



HARP OF THE SPIRIT

From the Principal

Edwar Dinkha



The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 1:14

Dear Parents, Students and Friends,

What a year 2021 has been! We did start the year as usual and then came the hard lockdown and the many public health challenges and unpredictable changes that affected all of us, especially our valued students.

But as I reflect now on this year, I can say that I have never been so proud of our students and staff as we overcame various obstacles during some very trying circumstances throughout the protracted COVID-19 lockdown and public health crises in 2021. Even though Year 12 students suffered the most, their resilience as a group enabled them to prepare for and complete their HSC examination without an incident or complication.

Despite all the challenges, the college introduced a Selective Stream class to cater for high achieving incoming Year 7 students. In 2022, this group will be the Year 8 Selective Stream class and a new Year 7 2022 Selective Stream class will be formed and will commence in February 2022. This is only one way to cater for highly academic students at the college. Many other opportunities and learning experiences were provided this year to students across all year levels to help students experience success and achievement.

Like last year, St. Narsai College expanded the use of remote learning software and information technologies to enhance students learning experiences and promote deep learning and learning outside the boundaries of the classroom. The college also expanded its co-curricular offering in 2021 to all students so every student could enjoy the area that he or she preferred.

All of this would not be possible without the tremendous contribution made by our dedicated and hardworking teaching staff as well as our support staff. I wish all college staff a Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year and restful summer break with their families.

End of Year Presentations

It is with regret that End of Year Presentations could not go-ahead last week as we had to make a swift decision to dismiss school earlier than usual this year in the interest of everyone's safety. We will endeavour to celebrate and acknowledge our students' 2021 school year achievements at the start of next year.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank and acknowledge our wonderful parents and families for their support throughout 2021 and congratulate them for their children's outstanding achievements across all areas this year.

Staff

A few 2021 staff have completed their temporary assignment at the College and will be moving on to other schools. These staff include Mrs. Grace Isaac and Mr. Samuel Zaky.

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Acknowledgement

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 2021.

To all our valued families, I wish you a blessed and peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year. I pray you have a pleasant and restful holiday and I look forward to working with you again in 2022

Thank you and God bless.



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From the Deputy Principal

Mary Khina, Curriculum

Dear Parents and Friends

With this being the last newsletter for 2021, I would like to thank you for your ongoing support in what has been another 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 2022 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.

Due to the ongoing community transmission of COVID 19 in the community we had to make some difficult decisions and cancel various events for the safety of our students and school community. It was unfortunate that we had to cancel our presentation assemblies last week. All awards have been printed and we will acknowledge all recipients when they return in 2022.

It was also unfortunate that the Year 6 transition day was cancelled. We were looking forward to seeing all our Year 7 2022 students and had planned some exiting activities for them. We hope that all students received and enjoyed their packs. If your child did not receive their transition day pack (either by mail or from the SHAPS teachers), please contact our school office and we will arrange for it to be mailed to you.

Years 7-10 End of Year reports will be emailed to all parents this week. If you have not received your child's digital report by Friday, please contact our office by email at info@stnarsai.nsw.edu.au

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 2022, all students have been given lists of books that they need to purchase. The lists are available on the cohort Teams pages. These are also available on the Endeavour Education Book store and College websites. To receive a discount and ensure that the books arrive in time before the commencement of the 2022 school year, purchases need to be made before 10th December 2021 through the Endeavour Education website <https://www.endeavoureducation.com.au/>

Office holiday hours

The School office will be open on Monday 24th and Tuesday 25th 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. Emails will be responded from the dates above.

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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 2021 and look forward to working with all parents and students in 2022.

2022 Term Dates

Term 1: Students in Years 7,11 and 12 return Friday 28/1/22 All students return Monday 31/1/22 Last day for students Friday 8th April	Term 2: Students return Tuesday 26th April Last day for students Thursday 30th June
Term 3: Students return Tuesday 19th July Last day for students Thursday 22nd September	Term 4: Students return Tuesday 11th October Last day for Students Friday 9th December

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From the HSIE Department

Sandy Nona, HSIE Coordinator

Dear family and friends of St Narsai Assyrian Christian College,

As we approach the end of the year, it is a great opportunity to reflect on what has been an unpredictable, busy and fruitful year for both staff and learners alike. Term 4 consisted of a variety of academic activities and initiatives to ensure active engagement for our learners and opportunities for them to achieve their personal best.

