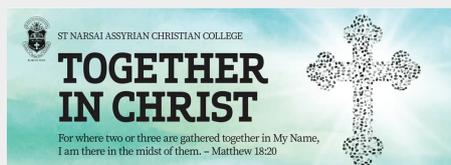




HARP OF THE SPIRIT

From the Principal

Edwar Dinkha



Dear Parents, Students, and friends of the College,

It is so pleasing to witness students doing their best daily in every classroom and in every learning setting.

College students and staff welcomed the start of the Great Fast last week through daily prayers in every homeroom as well as weekly special prayer services at the College organized by Miss. Kako, our Christian Studies Co-ordinator and conducted by our Chaplain, Fr. Shamuel.

The Great Fast reminds us of the significance of this important Church tradition and obligation for all its adherents. This 50-day period of spiritual preparation leads to the most important feast for all Christians- the feast of the Holy Resurrection. During this time, we have an opportunity to come closer to our God through fasting, prayer, penance, and other efforts of virtue.

It is wonderful that the college invests so much into students' faith development and encourages them to observe the Great Fast every day so they can grow in Christ.

All staff are finalizing their work on developing strategies that would address elements of the 2023-2025 School Improvement Plan and this plan is guiding so many improvement initiatives across all areas.

College Middle Leaders have already developed KLA based plans, called Faculty Improvement Plans (FIP's) and Year level plans, called Cohort Improvement Plans (CIP's) that they will use throughout 2023 to systematically address all components of the strategic plan with a focus on students' wellbeing and learning outcomes.

Attending school every day is crucial to the wellbeing, success and progress of students at the college and it is always a concern when students attendance deteriorates and falls below the 95% college target. To this end, several parents will be receiving correspondence to encourage improvement to their child's attendance rate.

The College will commence enrolment interviews for Year 7 2024 for applications submitted last year and we are now accepting new enrolment applications for Year 7 2024 and 2025. Many parents from our community will soon receive a special letter announcing the commencement of this year's enrolment process. Prospective parents are encouraged to access enrolment application forms via the college's website.

Year 6 parents are asked to contact our college Office for any enrolment related queries and to set suitable interview times.

Thank you,

Edwar Dinkha

ISSUE 2 | TERM 1

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Library

From the Deputy Principal (Curriculum)

Mary Khina

Dear Parents and Friends

As we reach the halfway mark of the term, all students are busy preparing for assessment tasks. Please consult with your child about any upcoming tasks and discuss the feedback received on tasks that have been completed and marked. Questions you may want to ask your child include:

Are they working going to achieve the result they want for tasks that they are working on?

Did they achieve what they had expected for tasks already completed? Were they prepared enough and how can they do better next time?

Will your child be in the T60 this year (Top 60% of the cohort)? Or is your child a High Potential Learner?

It is encouraging to see many students utilising the library facilities and the availability of their teachers for assessment preparation. Ask your child if they are using the library to study and prepare for lessons or assessments?

Assessment Handbooks and Assessment Tasks

All students have now received their Assessment Handbooks. These are available for all students on the individual cohort Teams pages. These handbooks contain information on each subject and how students will be assessed. With this information, students can prepare themselves to achieve their full potential.

In addition to the assessment handbook, students will receive an assessment notification from their teacher for each task at least two weeks before the final due date of the task.

Parents are encouraged to go through the assessment handbook with their child. Students are encouraged to write the dates of checkpoints and due dates in their college diary. Students are also encouraged to backward map their tasks.

For example, if a research task is due in Week 9, students should write the due date in their diary. They should also start breaking up the task and start planning leading up to the due date. An example of the planning process may include:

Monday: brainstorm the topic making notes based on prior knowledge

Tuesday: search for material online and in the library

Wednesday: read, highlight and make notes on the research

Thursday: work on planning the structure of the report

Friday: write draft one based on the checkpoint requirements

Monday: edit, further research if required, redraft

Wednesday: write draft two based on the feedback on your checkpoint from your teacher

Thursday: ask someone to read over the final draft.

