



# HARP OF THE SPIRIT

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL



For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. John 3:16

Dear Parents, Students and Friends,

As I reflect on the 2020 school year, I cannot help it but to be immensely proud of the community of St. Narsai Assyrian Christian College for what we have achieved together this year under very trying circumstances. Our students, parents and staff worked as one team when NSW schools had to close at the end of term one because of the COVID-19 public health crises. This students, parents and staff collaboration continued since we returned to face to face teaching and learning at the start of term two.

Fortunately, we were able to navigate our way through the many public health difficulties we faced throughout this year and we have been impressed by how resilient everyone has been throughout these challenging times. We were not surprised that our students displayed optimism when many were weary and had faith that all would be well at a time when many were filled with doubt.

This year's adversities have been the catalyst for so much innovation and creativity at St. Narsai College, from expanded use of remote learning software and information technologies to introducing podcasting at SNACC. All of this would not be possible without the tremendous contribution made by our dedicated and hardworking staff- all support staff, including Administration staff, counsellor, Teacher Aides, groundman and bus drivers, Teachers, Middle Leaders and the Executive Team.

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This year's End of Year Presentation took place earlier this week during the day at the College. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 restriction we are unable to invite our wonderful parents to this significant event. We had to hold five smaller presentations- one per year level with limited staff in building B. Nonetheless, we were able to acknowledge and celebrate the outstanding achievements of so many learners across Years 7-11 who have excelled or made commendable progress across a wide range of areas, including academic, sporting and in other fields throughout this year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank and acknowledge our wonderful parents and families for their support throughout 2020 and congratulate them for their children outstanding achievements this year.

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Yesterday, we farewelled few staff members who completed their temporary assignment at the College and will be moving on to other schools. These staff include Mrs. Mary Said and Mrs. Adriana Francis. On behalf of the community of St. Narsai College, I thank these teachers for their significant contribution to St. Narsai Assyrian Christian College in 2020 and wish them all the best in their future endeavours.

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As we look forward to this joyous Christmas season, I take this opportunity to thank His Eminence Mar Meelis Zaia AM for his guidance and support throughout this year. I also would like to acknowledge His Grace- Mar Benyamin Elya for his leadership and the significant contributions he has made in strengthening the spiritual growth of our students at all levels throughout 2020. To all our valued families, I wish you a blessed and peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year. I pray you have a pleasant holiday and I look forward to working with you again in 2021.

Thank you,  
Mr. E. Dinkha



- Message from the Deputy Principal
- Message from the Chaplain
- Mathematics Faculty
- Christian Studies Faculty
- CAPA Faculty

## FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL MRS M ISMAIL- PASTORAL CARE

**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 2020 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.

### PREPARING FOR 2021

With 2020 coming to an end, it won't be too long before the 2021 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.
- Ensure that students have purchased all necessary equipment to be effective learners; notebooks, 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 7 2021 and Year 8 students going into Year 9 for 2021 – in preparation for NAPLAN, use some time in the holidays to do some practice papers. It would be a good idea to purchase NAPLAN exercise books from newsagencies and complete the tasks as practice.
- Parents and Carers – consider reducing 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:
  - Obesity: When children are inactive, staring at their screens, they are not burning calories. This sedentary lifestyle can cause them to gain weight.
  - 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.
  - 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.
  - Academic problems: Children who spend too much time on their screens have also been shown to do worse on academic testing.
  - 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.

I take this opportunity to wish each and every family the merriest of Christmases and the happiest of new years. May the birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ bring blessings to you all.

I look forward to fighting the good fight, finishing the course and keeping the faith with you in 2021.

God bless you always.

Mrs M Ismail.

## FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL MRS M KHINA- CURRICULUM

Dear Parents and Friends

With this being the last newsletter for 2020, I would like to thank you for your ongoing support in what has been an interesting and unpredictable year. I have been very impressed by the learning and progress made this year despite the difficulties that COVID 19 presented. We are hoping that 2021 brings opportunities for all students to progress even further with uninterrupted learning. Students and teachers have worked very hard and a great deal has been achieved and I congratulate them on their efforts and achievements.

I congratulate all students that received awards in our end of year presentation assemblies this week. It was unfortunate that our parents could not be part of the assemblies to recognise their children's achievements. Hopefully, no restrictions will be in place for the 2021 school events and we can welcome you back into the College grounds and events.

Years 7-10 End of Year reports have been distributed to students this week. If you have not received your child's report, please contact our office.

### 2020 and 2021 Term Dates:

The last day for students for 2020 is Wednesday 9/12/2020.

