

Newsletter

Green Valley Islamic College

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Monday 14 August

GVIC

Respect

Ownership

Caring

Knowledge

Safety

School Term Dates

Term 3

Tuesday 18th July –
Thursday 21st September

Term 4

Monday 9th October –
Friday 15th December

Holidays

Eid al-adha

Friday, 1st September

ACTING PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents/Guardians

Assalaamu Alaikum

Welcome

On behalf of the School I extend to you all a very warm welcome for Term Three, 2017. We look forward to your continued support and understanding in the challenges that we face in educating our children.

HSC Trials

Year Twelve students have started their Trial Examinations. Please provide all the support you can to take your child through this period. All Year Twelve students will be required to attend school every day of the non-exam weeks in Term Three. Teachers will be following a revision program to provide thorough remedial classes. Attendance in these non-examination weeks is compulsory.

Eid al-Adha Holiday

The school will be closed for Eid al-Adha celebrations on Friday, 1st September. Students return to school on Monday, 4th September.

15th Anniversary Celebration

Alhamdulillah, this year marks the school's 15th Anniversary. To celebrate this historic event, the school will host the 15th Anniversary Celebration on Saturday, 16th

September. All parents and students are invited to attend. Further details of this auspicious event will be sent out soon.

Pupil Free Day

Please note that Friday, 22nd September will be a pupil free day. The last day for Term Three will be Thursday, 21st September.

Payment of School fees

Term Three school fees are now due. Parents are reminded to pay their fees immediately. We appreciate prompt payment of school fees. School fees can be paid by cash, EFT (in person or over the phone) and BPAY.

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL'S (PRIMARY) MESSAGE

On behalf of Primary School, we would like to extend warm greetings and once again anticipate partnership with parents as we work towards academic improvement. We also seek parental cooperation in order to provide a safe and supportive learning environment for our students.

Listed below are the dates for key events. For further clarification regarding the events please contact the school office.

The school welcomes parents participation in most of the events as it boosts students' confidence and students feel supported when parents are engaged in activities with the students.

School Week	Date	Event
5	14 th August – 22 nd September	NAPLAN Online Trials (Years 3 & 5)
	Tuesday 15 th August	ICAS – Maths
	Friday 18 th August	Premier's Reading Challenge ends
6	22 nd - 23 rd August	Professor Maths Road Show
7	Thursday 31 st August	Inter-schools Public Speaking Competition
	Friday 1 st September	Eid al-adha Holiday
8	4 th – 8 th September	Primary Term Three Examination Week
	Thursday 7 th September	Parents' Workshop on Writing Skills
	Thursday 7 th September	Maths Cup with Amity College
9	Tuesday 12 th September	Character Parade
10	Monday 18 th September	Primary Athletics Carnival
	Tuesday 19 th September	Science IncurSION – Fizzics Education
	Thursday 21 st September	Parent – Teacher Interviews



IncurSION

Year five had an interactive incurSION on British Colonisation that was scheduled on Monday, 24th of July. It was a full day hands- on activity on lifestyle, dressing and routines of that era. Students had the opportunity to “experience” and reflect on the challenges faced by the people in those days. They also enjoyed dressing up for the event and interacting with the presenters who were at the school from 6:00am to set up different stations.

Parental Engagement

The consistent effort of Mrs Sabah El Sammak as an engaged parent was acknowledged at the K-6 assembly as she visits the school library daily to ensure her child has a new book each day. This has enabled her son Adam Sukkarieh of KR to work with his teacher in developing outstanding reading skills. The collaboration that has flourished among the parent and school staff is exemplary and the school would like to encourage other parents to make effective use of the school library as well.

Eid Hat Parade

The Events Committee organised the above event on Wednesday, 28th of June. The school was overwhelmed with parents' participation and we would sincerely like to thank all the parents who attended the event. Students adorned themselves with hats that were creatively decorated and some were rewarded with special prizes for their unique hats.



ICAS

ICAS is an external assessment that is conducted by the University of New South Wales and organised at school annually. The photo below shows students with superb ICAS results: Front row, from left – Essa Hijazi 4B (Distinction), Huzaifa Ghazzawi 2G (Credit), Haalah Khan 2G (High Distinction), Rayhan Ali 4B (Distinction). Back row, from left – Amir Khan 4G (Distinction), Ayesha Humaira 6B (Credit), Nausheen Ali 6G (Distinction), Sumayyah Abd Rahman 6R (High Distinction), Ammaar Ali 4B (Credit). Absent – Noorulain Ishtiaq 2R (Credit).



