



Mar Narsai Assyrian College

Harp of The Spirit

N e w s l e t t e r

COLLEGE EVENTS

Monday 29 April

Pupil Free Day

Tuesday 30 April

Term 2 starts

Yr 7 students & Yr 9
boys Vaccines

Friday 3 May

Term 2 Mass (8.50—
10.30)

Monday 6 May

Yr 12 Visual Arts Excur-
sion

Thursday 7 May

College Assembly

Thursday 9 May

AGAT Test for yr 8 & 10
- hall Period 3

Dear Parents and friends of Mar Narsai Assyrian College:

As this is our last newsletter for this Term, I take this opportunity to thank all parents and guardians who have supported our school by attending information meetings. Also, I would like to thank all parents who have been actively involved in helping their children by supervising their study habits, homework and encouraged them to read and present their assessment tasks on time. Parents are the primary teachers of their children and should work in cooperation with the school staff to form a learning and teaching team, this way, what children learn in class will continue under their parents' supervision at home.

The year 12 students have completed their half yearly examinations. We wish them well and hope that they will continue to work hard and make a great effort to obtain high grades that will make us all proud of them. The year 12 Graduation will be held on Thursday 19th September 2013 in Edessa Hall, all students and parents of years 11 and 12 must attend and tickets will be sold next Term.

Issue 4: Term 1, Friday 12 April 2013

The Interim reports for students of year 7 to 11 were issued to parents on Thursday 11 April in the Assyrian Social Centre. Parents were encouraged to come and meet the PC teachers of their children and receive the report also, it gave parents the opportunity to make appointments to see their children's subject teachers next Term.

Monday 29th April is for teachers only; NO students are expected at the school on that day as it is Staff Development Day. Term 2 will begin on Tuesday 30 April.

God bless,

John Haskal
Principal



FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

Dear parents, students and friends,

National Assessment Program (NAPLAN)

Our Year 7 and 9 students will sit the National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) tests in May. These assessments allow students to demonstrate their literacy and numeracy skills. NAPLAN is made up of tests in the four areas of:

- Reading
- Writing
- Language Conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation)
- Numeracy

Interim Reports

Yesterday, a good number of parents attended the Interim Report parent/ teacher interviews in the school hall between 2- 4 pm. It was great to be part of some very constructive discussions about ways to improve academic performance at MNAC. Some parents collected their child's Interim Report today and the rest will be sent home with students. As you would know the Interim Report provides a snapshot of individual student's academic progress to date. It is expected that this report and any subsequent teacher/ parent interview will be the basis for a constructive discussion in the family about possible improvements.

Excellence

Christian

Values

Commitment

The tests are scheduled for **Tuesday 14 May to Thursday 16 May 2013**. A

NAPLAN letter was sent to parents earlier this week containing all relevant information.

Parents of year 7 & 9 students are asked to encourage their children to prepare for these tests by revising their literacy and numeracy notes to date. They can also use the internet to access relevant materials.

There are few NAPLAN related websites that offer test practice for years 3, 5, 7 and 9 students. The link below from The National Assessment Program (NAP) website also offers a range of example tests, including answers for years 3, 5, 7 and 9 students.

<http://www.nap.edu.au/naplan/the-tests/the-tests.html>

The Semester One report will be produced at the end of next term and will be based on a range of assessments as well as the half-yearly Exams, which take place in weeks 4-6 for years 7-11. So while we would like students to enjoy a well deserved break from school during the term holiday, there is also space for school work that may be necessary for a number of students.

Students could read novels they enjoy and revise their study materials, complete outstanding assignments or tasks, or just study from their prescribed texts. As ESL learners, many of our students must take advantage of such opportunities to enhance their school based and personal skills in the hope that they are able to compete with other students across the state and Australia.

Happy Assyrian New Year to you.

Thanks,

Mr. E. Dinkha

Dear Parents

I write to you to bring to your attention an activity that some students, a minority, are engaging in which is detrimental to both their long and short term development.

One of the aims of the college is to develop its students into leaders within both the Assyrian and the Australian Communities of the future. This is generally, though not exclusively, achieved through attaining a level of higher education and then combining this education with a set of values, ethics and morals which have been inculcated both at home and at school.

At present we have too many students who will openly defy their teachers in class. By defy I mean a teacher asks them to do something such as relinquish their mobile phone or an I- pod or perhaps ask the student to move to another desk in the room because they are disturbing the class while sitting next to someone. Perhaps they could be asked to leave the room as a result of their behaviour and report to their KLA Coordinator, myself or the Deputy Principal. There are a variety of scenarios that come up. One common theme however is that the student has done something or continued to behave in a way that has caused the teacher to ask them to do something. Too often the response from the student has become 'No! I won't'. This instantly causes a far greater problem. The teachers will generally give the student a second opportunity to comply but the student insists on refusing the direction. We need to note the directions are given for a reason. They are not hard, they are not difficult, they are not unfair and they are not demeaning. The student is simply up for a fight with the resulting effect of the class being wasted for every student in the room. Indeed there are examples of students who would never think of behaving in such a way getting themselves into trouble by following the lead of those who would. This is unfair on those students.

The simple fact is the teachers are in an authority position in their classrooms. They are not better or worse people than the students, nor do they confuse authority with power. They have a job to do on your behalf and they try very hard to do it.

Our society works on a hierarchical system pretty much everywhere. As adults you know this. Success is often measured by the number of people you give instruction to as against the number you take instruction from. Whatever your role in society you take instruction from someone, somewhere, somehow. It is a fact that people who are unable to take a direction should never be put in a position to give a direction. Some students are making themselves unemployable in the future with their attitudes and any form of leadership position will be unobtainable to them. They need to see the problem and take responsibility for their actions for their own good.



