



St. Narsai Assyrian Christian College

Harp of The Spirit

N e w s l e t t e r

COLLEGE EVENTS

Monday
15/8/2016
MADD Showcase Concert at
SHAPS 8:30-9:20

Tuesday
16/8/2016
Year 10 Geography Excursion

College Assembly (Narsai)
8:50-9:20

Wednesday
24/8/2016
Year 9 Science Excursion to Sci-
ence Expo at the Australian Mu-
seum.

Year 10 Drama Excursion to the
Capital Theatre

Friday
26/8/2016
Year 12 Spiritual Day

Friday
2/9/2016
Year 7 HSIE Excursion-Sydney
Uni and Imax

Dear Parents and Guardians of SNACC Issue 7 Term 3 10/8/2016

Term 3 is well underway and both teachers and students being well settled in the delivery of the College Semester Two educational program.

The process of organising **student subject selection** for 2017 is now complete. Both year 8 and Year 10 students had to choose their subject for next year. This was important choice especially for year 10 as they enter the HSC years in 2017. The parents' subject information meetings were well attended and I would like to thank parents for their support. Teachers did a lot of work to ensure that students had the information needed to make wise and informative choices.

The College is in the implementation stage of **Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) program**. As part of this program every student is expected to have a laptop to bring to school every day. All students are expected to have a laptop by Week 6, Term 3. For us to move into the 21st century pedagogy, the integration of ICT in teaching and learning is vital. ICT adds value to the learning of students, and parents need to make this investment in their child's future through the provision an approved device (laptop). Information regarding which device to buy was sent to all parent at the end of last Term. If you would like more information, please contact the school.

Parent Teachers interviews regarding the **Semester Two reports** were held on the last week of Term 2. The evening was well attended. These are important meetings for parents to discuss their child's progress directly with their teachers. I would like the teachers for their professional participation at these meetings.

The **Staff Spiritual Day** was held on Friday, 1st July at the Pauline Fathers' Monastery. The day was coordinated by the College Religious team under the leadership of Rev Father Ninos. It was a cold and crispy day but it provided a spiritual renewal for the College staff and an opportunity to reflect as to what are the important matters in the spiritual education of both students and staff.

Term 3 started with a **school development day**. The main items included: Restorative Justice and the teaching of ICT. **Restorative Justice** is a concept that assists in resolving conflicts. It moves away for the current, more punitive, approach and more towards restoring relations when things go wrong. Under Restorative Justice the aims include: is to give back; to repair the harm and rebuild; to reintegrate the person (s) who did the harm; restore a sense of wellbeing and connection. The philosophy and practice of restorative justice in schools is to promote resilience in both the one who is harmed and the one who causes harm. It is about helping young people become aware of the impact of their behaviour on others through personal accountability and being open to learning from conflict situations.

As you may have read the **HSC** will undergo some key changes over the next few years. The NSW Education Minister Adrian Piccoli announced a mandatory literacy and numeracy test starting with year 9, 2017. The reforms will also see fewer assessment tasks being taken in schools and force all students to meet the literacy and numeracy levels of proficient year 9 students to be awarded their HSC. If you would like to know more about these announcements, this is the link: <http://www.smh.com.au/national/education/hsc-nsw-government-institutes-compulsory-literacy-and-numeracy-test-for-all-students-20160719-gq8t94.html>

Year 12 is currently completing their **HSC trail exams**. These will be, for most of them, the last formal internal assessment task before the HSC which will start on Thursday, 13th October. Both students and parents can view the HSC official timetable at: https://studentonline.bostes.nsw.edu.au/go/exams/hsc_2016_exam_timetable/

Once again, I would like to bring to all parents attention that **Year 10 students** may be in the process of organising a 'Year 10 Formal' for the end of the year. I need to inform you that this is not a function being organised by the school (i.e. it is not a school event). If a function is being organised, parents will need to take full responsibility. Please refer to my letter to you, regarding this matter, dated 24th May 2016, where I outlined more details.

Thank you

Mr A Rufo

FROM THE DEPUTY

Dear Parents, Students and Friends,

We have had a very busy start to term three. Many of our students have been engaged in a variety of activities over the last three weeks; two weeks ago, a number of students took part in the 2016 Australian Mathematics Competition and Year 8 students attended the Year 9 2017 Elective Information Evening with their parents. These Year 8 students and their parents explored many areas covered in a range of elective subjects on offer in 2017 through a Subject Market that started at 6:00 pm on Monday 25th July outside the college Library.

Last week, selected students from years 7 and 9 took part in a trial on-line NAPLAN tests. Last week also, marked the start of the HSC Trials Examinations in the college hall. These exams will continue throughout this week and will conclude on Monday 15th August 2016. Normal year 12 classes will resume from Tuesday, 16th August.

