



6 December 2019

## NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Assalamu Alaykum WRWB,

This is the final Newsletter for the Year and what an amazing year it has been for you all. There have been significant achievements for Malek Fahd this year. Further in this newsletter I have placed a high level summary of tasks undertaken across the three campuses. The School is now definitely moving forward.

### Presentation Days

Over the past two weeks I have had the pleasure and privilege of attending end of year Presentation Days, 7 in all. During each of the presentations I have taken the opportunity to reflect on the academic year and provide an insight into the many directions, in keeping with the strategic plan, the School is moving for 2020. The Presentation Days have provided me with the opportunity to thank all the staff, teaching and administration, curriculum and pastoral co-ordinators, Heads of Campus Mr Dib, Ms El-Ahmad, Ms Khan and Ms Kassem, Executive Mr Ahmed, Mr Aktypis, Mr Hamper, Mr Lord and Sheikh Fawaz for their dedication and leadership to ensure the best of education and care is provided to our students. It was wonderful to see so many parents attend the presentation days.



### Year 6 Graduations

A special Graduation has been held for Year 6 students in each of the three campuses. They have been quite spectacular celebrations indeed with students proudly presented and dressed in academic robes as they received their graduation certificates. I thank the Year 6 teachers of each Campus for their preparation of this special day.







### Outstanding NAPLAN Results Over Last 5 Years

It has been reported in the press today, that on a rolling five year period Malek Fahd Islamic School is ranked in the top 5% of the State for Secondary Schools, and in the top 10% of Primary Schools in NAPLAN. We are the leading Islamic school for Secondary NAPLAN results of this five year period. This is a testament to the hardwork and dedication of our Staff and Students.

### School Reports

School reports, Kindergarten to Year 10 are being finalised and will be posted to families either at the end of this week or during the first week of the school holidays. Thank you to all staff for preparing your child's reports.

### Leadership Positions for 2020

I am pleased to announce that we have now completed our recruitment for a number of new positions across the School. The appointments have been made after an exhaustive process that included 2 interviews with different panels, chaired by Mr David Hamper, and presentations by applicants.

**Deputy Heads of Campus:** Ms Charmand (Greenacre Primary); Ms Nachar (Greenacre Secondary); Ms Mitchell (Hoxton Park);

**Careers Advisor:** Ms Assaaf Khalaf

**Primary Greenacre Stage Co-ordinators:** Ms Gay Howard, Ms Iman Halbouni and Ms Rabia Parveen

**Welfare Coordinators:** Mr Ahmad Ismail – Boys(7,9,11): Ms Samara Jalloul – Boys(8,10,12): Ms Nasheen Parker – Girls(8,10,12): Ms Hanade Saddik – Girls(7,9,11)

**Year Advisors:** Year 7 - Mr Mustafa Roubaie(Boys), Ms Bahija Elmir(Girls), Year 8 - Mr Mohammed Hanif(Boys), Ms Alia Elmir(Girls), Year 9 - Mr Koray

Kurt(Boys), Ms Claudia Simon(Girls), Year 10 - Ms Thamina Kassar(Boys), Ms Fatima Jalloul(Girls), Year 11 - Mr Ali Merhi(Boys), Ms Doha Adra(Girls), Year 12 - Ms Sindus Hamid(Boys), Ms Rihana Bashir(Girls)

### Robotics Challenge Update:

The MFIS robotics team participated in the First Lego League Robotics challenge on Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> November 2019 at Bossley Park High School. It was a lovely Sunday morning and all the 10 students of the team were at the venue by 8:15 am. The team was very positive and confident about their work. There were 30 teams representing different school and robotics clubs. This is the first time that Malek Fahd Islamic School participated in the Robotics challenge and I was excited and confident that our team will make an impact at the challenge.



At the competition, the MFIS robotics team completed 6-7 missions and scored 300 points. They came sixth in the robotics game. This is a big achievement considering the fact that this is the first time at the event. We are confident that next year the team will perform even better. At the end, Students had a great day at the First Lego League Challenge, which will be remembered for a long time.

*Mr. Aqeel Mukaddam*

*MFIS Robotics Team Coach*

### Cricket Win in Wiburd Cup

Malek Fahd defeated Broughton College by eight wickets in a comprehensive display at Raby Cricket Complex on Monday, 18 November. The Wiburd Cup is a competition open to Independent Schools for Years 7-9 boys and is conducted by the ACIES School Sport Association. Matches are played with 40 overs per team. Congratulations to the team for a tremendous effort.



*G. Spotswood - Coach*

### Re-Enrolment Forms

All parents are reminded to submit their child/ren's Re-Enrolment forms to the Administration Office as soon as possible to secure their enrolment for 2020.

### School Fees

The School year is quickly coming to an end. All parents are reminded that the final Term School fees are now due. Please finalise any overdue accounts immediately.

