



MAY 2020 | ISSUE 7

HARP OF THE SPIRIT

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents, Guardians and Friends,

Our College Chaplain, Fr. Shamuel, lead a small group of staff and students yesterday in a prayer to celebrate the Feast of the Ascension of the Lord Jesus Christ. We were all reminded of the significance of this event and how through living our faith, the Ascension helps us to see more clearly the glory of our Lord and that through our daily actions as Christians we can get closer to God and rejoice in his promise to us.

Students Return

Yesterday, I wrote another letter to parents to confirm that all students would be returning to school every day from next Monday, 25th May 2020.

I am pleased to report that all our preventative actions to date have helped protect our students and staff from infections. I take this opportunity to acknowledge both parents and staff for the highly positive and collaborative way we worked together during a very difficult pandemic period over the last 10 weeks.

College staff continue to support all students to help them transition smoothly and effectively into normal teaching and learning routines as teachers prepare for term two assessments and semester one reports at the end of this term.

Year 12 Half-Yearly Reports

Despite the current unprecedented situation in relation to COVID-19 pandemic, we have been able to produce Year 12 Half-Yearly Reports. These reports have been posted to Year 12 parents. We are also planning to produce the usual Semester One reports by end of this term, and these will be posted to parents in week two of term three.

SNACC Educational App

We have launched this week a SNACC educational app that will go a long way to increase the level of engagement between parents and teachers. This application is designed to give parents access to several aspects of their child's educational experiences. Parents will be able to access the following:

Newsfeed: School announcements to students and notifications to parents

Calendar: School calendar for school events (E.g., Eucharistic Liturgy, excursions, etc)

Timetable: Your child's timetable

Events: Upcoming events for your child

Newsletter: Read the College's newsletters

News: Real-time news publications

Absence: Explain the reason of your child's absences (replaces hand-written notes)

Update your details: Update your details through the web portal

Parents were sent letters explaining the app and its features as well as issuing them with usernames and passwords.

Thank you,
Mr. E. Dinkha
Principal



A LOOK AT WHAT'S INSIDE THE ISSUE:

Message from the Deputy Principal
HSIE Faculty
CAPA Faculty

FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

Written by Mary Ismail

Deputy Principal

Dear Parents, Students and Friends of the College

As we look forward to welcoming all of our students back to 5 days face to face learning in week 5 we must not forget the impact of COVID-19 and At Home learning.

I must say I truly believe through this experience the College Community created a new school-family relationship.

During the At-Home learning period, all teachers, have needed to take care not to overload, exhaust and frustrate parents and carers with too many demands to support their children's learning. Teachers have tried to pace the learning of their students so as to not to add anxiety and stress to an already volatile situation.

COVID-19 has created so many complexities, insecurities, and anxieties. We have all been trying to balance and deal with the impacts on our own work from home lives. Happily, it would appear, this has created more opportunities for parent and carer understanding and empathy for the work of teachers, and vice versa. There may never have been a better time for us to harness this new depth of relationship to support student learning.

This is a genuine opportunity to consolidate, and even extend, our communication strategies and structures with parents and carers. For example, greater parent and carer understanding of content could facilitate establishment of more meaningful student learning goals and better support systems at home.

We saw the At-Home learning program develop the **dispositions of an effective learner in our students**. Students were **self-regulating** and **independent** in their learning, **engaged**, **innovative** and **persistent** in achieving their learning goals. Students were strengthening their resilience in times of uncertainty.

It is crucial that we, St Narsai College staff and you the parent/carer and all in the College community continue to strengthen our relationship for the success of our children.

We ask that you,

- maintain the communication with your child's teachers
- contact the College Welfare team when concerned about your child's wellbeing
- contact the class teacher or KLA coordinator if you feel your child is not understanding the work
- be aware of and communicate with your child about what is required of them in their everyday learning experiences
- support your child and the College in maintaining the College expectations whether it be academic, attendance or uniform etc.

St Narsai Assyrian Christian College thanks all of the parents and carers in their support and encouragement during At-Home learning and the transition back to school.

We would also like to remind you that although school is returning to the normal routine of timetabled classes, some restrictions will still apply as per Government and NSW Health advice. The College adheres to all hygiene and protective guidelines provided by NSW health and AIS. Your patience and understanding in this situation has been, and is greatly appreciated.

BELL TIMES AND TIMETABLES FOR WEEK 5 TERM 2

A reminder, school is back to normal timetabled lessons as of Monday 25th May 2020 for all students in years 7 to 12.

