



St. Narsai Assyrian Christian College

Harp of The Spirit

N e w s l e t t e r

Issue 3 Term 1 14/03/2016

COLLEGE EVENTS

Wednesday
16/3/16

Year 11 Bio Excursion to
Narabeen Lakes-2016

Friday
18/3/16

Yr. 9 Food, 9 PASS & Yr.
10 DT combined excursion

Monday
21/3/2016
School Photos

Tuesday
22/3/2016

Easter Liturgical Service
(College Hall) & Easter
Presentation
Yr. 9 English Excursion-
Opera House

Thursday
24/3/2016
Pupil Free Day

Year 12 Half Yearly Exams

From

Wed 23/3/2016

To

Wed 6/4/2016

Dear Parents and Guardians of SNACC

I wish to remind you that Narsai Assyrian Christian College will be having a **School Development Day** on Thursday, 24th March 2016. No student is to attend school on this day. This is a Staff Development day for teachers to renew their first Aid Certificate Training as required under Work, Health & Safety requirements.

Our **Year 6 to 7 Transition program** has started early this year. Transition refers to the process of year 6 students enrolling in year 7 at St Narsai for 2017. As you know most of the students come from St Hurmizd, but every year there has been an increasing number enrolling from local public primary schools.

The St Narsai Transition Team attended St Hurmizd this week to start the process and we had a special meeting with year 7 parents on Tuesday to inform them of the transition program. We are looking forward to work with Year 6 and their parents so as to make their transfer to the college as smoothly as possible. I would like to thank Mrs Alison Kaya and Mr Perter Bottaro for their hard work in organising the transition activities for the year.

To assist in the full implementation of the computer one-to one program, we have been discussing the introduction of allowing students to **Bring Your Own Device** (or BYOD). BYOD is a technological trend in education and in the corporate world. BYOD recognises that technology and choices about technology are very much personal. BYOD acknowledges technology in education means more than meeting specific curriculum requirements. BYOD is designed to give you, as students and families, freedom to make technology choices that suit you and all your circumstances. A parental meeting will be held week 2, term 2 to fully inform parents about this program

The **swimming carnival** was held last week and it was very successful and enjoyable. Many more students attended and participated this year. One reason for this may be that we have introduced a House System. I thank Mrs Tatian and her PDHPE team for the organisation. All staff did a wonderful job to keep all students safe and ensuring a smooth running of the carnival.

I would like to remind parents that a **Parents & Friends** of St Narsai will be meeting this coming Wednesday starting, 6.30pm to 7.30 pm in the College Library. Mr Ramen Youkhanis, our College Counsellor, will be talking about **issues relating to adolescents** and **how parents can help** their child whilst they are going through this developmental stage. We invite all parents to attend.

I would like to stress to parents that **student safety, achievement and behaviour** is our number one priority at St Narsai. To achieve this we have: clear discipline and classroom management practices, including individual behaviour management plans where appropriate; we are always ready to discuss with parents and let parents know they can help their children to learn; we ensure that the school and classroom environment is safe, and that student wellbeing is a priority. If you are concerned about any matters regarding your child education please do not hesitate to contact us.

God Bless

Mr A Rufo

FROM THE DEPUTY

Dear parents, students and friends of the college

It was great to see our students participating and enjoying last week's college swimming carnival at Prairiewood Leisure Centre. A big thank you to all staff for their support and special thank you to Mrs. Tatian for her organisation of the event and the four House Leaders for their work preparing their houses for this sporting event.

Excellence
Christian
Values
Commitment

While we acknowledge the vast majority of our students for meeting the College expectations in relation to attendance, 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.

Unfortunately, these students are putting themselves at risk of failure to complete their courses. Lateness to school is considered partial absence and will contribute to the total number of absence days for the student. Lateness to class causes unnecessary interruptions to lessons and class time, which negatively impacts on classroom learning.

Warning letters will be sent to some of these students' parents, explaining the risks associated with inconsistent and poor school attendance. Parents of students with high rates of absences are asked to discuss this important issue with their son or daughter and try to find a solution to this problem.

