



IN HIM WE GROW

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 our college mothers well and in good health always. We were very pleased on Tuesday when we welcomed many of our college mothers and other mothers from the St. Mary Church retirement village to a special St. Narsai Morning Tea.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank Ms. Gupta for organising this very important event at the college.

The College celebrated its third annual St Narsai Day last Thursday with a bang.

We started the day appropriately with a special college Mass conducted by our Chaplain, Fr. Shamuel and assisted by Fr. Neil and Fr. Shlemon as well as three Deacons.

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 and celebrating the day. Students enjoyed taking part in an extensive array of fun outdoor activities as well as enjoying a wide range of food offerings on the day.

For the second time, SHAPS Years 5 and 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 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 2023.

I also wish to thank and acknowledge our P & F committee for supporting the event and for the funds raised on day.

Two weeks ago, we welcomed all students back to the college and term two and students are now back to their study routines. As we finish week three of this very busy term, I wish to remind all parents and students that many assessments will take place in the next few weeks and the results of these assessment will determine the content of your child's Semester One report. These reports will be issued by the end of this term.

Several students will be sitting Half-Yearly examinations in the next few weeks. To this end, it is crucial that students organise themselves, complete assigned tasks, assignments and prepare for tests or exams across certain subjects as required by their teachers.

While students are supported well by their respective teachers during the day, they also need parents and family members guidance at this time to help them better prepare for the upcoming assessment period. Please note that this can be a stressful period for students, and they would need our help.

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Year 7 2024 enrolment interviews are now being finalised with several places still available for 2024 school year. The Year 7 2025 (current Year 5 students) enrolment interviews will be

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commencing from the start of term 3.

I ask that parents wishing to enrol their children at the College, to 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.

Thank you,

Edwar Dinkha

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From the Deputy Principal (Curriculum)

Mary Khina

Dear Parents, students and friends

It is great to see our students engaged in their learning the first weeks of Term 3.

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. Year 12 Half Yearly and Years 7 - 11 Interim reports were distributed to parents at the end of Term 1 via email. Please contact the College office if you have not received the report or if you would like to schedule an interview with your child's teacher.

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

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.

Deep Learning

This year we have started work on Deep Learning to enable our students

to acquire skills and attributes that will help them flourish as global citizens.

These are centered around the 6Cs: Character, Citizenship, Collaboration, Communication, Creativity and Critical Thinking.

In your discussion with your child, please ask them how they are demonstrating the 6Cs. This can include:

Character

- Proactive stance towards life and learning to learn
- Grit, tenacity, perseverance and resilience
- Empathy, compassion and integrity in action

Citizenship

- A global perspective
- Commitment to human equity and well-being through empathy and compassion for diverse values and world views
- Genuine interest in human and environmental sustainability
- Solving ambiguous and complex problems in the real world to benefit citizens

Collaboration

- Working interdependently as a team
- Interpersonal and team-related skills
- Social, emotional, and intercultural skills
- Managing team dynamics and challenges

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Communication

- Communication designed for audience and impact
- Message advocates a purpose and makes an impact
- Reflection to further develop and improve communication
- Voice and identity expressed to advance humanity

Creativity

- Economic and social entrepreneurialism
- Asking the right inquiry questions
- Pursuing and expressing novel ideas and solutions
- Leadership to turn ideas into action

Critical thinking

- Evaluating information and arguments
- Making connections and identifying patterns
- Meaningful knowledge construction
- Experimenting, reflecting, and taking action on ideas in the real world

Partnerships

Recently I have been working with a team of staff of the Assyrian Christian Schools to develop our Partnership with external organisations. We have

currently started work with Amazon Web Services, and a focus group for female leaders with Macquarie Group that will develop the leadership skills for our female students. More details on these partnerships will be reported in future newsletters.

Alumni

It was wonderful to see many of our alumni at our recent St Narsai Day celebration and to hear of the different career pathways that they are taking. If you are a graduate from St Narsai we would love to hear from you. Please contact us via our Facebook page for St Narsai Alumni, or info@stnarsai.nsw.edu.au

Scholarships

St Narsai Assyrian Christian College is pleased to offer a number of Academic Scholarships for 2024.