Friday: finalise ready to submit before the due date

The College Library is
open every morning
from 7.50am

HARP OF THE SPIRIT

Homework Club is open for all students every Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon until 4pm

Starting work on tasks on-time will ensure that students have ample time to complete the set tasks and provide plenty of opportunities for teacher feedback to be provided before the due date.

Home learning

In addition to assessment tasks, College staff endeavour to assign students with relevant subject work that needs to be completed at home. There will be times when students do not receive homework for all their subjects in the day. Students are encouraged to read widely, revise the work that they have completed during the day and work on assessment tasks. We encourage students to form the habit of home learning time at home to be done five times a week, of the approximate length as indicated on each grade below:

Home Learning Times	Minimum suggested time period per day
Year 7 & 8	One to one & half hours
Year 9 & 10	One and a half to two hours
Year 11 & 12	Three hours or more

Parents, please check your child's diary and sign it on weekly basis. Parents are also encouraged to discuss the details of the entries in their child's diary and contact the office if you need clarification from the year coordinator about the entries.

Due diligence and sustained effort are of paramount importance for each class task and assessment task to ensure that students meet their full potential.

I encourage parents to engage your children in regular conversation about the importance of application to the classwork, homework and assessment tasks.

Year 12 Half Yearly Reports

Year 12 Half Yearly reports will be distributed to parents and students prior to the Year 11 and 12 Parent/Teacher interviews that are scheduled to take place on Tuesday 4th April 2023. Parents will be able to discuss their child's report at the interviews. Details of the interviews will be emailed to all parents mid - March.

Students are encouraged to have a study planner and be prepared for all their tasks. Studying early is key to ensure that they meet their full potential.

Parents also have a vital role in their child's HSC journey. As it can be a difficult year for any family supporting their child through their HSC year. Please see the link below for some useful tips for parents:

<https://www.impact.acu.edu.au/study/surviving-the-hsc-a-study-guide-for-parents>

Year 11

Year 11 students will receive their Interim report at the end of Term 1. Parents and Students will also be invited to the Parent/Teacher interviews on Tuesday 4th April 2023. By the of term 1, students will only have 2 terms before they complete the Preliminary course and commence the HSC course in term 4. Please note that students who demonstrate lack of effort in their studies, non-serious attempt of assessments in subjects and poor work ethics will be at risk of not completing the requirements for the Preliminary course.

HARP OF THE SPIRIT

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

Such students will be asked to repeat the Year 11 course and will not be allowed to proceed into Year 12 courses at the college.

Year 10 Subject Selection

Year 10 will be going through the subject selection process at the beginning of Term 3 this year. It is important that students start thinking of the subjects that they would like to select and ensure that they are putting in effort in Year 10 to meet the requirements for entry into Year 11. The college will accept student choices of subjects if they have demonstrated expected standards at Year 10. Other students will not be admitted into Stage 6 subjects where evidence shows that they underperformed in particular Year 10 subjects. Entry into Year 11 will be based on an application process that will involve students demonstrating their commitment towards their studies at St Narsai.

NAPLAN tests

NAPLAN tests for years 7 and 9 students are coming up from 15th – 27th March. Students must ensure that they bring their laptop fully charged with their headphones or earphones on all days of the test period. The NAPLAN browser has been installed on all student devices and device tests have taken place.

Students will be provided with NAPLAN practice opportunities in class to give them an opportunity to see what the test looks like. The practice tests can be found on the public demonstration site linked below.

Students may further prepare for the tests by practising their typing skills and completing homework to revise key concepts taught in class. It is important that students are encouraged to read the questions carefully, check their responses and attempt all questions.

Further information is available on the NAPLAN Online website and Information brochures.

To view the NAPLAN Online Information brochure [click here](#).

To see the NAPLAN Test Environment [click here](#)

In my last newsletter article, I recommended that students practise past NAPLAN papers either online or by using the NAPLAN books that are available to purchase from bookstores or newsagencies.