We will commence, Monday Day 1 of the timetable with bell times as they were pre-COVID19. Bell times are below

STANDARD DAY (Days 2, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10)		CO-CURRICULAR DAY (Day 3)	
Period	Time	Period	Time
Roll Call	8.30am – 8.45am	Roll Call	8.30am – 8.45am
Period 1	8.45am – 9.46am	Period 1	8.45am – 9.46am
Period 2	9.46am – 10.47am	Period 2	9.46am – 10.47am
Break 1	10.47am – 11.17am	Break 1	10.47am – 11.17am
Period 3	11.17am – 12.18pm	Period 3	11.17am – 12.18pm
Period 4	12.18pm – 1.19pm	Break 2	12.18pm – 12.48pm
Break 2	1.19pm – 1.49pm	Period 4	12.48pm – 1.49pm
Period 5	1.49pm – 2.50pm	Period 5	1.49pm – 2.50pm
Period 6	2.50pm – 3.51pm	Period 6	2.50pm – 3.51pm

ASW DAY (Days 1 and 6)		ASSEMBLY DAY (Day 4)	
Period	Time	Period	Time
Roll Call/ASW	8.30am – 8.50am	Roll Call	8.30am – 8.45am
Period 1	8.50am – 9.50am	Assembly	8.45am – 9.20am
Period 2	9.50am – 10.50am	Period 1	9.20am – 10.14am
Break 1	10.50am – 11.20am	Period 2	10.14am – 11.08am
Period 3	11.20am – 12.20pm	Break 1	11.08am – 11.38am
Period 4	12.20pm – 1.20pm	Period 3	11.38am – 12.32pm
Break 2	1.20pm – 1.50pm	Period 4	12.32pm – 1.26pm
Period 5	1.50pm – 2.50pm	Break 2	1.26pm – 1.56pm
Period 6	2.50pm – 3.52pm	Period 5	1.56pm – 2.50pm
		Period 6	2.50pm – 3.52pm

EXPECTATIONS

Nothing has changed.

COVID-19 was a comma, not a full stop in our educational journey for 2020. All College expectations continue upon the students' return as they applied whilst on At-Home learning.

Students are to bring a book for roll call, their student diaries every day and present them in every lesson and the merit/demerit system will continue.

ATTENDANCE

With the announcement that all schools are open and all students to return to school on Monday 25th May, please note any student not attending school will be marked as absent.

Staff may choose to upload information online, however all learning will be face to face. Absent students will need to catch up on missed content upon their return.

We ask that parents of students who are vulnerable or put a vulnerable person at risk must contact the College. The College will respond to each case on an individual basis.

WINTER UNIFORM

I would like to remind students of their responsibility in relation to uniform.

The school expectation is that all students will be in the correct uniform, including travelling to and from school each day, and that this uniform is worn correctly just as it would be expected in any workplace.

This also means no hoodies or alternative jerseys worn under or over their uniform.

White undergarment may be worn for extra warmth, however must not be visible.

The table below is a reminder of what is expected winter uniform to be worn by St Narsai students in Term 2 and Term 3. Further information can be found in the student diaries from page to 31.

BOYS	GIRLS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hair neatly cut and deemed appropriate as per College guidelines • Clean shaven face • Maroon tie with College Crest • Maroon College jumper • White long sleeve shirt • Long grey College trousers • Black leather shoes with grey ankle socks • Maroon blazer with College crest • Maroon school bag with College crest 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hair neatly tied back and of natural colour • Clean face – no make up • Maroon College jumper • White blouse with school emblem • Maroon and grey tartan skirt covering the knees • Grey opaque stockings • Black leather shoes • Maroon Blazer with College Crest • Maroon school bag with College Crest

No other clothing items have been approved and therefore are not to be worn to school.

The exception is the current Year 12 2020 commemorative jacket approved by the Principal and this only to be worn by Year 12 students and only on Thursday and Fridays.

It is compulsory for students to wear their blazers to and from school.

I also remind students and parents that piercings are strictly not permitted on boys.

Only one piercing on each ear lobe is permitted for girls and girls are not to attend school with acrylic or coloured nails.

Finally, I would like to end with Proverbs 24:3-4:

**By wisdom a house is built, and by understanding it is established;
by knowledge the rooms are filled with all precious and pleasant riches**

It truly is wonderful to welcome back all of our precious and pleasant riches, our students, to the College. We look forward to rooms fill with knowledge, understanding being established so that by wisdom the St Narsai family home is built successfully.

HSIE FACULTY

Written by Sandy Nona
HSIE Coordinator

We survived! I would like to welcome all students of the college back to staggered learning after what felt like many months of isolation. It was quite a whirlwind for students and teachers alike, but through the Grace of our Lord, we managed to stay on top and continue doing our best whilst at home.

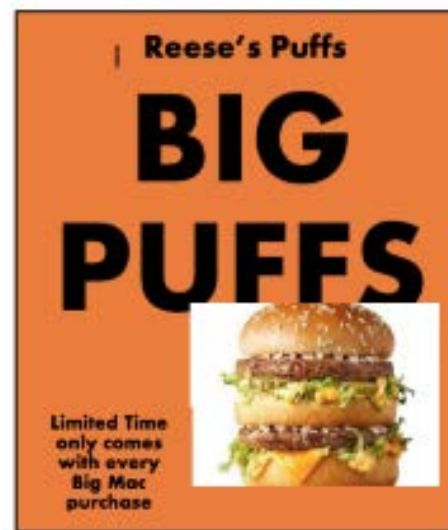
Our **year 7** students have been learning about landscapes and land forms from all around the world. They have been focusing on the significance of our rain forests and the importance of us managing and protecting our rain forests through limiting deforestation and pollution to help preserve our many species of flora and fauna. Their young creative minds have been able to come up with many strategies that as individuals of St Narsai Assyrian Christian College can put into place to preserve the beauty of many places including our school campus and local communities.

