



St. Narsai Assyrian Christian College

Harp of The Spirit

N e w s l e t t e r

Dear Parents and Guardians of SNACC

Issue 7 Term 3 11/9/2017

COLLEGE EVENTS

Year 11 End of
Year Exam

Monday 4/9/2017

To

Monday
11/9/2017

Monday

11/9/2017

Year 12 Spiritual
Day

Wednesday

13/9/2017

Feast of the Holy
Cross

Tuesday

19/9/2017

Graduation
Breakfast

Graduation
Breakfast

Graduation
Assembly

Wednesday
20/9/2017

Year 12 Graduation
Ceremony
6pm

Thursday

16/10/2017

1st Higher School
Certificate exam

Wednesday
15/11/2017

Year 12 Formal –
Novella Function

During week 4 of this Term we saw Year 10 students attending **work experience** for one week. Work Experience gives students an opportunity to participate in a general orientation to the 'world of work'. Students can observe a variety of work as well as undertake supervised work appropriate to their skill levels. We received some very good reports about the conduct of our students in these work places and they did the college proud. We thank Ms N. Yakou (the Careers Advisor) for her leadership, organisation and hard work in ensuring a successful work experience for all students.

The Year 12 students have completed their **Trial Examinations**. They are now very busy in revising and consolidating their work as we move closer to the Higher School Certificate Examination which starts on Thursday, 16th October. The **Formal College Graduation** will take place this Term Wednesday, 20th September, parents and relatives are welcome to attend.

The College is liaising with the **Fairfield Police Youth Liaison Officers** to improve our students understanding of laws as they apply to them, including: cyberbullying; sexting; driving; use of drugs and alcohol etc. The New Arrival students had a meeting two weeks ago regarding some of these matters. Other meetings are being organised with the rest of the school during Term 4. I would like to thank Mr Nabil Karim for his leadership in this matter.

We wish to congratulate **Mr Brain Parker** for being appointed as the new Head Teacher Science. Mr Parker is an experienced teacher and administrator of a Science faculty. He has demonstrated very good leadership qualities and he will make a great Head Teacher for our College. We also congratulate **Mr. Ben Khoshabeh**, the current Head Teacher of the HSIE faculty. Mr Khoshabeh has been appointed, on merit, as the new Deputy Principal at St Hurmizd Primary School and he will start in his new job at the start of Term 4.

As you know the College has very **high expectations** regarding student conduct. We have introduced a positive approach called **Positive Behaviour System (PBS)** to ensure that the high expectations are met. We appreciate parental support in this important matter. At SNACC students are expected to:

- Respect other students, their teachers and school staff and community members
- Follow school and class rules and follow the directions of their teachers
- Strive for the highest standards in learning
- Respect all members of the school community and show courtesy to all students, teachers and community members
- Resolve conflict respectfully, calmly and fairly
- Comply with the College uniform policy or dress code
- Attend school every day (unless legally excused)
- Respect all property
- Not be violent or bring weapons, illegal drugs, alcohol or tobacco into our schools
- Not bully, harass, intimidate or discriminate against anyone in our schools

As a Christian school, we believe that we are called to help, love our neighbour and show compassion for all. We try to develop a sense of service in all our students. Recently students have been involved with **Daffodil Day and Legacy Day**. Both organisations help others in need. We are very proud of our students with their involvement in raising a large sum of money for these organisations.

God Bless

A Rufo (Principal)

Dear Parents, Students and Friends,

After completing their final school based assessments (HSC Trials Examinations), Year 12 students are back in their classes continuing their studies for the next two weeks. A good number of these students have been extremely busy completing, finishing off and submitting their practical projects, major designs and works across a number of subjects.

In week 9, the college is organising Year 12 Parent- Teacher interviews, where we will distribute Semester Two reports to allow for fruitful discussions to take place about student performance to date.

Year 11 students will commence their end of year examinations next Monday in the school hall. During their six day exams, a number of students will have to sit two exams per day. As usual, students will be permitted to leave school grounds after their exams and will not be required to attend the college if they have no exam scheduled for the day.