Parents' Workshop

The Primary School is pleased to inform the parents that a workshop has been organised for parents on Thursday, 7th of September. We will be able to address questions often asked by parents during interviews regarding "How to help children improve their writing skills at home?" The workshop will involve presentations and rotational strategy based stations for hands-on activities from which parents gain tips, by using writing resources that can be easily improvised at home. Resource packs will also be provided to the parents. There will be question time to target areas for individual cases as well. This session will provide a great opportunity for parents to excel as primary educators of their children. Further details will be sent to parents via a special note. Primary is looking forward to helping parents and working together with parents to support students.

Maths Cup

Year six students will compete with other schools at Amity College for the Maths Cup on the 7th of September 2017. Year six teachers are investing time and effort to help students prepare for this event. Students will focus on problem solving and use higher

order thinking skills to work mathematically. Please note that this is a very challenging event and students will benefit from additional assistance in order to do well.

Term Three Examinations

Examinations for Term three are scheduled for Week eight. Timetables and details have been submitted to parents. Please contact your child's class teacher if you have not received one or are seeking further clarification with regards to the above. Parents are also reminded that apart from assessments during Week eight, students are engaged in on-going tests therefore regular attendance is compulsory for a good achievement.

Growth and Development Session

Years five and six students will have an intensive session on Growth and Development. An explicit teaching program has been organised for the girls on the 9th of August in the school auditorium. The focus of this session will include the physical change and emotional growth. The Islamic rules and teachings regarding puberty and hygiene will be discussed. Supplications will be taught as well as scientific information about transitioning through stages of development. Resources will also be given to the girls to take home to reinforce what has been taught through the session. Maulana Abdul Rasheed will address the boys in a separate session.

Athletics Carnival

The Primary Sports Committee organised a fun but competitive Athletics Carnival on the 18th of September. To cater for a range of age groups, various games and activities have been planned for the day. To make this day a success, we encourage parents to join their children and show support.

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL'S (SECONDARY) MESSAGE

Diaries

Diaries need to be signed by parents; checks are carried out by roll call teacher every Monday during roll call. Please ensure you check your child's diary each week to

see if there are any pertinent messages and sign it. Students are expected to display the diary each lesson so homework and any messages can be written by their teachers.

Attendance

It is very important your child attends school on time. The high school runs DEAR time so it is essential students attend roll call when the bell rings at 8.15am. If students are late they will be reprimanded and kept in for a Ten minute detention during recess.

Mobile phones on excursions

As per the school policy mobile phones are not permitted in school. This includes taking them to excursions. If students are caught taking a mobile phone with them this will lead to them not being allowed to go on any future excursions.

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

There is a flurry of activities in the English Department and the teachers are constantly encouraging the students to read and focus on improving their writing skills. At this point, parents need to be reminded that the seven-ten curriculum has changed and that the shift has been to integrate grammar, punctuation and the origins of the English language as mandatory requirements through the Years seven to ten. In conjunction with this there has been a shift in the senior curriculum (Years eleven-twelve) where the focus is on proper writing including syntax, grammar and punctuation and this will be implemented next year in Year eleven and in Term 4 2018 for Year twelve.

The importance of literacy has been highlighted by these curriculum changes which are regulated by NESA, the authoritative educational board in New South Wales. The English teachers regularly incorporate literacy activities in their classroom through worksheets and through WORDFLYERS, a literacy interactive website. Parents are once again reminded that that website is accessible at home and are requested to engage with their child/ren in improving their literacy as this will not only help them in English but in all key learning areas.

NESA has also altered the HSC prerequisites. Students must acquire a minimum band eight in NAPLAN in order to progress with Stage six curriculum. This reflects the vital need for students to be literate in all key learning areas and parents are requested to encourage their child to read widely and to utilise the school library effectively.

If parents require information on the English curriculum, it can be located on the official NESA website. Please also encourage your child/ren to keep their English workbooks up to date and to significantly practise writing responses under time management.

MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT

The Mathematics Faculty has organised Luna Park excursions this term and next term to allow students to have some fun-filled Mathematics sessions. All Year seven students will be going to the Luna Park on Friday 18/08/2017 followed by Years ten, nine and eight next term on Friday 13/10/17, Monday 16/10/17 and Friday 20/10/17 respectively. The cost of attending the Luna Park, including the return bus fare is \$45 per student. Parents please make sure your child pays prior to the deadline and submit their permission notes with their payments to their Maths teachers.

