



MAY 2020 | ISSUE 6

HARP OF THE SPIRIT

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents, Students and friends of the College,

Welcome to a very busy and different term two as we continue to face the emerging challenges associated with COVID-19 pandemic across the nation.

I am pleased that we were able to work together as staff and parents to support our students during a very difficult period of remote learning. The college's investment in digital pedagogy over the last three years has been significantly rewarded by the ease with which we were able to transition to online learning in a remote setting. Based on our data, our students have engaged very well with the College's At Home Learning Program throughout the last 3 - 4 weeks. Our staff have been very creative in generating appropriate and effective lessons and learning activities for their students using the best technologies.

It was wonderful to welcome back our Year 12 students on Wednesday, 6th May after more than three weeks of remote learning at home. Students were very happy to be back at school and it was lovely to see them catching up with their peers with their beaming and bright smiles.

Year 12 teachers and staff were equally thrilled to have Year 12 back to the College and to their classrooms. In a brief assembly with Year 12 students before school that morning, I expressed my gratitude to our Lord and saviour Jesus Christ that we were all safe through the COVID-19 pandemic and for the way Year 12 and all other SNACC students engaged in our very successful At Home Learning Program in the last 3-4 weeks. I also acknowledged and thanked our wonderful staff for the way they delivered online lessons, supported, and guided all their students during a very difficult pandemic period.

Year 12 teachers spent these three days with their students going over materials and topics taught remotely during the last 3-4 weeks to ensure that students were ready for new teaching and learning activities from next week. Next week, we have planned for a staggered return to school for all our students. Information on students return will be published later in this Newsletter.

College staff will continue to enforce social distancing rules and we have increased cleaning and hygiene practices across the College to help protect all members of the college community.

I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank you all- our wonderful parents for the way you supported your children during the at home learning. As I conclude, I want to wish all our mothers a Happy Mother's Day on Sunday and May God keep you well and in good health.

Thank you,
Mr. E. Dinkha
Principal

A LOOK AT WHAT'S INSIDE
THE ISSUE:

Message from the Deputy Principal
English Faculty
Assyrian Faculty



FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

Written by Mary Khina

Deputy Principal

Dear Parents, Students and Friends of the College

Year 12 return to school

It was great seeing Year 12 back at school this week. All teachers were keen and eager to have their students back in the classrooms to continue working on preparing their classes for the HSC exams. We are also looking forward to having the other year groups back in classrooms from next week. Thank you to all students that completed the online work set by their teachers and are continuing to work hard to meet their full potential in the HSC exams despite the difficult time with the COVID 19 pandemic. HSC exam timetables will be released by NESA next week. Students will need to logon to their NESA Students Online account to receive their personalised timetable.

Practical components in Visual Arts, Music and Design and Technology will continue with minor changes to submission dates and requirements. Details about the projects and other NESA advice can be found on the NESA website here - <https://bit.ly/2WBzoZx>

Some changes have also been made to assessment schedules for certain subjects to accommodate for the social distancing requirements. Students will be given updated notifications advising them of any changes.

Year 12 Half Yearly reports will be distributed to all Year 12 students on Monday 18th May. Due to the current social distancing restrictions, parent teacher interviews will be postponed until the restrictions are lifted. If you would like a phone conference with your child's teachers, please email the office at info@stnarsai.nsw.edu.au and they will organise a time with the teachers to contact you.

Learning Dispositions

At St Narsai College, we help our students develop learning dispositions that are essential to improve their capacity as learners and to achieve their full potential.

An effective learner in the classroom and during the At Home Learning program displays the following characteristics:

- Independence
- Engagement
- Persistence
- Self-regulation
- innovation

I encourage parents to ask their child if they think that they have shown any of the above during their learning this week.

Webinars for parents and carers

These live webinars explore the latest research and expert advice for using technology safely. They are a great way to learn how you can help your child develop the skills to be safer online. Further dates will be available in May.