It is important to remind students that usual HSC examination rules and procedures apply during this major HSC assessment event. Some of these rules include, being on time, having the right equipment for the examinations and not bringing restricted materials or equipment into the examination hall, e.g., mobile phones and other restricted electronic devices.

Moreover, the college will be organising a Year 11 End of Year Parent- Teacher interviews in week 2 next term. These reports will be distributed during the interviews.

The 2017 NAPLAN student reports were distributed to all year 7 and 9 students two weeks to take home. Congratulations and well done to all Years 7 & 9 students who achieved great results in these tests in 2017. It is hoped that Year 7 and 9 parents have had an opportunity to study and discuss these reports with their children. Parents are reminded to keep these important reports in a safe and handy place for future reference. Please contact the college if you have not received your child's 2017 NAPLAN report.

As we congratulate all students who were able to achieve the Year 9 three Band 8 or above in Reading, Writing and Numeracy, we remind Year 9 parents that Year 9 students who scored Band 7 or lower in any of the three categories will have the opportunity to re- sit one or more tests online from next year. I have enclosed more information about the NAPLAN online tests.

Thank You,
Mr. E. Dinkha

Fact sheet for parents and carers <https://www.aisnsw.edu.au/policy/Pages/naplan-online.aspx>

Excellence
Christian
Values
Commitment

FROM THE HEAD PRINCIPAL

St Narsai Assyrian Christian

Dear parents and guardians,

It is my pleasure to formally announce the appointment of Benjamin Khoshabeh to the position of Deputy Principal of St Hurmizd Assyrian Primary School. Benjamin will begin in this position at the start of Term 4 this year. This appointment follows on from an extensive selection process of advertising and interviewing internal and external candidates with the assistance of an educational consulting group.

This is a significant appointment for Benjamin. He currently holds a range of responsibilities at St Narsai including Head of the HSIE Faculty, oversight of Teacher Professional Learning, teacher in charge of all Teacher Accreditation and is currently undertaking study towards the highly regarded Lead Teacher qualification. While Benjamin will be greatly missed at St Narsai, his skills and abilities will assist with all aspects of the school improvement process at St Hurmizd.

At this time I acknowledge and thank Rowena Benjamin for undertaking the Acting Deputy Principal role for the last two years. Rowena has worked extremely hard in this challenging position. On behalf of all of us at St Hurmizd School, I thank Rowena for all her efforts.

Please join with me in congratulating Benjamin on his appointment to this important position within the Assyrian Schools.

Brian Kennelly

Head Principal of Assyrian Schools

Message from the counsellor HSC exam guide: maximising study and minimising stress

Understanding and managing what contributes to good performance is essential to reduce stress levels for exams. Preparation is the key to performance. This must start early, allowing time to build confidence with the subject matter and assist your memory recall.

To perform well in exams you need to think about 'training' a range of skills. These include good study techniques, distraction control, persistence, discipline, positive self-talk, good time management and emotional management, productive sleep and enough rest.

Getting organised

To begin: set up your study space, organise your study materials, turn off your phone and hide social media. Next, review the subject outline and any previous exams your teacher has provided for you or that are online. You will feel less anxious at exam time if you have practised writing and reviewing essays, short answers and multiple-choice tests. If you are not used to writing for long periods of time with a pen, then practise this skill as well. To reduce stress, be prepared and work out a schedule so you can get through the reading and research. Don't just wade through piles of study notes.

Think about it like this: if you were planning to run a marathon, you wouldn't wait until a couple of days before to start preparing. Developing a plan will give you a feeling of being in control as you progress towards your goals; you need to invest time and effort, just like the marathon runner. A well-structured daily schedule will help you to balance study, work, exercise, nutrition and recreation. When planning, think about the best time of the day/night for study. What does your body clock tell you about your peak performance times? Set these times for the subjects you find more difficult. Cluster your subjects so you have two subjects a day.

Being nice to your brain

How long can you concentrate without getting distracted? Start small with 20-minute chunks of study time and build up to longer periods. Then reward yourself: do some stretches, take a power nap or a 5-10 minute walk - this will rest your mind. Then get back to it!

