



# HARP OF THE SPIRIT

## From the Principal

Edwar Dinkha

Dear Parents, Guardians and Friends,

Happy Mother's Day to all our wonderful mothers and may God keep you well and in good health.

A big welcome back to term two and I pray you have had a restful Easter break with your families.

As we finish week three of this very busy term, I wish to remind all students that many assessments will take place in the next few weeks and the results of these assessment will be included in the Semester One Reports that will be issued by the end of this term. Most students will be sitting Half- Yearly examinations from week 7.

To this end, it is crucial that students organise themselves, complete assigned tasks, assignments and prepare for tests across certain subjects as required by their teachers.

While students are supported well by their respective teachers during the day, they also need to be supported at home by parents and family members at this time to help them better prepare for the upcoming assessment period over the next few weeks, which can be a stressful period.

Additionally, Years 7 and 9 students started their online NAPLAN tests earlier this week and they will also be sitting their Half-Yearly examinations after the NAPLAN period. We wish all Years 7 and 9 students good luck with their NAPLAN tests.

I also take this opportunity to wish all students the best as they prepare for the forthcoming Half-examinations later in this term.

### **His Holiness Mar Awa III Royal college visit**

The college is preparing for a special visit by His Holiness Mar Awa III Royal, Catholicos Patriarch of the Holy Apostolic Catholic Assyrian Church of the East in week 5. His Holiness will be accompanied by His Eminence Mar Meelis Zaia AM, His Grace Mar Abris Youkhana, His Grace Mar Benyamin Elya as well as other special guests.

We are very excited to welcome his Holiness and the Prelates to the college and I pray that this will be a very successful and pleasant day for everyone as we receive blessings from His Holiness, Mar Awa III Royal on the special day.

### **St Narsai Day**

The College celebrated its second annual St Narsai Day last Thursday with a bang. We started the day appropriately with a college Mass conducted by our Chaplain, Fr. Shamuel. The festival started after the Mass and everything was impressive on the day, from the full participation of students to having many parents and alumni attending the day. Students enjoyed taking part in an extensive array of outdoor activities as well as enjoying a wide range of food offerings on the day. For the first time, SHAPS Year 6 students and staff attended this event, and it was fantastic to see them having lots of fun as they took turns on the many entertaining activities available on the day.

I want to acknowledge our amazing staff for their dedication and support throughout the day and for making the day a very successful and happy event for all. In particular, I want to thank Miss. Yousif for co-ordinating this project in 2022.

ISSUE 1 | TERM 2

*In this issue*

Deputy Principal

KLA Report  
Christian Studies

KLA Report  
English

KLA Report  
Science

# HARP OF THE SPIRIT

## Year 7 2023 and Year 7 2024 Enrolments

Year 7 2023 enrolment interviews are now being finalised with a number of places still available for 2023 school year. The Year 7 2024 (current Year 5 students) enrolment interviews will commence from Tuesday, 19th July 2022- week one of term 3.

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 the end of this term.

*Images from St Narsai Day*



## From the Deputy Principal (Pastoral Care)

Mary Ismail

Term 2 is an important time in the school year for all high school students with a major focus on Semester 1 assessment and reporting. Throughout the term, especially in the upcoming weeks, students will be sitting assessments, teachers will be finalising assessment results and completing student reports. I would like to remind students to consistently work to achieve their personal best both in class and at home in order for the report for the end of Semester One to truly reflect your capabilities.

### Help @ Home

I would like to inform you of Parent Line a website to help parents support their children through various adolescent issues. The link provided takes you to 'help with older kids' however there is support for parents with children of all ages.

Exam stress can be really challenging, not only for kids but those who live with them!

To support your child, first help them identify the difference between PRESSURE and STRESS.

Pressure can be challenging, but it is a motivator and positive

Stress is negative reaction to pressure and will often impact upon a student's performance.

