



St. Narsai Assyrian Christian College

Harp of The Spirit

N e w s l e t t e r

Dear Parents and Guardians of SNACC

Issue 17 Term 4 13/11/2015

COLLEGE EVENTS

Tuesday
24/11/2015

To

Thursday
26/11/2015

Year 10
All My Own Work
Course

Thursday
26/11/2016
College Assembly
(Narsai)

MADD NIGHT
Music Art
Dance Drama
SNACC HALL
7:00-9:00 PM

Friday
27/11/2015
Year 10's
Last day

ST Narsai College is a growing school, its enrolment is now over 500 and we are expecting further increases. As result, in 2016 we will need to have three more classrooms and we had to change the Years 7 to 10 classes from three streams to four streams. As a result the teaching staff will also be increasing by at least four more.

As you know the College is introducing a One to One Laptop program. The program provides students with a personal laptop (tablets) to enhance opportunities for learning. With these programs, students will *learn about* computers and *learn with* computers. A computer is a tool-- just as a ruler, calculator, or pencil is-- and students need to learn to use today's tools. If used correctly, however, they can support and empower students, provide excitement in learning, enhance the desire to discover, and open the minds of our students to all kinds of possibilities. Some of the benefits of such programs include:

- more student centred approaches
- flexible teaching styles
- increased media literacy
- improved writing
- increased scores on standardised tests -e.g. NAPLAN
- increased motivation and improved student engagement
- decreased disciplinary problems
- improved school attendance
- to be better organised and more independent in their learning
- social and emotional benefits for special needs students.
- improvements in learning English

We need parental support for the program to be fully successful. Currently about 60% of the students in Year 7 & 8 have bought the laptop-- this means that 40% have not. We understand that it is an additional expense, but we strongly believe that that is an investment in your child's education and we would like all students to have bought one by the start of 2016. Please ring the office and speak to Mrs Maria Pacenza, to make the necessary arrangements for the purchase through the school. If you would like to discuss any matter in relation to the program, please ring me.

God Bless

Aldo Rufo

Principal

Dear Parents and Friends,

Most Year 9 and 10 students have just completed their end of year examinations. Next week, year 7 and 8 students will be sitting their own examinations in the school hall. The results from these examinations will be used in combination with other assessments undertaken in semester 2 to determine students' performance against syllabus standards.

Year 9 and 10 teachers have started marking exam papers as they prepare to collate assessment marks for semester two reports later in the term. Marked exam papers will be returned to students as soon as marking is complete and teachers will endeavour to provide meaningful feedback to students about their performance in these examinations.

At the conclusion of the examination period, year 7-9 students will be back in the classroom to continue work on their courses until week 10. However, year 10 students will complete their courses by end of week 8.

All My Own Work- A BOSTES HSC Program

The *All My Own Work* program is designed to help Higher School Certificate students to follow the principles and practices of good scholarship. This includes understanding and valuing ethical practices when locating and using information as part of their HSC studies.

Our Year 10 students will be completing this mandatory program in week 8. Students will not be enrolled into the Year 11 course in 2016 unless they complete this five module program.

Year 11 grades now available

Year 11 grades were made available by the Board of Studies from yesterday, Wednesday 11 November 2015.

Students are able to access their Year 11 grades via Students Online website. Students can log in to their personalised secure account using their BOSTES student number and 6 digit PIN.

Once logged in students can review their results in *My Details > Enrolments/Results* section and generate their eRecord. The eRecord is their interim report showing their 2015 Year 11 grades and their 2014 Year 10 grades and results.

Generally, a RoSA (Record of School Achievement) credential or a Transcript of Study will be mailed to students whose schools have notified the Board that they are leaving school.

Thank You,
Mr. E. Dinkha

Excellence
Christian
Values
Commitment

Message from the Counsellor

To Conform or NOT to Conform

As years pass by us, we encounter one generation after another of young people; generations imprinted by their surroundings and respective environment. With each generation; trends appear then gradually disappear, lifestyles turn mainstream then slowly dissolve away. However, the common factor observed by psychologists is the concept of *conformity*.

Conformity is the driving force behind trends, lifestyles and phases not only within our young people in schools, but for adults out in the real world also. It is conformity that gave birth to the latest ideology in America; whereby an individual is to delete a Facebook/Instagram photo if it has not reached 10 likes or more within 10 minutes of posting, as I so encountered over the past weekend. Artificiality at its best!

A very clever American psychologist by the name of Solomon Eliot Asch conducted a set of experiments in the 1950s to test just this. It was demonstrated that an individual's opinions could and would be influenced by those making up the majority of a group.

