



St. Narsai Assyrian Christian College

Harp of The Spirit

N e w s l e t t e r

Dear Parents, Guardians and Friends,

Issue 8 Term 2 29/5/2015

COLLEGE EVENTS

Monday
1/6/2015
Years 8 and 9
Semester One Examination commences until Friday 5/6/2015

10 PASS Excursion to SHAPS

Thursday
4/6/2015
In House
Year 10 to 11 2016 subject selection information sessions

Year 10 (boys and girls) indoor soccer gala day

Monday
8/6/2015
Queens Birthday public holiday

Year 7 students completed their half-yearly examinations this week and I am pleased to report that they conducted themselves very well during a stressful assessment period. Next week, Year 8 & 9 students will be sitting their half-yearly examinations, followed by Year 10 & 11 in week 8.

During weeks 8 and 9, Year 11 students will be allowed to leave the College at the end of their exams so they can revise for their next day examinations. Alternatively, students are welcome to stay at the College after their examinations and study or use the time for last minute consultation with their respective teachers.

Attending school during this examination period is very important as students are put through a series of well-designed assessments in examination conditions. These experiences help students develop important skills that can be critical in future school years. Parents are reminded to contact the College if their child is unable to sit their exams during the examination period.

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We have started our Transition Program for the current year six cohort from St. Hurmizd Assyrian Primary School enrolling at St. Narsai Assyrian Christian College for 2016. Last week, we conducted an information session at the College for prospective students and families, where Mrs. Kaya introduced the Year 6 transition program. I would like to remind Year 6 Parents to ensure that they deliver their completed SNACC Enrolment Forms to our College office as soon as possible, or by Friday 26th June. There are also applications from students of other schools competing for limited places at SNACC. Late applications risk being put on a waiting list.

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Year 10 subject selection process will start next week with an in-school sessions delivered by KLA Co-coordinators and subject teachers explaining and promoting a wide range of Year 11 subjects to current Year 10 students. This will be followed by a Subject Information Evening for Year 10 students and parents in week 9. Therefore, this is a good time to start a discussion with your Year 10 child about what subjects to consider for their HSC course. Subject selection interviews will be conducted two days later, on Thursday 18th June from 3:10-5:00.

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Message from the Acting Principal cont'd

The laptop program roll out for Year 7 and 8 students remains a priority for us in 2015. To date only a quarter of Year 7 and 8 parents have paid the full amount or made arrangements for payment with the finance company. As was stated before, we believe that equipping students with laptops in classroom settings offers many additional learning opportunities to them. Laptops can provide a high level of interactivity between students, teachers and subject matter and will contribute to improving efficiencies across a number of areas.

Again, our intention is to change classroom dynamics to Year 7 and 8 students from next term. I ask those parents who are yet to purchase a laptop to start this process as soon as practically possible so all students benefit from a more robust teaching and learning environment in term three.

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On behalf of our College community, as members of the Holy Church, I convey our prayers and well wishes to the prelates of the Church as they embark on their meetings next week in Erbil, Iraq. We pray that God resides amongst our beloved metropolitans and bishops during their meetings to choose a shepherd who will lead our Church to glory and holiness, as did the Late Mar Dinkha IV of blessed memory.

Thank you,

Mr. E. Dinkha

**Excellence
Christian
Values
Commitment**

Counsellor Message

The Currency of Grief

This week, I attended a conference titled *Counselling Clients with Complicated Grief* at the Mercure Hotel in Sydney's CBD held by the Australian Centre for Grief and Bereavement (ACGB). Our guest speaker was Prof Dr Louis A. Gamino from the Faculty of Psychiatry and Behavioural Science at the College of Medicine, Texas USA - sensational segment.

For me and our college, this came in perfect timing as [with a heavy heart] I convey my condolences to one of our beloved students who lost their father earlier this week in the fight against cancer. On my end, it would be very difficult (almost impossible) to comfort this individual and their family due to my personal inexperience of grief.

Having said that, throughout the duration of my two-day conference I came across a quote that completely engulfed my mind and field of thought in relation to grief. Thomas Lynch, an Irish poet and author of the book 'The Undertaking' (1997) wrote: '**Grief is the tax on loving, the price we pay for our attachments**'.

The simple yet deep quote above is a reminder of our humanity, in this world that drives towards artificiality and superficiality. A reminder that love prevails and it is this love that results in grief. Nevertheless, every rainy day passes, every storm ceases, and the sun rises and brightens the land.

A case study we looked into during the first day of the conference was that of Suz and her family. In the late 1990s this family, living in Texas were at home during an Autumn's evening with their young child named Steven whom was playing around a very ugly and leafless tree in their backyard that the parents were planning on cutting down. Later that same year, their son was killed by a thunder lightning shock in their very own backyard. The parents underwent a very rough grieving process (as you would) and didn't have the chance to chop it down. Some time later, the father planned to chop down the ugly tree, however the mother wouldn't allow it as it reminded her of Steven and his most recent play time around that tree.

Months pass that mother undergoes counselling with Prof Gamino (our conference's guest speaker), where she made a break-through and decided to chop the tree down. When they did, the tree stump was a split image of a love heart. This provided closure and rectified the mother's heart.

