



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 10 Term 4 28/11/2016**

Recently the College has applied for two **STEM funding projects**. We have been successful in receiving funds for one of them (\$5000) and we are waiting for the decision on the other (which will be worth \$50000). I like to thank the College STEM team for their work in applying for the funds and submitting very high quality applications. **STEM**, drawn from the four disciplines of Science (**S**), Technology (**T**), Engineering (**E**), and Mathematics (**M**) recognises the importance of this integration and its significance for Australia's competitive future. These four disciplines are also referred to as the 'Pillars of STEM'. In line with BOSTES aims, the College is engaging in STEM by developing practical, hands-on teaching and learning programs and resources that allow students to integrate their knowledge from the pillar subject.

During Term 4 we have introduced a **literacy and numeracy intervention** program for targeted students. The objective of the programs has been to increase the literacy and numeracy standards for the group. We hope that this will show in better results in their Year 9 NAPLAN. Many thanks to Mrs Amy Kurver and Ms Adwena David for leading and organising the programs and all staff involved with the program.

**Uniforms-** a reminder to parents that the College is a uniform school. This means that students will need to wear the acceptable uniform as per policy. This also includes the right shoes; hair styles; jewellery and of course the uniform itself. If for some reason your child cannot wear the appropriate uniform, you will need to give them a note explaining the reason. The note is to be given to the PC teacher at the start of Roll Call. Your support in this important matter is greatly appreciated.

The **VALID test** took place on Wednesday, week 5 for Year 8 students. The Validation of Assessment Learning and Individual Development (VALID) program is an online end-of-stage 4 assessment for the Science KLA. VALID will assist schools to monitor student achievement and will inform planning, programming and assessment practices. Y-thank You Mr Bray and the Science faculty for organising and administering the test. As the result becomes available, the college will inform parents and students.

The **Year 6 to year 7 transition** took place in Week 5. Over 100 students were invited to the College to participate in experiencing "high school type lessons". There have been many transition activities for these students throughout the year to familiarise themselves with the College. A lot of work was done to make sure that the programs ran smoothly under the leadership of the PC Coordinator, Ms Angela Shakir and the Stage Coordinator, Mr Peter Bottaro. We are looking forward for this new cohort to arrive at the College at the start of 2017.

The **Year 10 Authentic Assessment** interviews took place in week 7. It was very successful and the students found it very productive from the point of view of consolidating their learning and also for practising interviews. Each Year 10 student had a 40 minute interview with a panel, consisting of a teacher and a year 12 student. The interviews were organised over three days. I would like to thank Ms Nineveh Yakou for leading and organising the project.

**End of Year final examinations** were held in Week 5 for Year 10 and in Week 6 for Year 7-9. Apart from assessing what the students know at the end of the semester, the formality of the exams also gives them an opportunity on how to sit for major examinations and what is expected from them. The teachers are now using all the assessment data that they have collected during the year to allocate A to E grades to students. The reports will be issued to Year 10 students on Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> December- their last day of school and for year 7 to 9 on Monday, 12 December.

God Bless

A Rufo

(College Principal)

# FROM THE DEPUTY

St Narsai Assyrian Christian College

## Dear Parents, Students and Friends,

Last week marked the conclusion of Semester Two 7-10 examination period and the beginning of report writing process for 7-10 subject teachers. At this point many teachers are busy marking 7-8 exam papers. Parents are encouraged to discuss with their child the exam experience and how the child performed in these exams. Moreover, subject teachers have already returned marked exam papers to students. All teachers reflect with their students on the examination process and experience and provide good and meaningful feedback that is very useful to students.

The results from these examinations are being used in combination with other assessments undertaken in semester 2 to determine students' performance against syllabus standards.

### A campaign to get Year 9 students to read and I need everyone's help

After talking with the Year 9 cohort on two occasions earlier this term about the importance of reading, I am happy to report that a number of Year 9 student have taken up personal reading. We need to keep the momentum going and get more students into the habit of reading every night at home.

I selected Year 9 students as a pilot group this term to explore ways to make this project happen. As I ask for Year 9 parents to offer support at home by encouraging their children to read every night at home, I extend the same invitation to all our parents across SNACC to do the same and encourage their children to take up the habit of reading at home.

### All My Own Work- A BOSTES HSC Program

Under the supervision of Mr. Parker, the Year 10 students have been working in the last few weeks on completing *All My Own Work* mandatory program.

The *All My Own Work* program is designed to help Higher School Certificate students to follow the principles and practices of good scholarship. This includes understanding and valuing ethical practices when locating and using information as part of their HSC studies. Students will not be enrolled into the Year 11 course in 2017 unless they complete this five module program.

Thank you to both Mr. Parker for supervising the program and the Year 10 students for completing the program and best wishes for all Year 10 students as they commence their HSC courses in 2017.

### Year 11 grades now available

Year 11 (Preliminary) grades were made available by the Board of Studies from last Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> November 2016. The following is an excerpt from the BOSTES website:

*Students can log into their [Students Online](#) secure account to view their grades onscreen and download their own eRecord. They will need to [activate their account](#) to gain access, if they have not done so before.*

*BOSTES will send students an e-bulletin when their grades are available, including details of how to access their secure account. If students do not receive an e-bulletin, please ask them to check that their contact details are correct in their Students Online account.*

Any student who is not continuing their HSC may be eligible for a Record of School Achievement (RoSA).

