



## St. Narsai Assyrian Christian College

# Harp of The Spirit

## N e w s l e t t e r

Issue 19 Term 4 18/12/2015

### Dear Parents and Guardians of SNACC

We have come to the end of another productive year at the College. Again, our key focus has been on student learning and we have achieved some very good results. At the annual presentation evening, with His Beatitude (Mar Meelis) as our special guest, many students received awards for excellence in all areas of the curriculum.

Our College, is one where we value the Gospel and teach the students the practices and doctrine of the Holy Apostolic Catholic Assyrian Church of the East. During the year, students explored the Christian teachings, histories and traditions and in addition the students were involved in key Religious celebrations of the Church. Another reason why this school was established was to preserve the Assyrian language so as to foster the Assyrian Nation and to enable the new Assyrian generations to communicate in their mother tongue and maintaining pride in their language, history and culture. I would like to thank, Mr Yacoub Oraham, Mrs Nineveh Misho and Florida Ashoti for their commitment to the teaching of the Assyrian language and culture at St Narsai.

Of course, the academic side is a key area of the college- English; Maths ; Science; HSIE; Creative Arts; PDHPE; and TAS . The results of students have been very good. In particularly I would like to mention that a number of our students sat for the Australian Mathematics Competition and we received a large number of Distinction and Credit Awards along with a strong percentage of Proficiency Awards. The 2015 NAPLAN tests results in literacy and numeracy, for Years 7 & 9, were also very pleasing especially for numeracy where the improvements were very significant. I would like to congratulate the whole staff on these results as literacy and numeracy improvements are whole school responsibilities.

St Narsai is also an inclusive school and we cater for the needs of a variety of students, including: EAL/DLN students and we have a very active Intensive English Centre (IEC) to cater for new arrivals and special needs students, those that may be experiencing learning difficulties.

The college has also an established Gifted and Talented (GAT) program that has provided for the needs that these students have. I like to thank Mrs Stephanie Amanoel & Mr Edwar Dinkha for the development of the GAT structures which can only get better in years to come.

Student Pastoral care and Welfare- this is another area that the school focuses on. Unless the students' self-esteem is good then they cannot be learning. It is the Pastoral care team, led by Mrs Alison Kaya that ensures that these needs are met and students can go on with their learning in a very positive way. Excursions were also organised for all Years, including whole Year camps. These excursions and camps add much value to the education of all our students.

At St Narsai we do put a special emphasis on Years 11 & 12. This being their last stage of the students' education, it is important that they do their best and get the best possible results. Our HSC students are well prepared for the HSC exam which can also determine their future options- whether they do further studies at University or TAFE or go straight to work. We congratulate the top five students for the 2015 HSC and for gaining high ATARs- Daniel Nissan 97.50, Gabriella Khamis 94.60, Andre Jamoo 93.75, Kristy Butrus 89.00 and Frank Beizan 87.35.

Education is a real partnership, between parents, teachers and students. We are grateful that the parents send their children to be educated at St Narsai and it is privilege to be teaching them. Our teachers are really committed and enthusiastic and our students are well behaved and well-motivated. Given such quality partnership we cannot go wrong and look forward to more and more successes in years to come.

I wish all a Merry Christmas and a safe holidays and may God Bless you all.  
Aldo Rufo – Principal

#### COLLEGE EVENTS

Thursday  
28/1/2016  
School Commences  
Year 7-12

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Tuesday  
2/2/2016  
Motivational Media

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Wednesday  
3/2/2016  
Year 11 2016  
Parent and Student  
Information Evening  
at 7pm

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Thursday  
4/2/2016  
College Assembly

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# FROM THE DEPUTY

**Dear Parents, Students and Friends,**

As we come to the conclusion of another productive year I would like to commend all our students for their contribution to a successful 2015 school year. In particular, I would like to acknowledge the many students, who have worked diligently throughout the 2015 school year in whatever field or area at St. Narsai. The effort these students have put into their educational experiences at SNACC will go a long way to enhance their educational opportunities in years to come.

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From the start of next year, we will have new procedures for after college pick up and student exiting the college. Details of these new arrangements will be communicated to parents at the start of the school year in 2016 to ensure that we have a safer and more organized way for our students to leave college grounds after 3 pm. Based on this new plan, only students who have parents parked in the college car park will be allowed to exit the college from the main back gate. All other students will be directed to exit college grounds from the front gate near the college office. These will be students who use the bus, students who leave the college and turn left towards Elizabeth Drive and students who leave the college and turn right towards Fred’s Fruit Shop.

We ask that parents support the college in this area to help us create a safer and more organized way for our students to leave college grounds.

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Today, Semester Two reports were issued to year 7 and 8 students to take home. Year 9 reports and the IEC reports will be posted to students next week. Students who were unable to attend school today will have their reports posted also.

I hope that students and parents will have time to read the reports and reflect on the student’s progress in the 2015 school year.

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As this is the final newsletter for the year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support throughout 2015 and wish you a blessed and Merry Christmas.

Thank You,  
Mr. E. Dinkha



## Message from the Counsellor

### Dropping Our Pins

A famous public figure once said “an eye for an eye will only make the whole world blind”, and this figure is known as Mahatma Gandhi. I saw it fitting to quote Gandhi in this issue of the Harp of the Spirit newsletter, seeing as we returned from our India trip on Sunday. What an amazing experience it was!

Over the past two weeks, eleven members of the Church’s Youth Association (including myself and other friends and acquaintances) organised a personal trip to Dubai and India; with the intention of appreciating the works of Dubai in engineering and construction and also the simplicity and humility of India. Within our trip to Kerala State of India, we visited the Church’s assets which included a couple of the parishes, the hospital, nursing home and of course the College.

