



Minaret Quarterly

Term 3 - 2023 | AH 1444



It was a vision to help a local charity that set a group of Year 12 students raising funds. MashaAllah, students and staff contributed generously and the group proudly delivered a cheque of \$5,000 to the Royal Children's Hospital, where the funds will be used to sponsor a hospital bed in the name of Minaret College. May Allah (SWT) reward them for their initiative and may it be a source of ongoing reward for them.



The Concept of Care

We were proud hosts to the members of the Islamic Schools Association of Australia (ISAA) at the Springvale Campus in August. The conference proved to be an amazing forum for us to share best practices, discuss challenges, and collectively strategise ways we can provide our students with the best education possible. This is a prime example of the concept of care, where at a leadership level, we are committed to ensuring that all Islamic schools in Australia are the best they can be.

At Minaret, we have a theme for each term, and 'care' is the theme for this term. Aptly so, since Minaret College plays a significant role as one of the larger Islamic schools in Australia. We are committed to partnering other Islamic schools, to ensure we grow together and serve our communities the best we can. Learning from each other and sharing best practices is an excellent way school leaders can role model 'care' for our staff, students and community.

The tenet of care for one another is also deeply embedded in our Islamic moral systems. Our Prophet Muhammad (saw) said, "If a person relieves a Muslim of his trouble, Allah will relieve him of his troubles on the Day of Resurrection". And Allah (SWT) mentions in Surah Al-Ankaboot, "And Allah is certainly with the good-doers."

As a reminder to myself first, I encourage us all to always act with care, and to keep it fundamental to our daily behaviour and our deen.

Mohammed Taksim, Executive Principal

What's new on Campus

Springvale Campus:

Assalamu alaikum. It was an exciting term on campus, with some new additions and improvements to Springvale Campus. Let's start off with exploring the VCE Hub – the multi-million-dollar building comes equipped with classrooms, tutorial rooms, ample study space, leisure areas, basketball court, kitchenettes and staff rooms. The all-in-one set up is testament to the College's attention to, and support for VCE students. We also had an amazing grand opening of the facility with a brunch and tour. Even though the heating came in a little later, the excitement over the new building kept us all warm.

On the topic of staying warm, another addition to our campus this term is the outdoor heaters. These have been placed under shaded areas around the school to allow students to be outside and get some fresh air while staying warm. This has been a lifesaver during the winter season.

Due to Covid, the water taps were closed off to contain the spread of the infectious disease, but recently, new and improved water coolers have been installed. The coolers come with built-in water bottle refill stations. The modern design ensures hygiene, and allows for more people to use the water taps at the same time.

Alhamdulillah for these improvements to Minaret College, and we look forward for all that is to come, Insha Allah.

- Abdul Zaahir Shameem and Waghma Popal, Student Leaders, Springvale Campus

Officer Campus:

From Dandenong to the bay, term 3 at Minaret College Officer Campus has been treading from "good" to "great". As a Year 12 student, term 3 has been pretty much like term 2, but double the speed – fast paced and exhilarating.

To take the edge off, students here have been indulging in lunch time clubs, which are not just unique, but a safe space to make friends, socialise and simply have a good time. The board game club has definitely been a highlight for many students who enjoy getting together to play a game of Jenga or Monopoly. It really adds that bit of spice we all need after a SAC or on one of those days when you're feeling competitive.

I recently completed a leadership handbook, so that student leaders and those interested in leadership have an invaluable resource to provide them with a guide for their leadership journeys in the school community.

So far, the year has been filled with highs and lows, and term 3 is no exception – but where is the beauty in living a monochrome life without a little challenge.

-Noor Fatima, Student Leader, Officer Campus



In the Quran, Allah (SWT) says: "Help one another in acts of piety and righteousness. And do not assist each other in acts of sinfulness and transgression. And be aware of Allah".

Important Dates for Term 4

Fri 15 Sep

Last Day of Term 3
(Students dismissed at 2:30pm)

Mon 2 Oct

Start of Term 4
(Students to report to school by 8:25am)

Mon 6 Nov

No school for students
(Staff Professional Development Day)

Tue 7 Nov

Melbourne Cup Public Holiday
(School closed)

Fri 1 Dec

Last day of Term 4
(Students dismissed at 2:30pm)

Parents are reminded to plan for holidays only during the stipulated term breaks. Students are required to attend school regularly, unless a legitimate reason is provided by parents/ students and accepted by the respective Head of School. To be considered for automatic promotion to the next year level, students must attain an attendance rate of 90% or above under normal circumstances.

Visits & Celebrations



Sheikh Saad Nomani, a renowned reciter who can emulate over 90 reciters, inspired students with his beautiful recitation at the Springvale Campus.



AFL Star Adam Saad paid a special visit to Officer Campus to share his incredible journey to success in the AFL. He also shared valuable insights about the importance of perseverance, teamwork, and dedication.



Across our three campuses, students, parents and teachers celebrated a significant milestone for our Foundation students – 100 days of Foundation! From those initial moments of hesitation and uncertainty, they have blossomed into confident learners, eager to explore new horizons.

