



# St. Narsai Assyrian Christian College

## *Harp of The Spirit*

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

#### COLLEGE EVENTS

HSC Trials  
Examination Period

Friday 4/8/17  
to  
Friday 18/8/17

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Year 11 Camp

Monday 7/8/17  
to  
Thursday 10/8/17

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Year 10

1 week work experi-  
ence  
Monday 7/8/17  
to  
Friday 11/8/17

**Dear Parents and Guardians of SNACC**

**Issue 6 Term 3 9/8/2017**

It has been a very busy start for the Term!

As you all know, we had the **Patriarch visit and the Prelates** in Week 1. It was a grand occasion and the College held a special assembly. The official party was made up of: His Holiness Mar Gewargis the III Sliwa – Catholicos Patriarch; His Beatitude Mar Meelis Zaia, Archbishop of Australia, New Zealand and Lebanon; His Grace Mar Emmanuel Yousef- Bishop of Canada; His Grace Mar Awa Royel- Bishop of Western USA; His Grace Mar Narsai Benyamin – Bishop of Iran; His Grace Mar Paulus Benyamin- Bishop of Eastern USA; His Grace Mar Abris Youkahanan- Bishop of Erbil (Iraq); His Grace Mar Benyamin Elya- the new consecrated Bishop of Victoria and New Zealand; Rev Archdeacon William Toma; Rev Archdeacon Narsai Youkhanis.

At the visit, we also had the opportunity to welcome back to our previous Chaplain, Rev Ninos Elya, as the newly consecrated Bishop of Melbourne and New Zealand- **His Grace Mar Benyamin Elya**. His Grace Mar Benyamin Elya- was born in Baghdad, Iraq in the year 1985. He was ordained a deacon in 2002 by Metropolitan His Beatitude Mar Meelis Zaia AM in Sydney's St Hurmizd's Cathedral. He was ordained a priest in 2012 once again by His Beatitude Mar Meelis. Rev'd Ninos received his Bachelor Degree from the Australian Catholic University in 2013. He also received his Masters Degree from the same institute in 2015. Rev'd Ninos was the chaplain of the Assyrian Schools (St Hurmizd Primary and St Narsai High Schools), concentrating on the Christian Studies of the schools. Also, he was the parish priest of Saints Peter and Paul Church in Sydney. Rev'd Fr Ninos was consecrated bishop in Melbourne (Australia) in 16<sup>th</sup> July 2017.

The **Year 12 HSC Trials** have started in Week 3. These exams are an important internal assessment task but they also provide students with a final opportunity to practise for the upcoming HSC Examination. We wish all students the best in their performance and thank teachers for their dedication and hard work in getting the students ready.

I like to remind parents (and students) that the **Homework Club** operates Tuesdays to Fridays from 3.10pm to 4.00pm in the College library. We would like to see more students attending and would ask parents to encourage their children to do so. Teachers are there to support and supervising students in doing homework, assessments, and explaining concepts that they may have been having trouble with in class.

**Martyrs Day** – The College Celebrated Martyrs Day in Week 3 at a special assembly. Archdeacon Emanuel Youkhana, from Iraq, addressed the assembly. The 7th of August has been chosen as Day for Assyrian Martyrs. This is a day set aside to remember of those who gave their lives for the preservation of Assyrian cultural and ethnic identity. They are the one who bravely and selflessly defended the existence of the Assyrian nation, even to the point of giving up their own lives, so that the Assyrian people could continuously have before them examples of self-sacrifice which would serve to encourage them to preserve themselves and Assyrian culture for future generations. May God Bless the Assyrian martyrs and their beloved nation now and for all time.

All is progressing well to move to the **new site at Horsley Park** for the start of 2018. We are currently trying to finalise government buses that will take the children to the school. Of course, this will be free travel and the students will be using a specially issued Opal Card to travel. Soon we will have a special meeting to explain to parents the details regarding transport and other organisational matters .

