



HARP OF THE SPIRIT

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents, Students and Friends,

For everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, because it is consecrated by the word of God and prayer. 1 Timothy 4:4-5

On behalf of a grateful and faithful community of St. Narsai Assyrian Christian College I want give thanks to the Lord for all the gifts that have been bestowed upon us.

In a well-attended school celebration two weeks ago, His Eminence Mar Meelis Zaia AM opened Stage Three of the St. Narsai Building Project, which comprised of a large COLA- Covered Outdoor Learning Area, including a well-designed courtyard, Building D- Creative & Performing Arts (CAPA) as well as Science and Technology suits.

Building D encompasses Creative and Performing Arts facilities that include three purpose-built Drama Rooms, three acoustically treated Music Practice Rooms, one acoustically treated recording room and three Visual Arts workshops all of which are housed in the lower floor.

On the top floor- there are three state of the art Science labs serviced by two Prep Rooms. There are also two Technology facilities that include one Textiles Room & one Food Technology Room as well as two General Learning Areas.

In my speech in this celebration, I expressed my gratitude on behalf of the St. Narsai community to His Eminence, Mar Meelis Zaia AM for his steadfast commitment to providing the best possible education to all our students.

We were honoured by the presence of many of our parents, many dignitaries as well as many local community and political groups. I wish to acknowledge and thank all guests for attending the opening ceremony, in particular I would like to acknowledge the following special guests:

- Bishop Haigazoun Najarian- Armenian Apostolic Church
- Rev. Fr. Nektarios Nemme, representing Archbishop Basilios (Kodseie) Antiochian Orthodox Church
- Assyrian Church of the East Reverend Priests and Deacons,
- The Hon. Chris Bowen MP (Federal Member for McMahan)
- Mrs. Tanya Davies MP (Member for Mulgoa)
- Dr Hugh McDermott; (Member for Prospect)
- Mr Nick Lalich (Member for Cabramatta)
- Mr Kevin Conolly MP representing the Hon Sarah Mitchell MLC (NSW Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning)
- Mr. Frank Carbone (Mayor Fairfield City Council)
- Professor Matthew Del Nevo (Dean of Nisibis Theology College)
- Mr. Benjamin Khoshabeh- Principal of St. Hurmizd Assyrian Primary School
- Trustee members and Members of the Assyrian Christian School.

Year 12

Congratulations and well done to our graduating Year 12 students as they complete their final HSC examination today, Monday, 11th November 2019. As these students breathe a well-deserved sigh of relief after these important examinations, we now await the HSC results that will be released to students from 6am on Tuesday, 17th December 2019.

The College has organised a BBQ for all our students on the 17th of December between 10am-12pm to catch with them and to celebrate their achievements. Several staff will be attending to acknowledge all students for their fantastic efforts in 2019.

Thank you,
Mr. E. Dinkha



A LOOK AT WHAT'S INSIDE
THE ISSUE:

Message from the Deputy Principal
Christian Studies Faculty
English Faculty
PDHPE Faculty

FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

Written by Mary Khina
Deputy Principal

Dear Parents and Community

Thank you for your continual support for our St. Narsai learners. Below is some important information regarding curriculum matters in the upcoming weeks.

Year 7-10 Exams

This week we commence our Yearly Exam period for Years 8 and 10, with Years 7 and 9 in the following week (Week 6). All students have been issued with an exam timetable and have been revising in all classes. Please ask your child for their exam timetable and monitor their study timetable at home. Once the exams have finished, teachers will provide all students with detailed feedback. Please discuss your child's results with them. You are also welcome to contact the class teacher through the front office if you would like to discuss a particular result and ways to improve your child's progress in that subject.

HSC Exams

Today our students sit their final HSC exam with Physics and Design and Technology exams scheduled. I would like to congratulate all Year 12 students on their efforts throughout the exam period. The hard work is over for most of our HSC students and I pray that they receive the results that they desire. I wish all our Year 12 students all the best with their future endeavours.