Congratulations!



Congratulations to Yasin (3A), Safyyah (4A), and Abubakar (4A) from Doveton Campus on their achievement of memorising juz 29 and 30 of the Holy Quran!



Our Year 8 girls were champions at the Greater Dandenong Division Futsal Competition.



Our Year 8 boys emerged as champions at the Cardinia Division Interschool Table Tennis Competition.



Sumaya Osmani, from 6D, took home first prize for the Dandenong Council Children's Forum Flyer Competition.

Meeting of Minds

Minaret College was honoured to host the annual conference by the Centre of Islamic Thought and Education (CITE) over the weekend of 19 & 20 August. The conference was attended by Islamic educators from around Australia, including the teachers and school leaders from Minaret College. The theme for the inspiring and thought-provoking conference was *Afiya*, or Wellbeing. Minaret College played a role to both share and benefit from the presentations and discussions.



30 Year Anniversary Community Dinner

On 18 August, Minaret College held a 30 Year Anniversary Dinner for the community. With many interstate guests converging in Melbourne for conferences, including the ISAA conferences held earlier at the Springvale Campus, the dinner was an opportune time to share the history of the College. It was also a celebration of the contributions so many have made to Islamic Schools across Australia. It was a wonderful, unifying event in which attendees were reminded of our common purpose – to serve the needs of the Australian Muslim community.



Congratulations Noor Fatima!!

Our very own Officer Campus student Leader, Noor Fatima, emerged the winner in the Crescent Awards Secondary School Learner Award for Leadership Impact. Noor's efforts in mentoring and leading others, as well as fundraising and for giving others a voice, were recognised through this award. We are so proud of her, and pray that Allah continues to place barakah in her work and efforts. Ameen!



Term Dates 2024

Term One

Tue, 30 Jan - Thu, 28 Mar
(Foundation students start on Wed, 31 Jan for half days for three days)

Public Holidays:

Fri, 26 Jan - Australia Day
Mon, 11 Mar - Labour Day & Ramadan (TBC)
Tue, 9 Apr - Eid ul Fitr (TBC)

Term Two

Tue, 16 Apr - Fri, 28 Jun

Public Holidays:

Thu, 25 Apr - Anzac Day
Mon, 10 Jun - King's Birthday
Mon, 17 Jun - Eid ul Adha (TBC)

Term Three

Tue, 16 Jul - Fri, 20 Sep

Term Four

Mon, 7 Oct - Fri, 6 Dec

Public Holidays:

Mon, 4 Nov - Student Free Day/
Staff PD Day
Tue, 5 Nov - Melbourne Cup

2024 Enrolments

Have you enrolled your child for 2024?

Enrolments are open now and filling fast, so do enrol your child today to avoid disappointment. Complete an enrolment form and submit it along with the required supporting documents.

Enrolment form for [Early Learning Centre](#)

Enrolment form for [Foundation to Year 12](#)

For more information, visit the [Minaret College Website](#)

PROFILE

Meet Iryna



Mum, English teacher and Jiu-jitsu expert. We speak to Sr Iryna about life at Minaret and introducing this art of self-defence to the girls at Springvale Campus

Sr Nur Irynowati Shamsuddin was a teacher in Singapore for the past 15 years, before coming to Melbourne to teach English at the Springvale Campus at the start of this year. But other than inspiring a love for English among her students, she also is a force to reckon with on the Jiu-jitsu mat.

What do you love about teaching in Minaret? I love the diversity that exist in my classrooms! I have learnt so much about the different cultures and nationalities of my students and I feel like I am a global citizen representing Singapore in this unique community, especially when they are so curious about my background and homeland.

How long have you been doing Jiu-jitsu and what do you love about it? I have been training since 2019 and I have been a certified instructor since 2021. I love that it gives me the confidence to be able to defend myself and it keeps me physically active despite being a busy teacher and mother. I teach women self-defence through Jiu-jitsu and empower them with the skills and mindset to be able to take on potential attackers who are bigger and stronger through technique and leverage. To see them grow in self-belief and confidence over time gives me such a great sense of fulfilment because I see it as a service to my community.

How has your experience been introducing Jujitsu to the girls at Springvale? I am so happy to have been given the opportunity to teach some Year 11 girls at the end of term 2. They were eager to learn and had so much fun, and hence I am looking forward to launching a structured lunchtime program. This will allow them to learn so much more in a structured environment, track their progress and gain even more confidence in themselves.

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How is Jui-jitsu similar to teaching? Both Jiu-jitsu and teaching require strategy and adaptability. In Jiu-jitsu, I have to adjust my techniques based on my opponent's movements, much like how I tailor my teaching methods to accommodate different learning styles and student needs. Both also emphasise the importance of patience, practice, and continuous improvement for mastery. As a Jiu-jitsu practitioner, I refine my techniques over time on the mats and as a skilled teacher I also refine my instructional methods to create a more effective learning experience in the classroom. So, there is definitely a lot of similarities between the two passions in my life!

You've Got This, Beloved VCE Students

As you approach the final lap of your journey at Minaret College, we're keeping you all in our daily duas. Put in your best effort, and InshaAllah, you will be rewarded.

