



29 March 2018

NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents/Guardians

Assalamu Alaykum WRWB

Parent – Teachers Interviews

Letters have been sent to families advising them of the planned parent-teacher interviews across the school in the coming weeks of this Term. I do hope that all parents take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to meet with your child's teachers to gain a further insight on how best parents and school can assist the academic growth of your child.

Interim Reports

Due to technical difficulty, regrettably, the planned interim report, including that for all secondary students has been delayed and will not arrive prior to parent-teacher interviews.

Leadership Directions: MFIS Deputy Positions

In the last 12 months, it has been a goal of the new School Council and myself to secure the presence of the School and to make changes to better equip the School to move forward into the future. Schools are complex organisations and expectations from students, parents, government and the community are increasing each year. This then presents the need for the School to consider processes which are designed to improve the service to our families and efficiencies in the school organisation.

An aspect of this process has been to assess the roles of those in leadership positions and to consider better ways of managing the school to bring about improvements in the many functions needed. A result of this process has been to create two new positions and to restructure a third which I feel will better meet the needs of the School.

The School will maximise the vast corporate knowledge of Mr Aiyub Ahmed by appointing him Deputy Principal-Pastoral and Community Services. Given his time at the School and his knowledge of the local community, I see this appointment as a positive step in

further refining our contact with our students, parents and local dignitaries.

You will appreciate that Mr Stephen Lord is currently the Acting Head of Hoxton Park. Mrs Mona Kassem returns from Maternity Leave in Term two which releases Mr Stephen Lord to be appointed in an acting capacity as Deputy Principal-Operations for the remainder of 2018. This acting position will be readvertised, internally and externally, later in the year with a view to appointing a person on a three-year contract from 2019.

The final position for Deputy Principal-Teaching and Learning will be advertised both internally and externally in Term two with a view to making this a contracted three-year agreement as early as possible but no later than the beginning of 2019.

New Business Manager

I am delighted to announce that Mr Dennis Aktypis will be the School's new Business Manager. Dennis is a Certified Practising Accountant (CPA), Australia Fellow Institute of Public Accountants (FIPA), Master of Business Administration (MBA) and has an Advanced Diploma in Accounting. Dennis is currently the RHR Group General Manager Finance (CFO) since 2011. He has a strong knowledge of vocational education and partnerships, in particular hospitality and community-focussed experience, and the requirements of the Australian secondary curriculum in relation to skills training in the school setting.

Dennis has founded and spearheaded long-running vocational education programs in partnership with two secondary schools located adjacent to the RHR Group site schools, and other schools in the area. This has provided young people of Western Sydney a real opportunity for skills development, long-term employment, and a place within their community to build early-career professional networks and



professional development. He has significant understanding of capital works and development, procurement, information systems, and HR management. His experience will bring best practice systems, processes, and business network to support the School's ongoing growth and development.

Dennis has three young children and we look forward to Dennis joining the Malek Fahd community on the 23rd April, 2018.

Farwell Music Teacher Mr Oblikov

After 16 years of extraordinary dedication to teaching Music at Malek Fahd Islamic School, Mr Oblikov has made the decision to retire. He will pursue his interests of composing playing and conducting. Mr Oblikov is outstanding educator with much patience and care for the students. He was selfless in his dedication to ensure the best of education to those under his care. We will be sorry not to see him in front of the classroom again and we wish him every success and happiness as he pursues his interests in the next stage of his life.

Strategic Planning for MFIS

The School Board is focused and moving forward and developing a five-year strategic plan that will assist the growth and development of the School across the three campuses. The Board will hold the strategic planning Day Friday, 22 June. In preparation for this strategic planning all stakeholders will have the opportunity to participate and provide views, through a survey, for the direction of the School. I am in the process of finalising a facilitator who has expertise in strategic planning and provide the board with support and oversee the collation of data gathered from the various focus groups.

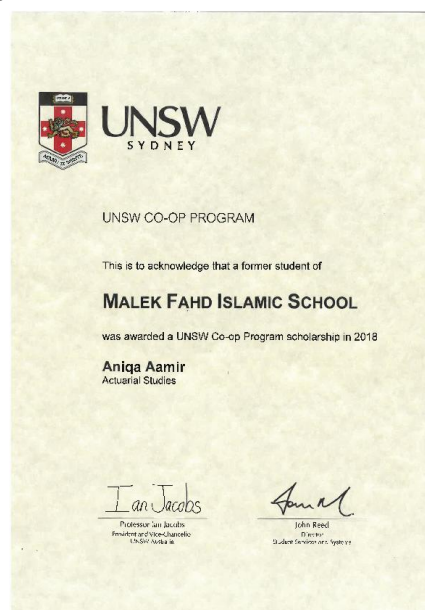
UNSW Co-op Scholarship

The UNSW Co-op Program is a career development scholarship that develops students into professionals, not just graduates at the end of their university degree. The program incorporates industry experience, leadership and professional development, networking, mentoring, and financial support. Scholarships are offered in the Business School, and Faculties of Engineering, Science, and The Built Environment.

We are very pleased to announce that Anika Aamir, our 2017 graduate, was awarded a UNSW Co-op scholarship. Anika is our first student to receive this wonderful award. It is such an achievement and we wish her the best of luck in her Actuarial Studies.

Applications to the UNSW Co Op Scholarship open 1st May and close 28th September. I encourage students interested in completing a Business, Engineering, Science or Maths degree to apply for a Co-op Scholarship. Candidates for Co-op Scholarship are selected not only on the basis of their academic ability, but also their communication skills, motivational and leadership potential. Up to 80 scholarships are available with a value of \$18,200 for up to 4 years.