I would like to direct our Year 12 students to the web link below that provides a rich source of advice on HSC examinations:

https://studentsonline.bostes.nsw.edu.au/go/exams/preparing_for_your_written_exams/advice-hsc-exams/

Year 12 students can also benefit from The HSC Study Guide 2016, which is a BOSTES and The Sydney Morning Herald collaboration that offers a wealth of information and resources about HSC subjects, exam advice and study tips.

<http://www.smh.com.au/national/education/hsc-study-guide>

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A number of teachers are currently investigating what the community of St. Narsai Assyrian Christian College think of homework. These teachers are now working on designing surveys for three groups of this community; students, teachers and parents. We envisage that these surveys will be conducted from week 6 of this term and the analysis of the data collected from these surveys will be the basis of SNACC's approach to homework from 2017.

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This week all Year 10 students will be out of school engaged in the annual SNACC Year 10 Work Experience Week. Work Experience provides students with the opportunity to participate in a workplace environment which assists the students with the transition from school to post school life. It also helps students understand the relationship between their school studies and the world of work, and to develop a greater awareness of their abilities and interests. We wish our students all the best in this experience.

Thank you,

Mr. E. Dinkha

Excellence
Christian
Values
Commitment

Message from the Counsellor

Where's the Top?

Life, as amazing and as awesome as it may be often turns into a simple pair of reading glasses. We each see life the way we perceive it. If we are having a bad day on the sunniest day of the year, it'll be perceived as the gloomiest day regardless.

Life is the same anywhere you go, but its perception on where you go is what matters. Life has the same grass, the same buildings, the same air, the same mountains and the list goes on and on.

A couple of weeks ago during the school holiday, I went on a vacation with family and friends to Japan for a cultural experience; spending ten days tracking through Tokyo, Kyoto and Osaka. It was simply mind-bottling; the technology, the cleanness, the crisp system of transport and functionality in almost all aspects of society was astonishing. But there was more...

Stepping back and looking at the bigger picture reminded me of a psychological and social experiment which we read and studied about back in my university days.

In a nutshell, the psychological and social experiment collected a large number of individuals with American and Japanese identities. In the examination room, there were one hundred pens laid on the table; ninety-nine white pens and one red pen. Each individual was given the option to choose one pen from the collection. In the results, Americans were different and ALL subjects chose the red pen, however Japanese subjects chose any of the white pens avoiding to be different and in order to mix with the majority.

Moral of the story is when people think alike, function similarly and work towards one perception and goal – you receive overall uniformity in society. In today's western society; if Sam has a good car, I need a better one. If Anna has a big house, I need a bigger one. If Crystal has a nice dress, I need a better one. If John has a red pen, I need a maroon one. Houses become skyscrapers, weddings become conventions and life because over the **TOP**.

Enjoy what you have, the race in life comes to an end at some point and none of it ever matters J



YEAR 7 SPIRITUAL DAY

On Tuesday the 26th of July 2016, Year 7 attended a Spiritual Day at Mt Schoenstatt, Mulgoa. The students spent the day trying to build their faith and become better Christians. Special guests that came to the excursion with the 7th graders were Reverend Father Ninos and Deacon Ramen. They spoke to the students before anything went underway and wished them a blessed and fun time.

At the beginning of the excursion, Angelina Daniel and Benjamin Awraham began the day with the Lord's Prayer. Joshua Odicho, Melvina Shaiya, Alandra Zaia and Alan Mansur then presented a poem and a prayer on the Fruits of the Spirit. Miss Isaac read a special Bible verse which introduced the students to the Fruits of the Spirit.



Students then had morning tea with their friends and helped themselves to food organised by the teachers.

Year 7 were then split into multiple coloured groups. The fun day commenced and they began learning about the Fruits of the Spirit. They participated in activities which taught them about how all the fruits of the Spirit make a Christian stronger in their faith and spiritual path in life. These activities included: Egg and spoon races which taught them the act of **gentleness**, making a poster about **love** and what it means, looking for objects in a bucket of rice teaching them to **trust** one another and have **faith**, writing nice things to each other as a form of **kindness** and having a staring contest to teach them about **self-control** and to help them learn how to control their actions.



They went to a chapel and prayed, wrote affirmations to their fellow students and wrote a letter to themselves on how they can become better Christians which they will receive at next year's Spiritual Day.

On behalf of the grade, we would like to thank Reverend Father Ninos, Deacon Ramen, Ms Kako, Ms David, Ms Isaac, Mrs Joseph and Mr Bottaro for sacrificing their time to organise and attend this wonderful excursion. Year 7 had a great time!

By: Angelina Daniel and Mariam Isaac

College Events

Visual Art Excursion



Careers Expo Excursion

College Events



Year 11 Advanced English enjoying a production of Shakespeare's finest play Macbeth, where power and evil run rampant in 15th Century Scotland!



PDHPE Excursion

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