TERM 4: DECEMBER 2016

IMPORTANT DATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>2nd December</td>
<td>Correction &amp; Report Writing Day (School Closed for Students)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>7th December</td>
<td>Last Day of School (School Finishes at 2:10pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>30th January</td>
<td>First Day of 2017: Pre-School &amp; Year 1 - Yr 12 Commence</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>1st February</td>
<td>First Day of 2017: Foundation Commence</td>
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College Graduations for 2016

Assalamu Alaikum Wa Rahmatullahi Wa Barakatuh

As we reach the end of year, we begin to prepare for the many transitions that will soon take place as students move to new year-levels. Some students will be leaving Primary School behind them, while others in Secondary School will start their important senior years. We also look forward to new children joining us from Pre-School as they begin their school life at Minaret College.

Graduations have been taking place over the past couple of weeks. These occasions are held each year to recognise milestones in the transition process. At both Springvale & Officer, we’ve just enjoyed graduation events for our Pre-Schoolers and Year 6. These were memorable occasions for the many parents and families in attendance.

Our most prestigious graduation was held on Saturday 19th November when the Year 12 graduating students of 2016 were farewelled. Over 700 attended this event and we were particularly thrilled to have, as special guests, The Hon Julian Hill MP, Federal Member of Parliament and the newly elected Mayor from the City of the Greater Dandenong, Cr Jim Memeti.

As Minaret College completes 2016 and prepares for the arrival of a new intake of students at Junior Primary, we send our Year 12 Graduates out into the world with our best wishes for their future success.
NOTICES & INFORMATION

Calendar Events

1st Dec Year 2 Special Assembly
(Junior Primary - Springvale Campus)

2nd Dec Correction & Report Writing Day
(School Closed for Students)

7th Dec Middle School Annual Academic
Awards – Springvale Campus

7th Dec Last Day of Term 4
(School finishes at 2:10pm)

8th Dec Parent Teacher Interviews
Secondary School
(Springvale Campus Only)

30th Jan Pre-School commences: 2017

30th Jan Year 1 - 12 commences: 2017

1st Feb Foundation commences: 2017

From The Office

School Fees
While we appreciate and thank all parents who have honoured their commitment in settling their fees, it is with regret we note that some parents have not paid their school fees.

We would like to take this opportunity to remind these parents to settle all arrears before Thursday 15th December, so that no outstanding balance will be carried forward to next year’s fees.

Please visit the Office to pay your fees or make alternative arrangements for settling arrears through instalments. Please treat this as a final request and make your payments without any further delay. Our Office will be open until 15th December.

Parents, who would like to continue bus services for their children next year, need to pay the bus fare for Term 1 before 1st February 2017. Failure to pay the bus fare by its due date will result in the service being suspended. A late payment will result in three working days to recommence bus services. Confirmation of taking bus services next year must be lodged at the Office by Friday, 2nd December, if parents want to continue making use of this service.

Parents who hold valid concession cards (pensioner or health care card) are invited to apply for school fee concession to the College for 2017. If you need an application form, please feel free to collect one from our Office. Entitled parents who do not lodge the application will be deemed as having the ability to pay full fees and therefore their school fees will be charged at the full rate for 2017.

The Victorian Government will continue to pay eligible parents for students’ Camp, Sport and Excursion in 2017. As such, parents with concession cards are required to apply for CSEF grant. Application form for this grant will be available at our Office from 18th January 2017. This is the date when our Office reopens.

Position Vacant
Minaret college is seeking a full time:
TESOL Qualified EAL Teacher

All applicants with appropriate qualifications, prior experience and possessing excellent communication skills are invited to apply.

Successful candidates will be expected to support the Islamic ethos of the college.

Application, completed CV with the names of 3 referees to be forwarded to
hr@minaret.vic.edu.au

MINARET COLLEGE
Minaret College invites applications for the following positions:
• Primary Teacher
• EAL Teacher
• Arabic Language, Quranic / Islamic Studies Teacher
• Speech Pathologist (Part Time)

Minaret College is an Islamic school in the South Eastern region and serves the community through its Springvale and Officer campuses. Successful applicants will be expected to support the Islamic Ethos of the College and will be required to work in Springvale, Officer or both our campuses.