The term dates for 2021 are as follows:

	Students commence on	Last day for students
Term 1	Years 7, 11 and 12 – Thursday 28/1/21 All students (7-12) - Friday 29/1/21	Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2021
Term 2	Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> April 2021	Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> June 2021
Term 3	Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> July 2021	Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> September 2021
Term 4	Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> October 2021	Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> December 2021

### Uniforms

Students must wear their full summer uniform on the first day. All uniform items are available for purchase from the School Locker. <https://theschoollocker.com.au/schools/st-narsai-assyrian-christian-college>

### Textbooks

In preparation for 2021, all students have been given lists of books that they need to purchase. These are also available on the College website. To receive a discount and ensure that the books arrive in time before the commencement of the 2021 school year, purchases need to be made before 11th December 2020 through the Endeavour Education website <https://www.endeavoureducation.com.au/>

### Office holiday hours

The School office will be open on Wednesday 20th and Thursday 21st January from 9am-3pm to answer any questions or enquiries on the phone number above. Alternatively, you can email us at [info@stnarsai.nsw.edu.au](mailto:info@stnarsai.nsw.edu.au)

I wish all our students, their families, staff and the community a Merry Christmas. I pray that this season of the Nativity of our Lord is full of joy and blessings. I thank you for your ongoing support throughout 2020 and look forward to working with all parents and students in 2021.

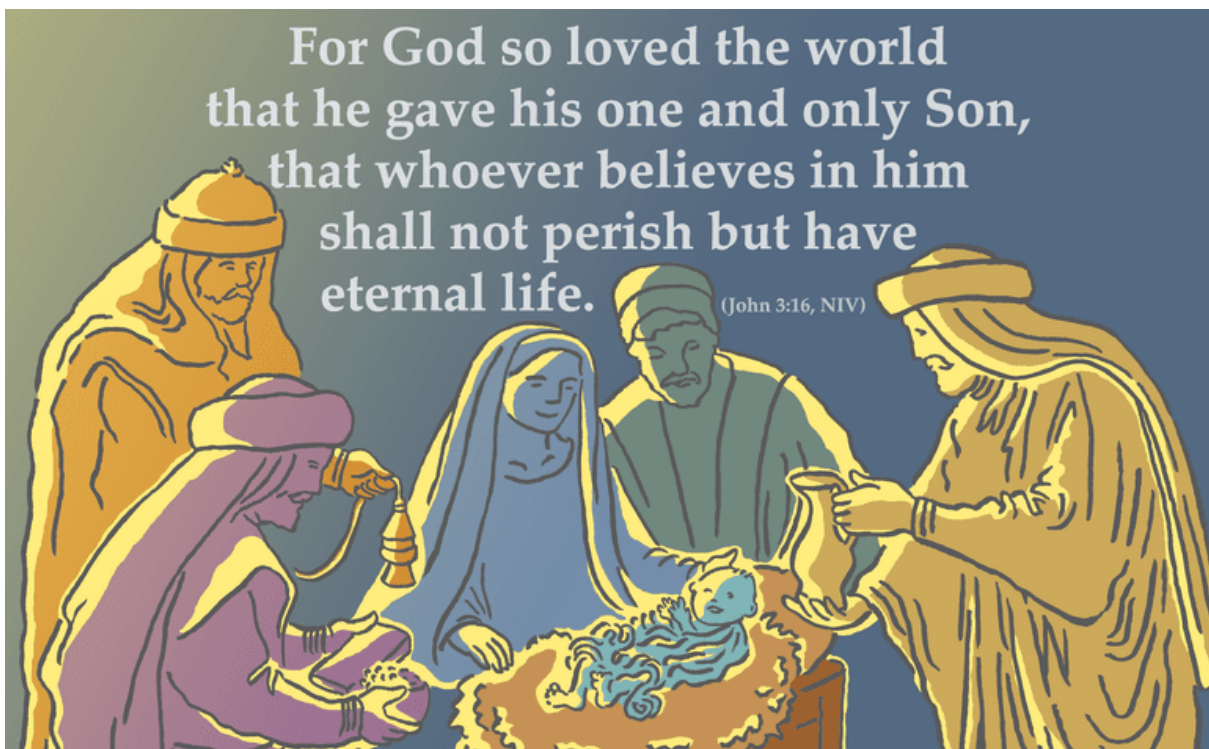
Mrs M Khina  
Deputy Principal  
Curriculum

## FROM THE CHAPLAIN

We are in the last week on school for the year and it is all coming to an end for the year that was 2020. We have had a strange year to say the least but we worked hard to find the silver lining everyday. The pandemic hit us hard but it only made us love harder. It challenged everything we knew but it only made us stronger. As 2020 ends, I wish you all the best for a new year. May this Christmas bring you and your loved ones many blessings and may the Love of Christ that lives in each of you fill your homes with His peace and joy. Remember the greatest gift we received was Christ who died for us. Let us use Him in our everyday lives to continually conquer the hits and challenges of life. Have a safe holiday and enjoy every second of it. You earned it.