Year 7 History: Throughout Term 4 learners were provided opportunities to not only develop but also apply their understanding of historical skills through depth studies focusing on Ancient Greek and Chinese societies. This involved the study and analysis of written, archaeological and visual sources in order to form an understanding of how these ancient worlds developed over time.

Learners were able to utilise their understanding of these ancient civilisations and merge them through the use of ICT to create a visual representation of their understanding of significant individuals and where their power stems from. This understanding was displayed through multimodal formats utilising text and images such as the poster created.



Year 9 History:

Year 9 engaged in the depth study of World War II. Learners had the opportunity to expand their historical skills and apply them throughout various activities while learning and understanding the significance and events of the wars. Embedded within the activities were literacy skills which ensured learners were continuously developing and improving their writing skills. Through the analysis of sources, learners were able to form an empathetic understanding of the role of Australians at war. They were able to apply their knowledge and understanding of the significance of war through the commemoration of Remembrance Day. Learners engaged in a Remembrance Day activity and created their own souvenir to demonstrate the ways in which we commemorate the wars today.

Year 9 Commerce students learnt the ins and outs of the investing world. They have been taken through various investment options and been asked to make tactical decisions by building their own investment portfolios. Taking inspiration from like-minded business individuals on Shark Tank, students have witnessed a multitude of both successful and unsuccessful business investments, providing them with an in-depth understanding of the requirements of a profitable investment.

Lastly, I would like to congratulate Year 12 on completing their HSC exams. I have no doubt they will be successful in all their endeavours after school and their results will make the community proud. I would also like to take this opportunity to wish you all a blessed Feast of the Nativity and a prosperous new year. I look forward to writing to you all again in 2022, in what we hope will be another fruitful year with less hiccups we endured this year.



From the Assyrian Department

Yacoub Oraham, Assyrian Coordinator

This newsletter is special as students decided to reflect on their learning publicly to inform parents and community about the learning. Please find examples of students reflections:

This term in Assyrian, I have learnt about friends. In particular, I have learnt what the term 'true friends' really means through learning what true friends really do, how true friends should engage with me, why my friends are considered 'true' and how I can be a true friend to others. I have also expanded my knowledge regarding to my understanding of my own true friends through the speaking assessment allocated for my class to complete about a true friend of our choice. I have learnt new things about my friends' hobbies, likes, dislikes, family members, ages, interests, and so on. Throughout this term, my friends also had the chance to learn more about me, things that I enjoy, my family members/relatives, and other basic things about myself. I had also learnt that by being kind, respectful, loyal, trustworthy, and honest is how to be a true friend through a Christian perspective, and how the church expects us to behave as friends and sisters of Jesus Christ. Overall, this term I had learnt what a true friend is and how I can be a true friend.

Fiona Bizhn – Year 7



This past year in Assyrian Class, I was not only able to learn the Assyrian language, but I was also able to apply different scenarios to my studies, which helped me understand the concept of the Assyrian Language in the real world.

During the first semester, throughout Term 1, I learned about the various types of meals we eat throughout the day, the traditions we Assyrians follow before, during, and after meals, and the various types of properties each meal has (for example; the types of foods we eat, the types of cutlery provided for each meal etc.). Throughout Term 2, I learned about Restaurants, the different types of cuisines that different places offer, as well as holidays and events that we spend with our families in a Restaurant. This topic allowed me to assess my speaking abilities because I had to perform a play about going to a restaurant.

Our bodies had been the focus of Semester 2. Term 3 was about Health, and it taught us about our various types of body parts, including their functions and how the body parts and systems work together, as well as the various illnesses and diseases we can get. Because the assignment task was to write a paragraph about one body system in Assyrian, this term helped me improve my writing and vocabulary skills. During Term 4, I learned about the significance and various categories of sport. This unit taught me about teamwork, competition, and how sports can benefit our health. This topic encouraged me to improve my vocabulary skills because the exam required me to correct spelling and grammar errors in words related to sports.

Overall, I will be eternally grateful for the opportunity to learn about my language while also broadening my knowledge and perspective on the real world. Our language, hopefully, will be preserved for future generations as a result of this ongoing education.