An additional and important way to improve literacy skills and for preparing for the tests is through reading widely. Students can borrow books from the school or local libraries. All students have access to our digital library collection available at <https://stnarsai.eplatform.co>. On this platform, students can access fiction and non-fiction books with over 3200 titles available in audio and eBook format. Students can also browse the books that are available for them to borrow, reserve and renew books as they need to. All students have been given their username and password to be able to access the collection. If you would like further details or your child has forgotten their access details, please email Mrs. Boulos at library@stnarsai.nsw.edu.au.

Mrs. Mary Khina

Deputy Principal – Curriculum / Teaching and Learning

HARP OF THE SPIRIT

From the Deputy Principal (Wellbeing)

Mary Ismail

Every student at St Narsai College has a Welfare and Wellbeing support team – our Pastoral Care Team is always available for students and their parent to access. Do you know your child's Welfare and Wellbeing support team at St Narsai College?

Pastoral Care Team



CYBERSAFETY, BULLYING, DANGERS OF VAPING AND SAFE DRIVING

This week, it was great to have welcomed our friend and Police Youth Engagement Officer, Senior Constable Glenn Clarke from Fairfield Police to present safety talks to all students in Years 7 to 12. SC Glenn presented on CyberSafety, Bullying, Dangers of Vaping and to our Seniors, he presented a session on Driver Safety as well. For great parent advice and support regarding cybersafety please visit <https://www.esafety.gov.au/parents>.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Do you know what your children are watching on their devices?

Social media platforms, such as TikTok, Snapchat and a new one called Discord have chats, links,

called Discord have chats, links, videos and new trends which may look innocent, however expose children to inappropriate material or may encourage children to engage in dangerous and inappropriate behaviour. If you are concerned around anything your children may have seen please contact your child's Year Coordinator, our Pastoral Care Coordinator Mr Lazarou, or any Deputy Principal.

Other services available to assist you along with current counselling and pastoral care option include:

- Lifeline: 13 11 14
- Mental Health Access Line: 1800 011 511
- Parent Line: 1300 1300 52
- Kids Helpline: 1800 55 1800
- eHeadspace: 1800 650 890

PUT DOWN THE PHONE, PICK UP A BOOK

Escape to where you would rather be by reading a book that interests you and encourage your child to do so as well



THE IMPORTANCE OF READING

- Improves vocabulary
- Strengthens writing skills
- Improves spelling
- Improves communication skills
- Stimulates creativity
- Promotes healthy wellbeing
- Promotes a calm environment
- Keeps your child's brain healthy
- Reduces stress and anxiety
- Educates your child
- Free entertainment

Why Read at home?

Student	Reading Habits	Test Score Percentile
STUDENT A	• 20 minutes per day • 3,600 minutes per school year • 1,800,000 words per year	SCORES IN THE 90TH PERCENTILE ON STANDARDIZED TESTS
STUDENT B	• 5 minutes per day • 900 minutes per school year • 282,000 words per year	SCORES IN THE 50TH PERCENTILE ON STANDARDIZED TESTS
STUDENT C	• 1 minute per day • 180 minutes per school year • 8,000 words per year	SCORES IN THE 10TH PERCENTILE ON STANDARDIZED TESTS

HARP OF THE SPIRIT

10 Keys for Happier Living

Everyone's path to happiness is different. The latest research has identified 10 Keys to Happier Living that consistently tend to make life happier and more fulfilling. Together they spell GREAT DREAM.

You can explore them all at the following link:
<https://actionforhappiness.org/10-keys>



AFTERNOON DETENTIONS

We wish to remind all parents and carers of college afternoon detentions.

Afternoon detentions are held every Wednesday afternoon from 2.50pm to 3.50pm. If your child is unable to attend, you must contact the college and make alternative arrangements prior to the date of the detention, which can only be changing the date of the detention. Lunch detentions will not be given as an alternative.

Please note, students who need to catch the public bus after school from the main road will attend TWO afternoon detentions. The reason being, as the bus comes at 3.50pm, students are permitted to leave detention at 3.30 having only served half a detention. Therefore, two detentions will be given to students who catch the public bus.

