



Newsletter

Green Valley Islamic College

264 Wilson Road
Green Valley NSW 2168
Ph: (02) 8783 9188

www.gvic.nsw.edu.au
Fax: (02) 87839187
Email: admin@gvic.nsw.edu.au

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GVIC

Respect

Ownership

Caring

Knowledge

Safety

School Term Dates

Term 1

Friday 27th January –
Friday 7th April

Term 2

Wednesday 26th April –
Friday 30th June

Term 3

Monday 17th July –
Friday 22nd September

Term 4

Monday 9th October –
Friday 15th December

ACTING PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents/Guardians

Assalaamu Alaikum

All praise belongs to Allah (SWT) for his mercy, blessings and guidance. I would like to thank all the staff for their hard work during Term One. It is pleasing to note that the majority of our students are now accustomed to the school routine and working as per the expectations of the teachers and the school in general. The teaching and learning environment is very conducive and productive. I thank all the parents for their continued support and encourage them to ensure that their child(ren) understand the importance of being properly equipped and prepared for school each day so that they can engage fully in each lesson.

NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) inspectors were satisfied with the documents presented to them by the teachers and confirmed in writing that GVIC is compliant regarding ROSA, HSC, Educational Programs and Building and Premises Maintenance.

Parking

Parents have both a legal and a moral obligation to obey the laws relating to speed zones and parking outside schools. Please note that severe penalties are now in place

for breaking the law in school zones. In particular remember the following:

- Do not stop in 'No Stopping' and 'No Parking' zones.
- Do not allow students to enter cars in traffic.
- Stop at the crossing when students wish to cross and wait until students have finished crossing.
- Remember to observe courtesy at all times.
- Do not park on private property's grass area.
- The Drop Off zone is NOT a parking area.

Payment of School fees

A small number of parents who are yet to pay the fees are requested to do so immediately. We appreciate prompt payment of school fees. School fees can be paid by cash, EFT (in person or over the phone) and BPAY. Our Biller Code is 255943. Each family has been allocated a unique Reference Number. This appears on the bottom left hand corner of the family statement. Please enter this Reference Number to ensure that the payment is correctly allocated to your child's account.

School Holidays

The last day of school for Term 1 is **Friday, 7th April**. Students will return to school on **Wednesday, 26th April**. Please note that Monday, 24th April is a pupil free day and Tuesday, 25th April is ANZAC day public holiday.

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL'S (SECONDARY) MESSAGE

Years Seven to Eleven Assessments

Years Seven, Eight, Nine, Ten and Eleven students have ongoing assessments in their subjects which are completed during the term. The Half-Yearly Examination will be in Term 2, timetables will be issued to students a fortnight before the examination commences.

Year Twelve

Year Twelve Half-Yearly Examination will commence in Week 10, Term 1, Wednesday 29th March. The Examination timetable has already been handed out to the students. The Half-Yearly Examination contributes to a significant proportion to the student's final HSC mark for each course; therefore students must ensure they are thoroughly prepared. Year Twelve teachers have provided their classes with all the support necessary for students to perform well, the onus is on students to organize their time effectively to revise and meet assignment deadlines. These assignments should be worked on over a period of time and not just the night before the due date. Teachers expect to see quality detailed work and thorough preparation for examinations which will be reflected in the student's examination paper. Letters will be sent home informing parents of students who are causing concern in areas of academic performance.

NAPLAN and NAPLAN Preparation

The school has been conducting Afternoon Classes for Year Seven and Nine students in order to develop their literacy and numeracy skills and in preparation for the NAPLAN Examination. Parents are encouraged to ensure their child utilizes the two week break to revise for the NAPLAN examination.

In July 2016, the NSW government announced changes to the Higher School Certificate (HSC) for 2020 which affects current Year Nine students. These changes require students to demonstrate a minimum standard of functional literacy and numeracy in the NAPLAN examination to be eligible for the HSC.

The NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) has provided the following information to schools:

- *From 2020, students need to demonstrate a minimum literacy and numeracy standard to be eligible for the HSC as measured by NAPLAN tests*
- *There will be multiple opportunities to pass online reading, writing and numeracy tests before and after the HSC.*
- *Students with Band 8 or above for Year 9 NAPLAN results in reading, writing and numeracy will not need to sit the online tests.*
- *Some students, including those studying Life Skills courses, will not need to meet the minimum standard to be awarded the HSC.*
- *Students who have recently arrived in the country and who have a background other than English will not need to meet the minimum standard.*

What this means in practice is that:

- The minimum standard to obtain an HSC is Band 8 or above in Year Nine NAPLAN reading, writing and numeracy tests.
- Students who do not achieve a Band 8 in any one of these tests will be given the opportunity to undertake online reading, writing and numeracy tests of an equivalent standard to NAPLAN in Years Ten, Eleven and Twelve. Tests will be of approximately 45 minutes duration.
- Students will only have to sit the online tests in areas in which they have not yet met the minimum standard. For example, if they achieve a Band 9 in Reading and Numeracy, but a Band 7 in Writing, they need only undertake the Writing test.
- All students will be entitled to undertake the HSC in Year Twelve. However, students who do not meet the minimum standard in one or more areas of literacy and numeracy by the time they sit their HSC examinations, will receive a Record of School Achievement (ROSA), rather than an HSC.
- Students who **do not** achieve the minimum standard by the completion of the HSC (Year

Twelve) will have a further 5 years after starting the HSC to continue completing the online tests in an attempt to reach the minimum standard. Once they achieve the minimum standard, they will receive their HSC.

What this means for parents and carers is that:

Parents and carers of students are encouraged to do the following:

- Reassure your child that a failure to meet the minimum standard in the Year Nine NAPLAN tests does not mean they have jeopardised their HSC.
- Encourage your child to perform to the best of their ability in the Year Nine NAPLAN tests.
- Encourage your child to read widely. Reading a variety of texts will enable students to improve their vocabularies, enhance their writing and expand their overall knowledge. Parents are encouraged to ask their child what are they reading and questions about the text. Don't limit your child's reading to fiction. Newspapers, magazines, online articles and non-fiction books are also an excellent source of reading material, particularly as they develop a broader vocabulary.
- Support your child's full attendance at school, and monitor the completion of classwork, homework and assessment tasks.
- Engage in Parent-Teacher Night and other events which enable conversations with teachers about how best to support your child's learning.

If you would like to read more about these changes, please access the following website:

- <http://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/policy-research/stronger-hsc-standards/minimum-standard.html>

Parents are requested to ensure early intervention and support for their child by monitoring the child's progress during early primary education since a good foundation

will ensure academic success. Please also ensure that the monitoring is consistent over the years.

Parent-Teacher Meeting

Parent-teacher meeting for Years Seven to Eleven students is in Week 11 on Thursday, 6th April. An Interim report will be handed out and parents can discuss their child's progress with the subject teachers. Parent notification and the booking sheet have been handed out to the students. Year Twelve parent-teacher meeting and the distribution of reports will be on Wednesday, 3rd May.

Mr Jay Halai

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

The English Department would like to remind you that the Premier's Reading Challenge for 2017 has begun, and it would be lovely to see all of our students partake in the challenge of reading twenty books. It is important that students develop a passion and appreciation for reading, as it will assist them in gaining vital life skills. Furthermore, it will help students with their NAPLAN TEST, which will be going online from 2018. In other words, 2018 NAPLAN will no longer be a pen and paper test, it will all be conducted online. As for 2017 NAPLAN, it will take place in early May and a reminder that students should be studying at home. The school is also providing additional assistance in the afternoons, where English NAPLAN lesson is taking place on alternative weeks. Students have been given a timetable scheduling English afternoon lessons.

Previously, parents would have received an email or SMS text regarding Wordflyers by the English Coordinator explaining how parents can now access the online program from home. Additionally, Wordflyers has a section on NAPLAN with past papers, real-time marking and answers for parents and students. So please take advantage of the program and use it with your child(ren).

Lastly, an email and SMS text has been sent to all parents of Stage Four students as to how to improve English skills by the English Coordinator. It will be

greatly appreciated if parents reinforce the message to their child(ren) of the importance of the English language and the necessary life skills associated with its learning. Strong fundamental skills that are built in Stage Four will ease the transition into Stage Six English and future endeavours.

