



3 May 2019

## NEWSLETTER



Dear Parents/Guardians,

Assalamu Alaykum WRWB

Welcome back to all students and staff. I hope you all had a restful break and have come back refreshed. Term 2 is a busy Term with Ramadan and EID, along with many significant academic, fund-raising and sporting events, which culminates with exams, reports and parent / teacher meetings. During Ramadan there will be Intra and Inter-campus Quran competitions.

I welcome all new staff to the School, in particular Mr David Hamper, Deputy Principal, Teaching and Learning. Mr Hamper joins us from International Grammar and will add a much-needed dimension to the curriculum directions of the School. His significant experience in curriculum and as a School Executive member will add great balance to our terrific executive team. His role is the oversight of Primary and Secondary curriculum working closely with Ms Mourad and Ms Bragg. He will also work closely with each Primary Co-ordinator and Secondary Head of Department. We are working through the review of each curriculum program. We are in the process of over-hauling the acceleration program for students and developing a model which embraces the concept of acceleration of students in the younger years. Mr Hamper will be working closely with our executive and co-ordinators and oversee this modelling.

During the holidays, a number of maintenance tasks have been completed and I thank all staff, particularly the administration, maintenance and IT team for their dedicated work during the holiday period. The most visual being the upgrade of the Greenacre Secondary and Primary School Halls and Greenacre Primary toilets. The School has been successful in its application of a Google Grant for First Lego League Challenge.

### Umrah 2019

During the holidays Sheikh Fawaz and the nineteen students from our three campuses travelled for Umrah. Sheikh Fawaz informed me that the boys thoroughly enjoyed the spiritually uplifting experience. They were blessed with praying the five daily prayers in the Prophet's Mosque in Madinah and the Grand

Mosque in Mecca. They visited many historical places in Makkah and Madinah including the mountains of Nour and the cave of Hira - the place where the beloved Prophet Muhammad SAW received the first revelation through Angel Jibril. The mount of Arafat, Mina and Muzdalifa. Part of their time spent in Madinah included visiting the grave of the prophet PBUH and Al Baqia where more than ten thousand companions are buried.

Thank you, Sheikh, for this leadership. I am confident the spiritual journey will be a lifelong blessing for you and the students. I look forward to chatting to the boys over the coming days on their journey and I am sure they would be willing to share their story with Homeroom and perhaps during the Year group meetings.



### **Email Accounts for Secondary Students**

I am delighted to report that School Email accounts of all the secondary students across the three campuses have been created. Students will be provided with their email account in the coming weeks once they have been guided through and signed the Acceptable Technology Usage Agreement.

I am very focused on maintaining and lifting the academic standards of our students. The non-academic selectiveness of students into Years 7 and 11 should not be impacting on the overall academic performance of the school. It is about the appropriateness of subject selection and the level of study. Part of our future focus is student numbers. I have completed a modelling of student numbers for 2030 to assess what might be sustainable at each of the three campuses. This modelling has also provided the data to assist the building needs for Hoxton Park and Beaumont Hills for the short and long term. More will come to light on these fronts over the coming months.

### **Reduction of class sizes for the early years of learning.**

In the last days of School, I emailed staff, and communicated with parents the direction of the School's thinking for students in their elementary schooling years. Commencing with Kindergarten in 2020, the new class sizes will be aiming for 20 per class in Kindergarten; 22 per class in Year 1 (2021); and 25 per class in Year 2 (2022). This will apply across all Campuses. For Greenacre campus there will be 5 streams in Kindergarten in 2020. We expect to maintain Teacher Aides supporting the Kindergarten classes during Term 1 as they settle into school routine. It is anticipated the smaller classes will greatly assist the teachers and students in establishing strong academic foundations in these important formative years. These class sizes may need to be slightly adjusted if the Kindergarten sibling number for Greenacre is larger than 100 students. I am sure staff and parents will welcome this decision and direction of the School. Please note as previously advised, today is the last day to submit applications for Kindergarten enrolment for all current parents of MFIS. We will now begin to accept applications of non-sibling, new parents to Malek Fahd.