### 2020 Term Dates

Please be advised the following are the dates of schooling for 2020. These dates have been published on the school website.

Term 1 - Wed, 29<sup>th</sup> January to Thu, 9<sup>th</sup> April 2020

Term 2 - Tue, 28<sup>th</sup> April to Fri, 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2020

Term 3 - Tue, 21<sup>st</sup> July to Fri, 25<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Term 4 - Tue, 13<sup>th</sup> October to Fri, 4<sup>th</sup> December 2020

### School Uniform

Parents are requested to make an appointment for fittings and uniform purchases by 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

### 2019 The year that was

There have been significant achievements for Malek Fahd this year, some of which are outlined below.

#### Teaching and Learning:

There have been significant inroads with the **curriculum** including the implementation of new syllabuses across Primary and Secondary. We have broadened the curriculum with the introduction of CAFS, Geography, Society and Culture and Economics in Stage 6. This year, we introduced VET courses, with a focus on Construction. Next year we will further develop this area of learning. We have begun the journey of launching into STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics) with a working

party that is planning and plotting STEAM initiatives in Primary and Secondary across the three campuses. Kindergarten at Hoxton Park have fully embraced the initiative.

There is a breadth of academic capacity within each cohort which requires in some cases a significant level of differentiation of programs. To assist, we have streamed the secondary classes of English, Mathematics, Science, Arabic and Islamic Studies. We provided a teacher to support students in Mathematics, English, Science, Arabic and Islamic Studies.

There has been a significant increase of **Learning Support** staff and Teacher Aides to assist our students. There are now 18 Learning Support Staff across the three campuses, Primary and Secondary.

In 2020 we will be developing a **Centre for Further Studies** at each of the Campuses. This will be an out of school hours program to provide additional support to students. This will aid further study and revision in order to promote academic success. In 2020 I will be exploring an option for a Special Unit or School for Students with Learning Needs. There is no other Islamic school that has a special unit to cater for the needs of students with educational needs.

**Technology facilities** and services at all campuses are effective and reliable, and support teaching, inter-campus video conferencing and administration. There have been tremendous strides to improve technologies and support across the three campuses. At a high level the achievements include: Server hardware replacement; upgrade to our Internet connection, video conferencing capability at Greenacre, Rollout of laptops, desktop computers and 31 Clever touch smart panels across 3 campuses, installation and upgrade of security cameras across the 3 campuses and email accounts created for Secondary students. The improved infrastructure will enable us to move ahead with the purchase of iPads that were fund-raised in 2017, and expanding our use of technology in the classroom.

**Wellbeing and Counselling.** Malek Fahd is leading the way in Wellbeing. The School has adopted measures to help students who require additional support due to wellbeing concerns. The facilitators of such wellbeing activities include class teachers, Year Advisors, Welfare, Wellbeing, Counsellors, sheikhs, students,

alumni, external presenters/mentors and wellbeing staff. In this way, all stakeholders play a role to improve the wellbeing of students. The School has developed a Wellbeing Framework and initiatives that encompass Kindergarten to 12. This has provided greater clarity and consistency across the whole School. These activities include workshops, mentoring, advocacy, community service and leadership/team building.

The weekly Homeroom Bulletin and topics developed by Wellbeing are used in Primary and Secondary across the three campuses and aim to enhance our student's mental, spiritual and physical wellbeing. Bulletins cover topics from bullying and respect to charity and manners to enhance our student's mental, spiritual and physical wellbeing. The Sheikhs at each campus have been provided with the themes for the term and asked to prepare sermons that support the homeroom bulletin topics that class teachers cover during the week. This reinforces the Islamic ethos by giving students an Islamic perspective. Year 11 Students have started Friday Sermons in the Prayer Hall. A student's positive wellbeing has a positive response to their academic achievement. MFIS has made a conscious decision to retain students in Years 11 and 12, irrespective of their academic ability. We are adjusting curriculum offerings, including TAFE and academic levels to meet the needs of students. A number of staff attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Islamic Forum in Melbourne with Ms Houda Kbbar presenting a paper of the wellbeing initiative being undertaken at Malek Fahd Islamic School.

**Counselling:** This year we increased our Counselling support to each of the three campuses. We now have three Counsellors and in 2020 there will be four Counsellors and a Psychologist.

**Community Service:** Malek Fahd looks beyond its gates and opens its heart to the needs of students, families and the wider community. Each Campus enjoys a high level of community involvement. Our students visit a local aged care facility, participate in the Hills Shire Council's Mental Health Forum and Orange Blossom Festival, Voices in Bloom Public Speaking, Australia's Biggest Morning Tea, Jeans for Genes Day, Pink Ribbon Day, White Ribbon Day, Daffodil Day, Food and Blanket Drive for Syria, R U OK? Day and the Amazon Rainforest. We provided Eid gift donations to the Children's Hospital in Liverpool. The NZ terrorist attack in March brought our School community together in

prayer and giving. During Ramadan, we opened our hearts to the School community with Iftars. The School works closely with LMA to provide students with several community programs. Hoxton Park Campus sponsors of four orphans, two Palestinian and two Indonesian children through Human Appeal, as well as establishing and maintaining nine water wells in other parts of the world.

