



MAY 2020 | ISSUE 8

HARP OF THE SPIRIT

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents, Guardians and Friends,

I am delighted to report that all students are back to their normal school routines since last week and that they are fully engaged in usual teaching and learning activities, including assessments. College staff continue to adhere to COVID-19 related restrictions and are adjusting few practices to help protect all our students.

As an example of things returning to normal, 38 students from years 7-10 took part in the Big Science Competition this Monday, 1st June. This is an international competition that challenges critical thinking and problem-solving skills. It is expected that we will receive the results from this competition by the end of this term if not earlier.

Feast of the Holy Pentecost

A number of students and staff commemorated the Feast of the Holy Pentecost in a prayer led by our College Chaplain, Fr. Shamuel last Friday, 29th May. As you know, the Feast is celebrated each year on the fiftieth day after the Great and Holy Feast of Easter and ten days after the Feast of the Ascension of Christ. The Feast is always celebrated on a Sunday.

I take this opportunity to thank Miss. J Kako for organizing this commemoration at the College and pray that St. Narsai College family continue in our faith journey and to grow in Christ.

Supporting our College Community

In working with the Assyrian Christian Schools accounts department to help reduce costs to families during these difficult times, we have reached an agreement that will benefit students who use our bus services. Parents of these students will only be invoiced for term one and not term two and the daily bus fee for a two-way trip will be reduced from \$10.00 to \$5.00 a day from next term. For a two-way bus user, the savings will be a huge 50%. I take this opportunity to thank the accounts department for their support.

These arrangements will be reviewed at the end of the year and a decision will be made based on the circumstances at the time.

Assessment Help

To support our students with their Semester One assessments and considering that they have returned to full time schooling in week 5, we have decided to shift all assessment events to later in the term and modified many assessment activities and events.

Consequently, the usual Semester One reports will be issued in week 3 of next term during parent- teacher interviews if COVID-19 related restrictions allow by that time.

Thank you,
Mr. E. Dinkha
Principal



A LOOK AT WHAT'S INSIDE THE ISSUE:

Message from the Deputy Principal
Science Faculty
HSC Update

FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

Written by Mary Ismail

Deputy Principal

Dear Parents, Students and Friends of the College

We have just completed our first fortnight with all students back to the normal school routine.

The College has continued its temperature checks for all students and staff, with hand sanitisers readily available, upon entry to school grounds. During the school day, all students are reminded and encouraged to practice safe hygiene and our cleaners are wiping down surfaces and disinfecting all school surfaces and grounds on a daily basis.

The College asks you, the parents and carers, to also ensure you and your child are practicing safe hygiene both at home and in public. This includes our most recent SMS to all parents:

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, if your child is showing any cold or flu-like symptoms, that they do not attend school. They can only attend after seeing a doctor and receiving a doctor's clearance stating they can return to school.

If your child, or yourself, are being tested for COVID19, you must inform the College. The child cannot return until you have received the results and provided the results to the College. This is for the safety of everyone in the College community.

Help us

stop the spread

Clean your hands thoroughly for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, or an alcohol-based hand rub.

Cover your nose and mouth when coughing and sneezing with a tissue or a flexed elbow. Put the tissues in the bin.

Avoid close contact with anyone with cold or flu-like symptoms.

Stay home if you are sick.

[health.nsw.gov.au/coronavirus](https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/coronavirus)

ساعدنا

لوقف إنتشار الفايروس

نظف يديك بعناية لمدة لا تقل عن 20 ثانية بالماء و الصابون ، او بمعقم اليدين الكحولي.

إحمي أنفك و فمك عندما تسعل و تعطس بمنديل ورقي أو بثنية ذراعك. إزم المنديل في سلّة المهملات.

تجنب الإتصال القريب مع أي شخص لديه أعراض البرد او الإنفلونزا.

إبقى في المنزل اذا كنت مريضاً.

