



# HARP OF THE SPIRIT

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents, Guardians and Friends,

Students and staff are very excited with the near completion of the new sports court adjoining the College car park. This large outdoor sports area will have two basketball courts, two netball courts, one tennis court and one futsal court and students cannot wait to start playing in it.

We are planning an opening of this new sporting area soon and we will share with you details of the event.

### Student Attendance

Regular attendance at school is essential if students are to achieve their educational best and increase their career and life options. At St. Narsai College, our staff remain committed to working in partnership with you to address the issues which are preventing some students from full participation at school.

You would be aware that The Education Act (1990) requires parents to ensure that children of compulsory school age attend school each day it is open for instruction. Unfortunately, some students from some year levels have exceeded the acceptable level of absences allowed each year and that is of major concern to us for obvious reasons.

From next week, some parents will be contacted in relation to their child's poor attendance records in 2020 and we will start a discussion with them about ways to help improve that attendance rate urgently.

### Year 12

After two weeks of Trial HSC Examinations all Year 12 students will be back to their normal classes from Tuesday, 1st September continuing their formal HSC studies for the next five weeks. A good number of these students continue to be extremely busy completing their practical projects, major designs and works across a few subjects and preparing to submit them. We extend them all our best wishes as they do their best for their HSC courses.

### Year 11

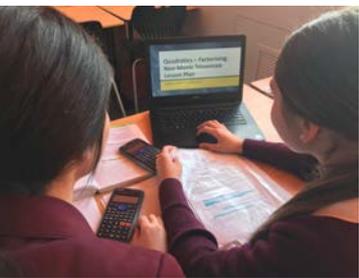
Year 11 students are scheduled to sit their End of Year Preliminary Examinations from week 8 in building B. Throughout their exam period, several students will have to sit two exams per day. As usual, students will be permitted to leave school grounds after their exams and will not be required to attend the college if they have no exam scheduled for the day.

It is important to remind Year 11 students that usual HSC examination rules and procedures apply during this major HSC assessment event. Some of these rules include, being on time, having the right equipment for the examinations and not bringing restricted materials or equipment into the examination hall, e.g., mobile phones and other restricted electronic devices.

Moreover, subject to COVID-19 situation in term four, the college plans to organise a Year 12 2021 Assessment Information Evening in week 2 next term. We also plan to distribute Year 11 End of Year Reports during that evening.

Thank you and God bless,

Mr. E. Dinkha



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

- Message from the Deputy Principal
- Science Faculty
- Learning Support Unit
- Selective Stream
- Important Dates

## FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents, Students and Friends of the College

### AFTERNOON PARKING

We understand the issues regarding traffic in the afternoon when parents are picking their children up from the College. Orange cones have been placed in areas for the safety of all drivers and pedestrians. We ask that parents

- do not remove the orange cones for any reason
- delay your arrival time by 10 minutes (be at the College at 3pm instead of 2.50pm) as this eases a lot of traffic
- be patient with each other

### REPEATED ARTICLE: DANGEROUS NEW VAPING CRAZE

A Current Affair recently reported on the increase use of vape among school children.

I believe it is extremely important for you, the parents, to be aware of this new craze.

These new vape devices do not look like vape. They look like a USB or highlighter (see images below). As a school, we try to protect our students from such things, however we also rely on parents being aware and vigilant regarding their children.

Please see the video clip of the very informative report shown on A Current Affair below:

<https://9now.nine.com.au/a-current-affair/disposable-ecigarette-pods-cause-outcry-as-craze-takes-off-among-teenagers-in-australian-schools/7b537973-c3a5-4962-ae67-89acf8069699>

The only way to tell that it is a vape device, is one side has the name of the flavour. The image below is a sample of what it looks like.



### To Bullying, St Narsai says No Way!

Bullying is never ok. At St Narsai, bullying is not tolerated in any form - verbal, physical, emotional or cyber bullying is not acceptable and have severe consequences. It's hurtful and can impact someone for a long time.



Supported by the policies and procedures, once bullying is reported, it is not repeated. Therefore, we ask every parent/carer, if you are aware of any bullying in the school to contact the College and inform the Year Adviser, Pastoral Care Coordinator (Ms Kaya) or Deputy Welfare (Me) and to encourage your child to inform us as well.