Some of our students have sat an optional Australian Mathematics Competition this term which was organised by the Australian Mathematics Trust. Students compete against thousands of others from Australia and overseas. This competition involves solving fun problems in a session involving relevance of mathematics in students' everyday lives.

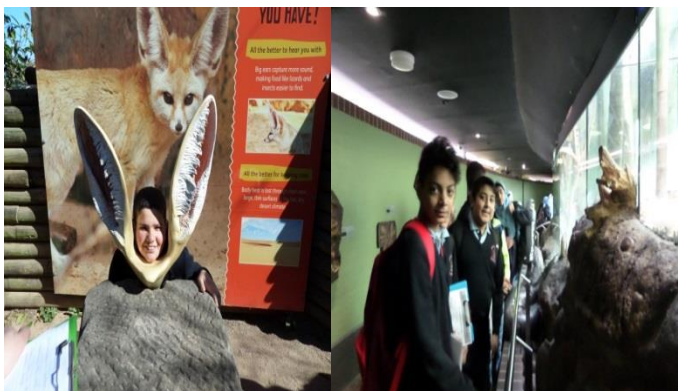
This term students from Years 7 to 10 would be working on Mathematics Assignments as part of their formal assessment which would contribute towards their overall result for the course. The weighting is 20% and all students are encouraged to make use of this opportunity to maximise their achievements. Parents are requested to make sure their child completes their assignment on time and any queries should be addressed to their child's Mathematics teacher or to the Mathematics Coordinators immediately.

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

The High School Science Department has embarked on a journey to ignite interest in students for science and in celebrating the National Science Week at Green Valley Islamic College, the Science Department has organised an Incursion for High School students. The hands on activities will be carried out on Thursday, 17th August 2017 for Years seven and eight students and on Friday, 18th August 2017 for Years nine and ten students. The cost of the Incursion is \$15 per student which needs to be paid to their science teacher before or on 16th August 2017. The activities for Thursday and Friday will run almost throughout the day where classes will be allocated a time to visit the lab and experience fun loving science.

Year 7 Taronga Zoo Excursion

As part of Science learning, students attended an excursion to Taronga Zoo, Sydney. For most of our students, it was a first opportunity to study animals up close. It was a different feel to learning from books. There were swinging chimpanzees, elephants having a bath, gorilla family and seals that would not stop showing off their swimming skills amongst other things. Students also got a chance be up close and personal with touch ring-tailed possums, shingleback lizard, green tree frog, stick insect and echidna. We had a few students who were concerned about the way the animals were kept and displayed interesting insights into re-designing the animal exhibit. Students displayed concern about conservation. Overall, it was a fun-filled learning day for all.



SPORTS REPORT

High School Athletics Carnival

High school will be holding their annual athletics carnival on Wednesday, 13th September at The Crest in Bankstown. Student can participate in a number of track and field events or just join in the fun novelty events such as sack races and tug-o-war. Attendance is compulsory as it count towards students' participation in physical activity. No supervision will be offered on school premises on that day. Students are free to wear their team colours as long as it adheres to Islamic dress codes.

Faith Shield

Selected Year 7-8 students will compete in the upcoming Faith Shield Soccer Competition against the Islamic schools of Western Sydney. The competition will be held in Rooty Hill on Monday, 28th August. Good luck to our teams.

After-school sports

An after-school sport session is continuing this term. Students can participate in a number of sports including soccer, basketball and volleyball. This free program is open to all high school students. Girls after-school sports is on every Wednesday and boys on Thursday afternoons. The duration of the sports session is from 3:45pm to 4:30pm.

WELFARE REPORT

Trials have commenced and we wish all the Year twelve students the very best. Furthermore, this term students will be completing their assessment tasks and are urged to commence the task as soon as they receive the notification to avoid the unnecessary stress that comes along with meeting deadlines.

An article has been provided to help students 'survive' examination/assessment stress. Please do not hesitate to seek assistance or tips from your teacher and/or wellbeing coordinator.

Exam Stress



What is exam stress? Some stress around exams is normal but any problem that stops you studying effectively or starts affecting your relationships and life requires action. Often the stress around exam time can be made worse by other issues around you with the feelings of worry or anxiety seeming to become out of control. This can be a very unpleasant experience and it is not unusual for people to feel like they simply cannot deal with it.

Surviving exam stress – Tips for students



Learning Strategies. Be prepared – make your notes prior to studying and use different modes e.g. videos, worksheets, value your study time. Before you start each session check you have everything you need.