Repeat this process for two hours. After two hours, it is important to give your brain incubation time. Take a 30-minute break, have some fun as a reward and enjoy a healthy snack like berries, bananas, apples or even dark chocolate - it's rich in flavonoids and helps improve blood flow to the brain and boost cognitive skills. Set a timer for these reward times to remind you the 30 minutes of fun is over and get back to studying for another two hours. Discipline is a habit, developed using positive self-talk to constantly remind you of your end goal. If you don't practise you can't run the marathon!

It is important to link what you already know about the subject to the knowledge you're acquiring through study. This will aid memory retention and retrieval. Then use different modes of learning: read out loud; make colourful diagrams or mind maps; develop concise dot-point revision notes, voice record and listen back to your notes, or watch recommended talks or programs that reinforce material you are studying.

Study buddies

Studying alone can get boring and monotonous. A study group has a positive social aspect, which can make you feel more confident and comfortable about studying. Typically comprised of four to six students, a study group can offer the opportunity to engage in a more in-depth discussion with your peers. Sharing information can reduce procrastination, keep you active and make you less likely to put off studying. Hearing perspectives from study group members who reason differently from you enhances critical thinking skills, as we all learn in different ways.

Does cramming work?

Reading your notes or essays the night before your exam is not the best type of study. You need to spend time thinking about the materials you have been reading, and connecting it to what you already know using your critical thinking skills. This doesn't happen overnight, but it will make the retrieval of your knowledge much easier in the exam.

Mind map or list the important concepts and key topics. Read what you did wrong in your formative assessments and think about how you could have done better. Test your knowledge, think up an essay question and write an essay plan and check it against the key concepts. Critical thinking can't only begin the night before. This is a process that takes time and hopefully this process has been taking place all year.

Source: The Conversation (www.theconversation.com)



College Events: Daffodil Day

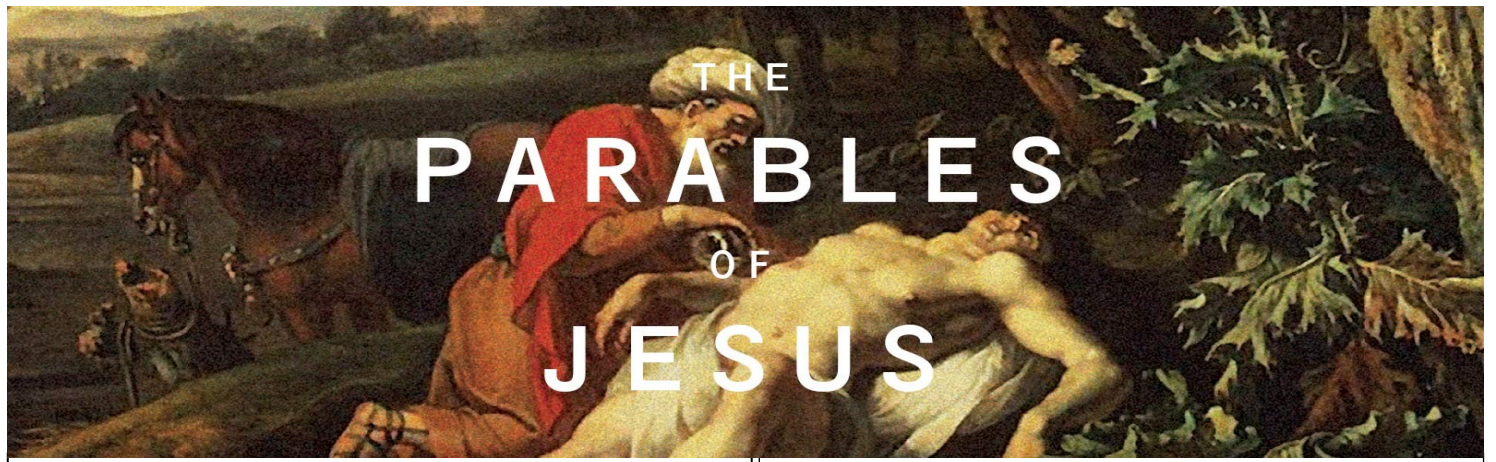
Friday the 25th August was Daffodil Day, one of Australia's best-known fundraising events. It is run by Cancer Council with all proceeds going to help cancer suffering patients and fund prevention programs and research. Students from Year 10 travelled to Bonnyrigg Shopping Centre to sell merchandise and help raise funds to support cancer patients and raise awareness about the disease that affects more than 40,000 people nationwide.