Applications, full CV, including a transcript copy of tertiary results and names of three referees, to be emailed to: hr@minaret.vic.edu.au

1 Birch Street, Springvale, 3171
Phone: (03)9574 0567
Email: hr@minaret.vic.edu.au
www.minaret.vic.edu.au

HOLIDAYS REMINDER
OFFICE HOURS (Holidays)
9am – 4pm:
Wed 14th – Thurs 15th December 2016
Wed 18th – Fri 20th January 2017

SCHOOL WILL BE CLOSED
Friday 16th December 2016 until
Tuesday 17th January 2017 (inclusive)
Message from Administration

Project updates

In this, the last newsletter for 2016, I would like to update you on a range of projects, some under planning and others under implementation, since I joined Minaret College in February 2016.

The coming year Insha’Allah will see new facilities at both Springvale and Officer Campuses. Minaret’s commitment will continue in providing improvements to the built environment for students, staff and visitors to enjoy.

1. Place of Assembly building in Springvale is progressing very well and the construction program is 2 weeks in advance.

2. New Early Learning Centre for Springvale Campus is at tendering stage and we are expecting to have the successful contractor begin construction works in early 2017. The building will be positioned on the land owned by the College on Whitworth Avenue.

3. The complete refurbishment of Building B in Springvale for male and female student toilets will be undertaken during the coming holidays. All fittings and fixtures will be replaced with new, including upgraded wudu facilities. Unfortunately the refurbishment will not be ready when school starts on 25th January 2017 but may take a couple of weeks into February. The inconvenience will be worth the wait Insha’Allah.

4. Planning is underway to create additional office spaces in Building D at Officer Campus to accommodate growth.

5. The new VCE Centres for Springvale and Officer Campuses have been submitted for planning approval to relevant Councils.

6. The new College website has recently been launched with improved featured and content.

As you reflect on this year, I hope you feel a sense of pride in the Minaret’s achievements and continued improvements to the infrastructure. I would like to wish you all a safe and happy holiday.

Subhan Ali JP
Head of Administration & Projects
(Reg Arch, B.Arch, GradDipBS, GradCertFM, CFM)

Message From Principal

It seems only yesterday that I was welcoming staff and students to 2016 and now we are bidding farewell to what has been a very successful year. In this short time, we have experienced some great academic and co-curricular achievements, including highly memorable school events.

To all parents and students who have participated in these activities, I would like to extend a very warm thank you for all your efforts. We look forward to your continued enthusiastic participation in 2017.

All staff and students from Senior School are also very excited about 2017 as it will be our first graduating Year 12 class. In addition, plans for our new VCE Centre have been submitted to the Cardinia Shire Council for approval. Commencement for this construction is scheduled early next year.

This new state-of-the-art facility will provide a flexible and relaxed learning environment for teachers to blend physical and digital arrangements to suit real life learning experiences. It probably seems strange to those of us who were educated in very traditional environments, however, contemporary research suggests that learning through relevant, stress free and real life experiences, is the best way for young children to learn.

I would like to once again express my gratitude to each and every member of staff as they have once again remained passionate and hardworking throughout the year. Their effort and dedication in nurturing our students is both inspiring and invaluable.

On a final note, I hope all of you have a safe and enjoyable summer vacation and that we all return for the new academic year in 2017 in the best of health and spirit.

Ranjith Dediwalage
Principal of Officer Campus
Dear Urdu Speaking Community,

Asalamoalikum.

You will be pleased to know that URDU as a language has been accepted by VSL and classes are scheduled to commence in Feb 2017 at the following places in Melbourne.

- Dandenong High School, 92-106 Princess Highway, Dandenong 3174
- Roxburgh College, 60-70 Donald Cameron Dve, Roxburgh Park 3064
- Suzanne Cory High School, 255 Hoppers Lane, Werribee 3030

Enrollment has been opened for Grade 1 to 6. As we have received overwhelming response from the community, places are expected to fill very fast. It is in your best interest to enrol your child ASAP to secure your seat for 2017.

For enrollment, visit www.vsl.vic.edu.au and click on the link as pointed in the image below.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to email us vceurdu@gmail.com.

Thanks
Team of URDU as VCE Subject

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DEAR Program
This is not the end, but a new beginning! Alhamdulillah, Officer Campus Primary School takes pride in offering valuable programs that provide opportunities for students and staff to work outside their classrooms and think outside the box. To recall a few programs and events of the year, the DEAR Program, Challenge Program, Literacy and Numeracy Week and Public Speaking Competition were the ones that brought us altogether once again.

The DEAR Program couldn’t have been a success without our dedicated parents’ volunteers and the Challenge Program without Secondary School staff involvement.

