



FEBRUARY 2021 | ISSUE 1

HARP OF THE SPIRIT

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

*Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.
Romans 15:13*

Dear Parents, Students, and Friends of the College,

I would like to welcome back all our existing families and extend a special welcome to our new families and students from Year 7 and other years. I hope you and your families have had a wonderful start to 2021 and pray that all members of our college community stay safe during this second year of COVID-19 pandemic.

I also pray that all our students experience and enjoy success and make tangible progress towards their personal learning goals in 2021 and beyond.

It is pleasing to report that students are already settling in as they start engaging fully in their studies. Through my daily walkthroughs across the College, I am encouraged to see students at all levels attending to their studies and actively participating in various learning activities inside and outside classrooms.

In my address to students during this week's College assembly, I emphasized that all students had so many opportunities to succeed and achieve as we venture into 2021, but that success hinged on individual students taking responsibility for their learning. Alongside our constant effort to support students' academic improvements, we continue to maintain a strong focus and genuine interest on students' welfare and wellbeing, because we know many students face so many challenges that can overwhelm them if they are not supported.

I take this opportunity to thank you—our wonderful parents—for the support you continue to offer your children as they commence another school year. I again emphasize to all parents the importance of their role in supporting their children during their study time at home every day of the week, irrespective if they had set homework or not.



THE ISSUE:

- Message from the Deputy Principal
- Christian Studies Faculty
- English Faculty
- Science Faculty

FROM THE PRINCIPAL CONT'D

This year we have introduced an initiative that aims to get students to question and reflect on their academic performance last year and this year once they commence their assessments later in the weeks and months ahead. This initiative is called "Top 50%" or T50 and we are hoping that this T50 concept will help motivate students to strive for improvements and better learning outcomes and results. We will share more information about this initiative with you as we progress into Semester One but will appreciate you asking your child if he/she are in the T50 in their subject or cohort and discuss ways for improvements.

College staff have started the year with a Staff Development Day where they received CPR refresher training as well as training in Child Protection Policy and Procedures and in other important areas.

This year we will be working on the implementation of the first-year priorities from the new three-year College Strategic Plan 2021-2023. A separate School Improvement Plan has been completed to guide staff in implementing the mentioned priorities and will help Key Learning Area teams to develop their own Faculty Improvement Plans. The Pastoral Care team will also develop their own Cohort Improvement Plans to address student welfare and wellbeing as part of the College's 2021 priorities.

Finally, as we start this new school year, I would like to welcome the following new staff to the college: Mr. Mitchell Dowling (Mathematics), Mrs. Sebo, Mrs. Yousef and Miss. Lichaa, (Teacher Aides). I also welcome back Mrs. Younan (English) from their maternity leave.

Note: To the parents who drive to the college, I ask for your support, assistance and patience when dropping and picking up your children at the college to ensure the safety of all members of the college community. I am sure that you would all agree that the safety for our children is more important than getting to your destination few minutes early. Staff are doing their best to manage traffic inside school grounds, and I ask that everyone always follows their directions.

Mr. E. Dinkha,
Principal



FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL MRS M ISMAIL- PASTORAL CARE

Dear Parents/Carers and Students

Welcome back to the start of the 2021 school year and a special welcome to all the new families who have joined the St Narsai Assyrian Christian College Community for the first time. I hope everyone enjoyed a relaxing and safe holiday and they are now ready for the challenges and opportunities on offer this year. I would like to thank the parents who have ensured that their sons and daughters have returned to school in a positive manner with materials for their classes and in the correct uniform. A settled start is important in establishing habits that bring continuity for the year ahead, thus the time and preparation from parents to establish routine is very appreciative.

MANDATORY WEARING OF FACE MASKS ON PUBLIC TRANSPORT

St Narsai Assyrian Christian College is working closely with the AIS NSW (Association of Independent Schools NSW), NSW Health and other relevant agencies to ensure our school continues to operate in the safest ways possible within the COVID-19 environment for all our staff, students, families and our college community.