All it takes is a little step forward to be exposed to something amazing and transformational!

In Christ,
Dcn Ramen Youkhanis
College Counsellor



College Events



Department

A Sample of some of what has been or will be happening in Science in 2015

Year 7 are studying forces. Recently they were given a “forces challenge” where they were asked to design an “egg landing craft” to reduce the force of gravity, increase the force of air resistance, and absorb the impact force on landing to ensure the egg landed safely. The students had to drop their egg in their landing craft from the top of a stair case to allow it to fall 3 meters....there were some successes with parachutes, and there was one case of scrambled eggs !!

Year 7 will be visiting Featherdale Wildlife Park later in the year to study the classification of animals.

Today 50 students from year 7 to 11 will take part in the International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS) Science Competition. This competition is run by the University of NSW and students throughout the Pacific region enter the competition.

Year 9 classes went off with a bang with the combustion of hydrogen generated during a chemical reaction as they learned about chemical reactions and equations. As part of Science Week they will be heading off soon to the Australian Museum for the Science Expo to participate in science workshops such as “Crime Scene Investigation (Forensic Science), Bionics, and “The Great Big Science Show”.

During August as part of Science Week year 7 and 8 students will take part in a presentation in our school hall of “What’s the Matter” a highly entertaining and interactive science show about the nature of matter.

Year 10 have been learning the physics of motion and have been enjoying making wooden trolleys accelerate and collide to watch the crash test dummies fly off the vehicles because they were not wearing seat belts.

Year 12 Biology students are getting excited about their eye ball dissection coming up this week.

Year 11 Biology students have been simulating the effects of cell size on surface area to volume ratio with fake cells made of agar.

Year 12 Physics are currently studying the elective Medical Physics. In this unit students learn to apply their knowledge of physics to explain how various types of medical scans work. They learn about ultrasounds, X-rays, CAT scans, MRI and gamma cameras. They are looking forward to their excursion to Liverpool Hospital to see these machines in action.

College Events-Year 10 English Excursion Recount

By Marissa Merza

It is with much confidence I speak on behalf of the Year 10 students who enjoyed the wonderful, knowledge-building excursion to see a production of Shakespeare's *The Merchant of Venice* at the Seymour Centre, on Wednesday of last week. We started the trip with a quick recess at the park opposite the theatre, located on the grounds of the University of Sydney, where we all enjoyed the swings and the circular spinner play-equipment. Then we headed to the theatre and to watch the play. The play is a romantic Shakespearean comedy. It is centred on a young man named Bassanio who is in love with the beautiful and brilliant Portia. Bassanio goes to his friend Antonio, the Merchant, to borrow some money in order to win Portia's heart, but there are many complications that fall in the way. As a year group, we experienced a very memorable moment from the actor who played one of our most loved characters, Launcelot Gobbo, the Jewish money-lender's assistant. As the actor was running across the stage, he accidentally slipped and fell in the middle of the scene. But the actor recovered and made an impressive improvisation. Many of us in Year 10 consider this to be our favourite moment.

Afterwards, we headed back to school on the bus. Overall it was an outstanding and very educational excursion to the theatre. The experience will greatly assist us in our studies of *The Merchant of Venice* by Shakespeare this term.



College Events— Year 11 Advanced English

On the bright and sunny morning of Wednesday the 20th of May was year 11's English Excursion to the Seymour Centre, Broadway in the city. It is here we journeyed to witness Sir William Shakespeare's famous play, Macbeth, performed. Our voyage began at Fairfield train station at 8.45am where we caught a train to Central. The train ride went as planned and we arrived just in time to view Macbeth. The performance itself was outstanding, with it the actors and setting. In particular, Lady Macbeth, in our opinion, outshone other actors in the production with her pure zeal for her character. Candles were creatively used as the only source of light which emphasised the eerie mood of the play. In summary, the play was a delightful experience, and, as any theatre production, it broadened our outlook towards the cultural values of the Shakespearean era. After an entire day of joy and laughter, we safely arrived back at the station at 4 o'clock.





University Admissions Centre

Educational Access Scheme

The University Admissions Centre Educational Access Scheme (EAS) helps students who have experienced long-term educational disadvantage gain admission to tertiary study.

To be eligible for EAS consideration a student's educational performance must have been seriously affected, normally for a period of at least six months during Year 11 and/or 12, due to circumstances beyond their control and choosing.

There are seven broad categories of long-term educational disadvantage:

- Disrupted schooling
- Financial hardship
- Home environment
- English language difficulty
- Personal illness/disability
- Refugee status
- School environment

Further information and application forms are available online at <http://www.uac.edu.au/eas/>

EAS applications open early August and close on 30 September 2015.

The school contact person for the EAS is the Year 12 Adviser, Miss Dalia Ishaak

Mrs. Mary Younan
Diverse Learning Needs Coordinator

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

9753 4185

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

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

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673-683 Smithfield Rd, Edensor Park NSW 2176

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E: school.office@snac.nsw.edu.au W: www.snac.nsw.edu.au