Ten possible actions for bullying prevention:



**Youth Resilience Survey**

In Week 2 of this term, the College conducted the Youth Resilience Survey to gather information about our students' wellbeing. We are in our third and final year of this project. Every year, the Welfare Team uses the survey results to plan programs and activities to improve every student's resilience and wellbeing. The College endeavours to improve every student's schooling experience to hopefully show a positive increase in the student's attitude to their school and their learning which will filter through to their daily life.

**Is your child addicted to screen time?**

Screen time is the term used for the period of time a person faces a screen. Children are having too much screen time. They are accessing iPads, tablets, mobile phones and TV screen for their online games or consoles too regularly and too often. This is having a detrimental impact on their education and their health.

We ask all parents to support the College in helping to reduce the time their child/children are having screen time.

There are many things you can do for example, try reducing the screen time on a daily basis to one hour a day or reduce it to no screen time Monday to Thursday and restricted hours on the weekend.

Here are some tips from the Australian government to keep on top of your child's access to screen time:

**Final Word**

In the next few weeks, as Year 12 complete their trial HSC examinations and Year 11 commence their final Preliminary exams, I wish our Stage 6 students the best in their results. I pray you are rewarded for your hard work and we look forward to celebrating your achievements with you.

Thank you and God bless,  
Mrs Mary Ismail  
Deputy Principal (Staff and Student Wellbeing)

## Science Faculty

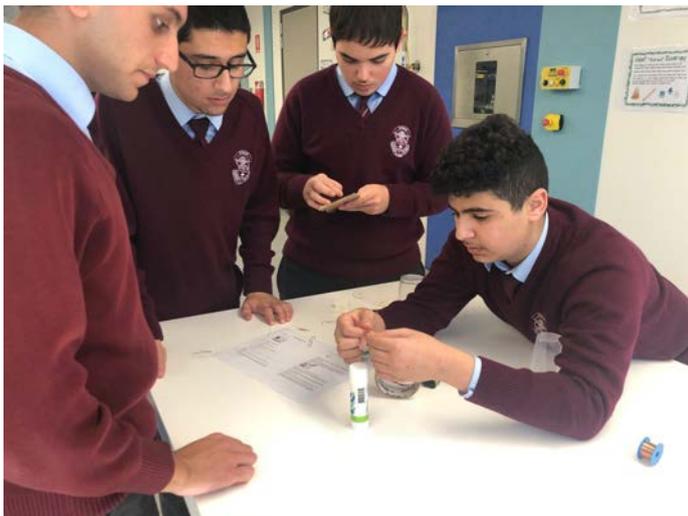
Written by Ms. Shamon  
Science Coordinator

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students,

It has been an exciting start to Term 3, week five marking National Science Week! National Science week is a week dedicated to inspiring and encouraging learners in their scientific pursuits and to help allow them to understand the world around them. Science enables our learners to question everything around them, thereby developing critical thinkers. Our learners kept busy throughout the week, partaking in projects and experiments all while exploring the application of Science in their everyday activities.

In light of the theme, sustainability of oceans, year 7 students created sea creatures for the science wall. Year 8 students cloned plants while learning about the importance of preserving endangered plant species. Year 9 students created solar powered ovens, bridges, and unsinkable ships as part of STEM targeted activities. Year 10 students studied the effects of ocean plastic pollution, while senior students created 3D coral reefs, the solar system and an educational video highlighting the importance of our oceans. Students were highly engaged and applied themselves diligently throughout the week.

Finally, a big congratulations to all students who competed in the 'Big Science Competition'. In particular, Mary Sada of year 7, receiving a High Distinction and Justin Zaia & Jordan Frendo of year 8, for receiving a Distinction. It is amazing to see these students working above and beyond their years to receive the best marks that they can. They are a true representation of the College's SHARP student concept and can't wait to see what else them as well as all students can do in Science next!



## Learning Support Unit

Written by Miss. N Yakou  
LSU Coordinator



Dear family and friends of St Narsai Assyrian Christian College,

An inclusive school is one in which children with disabilities and special educational needs are included in the educational arrangements made for the majority of children. Inclusion is the development of strategies that seek to bring about a genuine equalisation of opportunities and that all children should learn together.

The Learning Support Unit at SNACC assists the school to cater for those students in regular classes who are experiencing difficulties in basic areas of learning. The LAST and Teacher's Aides, working with the executive and staff, play an essential part in the whole-school approach to provide for these students.

