MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Please accept my heartfelt appreciation for the support you have shown Salamah College so far this year. It is through this support that we have been able to forge a true sense of partnership that exists between all members of the school community and one that stands as the foundation of stepping stone upon which we can continue to build our school.

The year has started very well and with two terms under our belt we can see that our students have settled down, reality has set in and Salamah College has officially become their home away from home. Full of life and zest they run around in their lovely uniforms adding more colour to the wonderful landscape that our school already enjoys.

Our dedicated staff shouldered their responsibilities whilst acknowledging full well the limitations and the challenges that a newly starting school would bring to the fore. They have truly exceeded expectations and met every obstacle with a brave heart motivated by an unwavering will to succeed which is further supported by their pledge to provide their students the care they deserve.

FROM THE MAIN OFFICE

RAMADAN TIMETABLE:

8:30AM - 2:30PM

We would like to inform all parents of the changes to the timetable during the blessed Month of Ramadan. From 17 July 2012 our school hours will be 8:30am to 2:30pm.

All students must arrive at school by 8:30am. We ask all parents to collect their child/ren promptly at 2:30pm and to remember that the buses will be dropping students at home earlier.

Also, we would like to advise parents that there will be NO CANTEEN SERVICE DURING RAMADAN. If your child is not fasting you must ensure that your child comes to school with enough food for recess and lunch.

On behalf of Management and Staff at Salamah College we would like to wish all of our students and their families a happy and rewarding Ramadan.

SCHOOL FEES

A review of outstanding fees is currently being undertaken, to ensure that fees are paid on time. Please ensure that you have paid any outstanding fees, as it is a condition of your child’s enrolment at the school. Payment of school fees is accepted at the school office Monday to Friday from 8:00am to 3:30pm.

We appreciate your co-operation in this matter.

SCHOOL CAR PARK

We would like to remind parents to use the Primary Street entrance when dropping off or picking up students. Also, please drive slowly through the car park area.

There is a large volume of traffic during drop-off and pick-up times, and we ask all parents to be patient for the safety of the students.
Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 & Year 6

**Year 4:** This semester Year 4 have worked extremely well and have been engaged in class discussions, while learning about Australia and Japan in HSIE. To further extend students' learning, students attended a school excursion to Auburn Botanical Gardens observing the Australian fauna and flora as well as the Japanese Gardens. Students demonstrated their ability to use skills to participate in games and sports as well as Gymnastics in PDHPE. Year Four students worked productively to devise their own music composition and present it to the class.

**Year 5:** Year 5 have had a productive and eventful start to their Stage 3 experience. They have enjoyed a variety of hands-on activities including practical work in Mathematics, a Science project where they were required to build a town using a variety of materials and using the brand new gymnastics equipment.

They have also worked extremely hard to prepare for and sit NAPLAN. We are proud of their efforts in these examinations. Year 5 participated in drama this term and they were very enthusiastic and presented fantastic performances in front of an audience. We are looking forward to the beginning of Semester Two, after the students have enjoyed a safe and restful holiday.

**Year 6:** Year 6 has had an exciting and productive year so far. We have focussed greatly on English and Maths in class, using hands on resources as well as an interactive white board to enhance lessons. A high point for the students is our focus on ‘Drama’ in Creative Arts this term, and we performed our skits at the Year 6 assembly. All students pulled together as a team and put on a magnificent performance.

In Science and Technology, students were given home tasks to build a kite, boat or a water wheel, as well as working in groups to design and make a 3D model of their own town. To further extend this unit, students went to the Bankstown City Council to meet with the Town Planner to view first-hand how towns and cities are built. In Physical Education, we have focussed on Athletics and Gymnastics by utilising state of the art equipment to facilitate their learning.

Kindy, Year 1 & Year 2

**Kindy:** It was a busy start to Kindergarten, however your efforts and patience in making your child’s first two terms of Kindergarten positive were highly appreciated. There were a few tears and fears from some of our students, though by Term 2 all our beautiful K-Star students made a great adjustment to the school routine. In English, students have learnt all letters and sounds and most of our K-Star students are now writing simple sentences and reading at high levels.

K Star students were lucky enough to have had an excursion to the Sydney Aquarium. We explored the different sea animals and discussed their different ways of movement. They had loads of fun, were super excited and most importantly no one got lost!!!

Once again thank you to all the parents for their cooperation and support during Terms 1 and 2. We are looking forward to a rewarding year with your child.