Here are some duas you can recite:

Dua before studying:

رَبِّ اشْرَحْ لِي صَدْرِي وَيَسِّرْ لِي أَمْرِي وَاحْلُلْ
عُقْدَةَ مِنِّ لِسَانِي يَفْقَهُوا قَوْلِي

"O Sustainer of my Life! Open my heart and make my work easier for me, and untie the knot in my tongue so people can completely comprehend what I'm saying."

Dua to reduce anxiety:

حَسْبِيَ اللَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ عَلَيْهِ تَوَكَّلْتُ وَهُوَ رَبُّ
الْعَرْشِ الْعَظِيمِ

"Allah is sufficient for me. There is none worthy of worship but Him. I have placed my trust in Him. He is the Lord of the Majestic throne."

Dua before exams:

اللَّهُمَّ لَا سَهْلًا إِلَّا مَا جَعَلْتَهُ سَهْلًا وَأَنْتَ تَجْعَلُ
الْحَزْنَ إِذَا شِئْتَ سَهْلًا

"Allah! Nothing is simple except what you have simplified. You can make the tough simple if you want."

Go TechTigers!

From its humble beginnings in Term 2 this year, the Robotics Club at the Officer Campus – otherwise known as the TechTigers – certainly has come a long way. When it first started in a small room, it could only accommodate eight students at a time, and they struggled with the technology. "Students were encouraged to build and code different types of robots based on the unit lessons. However, we struggled with the Lego Education app on the iPads so teachers had to use their laptops instead," recalls Sr Mazni Muhamad-Kadir, the teacher-in-charge.



Today, the club sees a steady gathering of 20 regular Lego enthusiasts across Years three to six, better equipment and facilities, and some very exciting plans in the near future. TechTigers Jnr (Years 3 & 4) will be participating in the First Lego League Explore Festival at the University of Newcastle in New South Wales, where students will present a Lego model they had designed and built as a team. Meanwhile, TechTigers (Years 5 & 6) will be competing in the First Lego League Tournament at Swinburne University in Victoria.

While this is the first tournament our TechTigers will be representing Minaret College at, the Club plans to extend membership and activities to Junior Primary students and to acquire a larger venue and more Lego sets. "With increased participation, we will be able to achieve better results competitively, InshaAllah," says Sr Mazni.



*Muhammad
Ali Aulakh*

"When I first heard about the Robotics Club, I was interested to join just for fun. Now that the team will be participating in the festival, it's getting serious and I feel excited. The best part of being in Robotics Club is when you can build on your ideas and share them with your team. Working in teams is so much fun."

-TechTigers Jnr leader, Muhammad Ali Aulakh, 3B

ELC Highlights

Here's what our ELC students have been up to in Term 3

Springvale ELC



Children planted winter vegetables at the end of term two. They have been looking after the vegetables by watering and putting compost from their own food and fruit scraps.



A water safety expert spoke to children about how to be safe when they are around the beach, lake, or swimming pool. They were also reminded that they must always be under adult supervision when around water bodies.

Book week: Children celebrated book week using different story-related props and completed it with book character dress-up. They thoroughly enjoyed enhancing their literacy skills through this engaging activity.



NAIDOC week and Celebrating Elders: To pay respects to Aboriginal Elders, our kinder children's grandparents paid a visit to our kinder and spent time with their grandchildren with story times and craft activities.



Science week: The children explored a range of simple STEM activities such as how plants absorb water, how new colours appear when two colours are mixed, how snow forms and what happens when we drop watercolours onto tissues. They also learned about the different body parts and organs and how to measure ingredients and use heat to bake muffins.

Officer ELC



This term children learned some interesting facts about the sea creatures and found it fascinating that the ocean is the largest animal habitat in the world. To expand their oceanic knowledge, we introduced the "Ocean in a Jar" activity.



The children also focused on healthy eating and learned that healthy eating patterns are essential for their physical and mental growth and well-being, through various activities. They also attended an excursion to Myuna Farm, where they were shown how to milk a goat, handle and feed farm animals and were also treated to a train ride to the wetlands.

Care Competition Results

The theme of the term is care, so we asked students to tell us what it means to them. We received so many awesome submissions and had a hard time picking the winners! Congratulations. You each win a restaurant voucher worth \$50 to spend with your families!



In Islam's way, we learn to share,
To show we truly, deeply care.
Like a helping hand when shadows fall,
Or a gentle word to mend it all.
Prophet's teachings, timeless and wise,
Urge compassion that never dies.
In each act of kindness that we bestow,
Allah's mercy and love do flow.
So let's embrace this precious art,
Stir ripples of care from heart to heart.
For in caring deeds, we truly find,
A path that unites all of humankind.
With faith as a guide, let's brightly shine,
Uniting in care, a bond divine.
In caring's circle, hearts combine,
A radiant bond that forever shines.

By Dawd Dawd

Name our Newsletter!

Can you think of a good name for this newsletter? Email us at newsletter@minaret.vic.edu.au with a suggested name, and you may just win a great prize!