Thank You,  
Mr. E. Dinkha

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

# Message from the Counsellor

## 12 Days of Christmas

During this festive season of Christmas and its wonderful celebrations, we see ourselves in and out of shopping centres; waiting in hour-long lines to purchase items and presents, we see ourselves spending numerous hours in the kitchen and home preparing for gatherings and parties; as it is accustom in many families, we see ourselves spending so much time and money on the things that are deemed traditionally acceptable for this time of year; buying new clothes and out-doing ourselves every year with decorative mistletoes, trees, tinsels and gifts. All this is good and wonderful, it is great to see such emphasis on Christmas; the very same concept the world is trying to forget. I guess this builds up all the excitement.

This upcoming Christmas let us replay a song in our homes and cars; the 12 Days of Christmas is one catchy jam. Let us number our days to Christmas with things that really matters:

On the first day of Christmas my true love [God] gave to me *a partridge in a pear tree* [Jesus Christ],

On the second day of Christmas my true love [God] gave to me *two turtle doves* [Old & New Testaments],

On the third day of Christmas my true love [God] gave to me *three French hens* [theological virtues: faith, hope and charity],

On the fourth day of Christmas my true love [God] gave to me *four calling birds* [four gospels],

On the fifth day of Christmas my true love [God] gave to me *five golden rings* [first five books of the Old Testament; covers man's fall to God's grace],

On the sixth day of Christmas my true love [God] gave to me *six geese a-laying* [six days of creation],

On the seventh day of Christmas my true love [God] gave to me *seven swans a-swimming* [seven gifts of the Holy Spirit],

On the eighth day of Christmas my true love [God] gave to me *eight maids a-milking* [eight beatitudes],

On the ninth day of Christmas my true love [God] gave to me *nine ladies dancing* [nine fruits of the Holy Spirit],

On the tenth day of Christmas my true love [God] gave to me *ten lords a-leaping* [Ten Commandments],

On the eleventh day of Christmas my true love [God] gave to me *eleven pipers piping* [eleven faithful disciples],

On the twelfth day of Christmas my true love [God] gave to me *twelve drummers drumming* [twelve points of the Apostles' Creed].

Use this recipe this Christmas, and you'll have the best Christmas EVER!

Merry Christmas everybody



## College Event: SNACC 10<sup>th</sup> year anniversary

### **Principal Address at St Narsai Assyrians Christian College Festival Celebrations- 27<sup>th</sup> November, 2016**

Your Beatitude, Mar Meelis Zaia, distinguished guests, parents, friends, students, teaching staff & ancillary staff of St Narsai Assyrian Christian College, good evening and welcome

I am very happy to be here today to celebrate the 10th anniversary of our College, St Narsai (SNACC).

Let me first congratulate the College on its 10 years of successful development and deeply acknowledge and thank: the former principal, Mr John Haskal, chaplains, teachers, students, and parents who have generously put in all those efforts. Their outstanding contribution has made the SNACC what it is today.

The College began 10 years ago, in 2006 at this site, with only 13 full-time faculty members and with one class of Yr 7.

However, today, the College has grown to be a full-fledged professional school with more than 600 students and well over 50 staff members.

I am very proud to recognize that our College has become a comprehensive school from Year 7 to 12 and offering a range of Subjects that students need to complete a successful HSC.

Over its 10 years of existence, St Narsai has developed into a unique educational institution. It is, above all, the first Assyrian Christian College to be established in the Western World and it came in existence as a fulfilment of His Eminence, Mar Meelis Zaia's dream.

As stated in its mission statement, the College aims at preparing students for leadership positions in excellence in education, within Christian Values and commitment. I strongly believe that the college has and is continually achieving this mission or goals. Both the Assyrian Community and the wider Australian community should be proud of these achievements.

One such evidence can be found in the College alumni or past students. Most of our past students who have graduated since the first HSC in 2011, have been studying at university levels; and many of them have now degrees & diplomas and are being successful in their chosen career.

At this point in the 10-year history of the College, I see 2017 as the springboard for the school's "second take-off." I have no doubt whatsoever that, under the guidance of His Excellence, Mar Meelis Zaia, the Assyrian Schools Board Members, outstanding teaching staff members, ancillary staff the excellent students and supportive parents, will do their utmost to establish St Narsai Assyrian Christian College as one of the most prestigious educational institutions.

I would also like to ask everyone here today for their continued support for and interest in St Narsai Assyrian Christian College

Once again, as principal, I would like to extend my congratulations to the St Narsai Assyrian Christian on all of the outstanding achievements that it has made in a rather short period of 10 years.

I really look forward to seeing another excellent performance of the College in the next decade.

Thank you very much.

Aldo Rufo



# College Event: SNACC 10<sup>th</sup> year anniversary





**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**

**Thursday 1/12/16**

**UTS Forensic Science Workshop —  
Year 10**

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**Friday 2/12/16**  
**Last day for year 10**

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**Tuesday 8/12/16**

**College Christmas  
Mass**

**Christmas Concert  
P6**

**P&F Meeting  
6:30-7:30pm**

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**Monday 12/12/16**  
**College Presentation Evening 7pm**

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**Tuesday 13/12/16**  
**Term 4 Ends**

**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)**