Michal Dinkha – Year 8

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This year in Assyrian we learnt about many things, one of them being travelling. We learnt about travelling to Europe, the Middle East, America and Canada. We learnt a lot of vocabulary about travelling like the Assyrian words for, Travel, Different places and towns in different countries, Cities, Countries and more. We also learnt a lot about memories and how they affect us and our emotions, and we also learnt the vocabulary relating to memories such as Future, Reminisce, Love, Bitter, Friends, Past etc. We focused on family as well this year and how our family relations are important for our everyday lives because our families are always there to help us and we help them, we also learnt all the words for addressing relatives like Auntie, Uncle, Grandpa, Grandma, Cousin and a lot more. Overall, this year has been fun and educational even though it was affected by Covid-19, and we spent most of the year in lockdown, but we gained education through classroom lessons and online learning lessons too.

Giwargis Oraham – Year 9

Studying Assyrian from years 7-10 was a positive and important aspect of my schooling education as it allowed me to realize the effectiveness of understanding my language as well as enhanced my ability to read and write, which is an important aspect of being Assyrian. In saying this, studying Assyrian has taught me how our language can connect to a variety of aspects in our life such as our community, family, food, and our aspirations. It has also allowed me to utilize my language in a common manner and appreciate

the origins of the language of Christ. Furthermore, throughout the years, Assyrian has also taught and encouraged myself and my peers to incorporate more of the language in our daily lives, whether through reading, writing, or speaking, which has enhanced my ability to speak fluently and connect to my cultural identity.

Moreover, as a young Assyrian living in Australia, Studying Assyrian as a subject enabled me to interpret a fair share between both the Assyrian language and the English language. Whilst maintaining the Assyrian culture in Australia is not immensely difficult, the differentiation between the two allowed me to appreciate my language, culture, and traditions, which are an important aspect of my life. Hence why, Assyrian has shaped my identity in a positive manner as it provided myself and my peers with an opportunity to utilize our language whilst also understand different dialects and cultural traditions which are completely different to that of the country we live in. Moreover, the uniqueness of the Assyrian language has also impacted and shaped my personal identity as it enabled me to express my identity throughout my schooling life where we presented speeches in Assyrian, participated in Assyrian group work, and were given assessment tasks to research and write in Assyrian.

Meera Butrus – Year 10

Personally, I was very happy with our students writing skills to reflect on their learning. May God bless them and bless our whole community as it is Christmas time and the end of this school year.

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From the CAPA Department

Mary Khina, Assyrian Coordinator

This term Visual Arts and Music students were busy completing projects and final assessments. I acknowledge the work of our teachers Mr Rossman, Mr Nasello and Miss Dankha on the way that they adapted the practical lessons in a COVID safe way. With the limitations placed for COVID safety, teachers were creative to ensure students had the opportunity to complete practical work in a safe manner.

Music

Year 7 Music developed an understanding of the fundamentals of rock music by researching and creating websites. Students selected a rock artist of their own to investigate. Using ICT integration students were able to develop wonderful websites which represented the history, albums, awards and successes of these artists. Their impressive ICT skills and dedication to the task saw these students achieve successful results.

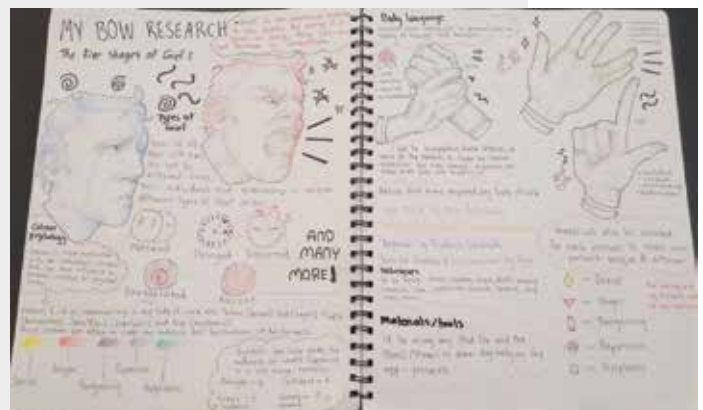


Visual Arts

Students continued working on their Body of Works, website design and origami creations.



The juniors this year were introduced to Visual Arts in the high school context. They were taught the elements of art, design principles, and drawing still life in pencil, as seen here. Students observed the objects and paid attention to proportion, surface and the overlapping of shapes and lines.



