



St. Narsai Assyrian Christian College

Harp of The Spirit

N e w s l e t t e r

COLLEGE EVENTS

Tuesday 17/5/16
Year 7 & 8 BYOD
Presentation at 6pm
for parents

Wednesday 17/5/16
Year 9 & 10 BYOD
Presentation at 6pm
for parents

Wednesday 18/5/16
Year 9 Camp
Returning Friday
20/5/16

Thursday 19/5/16
Year 11 and 12 Elevate
Incursion

College Assembly

Monday 30/5/2016
Year 10 half yearly ex-
ams commence

Tuesday 31/5/16
P&F meeting from 6:30
to 7:30pm

In house year 10 to year
11 2017 subject selection
information session P3-
P4

Dear Parents and Guardians of SNACC Issue 5 Term 2 13/5/2016

Welcome to the first edition of the Parental Newsletter for Term 2.

On first day back in this Term, the staff was involved in a literacy professional learning in-service. The objective of the program was to introduce them to new techniques that they can put in use in their classes to further improve literacy of students in their subject area. The day went smoothly and staff reported that they learned many new ways that they could use with their students almost immediately. I would like to thank Amy Jordan, the College Literacy Coordinator, for her assistance in organising this in-service.

The Pastoral Care period program was reorganised for the start of Term 2. A lot of work was put into it by Angela Shakir, the Pastoral Care Coordinator. Changes were made especially to the length of time given to the PC period and the Term 2 program structure was also reviewed.

Student Lockers also had a 'make up' at the start of Term 2. All students now need to have a lock which needs to be bought from the College. The changes were necessary to ensure that the lockers are kept locked at all times and students' property made safer. I would like to thank parents that have cooperated with these changes and that have already paid for the new lock. I also like to thank the Stage Coordinators, especially Chris Hardman for the hard work in introducing the changes successfully.

The Year 7 and Year 8 students have had study skills seminar from a program called 'Elevate'. Students learned new way of improving their study including how to make a better study time table; how to make good study notes; how to improve their memory so as to recall material studied more efficiently; and so much more. Parents, please encourage your child to put these techniques into practise at home when they are doing their homework or study.

We welcome two new teachers on our teaching staff- Ms Ninva Yokou, a Learning support teacher and Laura Stewart in the TAS Department. Both teachers were chosen on merit and they applied to come to the College. We wish them well at St Narsai.

At the end of last Term Interim Reports for Term 1 were issued to students from Years 7 to 11. The reports will give parents a general indication of progress during the Term. You are welcome to contact the teachers if you would like more information about your child.

I would like to thank the PE Department, led by Mrs Vicky Tatian for organising the Cross Country this week. It was a very successful event and most students participated. During the day a BBQ was held and the money raised went towards the breast cancer appeal. I particularly like to thank three parents, from the P7F that assisted with the BBQ- Shamami Zaia; Caroline Kaldy and Shehank Aqob

P & F meeting was held on 24th April 2016. I would like to thank Mr Carlos Sellanes for accepting the position of President of the P & F. At the meeting the Principal reported on various aspects of the college, including: building activities; interim reports & follow up; the importance of attendance at School; Yr. 12 Half-Yearly exams; One to One Computer Program; new computer laboratory. The next P & F meeting will be held on Tuesday, 21st June.

Year 12 Parent/Teacher evening was held on Thursday 12th May 2016. I wish to thank the parents that attended to support their child in such an important year of their education. Reports will be posted for those that did not attend and if you wish to speak to the teachers please ring and make an appointment.

God Bless

A Rufo

Principal

FROM THE DEPUTY

Dear Parents, Guardians and Friends,

Year 12 semester one reports were distributed yesterday to students and parents who attended the scheduled teacher- parents interviews (3:30-7:00) in the library area. Next week, the college will be mailing the remaining semester one reports to families of students who were unable to attend the interviews.

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Over the last three days, our Year 7 & 9 students sat their 2016 NAPLAN tests in the school hall. In this time, students completed five tests (literacy and numeracy) and I am pleased to report that they conducted themselves very well under exam conditions. We hope to receive this year's NAPLAN test results and the NAPLAN student reports when they are released in September.

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For the first time this year, not all subjects will be conducting half-yearly examinations for students in Years 7-9. Instead, selected KLA's will conduct their own subject based tests or exams for specific year levels. Affected students will be informed of these tests ahead of time from next week.

