



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 10/3/2017

COLLEGE EVENTS

Monday
13/3/2017
Year 7 Vaccina-
tion

Friday
17/3/2017
Year 8 History
Incursion
Medieval Show

Wednesday
29/3/2017
Year 7 camp
Returning Friday
31/3/2017

Friday
31/3/2017
Assyrian New
Year
Celebration

Wednesday
5/4/2017
Annual SNACC
Photos

Thursday
6/4/2017
The Royal Easter
Show
Excursion

Friday
7/4/2017
Term 1 Ends

We Are Moving... St Narsai Assyrian Christian College will be moving to its new site, at Horsley Drive, at the Start of 2018. Preparations, including transport, is well under way. On Wednesday 22/2/17 we held **an online cyberbullying safety program** for students. All students (Years 7 to 12) attended the various sessions during the day. Staff attended the afternoon session and parents attended the evening session. Many thanks to Ms. Sandy Nano for organizing the activity. Cyber bullying is a growing problem throughout the community and students need to understand what it is and how to protect themselves from it. Parents and teachers, of course, have a big role to play in this aspect of students' education.

In Week 3 we had a **Year 7 Parent information** evening. The purpose was to inform both students and parents about the Assessment Program in Year 7. It was also an opportunity for parents to ask how well students have settled in Year 7 and how best to help them in their studies. Thank you Mr. Dinkha and Mr. Bottaro for the excellent organization.

NAPLAN Preparation- the NAPLAN tests will be held in May 9th to 11th. Apart from good teaching in every class, the College is also having a special focus on NAPLAN with Years 7 and 9 students. These students are undergoing a program of two extra periods per week in preparation for the NAPLAN. For Year 9 students, the NAPLAN results are particularly important this year as they need to score at least Band 8 in Reading, Writing and Numeracy to be eligible for the HSC when they sit for it 2020.

Excursions- these are important aspect of our students' education. They provide experiences which they cannot get in the classroom. The excursions are related to the formal curriculum and there is much preparatory and follow up work for them in class.

SNACC Swimming Carnival- although it rained, the carnival was very successful. It was held last Friday and it was well attended, despite the wet weather. Students were very keen to participate and congratulation Nisibis House (Blue House) for winning the trophy. Thank you to Mrs. Victoria Tatian and the PDHPE faculty for their hard work to make the carnival a great success.

Study/ Homework Club- every afternoon after school, between 3.10pm to 4.00pm the College is offering an opportunity for students to attend the Study/ Homework Club in the College library. A teacher is supervising and supporting students, not only to complete their homework but also in areas where they may be experiencing some difficulties. Please encourage your child to attend.

Motivational Media- again the students experienced the Motivational Media program. This program has now an annual event in the College Calendar. What are the influences that our students are confronted with on a daily basis? Do our students encounter positive role models that challenge them to make good decisions for their lives? Are teachers, as educators, devising the curriculum to empower the students with the skills necessary to avoid harmful behaviors and to make positive changes in their lives? Motivational Media, is basically a dynamic 40 minute audio-visual presentation reinforced with extensive resource materials. Motivational Media provides a very practical and useable package addressing issues like those above.

Transition Year 6 to 7, 2018- a team of teachers and Students attended St Hurmizd Primary on Tuesday to talk to students about transitioning to high school, St Narsai, in 2018. They were give information about the high school life. Previous SHAPS captains also attended and spoke to the students about their experiences at the High School. . They were also shown a video about life in a high school and a slide show about the new site at Horsley Drive. Ms. Laura Stewart also showed the students the innovative in robotic education from the TAS faculty. Importantly, the students were given the enrolment package which needs to be returned to St Narsai College by 7th April.

God Bless
A Rufo

Dear parents, students and friends of the college

It is with pleasure that I announce that we have started an after school *Study Club* at the college. This *Study Club* opens every day from 3:00 to 4:00 and is run by different teachers from across all key learning areas. In this way, students can have access to computers, printers, and teachers for one hour after school.