Speaking on behalf of our youth group – I can confidently say this trip was the most humbling, shocking and amazing trip imaginable. The standards of living, the thresholds of happiness and the expectations of life are out of this world.

The parishioners of Mart Mariam Big Church, the children of the Mar Thimotheus Orphanage, the elderly at the Church’s Nursing Home and the students at the College were synchronised in one beautiful harmony that sang content, happiness and simplicity. With each stop we made, I believe our group of 11 youth dropped an inspirational pin – a pin that resembled understanding and connectivity, a pin that encompassed almsgiving and charity.

This trip and all that it encompasses can be clearly studied by psychologists in what is known as the *Self-Concept Theory* under the **Social Giving Model**. Whereby when one gives in charity and almsgiving, they have a better sense of their self; their efficacy, esteem and well-being are intertwined into something incredibly healthy, both psychological and physical. Once this point has been reached the individual becomes happy, and this is the key to our life. Happiness!

I pray that every student [and their family] have the opportunity to undergo this experience in their lifetime!

[Image featured below was taken at the Youth Meeting on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2015 in Thrissur, India]



## THE CHRISTIAN STUDIES FACULTY PRESENTS:

# *The 2015 Christmas Concert*

St Narsai Assyrian Christian College engaged in one of our most valued traditions, on Friday the 4th of December. We celebrated the birth of our Lord through a nativity drama, Christmas Carols and a video understanding the true meaning of Christmas.

Students performed the roles of Mary, Joseph, Herod and his servants, the Angel of the Lord, Angel Gabriel, the Heavenly Hosts, Shepherds and the Three Wise Men. They were accompanied by students and staff who performed Christmas Carols reflecting the important events of each scene. Students together with the college staff worked tirelessly to put on a marvelous production which saw the entire school engaged in singing and the joy that accompanies the birth of our Lord.

I would like to thank all students for their participation. Namely, I would like to thank Isabella Daniel, Donald Yaqo, Kewarkees Sharlam, Ashour Chiba, Allen Odicho, Celine Adou, Sandy William, Marnita Hermiz, Tony Esho, Adorina Ochana, Esho Dinkha, John Gorla, Lever Anwar, Miron Al Wakeel, Julian Jamoo, Mattias Georges, Nenib Ibrahim, Bardesan Gewargis, Ramsin Kasha, Ramen Kako, George Georges, Jacob Arakelian and Martha Ishak. I would like to thank student performers, specifically, Edessa Shmoel, Sara Akram, Zaia Andrews, Jessica Zaia, Elebra Khosho, Chloe Younan, Mariann Narsi, Maria Mooshi, Angela Kelyana, Diyana Moshey, David Oshana, Jacob Yacco, Andrew Dashto, Martin Mooshi, Justin Mirza, Breniel Youkhana, Qusay Kozal, Matthew Toma and Mareel Hurmiz.

I would further like to thank the teachers who made the combined effort to join a staff choir in order to surprise the students with a performance of 'Joy to the World'. These staff members include Peter Bataro, Brian Parker, Nenos Youkhanis, Mary Younan, Katrina Yip, Stephanie Amanoel, Lynn Middlebrook, Dalia Ishaak, Annie Hormoz, Adwena David, Sara Markovic, Tom Bray and our star singer, Nancy Boulos.

I would also like to share my gratitude with the staff members who dedicated their free time to preparing students for their performances. Particularly, I would like to thank Mary Joseph, Nenos Youkhanis, Adwena David, Sandy Nona, Mary Moushi and the three energetic and animated narrators Ben Khoshaba, Lynn Middlebrook and Aaron Pillay. Lastly, thank you to all the parents and family members who came to show their support. It hasn't gone unnoticed and it is highly appreciated. We look forward to seeing you at our next event. May our Lord's birth be a blessing to each of you and may it fill your homes with joy and comfort as we remember our present and past loved ones.

Please enjoy the following stills. They were taken by the sound and lighting crew from GENX Productions (<http://www.genxproductions.com.au>).

Arbella Karim.

THE CHRISTIAN STUDIES FACULTY PRESENTS:

# *The 2015 Christmas Concert*



THE CHRISTIAN STUDIES FACULTY PRESENTS:

# *The 2015 Christmas Concert*



## **IEC Excursion to Sydney CBD – Famous Australian Landmarks around Sydney**

On Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> of December, 2015 Miss Yip, Mr Shamouel and myself had the pleasure of escorting the IEC students on an excursion to Sydney.

We wanted to give the students the opportunity to experience city life: the sights, the sounds and the smells, whilst practising their English language skills.

We travelled by train to Town Hall station. The students asked and paid for their own tickets and learnt how to read train timetables.

We alighted at Town Hall station and walked through the Queen Victoria Building, admiring the enormous Christmas tree, clock and many beautiful shops. From there, we walked to Martin Place, the Myer Food Hall in Pitt St Mall and Hyde Park, where we stopped for morning tea. We then visited St Marys Cathedral, where many students: lit candles, prayed for their loved ones in The Middle East and bought gifts for family and friends.

We then proceeded to Circular Quay and caught a ferry to Darling Harbour. This was such a wonderful experience because for many; it was their first time on a ferry. Sydney did not disappoint us; the weather was perfect and The Sydney Opera House and Sydney Harbour Bridge looked stunning against the glistening water.

Finally, it was time to head back home. We walked back to Wynyard station to aboard a train; returning to Fairfield station by 3pm.

We had a lovely day and I am pleased to say that the IEC student's behaviour was exemplary.

Since then the IEC students have been researching the famous landmarks we visited and presenting the information in power point presentations.

I would like to thank Miss Yip and Mr Shamouel for their kind assistance on this day.

Ms Lynn Middlebrook

DLN Faculty – IEC



**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](http://www.parentline.org.au)**

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