



St. Narsai Assyrian Christian College

# *Harp of The Spirit*

## N e w s l e t t e r

### COLLEGE EVENTS

Monday  
18/5/2015  
IEC Excursion to IMAX

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Tuesday  
College Assembly P1  
Year 6 transition info  
night at 6pm

Year 7 and 8 Music In-  
cursion

\*\*\*\*\*

Wednesday  
20/5/2015  
Year 11 Adv English  
Excursion ( Macbeth)

\*\*\*\*\*

Wednesday  
27/5/2015  
Year 10 Excursion  
( Merchant of Venice)

\*\*\*\*\*

Thursday  
28/5/2015  
College Assembly

Dear Parents, Guardians and Friends,

Issue 7 Term 2 15/5/2015

On Wednesday, the school received a complaint from our neighbours, Fred's Fruit Market about students congregating in different areas of the shop's car park after school. A number of Fred's customers have raised serious concerns with the shop management about some recent near misses with our students as they drive in and out of the car park.

Naturally, this is a cause for alarm for all parties. We ask that parents of students involved make immediate alternative arrangements with their children after school. The safety of our students around cars inside and outside the college has been addressed before in this newsletter with mixed results. Since then, we have made some adjustments to our after school arrangements as follows:

Teacher supervision in the car park ends at 3:40. In addition, the College Library closes at 4:00 every day and students can spend their after school time working and studying there. We ask that these parents advise their children to stay inside the school after 3:00 until they arrive to pick up their children.

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On behalf of our staff and students, I welcome back to St. Narsai College community Fr. John Kushaba as the College Chaplain. I wish him all the best as he commences his work in support of our students, parents and staff.

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Over the last three days, our Year 7 & 9 students sat their NAPLAN tests in the school hall. Students completed five tests and I am pleased to report that they conducted themselves very well under exam conditions. The NAPLAN test results and student reports are usually released in September.

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Semester One Exam period for Year 7-11 students will commence on Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> May (week 6). In week 6, Year 7 students will sit their half-yearly examinations. They will be followed by Years 8 & 9 in week 7 and then Years 10 & 11 in week 8. In addition to these exams, all students would now be completing a range of other on-going tasks, assignments or projects across most subjects. It is one of the busiest times of the year for all students as they attempt to cope with many conflicting demands. I therefore encourage parents to increase the support they provide their children at home to help them better cope with the many challenges.

## Message from the Acting Principal cont'd

After extensive consultation with all stakeholders in relation to the planned laptop roll out for 2015, we have decided to continue with the roll out only for years 7 & 8 in 2015. Year 9 & 10 students will be expected to purchase their laptops for use in 2016. In November of this year, the college will be holding a meeting to explain the process to parents of current year 9 & 10 students. A separate letter will be sent to all Year 9 & 10 parents today explaining all relevant details.

Thank you,

Mr. E. Dinkha

## ANZAC Day Memorial

*They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old; age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them."*

At St Narsai a recurring tradition has been sustained throughout the College annually to commemorate the service men and women who served and sacrificed their lives in the great war of civilisation.

The Gallipoli campaign had a profound impact on Australians at home. 25<sup>th</sup> April has now become the day on which we remember those who died in war. For Australians today, ANZAC is a time at which Australians reflect on the war and the 8000 Australian soldiers that had been killed.

Our College held an assembly to pay our respects to those service men and women who sacrificed their lives for the future generations. We were shown a short clip of those who had fought in war, followed by a minute of silence to pay our respect as a College. Two of our prefects, Merna Issac and George Ibrahim laid a wreath in front of the cross.

ANZAC day is an important day for us Australians especially for those who have connections to those who had lost their lives. We are to remember those who sacrificed their lives from such a young age, without thinking about themselves; they fought for their country.

We will remember them

*Banita sarkhosh and Elatra Sifoo*



## Message from the Counsellor

### Conditioning Your Child

Continuing onto my second year of counselling at the College, many theories that I once studied on a piece of paper during my psychology subjects at uni are now coming to life.

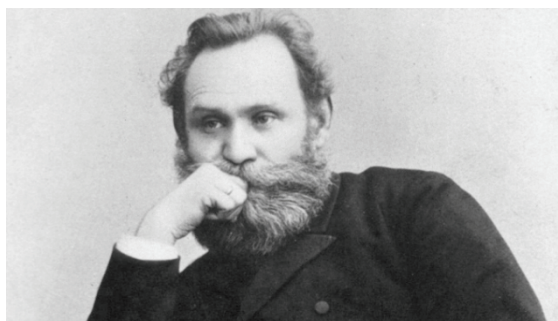
Names like Skinner, Freud and Pavlov would constantly appear on lecture slides and exam papers. Today, I am a witness to their research and the subjects are our students.