The fundamental role of the Learning and Support Teacher (LAST) and Teacher's Aides is to ensure that all children with additional needs are catered for in the mainstream school. This includes gifted and talented students.

The Learning Support Unit has continued to hold meetings with parents, particularly over the school holidays to discuss their child's Individualised Learning Plan. It is important that we maintain a collaborative effort when planning and implementing strategies that will assist our students in achieving their outcomes. Collaboration includes LSU staff, parents, classroom teachers, the counsellor, Year Advisor and the students themselves. This has proven to be extremely successful to support students in their learning.

The Nationally Consistent Collection of Data (NCCD) is an annual collection of information about Australian school students with disability. The NCCD enables schools, education authorities and governments to better understand the needs of students with disability and how they can be best supported at school. After careful moderation with school staff, including the Principal, Deputy Principals, counsellor and Learning Support staff, St Narsai submitted the relevant information to NESAs for review. In order for this information to be accurate, meticulous evidence needs to be collected and filed. The evidence is provided by all staff and include the Individualised Learning Plan, learning logs, proof of adjustments, assessed needs of students and any form of communication and collaboration between staff, parents, students and external agencies.

St Narsai continues to use the speech pathology services provided by AH Partnerships. We are delighted to be working with speech pathologist, Erin Horsfall, who withdraws our students on Fridays to work in small group sessions. The students are enjoying these sessions and we are seeing improvements in many areas of literacy and expression along the way. She also provides teachers with small group and one-to-one professional learning sessions to offer them suggestions for strategies and resources to support your child in the classroom. These strategies are not limited to students with disabilities, but also aim to cater to EAL/D students.

Disability provisions in the HSC are practical arrangements designed to help students who couldn't otherwise make a fair attempt to show what they know in an exam room. The provisions granted are solely determined by how the student's exam performance is affected. It is not embarrassing to apply for provisions, and more than 7000 HSC students apply for provisions each year. Provisions help students to show the markers what they know and can do. To apply for provisions for the HSC, we must submit an online application to NESAs. This application tells us which provision/s a student is requesting and includes recent evidence of student need and support. Evidence may include medical reports, reading results, spelling results, writing samples and teacher comments. This is a process we prioritise every year for our Year 12 students. Learning Support staff are currently providing provisions for the Trial HSC paper, which include readers, writers, laptops, extra time, rest breaks, separate supervision and small group supervision to ensure our students feel comfortable during a stressful period. If you have any concerns about your child for the HSC, please contact the school and ask for Miss Yakou.

Finally, as the Learning Support Co-ordinator, I would personally like to thank Mrs A. Haddad, Mrs J. Hatzisavvas, Mrs Dawod, Mrs A. Andry, Mrs L. Francis and Mrs L. Middlebrook for their hard work, dedication and commitment to our students. They have shown unparalleled patience, care and compassion for each learning, especially while working online.

We look forward to seeing parents over the course of this term and next, and in maintaining our collaborative efforts with the whole school community. God bless



# SNACC LIBRARY UPDATE

Written by: Ms N Boulos

Recently, we have revised and updated our library policies and procedures to reflect the current needs and interests of students and better support them in their schooling journey.

Along with that, we are expanding our collection of both digital and print resources to cater for the teaching and learning needs of our users, both staff and students. Thus, careful consideration of curriculum requirements is a primary focus as well as developing student skills in information and digital literacy. Future plans include various educational subscriptions, STEAM resources and additional digital and ICT technologies.

Stay tuned for more exciting updates soon!

Book requests: students are encouraged to request any titles that are not available in our collection at the front circulation desk!  
Happy reading!

#### Opening hours:

8am-3.30pm Mon, Thurs & Fri  
8am-4pm Tues & Wed

#### Homework Club:

2.50pm-4pm Tues & Wed

## Notice

Years 10, 11 and 12 students are reminded to login to their NESAs students online accounts to check all their details are correct.

Students can update personal details such as addresses and mobile numbers. If there are any issues please email Mrs. Khina.

## Important Dates

**17th-31st Aug** – Year 12 Trial Examinations  
**Thursday 24th September** - Last day for Term 3 for students  
**Friday 25th September** – Pupil Free Day