As previously mentioned in a letter to parents dated 20th January 2021 and on 10th February 2021, students over the age of 12, and staff, must comply with the Public Health Order (COVID-19 Mandatory Face Coverings 2021) which states students over the age of 12 must wear a mask on public transport or when in a vehicle or vessel being used to provide a public transport service. This includes when travelling to and from school and during school excursions by public transport, or by chartered/private transport services. This mandate is current and as of 29/1/21.

You may be fined \$200 on the spot for not wearing a face mask. Children aged 12 and under are exempt but are encouraged to wear masks where practicable. Therefore, please provide your child with a face mask if they are travelling on buses.

OTHER COVID NEWS

In accordance with advice from NSW Health, parents and carers are reminded NOT to send children to school if they are unwell, even if they have the mildest flu-like symptoms.

Students with flu-like symptoms will need to be tested, then they are to provide a copy of a negative COVID-19 test result and be symptom-free for 3 days before being permitted to return to school. Please note, any student with flu-like symptoms and who does not undertake a COVID-19 test will not be permitted to return to school for a 10-day period. Where a medical practitioner determines that a COVID-19 test is not required, documentation must be provided to the school to confirm that the student does not have symptoms that warrant a COVID-19 test. The certificate must also indicate that the student is able to return to school.

FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL CONT'D

PUBLIC BUSES

Every morning, there are 5 public buses that leave Prarieewood Tway strictly for St Narsai College students. We ask that all parents drop their children off before 7.30 and ensure they board the bus. This will ensure all students attend school on time. See the following bus timetable.

MORNING SERVICES		
Bus No	Departing	Bus Route
9113	7:29	EX PRAIRIEWOOD T-WAY STN- via T-Way, L> The Horsley Drive, L> Horsley Rd, R> Bus Bay. Arr school 7:45
9113	7:34	EX PRAIRIEWOOD T-WAY STN - via T-Way, L> The Horsley Drive, L> Horsley Rd, R> Bus Bay. Arr school 7:50
9113	7:44	EX PRAIRIEWOOD T-WAY STN - via T-Way, L> The Horsley Drive, L> Horsley Rd, R> Bus Bay. Arr school 8:00
9113	7:54	EX PRAIRIEWOOD T-WAY STN - via T-Way, L> The Horsley Drive, L> Horsley Rd, R> Bus Bay. Arr school 8:10
9113	8:04	EX PRAIRIEWOOD T-WAY STN - via T-Way, L> The Horsley Drive, L> Horsley Rd, R> Bus Bay. Arr school 8:20

AFTERNOON SERVICES		
Bus No	Departing	Bus Route
9633	14:55	TO PRAIRIEWOOD T-WAY STN - via L> Horsley Rd, R>The Horsley Dr, R> T-Way (three buses depart at this time).
9634	14:55	TO PRAIRIEWOOD T-WAY STN - via L> Horsley Rd, R>The Horsley Dr, R> T-Way (two buses depart at this time).

Key: L> Bus turns left; R> Bus turns right; EX - bus departs from
Effective: 02-May-18

Opal Cards

If you have applied for an Opal Card and have not yet received it, please contact 136725 (13 OPAL). If you have not yet applied for an opal, register now by following these steps;

- 1) Go to: <https://apps.transport.nsw.gov.au/ssts/#/applyNow>
- 2) Click "Apply Now"
- 3) Complete the online form
- 4) Keep a record of your application number (N or UN number)

If you are having trouble going to the web address, do a Google search for "Opal card for school students" and it will give you the page to go to. Then click "Apply for a school opal" and follow the instructions. If you continue to have trouble, please see our front office staff for assistance.

School Diary: Policies, Procedures, Communication

It is extremely important for parents to read through their child's school diary. It holds important information regarding the College policies on uniform, mobile phones etc and is a strong link between the teachers and parents about the child.

If lost or defaced, a student must purchase another for \$15 from the College office. Each student is to bring their diary to every lesson, every day. We ask that all parents/carers check their child's diary for communication from their teachers on a daily basis. We also require parents to sign their child's diary on a weekly basis, in the space provided to acknowledge their child's work and behaviour every week. This will be checked every Monday during ASW (Academic Skills Workshops: a special time allocated for teachers to support students in their learning).

