



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 1 Term 1 15/2/2017

COLLEGE EVENTS

Friday

17/02/2017

Stick
And
Stone
Incursion

Friday

03/03/2017

SNACC
Swimming
Carnival

Welcome back to 2017! The College had a great start and both students and teachers are focused on teaching and learning.

Students have settled in well and **Year 7**, especially, has had a very smooth start. Thanks to Mr Peter Bottaro, Year 7 Wellbeing Coordinator, for the hard work. This year we have introduced a Peer Support program for Year 7 students. Basically the **Peer Support Program**:

- is a peer led, skills based, experiential learning program;
- empowers young people to support each other and contribute positively to society;
- provides students with a supportive learning environment in which to develop the skills, understandings, attitudes and strategies to improve their mental, social and emotional wellbeing; and
- develops key skills in resilience, assertiveness, decision making, problem solving and leadership.

On Friday, 3rd February we had a **Student Leadership** seminar. Student leaders attended the day to further develop their leadership skills. The day was very successful and some of the areas covered included: Christian leadership; what makes a good leader; the importance of teams & team building; peer mediation. Many thanks to Mary Joseph, Adwena David, Sandy Nona, Edwar Dinkha, Ramen Youkhanis and Rev Ninos for leading and organising in this important area of student development.

Parent Information evenings have been held over the last two weeks including for Year 11 and Year 10. Parent and students that attended were explained the importance of assessment and its structure during the year. I would like to thank the parents that attended. The Year 7 parent information evening is being held Tuesday, 14th February at 7.00pm.

The College has had a very steep growth in enrolment since 2016. At the start of 2016 the **enrolment** was around 500 and this has increased to 672 at the start of 2017. This represents a large growth and we have now reached the enrolment ceiling and we will stop enrolling. Students that wish to enrol at the College, will go on a waiting list (for the first time, in the history of the College). The Growth has come from two sources: new arrivals but also an increase from local students. In Year 7 for instance, we have had around 30 students that did not attend St Hurmizd.

As a result of this growth we have to **employ more teachers** and we welcome: Mr K Dinkha (Maths/ Science); Ms. C Clancy (Science) Ms N. Ishak (English) Mr M. Rossman (Music/ Art) Mr. Y Tawdrous (Maths/ Science). We also welcome back from maternity leave: Mrs A. Kaya (PEHPD), and Mrs R Shimshoon (HSIE). Teachers currently on maternity leave include: Mrs N Bolus; Mrs A Hormoz and Mrs. S Ammanoeel.

Last Thursday we had the first **Mass** at the college to celebrate the start of the Academic year but also the **Rogation of the Ninevites**; some parents also attended. Many thanks to Rev Ninos for celebrating the Holy Mass.

The **P & F Committee** will resume again this year. The first meeting will be on *Tuesday, 21st February 2017, 6.30pm to 7.30pm* in the College Library; all parents are welcome to attend. The main aim of the P&F at SNACC is to encourage close contact, cooperation and good communication between parents, teachers, administrators and students.

A reminder to parents and caregivers that if you are **concerned with your child's progress** (academic or socially), please contact us. The first point of contact are the Stage Coordinators: Years 7 & 8, Mr Peter Bottaro; Years 9 & 10, Mr Brian Parker and Years 11 & 12, Mr. Chris Hardman. Our Counsellor, Mr Ramen Youkhanis is also available if you need to contact him. Of course, the deputy Mr Dinkha and I are always available.

God Bless

A Rufo

Principal

Dear Parents, Students and Friends,

Welcome back to the St. Narsai College community. A particular welcome to all the new families joining the St. Narsai community for the first time.

It has been pleasing to witness a smooth start to the 2017 academic year. Naturally, a lot of work and planning has been done by staff to ensure a good start for all our students. By now, students should have received or acquired their textbooks, new notebooks as requested by subject teachers, received their lockers.

Information Evenings

Over the last two weeks, the college conducted two Assessment Information Evenings. The first was organised in week one for Year 11 students and their parents and the second was conducted last week for Year 10 students and their parents. Many thanks to all parents who were able to attend these two evenings.

On Tuesday, 14th February at 7 pm, the college is conducting the Year 7 Assessment Information Evening. It is crucial that at least one parent attends the information evening with their son or daughter.

Student Diary or Planner 2017

All students have been issued with new Diary Planners that contain very important information, including policies, procedures, agreements, College expectations, uniform information, prayers, and a wide range of literacy, academic and study activities. Parents are strongly encouraged to familiarise themselves with these planners so they can be in a good position to support their children's education at SNACC in 2017. Parents are also asked to inspect their child's planner every week to check for communication from teachers and to sign their child's planner at the end of each week.

Student Wellbeing

Continuing from last year, students will have fortnightly house assemblies led by house captains, prefects and a house leader. Students are vertically allocated to one of four houses: Nineveh, Narsai, Nisibis and Seleucia.

It is hoped that this structure will facilitate student engagement and a sense of belonging to their particular house and empower student's leadership. Parents are encouraged to contact their child's subject teachers, PC teachers or Stage Co-ordinator to discuss any concerns they may have.