God bless,

Mr Aldo Rufo

Principal

**Dear Parents, Students and Friends,**

In the past three weeks of this term, staff have been working collaboratively in KLA teams and some-time across school teams on evaluating, analysing and reflecting on semester one student performance data. These teams have identified areas for improvements and are planning additional strategies in the aim of supporting all our students and to improve their learning outcomes.

One initiative that staff agreed to implement from this term is the new two page unit or topic outline for all subjects. This two page document outlines the following:

- Areas or lessons to be taught;
- A list of key vocabulary that will be explored and studied;
- ICT components to be used in the unit;
- Tests timing and weighting;
- A list of homework that students should engage in.

We ask that parents review this two page document in all the subjects that their child studies and discuss its content with their child. An important feature of this new document is that it allows parents to monitor their child's progress and whether or not he or she are up to date with all requirements of that unit or subject.

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The 2017 HSC Trials Examinations started today in the college hall. These important Year 12 exams will continue throughout the next two weeks and will conclude on Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> August. During this examination period, Year 12 students will not be required to attend school unless they have exams. During this examination period, students are expected to come to school on time and in full uniform. Normal year 12 classes will resume from Monday, 21<sup>st</sup> August.

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The annual Year 10 Work Experience starts next week and all Year 10 students will be out of school in work places participating in specific tasks. Miss. Yakou (Careers Advisor) will be visiting many work sites every day throughout next week to observe and supervise our students in their work placements.

Work Experience provides students with the opportunity to participate in a workplace environment which assists the students with their 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**

**Feedback from the Embedding Excellence in Schools survey**

Thank you for your assistance in providing timely feedback in the recent whole school survey. The wonderful response across the Assyrian Schools community was an indication of the willingness to be involved and have input into the school improvement process.

We collected surveys from over 650 students, 150 parents, 70 staff and the Board. These responses are very helpful and will be of great assistance in putting the improvement plan in place across both schools. Also pleasing were the large number of meaningful comments written in support of the data portrayed. These comments together with graphs from the data will drive the school improvement process.

The survey together with the interviews conducted in Term 2 helped frame the Assyrian Schools Review Report which was presented to the Board of Directors last week. The Board report addresses the areas in need of attention. In doing this, the focus has been on the challenges we face with recommendations on suggested approaches. The next step in the process involves meeting with the Principals, Mr Rufo and Mr Makko prior to disseminating information to staff followed by the students and parents.

It is worth noting the following compelling themes that were evident throughout the review process.

The most common words used to describe our schools were:

*Caring, Committed, Christian, Faith, Fun, Safe, Helpful, Nurturing*

Clearly we have a wonderful school with strong community ties, and a deep faith bedded in the Assyrian Church of the East. We are a unique, distinctive school which has the backbone and faith to become a school of excellence.

As you know the Assyrian Schools have grown from a small family focussed school to a much larger community. With this rapid growth there is an associated change in school culture and it is clear we can perform at a higher standard. Our aim is to develop our identity as a leading Independent School which offers an outstanding education.

Thanks once again for the considered input into the review. You will be kept informed as to the progress on our school improvement process.

May God bless you.

Kind regards

**Mr Brian Kennelly**

**Head Principal of Assyrian Schools**

# College Events

His Holiness Mar Gewargis III Slewa visits the College

On Thursday 20th July, the College was blessed with the presence of His Holiness Mar Gewargis III Slewa, Catholicos Patriarch of the Assyrian Church of the East. Accompanying His Holiness were:

His Beatitude Mar Meelis Zaia AM, Metropolitan of the Archdiocese of Australia, New Zealand and Lebanon

His Grace Mar Emmanuel Yosip, Bishop of the Diocese of Canada

His Grace Mar Awa Royel, Bishop of the Diocese of California

His Grace Mar Paulus Benyamin, v cnmcn Bishop of the Diocese of Eastern USA

His Grace Mar Narsai Benyamin, Bishop of the Diocese of Iran

His Grace Mar Abris Youkhanan, Bishop of the Diocese of Arbil

His Grace Mar Benyamin Elya, Bishop of the Diocese of Victoria and New Zealand

Reverend Archdeacon William T oma, Scribe of the Holy Synod

Reverend Genard Lazar, other reverend clergy and members of the Assyrian Schools Board.

