TERM 4: DECEMBER 2016

IMPORTANT DATES

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<th>Day</th>
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<th>Event</th>
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<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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<td>Monday</td>
<td>30th January 2017</td>
<td>First Day of 2017: Pre-School &amp; Year 1 - Yr 12 Commence</td>
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<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>1st February 2017</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.

Positions 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

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

Alhamdulillah, we have reached the end of the 2016 Academic Year. Looking back, the year has gone by very quickly, yet it has been very productive and full of achievements, fun times and hard work. On behalf of the Minaret College Leadership Team I would like to congratulate all our students for working hard and making significant progress, both academically and Islamically.

VCE students finished all their external examinations and are eagerly anticipating the results from the VCAA. This year we have had the largest cohort of 86 students who have successfully completed Year 12. The final results will be known on Monday 12th December, followed by a VCE Awards Ceremony, where the high achievers from Minaret College will be recognized.

Over the past fortnight, three graduation ceremonies were held at Springvale Campus: ELC (Early Learning Centre - Kindergarten), Grade 6 and Year 12. All three functions ran smoothly and were well attended.

I recognise the efforts and involvement of parents and thank you for always supporting Minaret College in bringing up and educating the next generation of proud Australian Muslims, who will be contributing to the wider community. Without your support this achievement would have been impossible. Jazak Allah Khair.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff at Minaret College who continue to guide our students all the way from Kinder to Primary, Middle and Senior School. Teachers have played a vital role on this journey, supporting and encouraging students to fulfil their academic potential and expand their Knowledge of Islam.

In Term 4, we have been involved in a number of co-curricular activities to get students ready for the 2017 academic year. Transition programs have been organised for appropriate year levels, eg. from Kinder to Foundation, from Primary to Secondary School to help them move on through their education as best as they can.

As we all know, this school was once a dream of one visionary man, Mr Mohamed Hassan OAM, which officially began 25 years ago. Now it is crystal clear that his legacy will continue for many, many years, Insha-Allah. In 2017 we will run a number of events to celebrate this significant milestone.

I am looking forward to seeing you all next year, Insha-Allah. Have a safe and enjoyable break.

Sead Omerovic
Principal (Springvale Campus)
**Message from Library**

The year is quickly drawing to a close and all library books and take home readers now need to be returned so they can have a rest over the holidays.

The children have been very quick in returning the books they have borrowed but there are still a few that are enjoying their new homes too much.

Could you please help out and send back all the library books that may still be hiding at your place. I would also like to say a big thank you for your help and support during the year. I hope you have enjoyed the books your children have chosen and brought home to read and share.

Wishing you all a safe and happy holidays.

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**DVD Recording**

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

- Year 12 Graduation
- Year 6 Graduation (Springvale Campus)

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.

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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](http://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.
**Year 10 Work Experience 2017**

In 2017, Work Experience will run for two school weeks from Monday 7th August to Friday 18th August. Students are encouraged to seek professional placements during the school holidays, in their field of interest.

The school Careers Intranet has a list of organisations offering placements.

We urge all parents to assist the students through their networks to secure an early placement. This programme is an important tool for informed career decision making.

If anyone is able to offer placements for our students during the above dates, kindly contact Ms Sayeeda Bawa at the Minaret Careers Office.

**Kidsmatter**

Learning the skill of transition is an important ingredient to facilitate students’ adjustment to changing environments. Research confirms that transitions are stressful for children and young people, just as they are for adults, and the resulting stress can have far-reaching effects on children’s emotional wellbeing and academic achievements.

For many students, these transitions are happy experiences adding colour to their life, while for some it could be a difficult time with underlying anxieties and worries.

With an aim to give all our students the positive experience of managing change and belief in their skills to face change, Minaret College organised an UP DAY for all its primary students on 18th November. Students got an opportunity to be involved in fun-filled activities in their next year level class with their new group of friends.

After spending a couple of hours with their new group in a new classroom with various new activities, the return journey for all these students to their current classes was indeed a pleasure to watch.

New friendships were made with interesting conversations along with the excitement of a New Year waiting with many surprises. Indeed it was a transition made in the right direction!

**HIGHLIGHTS**

**Excursion To Botanical Gardens**

Grade 4’s went on an exciting excursion to the Botanical Gardens. The excursion was about native Australian flora and fauna. We went to the Botanical Gardens, where we saw native plants as well as learned about Aboriginal lifestyles.

We also learnt the uses of different Aboriginal plants and how they used these plants in their daily life and as well as medicines. It was a fun filled experience and we all enjoyed it a lot.

*Muneebah Walker (4B)*

**Celebration – Special Moments**

Grade 1’s unit of Inquiry topic was Celebration. Students were engaged enthusiastically in setting up a display corner with special things associated with celebration.

They took pride in sharing some of their special moments & events they celebrate with their families and friends.
Premier’s Reading Challenge
Minaret College has been actively participating in the Premier’s Reading Challenge, launched by the Premier of Victoria, every year since the start of the initiative.

Our students, from Foundation to Year 10, enjoy reading books suggested in the respective year level lists as well as other books of their choice. They are extremely proud and excited to receive the certificates once they complete the challenge, duly signed by the honourable Premier.

Foundation Orientation Day
We had a wonderful opportunity to meet our new students starting Foundation in 2017. Children in our classrooms were excited to welcome their new friends to visit them and have a short glimpse of a typical day in Foundation.

We sang songs together as an ice breaker, read Quran and showed them some of our Literacy and Numeracy activities. We involved them in making a simple word puzzle and read a book together. The children settled very well and participated actively. It was an enjoyable day for everyone involved. Our students didn’t want our new friends to leave.

Extending ICT Skills
Grades 3s have extended their ICT skill in an interesting way throughout this year. It was an awesome experience to work on Ipads. This Term, we had the opportunity to work on various types of Information Reports.

We were so excited to create News Reports about countries and their festivals. We felt extremely proud to gain so much knowledge about other countries. It was an amazing journey this year and we are feeling ready to move to the next year with our improved skills.

Year 6 Graduation
On the 21st of November, Year 6’s celebrated their 2016 graduation. The theme of the night was “Together we belong”. We performed two songs; the theme song “together” by Gaia Cauchi and the Islamic song was “call on him” by Raef.

The Multi-Purpose Hall was decorated beautifully; all organised by the Year 6’s. Receiving our certificates, was really exciting as our friends were cheering, teachers were smiling and parents recording proudly. Overall the night was a huge success and everyone went home with something special to remember.

Hannah & Sadaf 6C
Preschool Graduation Ceremony

Minaret Preschool’s graduation ceremony was held on Tuesday 15th of November.

It was a great honour to have Mr Mohamed Hassan OAM, Founder & Director of Minaret College, as our chief guest for the ceremony.

The ceremony was also attended by Ms Susie Hassan, Ms Inas Hassan, Br Sead Omerovic, Br Subhan Ali, Ms Fairooza Gaffar, Ms Ayesha Farooq and Ms Amna Khan.

Many thanks to all the families who attended the Preschool graduation ceremony. Alhamdullilah! this academic year has come to an end on a happy note. I thank all the parents and families for their contribution. I take this opportunity to thank my team for their commitment to the children’s learning.

Our best wishes goes to our Preschool children and their parents as they embark on a new venture. I wish all the children, parents and staff to have safe and enjoyable summer holiday.