I would like to wish all the students and their families a very Merry Christmas and a blessed 2021.

God bless,  
Rev. Father Samuel  
College Chaplain



## Mathematics Faculty

Dear family and friends of St Narsai school community.

It has been another busy Term at St. Narsai for Mathematics. Our learners hit the ground running in preparation for their Yearly Examinations. We are proud of all the learners in Mathematics that have demonstrated exceptional progress over the course of the year. A big congratulations to the learners below that achieved full marks in their final examination:



### Year 7

Stavro Ablahad  
Netanya Mamo  
Mary Sada

### Year 8

Dankha Jehensha  
Liana Jendo  
Giwargis Oraham  
George Odicho  
Roni Saliba  
Eden Younan

### Year 9

Dominic Pouranviah (Advanced)  
Antonella Mammo (Advanced)

### Year 10

Losin Atranik (Standard)

Our learners participated in two external Mathematics Competitions this year. The competitions engaged learners in problem solving that demonstrates the importance and relevance of mathematics in learner's everyday life. The Year 7 – 11 learners extended themselves beyond school mathematics, took part in the competitions and made the college very proud.

We would like to congratulate all learners that participated. A big congratulations to the students below for achieving outstanding results in the competitions:

### AMT Australian Mathematics Competition:

Andrea Barkho  
Anthony Ochana  
Eshtaarr Youkhana  
Joseph Hamlet Ismail  
Joshua Odicho  
Justin Zaia  
Liza Ablahad  
Marina Al Ishaq  
Mario Nazar  
Maryble Assa  
Nathan Yousif  
Neneveh Khoshaba  
Symona Gabriel

### ICAS Mathematics Competition:

Anthony Ochana  
Dominic Pouranviah  
Hekam Hekmat  
Mario Nazar  
Mary Sada  
Nathan Shamon



A special and well deserved congratulations to Anthony Ochana of Year 10 for achieving Best in School and Distinction for both competitions.

As the year comes to an end, I pray that you and your family have a blessed Christmas and New Year. May God bless you, guide you and protect you and your families and I look forward to seeing you for another year where we increase our mathematical knowledge and understanding, grow our faith and work on our spiritual walk with Christ.

Miss Adwena David  
Mathematics Co-ordinator

## Christian Studies Faculty

“Glory to God in the highest, And earth peace, goodwill towards men” Luke 2:14

As we come to the end of 2020, I look back at the events that have taken place this year and I have to say, it would have not been possible without the support of St. Narsai parents, teachers and learners. During what has been a difficult time for all, it has been beautiful to come together to pray for peace, hope and guidance from our Lord Saviour Jesus Christ.

### Annual Christmas Hampers

Thank you to all the St. Narsai community for coming together to help those in need. It is a blessing to be able to instil the teachings of our Lord to the future Assyrian generation in that it is more important to give than to receive. These hampers are a representation of the work of both parents and teachers of St. Narsai, teaching our learners that as Christians, we need to help those who are less fortunate and give goodwill to all those around us. These hampers were given to Catholic Care to distribute to families across Sydney, to spread the joy and love of Christ to families across Sydney.

### End of Year Liturgical Service (Raza Qadisha)

It was a beautiful way to end the year, with a Liturgical Service for each cohort. It is always amazing to see our learners showing reverence, glorying the name of God and understanding the importance of every component embedded in the Service. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our Chaplain Reverend Shamuel and Reverend Neil for conducting the Service, our teachers and learners are forever grateful for your dedication to our Church.

On behalf of myself and the Christian Studies department we wish you and your family a blessed Christmas and New Year. We pray that the love of Christ fills your home throughout this holy season.

God bless,

Jessica Kako  
Christian Studies Coordinator



# CAPA Faculty

## Drama

The Year 10 Drama class have been working on a whole class play "Scenes from A Quarantine" to tie in perfectly to the year of 2020. Students were able to draw on their own experiences when exploring the characters, they were allocated. The collaboration within plays has been fantastic to watch! Students have encouraged and supported each other as they master how to perform their characters. The Drama students have demonstrated exceptional growth since they began the course in 2019, and they will be greatly missed next year as they embark on their senior years.