The college library is open from 8:00 am to allow students time to catch up with homework, assessment work, study for exams, to conduct research work or print their assignments. So many students are taking advantage of this wonderful opportunity before school and during, both Recess and Lunch breaks. The library remains open after school until 4:00 pm, again to provide that additional support to some students who would otherwise be unable to complete work and catch up with work. I urge all students to take advantage of this great opportunity.

Thank You,
Mr. E. Dinkha

Message from the Counsellor: Life as an Essay

Having gone back to university studies this year in furthering my education in the world of psychology, I have come across an astonishing phenomena which has expressed itself within our College community.

As part of my studies, a thesis of 13,000 words is required at the end of my one-year study. As we know, this dissertation comes in a form of an essay; encompassing a structured of an introduction to the purpose of the paper, the methods and material section of the paper, the results section of the methods and a discussion which concludes the very existence of the dissertation in which it all began.

Being so engulfed by this process of putting together a dissertation in the evening at home, and facing the students of the College the very next day made it so clear how the two entities are ever so alike.

It is simply amazing as to how similar the concept of a thesis can be matched to the life of every student, every child and adult, and believe it or not every living being in our environment.

These children are forming and building up their life together as we speak, every second of every day these students are adding to their unlimited word count of their life. Their introductions were and are being built by their families and friends. Their introduction records who they are? What their purpose is? Where they want to go? What they want out of every action they plan? Their methods is their mindset and frame of thought in bringing to life their ideologies, their dreams and fantasies and the definition of their very existence throughout maturation in due time.

Yet here is the beauty, as time passes and they see themselves somewhat and sometime in the future; then and only then can they sit back and conclude on their life. Pondering on their introductions into this life as they were building the foundation, praising and/or reconsidering the methods they chose in life to action those thoughts and the materials they used to do so.

Our lives are likened onto a simple thesis, with the demands of planning and researching. Let us encourage the young to get out there and put together the foundations of their lives, let them experiment with methods and materials which will build their personalities and confidence, and ultimately allowing them to refine their work, to exceed in their goals and aims and to sit back one day and look back on their achievements, to discuss their treasures and to leave behind a legacy which echoes throughout the ages to come.

This is living!

Year 7 Camp 2016: The Academy of Sport and Recreation – Narrabeen

During week 6, Year 7 attended their first high school camping excursion to The Academy of Sports and Recreation in Narrabeen, located in North Sydney. School camps are not only organised to give students some fun time away from school, they are used to help Year 7 to get to know one another, to bond and forge new friendships. It also gives myself and other teachers a chance to get know our students better through the participation of outdoor activities.

During this camp students participated in a variety of sport and recreation activities, such as high ropes – a course set 5 metres above ground that finished with a flying fox, canoeing in Narrabeen lakes and raft building, which required students to build a raft and then sail it across a body of water. They also participated in a variety of fun games which gave them the opportunity to get to know another.

The behaviour and contribution of each individual student should be commended; they all participated with ease and really enjoyed the camp experience. I would like to personally thank Ms Yip, Ms Finlayson, Mr Lazarou and Mr Ablakatov for attending and helping with the organisation of this camp. It would not have been a success without you. I would also like to thank two very special guests, who arrived on day two, Father Nenos and Shimasha Ramen Youkhanis. The students really appreciated their visit and were very excited to see both of them.

Thanks

Mr Peter Bottaro

Stage 4 Coordinator





***ST NARSAI ASSYRIAN CHRISTIAN
COLLEGE***
Parents and Friends (P & F)

All Parents and Friends of ST NARSAI ASSYRIAN CHRISTIAN COLLEGE are invited to attend the Parents and Friends (P&F) Association meeting

Details of the meeting are as follows:

- **Date:** Wednesday, 23rd March 2016
- **Time :** 6.30pm– 7.30pm
- **Venue:** College Library

Special Topic: The Adolescent Years– How can I help my teenage student?

Come, bring a friend,
get involved in your



have your saying and
child's Schooling .

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