Based on the college policy and procedures, if a child does not attend an afternoon detention, and no prior arrangements have been made, the child will be given a second afternoon detention with a warning of suspension. A second non-attendance will result in a suspension.

BYOD

A reminder, all students are required to bring a device to school. Students in Years 7 to 10 are involved in intensive Literacy and Numeracy programs to improve upon these skills. Any student without a laptop is unable to participate in such programs and is hindering their progress.

Please let the Year Coordinator know about any laptop related difficulties.

Attendance

Attendance letters have been issued to all parents/carers of students whose attendance is below 90%. Please note, St Narsai College's attendance policy expects 95% attendance from all students.

The letters are generated by the college system and includes explained and unexplained absences. If you have any questions or concerns regarding a letter you have received, please contact the college and speak to your child's Year Coordinator.

Kind regards,

M Ismail

HARP OF THE SPIRIT

From the PDHPE Department

Mrs. Victoria Tatian, PDHPE Coordinator & Miss Alena Kando, CoCurricular coordinator

PDHPE Report

The PDHPE faculty has been off to a wonderful start for 2023. We have been glad to welcome back all students across 8-12 and our new students in year 7 who have started their first year of studies at the college.

This term we are focussing on developing students knowledge and skills to make healthy choices and to also develop their practical skills across a range of sporting contexts such as Gymnastics, Dance, Volleyball and NFL.

We hope that this term is an enjoyable time for all students in both the theoretical and practical components of PDHPE.

Mrs Victoria Tatian

PDHPE Coordinator

SPORTS Report

On Monday 6th March we held our annual Swimming Carnival at Prairiewood Leisure Centre. Year 7-12 students participated in a range of events including freestyle, backstroke, breaststroke and relays, along with novelty events including the three legged race and tug of war.

Congratulations to Nineveh House who won the overall points competition. Also, congratulations to the following individuals who will be representing the College in CSSA Zone Swimming Carnival.

- Seraphina Stephan (Freestyle, Backstroke, Breaststroke & Butterfly)
- Christopher Moshy (Freestyle)
- Marcus Moshy (Freestyle)
- Marcus Gabriel (Freestyle & Backstroke)
- Sharukin Anwiyah (Freestyle)

Thank you to all the staff and students for their participation and assistance throughout the day. It was great to see the College come together.

Miss Alena Kando

CoCurricular coordinator

From the Mathematics Department

Miss Adwena David, Mathematics Co-ordinator

Dear family and friends of St Narsai school community.

Welcome back to another year of teaching and learning at St. Narsai. A special and warm welcome to all students that have joined our college, in particular to our newest cohort, Year 7. We pray your journey at St Narsai is bright and prosperous and your love for Mathematics shines through your day-to-day schooling.

Mathletics



This year, the students at St. Narsai continue the second year of free access to the online tool, Mathletics. Reinforcing what is learnt in class and challenging students to go beyond their level, Mathletics is a tool full of activities, rich tasks, and multiple resources for learners to engage in. The college made the decision to purchase this for all students in Years 7 – 10 in 2022 to assist them in their mathematics studies. We ask parents to remind students to login and complete the tasks assigned by their teachers. When a student has completed all homework and tasks, they can login and complete various other activities that are both engaging and educational.

Maths Online



With building student numeracy and mathematics skills at the core of our teaching, the college made the decision to trial another resource to further support students understanding of concepts taught in class. Having their very own personal maths tutor, maths online allows students to reconsolidate what is taught in class with an explicit video explanation followed by questions to test if students have grasped the concept.

Students have commenced working on this program every Tuesday and Friday in roll call. Students are also encouraged to log into their account and re-learn and catch up with maths lessons they may be struggling with in class.

Year 7 and 9 Intensive Numeracy Workshops



Within our Mathematics classrooms, our lessons are designed to build the numeracy skills assessed in the NAPLAN tests.

