



# HARP OF THE SPIRIT

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Dear Parents, Students and Friends,

### **In Him We Grow**

This newsletter article marks a year since our beloved Archbishop, Mar Meelis Zaia AM created the St. Narsai Assyrian Christian College faith-based motto, In Him We Grow. I am pleased to report that the college community has embraced this wonderful and powerful motto, which tells us that only by trusting and loving our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, we can grow spiritually.

This motto is now appearing in our written communications and is also talked about and is referred to on a regular basis during college assemblies and other activities. The strengthening of the college's spiritual dimension is greatly assisted by the consistent presence of His Grace, Mar Benyamin Elya at the College and the very valuable work of our Chaplain, Fr. Shamuel. Mar Benyamin's skilfully crafted Christian Studies lectures to our senior students throughout this year have been very effective in assisting our seniors to navigate through life's many challenges.



Moreover, His Grace continue to lead and oversee the work of the College's Christian Studies department in designing and creating new Christian Studies teaching and learning resources and much progress has been made to date. I take this opportunity to acknowledge all Christian Studies teachers who have been tasked with writing and designing these resources.

### **NSW Tournament of the Minds Competition**

There is an air of excitement across the college with our involvement in this year's NSW Tournament of the Minds competition. St. Narsai College will be sending a team of 18 students from years 7-10 made up of our Gifted and Talented team and outside GAT's team. Our students will be competing this Saturday 31st August, in the South West Region, which is taking place at the Bankstown campus of Western Sydney university (WSU).

Our 18 students form three teams that have been training throughout this term on developing their skills in finding creative solutions to a wide range of problems. These teams will be competing against other teams from several other schools to face three different challenges, covering three different disciplines within a limited time in one day.

I take this opportunity to thank all participating students and acknowledge Miss. Yakou for organising and training these students. I also would like to thank Mrs. Moshi for supporting these students in this enterprise. The link below provide more information about this competition: <https://www.tom.edu.au/About>

Thank You,  
Mr. E. Dinkha

## A LOOK AT WHAT'S INSIDE THE ISSUE:

Message from the Deputy  
Breakfast with the Principal  
HSIE Faculty  
CAPA Faculty

# FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents/Carers and Student,

## Teaching and Learning

Last week all our teachers were part of twilight sessions held after school. These sessions involved teachers analysing and discussing student data and implementing strategies to collaboratively improve individual student progress. Students will benefit from this as teachers implement the strategies within their lessons.

Teachers have also been focusing on learner dispositions: Independence, Engagement, Persistence, Self-Regulation and Innovation. Please ask your child about what it means to be a learner with these dispositions.

## Preliminary Final Exams

Next week, Year 11 students will commence their Preliminary Final Examinations. I encourage all parents to check that students are preparing for their exams. I wish all year 11 students the best of luck as they complete the exams.

## Year 12

Year 12 are preparing for their final weeks at the College. Teachers are offering extra tutorials to assist students as they prepare for their final HSC exams. I encourage all students to take up the opportunities. I hope that Year 12 enjoy their final weeks at the College with the different activities that are being organised for them.

## Minimum Standards

NESA Minimum Standards Tests are continuing this term for Year 10 students. Students in Year 11 who are yet to meet the minimum standards will also be given the opportunity this term. A letter will be sent home with all students in Year 11 who are yet to meet the minimum standards in numeracy encouraging them to login and participate in an online numeracy program to prepare them for the tests.

Finally, I would like to wish all the fathers of our College community a Happy Father's Day. May God bless you and guide you.

God bless,  
Mary Khina

# BREAKFAST WITH THE PRINCIPAL

On a fortnightly basis we invite our students to have **'Breakfast with the Principal'** this great initiative allows students to talk in a causal environment with Executive members and staff about their studies, school concerns and other matters all while enjoy a nice breakfast!



## Upcoming Events

**Tuesday 3 September**  
Eucharistic Liturgical Service

**Wednesday 9 September**  
Year 11 Preliminary Exams commence

The righteous man walks  
in his integrity; His  
children are blessed after  
him.  
**Proverbs 20:7**

## HSIE FACULTY

Dear family and friends of St Narsai Assyrian Christian College,

As we approach the end of Term 3, it is a great opportunity to reflect on what has been a busy and fruitful couple months for both staff and learners alike. Term 3 has already consisted of a variety of academic activities and initiatives to ensure active engagement for our learners and opportunities for them to achieve their personal best.