Ms. David, Ms. L. Kako, Dn Ramen, Ms. Issac and Ms. Shamon accompanied year 10 students as we roamed around Bonnyrigg Shopping Centre selling different types of merchandise ranging from teddy bears to daffodils. Merchandise were sold to shoppers and shop owners to increase awareness of the disease and the people affected by it. With each purchase, supporters were informed on how their contribution helped people suffering from cancer. Year 10 students were at the shopping centre all day selling merchandise and raising awareness.

These fundraising projects are essential to the community to raise awareness and help people in need. These projects also allow the students of our college to make a difference in the community and it allows people to become more caring and humble. God willing we will continue to support the community with more fundraising projects.

Andrew Barkho
Year 10E





WHAT ARE PARABLES?

A parable can be defined as a short allegorical story designed to illustrate or teach some truth, religious principle, or moral lesson, told by Jesus and recorded in the bible. Parables convey deeper meaning through comparisons, metaphors and analogies.

WHY DID JESUS SPEAK IN PARABLES?

As said in Matthew 13:10-13: *'The disciples came to him and asked, "Why do you speak to the people in parables?" He replied, "Because the knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them. Whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. This is why I speak to them in parables: "though seeing, they do not see; though hearing, they do not hear or understand.'*

Jesus spoke in parables to break down his lessons for his disciples, and because many people were unwilling to hear the word of God. Parables are earthly stories with heavenly meaning, so that the willing would understand and the unwilling would remain without understanding.

EXAMPLES OF PARABLES

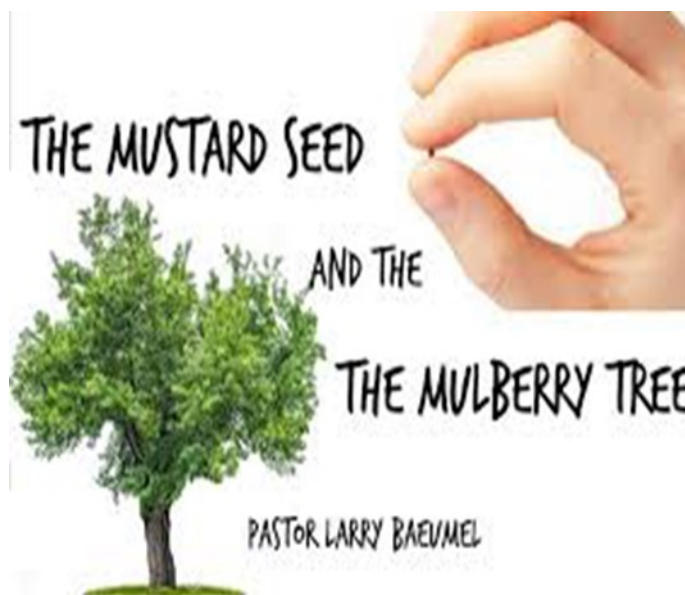
The most well-known parables include the Good Samaritan, the Mustard Seed, the Prodigal Son, the Lost Sheep, the Lost Coin and many more. All these parables have unique lessons. The parable of the Good Samaritan teaches to treat your neighbours well, and to act when given the chance to help others. The Prodigal Son teaches that no true Christian can be lost, and can eventually return home. The Mustard Seed describes the growth of the Kingdom of God. All parables however, teach people valuable lessons and how to be better Christians and people.

HOW CAN WE LEARN FROM PARABLES?

Parables teach us with earthly descriptions and Godly meanings that are not always obvious but always present. They teach us holy lessons, such as loving thy neighbour, having faith in God, and what do when on the wrong path. The intended purpose of parables is to teach, and parables give knowledge to Christians to this day.

