



# HARP OF THE SPIRIT

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

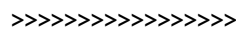
Dear Parents, Guardians and Friends,

Welcome back to term two and I pray you had a restful Easter. Term two is known for being a very busy time for everyone as students and teachers prepare for mid-year assessments and Semester One examinations by the end of the term. While students are supported well by their respective teachers during the day, they do also need to be supported at home by parents and family members to help them better prepare for the upcoming assessment period over the next few weeks, which can be a stressful period.

Most students will be sitting Half- Yearly examinations from week 7 and the results of these examinations will contribute to the writing of Semester One Reports at the conclusion of this term. Additionally, Years 7 and 9 students will be sitting online NAPLAN tests from next week, but they will also be sitting their Half-Yearly examinations after the NAPLAN period.

Half-Yearly examinations and NAPLAN schedules are provided within this newsletter and I take this opportunity to wish all our wonderful students the best as they prepare for these important Semester One assessments.

Year 11 Interim Reports and Year 12 Half- Yearly Reports were distributed last term during the Parent- Teacher interviews that many parents attended. The rest of the reports were distributed to students last week by respective Year Co-ordinators. I hope that parents will have time to examine and study their child's report.



Fairfield City Mayor, Cr. Frank Carbone was kind enough to be the guest of our Harp of the Spirit Podcast two weeks ago. Three of our Year 10 students interviewed Mayor Carbone and asked many questions about the great road safety initiatives undertaken by Fairfield City Council in support of its residents and road users.

I take this opportunity to thank Mayor Carbone for making himself available to our students and for his on-going support to the College. I also would like to thank our teachers, Miss. Kando and Mr. Esia for organising this event.



### A LOOK AT WHAT'S INSIDE THE ISSUE:

- Message from the Deputy Principal
- Christian Studies Faculty
- Science Faculty
- English Faculty
- Selective Stream
- College Events
- Note from the College



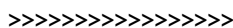
# HARP OF THE SPIRIT

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL CONT'D

The College celebrated our inaugural St Narsai Day last Thursday with a bang. Everything was impressive in the day, from the full participation of students to having many parents and alumni attending the day. Students enjoyed taking part in a variety of outdoor activities as well as a wide range of food offerings on the day.

We were very fortunate to have His Eminence Mar Meelis Zaia AM attending this very important event, where he witnessed students and families fully engaged in the many activities on the day. Students from the Selective Stream Class presented their projects to His Eminence in the library and discussed their progress to date.

I want to acknowledge here our amazing staff for their dedication and support throughout the day and for making the day a very successful and happy event for all.



Year 7 2022 enrolment interviews are now being finalised with few positions still available for 2022 school year. The Year 7 2023 (current Year 5 students) enrolment interviews will commence from Monday, 19th July 2021- week two of next term.

I ask that parents wishing to enrol their children at the College, urgently complete and submit their enrolment applications to our office staff for processing. Respective parents will be notified of interview times before end of this term.

As I conclude, I want to wish all our wonderful mothers a Happy Mother's Day on Sunday and may God keep you well and in good health.

Thank you,  
Edwar Dinkha



## FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL MRS M KHINA- CURRICULUM

Dear Parents, students and friends

This Sunday we celebrate Mothers and the important role they play in our lives. I would like to wish all the mothers of the St Narsai Community a Happy Mother's Day.



### NAPLAN Online 2021

Next week, all Year 7 and 9 students will be completing NAPLAN tests from Tuesday 11th May to Friday 21st May 2021. These online tests will provide helpful feedback on student's literacy and numeracy skills that are essential for all students to progress through school and beyond. These tests cover reading, writing, spelling, grammar and numeracy. Students are expected to be at school every day of the tests to ensure that they complete them on the designated day. A letter with the details of the tests was sent to all parents of Year 7 and 9 students last term and published in the previous newsletter. The NAPLAN tests timetable has been republished below.

