



# HARP OF THE SPIRIT

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents, Students and Friends,

College students and staff took part in this year's Remembrance Day that was held on Monday, 11th November. Students across the college used a special power point presentation to reflect on and revisit the circumstances around World War One and the sacrifices made by our brave soldiers and all who served in defence of our great country- Australia. Thank you to Miss. Nona, our Acting HSIE Co-ordinator and other staff for organising this significant event.

### Year 12 Formal

St. Narsai College year 12 students celebrated their 2019 formal last Thursday at Eden Venues in Edensor Park. Students kicked up their heels and had a really good party as they celebrated the end of high school. Many parents attended the initial part of the formal and several staff also attended this formal in support of our students as they said their final goodbyes to staff and the College.

### Stage 3 Opening and School Open Day

Thank you to all parents and members of the College community who attended the official Stage Three opening event on the 27th of October 2019.

This was a very important and successful celebration attended by His Eminence, Mar Meelis Zaia AM, dignitaries, parents, as well as representative of several local community and political groups.

In order to provide more parents and other members of the wider Assyrian community the opportunity to see firsthand the wonderful facilities incorporated in this new stage, the College has organised a second Open Day this Friday, 29th November 2019 from 3 to 6 pm. Refreshments will be provided during this afternoon and all are welcome.

### 2020 Captains

The executive team finalised last week the selection of the student leadership team 2019-2020 and it is my pleasure to announce the appointment of the following students to various student leadership roles:

#### CAPTAINS

Sam Nano  
Lelyan Danial

#### VICE CAPTAINS

Daniela Badal  
Ramen Kako

#### PREFECTS

Jessica Zaia  
Jennifer Shahin  
Angie Kando  
Joshua Mansour  
Philip Kelaita  
Rita Khoshaba

On behalf of St. Narsai College staff and students, I congratulate and wish these student leaders all the best as they start performing their leadership duties across the College.

Thank you,  
Mr. E. Dinkha

A LOOK AT WHAT'S INSIDE  
THE ISSUE:

Message from the Deputy Principal  
CAPA Faculty  
HSIE Faculty



## FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

Written by Mary Ismail

Deputy Principal

*I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith.*

**2 Timothy 4:7**

Are we really near the end of the 2019 school year already? It is amazing how quickly time has passed.

This year was another year of growth for our College - physically, spiritually, mentally and academically. We, as Paul the Apostle writes in the bible verse mentioned above, have fought a good fight, we have finished the course, we have kept the faith. I take this opportunity to thank you, the parents and carers for your support this year as you always have.

With 2019 coming to an end, it won't be too long before the 2020 school year begins. A few things to keep in mind to prepare for 2020:

- Ensure all students are prepared with the correct full school uniform by not waiting for the last week to purchase the required items of clothing. The full school uniform is available at The School Locker in Liverpool. Please be reminded only black, leather shoes are permitted as school shoes. Please refer to the student diary for details on uniform requirements.
- Student have **purchased all necessary equipment** to be effective learners; notebooks to write in, pens, pencils, rulers, calculators, textbooks, laptops, folders, plastic sleeves etc.
- Upon returning to school, girls are to have natural nails, no colour or acrylics are permitted. Boys are to be clean shaven and haircuts need to be at College standard (blended, with a minimum of 2 on the sides and not long at the top – no lines are accepted)
- Year 8 students going into **Year 9 for 2020 – in preparation for NAPLAN**, use some time in the holidays to do some practice papers. Possibly purchase the NAPLAN books from newsagencies and complete the tasks as practice.

Parents and Carers – reduce the amount of screen time your child is using. Too much screen time can impair brain structure and function; it can cause obesity, insomnia, mood swings, and even problems at school. Because children's brains undergo so much change during their formative years, this excess screen time can be even more damaging. Research shows that allowing children to spend too much time with their screens can cause a host of negative effects. These include:

1. Obesity: When children are inactive, staring at their screens, they are not burning calories. This sedentary lifestyle can cause them to gain weight.
  2. Sleep disturbances: Looking at screens before bed can disrupt sleep cycles. The blue light from those screens interferes with the brain's sleep cycle and can cause insomnia.
  3. Bullying or other behaviour problems: Children who spend over two hours per day on their screens often have attention problems. Too much TV watching has also been linked to bullying.
  4. Academic problems: Children who spend too much time on their screens have also been shown to do worse on academic testing.
  5. Propensity for violence: Children who are exposed to violent media, such as movies, music and video games, can become desensitized to violence. They may imitate what they see on TV, or even try to use violence to solve their problems.
- Please ensure your child spends time with family as well as maintaining an active, healthy lifestyle. For example, going for walks, bike riding, playing sports etc.

### Youth Resilience Survey

I am happy to inform you the College has received the results of our participation in the Youth Resilience Survey which was held in August of this year.

The Resilience Survey is Australia's definitive measure of resilience and mental health. As of January 2019, they have surveyed more than 1000 schools and 260,000 young people aged 7-19 across every state and territory in Australia. Their survey captures the essential ingredients of a resilient life for young people:

- To be connected to themselves and others.
- To protect themselves and be protected by others.
- To respect themselves and be respected by others.

They call this the **CPR** of Wellbeing: '**C**onected, **P**rotected, **R**espected'.

By participating in the Youth Resilience Survey, the College receives important information and up-to-date data on the resilience and mental health of our students. This data is used to shape the Pastoral care program for 2020 - ensuring our student's mental wellbeing is catered for.