It is hoped that parents would encourage their children to attend this club once or twice a week so they children could receive direct support from teachers and staff. Students can also request that their subject teacher make themselves available at this time to help with subject content or assessments.

Attending school regularly is crucial to student success and high achievement at school. A 2014 research on student attendance by the Queensland's government showed that poor school attendance is associated with:

- lower academic achievement including literacy and numeracy
- early school leaving
- leaving school with fewer qualifications
- reduced opportunities for students to learn and access educational resources, further limiting achievement
- further absenteeism in higher year levels
- increased alcohol, tobacco, and substance use in adolescents.

<http://education.qld.gov.au/everydaycounts/schools/research-school-attendance.html>

At SNACC, we acknowledge the vast majority of our students for meeting the College expectations in relation to attendance. However, a small number of students continue to disregard these expectations. This is despite the fact that we have raised this important matter with a good number of parents during three Information Evenings in the last four-five weeks.

To manage and solve this problem, the college is tracking student attendance and we are sending warning letters to parents of students with poor attendance record.

Upcoming important events

Weeks 9 & 10	Year 12 Half- Yearly examinations. Year 12 students should be studying, revising and preparing for these exams;
Week 8	Interim Reports completed and distributed;
Week 3 Term 2	NAPLAN Tests for both Years 7 & 9 students. Individual student's Literacy and Numeracy skills will be assessed and reported on;
Weeks 7 & 8 Term 2	Year 11 Half Yearly Exams.

Thank You,

Mr. E. Dinkha

**Excellence
Christian
Values
Commitment**

Message from the Counsellor

Pixels All Around!

I believe it's safe to say that technology has taken over our lives; we spend the majority of our days staring at pixels on various screens. Pixels on our phone screens, computer screens, tablet screens, TVs, you name it. We have welcomed these pixels into our homes, bags and pockets, and allowed them to take the lead of our cognitive processing and replace the function of our brain. Nowadays we judge a certain person based on their Instagram selfie, we conclude a certain person's happiness based on their Snapchat videos, we categorise a certain person's intellect by their Facebook status.

The internet with its original purpose of connecting life together has left us feeling distant from the very person who shares the same roof with us. Years ago you would ask the Service/Help Desk at shopping centres for directions, now we ask Siri on our iPhones. Years ago you would take out the bicycle and go for a ride around the park, now we play COD on our PS. Years ago you would sit with your child and pass on parental wisdom, now we shove tablets in front of them to keep them occupied.

We are living in a unique generation; a generation so externally advanced in technology yet so internally dysfunctional, a generation where freedom has only become a hashtag on social media yet our brains and hearts are bound down and tied to political correctness, and in essence an 'I' generation where it's always about me and what I need and what I want – I, I, I.

This world has enough room for everyone, it is rich in resources, the way of life can be free and beautiful but unfortunately we have lost our way. In a time where finding direction is so convenient, yet so difficult.

It is time to live the person we claim to be on our pixels; let us like one another in life and not only on a Instagram 'like' button, let us laugh and be merry with one another in life and not only on a comment 'lol' on Facebook, let us enjoy the entirety of our lives and not only a 30 second video clip on Snapchat.

Live your own lives, don't let your social media live it for you!



Message from the Welfare Coordinator

On Wednesday 22nd February, students from St Narsai Assyrian Christian College were engaged in a Cyber Bullying Presentation, delivered by Oscar Yildiz from Bully Zero Australia Foundation.

Bullying is when an individual or group uses its power and strength to repeatedly, deliberately and intentionally use words or actions against another that hurts, threatens, excludes, harasses or humiliates verbally, physically, psychologically or electronically, making the victim feel oppressed, traumatized and powerless.

Every day across Australia, thousands of children, adolescents and adults are suffering the pain and humiliation of being bullied. It's estimated that 1 in 5 Australians are bullied. The effects of bullying can be devastating to the victim, their family and friends.