Traffic Matters

In the interest of students' safety, a letter was issued last week to all students about new End of Day Procedures. These procedures stipulated specific actions expected of students leaving the school at the end of school day. In short, the following were emphasised:

- No student is to be picked up from Smithfield Road;
- No student is to be picked up from Fred's Fruit shop. Parents are asked to support the college by not asking their children to go to Fred's Fruit shop to be picked up because of safety concerns;
- The only student pickup area is the back gate of the college near the car park;
- Students are not permitted to cross Smithfield Road opposite the college. Students can cross this road from traffic lights area only;
- Parents are reminded that double parking anywhere around the college creates a hazard and a safety risk for road users, specifically, students;

The college expects all drivers to follow directions from the college traffic coordinator.

Thank You,

Mr. E. Dinkha

Excellence
Christian
Values
Commitment

Message from the Counsellor

What were you thinking?

In one of my group counselling sessions, I asked each student to brainstorm one word describing *humanity*. They started off by throwing words like; beautiful, kind, understanding, etc. The list progressed into another category of words; intrusive, tiresome, vulnerable, superficial, and so on.

As the session continued, the reasoning behind their word choices was defined. Sitting back and watching with a spectators perspective, I was astonished at the different directions these students were coming from in putting together a word bank around the circled word 'humanity' in the middle of the page.

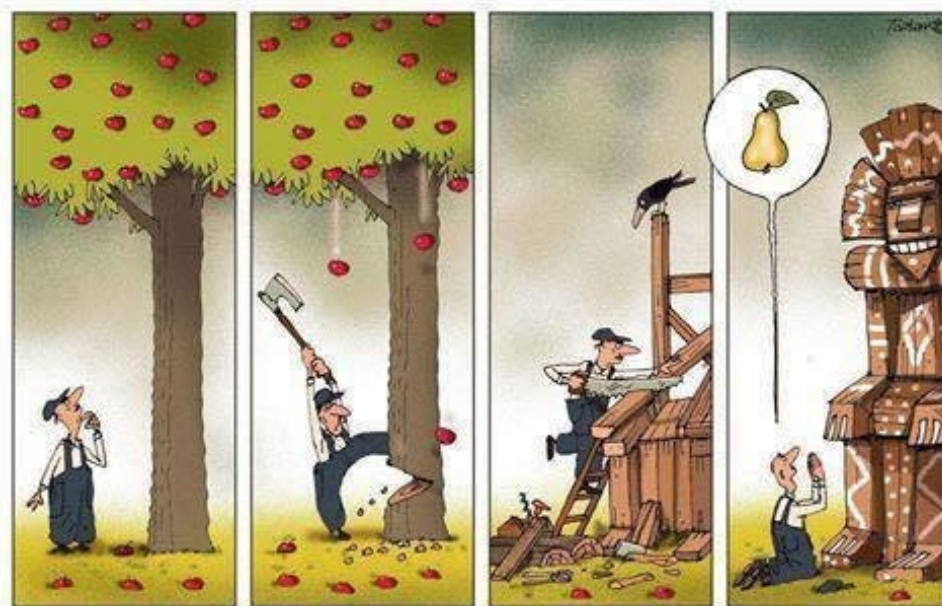
Like everything else in this world, humanity is definitely a beautiful thing; music is a beautiful thing, art is a beautiful thing, you name it; it is a beautiful thing. However, just as select few musicians and artists have manipulated music and art in negative ways, so too have humans in humanity.

The further this world advances the more changes we humans perceive; changes of good and bad. In one certain moment in time, Dr Phil may be rescuing patients from life's miseries while Eminem releases yet another song that ruins the very essence of music itself (no offence to Eminem fans, just a personal opinion of mine).

We are living in a day and age that reverts humans to live in a state of the unknown; over-thinking the simplest things in life, quick to jump to conclusions and blame, speaking more than listening, creating fake fantasies of the self to cover one's insecurities, and the list goes on.

Life can be as simple as we see it, or it can be as difficult as we make it out to be. Sometimes the answer is staring us right smack in the face, yet we subconsciously choose to look past it and find other means of getting the result.

Just for laughs: a man was asked to touch his ear; he used his right hand to touch his left ear – classic Assyrian joke.



Great example of 'over-thinking the simple things in life'

TAS Department Robots have arrived at SNACC

Students explore new and emerging technologies within the Information and Communications area of study and evaluate their impact on society and the environment. The unit provides opportunities for collaborative activities including group problem-solving, investigating and decision-making. Students use Media and Control Technologies when developing the design project.

Students have been provided the possibility to design, produce and evaluate a range of technology based around automated control, from traffic lights to computer assembly and probes to other planets. It allows students to opportunity to explore a range of automated systems and robots.



Message from the Stage 4 Coordinator

Peer Support Program 2017

The Peer Support Program is a peer led, skills based, experiential learning program. It encourages peer connections throughout the school and assists students in developing practical skills to enhance social and emotional wellbeing.

Students in Year 7 work in groups of 8 – 10 with 2 Peer Leaders. Peer Leaders facilitate a series of activities with Year 7 students covering a range of skills and concepts.

Moving into secondary school presents a significant change for students as they adjust to a new environment. The Framework for Orientation provides Year 7 with opportunities to get to know one another and their Peer Leaders. The activities are designed to assist students in becoming familiar and confident with their school, teachers and new routines. Students also learn how to manage school life and organize themselves.

You can support your child by asking what they have learned in Peer Support and encouraging ongoing communication between your child, home and school.

Thanks,

Mr Peter Bottaro

Stage 4 Coordinator

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