[health.nsw.gov.au/coronavirus](https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/coronavirus)

Arabic

PUBLIC BUS SERVICE FROM TWAY (PRARIEWOOD)

Some parents may have seen supervisors and marshals from TransitNSW supervising and directing students onto buses during the morning service to the College. Due to the COVID19 physical distancing rules, TransitNSW placed their own staff to ensure all students are using the buses in safe manner. The issues with the morning service are:

- 1) Most students catch other public transport to get to the Tway at Prariewood, and therefore must catch the last three available buses. However, these three buses are overcrowded because students who are dropped off by their parents also use these buses and students are not able to all fit into the bus. Therefore, students are left behind and arrive at school at 9.30am by catching a public bus (not a St Narsai scheduled bus)
- 2) Due to overcrowding, students are rushing to get onto the bus. Students may get injured in the process, especially students in the younger years.



We are pleased to announce we now have 6 buses in the morning effective Tuesday 9th June, 2020. Bus times are: There are 6 buses available in the mornings; 7.29am, 7.36am, 7.41am, 7.48am (new additional service), 7.54am and 8.04am. (Please see notice below regarding buses).

It is extremely important for parents who drop their children off at the Tway to drop them off between the times of 7:20am and before 7:40am so they can travel on the two early buses.

It is also important that all parents who are dropping their children off, actually get down and see that their children are boarding the buses as many students are not. They are walking away into Stocklands or McDonald's and then coming back for the later buses.

Please ensure your child is arriving to school on time and safe.



PARENT DROP-OFF AT SCHOOL

If you are driving your child to school, please ensure you have them at the College before 8.20am. The roll call warning bell goes at 8.25am. Students who arrive after 8.20am are not able to reach their roll call class in time and are then marked late (partial absence).

We thank the parents and carers who ensure their child is at school on time. We know and understand some families do live 30 to 40 minutes away from the College and we appreciate you travelling the distance, however it is important that your child is in their roll call class, ready and reading by 8.30 to ensure they are maximizing their opportunity to learn.

PUT DOWN THE PHONE, PICK UP A BOOK

THE IMPORTANCE OF READING

- Improves vocabulary
- Strengthens writing skills
- Improves spelling
- Improves communication skills
- Stimulates creativity
- Promotes healthy wellbeing
- Promotes a calm environment
- Keeps your child's brain healthy
- Reduces stress and anxiety
- Educates your child
- Free entertainment



Why Read at home?

<p>STUDENT A READS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20 minutes per day • 3,600 minutes per school year • 1,800,000 words per year <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> </div>	<p>SCORES IN THE 90TH PERCENTILE ON STANDARDIZED TESTS</p>
<p>STUDENT B READS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 minutes per day • 900 minutes per school year • 282,000 words per year <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> </div>	<p>SCORES IN THE 50TH PERCENTILE ON STANDARDIZED TESTS</p>
<p>STUDENT C READS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 minute per day • 180 minutes per school year • 8,000 words per year <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> </div>	<p>SCORES IN THE 10TH PERCENTILE ON STANDARDIZED TESTS</p>

Update Bus Notice

HANDY TIP: Real-time transport apps such as *Next There* or *Trip View* can be downloaded to your smart phone and show the exact location of your bus in real-time.

Conditions of Carriage: Students must have a School Student Transport Scheme (SSTS) Opal card issued in their name, Child/Youth Opal card, or pay the correct cash fare. **Opal Cards must be carried and ready for inspection on every trip, and tapped on at the start and end of every journey.** Always arrive at the bus stop at least five minutes prior to the bus departure time. Further information about SSTS Opal cards is available at: www.transportnsw.info.