## 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. Students have been learning guitar skills and how to play famous rock riffs.

Year 9 music have studied 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. Students finished the year by engaging in and leading mini instrument workshops where the aim was for each student to learn at least one new thing each lesson.



Year 10 Music have displayed their amazing performance skills performing songs from repertoire drawn from the 1980's till now. 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 planning for their HSC Major Works by presenting their ideas and to the class, as well as goal setting for their Performance Major works and experimenting with possible repertoire early to be able to develop it for their HSC in August next year.



## Stage 4 Visual Arts

Year 8 students ended the year by creating functional ceramic art and lino print Christmas cards. They thoroughly enjoyed hand building ceramic coil, pinch pot and slab cups, mugs, bowls and serving ware. They also found the carving process therapeutic and enjoyed designing their Christmas cards.

## Stage 6 Visual Arts

"Art is the most enjoyable practice that anyone can practice it in anytime. There are hundreds of types of art that can be practiced through Visual Arts and anything in the world can be turned to an artwork. The most important thing about art is that any artist can share their ideas, stories, imaginations to make difference in the world. They deliver a message in attempt to change the world they live in. The beauty of studying art is that because you are sharing your message to the world, you enjoy every second of creating an artwork.

We have been learning through practical art making where our teacher teaches us how to improve our artwork and skill to create meaning in it. We have also been learning through the theory of art students are studying artworks where artists created and they're learning how to find the techniques and syllabus concepts to understand the message behind each artwork in history.

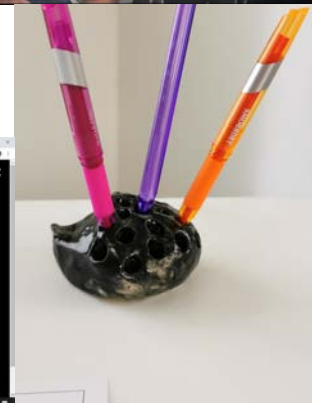
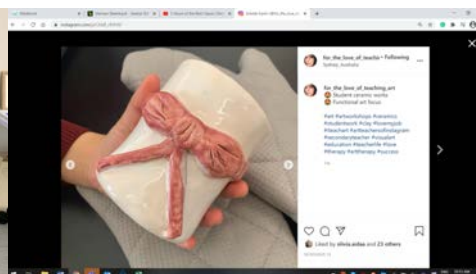
All of my art experiences were the most amazing moments ever, because each of them taught me a new thing. The most enjoyable thing was when we created my ceramic artwork.

The most new and exciting thing that I learned was how to carve. I went through a lot of challenges in art but the hardest thing was the theory part, I think that the theory part is a bit complex but I did overcome the challenge by asking my teacher to explain everything that I didn't get and she explained it in a very good way so it turned it so easily. If you are thinking about studying art, my advice is to go for it cause it's so fun and you will learn so many new things through it." (Mina Asmrw, Year 12 Visual Arts)



Year 11 students, now officially Year 12 students, began working on their major body of work by exploring the world they live in and exploring their desired art making style, topic and art making form. Students pitched their plan through in class presentations and demonstrated their plan for their art making journey in 2021.

Have a safe and blessed Christmas.  
Ms Salmaggi  
CAPA Coordinator







## IMPORTANCE OF READING

During these holidays we encourage every student to read on a daily basis. A minimum of 20 minutes every day can have a tremendous impact on a child's literacy development.

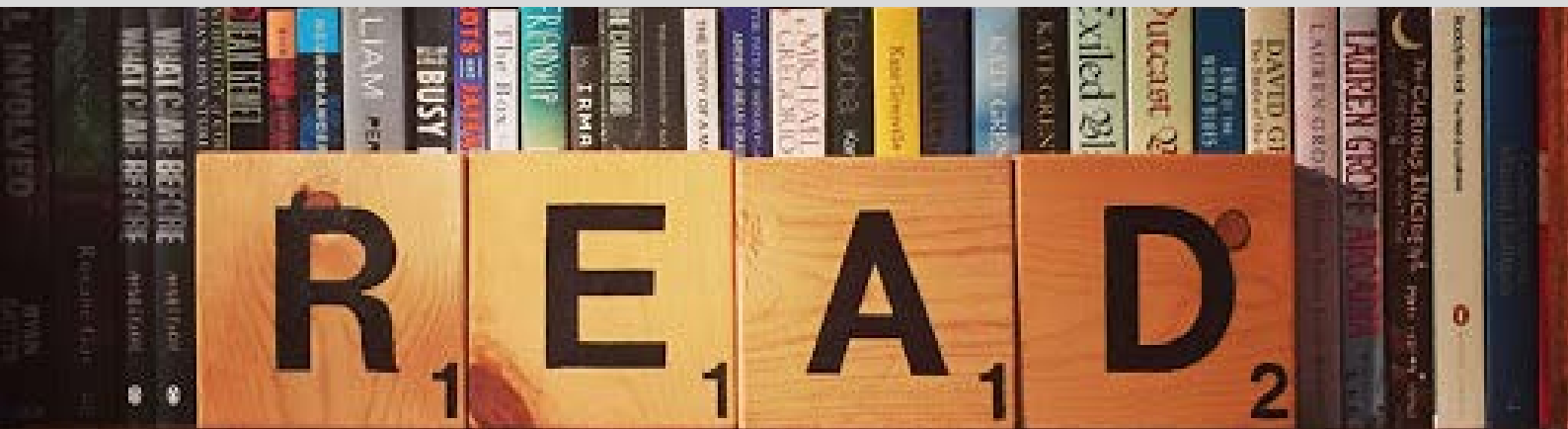
Why should your child read?