Ms Pan
English Department

MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT



CBA Smart Sessions

Research shows that relevant learning means effective learning and the old drill-and-kill method is neurologically useless. Relevant, meaningful activities that both engage students emotionally and connect with what they already know are what helps build neural connections and long-term memory storage. Hence, the Maths Department in collaboration with The Commonwealth Bank of Australia have developed sessions to help make the students' learning more meaningful. The CBA presenter offered sessions to our students in the auditorium to address smart choices, smart spending, smart saving, smart earning and smart investing.

The sessions proved to be very beneficial, practical and relevant to students' knowledge for now and the future. We hope to continue to have this collaboration with the CBA to enhance our students' learning.

NAPLAN Classes

Every week Tuesday and Thursday the Maths Department runs NAPLAN classes to help build the essential skills the students need to know to succeed. In addition, every week in class students are exposed to past papers to help them become accustomed to the style of the Numeracy paper. Students have shown an interest and yearning to learn more. It is hoped that Year Seven and Nine students do well in NAPLAN Examinations.

Ms Chouman
Senior Mathematics Coordinator

SPORTS REPORT

Faith Shield

Due to wet grounds (council closures), the Year Nine - Ten Oz-tag gala day was cancelled at short notice. Apologies to all those inconvenienced by the decision. Parents/students will be informed as soon as a decision is made regarding re-scheduling the event.

Youth Week - Liverpool Multi Sports Festival

Ten lucky students will be selected to participate in the "Youth Week Multi Sports Festival". The all-day event will be held on 6 April, 2017 at the Edwin Wheeler Oval.

The event will provide students with the opportunity to get involved, try out new sports, participate in games and will end with a colour run. The event will include lunch and other giveaways for the students. All the activities are provided with support from NSW Youth Week, local youth services and Liverpool City Council.

We have a wonderful program of activities planned for the day and we have the support of the Western Sydney Wanderers Football Club, West Tigers and Bulldogs NRL clubs as well as a couple of new sports that students may not have previously tried.

GoActive- Trisports Gala Day for girls

The 'GoActive' Inter-school Tri-sports Gala Day will be held on Wednesday, 17 May for high school girls. Further information will be provided closer to the date.

Physical Education (PE)

Students are reminded that they need to bring their school sports uniform for PE classes. They need to change in and out of uniform for all PE class. Students are not to use deodorants in change rooms as they can trigger an asthma attack.

WELFARE REPORT

Welfare Incursions

Brainstorm productions provided a live theatre experience to our Year Seven – Ten students. They watched Sticks and Stones; and Cyberia.

Cyberia depicts two teen characters that are increasingly using texting, tweeting, online gaming, Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, MSN and (embarrassing) selfies to express themselves. In time, this takes a nasty twist leading to cyber bullying and the spreading of hurtful rumours online. The characters suddenly realise they can't just press the "undo" button to save their relationships, reputation or their dignity. Cyberia will encourage students to think carefully before they 'post', 'tweet' or 'snap' and to stop, think and reboot.

Sticks and Stones is a fearless exploration of violence and aggression and its devastating consequences. The play is confronting and performed by two highly-trained actors, who as young role models, can genuinely connect with the audience and make it clear that masculinity and violence are NOT one and the same. The production encourages teenagers to re-think their views about violence, abuse and controlling behaviour. The performance is followed by an after-show discussion that examines student's attitudes, challenges stereotypes and aims to breakdown any pre-conceived ideas about violence being acceptable.



Camp

Year Seven and Ten students have been chosen to visit Camp Yarramundi, the YMCA of Sydney's outdoor Education Centre near Richmond.

The students of Green Valley Islamic College have been regular visitors to Camp Yarramundi over the past years. The YMCA has been running camps and Outdoor Education Programs for over 35 years and maintains a progressive approach to providing opportunities for children to have fun and develop skills and personal

qualities through interaction and challenge in the outdoors.

This is achieved through sequenced programming, and by matching adventure and challenge to the skill and ability levels of children of all ages. By utilising the very best facilities along with qualified and enthusiastic staff, YMCA and the supervising teachers are committed to ensuring that every child attending the camp has an enjoyable and valuable experience in a safe and caring environment. All the programs are run in line with YMCA's core values of honesty, caring, respect and responsibility.