MORNING SERVICES		
Bus No	Departing	Bus Route
9113	7:29	EX PRAIRIEWOOD T-WAY STN- via T-Way, L> The Horsley Drive, L> Horsley Rd, R> Bus Bay. Arr school 7:45
9113	7:36	EX PRAIRIEWOOD T-WAY STN - via T-Way, L> The Horsley Drive, L> Horsley Rd, R> Bus Bay. Arr school 7:52
9113	7:41	EX PRAIRIEWOOD T-WAY STN - via T-Way, L> The Horsley Drive, L> Horsley Rd, R> Bus Bay. Arr school 7:57
9113	7:48	EX PRAIRIEWOOD T-WAY STN - via T-Way, L> The Horsley Drive, L> Horsley Rd, R> Bus Bay. Arr school 8:04
9113	7:54	EX PRAIRIEWOOD T-WAY STN - via T-Way, L> The Horsley Drive, L> Horsley Rd, R> Bus Bay. Arr school 8:10
9113	8:04	EX PRAIRIEWOOD T-WAY STN - via T-Way, L> The Horsley Drive, L> Horsley Rd, R> Bus Bay. Arr school 8:20

AFTERNOON SERVICES		
Bus No	Departing	Bus Route
9633	14:55	TO PRAIRIEWOOD T-WAY STN - via L> Horsley Rd, R>The Horsley Dr, R> T-Way (four buses depart at this time).
9634	14:55	TO PRAIRIEWOOD T-WAY STN - via L> Horsley Rd, R>The Horsley Dr, R> T-Way (two buses depart at this time).

SCIENCE FACULTY

Written by Ornilla Shamon
Science Coordinator

Every year, Australian Science Innovations organises the Big Science Competition for high-school students to participate in. The Big Science Competition is a 50-minute, multiple choice competition testing critical-thinking and problem-solving skills, not just factual recall. Questions are set in real-life, contemporary contexts, making them relatable and interesting. They are also aligned with the Australian Curriculum.

Across years 7-10, 38 students competed in the competition on the 1st of June. The competition provided a rewarding opportunity for students to extend themselves beyond school Science through a challenging exam.

This will in turn allow them to bring their skills back to the classroom and use them to inspire others in science. Results are expected later in the term, regardless, the Science faculty is very proud of the student's enthusiasm and application in the competition. We hope that students continue to grow in their passion for Science.



Table Tennis

Our students (and staff!) enjoyed an afternoon playing table tennis.



Learning Support Unit

Written by Ninva Yakou

Learning Support Unit Coordinator

An inclusive school is one in which children with disabilities and special educational needs are included in the educational arrangements made for the majority of children. Inclusion is the development of strategies that seek to bring about a genuine equalisation of opportunities and that all children should learn together.

The Learning Support Unit at SNACC assists the school to cater for those students in regular classes who are experiencing difficulties in basic areas of learning. The LAST and Teacher's Aides, working with the executive and staff, play an essential part in the whole-school approach to provide for these students.

The fundamental role of the Learning and Support Teacher (LAST) and Teacher's Aides is to ensure that all children with additional needs are catered for in the mainstream school. This includes gifted and talented students.

Term 1 and the beginning of Term 2 proved to be a challenging time for everyone; in particular parents, who were thrust into a challenging situation with monitoring, and in some cases, guiding their children through the work that their teacher prepared online. Luckily, our executive staff, teachers and teacher's aides were available to assist students when they required. LSU staff used phone conferencing to work through literacy and numeracy activities with our students, as well as the adjusted work that was created by classroom teachers that allowed them to access the curriculum and not overwhelm them. Teams was a great application to use to ensure an organised system was in place that made it simple for our students to follow and avoided confusion.

The Learning Support Unit will continue to hold meetings with parents that had begun last term, but were placed on hold due to Covid, to discuss their child's Individualised Learning Plan. It is important that we maintain a collaborative effort when planning and implementing strategies that will assist our students in achieving their outcomes. Collaboration includes LSU staff, parents, classroom teachers, the counsellor, Year Advisor and the students themselves.

St Narsai will continue to use the speech pathology services provided by AH Partnerships. We are delighted to be working with speech pathologist, Erin Horsfall, who has already begun withdrawing our students on Fridays to work in small group sessions. The students are enjoying these sessions and we are seeing improvements in many areas along the way.