The Public Speaking Competition made another mark in the history of Officer Campus with a winner, Rama Saleh in Year 6, among five other local schools. It was definitely a memorable proud moment for both staff and parents.

I thank you, parents and staff, whole-heartedly for all your support and contribution in making these possible for our students.

Khatol Obaid
Primary School Curriculum Coordinator

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HIGHLIGHTS

Excursion to Gumbaya Park
Year 2’s final excursion for the year was to Gumbaya park. We were very lucky with the weather and it was a fantastic day. The children were able to see native animals, enjoy a tractor ride, play mini-golf and utilise the swings, playground and bouncy castle.

Some students fed kangaroos and patted a dingo and dragon bearded lizard. Gumbaya Park kindly gave us all showbags with a big pencil, sharpener and a pen with bubbles!
Competition – ISRA
In a recent nation-wide competition organised by The Islamic Science and Research Academy Australia (ISRA) entitled ‘Everyone’s Talking about Him (PBUH)’, three of our students achieved top 3 positions in the Poetry Writing Category.

This was a competition organised by ISRA to raise awareness of the life and seerah of our beloved Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). This competition saw numerous high quality entries from our school which showcased the hard work put in by students and a testament to the wonderful effort by our dynamic team of teachers here. Hence, we are proud to announce three winners from Officer Campus

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<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>(Secondary Poetry)</th>
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<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Maleka Syeda and Lorena Grant (Year 7B)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Ali Ghauri, Nur Afiq and Sam Mirzad (Year 7B)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>Aisha Sultana (Year 3C)</td>
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Let us celebrate their achievement and may Allah reward these winners for their hard work in this world and the Hereafter.

Visit to Royal Botanical Gardens
Foundation students were recently blessed with the opportunity to visit the Royal Botanical Gardens in Cranbourne. “This is the best day ever!” declared one student as we explored the gardens by tasting bush tea, rock painting with our hands, spotting wild animals, such as the Bandicoot, as well as learning how the Aboriginal people lived on and cared for the land for thousands of years.

We were also lucky to visit Trig Point Lookout where we had a 360-degree view of the surrounding area. We ate our snack and lunch together outside where we experienced a real sense of belonging and connectedness to nature. Children who spend time in nature have more positive feelings about themselves and each other.

Road to Victory
On Tuesday 22nd November, the Secondary School held a Soccer Fundraising Tournament. The Year 9 boys Ahmed, David, Gada, Javid, Shane, Zahir and Zameer had two matches against the Year 8, 10 and 11 boys. They dominated both matches and went through to the next round.

The Year 9’s did not break a single sweat and kept their pace throughout the whole game. The team has secured a spot in the Grand Final with their undefeated streak. Let’s hope the Year 9 boys can keep their adrenaline going for the next finals against currently unknown opponents.

Year 6A Graduation – Unforgettable
On the 17th November we celebrated our graduation. It was full of fun, laughter and joy. Both classes performed with pride in accomplishing one of their major goals in life. All of the girls performed an Arabic item which was directed by Mrs. Masouda and Mrs. Suzanne.

Our teachers did a great job organizing our graduation and I thank them for that. Graduation was an experience that I will never forget.

Ranya Rubaie, 6A
Quest For Highly Numerate Learners
The school year is rapidly drawing to a close and I take immense pleasure to say that in 2016, all our students had great and many opportunities to explore and develop a deep understanding of mathematical concepts and ideas through various activities. Many thanks to all the primary teachers who continuously strive to create and foster an environment, especially in math, that is safe, challenging and supportive for each student.

They ensure that every student has to work hard in understanding mathematical concepts and that following this hard work comes success. Our special maths programs such as EMU (Extending Mathematical Understanding), Maths Challenge, Mathletics etc have also contributed to build the abilities of our students to think and work mathematically, with a heavy focus on the development of essential skills and problem solving strategies. We are now looking forward to 2017, where we will continue to assist students to become highly numerate learners, and to use the skills and concepts they learn in the classroom in their everyday lives.

Bushwalk
This term the Year 7’s have been learning about and writing poetry. At the beginning of November they had the opportunity to visit the Beaconsfield Nature Conservation Reserve to experience the wonder of walking through the bush. They were encouraged to notice small things as well as the larger, more obvious things.

Their notes were later used for writing their own poetry on a chosen aspect of the experience. The weather was perfect and the outing thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. Thanks are extended to Ms Natalie and Mr Abdul Karim for their prior preparation and care of the students during the walk.