The students have experienced a jam packed fun-filled day of team building and adrenalin rush activities such as the giant swing, high ropes, kayaking and the alpine rescue. I strongly recommend all students experience Camp Yarramundi as it helps build friendship, independence, team building and communication skills plus much more.

Program Dates:

01/05/2017 to 02/05/2017 for Years 7 and 10 boys – 1 night 2 days

27/04/2017 to 28/04/2017 for Years 7 and 10 girls– 1 night 2 days

Departure time: 8.45 am (Immediately after Roll Call students are to assemble in Undercover B for announcements)

Return time: Approximately 3.30 pm

Cost: \$190 Please pay by 27th March 2017.

Payment is to be made at the front office to Ms Yasmin.

NO ELECTRONIC GADGETS will be permitted, if seen they will be confiscated and the mobile phone/electronic gadgets policy will be implemented.

Vegetarian food will be provided and prayer facilities will be available. The Medical and Consent form attached to the note given out last week must be completed and returned as soon as possible to Ms Chouman.

In addition, please read the Camp Guidelines and Gear Checklist to ensure all students have everything they need for camp. Whilst challenge and enjoyment are integral components of the programs, student safety is our first priority. Hence, it is essential that you read with

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL'S (PRIMARY) MESSAGE

your child/ward, and consent to, the guidelines outlined herein. To ensure the safety and enjoyment of all involved, any student putting themselves or their peers at risk of injury through a breach of these guidelines will be required to be picked up and returned home. We look forward to providing your child with a valuable and enjoyable, lifetime experience.



Harmony Day

Our diversity makes Australia a great place to live. Harmony Day is a celebration of our cultural diversity – a day of cultural respect for everyone who calls Australia home. Harmony Day was a great success and the PBS committee did a marvellous job organising it.

The message of Harmony Day is ‘everyone belongs’, the Day aimed to engage people, respect cultural and religious diversity and foster a sense of belonging for everyone.



Mrs Chouman
Welfare Coordinator

Assalaamu Alaikum

On behalf of Primary School, I would like to thank parents for their continuous cooperation in enabling their children to receive additional lessons in Literacy and Numeracy through the After School Support Program. In particular, Years Three and Five are having intensive sessions on Tuesdays and Thursdays to “catch-up” with any concept that needs to be reinforced. While we are pleased with the student’s participation, we would like to remind parents that as per requirements described in the permission slip, siblings of students need to be picked up on time as there is no supervision after 3:45pm in the afternoons.

After School Support Classes

The afternoon classes will continue this term until the last week (Week 11). However, the last sessions for Years Three and Five will be in Week 2 of Term Two as NAPLAN examinations will be in Week 3 of Term Two. Years One, Two, Four and Six will also have their last session for this Term in Week 11 and will continue classes next term until Week 5 as the 26th of May is the tentative date for Ramadan to commence. Please also note that there will be no afternoon classes during Ramadan in Term Two.

Holiday Classes for Years Three and Five

All parents are encouraged to take the opportunity to support their child’s Literacy/ Numeracy development by ensuring that the students participate in the holiday classes that will run during the second week of the Term One holidays, from the 18th – 21st of April, 2017. The classes will commence at 9:00am and finish at 1:00pm. Students will get 15 minutes recess break to refresh. **All students will benefit from this regardless of their ability.** Please contact the Deputy Principal for further details.

After School Support Classes		
	Years 3 & 5	Years 1, 2, 4 & 6
When	Tuesdays & Thursdays 3:30-4:30pm	Tuesdays 3:30-4:30pm
Last lesson	Term 2, Week 2	Term 2, Week 5

2017 NAPLAN Timetable			
	Tuesday 9/05/17	Wednesday 10/05/17	Thursday 11/05/17
Year 3	Language Conventions and Writing	Reading	Numeracy
Year 5	Language Conventions and Writing	Reading	Numeracy

NAPLAN Examinations

Parents are reminded that the external exam National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) for Years Three and Five are scheduled as above. Please ensure that students are not absent during the examination. However, to cater for students who cannot do the examination due to sickness on the scheduled days, upon submission of medical certificate, students will be allowed to sit for the examination on Friday 12th May, 2017.

