



22 April 2020

Welcome to Term 2 Newsletter

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Assalamu Alaykum WRWB,

Welcome to Term 2 and Welcome to the holy month of **Ramadan**.

I thank our wonderful staff, students and parents for the way we have quickly adjusted to the needs put upon us by COVID-19. In an extremely short time, we turned to online learning where technology at home, rather than in the traditional classroom setting, became the new normal. Soon we will be able to commence return to School.

School commences Tuesday 28th of April using remote learning that commenced at the end of last Term. The School will be open for any students who wish to have their lessons at school. Students will be supervised in the classrooms and will continue with online lessons.

Ramadan School hours remain same as previous years with School finishing at 2.00pm to ensure students, parents and staff are home ready to break the fast. For students who will be attending School and catching buses home, please note all buses will leave by 2.15pm.

Students returning to School

11th May has been set as the date by the Premier of New South Wales for students to commence returning to school. The School Executive has been in discussions during these holidays on the best model to suit Malek Fahd Islamic School to commence the process of students returning to school. Details of this process will be provided to parents and students during the next two weeks.

Technology

At the end of Term 1, a survey was sent to all families requesting information about technology devices at home such as desktop computers, laptops and iPads for student use to complete their schoolwork. Students in Years 11 and 12 particularly need a device for their own use so they can effectively complete their schoolwork at home without interruption. Similarly, we are looking at providing a device to share one between two MFIS School students while undertaking remote learning. It has not been easy for the school to access this technology. Our Head of IT, Mr Vinhson Nguyen, has done a remarkable job in sourcing as many devices as possible. I am grateful to those parents who took up the opportunity to collect these devices during school holidays. It is clear that school will not return to normal for much of Term 2 and it is important that curriculum time is preserved the best way possible during this time.

Ramadan

Ramadan commences this week. We know that Ramadan is important as it is when an angel visited the Prophet Muhammad (SAW) and revealed to him the Holy Quran. This year will be a little strange in how we celebrate Ramadan. Because of COVID-19 we will not be able to celebrate Ramadan in the same way as we usually do with Ramadan Quran competitions, poster competitions and Iftars. However, there are some things that we can do and that is to pray and think of those in need with food and blanket drives.

Usually we would have **Ramadan Initiatives** where 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. We can still do these things, just a little differently.

Mr Ahmed, Deputy Principal, Welfare and Community will provide more information on Ramadan Initiatives. Our School Chaplain, Sheikh Fawaz, has arranged separate Ramadan activities for students in Kindergarten to Year 9. Sections of these activities have been printed and posted to families. The full set has been emailed to parents. We have made copies available that can be picked up at School if you are unable to print at home. I hope you enjoy these Ramadan activities.

Cleaning the School

Holiday time has provided us with the opportunity to complete ongoing maintenance and to clean the school. All rooms and offices have been “fogged” and sterilised. We will continue a rigorous cleaning program until such times the coronavirus has passed us.

Wellbeing Activities:

Please keep up your exercises while you are at home. Our Heads of Wellbeing, Mr Saddik, Ms Charmand, Ms Kbbar, Mr Khoder and School Counsellors have created and placed on the website some wellbeing posters and activities for you to use during the holidays. I do hope that you use them.

Financial support

The School is aware of the potential hardship parents may be experiencing. We appreciate the efforts of those families who continue to pay their fees. Parents who may be experiencing financial difficulties are asked to contact me or the Business Manager, Mr Dennis Aktypis for confidential discussions.

ANZAC Day

Anzac Day is a special time for us to stop, reflect and be grateful for all those who sacrifice themselves to ensure we are in a better place to raise a family. Over the past few months Australia has experienced drought, fires, floods and coronavirus. Many people are feeling the hardship of not being at work. Students are feeling the hardship not seen their friends and being at school. This year Anzac Day will not be commemorated as it usually would. Still, there is an opportunity for us to stop on Saturday 26th of April to give thanks for those who have done and continue to do so much for us. *Lest We Forget*.

We all miss seeing you at School. I know your teacher has tried to call you and say “hello” and to see how you are as you learn from home. But while this is wonderful of our teachers, isn't the same is it? We all miss the happy laughter in the corridor, in the classroom and you working hard at your lessons. While I do hope that you have enjoyed the holiday, it will be wonderful to have you back at school very soon.

Ramadan Mubarak to you and your family.

Kind regards



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