Visit our website for more information: <https://stnarsai.nsw.edu.au/covid-19/>



Student Welfare

During these uncertain times that we are facing, there may be times that students feel anxious or stressed. Please remember that support is available for the school community. Students can contact their Year Advisor for support. Our College Chaplain, Reverend Samuel and Counsellor, Deacon Ramen, as well as the rest of our staff, are available for any student that is needing support services.


Return back to school

Commencing from the 11th May, all students will be returning back as follows:

DAY	YEAR GROUPS ATTENDING		
Monday 11 th May	Yr. 12	Yr.11	Yr.7
Tuesday 12 th May	Yr. 12		Yr. 8
Wednesday 13 th May	Yr. 12	Yr.11	Yr. 10
Thursday 14 th May	Yr.12		Yr. 9
Friday 15 th May	Yr.12	Yr.11	Yr.10

Students will continue with the At Home Learning online lessons that they are not at school


We are looking forward to seeing all students back in the classrooms.



The St Narsai Classroom At Home


Manage your time

- Create a schedule
- Recognise that different tasks require different levels of concentration
- Divide your work into manageable time slots and take proper breaks frequently




Workspace

- Make sure your learning environment works for you
- Create a comfortable, quiet and tidy study/work area
- Ensure all you need is by your side




You Matter

- Take care of YOU!
- Drink 8 glasses of water a day
- Take breaks every hour
- Stand and Stretch regularly
- Eat – healthy is best!




Stay Social

- Avoid gathering, however reach out and connect with your peers and friends online or over the phone.
- Maintain a sense of community.




Ask and you shall receive

- Need help? Ask!
- Worried? Ask for help!
- Parents, teachers, friends are available to help you.
- Keep your faith - remember the power of prayer



Be Active

- Get into some physical activity daily to help maintain a balanced lifestyle.
- Go for a walk, run, skip, bike ride (adult supervision is advised)
- Have family time



ENGLISH FACULTY

Written by Michael Cunningham
English Coordinator

It is hard to believe that we have already finished our first term at St Narsai, which presented many challenges that have persisted into term two of 2020. The first eleven weeks of the year proved to be extremely fruitful as our students were engaged in the wonderful world of literature, poetry and film; through both face-to-face lessons, blended learning and finally online learning.

Our Year 7 cohort has thus far demonstrated a contagious enthusiasm for English! Their teachers describe them as motivated and eager to learn, with a dedicated work ethic - amazing qualities for our youngest learners! An example of this ongoing learning is highlighted below; in a recent YouTube Activity ran by Miss Kanaan

English Book Activity: This class activity required Year 7 students to pretend to have their own YouTube channel and to speak to their audience (the class) about their favourite novel!

Addison Georges "In our English lesson we reviewed our favourite novel for the class. I enjoyed it because I love to elaborate on my favourite books in front of the class. The class also enjoyed listening to one another about the book's techniques and genres. I would like to do this fun activity again with another novel, the purpose of this activity was to help us with our presentation skills and to help us gain confidence for the future."

The Year 8s studied a unit titled Representations of Refugees, where they responded to a range of different text types using a variety of different critical thinking routines; while exploring courageous refugee stories. Students researched a famous Australian refugee, and presented their findings to their class as their assessment task. They thoroughly enjoyed this topic. This term they have just started their in-depth text study of "The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas"

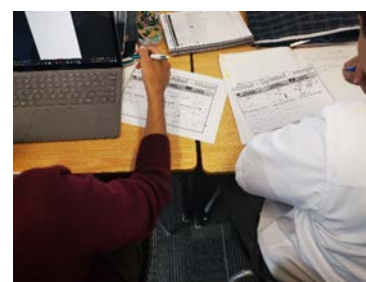
Year 9 students started the year engaged in a close study of the Shakespearean play "Romeo and Juliet". In their study of this text they were challenged to think about different elements of conflict through a range of critical thinking routines to push for a more in-depth understanding; below are students engaged in chalk talks, and colour symbol image routines.

