



St. Narsai Assyrian Christian College

# *Harp of The Spirit*

N e w s l e t t e r

**Dear Parents and Guardians of SNACC**

**Issue 9 Term 4 28/10/2016**

Welcome back to the first edition of the Parental Newsletter for Term 4!

Term 4 commenced with a professional learning day for teachers. The main item of the day was to examine our NAPLAN data and the implication this has for College planning over the next few years. Very importantly the new HSC minimum literacy and numeracy standards, which will be introduced as from next year, means that students will need to take the NAPLAN test more seriously. In accordance with the changes, as from 2017, Year 9 students will need to score Band 8 in reading, writing and numeracy to be eligible for the HSC. Students that do not reach this standard will have the next four years to do so before they can become eligible for the HSC.

The students resumed on Tuesday, 11<sup>th</sup> Octobers and they have settled well in their learning. This is an important Term as they need to consolidate the work for their final examination. Year 11 (2016) has now become Year 12 and they have started their HSC courses. Most students in Year 12 have settled and the teachers are making sure that they are focused on their work. The HSC for 2016 is still continuing and that last exam will be on 4<sup>th</sup> November.

A big event for the College, over the last few weeks, was the participation of students at the Ingham institute. I need to thank Mr Parker and Mr Bray for the work they have done to connect the school with the institute. This is a great partnership for the College. The **Ingham Institute** is a not-for-profit medical research organisation for Sydney's South West that undertakes medical research that specifically addresses, and can be applied to, the needs of the local population and wider Australia. The **Institute** comprises a state of the art research precinct located at Liverpool Hospital consisting of a Research Building, a Clinical Skills & Simulation Centre and a Research Bunker containing the MRI-Linac, a unique cancer therapy technology that will be an Australian-first. I like to congratulate all the students that participated in the work experience with the institute and for their efforts and for enhancing the College reputation. There are articles regarding the activity in this newsletter.

I would like to thank the parents that attended the Year 12 HSC course information evening held on 18<sup>th</sup> October. The event was well attended. Both students and parents that came received information valuable information about the importance of the HSC and the importance of the internal assessment (which is worth 50% of the HSC). I would like to thank Mr Dinkha (our DP) and Mr Hardman (Year 12 Stage Coordinator) for organising the evening.

For the first time, at the College, Year 10 students will be doing an authentic assessment as part of their RoSA Year. The Year 10 Authentic Assessment Learning Project is a compulsory and important component of the Year 10 curriculum at St Narsai Assyrian Christian College. The project culminates at the end of the year with an interview with a panel. Students make use of activities undertaken during the year as part of the project to support their answers at the interview. I would like to thank Ms. Yakou for managing this project and all the pastoral care teachers, of year 10, for facilitating the project. We believe that this type of assessment will assist the students in becoming better learners by being:

- More responsible for their own learning and move towards becoming more independent and reflective learners
- Develop the skills associated with organising and presenting (at a public forum) a folder of their own learning
- Develop employment related skills and knowledge
- Increase their understandings of key concepts associated with: research skills; self-assessment
- reflection of own learning; study skills; communication; teamwork; problem solving; planning and organising; self-management; learning and technology.

Thank you to all parents that have completed the homework surveys. The information is now being analysed and will be used to review the College homework policy and procedures. This, we hope, will improve the effectiveness of homework that is being given.

God Bless  
A Rufo  
(College Principal)

# FROM THE DEPUTY

## Dear Parents, Students and Friends,

Thank you to all New Year 12 students and their parents who were able to attend last week's 2016-17 HSC Assessment Information Evening in the school library. Important HSC course assessment information, assessment schedules and school based assessment procedures and protocols were discussed and an HSC Assessment Information Handbook was distributed to present students.

As the first HSC assessments will be due by the end of this term, I urge Year 12 students to make a concerted effort to start work on their assignments or assessment tasks at this early point in the term. I remind students that typical Year 12 students spend between 2-4 hrs every day at home studying, revising, summarising lesson notes, practising exam type responses and working on assignments. Students are also urged to use their school based study periods effectively.

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Teachers have started preparation for End of Year examinations for all 7-10 students. End of Year Examination will take place as follows:

Years 9 & 10	Week 5- From 7 <sup>th</sup> November
Years 7 & 8	Week 6- From 14 <sup>th</sup> November

Students will shortly be issued with Examination Notifications and Examination Revision sheets to assist them in their preparation for this very important assessment event. The results of these examinations as well as results from other assessments conducted last term will be used to put together Semester Two Reports.

Moreover, I would like to remind all students of the college expectations in relation to the use of mobile phones during school time. Students are reminded that they are not allowed to use mobile phones during school time and should be storing their mobile phones in their lockers. Having a mobile phone inside an examination room is considered malpractice and will result in a mark of zero for the particular examination. More details are available in page ix of the student's diary.

Thank you,

Mr. E. Dinkha

**Excellence**  
**Christian**  
**Values**  
**Commitment**

# From the Science Faculty

On Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> October, 25 of our budding science students had the privilege of attending the medical research showcase of the Ingham Institute for Applied Medical Research. They enjoyed “playing” (actually learning...but don't tell them that) with the robotic machines for conducting surgery and the manikins used for training doctors. They were inspired as they interacted with “real scientists”, who turned out to be just warm, friendly people with a great sense of humor. The scientists encouraged our students to consider science-related careers and talked about possible career pathways. A highlight of the day was hearing the presentations of two of our own St Narsai students (who won work experience placements at the Ingham Institute) presenting to an audience of about 400 scientists, and they did it with grace and confidence.

Four of our Year 11 students actually won this 4 day work experience placement at the Ingham Institute for Applied Medical Research by entering their “Pathways to Success” poster competition. Our winners were Marel Orah, Maryam Al Wakeel, Diana Odisho and Amalia Sellanes. It was an experience that gave them a glimpse into the world of research scientists.

Thanks,

Mr Brian Parker

Science Teacher



# Year 8 HISE excursion

Year 8 enjoying the scenic views of the Blue Mountains as they learn about the impacts of tourism on the environment.



**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

**COLLEGE EVENTS**

Monday  
31/10/2016  
Year 12 Society and  
Culture  
Excursion

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7/11/2016

To

Tuesday  
8/11/2016

Year 8 learn to swim  
program

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**Week 5**  
From 7<sup>th</sup> November  
Years 9 & 10

**Week 6**  
From 14<sup>th</sup> Novem-  
ber Years 7 & 8

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

**Email Address**

[school.office@snac.nsw.edu.au](mailto:school.office@snac.nsw.edu.au)



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Helpline counsellors  
are available 24 hours  
a day, 7 days a week.  
Nothing is too big or  
too small to call us



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**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)