1. **Reading is good for your brain**  
 "Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body." Scientific studies show that reading does make you smarter. Reading a novel, for example, increases the blood flow and improves connectivity in the brain.
2. **Reading introduces you to new ideas and invites you to solve problems**  
 Your child's analytical thinking is stimulated merely from reading. Reading helps you detect patterns, solve problems, and assimilate new information as if you were living in the characters' shoes.
3. **Reading makes you a better writer**  
 When you read, your brain absorbs good writing techniques and vocabulary. In your own writing, you will unconsciously copy the writing styles of books that held your attention. Reading also enhances your vocabulary and spelling. New words appear in their natural context and you can deduce meaning from the surrounding words, while visually imprinting their spelling for accurate recall.
4. **Reading improves your conversational skills**  
 Because reading increases your vocabulary and your knowledge of how to correctly use new words, reading helps you articulate what you want to say. The knowledge you gain from reading also gives you lots to talk about with others.
5. **Reading strengthens worldview**  
 Reading broadens your understanding of the world as you see things from different perspectives. It is important to be up-to-date with current world issues too!
6. **Reading improves your self-discipline and consistency**  
 With the modern barrage of media and instant technological information, our attention spans are getting shorter and shorter. Reading a book, unlike skimming a web page, forces you to focus. To get the most out of a story, you must fixate on the plot and complete the book. In doing this, your brain forms deep connections and practices concentration.
7. **Reading increases your knowledge of history**  
 Reading can teach you historical politics, customs, cultures, economics, and intellect. Often these facts are set in a context of a story, making history easy to remember.
8. **Reading increases cultural knowledge (without an expensive plane flight)**  
 Reading books set in cultures different from our own provides knowledge of those cultures and the emotional and spiritual lives of the people who live there.
9. **Reading challenges your imagination**  
 As you read, you put yourself in the characters' shoes. Your brain goes beyond the words on the page, imagining details such as appearances, emotions, and surroundings
10. **Reading increases your skill in an area of interest**  
 Reading about your specific field or interests can improve your success in your field. You'll gain factual knowledge and learn from others' experiments and mistakes.
11. **Reading inspires you**  
 Reading a good book is like being around an inspiring person. You observe inspiring actions, feel contagious passion, and desire to live a better life.
12. **Reading reduces stress**  
 Reading about something you enjoy or losing yourself in a good novel is an excellent way to relax. It can ease tension in your muscles and allows you to take a break.  
 As you can see, reading is good for you - very, very good for you. It can improve your academic, social, physical, and mental life. With these persuasive facts running through your mind, it's the perfect time to dive into your 2021 reading goals!

God bless you always.

Mrs M Ismail.





Our **digital library collection** is now available at <https://stnarsai.eplatform.co> (also accessible from the school website). It is a shared collection (with other schools) of fiction and non-fiction books provided through *Wheeler's books* with over 3200 titles available in **audio** and **eBook** format. Students can search the collection based on genre, themes or titles and if the copy is available in the collection, they are able to borrow it and gain **immediate access to read/listen** to the book. Students will be instructed on their Teams pages on how to access the ePlatform.

Please be advised that it is a shared platform and is similar to accessing a public library. Titles have been restricted to year levels according to their themes; however, please speak to your child about their reading selection. You may like to take this opportunity to engage with what your child is reading interests are. If you have any concerns, issues or suggestions please send them through to [library@stnarsai.nsw.edu.au](mailto:library@stnarsai.nsw.edu.au).

- Ms Boulos