The presentation, each catered for the targeted year group, included information regarding the types of bullying, strategies to effectively respond to bullying behavior and the consequences which can follow if someone partakes in the act. At the college, we educate our students about this common and contemporary issue as part of our Welfare Program and ask victims to speak up, stand up and have a zero tolerance to all forms of bullying.

The common use of the Internet has made it possible for bullies to harass their victim 24/7. Cyber bullying is intergenerational and is becoming difficult for authorities to control with perpetrators hiding behind fake accounts, a keyboard, iPad or mobile device. Authorities have the jurisdictional power to respond to inappropriate on-line and off-line behavior and individuals are prosecuted and sentenced to jail terms across Australia.

It is, however, also the duty of both parents and teachers to assist in the monitoring of safe internet use. Henceforth, the day also included a teacher session, with a focus on how teachers can target bullying within school and assist students who ever experience it. An information session was also held in the evening for parents, which provided practical methods to assist parents in monitoring their child's use of the internet via phone, laptop and other devices. It is vital parents attend such evenings in order to gain understanding in tackling such common issues they may face on a daily basis.

If you were not able to attend this session and would like further information, please don't hesitate to contact the school. The following contacts may also assist your requests.

24 Hour Helpline (free call): 1800 028 559 – (1800 0 BULLY)

Beyond Blue info line: 1300 224 636

Lifeline: 13 11 14

Kids Help Line (Free Call): 1800 551 800

Office of the Children's eSafety Commissioner:

1800 880 176 – www.esafety.gov.au

Police: 000

Translation Service: 13 14 50

Miss Sandy Nona
Pastoral Care Coordinator

Message from the TAS Faculty

Our students live in a rapidly changing technological world. Information and communication technology (ICT), including hardware and personal digital devices, software and communicate information, is therefore taught at the forefront of our syllabus as it has become an important part of everyday life.

This technological world requires students to have knowledge and experiences within the area of STEM - Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. The TAS department has begun to introduce this area in Year 8 Technology Mandatory through the use of Robotics this year.

The past 6 weeks, year 8 students have been learning about the laws of robotics, how they influence our day to day lives and the types of robots currently in use in different industries. This week two of our classes 8E and 8S built their own robot and learnt the art of programming and coding to enable the robot to perform desired actions. This was followed by 'robot' races and challenges to test the students newly developed skills in a practical way.

Miss L Stewart

TAS Teacher



Message from the Stage 5 Coordinator

" Dear Parents of Year 9 students,

Thank you to those of you who sent your child on the Year 9 Camp recently. I trust your child has told you all about it and shown you some pictures too.

Despite a touch of rainy weather on the Tuesday morning of the camp, it would be safe to say your child had an enjoyable time on the camp. Apart from enjoying being on a camp with their friends they enjoyed many challenging activities, some of which they would rarely have the chance of doing. They went sailing and had some basic sailing lessons out on the water. The daring ones learned abseiling and how to complete the high ropes course. A fun activity was building their own river raft and racing it in the water and if their raft proved "unseaworthy" there was canoeing as well. Students enjoyed fishing while waiting their turn on the sailing boats and in the afternoons there were waterslide and swimming pool sessions. On the Tuesday night, we had an indoor games night, followed by toasting marshmallows around the campfire with Assyrian Khigha dancing. Still, with energy to burn, it was two hours of indoor soccer before bedtime.

The food was superb and the scenery beautiful with water views in front of the cabins, and to feed the soul, Rev Father Ninos Elya gave a beautiful spiritual talk to the staff and students on the Tuesday evening.

On the way to camp all enjoyed a picnic stop at the beautiful Audley picnic ground.

Special thanks to the supervising teachers who escorted the students on the camp namely Ms David, Mr Lazarou, Ms Kako, Ms Virgo, Mr Moushy and Mr Parker."

Thanks,

Mr Brian Parker



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