Rewarded For Their Hard Work
Many students thought it couldn’t be achieved. Many groaned that the EAL students made the task impossible. But they were proven wrong. Every single student in 7A achieved full marks in their weekly spelling post-test and were rewarded for their hard work.

The class got very close several times but the reward was all the sweeter when it finally came. The ‘dream’ reward was going to the cinema, and many thought this wouldn’t happen either; but it did! Even the bus trip to Fountain Gate was appreciated. Thanks are extended to Ms Elsa for accompanying us.

Inquiry Topic - Heat
During Term 4, the Year 3’s are inquiring on how heat helps us in our everyday lives. The students have been engaging in lots of hands-on learning activities like making solar ovens and baking pizzas! One of the highlights in Inquiry was the incursion to the laboratory and conducting investigations or experiments on the topic “Heat”.

They were all excited to be at the lab and couldn’t wait to start the investigations. The curious learners had fun carrying out the activities and predicting the results. The little scientists were full of wonder and awe at the results! A big thank you to Mrs Dediwalage for organizing the activities.
Year 6B Graduates

Year 6 Graduation celebration event was a culmination of great team spirit and hard work. An expression of happiness was on everyone’s face, as we shared our experiences and special memories from Year 6.

We would like to say a huge thanks to every Year 6 student for contributing to this amazing celebration. Our sincere thanks also go to every staff member who helped us prepare for the event and made it more special with their attendance. Last but not least, we extend our thanks to parents and carers for partnering with the school and playing their role in our students’ education.

Dear Year 6 graduates, congratulations on your achievement!

Celebrations!

We have nearly arrived at the end of another exciting term and everyone is looking forward to having a fantastic summer break. This term, our Inquiry topic was “Celebrations across cultures over time”. We have learned how people celebrate and, the Islamic perspective of “celebration”.

As a part of our topic, we have explored iconic Australian places and were involved in art activities based on the topic. Students had enjoyable learning experiences in creating the Sydney Opera House using paper plates. Furthermore, students explored aspects of the Aboriginal culture and thoroughly enjoyed creating dot paintings.

Role Play in Arabic Class

Incorporating role-play into the classroom adds variety, a change of pace and opportunities for a lot of language production and also a lot of fun!

This Term in Arabic class, Year 3’s have been learning about the market and how to shop in the Arabic language.

This fun role-play activity was used to teach and revise shopping language. The class is divided into groups and each student is given a role card. Some students were shop assistants and other students were shoppers. The shoppers visit each shop and try to buy a range of fruit and vegetables from their shopping list.

Through this activity students developed new vocabulary in the Arabic language while enjoying the interaction & task.

DVD Recording

The College is offering a service to families who wish to have a DVD recording of:

Year 12 Graduation

To obtain a copy, please:
• Provide a blank DVD (DVD-R)
• Mark it to the attention of: Abdul Haneef Mohammed
• Provide your name & a contact telephone number
• Leave the DVD with Reception Staff

Copies will be made in the order that they are received and families will be contacted when the DVD is ready to pick-up.

This service is free-of-charge.
Plants
Welcome to this month’s newsletter. Continuing on our thematic unit on plants, children learnt about the names and basic functions of different parts of a plant. In order to reinforce the same, children also made colorful collages to show various parts of plants including roots, stem, flower, seeds and leaves.

Children learnt that plants and flowers need water to grow and live. Further to that, they also investigated where the water goes when they sprinkle it on a plant. In order to introduce the basic science concept of how water travels from the soil into the plant and out to the leaves, we conducted a fun and visual science experiment that used food coloring and celery.

We placed the celery stalks into the jar containing water and food coloring mixture and made our observations at different intervals of time. When the celery was left in the colored water overnight, children observed that the stalks and leaves of the celery started to turn the same color as the water that it was kept in.

Minaret ELC Graduation
Minaret ELC had a wonderful graduation ceremony on November 24th where we celebrated children’s efforts and achievements. It was an exciting day for the children with their graduation cap and gown on. Congratulations to our kindergarten graduates who have successfully gone through an important phase of learning which lays a pathway towards becoming a life-long learner.

Special thanks to Mr. Hassan for gracing this occasion and presenting our students with graduation certificates. Thank you Mr Dediwalage, Mrs Keshtiar and Sr Inas Hassan for honoring us with your presence.

The ceremony included fun-filled songs sung by the children. These expressed their joy and happiness. Thanks to all the parents for entrusting their children with us. We wish the children all the very best on the next part of their educational journey.