**Sport** has blossomed well beyond expectations. We are excelling in gala days, athletic carnivals and cross-country carnivals. This year, Primary held the first swimming carnival. It included Year 5 and 6 students from the three campuses. A significant number of students were accepted to compete in the ISD Athletics competitions, and some have advanced to the AICES level of school competition. Hoxton Park has been accepted into our local community Green Valley Primary Schools Sports Association (PSSA). The smaller campuses of Hoxton Park and Beaumont Hills combined to form teams to compete for the first time in the ISD competitions.

**Co-curricular Activities** are being undertaken across the three campuses including Quran and public speaking competitions, choir, public speaking, spelling bee, netball, soccer, fitness and yoga. Children with an interest in technology have been able to extend their talent in our Robotics Club. I am delighted that Nasheed groups are being developed in both the Primary and Secondary setting at each Campus.

**Scholarships.** To acknowledge and support student skills and capacity we have introduced a range of scholarships: academic, all-rounder and religious, as well as supporting those in financial hardship. There has been a pleasing take up of the scholarships.

**Engaging and working with the community.** A number of IFTARs were held at the School, as well as the Executive members attend community IFTARs. Mr Ahmed and our Chaplain, Sheikh Fawaz, successfully reached out to the community to support families in a range of matters, including financial support. More recently, representatives of the parent body, Alumni, staff and the Board come together for a forum on Islamic Pedagogy and Strategic Planning for 2040. I have met with representatives of leading companies in this field to upgrade the School website to include social media and parent portals.

## **Maintenance**

With funding restored the school has undertaken a significant level of maintenance and development of the grounds.

Greenacre Campus: developed the Learning Support Centre and Arabic Staff Room, considerable replacement of air conditioners, carpet, refurbished the two halls, new kitchen installed to secondary and primary canteen. During the summer holidays there will be some modification of rooms to allow for more meeting rooms for Counsellors, Welfare, Sheikh Fawaz and administration.

Hoxton Park Campus: Two demountable classrooms; completion of second carpark; construction of a new TAS and Staffroom. For 2020 a new demountable Hall, seating some 600 students has been installed. A further three demountable classrooms and two meeting rooms will be installed during the summer holidays.

Beaumont Hills Campus: Installation of demountable classroom and toilet facilities; construction of a new TAS room. During the summer holidays the car park will be sealed, and quotations are being finalised for the returning of the playground area.

A special mention to Mr Charlie Cataldo for his hard work to ensure many of these works were completed

## **Thank you**

The opportunities being afforded to our students is of the highest quality and meets the diverse range of learning needs. I am proud and we are fortunate to be working with our high standard educators, our teachers and teacher aides. Their passion and determination; underpinned by skill, knowledge and empathy, has seen Teaching and Learning continue to raise progress and achievement.

While the academic development of the child is our focus, an equally important focus is the wellbeing and pastoral care of each child. To us, every child matters. I commend the work of the Year Advisors, Welfare Co-ordinators, Heads of Wellbeing and our Counsellors, in supporting the emotional wellbeing of our students, including Homeroom engagement, pastoral care programs and many community service initiatives.

A special thank you to the Heads of Campus Mr Dib, Ms El-Ahmad, Ms Kassem and Ms Khan, for leading their Campus so well. Thank you to all teachers and teacher aides, Counsellors, Administration and Maintenance staff, our nurse, Library staff and IT Staff for what you do every day to meet the needs of the students in your care. A very special thank you to my Executive Team,

Mr Ahmed, Mr Aktypis, Mr Hamper, Mr Lord and Sheikh Fawaz for their constant support and encouragement.

Education is about lifelong learning. At Malek Fahd it is about inspiring you to develop a passion for learning. It is about working hard, being a dedicated student, getting the best possible grades, engaging in sport and a variety of extra-curricular activities. Thank you to all students for your hard work this year. Your positive response and engagement is the best way to say thank you to our Staff who work hard for you. We are very grateful for the wonderful support from parents, students and staff throughout the year.

My final comment is one of thank you to the School Board, in particular Chair Dr Bennett for their excellent governance and steering the School through the very difficult period.

Students finish the academic school Year on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December and return Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2020. To assist the settling of students, Kindergarten will commence on Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> January.

I wish you all a safe and happy family time during the holidays and I look forward to welcoming you back in the 2020 academic year.

Kind regards,



Mr Bruce Rixon  
Principal