Semester one exam period for Year 10-11 students will commence on Monday, 30th May (week 6). In week 6, Year 10 students will sit their half-yearly examinations in the school hall. They will be followed by Year 11 students in week 7. It is important to remind all students to start their preparation for these very important exams as early as possible.

In addition to these exams, all students would now be completing a range of other on-going assessment tasks, assignments or projects across most subjects. This is one of the busiest times of the year for all students as they attempt to cope with many academic demands. I therefore encourage parents to increase the support they provide their children at home to help them better cope with the many challenges ahead.

As usual, students are more than welcome to approach their subject teachers, Pastoral care teachers, Stage Co-ordinators and KLA Co-ordinators for any support they need. We all here to help.

RE One to One Computer Program- We are holding an important meeting for all parents of students in Years 7 – 10, whom *as yet have not bought an appropriate individual computer for school use*. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss with you the introduction of the **One to One** program. Under this program the students will be using their own individual computer to assist them with their learning across all subject areas. It is expected that all students will have a suitable device by the end of Term 2, 2016. At the meeting we will be discussing the purchasing of these computers using the “**Bring Your Own Device**” (**BYOD**) approach. For your convenience we will be having two meetings as follows

FOR YEARS 7 & 8: Tuesday, 17th May 2016 at 6.00pm, in the College Library; and

FOR YEARS 9 & 10: Wednesday, 18th May 2016 at 6.00pm, in the College Library.

It is very important that at least one parent MUST ATTEND the meeting.

Mr E Dinkha—Deputy Principal

Message from the Counsellor

Today's Generation Personalities

A couple of weeks ago I had bumped into one of my university lecturers from years ago in the city. As we were conversing, she mentioned her latest empirical research project which I was completely astonished with.

Her research and experimentation showed the personality and characteristics of today's generation. Drawing near to her conclusions, she states that our youth and adolescents are formed and are forming narcissistic personalities.

By definition, a narcissistic personality is characterized by a long-standing pattern of grandiosity (either in fantasy or actual behaviour), an overwhelming need for admiration, and usually a complete lack of empathy toward others.

Researchers in the field of adolescent personalities in modern societies have seen parental patterns, social influences, peer pressure, etc. in support of this movement.

An interesting study looked into kindergarteners and first graders when asked 'what you want to become when you grow older?' Common responses included astronauts, policemen, firemen, etc. The children and adolescents of previous generations were building dreams of heroism, constructing futures of strength and a benefit for our existence in this world.

Comparing to today's generation, which are responding to the question of 'what you want to become when you get older?' with answers such as being rich and famous; having all the money in the world and being the most famous person in Hollywood.

Today's generation don't comprehend what rich and famous entails, they don't understand the plans and dreams they are holding for themselves.

But not to worry, as we mentioned in our previous P&F meeting a couple of weeks ago; our children and adolescents are growing by the day. Parents have laid the foundation for their children and the children will build upon this foundation. They may make mistakes, but it's ok; they can demolish, renovate and rebuild again – in the same way people build, demolish and renovate their houses.



Our Modern Mona Lisa

Who Are We?

After a long discussion about Assyrian history in our Pastoral Care lesson, a Year 11 student approached me and shared his thoughts about Assyrian culture and history. He explained how important it is for the youth of today to understand who we are as Assyrians and why we should appreciate our history, especially for the contributions and achievements we made. I asked him to write his thoughts down. He showed me the kind of strength and insight I can only pray enters the hearts and minds of all our youth.

Miss Yakou

WHO ARE WE?

“Our history is one of integrity. With significant culture and traditions of the past, it is crucial for Assyrians to know their history and what we did. ‘Who were the Assyrian kings?’ and ‘When did the Assyrian Empire rise and fall?’ are questions we, modern-day Assyrians, struggle to answer. Why? Because there is a lack of motivation. It isn’t implanted in our minds. We roam the earth calling ourselves Assyrians when in fact we know nothing of who we are – other than the fact that we are Middle Eastern Christians. This will continue to happen, and unless we stand against the face of our extinction, we will become Christians with no ethnicity. But this can be resolved. By educating the young Assyrians about our history and telling them where we come from, we Assyrians will know who we are. The motivation to preserve our history will be maintained. The love for our culture will grow.”

By Marel Oraha



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