### **Year 8 Geography**

Learners studied the topic 'Water in the World' this term. They learnt how to make natural water filters using charcoal, sand, cloth and plastic bottles. They also calculated their water footprints to understand and find out how much water they use each day. This allowed them to understand and implement strategies on how they can manage and save water as active citizens.

### **Year 9 Commerce**

In Year 9 Commerce, learners have been analysing strategies used by sellers to promote their products and maximise sales. Learners explored and analysed these strategies in today's world, including sporting games such as the 2019 Superbowl, tv advertising and movies, as well as products sold in everyday supermarkets. Learners also compared the impact of several companies, including successful selling techniques used by Coca-Cola over different periods of time.

### **Year 11 Ancient History**

This year Ancient History, Year 11 have covered the topics of Representations of the Past, Nineveh (Term 1) and Troy and Weapons and Warfare in Assyria (Term 2). In Term 1, we looked at how Ancient History has been represented over time through sources including pop culture and film and why it has been represented in this way. We investigated various films and analysed how history was represented in bias perspectives. In Term 2, students were given the opportunity to undertake an historical investigation of their own choice where they came up with their own thesis and completed a journal to document their investigation. We have some true detectives among us with extensive investigative skills!

In Term 3, we focused on weapons and warfare of the Assyrians, and learnt that their ancestors were truly, 'masters of war'. Students have also had their heads down, studying in preparation for their Preliminary Exams coming up in Week 7. We have practiced long responses throughout the year and it has been incredibly rewarding to see the students improve on their writing capabilities as they have been able to evaluate ongoing feedback they have received.

This is also the first senior group to complete the new Ancient History Syllabus at St Narsai. The main change is the focus on engaging with sources and evidence, in which students identify and analyse varying sources and what they reveal. It is an exciting change, in which the focus of the subject is on how to engage with sources effectively– and how to identify what these sources are. Students have been working consistently on building their source analysis skills and reflecting on their own writing and learning.

### **Year 11 and 12**

I would also like to congratulate Year 11 on completing the Preliminary course. Students will be completing their yearly exams as of next week. I wish them all the very best and pray their hard work is rewarded. I would also like to wish the Year 11 learners a relaxing holiday in advance and pray they start the new term rejuvenated to tackle the HSC course with energy, confidence and motivation. We encourage learners to set themselves some goals over the holidays to focus on during the next four terms in order to achieve their personal best in the HSC.

To conclude, we also wish all Year 12 learners the best of luck as they prepare for their HSC exams in two month. We pray that you are focused and equip yourselves with the necessary knowledge and skills to tackle your exams with confidence. We have no doubt you will do the college, community and nation proud.

God bless,  
Written by Miss Sandy Nona  
Acting HSIE Coordinator



## CREATIVE AND PERFORMING ARTS FACULTY

Dear family and friends of St Narsai Assyrian Christian College,

Term three has already seen some horrific sights with the Yr 10 Drama students experimenting with latex and stage makeup to create their horror characters for their assessment.

The Music department has seen Year 7 begin to learn riffs on the guitar, and two handed keyboard pieces as part of learning about Rock Music.

Year 10 Music students have been discovering the endless possibilities of modern music making with digital music software. They have created quality loops and rhythmic patterns that are represented in the majority of popular songs.

All Music students have been developing their ensemble skills in and outside of the classroom, and on a variety of instruments such as vocals, piano, guitar, bass and drums with using both classical and modern popular music. A school band has developed to accompany our Yr 12 Music students in their upcoming HSC Performance examinations which is scheduled for September 18.

Year 11 Art students thoroughly enjoyed learning about the world they live in while making lino-graphic prints on current world issues. Inspired by artists like Shepherd Fairy, the designer behind popular prints and murals addressing world issues, Year 11 Art students found meaning in their art making and delivered exceptionally high-quality prints.

God bless,  
Ms Ciara Salmaggi  
CAPA Coordinator

