



From the Principal

Edwar Dinkha



Dear Parents, Students, and Friends of the College,

It is with much pleasure that I welcome you, our existing families back to St. Narsai College. I also extend a very warm welcome to the new families and students from Year 7 and from other years who have joined our college community this year. I pray you and your families have had a wonderful start to 2023.

Congratulations to our graduating Year 12 2022 students for completing the High School Certificate last year and for some outstanding HSC results.

We also extend our appreciation to the parents and families of the Class of 2022 for supporting their children throughout their studies over the last six years at the college.

Together in Christ

As we start another school year, I pray that all our students experience and enjoy success and make consistent and tangible progress towards their personal learning goals in 2023 and beyond.

This year's college spiritual theme 'Together in Christ' is inspired by Matthew 18:20 "For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them". This theme reminds us that as a Christian community we need to work closely together and live our Christian faith every day. In this way we can only become better people, students and staff as we put Christ at the center of our lives, both inside and outside the school.

What seems to be dots on the Cross (above) are students' thumb prints collected last year and they represent the student body coming together in Christ.

I would like to thank the Christian Studies Department for this effort in electing this fitting theme for 2023, in particular, I wish to thank Miss. Kako and College Chaplain, Fr. Shamuel for their leadership.

2023 Student Opportunities

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 few addresses to students during last week's college assemblies, I emphasised that the college would provide many opportunities to all students to succeed and achieve as we start a new year, and that success is contingent on individual students taking responsibility for their learning.

2023 Student Challenges

It is only normal to expect that some students will face many and varying challenges that can overwhelm them if they are not supported.

However, it is pleasing to report that we continue to maintain a strong focus and genuine interest on students' welfare and wellbeing, and we are keen to work with our parents to ensure that all students receive our targeted support as needed throughout 2023.

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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 remind all parents that they play an important role in supporting their children during their study time at home every day of the week, irrespective if they had set homework or not.

ACS School Improvement Plan 2023-2025

In 2023, college staff will be working on implementing the new ACS School Improvement Plan 2023-2025. This Assyrian Christian Schools (ACS) three-year plan uses five relevant Pillars as a guide to cover all its components as follows:

The following Pillars have been identified by the ACS Board and Senior Executive as critical to the success of the organisation:

1. Faith and Heritage
2. Student and Staff Wellbeing
3. Quality Teaching and Learning
4. Community Engagement
5. Operations and Infrastructure

KLA teams will use newly developed 2023 Faculty Improvement Plans and Pastoral Care teams will use their new 2023 Cohort Improvement Plans to address relevant elements from the five Pillars mentioned above.

Welcome Back

Finally, as we start this new school year, I wish to welcome back Mrs. Tatian from her maternity leave.

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From the Deputy Principal (Curriculum)

Mary Khina

Dear Parents, students and friends

Welcome back to the 2023 school year. We hope that you had a restful and refreshing break. A particular welcome to the new students and their families who join the St Narsai community this year.

It has been wonderful to see our students return back into the classrooms eager to learn and progress even further this year. I am looking forward to working with all students and teachers as we embark on the 2023 schooling year.

HSC Results

Congratulations to all our class of 2022 students. They have achieved some great results.

We are particularly proud of the 60% of students that received an early offer to university prior to completing the HSC exams and 90% receiving a university offer before their ATAR result was released.

Thank you also to their teachers for their dedication and persistence during the most challenging year. We also extend our appreciation to the families of the Class of 2022 for supporting their children throughout their studies.

We are proud to share with you the following highlights.

College Dux and Top ATAR: Rachel Tooma with an ATAR of 92.45

Rachel received a Band 6 in the following subjects:

Community and Family Studies

Society and Culture

Distinguished Achievers

7 of our students were in the Distinguished Achievers list, receiving a mark of 90 or higher in one or more of the courses studied.

Student	Band 6 or equivalent achieved
Lucas Guirguis	Society and Culture
Gabriella Isaac	Society and Culture
Shana Mikhael	Society and Culture
Evelyn Toma	Community and Family Studies Society and Culture
Rachel Tooma	Community and Family Studies Society and Culture
Bratel Youkhana	Society and Culture
Mariam Yousef	Community and Family Studies

NAPLAN Tests

All Year 7 and 9 students will be sitting the 2023 NAPLAN online tests from 15th – 27th March. More details about the dates of each test will be sent to caregivers next week. In preparation for these tests, all students have been given access to Mathletics, Maths Online and Lexia programs.

Please encourage your child to logon to these programs daily and complete the tasks set by their teachers. Teachers will be monitoring student completion and progress of the set tasks.

Students are also encouraged to work on improving their 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.

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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.



ICT and Bring your own device (BYOD)

Students are required to bring their devices to all lessons every day. These need to be fully charged.

Students can charge their laptops in the library charging station during break time as needed. Students in Years 7-9 are also required to bring their earphones as they will be working on literacy and numeracy programs that require sound.

Please encourage your child to bring their device to school everyday.