Attendance

At SNACC everyday counts!

Students are required to have a minimum of 90% attendance to satisfactorily fulfil the requirements of any course they are studying. Students are requested to be at school before 8:15am. Roll call begins at 8.30 every morning. Students are expected to attend and be punctual to all classes and activities. See Attendance Procedures in this week’s newsletter for the actions taken by the College if attendance is a concern.

School Uniform (pg. 28 of the student diary)

Many thanks to all the parents and carers who have ensured their child has returned to school or commenced their time at the College in perfect uniform. Refer to page 28 of your child’s student diary for specific uniform expectations.

LOCKERS AND LOCKS

At the start of every year students are allocated a locker in which to store their books, bag and other items. Every student must use a padlock to keep their belongings secure

- The school is not responsible for any valuables left inside the lockers. This includes mobile phones, jewellery, money, etc.
- The locker is school property and the College reserves the right to search a student’s locker when there are reasonable grounds to suspect that a student has breached the College Code of conduct.

Mobile phones

St Narsai has banned mobile phones from the college. Students are not to have a mobile phone on their person at any time during school hours.

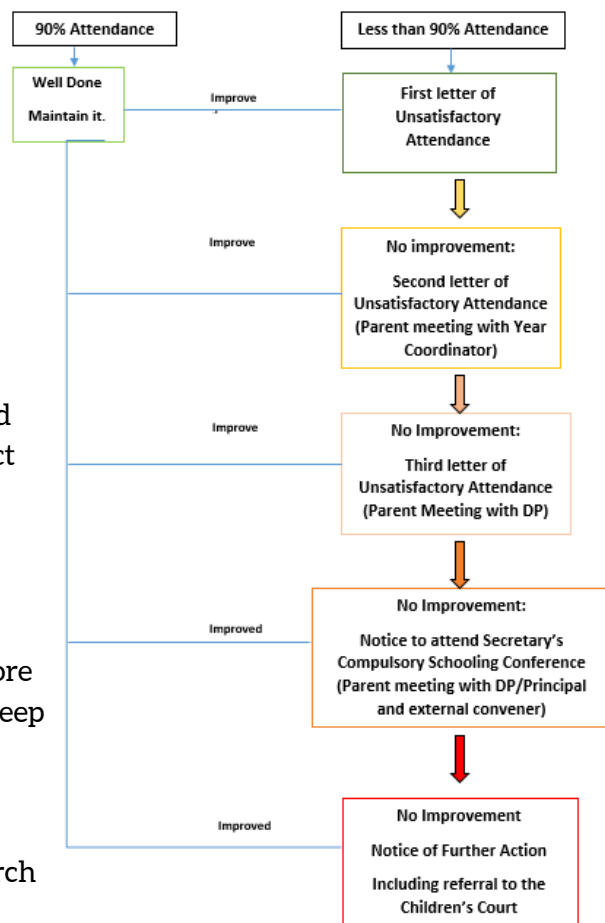
Students may have the phone on them before entering school grounds and after leaving school grounds. However, during school hours, the phone is to be turned off and locked away. Anyone seen with a mobile phone, the phone will be confiscated.

- 1st offence: mobile confiscated, given to the Admin office and picked up at the end of the day with a warning.
- 2nd offence: mobile phone confiscated and kept in the Admin office for 24 hours unless picked up by a parent.
- 3rd offence: mobile phone will not be permitted into the school and if brought to school, must be kept at the front office. Continual disobedience will result in harsher consequences.

Final Word

Our college is dedicated to educational excellence, encouraging students to go beyond their potential, providing them with opportunities to excel whilst catering to their well-being. We hope that you feel the welcoming presence of all in the community and that your journey with us fosters our school motto of Excellence, Christian Values and Commitment.