### **Scholarships**

Also, in my last newsletter, I announced, commencing in 2019, the School will be introducing a range of Student Scholarships, commencing in 2019. Applications will be received during Term 2. The Scholarships, open in a range of academic year groups, are for: Academic, All Rounder, Religious, Bursaries and Financial Support, Arabic Studies (new and continuous) and Open Scholarships. The process to follow in making

application for a scholarship as well as the scholarship package, including the policy, procedures, the scholarship descriptors and general conditions, will be available on the website in the coming days. It is expected the Scholarships will give incentive to the gifted students as well as provide financial support to those in need.

### **4th Annual Australian Islamic Schooling Conference and Forum**

I am delighted to announce that Ms Houda Kbbar has been invited to present at the 4th Annual Australian Islamic Schooling Conference and Forum (13-14 July 2019 at the University of Melbourne). Her topic is 'Building School Connectedness – a Whole School Approach to Wellbeing'. This is a first for the School and a wonderful achievement for Ms Kbbar. Congratulations and thank you for taking up the challenge. I know her presentation will be well received. A number of School Executive, Staff and Board members will be attending the conference.

### **Early finish of School during Ramadan**

Ramadan timetable will commence on Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> May. We will be concluding school at 1.50pm for K - 2 students at Greenacre Campus and 2.00pm for all students at Beaumont Hills, Hoxton Park and Yrs 3 - 6 at Greenacre Campus. I thank Mr Lord for the arrangement for buses.

Please join our **IFTARs** that will take place at each Campus on the following dates:

#### **Greenacre Campus**

**Secondary:** Years 7-12 - Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> May  
**(will be hosted by the MFIS SRC Team)**

**Primary:** K-6 – Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> May

**Hoxton Park Campus:** Friday, 10<sup>th</sup> May

**Beaumont Hills Campus:** Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> May

We encourage parents and students to contact the Administration Office to purchase tickets as soon as possible due to limited seatings available.

### **Ramadan Initiatives**

Students across the three campuses are involved in numerous activities during the month of Ramadan in line with the core values of the faith, such as, kindness, forgiveness, empathy and charity. These activities include, Daily Hadiths, Food and blanket drive, Classroom Decoration and Posters, Quran Competition, Ramadan Trivias and Before School Islamic Lessons at the Greenacre Campus.

While **Eid** has not yet been confirmed, Sheikh Fawaz will advise me once Ramadan commences and I will, then advise the School Community.

### Greenacre ANZAC Commemoration Assembly

Our school was lucky enough to have veterans, Terry Corcoran, John Woodley, Chien Nguyen and David Morris from the Bankstown RSL facility visit our school on Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> May 2019 and address students and staff about the significance of ANZAC day at the assembly. SRC members also played an important role in helping the School commemorate our soldiers who fought at Gallipoli during The Great War. On this day, we remembered all those who served our nation in times of war. We remembered with pride their courage, their compassion and their comradeship and acknowledged the losses and sacrifices of their families.



### NAPLAN

As advised earlier, NAPLAN will take place week 3 of this Term for Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. Students are being prepared for these assessments.

### NAPLAN 2019 paper test timetable.

Year	Tuesday 14 May	Wednesday 15 May	Thursday 16 May
Year 3	Language conventions: 45 minutes Writing: 40 minutes	Reading: 45 minutes	Numeracy: 45 minutes

Year	Tuesday 14 May	Wednesday 15 May	Thursday 16 May
Year 5	Language conventions: 45 minutes Writing: 40 minutes	Reading: 50 minutes	Numeracy: 50 minutes
Year 7	Language conventions: 45 minutes Writing: 40 minutes	Reading: 65 minutes	Numeracy: 65 minutes
Year 9	Language conventions: 45 minutes Writing: 40 minutes	Reading: 65 minutes	Numeracy: 65 minutes

### Personal Development, Health and Physical Education and Sport

What an action packed Term 1 we had with a host of successful activities in PDHPE and sport! These have included the Year 9 elective course (PASS) students attending the Raw Challenge Initiative Course, ISD Basketball Gala Day (4 teams), ISD Touch Gala Day (2 girls & 2 boys teams), LMA Tri Sports Gala Day (4 girls teams), AFL Year 7 & 8 Schools Cup Gala Day (90 girls & boys), Bulldogs League Tag Gala Day (6 teams from Years 7 to 12). The school also conducted our second Cross Country Championships with a team to represent MFIS at the ISD Championships later in Term 2.