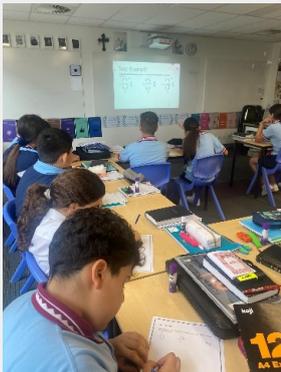
HARP OF THE SPIRIT

Our focus for 2023 is to improve the numeracy abilities of our students. As such, all Year 7 – 9 classes have scheduled numeracy periods that focus on enhancing the skills required to successfully complete the NAPLAN numeracy exam in March.

In addition to the numeracy lessons, two Intensive Numeracy Workshops were held each for Year 7 and 9 with explicit focus on numeracy skills and NAPLAN style questions. Students were taught skills, had past NAPLAN questions broken down and explained, and participated in numerous competitions.

These comprehensive numeracy initiatives allow students to focus specifically on fundamental maths and numeracy skills that are required to excel in the subject and help them become independent problem solvers.

Fortnightly Numeracy Focus



With a strong emphasis on Numeracy in 2023, we have implemented a fortnightly numeracy focus for all students in Years 7 – 9. Once a fortnight teachers will pause their lessons, across all subjects, for ten minutes and deliver a short lesson on a numeracy skill. These short lessons will help students connect with the mathematics skill outside the mathematics classroom.

As the year progresses, we hope to see more intervention implemented in Mathematics as well as more opportunities for our students to engage in mathematics outside the classroom.

If we all work together, staff, students, and parents, we can ensure great results.

Miss Adwena David

Mathematics Co-ordinator

HARP OF THE SPIRIT

From the TAS Department

Mr. Hamish Morrison, Technology and Applied Studies Teacher

Well we are now 5 weeks into the term and everything in the TAS department is starting to take shape. Student projects are gaining momentum and Year 12 major projects are under way.

Here is a brief summary of what is happening this term in TAS.

Year 7: Students are busy creating individually designed airplanes based on their investigations into flight. Students will be testing and flying their planes in weeks 8 and 9. We look forward to seeing all their hard work up in the air.

Year 8: These students are busy design new apps based on a design idea. The apps are created on their individual laptops and can be accessed from them. Check in and see how they are doing. Every year the students come up with some great ideas

Year 9: Timber. Students are now completed their safety training and are starting to build their joint frames. This exercise allows students to experience wood and gain confidence in using tools before we start building bigger projects.

Year 10: Timber. After working with wood for a year students are more experienced using the tools and it is showing. This term we are building Bedside tables and the students are coming up with some awesome designs. Students will learn wood turning this term while making the legs for the Bedside tables. Keep an eye out for some awesome projects coming home soon.

Year 11 : Timber Welcome to stage 6. The students are working hard to build mantel clocks this term and are really doing well. The joinery is looking good and they are showing their experience. We will be completing these by week 10 so keep an eye out for an new clock to add to your home.

Year 11 Construction. Students are working well on the theory and slowly getting onto the tools. This term we are building toolboxes that they can take with them when they get to go on site. Also all students will be completing their white card training.

Year 12 Construction Students are currently out on work placement. This experience will help them when they go out and begin work when they finish school. Students placement has been for a variety of areas including, cabinet making, plumbing, installations, Poxy manufacturing and Construction management just to name a few.



Hamish Morrison

Technology and Applied Studies
Teacher



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SNACC LEARNING HUB

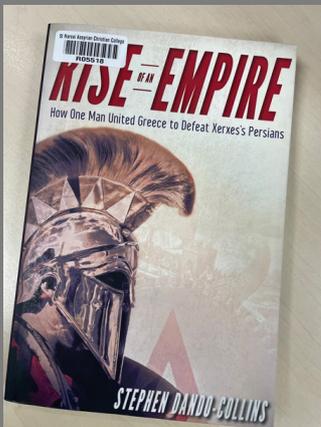
St Narsai Assyrian Christian College Library News

TAKE A LOOK AT THIS MONTH'S ISSUE:

