



St. Narsai Assyrian Christian College

Harp of The Spirit N e w s l e t t e r

Issue 2 Term 1 19/2/2016

Dear Parents and Guardians of SNACC

COLLEGE EVENTS

Wednesday
24/2/16
Futsal Regional School
Championship
U14s boys and girls

Monday
29/2/16
SNACC Swimming Car-
nival Prairiewood

Wednesday
2/3/2016
To
Friday
4/3/2016

Year 7 Camp

Friday
4/3/2016
Year 8 History Incur-
sion Period 5 & 6

Last Tuesday we had our first **College Mass**. All students and staff participated and we thank Rev Ninos Elya for officiating the Mass.

At a special assembly, last Thursday, we welcomed a special guest, **Mr Evin Aghassi**. Mr Aghassi is well known to the Assyrian community. The assembly was also attended by many parents. Mr Aghassi addressed the assembly and spoke about the importance of learning the Assyrian language and being close to the Assyrian Church of the East, as both of these maintain our identity as Assyrians. We thank Mr Yacoub Oraham for organizing the visit.

During this week, **Year 7 students** will be reallocated to their permanent 2016 classes. Year 7 students have had some time to settle and we feel it is now time to place them in a class that caters for their curriculum needs. As result some students, not many, will be reallocated to a different class.

At St Narsai we provide for **Gifted and Talented Education**. We believe that it is critical for gifted and talented students to be given appropriate opportunity, stimulation and the experiences to develop their potential and satisfy their learning needs. Gifted students are those whose potential is distinctly above average in one or more of the following domains of human ability: intellectual, creative, social and physical. Talented students are those whose skills are distinctly above average in one or more areas of human performance. At SNACC Gifted and Talented students are encouraged to explore their particular talents through enriched curriculum options, this includes special vertical classes; enrichment and extension within their normal class and some students with exceptional abilities are also accelerated their progression in single subjects or whole grades.

Last Wednesday evening, the college had its first official **P&F meeting**. I wish to thank parents that attended. We welcome the formation of a Parents & Friends (P&F) Association at St. Narsai as it

- ◇ encourages close contact, cooperation and good communication between parents, teachers, and the college
- ◇ assists in raising funds for additional equipment and/or projects.
- ◇ provides a social network within the school community
- ◇ acts in a supportive role for families and parents, especially in times of need.
- ◇ provides a forum for discussion and direct parents to appropriate people/bodies when necessary and
- ◇ provides a voice to be heard on behalf of all parents.

We like to remind parents about the importance of **attendance**. All children have a right to an education. Only by regular school attendance can children make the most of educational opportunities, leading to greater social and economic outcomes (a better occupation or career).

Regular attendance enables students to develop a sense of belonging to a peer group and assists in building important coping and friendship skills. Confident students are less likely to engage in anti-social behaviour. Ultimately, unsatisfactory attendance at school may affect the awarding of the School Certificate (RoSA) or the HSC.

Arriving at school and class on time (including **Pastoral Care- PC- period** which starts at 8.40am) is very important for the following reasons:

- ◇ ensures that students don't miss out on the important learning activities scheduled early in the day when the students are most alert
- ◇ helps students learn the importance of punctuality and routine
- ◇ gives students time to greet their friends before class and therefore,
- ◇ reduces the opportunity for classroom disruption.

God Bless

A Rufo
(Principal)

FROM THE DEPUTY

Dear Parents, Students and Friends,

The Year 10 Assessment Information Evening took place last Thursday, 11th February and this was followed this week by the Year 7 Assessment Information Evening on Tuesday 16th February. Both evenings were very informative to all present as important information, relevant guidelines and assessment procedures were discussed. All Years 10 & 7 students were issued with Assessment Handbooks that detail assessment information as well as assessment procedures.

Thank you to all parents and students who attended the two Assessment Information Evenings over the last two weeks.

Some important points from the Year 10 evening in relation to submission of assessments:

- Protect yourself from technology failure.
- Tasks are to be submitted by 8.40am on the due date.

If you are sick on the assessment day:

Try to have someone bring the task to school for you. If you can't ring the school by 8:40 and leave a message for your class teacher, then make sure you get some formal documentation such as a medical certificate. On the first day back at school, go to the office and get an illness and mis-adventure form.

-Complete the form.

-Attach a doctor's certificate, or other evidence, and give it to the KLA coordinator immediately.

-Attach the task that should have been submitted.

Pastoral Care Programs

Students across all year levels are already participating in a well-designed Pastoral care program aimed at developing our students in a number of important areas. These areas cover, personal motivation and development, careers, growth mindset as well study skills. It is therefore crucial that students arrive to school on time and be at their respective PC classes on time.

Thank You,

Mr. E. Dinkha

Excellence
Christian
Values
Commitment

Message from the Counsellor

The Irony of Life

Life as we know it can be so ironic.

As I was walking around the College this week witnessing our Houses (Seleucia, Nisibis, Nineveh and Narsai Houses) practicing their chants and war cries for the upcoming swimming and sports carnivals, witnessing students in their science classes experimenting with mind-boggling chemicals; sport classes competing in different games, witnessing students during their breaks; eating and playing.

In a world so full of people; in a schedule so busy with activities – yet we feel lonely, we feel deserted. This is the irony of life, the pose the question to ourselves ‘how can we feel so lonely and deserted in this world so full of people and activities in which we constantly engage ourselves with?’

Many researchers in the psychological world have looked into this phenomenon. Louise Hawkley (Department of Cognitive & Social Neuroscience) and John Cacioppo Center (Department of Psychology) from University of Chicago make interesting findings, found in their journal article titled ‘Loneliness’.

They define loneliness as the distress that results from discrepancies between ideal and perceived social relationships. This so-called cognitive discrepancy perspective makes it clear that loneliness is not one and the same with being alone, nor does being with others guarantee protection from feelings of loneliness. Rather, loneliness is the distressing feeling that occurs when one’s social relationships are perceived as being less satisfying than what is desired.

And this is the issue our children, adolescents and youth are facing today. The threshold of satisfaction has been elevated so drastically by surrounding factors (media, technology, peer pressure etc), where a certain level of stimuli which previously would’ve satisfied our children now is needed in excess levels and demands.

The cure you ask? Go back to basics! The more you feed and provide your children with their WANTS, the higher their satisfaction thresholds will be elevated. Provide them with their NEEDS and allow simplicity to give satisfaction.



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