College Attendance Policy



Ms Mary Ismail
Deputy Principal (Pastoral Care)

FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL MRS M KHINA- CURRICULUM

Dear Parents, students and friends

Welcome back to the 2021 school year. We hope that you had a restful and refreshing break.

As this school year commences, I take the opportunity to reflect on the tough year that was 2020. The St Narsai College community displayed resilience, patience, and faith. Despite the restrictions and changes placed on us by the COVID 19 pandemic, the community continued to adapt and put in effort to progress with all their learning. We are grateful to you all for your continual support.

As the 2021 school year begins, we are hopeful that this year will be better in all areas, in particular, student progress.

HSC Results

The group that showed the most resilience and commitment to their studies was the Year 12 Class of 2020. They showed that through commitment to their studies will lead to desired results.

The College community celebrated with our highest performing students at a special morning tea on the day that results were released on 18th December 2020.

We are proud that 25 of our students received 'Distinguished Achievers' awards. Distinguished Achievers are students who have excelled in their HSC in various subjects, receiving a mark of 90 or above in the subject. Congratulations to the following students:

****For Mathematics Advanced****

Marina David

Symona Gabriel

Joshua Odicho

Eshtaarr Youkhana

(All the students above are

currently Year 12 students who

studied accelerated Maths and

completed their HSC in Maths a

year in advance)

****For Mathematics Ext 1****

Joshua Odicho

Eshtaarr Youkhana

(Accelerated Students, currently in Year 12)

****For Legal Studies****

Jessica Shahin

****For English Ext 1****

Alana Sellanes

****For Community and Family Studies****

Mary Iskhak

Elebra Khosho

Diana Moshey

Simone Yaco

****For Ancient History****

Diana Moshey

Jessica Shahin

****For PDHPE****

Elebra Khosho

Mariann Narsi

****For Music****

Chloe Younan

****For Society and Culture****

David Dankha,

Maral Keefork,

Mariann Narsi,

Alana Sellanes,

Jennifer Shahin,

Simone Yaco (High

Distinction for her PIP),

Angelina Youkhana,

Sivna Youkhataz

David Dankha was Dux of the College with an ATAR of 93.75

I take this opportunity to congratulate all the students on their achievements and wish them the best of luck with their post school destinations.

I also wish the current year 12 class the best of luck as they continue their HSC journey. Through dedication, effort and the support of the College staff and their families, they too will achieve their desired goals.

FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL CONT'D

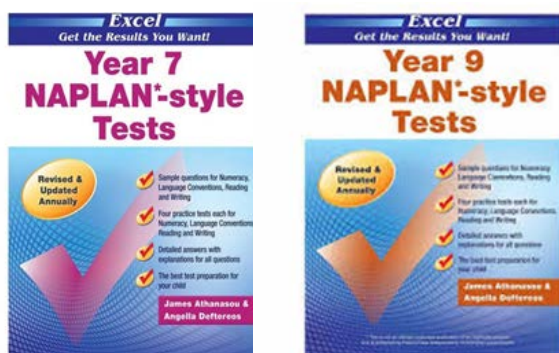
NAPLAN Tests

All Year 7 and 9 students will be sitting the 2021 NAPLAN online tests from 11th – 21st May. More details about the dates of each test will be sent to caregivers closer to the date. In preparation for these tests, students are encouraged to work on literacy and numeracy skills by reading widely and using online typing tests and websites such as www.exceltestzone.com.au.

The Naplan site www.nap.edu.au also has details on the tests, past test papers, and demonstrations that assist students with their preparations for the tests.

Teachers in Years 7 and 9 are also assisting students with strategies in class with a literacy and numeracy focus. This includes CARS and STARS in English and Numeracy Ninja in numeracy as well as others within other classes.

The Excel books may be useful to assist students with their preparation for the tests. These are available for purchase at Newsagencies, Big W, Dymocks or other department or book stores. They are also available online at exceltestzone.com.au.



Independence – I am responsible for my learning.

- I am organised and ready to learn
- I focus on the set task
- I am able to set personal goals
- I know what I am learning and why

Engagement – I am involved in my own learning.