The visit included a presentation of student work from all subjects including major projects for Visual Arts and Design and Technology. The Food Technology students also prepared an afternoon tea for the prelates.

A school assembly was held in the afternoon, which included presentations by the College choir, an Assyrian dance by the College dance group, and presentations by Edessa Shmoel, Taglat Tilya and Augen Sifoo.

We were also blessed with the presence of His Grace Mar Benyamin Elya, Bishop of Victoria and New Zealand. Having recently being consecrated to the ranking of Bishop, we were blessed to have him at our college. We thank him for his role as our College Chaplain and pray that God strengthens and guides him in his new ranking of Bishop.

Once again, we thank His Holiness for taking the time to visit our College. Every member of the College Community felt extremely blessed to have been part of the visit.

Mrs. Mary Khina

Religious Education Coordinator



# TAS Faculty

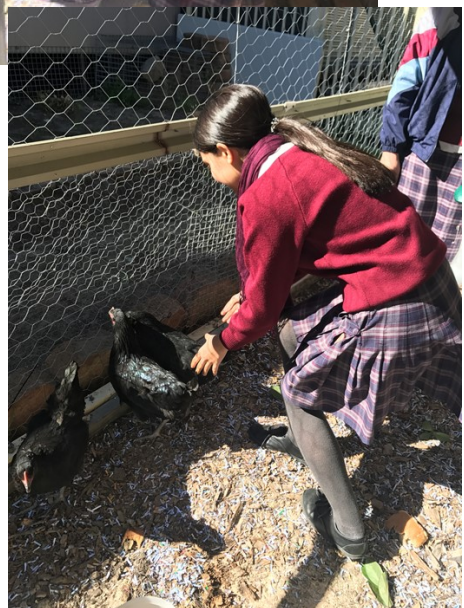
Selected students from years 9-10 have been participating in a STEM project, which stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, It is an initiative of the Australian Government to get more students into selecting and studying STEM related subjects.

The aim for our STEM project is to teach a class of EAL/D students about interacting with and learning about how objects in society are created using recycled materials. In the past few weeks we have purchased five chickens, who are living in our newly built chicken coop. Selected mainstream students using recycled materials that were left around the school built this chicken coop. EAL/D students will be learning about how to care for these chickens as well as about their life cycle through scientific experiments and math challenges.

As well as the chicken coop, our students have built a vertical garden to hold plants and vegetables. Which will also teach the EAL/D students about the lifecycle of plants as well as caring for them.

During Term 4, a selected group of students will be attending a STEM symposium, organised by Australian Independent Schools Association, for teachers teaching in NSW Independent schools, to discuss the interactive projects undertaken throughout the year during STEM project.

By Bianca Sarkhosh and Daniella Badal



## Science Faculty:

On Wednesday a special guest came to our College to give a presentation on Biotechnology to our Year 12 Biology students as well as some students from Years 10 and 11. Biotechnology is one of the HSC Biology modules which Year 12 Biology students are studying. The guest's name is Arezoo Mohseni from Iran, who is currently completing her Masters degree in biotechnology at Macquarie University. She herself is a new arrival to Australia and has only been in Australia for 3 months.

She presented her research topic, for which she was awarded first place at the University, which was on the uses of microalgae for production of pharmaceuticals, nutritional supplements as well as biofuels. Our students listened with rapt attention and asked some very good questions at the end of the presentation.

Our guest loved our College and expressed her wish to volunteer at the school to help our students in their studies, particularly with Biology.



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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](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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