**Year 1:** What an amazing year we have had so far! At the start of Term One we were very busy getting to know one another and our new school. We learnt all about ‘Transport’ and created fantastic designs and models of our very own form of air transport. We began our special Learning Centres where we worked in groups to explore various literacy and numeracy experiences.

In Term Two, we were very lucky to have Miss Murray join us. We became expert scientists when investigating water and its importance. We had an exciting excursion with the local Fire Fighters and Police Officers as part of our learning about ‘Workers in the Community’. We were magnificent poets when studying poetry and composing our poems. In Creative Arts, we became fabulous artists as we researched famous artists throughout time and recreated our own versions of their masterpieces.

We are looking forward to an eventful and enjoyable rest of the year where we will continue to laugh, learn and play.

**Year 2:** Year 2 have had two fantastic terms this year. We began the year learning about families. Students shared stories and photos of their families during news and we learnt more about each other. In Mathematics Year 2 learnt the different strategies of counting and experienced some fun hands-on measurement activities where students worked in groups to explore the concept.

Term 2 was another exciting term as we looked at lifecycles which incorporated Science and Technology, Literacy and Mathematics. Year 2 worked in groups and grew plants using flower seeds, cotton balls and glass jars. We also had some fluffy visitors. They first came in the form of eggs and after caring for them they began to hatch. Year 2 ended up with 10 fluffy chicks that were quite cheeky. Both Year 2 classes enjoyed this hands-on learning experience that enriched their knowledge about lifecycles.

We look forward to more exciting incursions and excursions throughout the year in order to engage students in their learning.
**Secondary**

Firstly, thank you for reading our first newsletter at Salamah College. It has been a fantastic start to your new school. We remember looking at all of our students on their first morning assembly to gauge their frame of mind and remember seeing hope, fear, joy, sadness, and a whole range of emotions. We felt encouraged, but also knew that there was a lot to be done to ensure that each of our students would start to feel more at ease, and more at home as the weeks progressed. As we look around the morning assembly today, we see confidence, hope, comfort and joy. The fear and sadness have gone.

With the first semester complete, and all students finished with their half yearly exams we wish to emphasise the importance of striving for academic excellence. Everyone has had the first half of the year to get settled into their new school. It is time to start getting motivated to achieve. We have a fantastic highly qualified and highly capable teaching staff who care a great deal for their students. We encourage all students to start making better use of their talents.

**Maths and Science:** During the course of the first semester, many enjoyable times were shared amongst the students and the staff.

Year 7 Science students were exposed to challenging practical demonstrations. These included thinking strategies to make an egg float in water, spinning an open billy filled with water without spilling its contents and separating colours in a food dye.

Year 8 Science students discovered the presence of Hydrogen gas through a pop test, where acids and metals were combined chemically to produce new by-products.

In Mathematics, Year 7 and 8 were introduced to algebraic expressions and solving simple arithmetic through mental calculations. We have seen some great talent amongst both year groups in the area of mathematics.

**Visual Arts:** This semester at Salamah College the high school students have responded positively to the challenges of starting at a brand new high school with unfamiliar teachers, students and surroundings. Year 7 have delved into the world of Visual Arts by learning the skills of portraiture and drawing. Year 8 have been studying ‘Under the Sea’ and created some amazing sets of shell drawings and fish collages.

**History:** Year 7 students were introduced to the topics of Ancient Rome and Feudal Japan and created some catchy songs to help them in their exams!

**English:** Year 7 students enjoyed learning about Film, Narrative, Non-Fiction and Poetry. They wrote some excellent stories and poetry of their own and delivered speeches about their dream jobs, which were both entertaining and educational.

**English:** Year 7 students enjoyed learning about Film, Narrative, Non-Fiction and Poetry. They wrote some excellent stories and poetry of their own and delivered speeches about their dream jobs, which were both entertaining and educational.

7M1 homeroom has progressed through a roller coaster ride in the first half of this year. There have been huge improvements in some students and also a few surprises have been seen.

7M2 homeroom have been working towards the goals of being respectful, high-achieving and positive role models. We are impressed with their progress and are looking forward to seeing more improvement as the year continues.

8M homeroom have had an eventful year. They started the year under the stewardship of Mr Montiero, and moved to Mr Alameddine. Year 8, having settled into their new school, have committed to ensuring that their grades at the end of the year will be an improvement from semester one.

We hope that you all have had a happy and safe holiday, and return next term invigorated, energised and ready to tackle the challenges that semester two will bring.