Some causes of exam stress are:

- Fear of 'failure'
- Pessimism and thinking the worst
- Unrealistic expectations
- Feeling unprepared
- Performance anxiety

One of the challenges as a parent is that exams are something your child has to do on their own. But you can support them by trying the following:

- Provide a quiet space for them to study and prepare
- Encourage good sleep patterns and eating habits
- Have realistic expectations and don't push them too hard
- Help them be on time for the exam or arrive early
- Study breaks are important – go for a walk, listen to music
- Encourage them to communicate with their teachers, ask questions, clarify topics
- Have visible bible passages, posters or quotes to motivate and encourage them
- Be constructive and positive
- After the exam, listen to their concerns and avoid criticising them
- Encourage them to see the counsellor or Year Coordinator if they feel overwhelmed



# HARP OF THE SPIRIT

## PUPIL FREE DAY

Mindul Monday 30th May 2022 - a day to promote positive staff and student mental health.

Parents can play a vital role in helping teens succeed in school by being informed and lending a little support and guidance. Even though teens are seeking independence, parental involvement is an important ingredient for academic success.

Support is always available at the College. Please contact the Year Coordinator, Counsellor, Chaplain or any staff if your child seeks supports academically, spiritually, or in a well-being capacity.

### Respecting our College Neighbours

The College has been informed of some damage caused to the property of the neighbouring houses that align the street. Damage includes grass being uplifted and littering. We kindly ask the College community to respect our neighbours and their property. Please do not dispose of rubbish (take-away food packaging, babywipes, tissues etc) onto school and neighbouring grounds and avoid parking on their land.

Please be careful of any bogs (wet, muddy patches) and any sharp objects that maybe on the side of the road.

### Keys2drive Program

The Keys2drive program is a joint initiative of the Australian Government and the Australian Automobile Association (AAA).

It offers a no-cost, one-hour lesson for learner drivers and their parent, carer or supervisor. The lesson aims to support novice drivers to build a strong foundation for safe driving.

A fact sheet is available and further information can be found on the Keys2drive website.

Finally, a reminder of the College Winter Uniform for Terms 2 and 3

Thank you to families that have assisted the College in having students wear their correct full winter uniform. As a reminder;

- All students are to wear the College blazer to and from the College.
- The College jumper is to be worn underneath the blazer and not to replace the blazer
- A white undergarment is permitted as an extra layer of warmth under a jumper/blazer/sports jacket and therefore should not be visible as part of the uniform. Black undergarments are not permitted.
- Female students are to be wearing grey stockings, socks are not permitted except for sport in which they must be ankle high not invisible. Stockings may be purchased at the School Locker (the school uniform supplier), Lowes, Best and Less or Big W
- No students are to wear their College tracksuit top under or in place of the College blazer.
- Beanies and Hoodies are not permitted.

Continual non-compliance with the uniform policy will result in an afternoon detention and eventually a parent interview. Therefore, if we could again encourage all families to assist the College maintain the highest standards of uniform and grooming as we move through the colder months of the year.





# HARP OF THE SPIRIT

## From the Deputy Principal (Curriculum)

Mary Khina

### **NAPLAN Online 2022**

Last week, all Year 7 and 9 students commenced NAPLAN tests which are due to conclude on Friday 20th May 2022. These online tests will provide helpful feedback on student's progress in academic skills that are essential for all students to progress through school and beyond such as 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 required 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.

If your child was absent on the day one of their tests was scheduled last week, they will be completing a catch-up test in one of the other scheduled sessions this week.

### **Bring Your Own Device**

All students are reminded to bring their devices to all classes every day. Teachers are preparing lessons requiring the use of student laptops. Students should have their laptop with a charged battery with them ready to complete the ICT activities.

### **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.

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



### **COLLEGE LIBRARY**

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.

# HARP OF THE SPIRIT

## From the Christian Studies Department

Jessica Kako, Christian Studies Coordinator

*"And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him" - Colossians 3:17*

Dear St. Narsai Parents/ Guardians and students,

I welcome you back to term 2; a term where both staff and students have already started their work of spreading the name of our Lord both in the school and wider community. As stated in Colossians 3:17, all that we do whether through words or deeds needs to be done in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ and in the past two weeks we have given thanks during our St. Narsai Day Liturgical Service as well as through our deeds by visiting the St. Mary's Retirement Village for Mother's Day.

### St Narsai Day- Liturgical Service

On Thursday 5th of May, the school community gathered to commemorate our college patron saint, St. Narsai. The day started with a Liturgical Service, celebrated by college chaplain Reverend Father Shamuel who spoke about the importance of following in the footsteps of our patron saint who dedicated his life on spreading the name of Christ through his teaching and writings. We pray that our students reflect both Christ and St. Narsai's life through their schoolwork and actions.