It is believed (which I'm sure many of you have heard the phrase), that a man's best friend is his dog. This phrase was especially significant to a Russian man that lived in the early twentieth century; a famous Russian Physiologist by the name of Ivan Pavlov.

Pavlov, whom won the nobel prize for his work on digestion, was studying the role of saliva in dogs' digestion processes when he stumbled upon a phenomenon he labelled 'psychic reflexes'. While an accidental discovery, he had the foresight to see the importance of it. Pavlov's dogs, restrained in an experimental chamber, were presented with meat powder and they had their saliva collected via a surgically implanted tube in their saliva glands. Over time, he noticed that his dogs begin salivation before the meat powder was even presented, whether it was by the presence of the handler or merely by a clicking noise produced by the device that distributed the meat powder. This was the first stepping stone to his theory of *Classical Conditioning*.

Fascinated by his findings, Pavlov paired the meat powder with various stimuli such as ringing the bell. After the meat powder and bell (auditory stimulus) were presented together several times, the bell was used alone. Pavlov's dogs, as predicted, responded by salivating to the sound of the bell (without the food). The bell began as a neutral stimulus (i.e. the bell itself did not produce the dog's salivation). However, by pairing the bell with the stimulus that did produce the salivation response, the bell was able to acquire the ability to trigger the salivation response. Pavlov therefore demonstrated how stimulus-response bonds (which some consider as the basic building blocks of learning) are formed. He dedicated much of the rest of his career further exploring this finding.

Pavlov's work has played a major role in modern day behavioural studies. Now educators and parents have the ability of incorporating the theory of *Classical Conditioning* with the teaching of their students and the nurturing of their children, respectively. Research has proven that the most beneficial way to raise and teach a child is by positive reinforcement. To positively reinforce a child with good behaviour, a teacher/parent must condition the child with a stimulus. For example; allow the child to create a connection between receiving an A on their math test and a night out to the cinemas with their friends. Therefore, the child will physiologically be wired to know that if he/she receives this result, they are also receiving the reward of a night out to a movie. Tadah... Your child has been classically conditioned!



## College Events-CAPA Department

This term, Year 7 Music students are examining the history of Music in Australia. Our aim for this term is to further technical skills on designated instruments (guitar, keyboard and glockenspiel) whilst learning about the history of Australian music. Songs we have started to learn include 'The Overlanders', a piece of music that has been in circulation in a number of versions for over 100 years. The earliest surviving one was current in the 1840s and published in the Queensland Camp Fire Song Book in 1865. Currently, students are learning how to perform Advanced Australia Fair in various arrangements.

During week 3, students completed their Australian Music research task which required them to select their favourite Australian musician or band and create a PowerPoint presentation. I would like to congratulate Year 7 on their effort in completing this task. Well done!

Year 8 Visual Arts students are investigating the representation of animals in various mediums of art. Our focus during week 3 has been the American artist, Megan Coyle. Her artworks often feature large, bold brushstrokes which create a collage like effect. Often she would paint two images on two different canvases. Then she would cut one of the paintings into several pieces and stitch them onto the painting that was in one piece. Year 8 be will be creating an artwork using a method similar to this. The work will feature an animal in a natural environment, such as Megan Coyle's 'A Purple Cow's Paradise'.

On Tuesday, the 19<sup>th</sup> of May, Year 7 and 8 students will be attending an incursion which will be led by group of professional musicians. The theme of the incursion is African Drumming. Each student will receive a Djembe (a hand drum) which culminates into a group performance. This will be an enjoyable experience for all students.

I would like to welcome Daniel Babekuhl and Kimmy Russell into our school community. Daniel and Kimmy are the college's Instrumental Music teachers. There are now over 20 students learning contemporary guitar, acoustic guitar, bass, violin and piano. Lessons are currently held Monday and Fridays from week 2 at the beginning of the school term. Some students have begun preparing music for the St Narsai Assyrian College Music Ensembles. Two ensembles will form later this term – Guitar Ensemble and String Ensemble.

There are exciting times ahead for CAPA students attending SNAC!

Thanks  
Mr. Peter Bottaro  
CAPA Faculty



**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**

8:30am

To

2:50pm

**Office Hours**

8:am

To

4pm

Monday to Friday

Tel: 9753 0700

Fax: 9753 0800

**Website**

[WWW.snac.nsw.edu.au](http://WWW.snac.nsw.edu.au)

**Email Address**

[school.office@snac.nsw.edu.au](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:school.office@snac.nsw.edu.au) W: [www.snac.nsw.edu.au](http://www.snac.nsw.edu.au)

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