Session 1: Periods 1-2	Session 2: Periods 3-4
<b>Tuesday 11/5/21 - Reading</b>	
7G, 7D and 7P	9D, 9G and 9M
<b>Wednesday 12/5/21 - Writing</b>	
7G, 7D and 7P	9D, 9G and 9M
<b>Thursday 13/5/21 - Writing</b>	
7D, 7M and 7S	9P, 9G, 9S
<b>Friday 14/5/21 - Reading</b>	
7M, 7S and 7D	9P, 9S and 9G
<b>Monday 17/5/21 - Conventions of Language</b>	
7G, 7P and 7D	9D, 9M and 9G
<b>Tuesday 18/5/21 - Conventions of Language</b>	
7M, 7S and 7D	9P, 9S and 9G
<b>Wednesday 19/5/21 - Numeracy</b>	
7G, 7P and 7D	9D, 9M and 9G
<b>Thursday 20/5/21 - Numeracy</b>	
7M, 7S and 7D	9P, 9S and 9G
<b>Friday 21/5/21 - Catch-up exams for students that were absent on the scheduled day(s)</b>	

## FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL CONT'D

### MRS M KHINA- CURRICULUM

As the tests are online, please ensure that your child brings their wired headphones or earphones with them. Please note that wireless headphones or earphones will not work. AirPods or Bluetooth devices will not be sufficient. Therefore, wired headphones or earphones (with 3.5mm plug) are needed for NAPLAN tests. You can purchase the wired earphones or headphones from supermarkets or department stores such as Kmart. Examples of them are in the images below.

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If you would like confirmation, please ask your child to see me or send me a message on Teams.



On-Ear Wired Headphones - Silver Look

Examples of suitable wired earphones or headphones



### Half Yearly Exams and Reports

Year 11 and 12 Parent Teacher interviews were held last term. Thank you to all parents and students that made the time to attend the interviews. They were a valuable opportunity for parents and teachers to discuss the child's progress and ways for improvement. Year 12 Half Yearly and Year 11 Interim reports were distributed. If you did not attend, the reports were sent home with your child last week. Please contact the College office if you have not received the report.

Years 7 - 10 Half Yearly Exams are scheduled to take place in the coming weeks as follows:

Half Yearly Exams for Years 8 and 10 - Week 7 (Tuesday 9th June - Thursday 11th June)

Half Yearly Exams for Years 7 and 9 - Week 8 (Monday 15th June - Thursday 18th June)

All students will receive assessment notifications with the details of each exam. Please discuss with your child the dates of their exams and work with them to have a study planner in place as they prepare for the exams in coming weeks.

Semester One Parent/Teacher interviews have been scheduled for Monday 12th July (SDD/ Pupil Free Day) from 11am-4pm. Students are not expected to be at school on this day unless with a parent/guardian for the interviews. More details will be sent out later this term.

Mrs. M. Khina  
Deputy Principal - Curriculum

## CHRISTIAN STUDIES FACULTY

**Praise the Lord! Praise the name of the Lord; Praise Him, O you servants of the Lord!**

Psalm 135:1

Dear Parents/ Guardians and Students,

I pray that you had a blessed Feast of the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. During this time, it is a reminder to us all that it is only through His triumph over death that we were able to gain a new life and have hope. It is this reminder that we try and instill in our learners; to always praise our Lord Jesus Christ and be His followers by spreading His Word.

These acts of praising our Lord have been evident in the College community throughout term one and early term two through:

### **Spiritual Day**

This term year eight and nine learners will be taking part in a spiritual day. The purpose of this day is to enable learners to live out the College's theme for this year, 'The Year of Hope'. Through this day learners will be able to strengthen and grow their faith and building positive relationships with their cohort. Learners will participate in a range of spiritual and team building activities as well as attending a sermon by College Chaplain, Reverend Father Shamuel.

### **St Narsai Day- Raza Qadisha**

On Thursday 29/4/21 the St Narsai community came together to partake in Raza Qadisha (Liturgical Service). This is the first time in over a year (due to COVID restrictions) that the College has been able to come together as a whole community to praise our Lord and give thanks to Him for protecting us during these difficult times.

### **Recess Prayer Services**

Not only has the College created the roll call morning prayer service initiative, to allow students to start their day by singing, reading, and praising the Work and Word of God; the College Chaplain Reverend Shamuel also runs prayer services every Monday and Friday at recess. Learners can go to the prayer room and spend time praying, writing a prayer, or asking Reverend Shamuel any spiritual questions they may have. It is the College's mission to help keep learners close to their faith and allow it to be convenient for them, that at anytime of the week they can take time out of their busy schooling schedule and retrieve in the comfort of the Lord's Home.

