



4th September 2019

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Assalamu Alaykum WRWB

Thank you to the valued parents of our wonderful School for their contributions and assistance in catering for the educational needs of our students. This edition of the Greenacre Secondary Newsletter provides a review of the first half of Term 3 and reminders of some upcoming events.

Curriculum

Greenacre Secondary Information Afternoons were held for parents of current Year 8 (Monday, 19th August) students going on to Year 9 and current Year 10 (Tuesday, 30th July) students going on to Year 11 next year. This was an opportunity for parents and students to consider the range of electives, including VET subjects, on offer in 2020. Important information regarding the criteria for selection into courses and general assessment information was discussed. Thank you to the considerable number of parents who attended this important event. Parents are encouraged to access this information by visiting the school website and clicking the Teaching and Learning tab. Subject selection survey will begin this week. I would like to thank Mr Hamper (Deputy for Teaching and Learning) and to Mrs Bragg (Secondary Curriculum Coordinator) for organising and facilitating both sessions.

The Trial HSC examinations concluded on Wednesday, 21st August. These examinations were structured and set to a similar standard to the HSC examinations scheduled to begin in October. The Trials also served as the final assessment task for each of your child's HSC subjects. These examinations should be used as a measure to determine the level your child is at and should be used as a springboard for final preparations for the HSC. The students will be receiving their Trial results over the next week. They will also be receiving feedback and advice on examination techniques. Teachers will be completing the syllabus and also holding remedial/revision classes building towards the HSC examinations. It is paramount that Year 12 students attend school until their last day, 24th September. This is now a critical period for students to revise content and consolidate learning under teacher guidance and supervision. Students will also practise exam techniques using the considerable number of different Trial Papers.

Year 11 students will sit the Preliminary Exams starting on Friday, 13th September of Week 8. Students are encouraged to revise on a regular basis to reduce levels of anxiety during the examination period. The Examination Timetable has been distributed to students.

Year 8 students sat the ALLWELL test on Tuesday 6 August. The results of these tests allow the School to monitor the academic progress of each child and cater for individual needs.

2019 Big Science Competition

As part of the Gifted & Talented Program, students from Year 7 – 10 were given the opportunity to participate in the Big Science competition. This is an online competition testing student's critical-thinking, problem-solving skills and scientific literacy. The Big Science Competition questions use real-life issues in contemporary contexts making them relatable and interesting.

Congratulations to the following students for their outstanding achievement:

High Distinction: Ayyoub Adam (9B1).

Distinction: Sidratul Islam (9B1) and Sahar El-Ali (8G1).

Credit: Dareen Hussain (10G2), Layan Mahmoud (10G1), Hasnain Bhurawala (9B1), Noor Khan & Mifrah Raiz (8G1), Fayza Haque & Aysha Saeed (7G1) and Yusuf Zreika (7B1).

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Greenacre Secondary will be participating and is looking forward to the Whole School (All three Campuses) Year 12 Graduation Assembly at The Quay Centre in Homebush during Week 10, Tuesday 24th September of Term 3. Students have been given permission notes which must be signed by parents and returned to school by Wednesday the 28th August.

Email Accounts for Secondary Students

Malek Fahd Islamic School is delighted to advise you that Year 7 to 12 students will be getting their own School email address and computer login details to use School computers for learning purposes. The internet provides an opportunity to enhance students' learning experiences allowing online communication links students to a collaborative learning environment resulting in enhanced learning outcomes.

Responsible use of Information and Technology services at School by students, with guidance from teaching staff, will provide a secure and safe learning environment for all students. **The School's Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Email Policy and Agreement was sent to all Secondary parents via email. Hard copies were sent with students.** We expect appropriate and acceptable use of Malek Fahd Islamic School computer facilities, internet and email for the purposes of fostering educational activities at School. **Please read, sign and return this Policy to Homeroom Teachers as soon as practicable.**

Student email and login will not be provided to students until this form is completed and signed by both the student and parents. We are currently working on the development and implementation of a student / parent portal whereby curriculum and other items will be attached. Thank you for supporting the School in its initiatives to enhance student learning experiences.