- I participate in class discussions
- I complete all work to the best of my ability
- I take deliberate steps to improve my learning
- I am passionate and motivated to learn

Persistence – I always strive to achieve my best.

- I seek feedback and use it to improve
- I know that effort can lead to success
- I ask questions about my learning
- I know what I need to improve

Self-Regulation – I take charge of my own learning.

- I self-monitor my own progress
- I take risks in my learning
- I manage my time effectively
- I demonstrate my understanding by applying skills in multiple contexts

Innovation – I embrace creativity.

- I present my work in different forms
- I make proactive decisions with my learning
- I think of different ways of reaching a goal
- I am a problem solver



These posters are displayed in all classrooms reminding students of what makes an effective learner.

Student Progress

Teachers have already begun to collect data on student learning to monitor each learner's progress and to cater for individual learning needs. Students will shortly start to receive formal assessment tasks that will contribute towards the details that are reported in their Half Yearly Reports at the end of Term 2. If you would like to discuss your child's progress so far, please contact the College office via phone or email and they will arrange an appointment for you with the relevant Year Advisor or class teacher.

Mrs. Khina

Deputy Principal - Curriculum

Christian Studies Faculty

“Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit” Romans 15:13

Dear Parents/ Guardians and Students,

We are now three weeks into term one and in only a short amount of time the religious aspect at the College has been in full effect. This year the College introduced a new message to be embedded throughout all aspects of the College, The Year of Hope. The word ‘hope’ is so fitting considering the year we had last year, and we want to teach our learners when God has promised that something is going to happen and you put your trust in that promise that He will complete it. Through hope we pray that our learners develop the confidence in themselves and work passionately for the purpose God has given them.

These acts of spreading hope throughout the College community have been illustrated through the following events:

The Year of Hope PC lesson:

Throughout the week learners have been learning about what it means to have hope. Various discussions and group activities took place during their Pastoral Care (PC) lesson to give learners the tools needed to have hope, give joy and peace to those around them.



Christian Studies Faculty Cont'd

Year 7 Eucharistic Liturgical Service: On Wednesday 10/2/21 we invited year 7 learners and their families to a special Liturgical Service (Qurbana Qadisha) to welcome them to the St. Narsai community. This was a perfect way to begin our school year together as we ask our Lord to guide and protect our learners, as they embark on this new schooling chapter in their lives.



Morning Prayer Services:

To help instill and grow the faith of our learners, the College has developed a new initiative where each roll call class throughout the year will spend their Monday morning in the prayer room having a prayer service with the College Chaplain Rev. Father Shamuel. This is a great way to have learners praise the Lord as they start the week ahead of them.

The Great Fast:

This Sunday 14th of February 2021 the Great Fast for Easter will commence. This is one of the compulsory fasts in the Assyrian Church of the East. Every Monday morning for the next six weeks during roll call, there will be a prayer, reading or Bible verse read by our Student Leadership Team on the PA system. To help learners reflect and grow in their faith.

God bless you all,
Jessica Kako
Christian Studies Coordinator



English Faculty

It has been fabulous to have our learners back and the year has commenced with much energy and enthusiasm. As we start a new academic year, the main focus of the English faculty is reading.

Reading is a skill that most of us take for granted, yet is one that is essential for success in life. As expected, children who enjoy reading for pleasure develop good comprehensions skills, have a broader vocabulary, have positive reading attitudes, perform well in other learning areas (e.g. maths and problem solving) and continue to read as adults. Research also shows that they have increased empathy; increased awareness and knowledge of other cultures and current events; increased communication with their parents and caregivers; and are more engaged with their learning! As such, all our staff are committed to ensuring that all children become independent and fluent readers during their time at our college.

In 2021, the English faculty is introducing a number of reading initiatives focused on encouraging our learners to read for pleasure while also teaching the reading comprehension strategies our learners might be struggling to understand and apply.