Our Year 10 cohort were engaged in a poetry unit which focused on the works of famous Australian poet, Bruce Dawe. As part of their assessment, they wrote essays which explored important themes; such as, Australian family life and the brutality of war. The English department was impressed with the level of sophistication in the essays that students had to write for their first assessment task, which was aided through the new approach in check-in and checkpoints for written assignments.

The senior students have had a disjointed start to the year, but have been persistent in their studies of the course content. Year 11 have fully immersed themselves into the English Stage 6 syllabus, having studied a range of films, novels, and poetry in the first term. They have demonstrated a keen interest in this subject, and the faculty look forward to the amazing work that we know the students will produce as HSC students at the end of this year.

Our Year 12s are now focused on their Modules, which is different across each branch of Year 12. Students in the cohort have had to face an array of challenges, but are rising to it through online engagement in essential content for their HSC.

I wish to thank the English department for all their efforts in ensuring our students continuing in their learning during this period of time, and their continued ongoing support of the school, the community, and each other



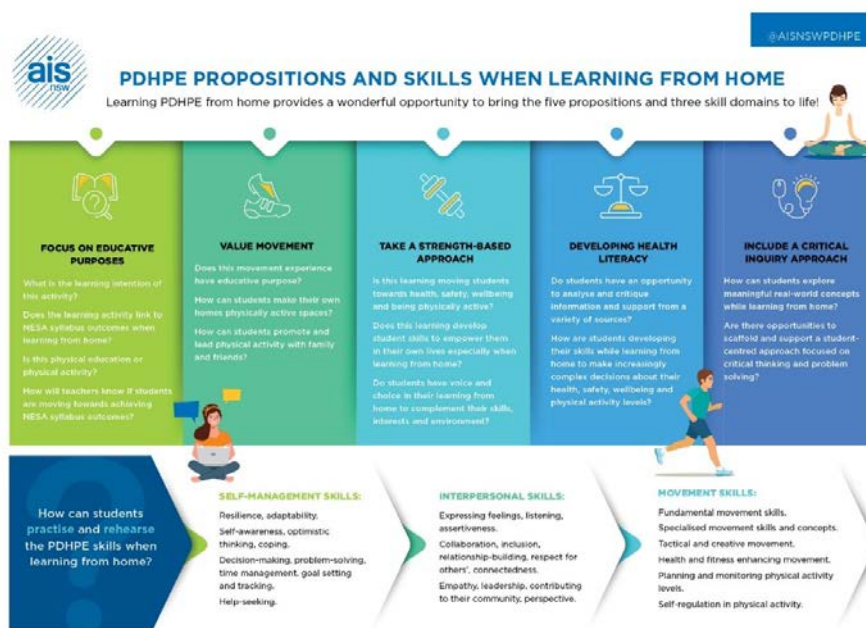
PDHPE FACULTY

Written by Victoria Tatian
PDHPE Coordinator

Dear family and friends of the St Narsai school community,

This term has seen students in PDHPE engage with online learning following on from the last two weeks of term 1 online learning. Students have been engaging in theory lessons as well as being encouraged to be physically active for at least 60minutes per day. It is important during this time, that students take time to engage in some sort of physical activity per day, whether this be riding a bike, going for a walk or even doing a work out at home.

Physical activity has many benefits including physical, mental and emotional benefits. Some strategies to maintain good health during this unprecedented time include; staying active, eating a well balanced diet, communicating with family members, having faith and remaining positive. In the midst of this pandemic, we have really missed having the students at school and we eagerly look forward to their return and to be able to teach them face to face. The below information has been taken from the AIS NSW website for students and parents to view PDHPE propositions and skills you can adopt when learning from home.



KEY DATES

Wednesday 20th May - Year 12 Half Yearly reports distributed and Year 12 Parent Teacher Interviews

(To be confirmed pending advice for NSW Health and NESA)

Wednesday 1st July and Thursday 2nd July - Years 7-11 Half Yearly reports distributed and Years 7-11 Parent Teacher Interviews

(To be confirmed pending advice for NSW Health and NESA)

Thursday 2nd July - Last day for students for Term 2