God bless you all,

Jessica Kako

Christian Studies Coordinator



## SCIENCE FACULTY

Dear parents/guardians,

This term promises to be a fruitful and an exciting one for Science. Firstly, we welcome Ms. Nimmi Varghese to the Science team, a passionate and enthusiastic teacher with industrial experience. Ms. Varghese replaces Ms. Anh Le. We thank Ms. Le for all her efforts and her commitment with the students. She will be missed!

Students across all grades have commenced their new units for the term and activities across have been organised catering for various year groups. As part of a depth study, Year 11 Biology students will travel to the North Narrabeen Rock Platform. They will study the ecosystem in a variety of ways including participating in sampling techniques in order to compare the species diversity.

Year 7 will be treated to an incursion, 'The Chemistry Show', in May. Students will be presented with engaging experiments and demonstrations that will explain how models, theories and laws have been refined as scientific evidence has become available. These concepts will also align with the NSW syllabus, further aiding their studies.

The Big Science Competition is being held in May and St. Narsai will be taking part in it. Every year, Australian Science Innovations organises the Big Science Competition for high-school students to participate in. The Big Science Competition is a 50-minute, multiple choice competition testing critical-thinking and problem-solving skills, not just factual recall. Questions are set in real-life, contemporary contexts, making them relatable and interesting. The competition provides a rewarding opportunity for students to extend themselves beyond school Science through a challenging exam. We encourage students across year 7-10 to sign-up. It is not too late to do so, with registrations closing the 7th of May. Students can speak to their teachers if they want to register.

We hope to see a growth in passion and excitement for Science across the school as we continue providing opportunities for students to extend themselves and see the work of Science around them.

Ms Ornilla Shamon  
Head of Science

big science competition

**FREE ENTRY**

**Take the challenge**

17-28 MAY 2021  
REGISTER YOURSELF NOW!  
[www.asi.edu.au](http://www.asi.edu.au)

What's stopping you?

Australian Science Innovations 35 Australian Education System 35th Anniversary

## ENGLISH FACULTY

Term 2 is always a very busy time of year. For Year 7 and 9 students, their term is made even busier with the annual NAPLAN online testing, taking place in Weeks 4 and 5. NAPLAN tests assess student knowledge and skills in writing, reading, language conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy. On its own, NAPLAN is not a test that can be studied for and students are not expected to do so. As a college, however, our teachers ensure students are familiar with the types of questions in the tests and provide appropriate support and guidance.

Within our English classrooms, our lessons are designed to build the literacy skills assessed in the NAPLAN test. Our focus for 2021 is to improve the reading comprehension abilities of our students. As such, all year 7 and 8 classes are starting the CARS & STARS program this term. This comprehensive reading program allows students to identify comprehension strategies to improve their understanding of written texts.

The strategies covered include;

- Finding Main Idea;
- Recalling Facts and Details;
- Understanding Sequence;
- Recognising Cause and Effect;
- Reading Pictures;
- Comparing and Contrasting;
- Making Predictions;
- Finding Word Meaning in Context;
- Drawing Conclusions and Making Inferences;
- Distinguishing Between Fact and Opinion;
- Identifying Authors Purpose;
- Interpreting Figurative Language; and
- Summarising.

The CARS testing supports the information we gain from NAPLAN results, allowing students and teachers to identify strengths and areas of improvement on an individual basis and therefore tailor content and approaches accordingly. Students who are reading for pleasure in their free time are also working towards building their reading skills.

You can support your child by encouraging them to read for pleasure at home. It is also important to reassure them that NAPLAN is just one part of their school program, and remind them on the day to simply do their best.

Amy Kurver  
English Coordinator

## SELECTIVE STREAM

During St Narsai day on Thursday 29th April, the Year 7 Selective Stream were given the opportunity to meet His Beatitude Mar Meelis AM and showcase some of their extension projects they had worked on during Term 1. These projects not only revealed the critical and creative skills of the Selective Stream students, but also demonstrated their engagement and passion for learning.