Students will benefit from regular attendance, reading daily, completing homework and using e-learning resources such as Mathletics, Literacy Pro, etc. Students are also encouraged to continue with Excel Test Zone using the same passwords that they were provided with last year. For further clarification, parents are encouraged to contact the class teacher through the school office.

SRC/PBS Induction

Students voted for the Head Boy and Head Girl as well as the Vice - Captains for the girls and boys. Selected students who have been displaying exemplary behaviour were chosen as the PBS representatives. SRC/PBS students were inducted for their roles through a special event observed on the 22nd of February. Year 1G's presentation on 'I am blessed' was enjoyed by all. Congratulations to all the SRC/PBS representatives.



Health and Safety Day

Students had a fun and interactive day, focussing on the importance of Health and Safety. The key message for the students was that a healthy body will help to have an active mind and this is supported by research. A number of guest speakers, including Senior Constable Watson from Green Valley Police addressed the Year 5 and 6 students on Cyber Safety and Alice Zhu from the South East Health District focused on Healthy Lunch boxes for Years K-6. Students also had the opportunity to meet and greet Hazem El Masri who spoke on the topic of active lifestyle. Parents are encouraged to ensure students are provided with lunch packs that include fruit, vegetables and replacing sweet drinks with water.



Harmony Day

Primary students observed Harmony Day on the 18th of March. Students participated in a number of activities that promoted the theme for this year – "Strength in Harmony". Since a study on different cultures is part of our curriculum, we sincerely hope that we work together to teach our students tolerance and respect

for other cultures and students are encouraged to demonstrate this attitude through their everyday actions.



Parent-Teacher Interviews

Primary students have just completed Term One Assessments and teachers are in the process of doing analysis in order to provide effective feedback to the parents. Parent - Teacher interview for Primary School is scheduled for Wednesday, 5th of April from 4:30 – 7:30pm in the school hall.

These sessions not only provide an opportunity to celebrate the success of the students, it is a vital means of forming a parent-teacher partnership to support students' areas of need that became evident from the recent examinations. All parents are encouraged to support their children by attending these sessions and discussing ways of addressing the learning needs of their child (ren).

Primary Parents' Workshop on Beginning Readers

Parents participated in an informative workshop on the 16th of March. The focus was on how to facilitate beginning readers and what constitutes a successful start to reading. Parents were provided with resource packs which could be used at home to replicate some of the activities undertaken in classrooms. It was encouraging to see how engrossed the parents were in the interactive workshop and teachers are very thankful for all the parents who dedicated their time in exploring ways of helping their children at home. Parents are also reminded that tutorials for parents to help their child with school work are available on Thursdays from 3:45 – 4:30pm. These sessions are for individual parents who would like to discuss key concepts that their children are struggling with. Resources and web-links will be provided for additional support. For booking please contact the school office.



Sydney Morning Herald's focus on GVIC

The school is pleased that Sydney Morning Herald has mentioned Green Valley Islamic College as one of the most improved schools in NAPLAN in their article published on the 8th of March. The information was provided to them by the Australian Curriculum Assessment & Reporting Authority (ACARA) which runs the federal government's "My School" website. The report reveals that GVIC is one of the schools that has shown a huge improvement in NAPLAN. To access the full article please use the following link:

<http://www.smh.com.au/national/education/my-school>

Mathletics

Students have been actively involved in this e-learning tool and the academic results are remarkable. This is not only reflected on the Mathletics Hall of Fame but evident through their improvement in Mathematics performance and Assessments in school. Parents are encouraged to motivate their children to use Mathletics on a daily basis. Some of the outstanding Mathletics achievers in the top 100 students' list are:

Amir Khan of 4G-1st

Nadirah Kaiyum of 5G-1st

Mohamed E of 4R-4th

Mohammad Ilyan of 4R-12th

Rayhan Ali of 4B-15th

Omar Zakzouk of 5B-16th

Koder Masri-51st

Year 5B was ranked 24th, 4B was ranked 26th and 4R was ranked 1st in the top 50 classes in Australia.

Mrs Samina Ali

Mr Shamsheer Ali
Acting Principal