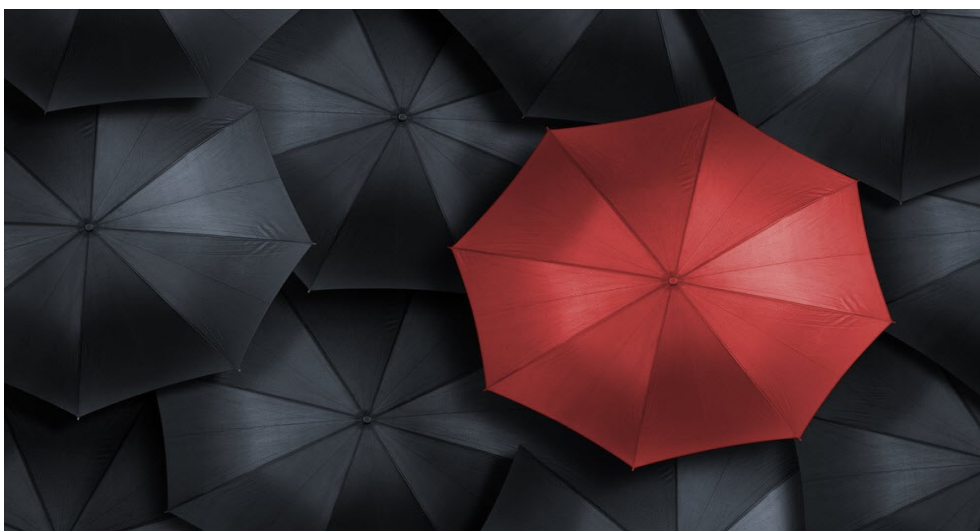
Asch's basic experiment was conducted on male university students who were placed into groups such that all but one of the participants were actors who had previously discussed the way in which they would respond. The true individual of the experiment, then, was the one person in the group who had no knowledge of the purpose of the experiment. Participants were first shown a card with a line on it, followed by a second card, which had three lines of differing lengths drawn on them. Participants were then asked to say aloud which line on the second card matched the length of the line shown on the first card. For the first two trials of the experiment, the actors would correctly report the matching line, and the true individual of the experiment seemed at ease. On the third trial, however, the actors would all give the same wrong answer, even when it was clear that the lines were not correctly matched. The purpose of the experiment was to see whether the real participant would change his answer and respond incorrectly so as to conform to the answer of others, who formed the majority of the group.

Asch reported that 75% of participants gave an incorrect answer to at least one question while only 25% never gave an incorrect response.

We continue to witness conformity in its finest stages today - sixty years on from Asch's initial experiment in the 1950s. The human mind is an incredible specimen that has no simple explanation. We humans think in very difficult and complex ways.

Don't conform into the darkness of superficiality, but transform into your own unique being.

Reference: Asch, S.E. (1951). Effects of group pressure on the modification and distortion of judgements. In H. Guetzkow (Ed.), *Groups, leadership and men* (pp. 177–190). Pittsburgh: PA Carnegie Press.



FOR UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN, UNTO US A SON IS GIVEN; AND THE GOVERNMENT
WILL BE UPON HIS SHOULDER. AND HIS NAME WILL BE CALLED

Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

ISAIAH 9:6

ST NARSAI ASSYRIAN CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

BRINGS YOU A

Christmas Concert

11:00am Friday 4th of December, 2015

IN THE ST NARSAI ASSYRIAN CHRISTIAN COLLEGE HALL

PLEASE BRING YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS

THE CAPA FACULTY PRESENTS:

MADD NIGHT 2015



WHEN

26TH NOVEMBER, 2015
7:00PM – 9:00PM
(APPROXIMATELY)

WHERE

SNAC SCHOOL HALL

MUSIC · ART · DANCE · DRAMA

AKAD UNIFORM SHOP

School uniforms are now in stock and available from AKAD uniform store
 Open Monday and Tuesday
 9am-11am
 Wednesday
 2:30pm-4:30pm
 7-9 Greenfield Rd, Greenfield Park

**School Hours**

8:40 am

To

3:00 pm

Office Hours

8:am

To

4pm

Monday to Friday

Tel: 9753 0700

Fax: 9753 0800

Website

WWW.snac.nsw.edu.au

Email Address

school.office@snac.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



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

Parent line 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

673-683 Smithfield Rd, Edensor Park NSW 2176

T: 9753 0700 F: 9753 0800

E: school.office@snac.nsw.edu.au W: www.snac.nsw.edu.au