Learner Dispositions

As we commence 2023, students are reminded of the expectations of an effective learner at St Narsai. Please discuss with your child how they have demonstrated these characteristics throughout their day at the College.

At SNACC, an effective learner demonstrates:

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

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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

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 Co-ordinator or class teacher.



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

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From the Deputy Principal (Wellbeing)

Mary Ismail

Dear Parents/Carers and Students

Welcome back to the start of the 2023 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.

I especially would like to thank you for your patience and understanding regarding the challenges in purchasing the correct uniform via our provider the School Locker.

We share and understand your concerns and endeavour to find a positive solution as soon as possible.

COMMUNICATION

The College regularly communicates with parents/carers via emails and SMS. It is extremely important that you ensure your **details are up to date** in our system so that you do not miss important information and to ensure the College is able to contact relevant family members, including emergency contacts, when required.

If any of your details have changed, or you are unsure of the details we have, please call the College on 88181300 or email info@stnarsai.nsw.edu.au with the new details and include the name of your child/children.

Details include: phone numbers, email address, home address, the names of contacts, emergency contacts and medical needs.

Conditions of enrolment and Parent Code of Conduct

A reminder to the College community, to know and understand the Conditions of Enrolment to St Narsai Assyrian Christian College and the Parent Code of Conduct. If you are not familiar with both of these documents, they can be found further on the college website under Parent Code of Conduct and on the enrolment form.

eSafety's 2023 parent and carer webinar schedule

A whole-school approach to online safety education includes support for parents. eSafety parent webinars help by giving you the knowledge, skills and tools to support your child to have safe experiences online.

This year, the eSafety Commission offering bite-sized 30-minute webinars for secondary school parents. For more information please visit:

<https://www.esafety.gov.au/parents>

Please view the eSafety webinar schedule included in this newsletter for the topics being presented this year.

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YEAR 7 AND 10 IMMUNISATION SCHEDULE 2023

This week parents/carers of Year 7 and 10 students received information via email and SMS regarding Year 7 and 10 vaccinations in 2023. There is a new online process to register your child. Please contact the school if you have not received this information.

Year 7 Vaccinations: 9th March 2023 and 11th September 2023

Year 10 Vaccinations: 23rd August 2023

ROADSAFE

Please see the message from Fairfield Police regarding road safety around schools. The flyer is included in this newsletter.

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 Public 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

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 clicking the link:

<https://apps.transport.nsw.gov.au/ssts/#/applyNow> and following the instructions. Ensure to keep a record of your application number (N or UN number).

Attendance

At SNACC everyday counts!

Students are required to have a minimum of 95% 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 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 \$20 from the College office.

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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).

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. Please refer to page of the student diary for more information.

Students are not to use their phones for canteen purchases. Therefore please provide an alternate method of payment for your child to use.

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.

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With your help, a safer community.

DRIVING OFFENCES IN SCHOOL ZONES

Disobey 'No Parking' Sign



Fine =
\$201*
& Lose 2 Points

'KISS & DROP' ZONE

ONLY stop to drop off or pick up
Stay within **3 metres** of your car
Stay less than **2 minutes**



Section 168 Road Rules 2014

Disobey 'No Stopping' Sign



Fine =
\$362*
& Lose 2 Points

DO NOT STOP for ANY reason



Section 167 Road Rules 2014

Child or Passenger Not Restrained

Fine =
\$362*
& Lose 3 Points



Sections 265, 266, 267 Road Rules 2014

Driver Uses Mobile Phone When Not Allowed by Law

Fine =
\$481*
& Lose 5 Points



Section 300 Road Rules 2014

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For more information see: **Road Rules 2014** <http://www.rms.nsw.gov.au/roads/safety-rules/road-rules/index.html>
*Fines are current as of January 2023. Fine amounts change regularly.

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Parent and carer webinar schedule

2023

eSafety's free webinars provide parents and carers with the knowledge, skills and tools to support their children to have safe, positive online experiences.

Our live webinars for parents and carers attracted record attendance numbers in 2022. To meet the growing demand, we are expanding the program in 2023 to include more dates and topics to support school communities.

Term 1 | Safer Internet Day (7 February)

eSafety 101: how eSafety can help you

Suitable for parents and carers of young people in primary and secondary school.

Setting your child up for success online

Suitable for parents and carers of young people in primary school.

Getting the most out of gaming

Suitable for parents and carers of young people in primary and early secondary school.

Navigating online friendships

Suitable for parents and carers of young people in secondary school.

Term 2 | National Families Week (15 to 21 May)

eSafety 101: how eSafety can help you

Suitable for parents and carers of young people in primary and secondary school.

Getting started with social media: TikTok, YouTube, Instagram

Suitable for parents and carers of young people in primary school.

Online relationships and consent: sending nudes and sexting

Suitable for parents and carers of young people in secondary school.

Setting your child up for success online

Suitable for parents and carers of young people in primary school.

Term 3 | National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence (18 August) | National Child Protection Week (3 to 9 September)

eSafety 101: how eSafety can help you

Suitable for parents and carers of young people in primary and secondary school.

Online boundaries and consent

Suitable for parents and carers of young people in primary school.