As this is my final newsletter article for 2019, I would like to acknowledge the wonderful work of our expert educators. To the staff of St Narsai, in 2019, you have endeavoured to make learning visible and our learners effective. You have created a positive learning environment whilst promoting reading in through roll call lessons, writing through scaffolds and a healthy wellbeing in your pastoral care lessons. Your time, effort and dedication to our learners is acknowledged and appreciated.

our school community, thank you for supporting our school expectations and initiatives, whether it be our chosen charities for the year, Parent information evenings, or for attending our Open Days including the celebration of the opening of our new Creative Arts and Performing Arts building with state of the art Science labs, kitchens, and drama, art and music rooms. I would especially like to thank our P and F committee for their time and ideas on improving parental engagement within the College. I am looking forward to working with you on implementing our great initiatives in 2020 and encourage other parents to also join our P and F.

In conclusion, I would like to wish you all the Merriest of Christmases and the Happiest of New Years. I look forward to fighting the good fight, finishing the course and keeping the faith with you in 2020.

God bless you always.  
Mrs M Ismail.

## HSIE FACULTY

**Year 7 HSIE:** Students have become detectives this term investigating the Ancient Past through human mummies, fossils and building remains. Through an examination of sources, students have learnt about Ancient Greece. They have explored the weather, geography and culture that shaped one of the most influential human societies. From here, students will be travelling to Ancient China to learn about their lasting influence on the modern world.

**Year 9 Commerce:** As part of the 'Running a Business' topic, Year 9 Commerce students put their business skills to the test by running their own 'Market Day' as part of their assessment task. The task comprised of coming up with a business idea, advertising and promoting their products, as well as working as a team to set up their stalls. Students sold products such as sausages, burgers, tabouli, donuts, ice-cream and lollies. The market stalls were successfully run by all groups, with \$200 raised for donations to ACERO as well as several groups making individual profit as well. Students definitely demonstrated excellent entrepreneur skills!





## CAPA FACULTY

Written by Ms Salmaggi  
CAPA Coordinator

What have the Creative and Performing Arts department been up to in term 4? We have finally moved into our amazing space in Building D!

### Drama

Drama isn't your average school subject. Not like Math, not like English, not like Science. We do the craziest warm up activities which help us to act with confidence. Since the start of the year, our class has improved immensely, not only in acting, but with their confidence too. In Drama, we not only learn what's on the curriculum, we also develop social skills and gain confidence in ourselves and our abilities, without even being aware of it at the time. This term in Drama, we are focusing on creating a production where we are adapting to a pre-written script rather than writing our own, which helps improve our compromising skills. In the production, we are also organising the setting, music and sound effects, stage presence/positioning, a pamphlet including all the actors/students and a poster advertising our play. Through working on this production, we will learn how to compromise, to organise and to cooperate with a team.

– Debbie Sarhad Yr 9 Drama Student

Year 9 Drama has seen the class divided in two. This class will be presenting two plays; Real Stars and The Weather Girl. Upon having a read through of both scripts, students then had to audition for roles and decide who would be perfect for each. The collaboration within both plays has been fantastic to watch! Students have encouraged and supported each other as they master how to perform their characters. Real Stars and The Weather Girl will be performed in the Performance Workshop next Friday.

Year 10 Drama have been working together as a class to put on the production This Isn't Kansas! By Jennifer Blackburn. The plot is based on a spin of The Wizard of Oz. Students collaborated in gathering props and designing and making costumes. The year 10 Drama class has enabled many of our students become better public speakers and has empowered students to become more confident in front of their peers.

### Music

Year 7 Music have been studying music in advertising and multimedia and created their own ads and jingles! Students experimented with movie making software on their devices when editing their advertisements.

Year 9 music have thoroughly enjoyed studying musical theatre this term, where they have been performing repertoire from both well established and modern musicals. They have drawn inspiration from the well-known award-winning musical 'Oliver' to ensure their pieces are both informed and energetic.

Year 10 Music have displayed their amazing performance skills once again, whilst performing songs from repertoire drawn from the 1980's till now. They have been amongst the first to present their items in the new performance workshop, and have shown a great enthusiasm for the space. The students truly have displayed growth in their performance abilities which have been every increasing since the beginning of their stage 5 course early last year. We are looking forward to seeing further growth when they begin their HSC course next year.

Year 12 Music have settled into the first term of course nicely, with all students taking part in research of their chosen instruments, and presenting to the class, as well as goal setting for their Performance Majorworks and experimenting with possible repertoire early to be able to develop it for their HSC in August next year.

### Vocal Group

The college Vocal Group has been busy developing their performance skills by performing in a variety of public performances such as the Year 12 Graduation Ceremony, the opening of building D ceremony, and their first private function for Mar Yosip Khanisho Church fundraising dinner. Our students performed beautifully. The Vocal Group, along with elective Music students will be performing at the annual Carols in Horsley Park on Saturday 14th of December. We hope to see you there



**Visual Arts**

Year 8 Visual Arts students enjoyed their time travelling the world and designing postcards for travel destinations. Students engaged in research of a travel destination they deeply desired to visit. They learned about the culture, art, history and landmarks for the countries they wanted to visit. Students then used the research to create lino-graphic postcards as they used symbols and research elements in their art making. Over all, Year 8 produced an impressive quality of work as they thoroughly enjoyed the process of Lino-graphic printing. Finally, in celebration of upcoming Christmas, Year 8 students have begun designing their ceramic Christmas ornaments. We are excited to celebrate Jesus' gift to us as we create gifts for others.

Year 12 Visual Arts students have begun the process of planning and designing their major works within their first term as year 12. Exploring ideas of feminism, cultural reform, cubism, ancient Assyrian history, history, art styles, sport in art and much more, students have totally immersed themselves in exploring their chosen fields of art making so that they make quality and informed decisions. We are extremely excited to see their final products this time next year.