Students led H.B around the library, where they presented several activities and heard H.B recall his memories on exciting projects he had worked on during his early career.



### **English Showbag Showcase Project presented by Jonas Odicho:**

For English in Term 1, students were designated a novel of our choice to promote reading and build on comprehension and presentation skills. We read our individual books and designed different items such as posters, dioramas and even made food from the story. We undertook this project as book reviews were our main topic of learning during Term 1. The Selective Stream then had the opportunity to present our work in the library in front of fellow peers, parents, teachers and school leaders which was a very memorable and enjoyable experience.



## SELECTIVE STREAM CONT'D

**TAS Plane Project presented by Oniel Kamber:**

In the Selective Stream class we have been creating a 3D version of an airplane for TAS. This airplane is made from balsa wood and was our term long assignment for the class. This assignment was crucial as it taught us physical labour skills and gave us a sense of trust and responsibility when we were using the equipment. We also made our own airline which included brochures, tickets, advertisement and even our company's own logo and name which we individually designed. We were introduced to using Canva and developed our ICT skills throughout this project as well. We all had different and unique ideas for this assignment and I thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

**Christian Studies Creation Project presented by Sally Esttaifan:**

Last term for Christian Studies we learnt about God's creation of the world and the importance of each of the six days of creation. Each student chose a specific day of creation and showcased it as a diorama, representing features of creation such as Adam and Eve, the animals, the seasons, vegetation, etc.

**Geography Endangered Species Posters presented by Fiona Bizhn:**

For Geography last term, we were given an extension task that allowed us to research and create a poster on any endangered animal of our choice from around the world. We learnt about why species are becoming endangered and strategies to help endangered animals.

Overall, the Selective Stream have definitely pushed themselves and participated in numerous extension activities across the term. A massive congratulations to Fiona Bizhn who came first, and Arbella Warda who came second, in the Term 1 Selective Stream points system. The point system has now restarted for Term 2 and I am looking forward to seeing these students extend and challenge themselves across throughout the year.



Mrs R. Moshi  
Selective Stream Coordinator

# COLLEGE EVENT- ST. NARSAI DAY



NOTICES

St Narsai Assyrian Christian College

# 31 DAY READING CHALLENGE

## MAY 2021

Celebrate National Family Reading Month this May by reading together daily with your family on all 31 days!

**STAFF AND STUDENT PARTICIPANTS WILL RECEIVE HOUSE POINTS**

*At the completion of the challenge, each participating family will be entered in a draw to*

### WIN 1 OF 3 \$100 VOUCHERS

Sign up and receive your Reading Rocket Log in the library



Receive a FREE 20-page Family Guide to Books and their Genres e-magazine  
<http://scholastic.e-newsletter.com.au/signup>

St Narsai Assyrian Christian College

# 31 DAY READING CHALLENGE

## MAY 2021

**FAMILY NAME:**  
**PARTICIPANTS:**


- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

**PARENT SIGNATURE:**

**INITIAL A BOOK ON THE READING ROCKET TO LOG EACH DAY YOU READ IN MAY!**


**The College Library is open every morning from 7.50am and Every Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon until 4pm**

**Teachers are available in the library to assist students with homework and assessment tasks.**



**ST NARSAI ASSYRIAN CHRISTIAN COLLEGE**

Enrolling Now for 2022 & 2023



**WHY ST NARSAI?**

- We foster innovation and creativity within a Christian, caring and tailored-learning environment.
- Students recognised on the NESA Distinguished Achievers List & First in State.
- Offers a range of extra co-curriculum activities enhancing student's well-being, confidence and overall development.
- Academic scholarships available for 2022.
- Selective stream classes for incoming Year 7 students in 2022 and 2023.
- Achieving above state average results in HSC subjects and university entries.
- Free public transport from Prairiewood exclusive to St Narsai students.
- Affordable private buses servicing all suburbs.
- State-of-the-art technological facilities and an open-space learning environment.

Contact our friendly office staff to find out more.

[www.stnarsai.nsw.edu.au](http://www.stnarsai.nsw.edu.au)    [info@stnarsai.nsw.edu.au](mailto:info@stnarsai.nsw.edu.au)  
 (02) 8818 1300    [facebook.com/StNarsai](https://facebook.com/StNarsai)