Self-care. Taking a break from study for 5-minutes in every hour is a good starting point. Get some exercise, do something enjoyable. Change your study around, read, use computers and notepads. Be aware of your stress levels, have strategies for managing times of increased stress such as stress balls or relaxation techniques. Ensure you eat regularly and well including water. Have some snacks, e.g. fruit and nuts, to eat during study. Avoid using drugs and alcohol, as

Motivation. Attend school and every lesson daily. Use practice exams and ask for feedback. Talk to others about their study strategies; find out what works best for you. Involve family, friends and teachers – talk to them about your topics, ask questions, study together.

Concentration. Set up a study space that is comfortable, quiet, well-lit and organised. Organise your study time so you are free from interruptions, let others know about your timetable especially family; turn off phones, TV and media.

Day of Exam. Keep to your usual routine as much as possible. Have a healthy breakfast and snacks.



Give yourself plenty of time to get to the exams. Check you have everything you need e.g. calculator, pens, pencils. Practice mindful breathing exercises to calm any nerves both before and during the exams.

Time Management. Plan your study early, set goals, use a timetable and study plan, break your work into chunks and use a checklist of work completed/to do. Say no to parties and unnecessary social activities.

they can make concentrating difficult.

Rest. Plan out your day, study when you have the most energy. Have a good sleep routine including relaxation time before bed to slow down your thinking.

Getting help

If you are experiencing stress to a level that is stopping you from studying effectively it is important to ask for some help. You may wish to talk to your teacher, wellbeing coordinator or counsellor who can all offer support or connect you with professionals, depending on your individual needs. Your GP or Headspace will also be able to support you. Kids Helpline and Reachout.com offer great online tips or phone counselling support.



This article is general information only, if you are concerned about your or someone else's mental health, talk to your General Practitioner (GP), School Counsellor or Wellbeing Coordinator.

Article Source:

1. <https://www.headspace.org.au>
2. <http://au.reachout.com>

Useful Resources /

Contacts:

-  Mental Health Line
1800011511
-  Kids Helpline
1800551800

 <https://www.headspace.org.au>

 www.beyondblue.org.au/

 <http://au.reachout.com>

LIBRARY REPORT

Super Readers

- We are proud of the following students, who are our Super Readers for Semester One (Term 1 and 2);
- Kindergarten – Adam Sukkarieh
 - Grade 1 – Ali Hassan
 - Grade 2 – Mariam Saad
 - Grade 3 – Ayaan Yakub
 - Grade 4 – Huda Abdul and Daniyah El Hajj
 - Grade 5 – Hafsa Ali
 - Grade 6 – Diana El Safadi, Ayana Sheik and Khodr El Moustapha
 - Grade 7 – Zainab Khan
 - Grade 8 – Khadija Ali

Grade 9 – Awsaf El Masri
 Grade 10 – Zachariah Rafei
 Grade 11 – Ahmed El-Hares

Scholastic Rainforest Book Fair

This year our School Book Fair was held from 2nd August until Tuesday, 9th August 2017 in the school library. Students and parents were able to purchase books and other items from the Book Fair. We had a Book Fair **Colouring Competition** for grades K-2, **Word Search Competition** for grades 3-4 and for grades 5-6; **Find Your Way To The Book Fair Competition**.

All winners received a voucher to spend at the Book Fair. We also held a guessing competition where students received a token for every novel they purchased from the Book Fair. Students had the opportunity to guess how many snakes were in a jar.



Book Fair Competition Winners

Colouring Competition:

Grade	First Place	Runner up
Kindy	Amina Tahan (KG)	Rowaida Hamed (KG)
Year 1	Surah Akbari (1R)	Mohammad Sryta (1B)
Year 2	Sumaira Ashifdar (2G)	Nisha Naeem (2R)

Winners for Word Search Competition are:-

Grade 3: Yazid Habib 3B, Aaliyah Maharaj 3G and Hawra Hazem 3R
 Grade 4: Fatimah El Kassir 4B, Amir Khan 4G and Saffa Yaghi 4R

Winners for Find Your Way To The Book Fair are:-

Grade 5: Amma Khan 5B, Faiza Khan 5G and Fatma Alyassin 5R
 Grade 6: Sohail Datt 6B, Khodr El Moustapha 6G and Mahmoud Elfata 6R

Guessing Competition Winner: Jannah Hamze 1R

A big thank you to all parents and guardians for making books a priority in your homes and for allowing your children to purchase books from the Book Fair.

Mr Shamsheer Ali
 Acting Principal