Adorina Ochana

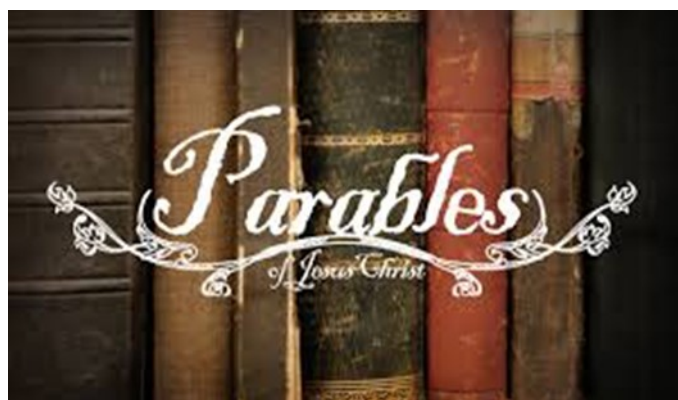
Parable is a simple story used to illustrate the moral or spiritual lesson, as told by Jesus. Parables are easy to understand, as it is a simple short story, which has a very detailed meaning behind it. Parables have been told during and after the time of Jesus. Parables are a way of sharing information about God in a short story that has a very detailed meaning behind it. Parables are still being spoken about so that the hidden meaning behind the parables can be spoken about and so that everyone can know the real meaning of God.



Parables are important for today generation as the kids and adults of today's time can learn more about God and the real meaning of God and the short stories he calls Parables. Parables have been preached during and after Jesus's time as Jesus has been telling these short religious stories that show people the hidden meaning behind them. An example of a parable is the Mustard seed ³¹ He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. ³² Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches." The seeds that survive symbolizes how Christians that follow God and follow the Christian Traits and don't do bad things get closer to God and see becoming so big represents the faith. This is just one of many parables said during the time of Jesus and plenty more are still being preached even today. Parables are tomorrow's future as the word of God is still being passed down from Christian to Christian. Where parents are telling their Kids about these stories and their kids are growing up and telling their kids about these parables and they just keep on getting passed on.

Parables are very important in this society as they are always preached by one person to another. Not only that they are preached to all religions where they tell them what Christians are and how being a Christian change your life and brings you closer to God and gives you the opportunity of eternal life. And if parables never existed, no one will ever know more about God and the parables which have a way more detailed meaning behind them. Parables will still be preached in 100 days and will still be preached in 1000 years. They are a great way of allowing people to understand the real meaning of God. Parables are still going to get passed down generation to generation and religion to religion.

Esho Goro



DAILY NEWS

Ranah Dawood

Newspaper article

29.8.2017



Jesus' stories - Parables

What are parables? Parables are short or simple stories used by Jesus to deliver religious messages to individuals, or in simpler terms; parables are earthly stories with heavenly meanings. Why did Jesus speak in parables? This simple question has been asked numerous by many different people, including Jesus' disciples.

“When Jesus began communicating in parables to us, His disciples asked the obvious question, “Why do you speak to them in parables?” (Matthew 13:10).

Jesus used parables as they embody much of His teaching, they are simple, memorable stories which often include humble imagery, each with a simple message.

One of Jesus' parables included the story of The Good Samaritan, which was based on a fictional man that Jesus spoke a humble story of. The parable of the Good Samaritan began with a Jewish man who was travelling on a trip and was stripped of his clothes, beaten up and left to die on the road due to selfish thieves. A priest came along, saw the Jewish man and walked across the road and passed him. Another man who was a Levite, came along as well and saw the Jewish man but passed him too. But, a Samaritan came along and when he saw the man on the ground, he went to him, bandaged his wounds, brought him up on his donkey and took him to an inn where he took care of him.

The parable of the Good Samaritan has taught us numerous lessons, it teaches individuals to be generous, to help others no matter what background, religion, race or gender and to practise good deeds. The Good Samaritan was not shallow and helped a fellow human being even though the Samaritan was “despised”, he put everything behind him and showed compassion.