Disability provisions in the HSC are practical arrangements designed to help students who couldn't otherwise make a fair attempt to show what they know in an exam room. The provisions granted are solely determined by how the student's exam performance is affected. It is not embarrassing to apply for provisions, and more than 7000 HSC students apply for provisions each year. Provisions help students to show the markers what they know and can do. To apply for provisions for the HSC, we must submit an online application to NESAs. This application tells us which provision/s a student is requesting and includes recent evidence. Evidence may include medical reports, reading results, spelling results, writing samples and teacher comments. This is a process we prioritise every year for our Year 12 students. If you have any concerns about your child for the HSC, please contact the school and ask for Miss Yakou.

Finally, as the Learning Support Co-ordinator, I would personally like to thank Mrs A. Haddad, Mrs J. Hatzisavvas, Mrs Dawod, Mrs A. Andry, Mrs L. Francis and Mrs L. Middlebrook for their hard work, dedication and commitment to our students. They have shown unparalleled patience, care and compassion for all our students, especially while working online.

We look forward to seeing parents over the course of this term and next, and in maintaining our collaborative efforts with the whole school community. God bless.

HSC UPDATE

2020 HSC: WHAT'S CHANGED FOR ME?

The NESA COVID-19 Response Committee (with representatives from government, Catholic and independent schools) is carefully considering and making any changes needed to ensure a fair and safe 2020 HSC.

- What you need to know**
 - NESA and schools are following the advice from the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee, which is also supported by NSW Health.
 - Your school has the authority to determine the number, type and weighting of formal school-based assessment tasks.
 - The written exams start on Tuesday 20 October, and the timetable is now available.
 - You'll get your results on Friday 18 December, by SMS, email and online.
 - An overview of specific changes to the 2020 HSC is on the other side of this leaflet. If you're impacted by any of the changes, talk to your teacher or visit the NESA website for more information, including about how your final mark will be calculated.



→ SPECIFIC CHANGES

Creative Arts performance and practical exams

DANCE Core composition: You must dance your own choreography

DRAMA Individual Project (Critical Analysis–Portfolio of Theatre Criticism): You may use filmed theatre performances

Individual Project (Video Drama): Submit documentation and up to 2 minutes of edited footage, instead of the final film

MUSIC You can only perform solo, with pre-recorded accompaniment or with a single live accompanist

VISUAL ARTS

Body of Work: Now due on 14 September

Practical and oral language exams

DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY Major Design Project: Now due on 10 September

ENGLISH EXTENSION 2 Major Work (Multimedia-Short Film): Submit documentation instead of the final film

INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY Major Project (Product): Now due on 27 August

TEXTILES AND DESIGN Major Textiles Project (Product): Now due on 31 August

Language oral exams start on 15 August. An updated timetable is now available.

Other changes

If you are doing a VET subject and are unable to complete the work placement, you'll still be eligible to receive the corresponding units of HSC credit.

If you are applying for disability provisions, you have more time to provide evidence to support the application.

If you are yet to meet the HSC minimum standard, you can attempt each test up to six times in 2020. You can also take the tests once you have left school.

Cancelled exams



DANCE
Major Study Composition
Major Study Dance and Technology (Film and Video)

DRAMA
Group performance

MUSIC EXTENSION
Performance (Mandatory ensemble piece)

Questions about the HSC?
Contact the COVID-19 support team on 1300 138 323
email covid19support@nesa.nsw.edu.au
visit educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/stayhealthyHSC

Need help managing stress?
Visit ReachOut.com for information, tools and tips to turn exam stress into success.
If you need help right now, call Kids Helpline 1800 55 1800 or Lifeline 13 11 14, or talk to your GP

HSC Help Online Schedule

English (Standard) - Language, Identity and Culture and Close Study of Literature Modules Wednesday 3 June	Legal Studies Wednesday 24 June
English (Advanced) - Textual Conversations and Critical Study of Literature Modules Thursday 4 June	Business Studies Thursday 25 June
Mathematics (General) Wednesday 10 June and Thursday 11 June	Physics Wednesday 1 July
Mathematics (Advanced) Wednesday 17 June and Thursday 18 June	EAL/D Thursday 2 July

Join us via Zoom
4 -5.30pm