Minimum Standards tests

From 2020, students in NSW must meet a minimum standard of literacy and numeracy to be eligible for the HSC credential. The HSC minimum standard is a practical level of reading, writing and numeracy used in everyday life, for work and further study.

- HSC 2020

Students have 2 pathways to meet the minimum standard:

1. attained a band 8 in Reading, Writing and Numeracy in the 2017 year 9 NAPLAN tests.
2. sit the Reading, Writing and Numeracy minimum standards online tests.

- HSC 2021 and beyond

Students will meet the minimum standard by sitting the HSC minimum standard online tests in Reading, Writing and Numeracy and attaining a level 3.

There are 3 tests as follows:

Reading Test – 45 multiple choice questions

Numeracy Test – 45 multiple choice questions

Writing Test – one response of up to 500 words based on a choice from two prompts. (Typed / marked by NESA examiners) .

Students can attempt each test up to 2 times per calendar year. Once they have met the minimum standard they are not required to re sit the test.

Once completed, students can view their results via their Students Online account. They can also download and print their certificates.

The image shows a screenshot of the NSW Department of Education's 'Certification HSC Minimum Standard Report' page. It features two sample certificates side-by-side. The left certificate is titled 'Minimum Standard Reading Test Report' and the right one is titled 'Minimum Standard Reading Test Report' for 'Cleveley High School (NOT REAL SCHOOL)'. A callout box with a dashed border points to the certificates and contains the text: 'These certificates can be downloaded from Students Online.' The NSW logo is visible in the bottom right corner of the page.

We will also notify students of their results. Students that achieve the minimum standard will receive a copy of their certificate(s) with their Yearly Report at the end of the year.

Students that have not met the minimum standard will be given another opportunity in the same year. They will also be given 2 more opportunities in the following year if needed.

NSW Department of Education

HSC minimum standard pathways for students

HSC 2021 and beyond

Student	Actions required	Eligible for credential
Achieves Level 3 in the HSC minimum standard tests (reading, writing, numeracy) before end of Year 12.	Students only have to demonstrate they have met the standard once. Students can choose an ATAR or non ATAR pattern of study in the HSC.	HSC ROSA Minimum Standard Report
Achieves Level 3 in one or two HSC minimum standard tests before the end of Year 12.	Students can have up to 5 years from the start of the HSC to sit the 3 HSC minimum standard online tests to achieve Level 3.	ROSA Minimum Standard Report If studying an ATAR pattern of study, students can still receive ATAR and offer to university.
Does not qualify for HSC due to 'N' determination or ineligible pattern of study.	Sits the 3 HSC minimum standard online tests to attain a Minimum Standard Report.	ROSA Minimum Standard Report
Leaves school when 17, before the end of Year 12.	Sits the 3 HSC minimum standard online tests to attain a Minimum Standard Report.	ROSA Minimum Standard Report
Leaves school when 17.	Does not sit any of the HSC minimum standard tests.	ROSA



How can students prepare for these tests?

The tests are on students literacy and numeracy skills as developed throughout their schooling, not just in Year 10. They can use the following strategies to prepare for the tests:

- By completing the practice tests online www.nesa.nsw.edu.au
- Reading widely – books, magazines, online blogs, newspaper articles(printed and/or online) etc
- Completing the literacy and numeracy work given by their teacher(s)
- Attending the before and after school drop in centres in the library for greater assistance
- Seeking help from the English (literacy) and Maths (numeracy) teachers.

If you would like to discuss your child's progress in these tests please do not hesitate to contact me.

