achieve certificates of achievements. Parents may have also noticed in your child's homework, various counting activities from Kindergarten to Year 6. We are taking a whole school approach to counting to reinforce our students Numeracy skills, specifically learning their Multiplication Facts (Times Tables). Please ensure you 'count' with your child every day and make learning our Times Tables a school and family fun activity!

Secondary Parent Curriculum Information Sessions

During this week and next week, Secondary Parent Curriculum Information Sessions, have and are being held in each of the three campuses. These sessions, created and led by the Secondary Curriculum Coordinator, Ms Bragg, provide an important insight into the educational direction for your child. I was delighted to see many parents at the Greenacre presentation. I look forward to seeing parents at Beaumont Hills on Monday, 19th March and Hoxton Park on Tuesday, 20th March.

VALID Testing

The Validation of Assessment for Learning and Individual Development (VALID) program provides online end-of-stage assessments for the science key learning area. The assessments assist schools to monitor student achievement

and inform planning, programming and assessment practice.

The 2017 VALID results were released recently and we are happy to announce the following students achieved the highest level of achievement, a Level 6:

Year 10

Zainab Al Jamal, Sarah Al Jelani, Salma Binti Buchari, Rabia Cameron, Afreen Kaleer, Yasmine Kheir, Nusrat Samiya, Eman Wehebe, Ahmed Abid, Nour Al Hammouri, Abdullah Ali Syed, Zachariah Badra, Rafsan Khondker, Adnan Kureshi, Aldrich Mahdi, Fayad Nomani, Faizan Sharief, Ridho Yusef, Asad Zaman

Year 8

Rida Jamil, Bilal El-Hamawi, Mahbub-Ul Haque



Science Excursions

The Year 9 Science students went on an educational excursion to the Sydney Olympic Park Education Centre to study the ecosystem as part of the Stage 5 requirements. This excursion has enhanced students' knowledge on how the organisms interact with each other and with their environment.

The Year 10 Science students embarked on a trip to the Sydney Olympic Park Tennis Centre to participate in the RYDA program. RYDA is a series of practical and powerful workshops for high school students that challenge students to change the way they think about road safety and lay the foundation for safe road use throughout their lives. This study also complemented students' knowledge on the Year 10 Science topic 'Motion'.



Malek Fahd Interfaith Building Bridges Program

The chance for Malek Fahd to engage with interfaith discussions is so important in the development of our students as we prepare them in our multicultural country. On the 6th of March Sheikh Fawaz, Sheikh Hassan, Mrs Mehar Khan and I met at Beaumont Hills with Rabbi Zalman Kastel and Catholic Priest, Rev Dr Patrick McInerney to further discuss the potential of interfaith visits across our three campuses. The main topic discussed is to have connections and organise activities to build bridges. We have come to an agreement to start an activity on the Harmony Day during assembly. There is a proposal to hold a Q and A session with our senior students of Years 10 to 12. Malek Fahd, Greenacre, SRC and Staff are proud to once again welcome Year 10 girls and teachers from **Brigidine College, St Ives** on Wednesday, 14th and Friday, 16th March 2018. As part of our Interfaith/Cultural Harmony endeavours, we have hosted students from Brigidine for the past six years. This program very successfully promotes racial and cultural harmony at many levels.

Greenacre Junior Girls Cricket Team

Our Greenacre Girls Junior Cricket team was recently mentioned in the Sun Herald and Sydney Morning Herald 3rd and 4th March. Our girls are taking part in the Cricket NSW – run six-week program. Over 300 Primary School girls from various cultural backgrounds gather to pursue their love of cricket. "Watching so many girls come together to play cricket makes her believe she's left the game in excellent hands", said retired Australian Cricketer and Sydney Thunder captain, Alex Blackall. Female cricket is booming with participants almost doubling over the past year.