As a college we can't continue having class after class disrupted and destroyed because a small number of students think they are above being asked to do something. The example being demonstrated to the majority of the student body is poor and it is limiting the educational experiences of many innocent students, the large majority, who just want to enjoy school and get an education. I told the students during Wednesday's assembly that in future if they openly defy their teacher in class they will be sent straight home to chat with their parents about the matter. To give you an indication of the problem, since that assembly, instances of a student simply refusing to follow an instruction have come to my notice on 4 occasions and every time the defiance came as a response to the teachers reaction to a student's continuing bad behaviour.

I leave the matter with you and entreat you to discuss this matter with your children. Please ensure they understand how the real world works in terms of authority. If they are going to be successful and become leaders in their fields then they very much must have this reality and be able to exercise a little self control.

Chris Hardman

Welfare Coordinator

Footnote:

If a phone or the like is confiscated it is sent to the front office, placed in the school safe, and a parent (not an elder brother or sister) can pick it up at any time they choose. Most schools keep them for a prescribed period. We don't. This is hardly tough considering the only way we know the student has the item in the first place is because the student was being inappropriate in his/her use of the item.

Year 9 & 10

Technology & PE Excursion

Royal Easter Show

The Royal Easter show features the Woolworth's Fresh Food Dome for amazing food products, cooking demonstrations and celebrity chef events. The Woolworths Fresh Food Dome is also a celebration of Australia's multi-cultural diet, which draws its inspiration from every corner of the culinary world. The Dome is also the place to see the dazzling displays of farm products, arranged with creative mastery at the District Exhibits. Students sampled food from some of Australia's most leading producers. The Dome is also the place to see some of the latest innovations and technologies.

Mrs T.Rashidi
Technology Teacher



Year 9 & 10

Technology & PE Excursion



Royal Easter Show

ANZAC Day

ANZAC Day and the tradition of ANZAC Biscuits

During the week the Intensive English and Yr 9 LS English students completed a Naplan comprehension procedure on 'How to make ANZAC biscuits'.

After completing the comprehension activity, the students used the recipe to make ANZAC biscuits.

The 25th of April is known as ANZAC Day. It is the day we remember the anniversary of the first major military action fought by Australian and New Zealand forces during the First World War.

ANZAC stands for Australian and New Zealand Army Corps. The soldiers in those forces are endearingly known as ANZAC's.

The ANZAC biscuit is a traditional Australian biscuit that was sent overseas to serving ANZAC's during the First World War.

As you can see from the photos on the next page, the student's enjoyed making and eating ANZAC biscuits. I have included the ANZAC biscuit recipe for you to make and enjoy with your families on ANZAC Day.

Lest we forget.

ANZAC Biscuit Recipe

Ingredients:

- 1 cup of rolled oats
- 1 cup of sifted plain flour
- $\frac{1}{2}$ a cup of sugar
- $\frac{3}{4}$ of a cup of desiccated coconut
- 2 tablespoons of golden syrup
- $\frac{1}{2}$ a cup of butter
- $\frac{1}{2}$ a teaspoon of bicarb soda
- 1 tablespoon of boiling water

Method:

In a mixing bowl, mix 1 cup of rolled oats, 1 cup of sifted plain flour, $\frac{1}{2}$ a cup of sugar and $\frac{3}{4}$ of a cup of desiccated coconut. (Dry mixture).

In a pot gently melt two tablespoons of golden syrup and $\frac{1}{2}$ a cup of butter.

In a cup, mix $\frac{1}{2}$ a teaspoon of bicarb soda with 1 tablespoon of boiling water.

Add mixed bicarb soda and boiling water to the melted butter and syrup. (Wet mixture).

Add wet mixture to dry mixture and mix well.

Line a baking tray with baking paper.

Shape mixture into 50c size balls and place on tray, spaced apart. Slightly flatten the balls.

Bake in a 150 degree oven for 17 minutes.

Cool and eat.



UNIFORM SHOP

School uniforms are now in stock and available from SHAPS uniform store

Open Mon, Tue, Wed

8.45am – 10am

7-9 Greenfield Rd, Greenfield Park

9753 4185

School Hours

8:30am
To
2:50pm

Office Hours

8:am
To
4pm
Monday to Friday
Tel: 9753 0700
Fax: 9753 0800

Website

WWW.mnac.nsw.edu.au

Email Address

info@mnac.nsw.edu.au



Need to talk? Kids Helpline counsellors are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Nothing is too big or too small to call us about, and we will always listen and try to understand.



Help is available. No one needs to face their problems alone.

Call Lifeline on 13 11 14 for support or dial 000 if life is in danger.

Parentline

Parentline is a confidential telephone counselling service providing professional counselling and support for parents and those who care for children.

Phone: 1300 1300 52 (cost of a local call) - 24 hours a day, seven days a week - www.parentline.org.au



COLLEGE EVENTS

Monday 29 April

Pupil Free Day

Tuesday 30 April

Term 2 starts

Yr 7 students & Yr 9 boys Vaccines

Friday 3 May

Term 2 Mass (8.50—10.30)

Monday 6 May

Yr 12 Visual Arts Excursion

Thursday 7 May

College Assembly

Thursday 9 May

AGAT Test for yr 8 & 10
- hall Period 3

673-683 Smithfield Rd, Edensor Park NSW 2176

T: 9753 0700 F: 9753 0800

E: info@mnac.nsw.edu.au W: www.mnac.nsw.edu.au