CHRISTIAN STUDIES FACULTY

Written by Jessica Kako
Christian Studies Coordinator

Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord – Psalm 127:3

Dear members of the St Narsai community,

A great initiative that we have embedded in the College community is giving our learners the opportunity to reflect on their learning, assessments and events that they take part in. This allows them to making meaning and understand the reasons particular activities and content have been created by their teachers. Through this personal reflection, learners are able to expand on their knowledge and understand the world around them. Having said this, during the term the year 7 cohort was lucky enough to attend a spiritual day focusing on the College's motto 'In Him We Grow'. Rather than myself explaining to you what took place on the day, it is my privilege to allow two year 7 students to discuss the message behind the day and how it has impacted their spiritual self. This is a great way to allow learners to express their voice not only in the school setting but also to the Assyrian Church of the East community.

Year 7 Spiritual Day

On the 27th of August, Year 7 were blessed to attend a Spiritual Day at Mount Schoenstatt Spirituality Centre, Mulgoa. Reverend Father Shamael taught us about what our school motto means "In Him We Grow". He also taught us that Jesus is always in us and we should always have faith and follow the right path even if it looks rocky, because we need to remind ourselves that although it looks tough at the end of the path we will be with God. After, we had recess and many students went to the Chapel to pray, there were small pieces of paper and we could write a sentence to God to help or heal a person.

We participated in various activities all with a religious meaning behind them. We played a water game, we had to get water from one bucket to another in a cup, the meaning behind this game was to know that fellowship is refreshing to the soul, just as how water is refreshing to a plant. The second activity was about separating salt and sugar that were mixed in together, teaching us that sometimes it will be hard to know the different between sweet and bitter experience but with God you will know. The third activity was about trusting your partner to lead you to the right way whilst blindfolded, the message behind this was that you may have times in your life where it is dark but God will be the light and lead you on the right path.

The fourth activity was to try and get popcorn in your partner's mouth, the closer you got to your partner the easier it was to aim the popcorn in their mouth. This illustrated that the closer you are to God the closer you will be to reach your spiritual goal in life. The final activity was to try and walk with your partner through a rocky, good and thorny road. These roads symbolised the various roads we will have in life, but if you have God on your journey you will have a good road ahead.

After lunch we were given a piece of paper and we had to write what we did that day and what our goal was when we grow older, and when we graduate from year 12 the school will mail the letter to us and we will see if we achieved our dream. So, it's basically us writing to our future self. After that we went back to school, and overall, we all had a wonderful day and we believe that in just one day we have nurtured and strengthen our relationship to God.

Written by: Angelina Makdesi and Mary Daryoush



ENGLISH FACULTY

Saint Narsai learners have been developing their descriptive and creative writing skills both within the classroom and beyond. Creative writing allows students to step outside the realms of reality and enter into wonderful fictional worlds. Renowned writer Elizabeth Gilbert best encapsulates one's creativity by saying, "the universe buries strange jewels deep within us all, and then stands back to see if we can find them. The hunt to uncover those jewels — that's creative living. The courage to go on that hunt in the first place."

Therefore, the English team of teachers have been encouraging all learners to bring forth their hidden creative treasures, through a variety of formative and summative tasks. The below photos are students from Year 7 English stepping into characters from 'A Midsummer Night's Dream', a play written by Shakespeare.

Additionally, the 2019 Principal's Writing Challenge is an extracurricular writing opportunity offered to all students to encourage them to write their own creative writing. This year's writing theme is 'Positive Relationships.'

1st Place- \$150 Westfield voucher

2nd Place- \$100 Westfield Voucher

3rd Place: \$50 Westfield Voucher

We are so excited to read all the entries!

God bless.



PDHPE FACULTY

Year 12 PDHPE students are currently studying Health priorities in Australia whereby they learn about the various diseases that are affecting the Australian population. Today the students embarked on a journey to UNSW where they visited the Museum of Human Disease.

The Museum of Human Disease contains over 2,500 disease human tissue specimens. The students were given the opportunity to view various human tissue specimens and learn about how and why these diseases occur and furthermore how we can prevent them. The students thoroughly enjoyed their day and we will definitely be back in future years with our senior PDHPE.