Greenacre Secondary Annual Athletics Carnival

The Greenacre Secondary Athletics Carnival will be held on Thursday, 15th March at Campbell Athletics Field, Canterbury (Girls), The Crest Athletics Field, Bass Hill (Boys) where Safa,

Marwa, Medina and Mena will compete in various field and track events. These are always fun and colourful events where students have the opportunity to share in their house spirit. I have a strong belief in developing a sense of House spirit and friendly, competitive rivalry. In time we expect to extend House competitions and activities such as OzTag, basketball, netball and chess, during lunchtime.

Congratulations to the House Captains for the Carnival:



Marwa: Captains – Abdullah Chatah and Tassnime El Saddik;
Vice – Jad Almoty and Liliana Ghannoum
Safa: Captains – Jibril Ibrahim and Zahraa Bazzi;
Vice – Imran Hassan and Hanan Zureiqat
Mena: Captains – Zak Kowaidar and Amira Rahman,
Vice – Adam Taleb and Ayisha Tamer
Medina: Captains – Ahmed Abid and Donia Metwally, Vice –
Jawdat Alameddine and Sarah Kak

Clean Up Australia Day – Greenacre Primary

On Wednesday, 7th March 2018, many students from all grades worked together to clean up the Primary School area. Students were made aware of the importance of Clean Up Australia Day and that their contribution will not only ensure the school remains clean but that it is also making a difference towards helping the environment.

Children Pickup and Drop-Off

Parents are requested not to stop in driveways to pick up or drop off your child. This is very dangerous practice of some parents and bus drivers, which can cause our children serious harm. Please be patient and drive up to the pickup and drop off bay in front of the Primary Campus.

School Uniform Shop

Malek Fahd Islamic School Uniform Shop will close for the school holidays on Friday, 13th April at 4.00pm. Stock for the School Jumpers and Blazers has arrived. Samples sizes will be available at each of the campuses.

Additional Term 2 Holiday Trading Hours:

Thursday, 26 th April	9.00am to 3.00pm
Friday, 27 th April	9.00am to 3.00pm
Monday, 30 th April	9.00am to 3.00pm

The Uniform shop will return to normal hours of 8.00am to 4.00pm on Tuesday, 1st May. You are welcome to purchase uniform online at your convenience and your order will be filled when the store is next open.

Bullying Poem

At the Beaumont Hills assembly today, the following poem was presented by Class 5G. I was so impressed, I felt it is worthy of publication. Kaylynn is the author of this poem about bullying about how verbal bullying can be just as harmful as physical bullying.

Words Hurt

*Fat, ugly, worthless. These are the words they hear.
Did you know that you are their biggest fear?
Day by day you torment them,
It takes so long for their hearts to mend.
All they ask for is one true friend,
But you make them want their lives to end.
Everyday they wake up with regret,
All they want to do is forget.
It's not just hitting and punching, it's the words you say,
They hurt so much, they want to fade away.
This is when enough is enough,
They're sick of playing strong, sick of playing tough.
But they know they can make it through,
You may not have known, but they always knew.
They put on a fake smile and pretend they're okay,
They believe they can make it all the way.
Of course your words still offend,
But they have been pieced back together again.
Someone leaves the crowd and lends them a hand,
They learn that it's time to stand.
Their smile is no longer fake,
Now they have no reason to ache.
You see, all they ever needed was a friend,
Someone to stand by them when the bullying came again.
Now they are free,
The insults barely sting, don't you see?
Bullying gave you power, that they refused to give,
You can't help but wonder "what if".
What if they didn't get so strong?
What if they were crumbled all along?
What if they wrote down all the secrets they had to spill,
Right before taking an overdose of the pills?
You don't know what could have been done,
You were doing it all for fun.
You think they're losers, but they're stronger than you,
Have you seen what they've been through?
With your words you gave a black eye,
They are leaving, bully, so say your goodbye.
But one more thing before you go,
Did you enjoy my little show?
Remember, words can hurt more than the punch,
Believe me now? Cause this was just a hunch.*

Yours sincerely

Mr Bruce Rixon
Principal