### St. Mary's Retirement Village- Mother's Day

To help celebrate Mother's Day, on Friday 13th of May, our Christian Representative Council visited the mothers of the St. Mary's Retirement Village. They spent this time helping spread the love of our Lord Jesus Christ with prayers, poems, handing out of gifts and having one on one discussions with the mothers. We give thanks to all the women that have helped shape the Assyrian Christian community.



# HARP OF THE SPIRIT

## Patriarchal Visit

It was with great honour and excitement that we announce that the Catholicos Patriarch of the Assyrian Church of the East, His Holiness Mar Awa III Royel will be visiting the college on the Tuesday 24th of May. The college has already begun its preparations for the day, ready to showcase its state-of-the-art faculties as well as the outstanding work our students have been up to this year.

## Upcoming Events

Term 2			
Week	Date	Initiative	Year group involved
3	Every Monday	Morning Roll Call Prayer Service with Rev. Father Shamuel	Year 9 and 10
5	Tuesday 24/5	His Holiness' Visit	Whole School
	Thursday 26/5	Feast of the Ascension- Prayer Service	Whole School
	Saturday 28/5	Theological Symposium at Western Sydney University	Student Leadership Team
7	Monday 6/6	Feast of the Pentecost- Prayer Service	Whole School
10	Tuesday 28/6	Whole School Liturgical Service (Raza Qadisha)	Whole school

# HARP OF THE SPIRIT

## From the English Department

Amy Kurver, English Coordinator

Term 1 was a positive beginning to the year for our English students. The Year 7 selective stream worked exceptionally hard on designing and creating their 'Novel Showbag': a creative showcase of their independent learning on a novel of their own choosing.

Under the guidance of their supportive teacher, Miss Matti, Year 7 produced highly engaging novel displays, creating posters, book reviews and other promotional material to demonstrate their creativity and passion for reading.

It was also lovely to welcome parents back to the college to celebrate the extensive effort of our Year 7 students. We are all immensely proud of what the selective stream class has achieved and we can't wait to see how their passion for reading continues to grow.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to congratulate Year 11 on a productive and conscientious start to their Preliminary English studies.

As a faculty, we have been greatly impressed with the dedication to learning displayed by all students in Advanced, Standard, Extension 1 and EAL/D English. As senior students of the college, they are setting a fine example of the commitment, Christian values and excellence that form our college motto.

Term 2 will be a busy term for Year 11 English students. Each course has a multimodal assessment, where students will be assessed not only on their writing ability but also their speaking and representing skills.

As with all assessments, it is important they start early and make use of the writing process to plan, organise, draft and edit their presentations well before the due date. Ensuring you submit a completed checkpoint will also assist in receiving the most comprehensive and helpful feedback from your teacher. We are looking forward to your presentations, Year 11!





# HARP OF THE SPIRIT

## From the Science Department

Ornilla Shamou, Science Coordinator

### What's happening in Science

This term promises to be a fruitful and an exciting one for Science. 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 have been developing their working scientific skills by conducting experiments they have designed on the study of factors that affect enzyme activity.

Later in the term, year 7 will be treated to an incursion, 'The Chemistry Show'. 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. Year 8 students have been completing their unit on body systems, this has included dissections of hearts and frogs. The dissections have assisted students in learning about the internal structure and the interrelation of tissues and organs.

The ICAS Science Assessment is being held later in the term. St. Narsai will be taking part in it. Every year, ICAS organises online assessments designed to recognize and reward academic excellence for high-school students to participate in.

The assessment is an hour, 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 when the opportunity arises

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.

### St Hurmizd Visit

Late last term, we were fortunate enough to have our future scientists from our sister school, St. Hurmizd, join us for a day as a St. Narsai student. Students were able to experience Science in all its glory, led by Mr. Brian Parker.

Experiments were based on the notion of combustion and exothermic reactions. Students received their Bunsen burner licenses, burned magnesium, investigated flour explosions and witnessed propane bubbles.

Their excitement and enthusiasm was evident and we look forward to seeing them as St. Narsai students in the near future!