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**Arabic & Religious Studies**

مع بداية السنة الدراسية الأولى، كلفت السرلة، كان لتربتي العربية ومادتي الدين جزءًا من النماذج والضمانات الكبيرة التي قام بها المعلمون في مدارسنا في الشروط المبتكرة لتعزيز طلابنا في الفصل الدراسي الأول، ويعود الفضل في ذلك على إدارات المدارس، وتحت رجاء الله.

أما في المرحلة الإبتدائية، فتعلم طلابنا قراءة وكتابة كلمات جملة، وتصور، وتعزف على العديد من النظم العربية، وأدرك بعضهم فرق بين المفرد والمتعدد، وبعض الألفاظ التي لها الصرفان في بعض الأحيان.

وتمكنا الطلاب من تعلم اللغة العربية الأساسية في المدرسة، وتوجههم نحو أن تكون اللغة العربية يهتمون بها، وتعزف عليها، ولعل ذلك من الأسباب التي قام بها خلال الفصل الأول، وتم الانتباه إلى ذلك.

ومع ذلك، نحن نعلم أن هناك فرصًا تنتظرنا في الفصل الثاني، حيث يمكن أن نتعلم الوقائع والكلمات من خلال القراءة والكتابة، وتفتح الأبواب أمام أعيننا في معرفة العالم وثقافته.

فإن التعلم ليس فقط عن الكتب، بل أيضاً عن العالم الحقيقي، الذي نعيش فيه، ونتحرك فيه.

وقد استمر وقعنا في تعلم اللغة العربية أثناء الفصل الثاني، وتزداد فرصاً لتعلم اللغة العربية.

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ATHLETICS CARNIVAL - STUDENT COMPETITION
“Swifter, Higher, Stronger”.

Are you up for a Challenge?! Can you smell competition, because competition is in the air! Get ready for an amazing event next term. The Athletics Carnivals are right around the corner and they’re going to be great! We have exciting new House names:

- Great White Sharks (Blue Team)
- Electric Rays (Red Team)
- Tigers (Black Team)
- Wild Wallabies (Yellow Team)
- Frilled Neck Lizards (Green Team)

We call all students who are willing to challenge themselves in a thrilling competition in preparation for the Athletics Carnivals. We have listed the various activities below and we would like all students to be involved. We hope you can spend time during the school holidays to complete a fantastic item!

Kindergarten: Decorate an Olympic rings flag for your House
Years 1 and 2: Make a face mask for your House
Years 3 and 4: Design posters for your House
Years 5 and 6: Develop cheer chants for your House
Years 7 and 8: Design a Mascot for your House

The last day to hand in your entry is Monday 23 July 2012. The winners will be announced on Wednesday 1 August which is also an “Olympic Mufti-Day”, where students are permitted to come to school dressed in Islamically appropriate clothing in the Aussie Olympic theme colours of green and gold, and to make a gold coin donation. The money raised will be spent on sport kits for you to play with during recess and lunch breaks.

MORE NEWS FROM THE MAIN OFFICE

School Lunches
Parents are encouraged to teach their children healthy eating choices and are strongly urged to send a healthy recess and lunch for children to eat at school. Suggestions:

- Ensure that your child has a healthy, filling breakfast every morning. (Avoid sugary cereals).
- For recess: fruit, cheese sticks, carrot sticks, homemade fruit / muesli muffins or a small sandwich.
- For lunch: a sandwich (or equivalent) with a healthy filling. Try to include a piece of protein such as cheese, eggs, chicken, tuna, salmon, baked beans and vegetables such as mixed salad, carrots, capsicum, tomato, and remember wholegrain bread is higher in fibre and nutritional value than white bread.

Avoid snack foods as they are generally high in sugar, fat, salt and other additives. Lollies chocolate etc. should not be a part of school lunches – these are occasional foods for special occasions.

Include a bottle of water and/or fruit juice in lunch boxes, particularly on hot days. Fizzy soft drinks are not permitted.

Visiting the School
We would like to remind parents that they are not permitted to enter the school grounds during the day. This includes lunch and recess breaks. If you need to see your child, you must enquire at the school office, where staff will bring your child to you.

If parents would like to speak to their child’s teacher at any stage, they must contact the school office to make an appointment with the relevant teacher.

Medicine at School
If your child needs to be given any type of medication during the day, YOU MUST COME TO THE SCHOOL OFFICE. Details of dosage and time to be given must be provided to office staff. No medicine is to be left in the student’s school bag.