Jesus's Parables Explained – Why Christ used this form of speech

Written by Esho Dinkha

Jesus was God's holy begotten son, sent to earth to carry the burden of sin. God's main purpose for us is to believe in him whom he sent to us. To believe in his ways, believe in his teachings, and believe in him being the son of God. His teachings were taught using a very different form of speech to explain the heavenly meanings in an earthly manner. This form of speech is known as "parables".

Firstly, parables are a simple story used to illustrate a moral or spiritual lesson. This also hints as to why Jesus spoke in parables. The reason being is because humans are too simple and un-comprehensive to understand earthly things let alone heavenly things. So, Jesus couldn't just reveal the secrets of heaven as they would not understand and the saying would appear vague to the audiences. Hence Jesus spoke in parables with earthly situations for the people to comprehend the "moral" of the story.



An illustration of the prodigal son

the prodigal son. Jesus explains the parable as a son, who takes his wealth from his dad which makes his dad considered as "dead", and has spends his money to have fun in a foreign country. After all his money finishes, and he is left eating the leftovers of pigs, he decides to go back to his father with a humble manner and begs him to accept him as a servant. As the father sees him from afar, he rejoices and has a party for his son.

This has a great earthly meaning; however, the heavenly meaning of the story is much more outstanding. This story resembles us, leaving God and considering him "dead" and entering the path of evil. Once we have lost everything we have because of sin, we should Go back to God with a humble heart and ask to be his servant. God will not be angry; however, he will accept us with joy as he has gained "his son/daughter" back. We can learn from this as God will always be with us and we should seek his light.



What are parables?

As stated by Jesus within the Gospels, parables can be identified as symbolic and metaphorical tales which aim to provide humanity with inspirational spiritual life lessons and morals through comparisons and analogies to be used within today's modern generation.

Why did Jesus speak in Parables?

"Why do You speak to them in parables?" Jesus answered them, "To you it has been granted to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been granted. For whoever has, to him more shall be given, and he will have an abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has shall be taken away from him." - Matthew 13:10

Parables are able to clearly incorporate heavenly meanings, life morals and messages through simple stories which are easily remembered, involve bold characters, and depict heavy symbolism rich in significance, therefore, Jesus communicated his messages within parables in order to illustrate and portray his profound, divine truths.

Examples of Parables

There are a total number of 46 parables located within the Bible, predominantly in the synoptic gospels: Matthew, Mark and Luke. An example of a parable is 'The Parable of The Lost Sheep', where God's unconditional love for humanity is explored in comparison to a shepherd and his lost sheep. It is evident that God seeks after people who recognise and admit to the fact that they are lost and in need of a loving, personal Saviour, similarly to the shepherd.

Another example is 'The Parable of The Weeds'. The main messages that Jesus Christ was trying to convey is that by being the sower and sowing the seeds, this means He is giving life to people of this world. When the enemy sows the weeds, the enemy refers to the people who choose not to follow the words and ways of the Lord. The growing of the weeds, represents the result or consequences of conflict between the people of this world. As the weeds are later separated from the wheat, this is what happens when we enter the Kingdom of God, all evil is avoided and prevented.

How can we learn from parables?

Parables have been written in order to provide individuals with a sense of direction and guidance through the various situations which may be experienced in life. Due to the way in which they are written through applicable language, people are able to extract information and incorporate it in their personal lives when making decisions.

Uniform Shop



The Grove Homemaker Centre

Shop R20-21, 2-20 Orange Grove Rd **LIVERPOOL**

(near the Road and Maritime Service Centre)

School Hours
8:40 am
To
3:00 pm
Office Hours
8:am
To
4pm
Monday to Friday
Tel: 9753 0700
Fax: 9753 0800

Website
WWW.snac.nsw.edu.au

Email Address
school.office@snac.nsw.edu.au



Need to talk? Kids Helpline counsellors are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Nothing is too big or too small to call us



Help is available. No one needs to face their problems alone.

Call Lifeline on 13 11 14 for support or dial 000 if life is in danger.

Parentline

Parent line is a confidential telephone counselling service providing professional counselling and support for parents and those who care for children.

Phone: 1300 1300 52 (cost of a local call) - 24 hours a day, seven days a week-www.parentline.org.au

673-683 Smithfield Rd, Edensor Park NSW 2176

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