Year 8 have begun their new topic of The Black Death during our sudden venture into online learning. They have been learning the impacts and consequences following the global black death pandemic and have been able to draw comparisons to our current situation of COVID-19 and place its severity into perspective.

Year 9 commerce students have been exploring the world of promoting and selling products. They have begun to notice the advertisements targeted towards them from small businesses and large organisations. They have been evaluating many types of advertisements and are able to make distinctions in products as a result of product differentiation strategies. Our creative year 9 students got busy creating a differentiated cereal product and designing its front cover.

I would also like to congratulate all HSC students on their continued efforts and dedication to their studies during this pandemic. Their focus throughout online learning has proved to me that there are no boarders to learning as impacts are made outside of the classroom environment also.

I take this opportunity to thank parents for their continual dedication and support during the pandemic. We look forward to seeing all our learners in Week 5 as we continue enhancing student outcomes and developing life- long learners here at the college.



CAPAFACULTY

Written by Ciara Salmaggi
CAPA Coordinator

Dear family and friends of the St Narsai school community,

“The world always seems brighter when you’ve just made something that wasn’t there before” - Neil Gaiman

We survived Covid-19! The end of term 1 and into term 2, saw teaching and learning move online. The CAPA department were able to explore areas of technology that we previously would have not considered, such as video conferencing through TEAMS and online exams – Mr Rossman created an online exam that enabled students to sit their timed assessment in the comfort of their own home. The task involved listening to rhythmic patterns and identifying the rhythmic groupings being played, previously we would do this live in our classrooms!

Students in years 9, 10 and 11 Music engaged in composing tasks using NoteFlight, Flat and GarageBand. For students who did not own a keyboard at home they were able to download a virtual keyboard to assist with their performance practice and composing tasks.

Year 12 were imposed heavy social distancing restrictions by NESA, on their HSC Performance repertoire, but I am happy to say there was no complaining about no longer being able to work with a band, and students got straight into identifying what they needed to adjust, and in some students cases completely change exam pieces. Students are only permitted to have 1 other musician accompany them this year. It was great to receive progress videos of their work during learning from home.

Drama students were unable to complete their final project on Movement but began their next unit of work on Stage and Set Design, Costume and Makeup. Students have begun experimenting with stage makeup in preparation for their character monologue, which also is required to have costume and makeup as part of their performance.

Visual Art students have engaged in a variety of historical studies as well as working on their class practical projects. Year 12 students used the time to further their progress in their Major Body of Work.

We will be continuing, and further exploring, some of the modes of online learning and incorporating them into our teaching and learning practices within CAPA. We cannot go back to exactly how we worked before Covid-19 lockdown, especially with all of the new skills everyone has developed.

Alumni news: Congratulations to Nina Issac – class of 2018, who was successful in obtaining a position to study a Bachelor of Contemporary Music at the Australian Institute of Music. The entry process involved a Performance and Theory/Aural examination. We look forward to welcoming her back in the future to share her experiences with our current students!

Reminder (for when private lessons and sporting venues re-open): Creative Kids Vouchers: All K-12 students are eligible to 1 \$100 Voucher per year to go towards any creative extracurricular activity of their choice. All students are eligible to 2 x \$100 vouchers (1 per semester) to go towards any physical/ sporting class as an extracurricular activity also.

For more information and to apply for your voucher please see the links below.
Expressions of interest for any students wanting to receive private musical instrument tuition. Please see me.

Creative Kids Voucher NSW <https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/transaction/apply-creative-kids-voucher>
Active Kids Voucher NSW <https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/transaction/apply-active-kids-voucher>



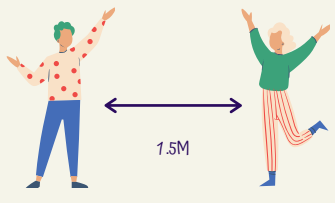
Welcome Back!

We welcomed back our students this Term! Both staff and students were excited to be back to face-to-face learning. All measures were taken to ensure the safety of our students and staff.



WASH YOUR HANDS FREQUENTLY

Regularly and thoroughly clean your hands with hand rub or wash them with soap and water.




MAINTAIN PHYSICAL DISTANCING

Maintain at least 1.5 metre distance between yourself and anyone else.



AVOID TOUCHING EYES, NOSE AND MOUTH

Hands touch many surfaces and can pick up viruses. Once contaminated, hands can transfer the virus to your eyes, nose or mouth.



IF YOUR CHILD HAS A FEVER, COUGH AND DIFFICULTY BREATHING, SEEK MEDICAL CARE EARLY

Stay home if you feel unwell. If you have a fever, cough and difficulty breathing, seek medical attention and call in advance.

KEY DATES

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 NESAs)

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

The 2020 HSC exam timetable is now available.
This is available at
<https://educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/wps/portal/nesa/11-12/hsc/key-dates-exam-timetables/hsc-written-exam-timetable>

Students can access their personalised timetables in their NESAs online accounts. Students should see Mrs. Khina if they need further details.