For more information, please see the Careers Adviser, Ms Khalaf.



Secondary Athletics Carnivals

The day started with a rainbow in the courtyard. All students dressed in their house colours, participating to get points for their team. Blood, sweat and tears were shed. The grueling 400m race put everyone in competition mode. Eyes full of determination. Teammates chanting for their friends, the loudest battle cries anyone has ever heard. There were many activities involved such as the 100m, 200m, 400m and 800m races, relays, sack races and many more. There were also new activities that everyone enjoyed. Everyone was delighted when Mr. Rixon, Sheikh Fawaz, Mr. Dib and Mr. Ahmed all paid us a surprise visit. It made everyone even more competitive. The captains vs teachers relay was the highlight of the day. All teachers tried their hardest but were beaten by the house captains. The day ended with an Oporto's feast organized by the year 12 girls and the 100m finals. All team colours displayed excellent effort and sportsmanship throughout the day but MARWA was the one who stood out. To finish off, a special thanks to Ms. Mitchell and Ms. Haddad as well as all other staff members for making it a truly remarkable day.

Layelle Hamouda and Tassnime El-Saddik 10G2



Primary Athletics Carnivals

The Crest sports complex was an immaculate sea of blue, red, yellow and green as our enthusiastic students, teachers and parents cheered at our sports carnival. Years 5-6 were on the 19th of March and K-4 on the 27th.

K-4 was our first and fabulous attempt at combining the majority of the primary school and what an event it was! Over 700 students and over 200 parents gathered in sports cheer to support kids across various athletics events such as running races, sack races, tug of war, long jump, high jump and egg and spoon.

Our teachers were amazing with their passion and dedication and our parents were marvelous with their compliance and support of their kin! We thank all who were involved and anticipate a fabulous event next



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 hosted Harmony Day celebrations. Greenacre Primary's celebration of Harmony Day was certainly a very colourful event and there are many highlights. Special thank you to all for the organisation including our MCs for the day. It was a delight to hear students seeing play instruments. Special thank you to Ms El-Ahmad acquire and Ms Abdat for the drama and flag presentation. The smoking ceremony was a wonderful touch and perfect to the day.

For our Secondary campus, our Principal Mr Rixon, opened a whole school assembly with a Welcome to Country which was followed by a Quranic recitation. The choir led the singing of the Australian National Anthem and eloquently sang an indigenous song. Students were encouraged to bring in cultural artefacts that were placed on display. The aim of this was to promote a greater understanding of students' cultural heritage. Students came dressed in either the colour orange or multicultural clothing and participated in a fashion parade. Overall, the day was a huge success!

Canberra Excursion

Thursday the 22nd of March, the year 9 girls PASS class arrived bright and early to school. We were all very hyped for the day laid out ahead. We settled into our seats and got comfortable for a three-and-a-half-hour drive. The AIS in Canberra was a beautiful sight after sitting for three-and-a-half-hours. Our tour guide Stella was a junior skier and in four years' time she'd be an Olympian. She showed us the gymnastics area, the aquatic centre and the gym. She showed us how all the equipment worked. We got to see Olympians in action; swimming, lifting weights even jumping in the air. After the tour we went to some courts and played sport. The purpose of this trip was to educate us on coaching. The drive back everyone was very tired. We would like to thank Mrs Mitchell and Mrs Barker for organising the trip and supervising us and also Mr Rixon for giving us the opportunity to visit such an amazing place.

Shaymaa Yaghi and Rayanne Bizri 9G3



Iftar Dinner

In the Spirit of Ramadan, our School will be hosting Iftar dinners for each campus and bring together our students, parents and the community in this most Holy Month of the Islamic Calendar. The cost of each Iftar will be kept as low as possible so it's affordable for all families to attend.

Tickets for each Iftar will be presold to aid in organising and catering for these events.

The planned dates for the MFIS Iftars are as follows: -

1) Greenacre Campus – (on site)

Primary: K-6 - Tuesday, 22nd May,

Secondary: 7-12 – Thursday, 24th May

Years 10-12: Wednesday, 30th May (will be hosted by the MFIS SRC)

2) Beaumont Hills Campus – Wednesday, 23rd May

A reminder note together with the ticket details will be sent out at a later date. We would be honoured if you joined us on this occasion so we can build bridges of communication and strengthen our relationship.

Gala Dinner and 30th Anniversary Celebrations

Malek Fahd Islamic School is celebrating its 30th Anniversary this year with a Gala Dinner on Saturday, 22nd of September. A Gala Dinner will be a wonderful opportunity for us to celebrate our School and bring together the wider community. It would be a great honour to the School to receive your positive response to attend as our guest. It will also provide us with the opportunity to fundraise for the educational needs of our students.

Elevate Education Study Skills Workshop

Our Year 12 Students will be involved in a 2-hour study skills workshop on Friday 13th April. The first seminar focuses on study skills and the second is on time management. The purpose of these workshops is to provide our students with effective, practical strategies to improve their confidence and results. Elevate Education use research-based methods and resources to help students of all abilities to develop habits which facilitate more effective learning, improve learning outcomes and increase overall student performance. We hope to provide a follow-up workshop next term to further prepare our students for their HSC.

Beaumont Hills Quran Competition

The Beaumont Hills Quran Competition will be held next Thursday the 5 April. I encourage and wish students well in their recital.

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, 26th April 9.00am to 3.00pm

Friday, 27th April 9.00am to 3.00pm

Monday, 30th 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.

Yours sincerely

Mr Bruce Rixon
Principal