Visual Arts Incursion with Artist Shireen Taweel

On Wednesday 24th of July, our Year 9 and 10 Visual Arts students attended an exciting Art workshop, led by acclaimed Australian artist Shireen Taweel. The incursion supported students' understanding of the curriculum content area: Artmaking Practice. The workshop began with a presentation about Taweel's personal journey as a teenager growing up in Western Sydney, and how she draws inspiration from her Muslim identity and Islamic history in Australia for her large-scale copper sculptures. Mirroring Taweel's artistic processes of using sheet copper, students then individually designed and created their own sculptural forms, experimenting with light to consider how spaces can be transformed through installation artworks.

"... art like this is important to my culture & religion."
– Anonymous student feedback

Visual Arts Excursion – Art Gallery of New South Wales

On Thursday the 8th August, Visual Arts students in Years 9 and 10 viewed the annual Archibald, Wynne and Sulman Prizes, and The Essential Duchamp Exhibition at the Art Gallery of New South Wales.

The excursion allowed Year 9 students to develop a broader understanding of the nature of portraits, supporting their unit of study - Presenting Identity. Students in year 10 were treated to an authentic, historical study of Marcel Duchamp – an artist central to their current Breaking Traditions unit of study.

Throughout our visit, students also discussed critically the powerful role of Art institutions and critics in validating artworks, as well as their relationship to us as audiences. In this way, the excursion also supported students' understanding of various curriculum content areas such as the Agencies of the Artworld.



MFIS Greenacre Annual Athletics Carnival

Our annual Athletics Carnival was held over two days, the girls on 21st August and boys on 22nd August at Sydney Olympic Park Warm Up Track. The house competition was very competitive with all students giving their best in a wide range of events. Track events included 100m, 200m, 400m and 800m as well as field events with shot put, discus, javelin, high jump and long jump. The winning sport houses were Safa (girls) and Mena (boys). Congratulations to all competing students and the teachers who officiated, coached, organised and encouraged our students. Successful students who won their events represented Malek Fahd at the ISD Athletics Carnival on Friday, 30th of August at Sydney Olympic Park. Congratulations to Safa House, the overall champions of the Carnivals.



Jeans for Genes Day





Wellbeing initiatives for students in August included the Wesley Mission Homeless Food Challenge for the Year 9 cohort, a 3-hour session/program designed to engage and provoke and promote empathy for the homeless. This was held on Thursday 29th August. The Young Women's Leadership Seminar in Parliament House was on Thursday 22nd August. Two female SRC leaders attended with Mrs Kbbbar. The Year 10 boys and PDHPE/PASS students attended the motivational/wellbeing program at Hurstville Aquatic Centre on Monday 26th August.

Students travelling via Bus

Bus Services have requested that I inform parents and students of the significant change created by the introduction of the School Opal cards. Students need to tap on and off when they travel to and from school. Opal data gathered by tapping on and off is used to determine demand for bus services. If students do not tap on and tap off, services may be cancelled due the lack of recorded patronage.

If your child does not have a School Opal card or their details have changed then please visit www.opal.com.au/en/about-opal/opal-for-school-students/. Damaged or lost School Opal cards can be replaced by completing the form found at [<https://ssts%1fapply.transport.nsw.gov.au/ApplySSTS/Replace>][https://sstsapply.transport.nsw.gov.au/ApplySSTS/Replace Card.html](https://sstsapply.transport.nsw.gov.au/ApplySSTS/ReplaceCard.html)

Camp Cancellation

This is to inform you of the unfortunate cancellation of the Years 7-9 Girls' camp that was due to run from Monday to Wednesday in Week 7 of Term 3 (2nd to 4th September 2019) and the cancellation of the Years 7-10 Boys' camp that was due to run from Monday to Wednesday in Week 7 of Term 4 (25th to 27th November).

Any student from Years 7-10 who has already paid a deposit will be able to collect a full refund from the front office.

The number of students opting to attend camp this year was not viable for the camp to continue. We will continue to encourage participation in future camp events, as this is a missed opportunity to participate in an extra-curricular program that has many benefits for our students. Your feedback on this matter is welcome, and if you have any suggestions that may make the camp of greater interest to your family please contact the school.

Yours Sincerely

Ali Dib
Head of Campus Secondary