It has been great to witness the growing confidence of our students who are increasingly willing to take on the challenges and opportunities offered to them in the areas of PDHPE and sport. The dedicated efforts of the PDHPE teachers and teaching staff and the support of Mr Rixon, the Executive and office staff have resulted in a range of innovative and engaging initiatives which promote the development of skills, healthy competition, building of confidence and teamwork whilst fostering positive relationships between students and teachers. Our developing sporting culture and strengthening of school pride are positive outcomes from students' wholehearted involvement in PDHPE and sport.

The PDHPE staff which includes Ms Mitchell, Mr Merhi, Ms Haddad, Ms Battaglia and Mr Afiouni (Greenacre), Mr Oz, Ms La Quesne (Beaumont Hills) and Mr Makki (Hoxton Park) are to be congratulated on their commitment to teaching excellence in leading exciting initiatives for students inside and outside the classroom.

Mr Geoff Spotswood, PDHPE Coordinator

### Independent Schools Football Representation

Thirty talented girls and boys footballers from all three campuses attended the ISD football trials on 1<sup>st</sup> May at Queens Park, Waverley. This is our highest number of representatives and the competition for selection was fierce with many elite players attending from other schools. The following students were selected to represent ISD at The AICES Championships at Valentine Park over the next two weeks:

Open Boys - Ali El Ghaz; Open Girls - Ilesha Arja, Rayanne Karnib, Layla Afouiny, Maymouna Elkiki (Ms Battaglia – Coach); 16 and under Boys - Shaveer Malik, Mohamed Bakr, Mohamed Kurdi; 15 and under Girls - Sidrah Ardati, Layelle Quadan (Hoxton Park).

### Waverley College School Visit

On Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> of May 2019, Studies of Religion HSC students from Waverley Boys College attended Malek Fahd Islamic School for an interfaith dialogue session and collaborative learning session for 2 unit HSC Studies of Religion. The teachers from Waverley College Dominic Hearne and John Paul joined with Sheikh Khalid and Ramsay Hussein to share knowledge and insights with relation to SOR with the students. Sheikh Khalid gave a presentation on Hajj and Mr Ramsay Hussein gave a presentation with relation to Islamic ethics. The students then had time to dialogue and enter into multi-faith discussions based on SOR examination responses. At the completion of the day the Waverley College students and teachers visited the school mosque to observe prayers and have a tour of the mosque by Sheikh Fawaz. The students and teachers from both schools really enjoyed each other's company and learnt a great deal about different faiths.



### Road safety when driving through the School

We need your help to ensure the safety of every child at the School. I ask that all parents practise safe driving and parking at the School and to be patient and not rush when dropping and picking up their children in the mornings and afternoons. It is essential that all parents follow the instructions of security and teachers in the guidance of traffic and students during the peak times of before and after school hours. At a supervised crossing, observe the directions of the school crossing supervisor and model safe and considerate behaviour for your child as they will learn from you. Remember to always give way to pedestrians, particularly when entering and leaving driveways. It is essential to use the drop-off and pick-up area.

### Parents Parking

During the afternoon pick up of children, I need parents to take great care in and around the school grounds and on Waterloo Road. Some cars are parking in the bus bay, double parked and holding up the flow of traffic. I ask that all parents take special care at this time to ensure the maximum safety of our children. Managements of Chullora Market Place, Suttons Chullora and EWE Global Express Transport Group have requested that no parents block their driveway or double park whilst dropping off or picking up children in the morning or afternoon. Parents need to be aware that cars and delivery trucks need to use their driveways throughout the day and this is why it needs to remain clear. Council rangers will be notified to fine any parents parking illegally on their property.

### School Uniform

Parents are requested to make an appointment for fittings and purchase of uniforms via calling on 0498 518 916 or email [malek.fahd@midford.com.au](mailto:malek.fahd@midford.com.au). You are also welcome to purchase uniforms online at your convenience. Your order will be filled when the store is next open.

Website : <https://schoolshop.midford.com.au/login/>  
passphrase: malek1989

### Update of Parent Email Addresses

In an effort to improve communication with parents, all School newsletters will be sent out to parents via email and through the Schoolbag app. If you are not receiving the Newsletter or know of someone who isn't, please contact the Administration Office to update your email contact details. Newsletters are also available on the School website.

Ramadan Kareem

Mr Bruce Rixon  
Principal