



# Green Valley Islamic College

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## GVIC

Respect

Ownership

Caring

Knowledge

Safety

### UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

#### APRIL

5 Parent - Teacher  
Evening

7 Last day of Term 1

10-25 School Holidays

26 First Day of Term 2

#### MAY

2 After - School Classes  
Commence

9 NAPLAN - Language  
Conventions and  
Writing

10 NAPLAN - Reading

11 NAPLAN - Numeracy

## PRIMARY NEWSLETTER

### Deputy Principal's Message

'There is no gift a parent can give his child that is better than good manners' (Prophet Muhammad PBUH). Research has also shown that student behaviour does have an impact on learning as student engagement or participation is affected. Students who are less distracted tend to progress at a much faster rate compared to those who lack concentration in studies.

As a Positive Behaviour Support (PBS) school, Green Valley Islamic College places major emphasis on promoting positive behaviour through rewarding, especially with the Dojo system. In particular, as a PBS school, we have introduced 'Values Education'. Each week, explicit lessons are being conducted in order to teach social skills. The focus for our school is Respect, Ownership, Caring, Knowledge and Safety (ROCKS). Islamic perspective is also used and is reinforced by the Arabic department as well. Parents can help their children to consolidate on these skills by sharing Islamic stories and hadith that focus on actions that depict appropriate behaviour. For each social skill, the following hadiths are being highlighted as a whole-school approach:

- Respect – 'Respect the ones you learn from and the ones you teach' (Al Bukhari)
- Ownership – 'Each one of you is a leader and you will be questioned on the ownership of this role' (Muslim)
- Caring – 'The believers are like a structure; each supporting and caring for the other' (Muslim)
- Knowledge – 'The seeking of knowledge is obligatory for every Muslim' (Al Tirmidhi)
- Safety – 'A Muslim is one whom through their hands and tongue others are safe' (Al Bukhari)

K-6 teachers are currently focusing on explicitly teaching RESPECT. Activities include verbal discussions, concept maps, role play, and simple notes on respect. The school is humbly requesting for parental cooperation in making this crucial venture a success as we all are aware of the fact that children usually look up to adults as role-models, demonstrating appropriate social skills. Students will also benefit from regular reminders that they are individuals who do not have to replicate behaviour that is inappropriate.

To understand the expected behaviour that demonstrates respect, students can be asked certain questions, such as:

- What does respect look like at the canteen? (Use of polite words such as, 'thank you', 'excuse me', etc.)
- What does respect look like in the playground? (Helping others, taking turns at the bubblers)
- What does respect look like during Sports? (Sharing play equipment, playing safe games)

Positive Behaviour Support Strategy is based on the firm belief that students learn appropriate behaviour in the same way they learn to read – through instruction, practice, feedback and encouragement. Teachers anticipate parental support as we continue to question – 'How would we evidence positive behaviour in our homes and classrooms?'

"One of the most important things we adults can do for young children is to model the kind of person we would want them to be".

Carol B Hillman

## Kindergarten

A warm welcome to both you and your child. After only a few weeks we are very happy to see our newest students settling into Kindergarten as they continue to make a smooth transition from preschool/home to the school environment.

We have been very busy in the classroom learning lots of new things about forces (Science), our bodies (PDH), families (History) and numbers. We have started to learn about hearing and manipulating sounds in words. A group of sight words will also be taught in class each week and sent home to be practiced using the yellow sight word booklet.

Don't forget to check the Kindergarten noticeboards as we will update these regularly. These noticeboards are located outside each kindergarten classroom. While you're having a look, don't forget to checkout our weekly stars!

We thank you for your support and look forward to working with you to help your children progress throughout the year.



## Year One

Year One teachers welcome back all parents and students to what promises to be a busy, fun and rewarding school year. We are impressed with the way Year One students have settled so quickly in their new classrooms. Students have been engaged in activity-based learning by providing many opportunities for "hands on" and "minds on" activities.

The photos below show Year One students using their feet to measure objects in the classroom!

We look forward to parents' ongoing support and cooperation in educating our students.



## Year Two

Term One has been a fruitful start to the year. The students have been learning about the traditional custodians of Australia and more importantly, the local region.

Students have also been learning about how the Indigenous and Torres Strait Islander people lived on the land, their sacred beliefs, Aboriginal landmarks in Australia, their culture and amazingly intricate artwork.

Year Two students visited the Australian Museum on the 27<sup>th</sup> February to enhance their knowledge about Indigenous Australians and had a hands-on experience to consolidate their learning in the classroom.