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Year 8 students in 2021 were faced with many obstacles due to COVID, but that didn't stop determined students like Narseen Goria, who produced photographs and designed a website that could not be faulted and received excellent results for her effort.

The CAPA faculty were resilient in any setbacks faced during COVID restrictions; together, the staff found alternative practices that students could still achieve safely and creatively to ensure they still received the joy of Visual Arts. The origamis made here are examples of the student's exploration and appreciation of cultures, specifically the Japanese culture.



College Counsellor

Berta Rasho



Dear Parents/Carers,

As the year and term comes to an end, I've observed that other than issues with anxiety, students have been approaching me with a lot of self-confidence, body image and self-esteem concerns.

In addition to the strategies I've suggested to students, I have gathered some beneficial information from reachout.com.au which will also help you, assist your child improve their self-confidence.

Why is self-confidence important for teenagers?

Your child's self confidence is directly linked to their self-esteem, which helps them feel good about themselves and make's them feel like they're valuable. However, having high self-esteem doesn't necessarily mean that you are always confident. It is estimated that up to half of adolescents will struggle with their confidence levels during their early teenage years so it is essential they have support from their family.

What does positive self-confidence look like?

- Good posture
- A relaxed walk
- Alert eyes
- Openness to criticism and feedback
- A curiosity about new ideas
- Refusal to get upset when things go differently than planned

What are the signs of low confidence?
Somethings to look out for in your child

- Awkwardness in accepting praise
- Unconfident body language, such as walking with their head down, no eye contact
- Avoidance of social situations and negativity about others
- Not joining in activities
- Holding back in class
- Being shy or timid
- Gives in easily to peer influence
- An expectation that they will fail when trying things, or not trying when things get difficult.

Some useful strategies you can try to help:

- Discuss the difficulties they're facing.
- Encourage your child to focus on their strengths, rather than their weaknesses. Recognize your child's strengths and acknowledge them when being used.
- Remind your child that their worth is not based on their appearance or achievements.
- Remember to praise your child for their accomplishments and effort, even if they fail to reach the desired results.
- Encourage them to always be proud of themselves and keep trying – explain that its okay to fail and everyone makes mistakes but shouldn't give up.
- Discuss personal experiences you may have faced which were difficult for you and you also needed confidence to get through.

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In addition to helping your child build their self-esteem, the upcoming school holidays are a perfect opportunity to support your child to enhance and maintain their well-being. This can be done by encouraging and engaging with them in various activities to minimize the time they may be spending on their phones and/or in their rooms.

Some activities may include:

- Creating a schedule/plan of activities together
- Letting them organize a day out with the family
- having a movie night
- going for a picnic
- encouraging regular daily exercise like going for a bush walk as a family
- activities with extended family
- one on one time with their siblings
- arts and crafts activities to help with relaxation and mindfulness
- gardening e.g creating a veggie patch

If you notice things do get overwhelming for them during the school holidays, encourage them to take a Mindful BREAK whenever they need





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SNACC LEARNING HUB

St Narsai Assyrian Christian College Library News

THE PERFECT GIFT

It doesn't cost a cent,
it doesn't cost a dime,
all you need for this gift,
is a little bit of time.

It's like no other gift,
that wastes away with use,
it simply gets better and better,
with not a thing to lose!

The perfect gift this Christmas,
is not of silver or gold,
but the precious gift of READING,
for loved ones young and old.

Whatever your interests are,
there's a perfect book for you.

Even if they're bizarre,
like sculptures made of glue!

Enjoy this festive season
and have a mental break,
read a book on dragon kings,
or a recipe for a cake!

TAKE A LOOK AT
THIS WEEK'S ISSUE:

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"Books are the quietest and most constant of friends; they are the most accessible and wisest of counselors, and the most patient of teachers."

CHARLES W. ELIOT

OVERDUE LOANS

There are a number of overdue loans yet to be returned to the library. Please ensure any borrowed books are returned as soon as possible. Year 12 students and students who are leaving SNACC this year, please return any borrowed items to the front office as soon as possible. Notices have been sent via email of overdue items. These must be returned by Week 1 of Term 1 2022.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Wishing you, your families and loved ones a very safe and blessed holiday season!

Merry Christmas and a Wonderful 2022!

- SNACC Learning Hub

For further information or support or to provide ideas and feedback, please contact us at library@stnarsai.nsw.edu.au