- New Year,*
- New books - 1*
- 2023 NSW PRC - 2*
- Chess fever - 3*

NEW YEAR, NEW BOOKS

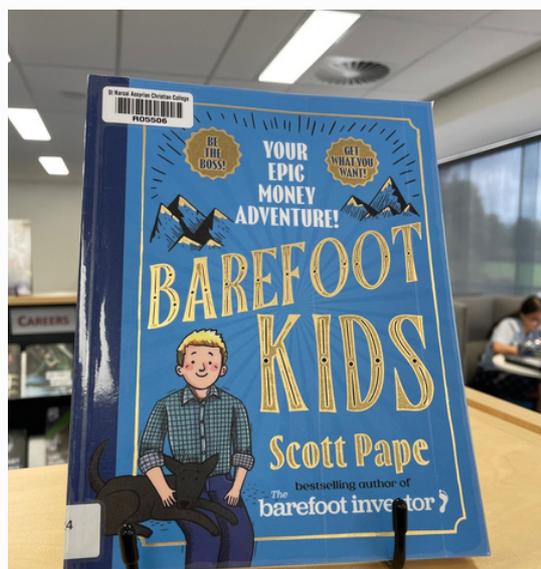
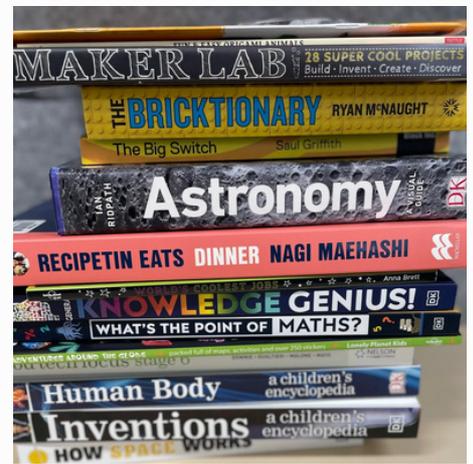
To cater for our readers and the variety of interests that our students and staff may have, we are constantly expanding our print collection and acquiring exciting reading materials that are relevant and current. New resources that are now available for loan include books on sports, health and wellbeing, cooking, finance, hobbies and crafts as well as science and technology.



Search our library online catalog for new books and magazines



<https://snac.softlinkhosting.com.au/oliver/home/browse/list>



A few stand out titles include Scott Pape's Barefoot Kids, which sold millions of copies and is the perfect tool to develop resilient, kind and hard-working kids who will grow up knowing how to manage their money.



"If we encounter a man of rare intellect, we should ask him what books he reads."

**RALPH WALDO
EMERSON**

2023 NSW PRC

It is that time of Year again where students in Years K-9 are invited to participate in the NSW Premier's Reading Challenge. As with each year, students are given a wide selection of books to choose from to complete the challenge over Terms 2 and 3. This year, a number of new titles have been added to the booklists expanding the available collection to choose from. For more information, please contact Ms Boulos.



NSW Department of Education

2023 NSW Premier's Reading Challenge

Start reading now!

Artwork by Elise Hurst

www.premiersreadingchallenge.nsw.edu.au


**Key dates
for students
in K-10:**

Challenge opens
Monday 27 February

Challenge closes
for student entries
Friday 18 August

CHESS FEVER

In response to the huge interest this year in chess, and to accommodate for quiet study spaces in the main library area, the library now has a designated room during the breaks for chess playing.

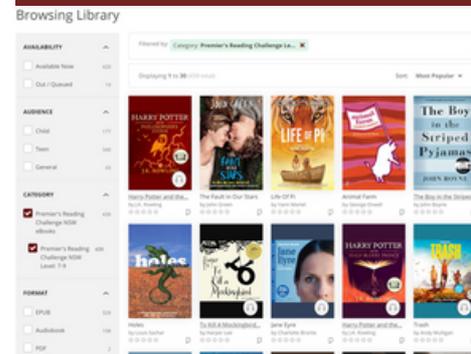
After a 2-week trial period, students and supervising staff, including our reigning chess champion Father Samuel, have given positive feedback about the new space allocation. Furthermore, new chess equipment will be purchased in the near future to cater for the high demand and increasing interest in chess.



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

ACCESS THE EPLATFORM HERE

<https://stnarsai.eplatform.co/>



New travel guides now available for loans.