Although teaching children to read is of course important, the involvement of parents and the home environment are vital in fostering a love of reading. Children are more likely to develop and maintain a positive attitude in homes where reading and books are valued. Having their own books and visiting public libraries are two factors which have been shown to contribute to this.

So, as parents, please partner with us to help your children become readers who read for pleasure. Encourage your children to read! Read to them and read with them. Model reading habits. For example, turn off the TV or your devices and sit down as a family with a book; visit your local library; chat at the dinner table about the books you are reading; give books as presents; and generally create a positive reading culture in your home.

Mrs Kurver
English Coordinator



Our Year 9 learners actively engaged in reading for pleasure

Science Faculty

Dear parents/guardians,

Welcome to the 2021 school year. The Science department is raring to go and looking forward to the amazing teaching and learning that will take place. We welcome our new Year 7 students to St Narsai! They have started the year on a positive note, learning about Science, its branches and applications, while enjoying some practicals such as investigating the Bunsen Burner. Teachers will concentrate on up-skilling students in their working scientifically skills in preparation for their first assessment task – a practical investigation. We wish our new students a wonderful year and pray they adjust seamlessly to life as a secondary student.

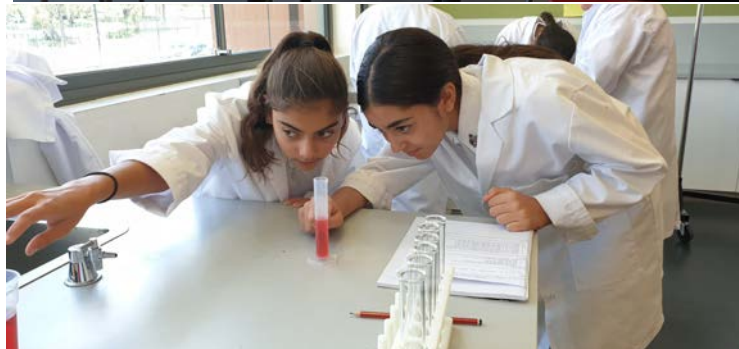
Year 8 Science has started their year with a unit titled Nature's factories. Students will be exposed to the workings of the human body, from the cell all the way to the organ. Year 9 students have started by engaging in a unit of Chemistry and the use of chemicals in the production of new materials. Year 10 has begun the year looking at the basics of life – DNA.

Year 11 students are officially seniors; with their new blue shirts they look very mature and ready to tackle the Sciences head on. We are excited about the motivation they have been displaying but remind them that the stage 6 Science courses can be challenging, and effort needs to be put in at home in order to keep up and meet the course outcomes. This also applies for our current Year 12 students. They are encouraged to make use of the afterschool classes provided to them to aid their understanding.

Finally, I encourage students to learn and love science by cultivating an attitude of curiosity. It is a new beginning, and they are in the hands of teachers who believe they can and will do well as we work together.

On a practical note, all Science students are required to have purchased a textbook and activity book as per the textbook list. Please ensure your son/daughter acquires the required texts as soon as possible, if they do not already.

Ms Ornilla Shamon
Head of Science



Attendance and punctuality:

Where does your child sit on the attendance ladder?



School success starts with attendance

If your child misses...	That's equals	Which is	And over 14 years of schooling	Which means the best your child might perform is...
1 day per fortnight	20 days per year	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1 ½ years	Equal to finishing ½ way through Year 11
1 day per week	40 days per year	8 weeks per year	Nearly 3 years	Equal to finishing in Year 10
2 days per week	80 days per year	16 weeks per year	Over 5 years	Equal to finishing in Year 7
3 days per week	120 days per year	24 weeks per year	Over 8 years	Equal to finishing in Year 4

How about 10 minutes late a day?

He/she is only missing just...	That equals	Which is...	Over 14 years of schooling that is...
10 mins per day	50 mins per week	Nearly 1 ½ weeks per year	Over ½ a year
20 mins per day	1hr 40 mins per week	Over 2.5 weeks per year	Nearly 1 year
30 mins per day	½ day per week	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1 ½ years
1 hour per day	1 days per week	8 weeks per year	Nearly 3 years