Getting the most out of gaming

Suitable for parents and carers of young people in primary and early secondary school.

Online relationships and consent: sending nudes and sexting

Suitable for parents and carers of young people in secondary school.

Getting started with social media: TikTok, YouTube, Instagram

Suitable for parents and carers of young people in primary school.

Term 4 | Mental Health Month (October)

Wellbeing and digital technologies

Suitable for parents and carers of young people in secondary school.

Getting the most out of gaming

Suitable for parents and carers of young people in primary and early secondary school.

Navigating online friendships

Suitable for parents and carers of young people in secondary school.

Getting started with social media: TikTok, YouTube, Instagram

Suitable for parents and carers of young people in primary school.

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From the Christian Studies Department

Jessica Kako, Christian Studies Coordinator

"For where two or three are gathered together in My Name, I am there in the midst of them" **Matthew 18:20**

Dear St. Narsai Parents/ Guardians and students,

We are now two weeks into the term and the College has already been in full effect with various religious aspects. The following initiatives and events have taken place thus far:

2023 Spiritual Theme

I would like to introduce you to the 2023 spiritual theme of the year, 'Together in Christ'. The theme is inspired by Matthew chapter 18 verse 20 "For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them". It is a very fitting message for our College, as we pray that our school community can work together to spread Christ's Words and Actions in our everyday dealings with one another.

You may have seen as you enter the College the banner representing the theme which has every single students' fingers print from year 8 to 12. This represents that each and every one of you is a representation of Christ and when we work together as a College He will be there amongst us.



Rogation of the Ninevites

The St. Narsai community came together in Christ for the Rogation of the Ninevites which commenced last Monday. The origin of this fast is documented in the Book of Jonah (Old Testament) where it is a remembrance of God's mercy on the repentant Ninevites during the time of Jonah. The fast is a canonised fast for members of the Assyrian Church of the East and is to be fasted for three days (Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday).

During these three days, the College partook in various initiatives which included:

- Rev. Father Shamuel as well as selected students going around to classes providing students with bisma (incense).
- The College had a recess prayer service in the prayer room to commemorate the fast.
- A Christian Reading was read by College Captain Meera Buttrus during our fortnightly whole school assembly.



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Year 7 Eucharistic Liturgical Service

On Wednesday 8/2/23 we invited year 7 students 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 students, as they embark on this new schooling chapter in their lives.



The Great Fast

Next Sunday 19th of February the Great Fast 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 a student on the PA system; this will allow students to reflect and grow in their faith.

Please make note of the following events the St Narsai community will be partaking in through term 1:

Week	Date	Initiative	Year group involved
3	Thursday 16/2	Whole School Liturgical Service (Raza Qadisha)	Whole school
	Monday 20/2	Readings for the Great Fast	Whole School
4	Wednesday 22/2	Morning Roll Call Prayer Service with Rev. Father Shamuel	Year 12 and 11
7	Wednesday 15/3	Middle of the Great Fast	Whole School
10	Wednesday 5/4	Whole School Liturgical Service (Raza Qadisha)	Whole school

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From the English Department

Amy Kurver, English Coordinator

Greetings to all St Narsai students and families!

We hope this newsletter finds you well as we embark on another exciting year at St Narsai. The English Department is thrilled to welcome back returning students and extend a warm welcome to our new students.

As we start the new academic year, we would like to share with you some of the exciting activities and initiatives we have planned for the English Department. This year, we will be focusing on helping students develop critical thinking skills, build strong writing abilities, and cultivate a love for literature.

As the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) test approaches, we wanted to take a moment to remind you of the significant role that literacy skills play in this important assessment. The NAPLAN test measures students' proficiency in reading, writing, spelling, grammar, and punctuation, and provides important information about the progress of individual students and the school as a whole.

Our English Faculty is dedicated to preparing students for the NAPLAN test and helping them achieve their best possible results. In the coming weeks, we will be focusing on various literacy skills in class and providing students with practice materials and strategies to help them succeed. During these sessions, students will have the opportunity to practice their literacy skills and receive individualized feedback from our experienced teachers.

We understand that tests can be stressful for students, but we encourage you to approach the NAPLAN test with confidence. Here are some tips for success:

- Practice regularly: Regular practice and exposure to different types of texts and questions will help you feel more confident on test day.
- Get plenty of rest: A good night's sleep and a healthy breakfast will help you feel refreshed and ready to tackle the test.
- Stay calm: Remember that the NAPLAN test is just one part of your overall assessment. Stay calm and focused, and do your best.

We are confident that with the right preparation and support, our students will perform well on the NAPLAN test and continue to grow and excel in their literacy skills. We are looking forward to working with our students to help them reach their full potential. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to us.

We wish you all a successful and fulfilling year ahead!

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From the Science Department

Ornilla Shamon, Head of Science

Dear parents/guardians,

Welcome to the 2023 school year. The Science department is raring to go and looking forward to the amazing teaching and learning that will take place throughout the year. 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 and exploring the use of different laboratory equipment. 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. While year 10 are learning about 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.