## Year Three

Year Three has been busy this term learning about a range of concepts in all the KLAs. In Science, students are learning about lifecycles while in History and English (integrated), we have been learning about Australia. In Literacy, Grade Three have been busy writing persuasive texts and using Literacy Pro. It's good to see that lots of children are on a level above 300. In Numeracy, our aim is to focus on problem solving and learning a variety of ways to solve and answer questions. One of the strategies students are using to achieve this is through Mathematics.

Term One has been an eventful term, with events such as Health and Safety Day and Harmony Day. Students had a visit from the former Bulldogs player, Hazem El-Masri, who talked to the students about healthy eating and safety.

Insha Allah the year ahead will be full of learning experiences and we look forward to continuing our journey.

Students are going to sit the NAPLAN exams in Term 2 (May 9-11). We wish them all the very best.



## Year Four

Year Four students have embarked upon a very busy and important year of their school life. This term, Year Four students are looking into 'Journey Back to 1788' for English and History. Creative Arts is also closely linked with the unit where students learn about the work of an Aboriginal Artist, and to further consolidate their learning they would be going on an excursion to the Hyde Park Barracks in Term Two. The Science unit 'Build It Up' allows students to learn about the impact of humans on the environment. They are involved in designing and building a "Green Theme Park". In PDH students are learning about Systems of the Body where they discuss the function of each system and the body parts associated with it.

A lot of exciting and engaging programs have been planned for this year to make learning enjoyable and interactive for the students.



## Year Five

Welcome to Term One. This term is where students and teachers get to know each other. The students also took time to know each other. Year Five students learnt about neighbours in English. They learnt how to write persuasive and imaginative writing during writing session. In Science students learnt about different types of electricity used in everyday life.

Numeracy is one of the Key Learning Areas where the students use the strategies learnt in class and apply in the day to day activities. Learning about helpful and harmful drugs is an eye opener for the students as they are aware of the effects of harmful drugs. Knowledge in colours stimulates the creative mind of the students.

The students were also keen to meet the special visitor Hazem El Masri on Health and Safety Day.

Year Five students are looking forward to going on an excursion related to Science soon.



## Year Six

Term One has seen the Year Six students adjust well into their role as Senior Students, although a successful year will only come with a lot of hard work, dedication and perseverance.

The English and History unit of work this term was complemented with an excursion to the Australian Museum and the NSW Parliament House where students were given the opportunity to partake in some role-play and experience what it feels like to be a politician. We had some serious debating from the 'Opposition' when the 'Government' wanted to extend the school week to include Saturday!

Scholastic Learning Zone, PRC, Mathletics and Problem solving all supplement the Literacy and Numeracy programs. The 'Crunch and Sip' introduced this term is welcomed by students and reinforces a healthy life-style.

Our focus this year is to develop independent learners who take responsibility for their learning and choices that they make. Congratulations to our Head Girl, Habibah Aiyas, and Head Boy, Zubair Dean.





# Sports Report

## Health and Safety Day

Health and Safety Day was a fantastic way to start the year. We had special visitors on the day who spoke to our students about the importance of health and safety. Our school was lucky to have Hazem El Masri from the Canterbury Bulldogs to talk about maintaining healthy lifestyles and share some of his personal experiences.

Ms Alice Zhu, who is our new Live Life Well @ School buddy, held a presentation about healthy food choices and the importance of bringing a healthy lunchbox to school.

Senior Constable Mary Watson from Green Valley Police held a cyber-bullying session for Years 5 & 6.

Chase and Marshal from the 'Paw Patrol' visited Years One, Two & Kindergarten.

A big thank you to all of the Primary Staff, Support Staff and Parent helpers (Mrs Mariam Achrafi and Mrs Chahide Hejazi) on the day!

## Sporting Competitions

Selected students from year six will represent the school in the 'Cops vs Kids Oz Tag' competition organised by the NSW Police. The competition will be held on the 30<sup>th</sup> of March, and the results will be provided soon after.

## A message to adults – 'Kids love rewards'

Praise healthy habits. This may be snacking on fruit, drinking water and being active. Use treats like stickers, special games, outings, hugs and praise. *Avoid using food as a reward (e.g. lollies and junk food).*

## Health & Safety Day Donations

The school would like to thank the following local businesses for their generous donations towards Health and Safety Day:

- Valley Fresh, inside Green Valley Plaza for their delicious fruits.
- Subway, inside Green Valley Plaza for their fresh white bread rolls
- Greenland Fruit Market, in Green Valley for their tasty fruits and veggies