The recipient of the Mar Meelis Scholarship is typically a student who will add to the life of St Narsai College. All-round excellence will benchmark this student. Characteristically, this student will be a high academic achiever, with demonstrated strengths in several areas. Students in Year 7,9 and 11 2024 are welcome to apply. For further information and the application form, please visit <https://stnarsai.nsw.edu.au/joining-us/#scholarships>

Mother's Day

Wishing all our mothers and mother figures a HAPPY MOTHERS Day. We pray that God may bless you and guide you always. Thank you for all the work that you do.

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She opens her mouth with wisdom,

And on her tongue is the law of kindness.

She watches over the ways of her household,

And does not eat the bread of idleness.

Her children rise up and call her blessed;

Her husband also, and he praises her:

Proverbs 31:26-28

Mrs. M. Khina

Deputy Principal - Curriculum

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

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

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From the Deputy Principal (Wellbeing)

Mary Ismail

MOTHER'S DAY MORNING TEA

On Tuesday 9th May 2023 we were honoured to host our Mother's Day morning tea in celebration of our mothers and mother figures. We were blessed by the attendance of mothers in our community, especially mothers from St Mary's Church Retirement Village. For more photos, please see the College Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/StNarsai>



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UNIFORM UPDATE

Lowes

As you are aware on Monday 22 May 2023, our school uniform supplier will be Lowes Wetherill Park.

This uniform shop is located outside Stockland Mall next door to the medical centre and dry cleaners.

We understand there are 2 weeks left before this takes place and the weather is getting colder, however, as per normal students are expected to attend in full winter school uniform in Term 2. Should parents/carers need winter uniform items now, we ask that, you purchase jumpers and stockings of the same colours as the St Narsai College uniform. These items are available at Lowes now.

Undergarments

As shown in the student diary, only white undergarments are permitted to be worn under the college uniform. The white undergarments are an added option for warmth and are not to replace the college uniform. Students are to wear school jumpers and blazers for extra covering and the white undergarment for extra warmth only. White undergarments are not to be seen.

Haircuts

A new phase of unacceptable haircuts is appearing among our male students. Please note, as shown in the student diary, blended haircuts with a minimum of 1 are acceptable. No male student is permitted to have zero or skin fades as part of their haircut and the new trend of "mulletts" (sides shaved and the middle grown long) are not permitted. Any student seen to be non-compliant risks being suspended.

PUBLIC BUS SERVICE FROM TWAY (PRARIEWOOD)

We are pleased to announce we have 6 buses leaving Prarieewood Tway for St Narsai every morning. Bus times are: 7.29am, 7.36am, 7.41am, 7.48am (new additional service), 7.54am and 8.04am.

(Please see notice below regarding buses).

It is extremely important for parents who drop their children off at the Tway to drop them off between the times of 7:20am and before 7:40am so they can travel on the two early buses.

It is also important that all parents who are dropping their children off, actually get down and see that their children are boarding the buses as many students are not. They are walking away into Stocklands or McDonald's and then coming back for the later buses.

Please ensure your child is arriving to school on time and safe.



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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.

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	7:36	EX PRAIRIEWOOD T-WAY STN - via T-Way, L> The Horsley Drive, L> Horsley Rd, R> Bus Bay. Arr school 7:52
9113	7:41	EX PRAIRIEWOOD T-WAY STN - via T-Way, L> The Horsley Drive, L> Horsley Rd, R> Bus Bay. Arr school 7:57
9113	7:48	EX PRAIRIEWOOD T-WAY STN - via T-Way, L> The Horsley Drive, L> Horsley Rd, R> Bus Bay. Arr school 8:04
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
AFTERNOON SERVICES		
Bus No	Departing	Bus Route
9633	14:55	TO PRAIRIEWOOD T-WAY STN - via L> Horsley Rd, R>The Horsley Dr, R> T-Way (four buses depart at this time).
9634	14:55	TO PRAIRIEWOOD T-WAY STN - via L> Horsley Rd, R>The Horsley Dr, R> T-Way (two buses depart at this time).

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PARENT DROP-OFF AT SCHOOL



If you are driving your child to school, please ensure you have them at the College before 8.20am. The roll call warning bell goes at 8.25am. Students who arrive after 8.20am are not able to reach their roll call class in time and are then marked late (partial absence).

We thank the parents and carers who ensure their child is at school on time. We know and understand some families do live 30 to 40 minutes away from the College and we

appreciate you travelling the distance, however it is important that your child is in their roll call class, ready and reading by 8.30 to ensure they are maximizing their opportunity to learn.

PUT DOWN THE PHONE, PICK UP A BOOK

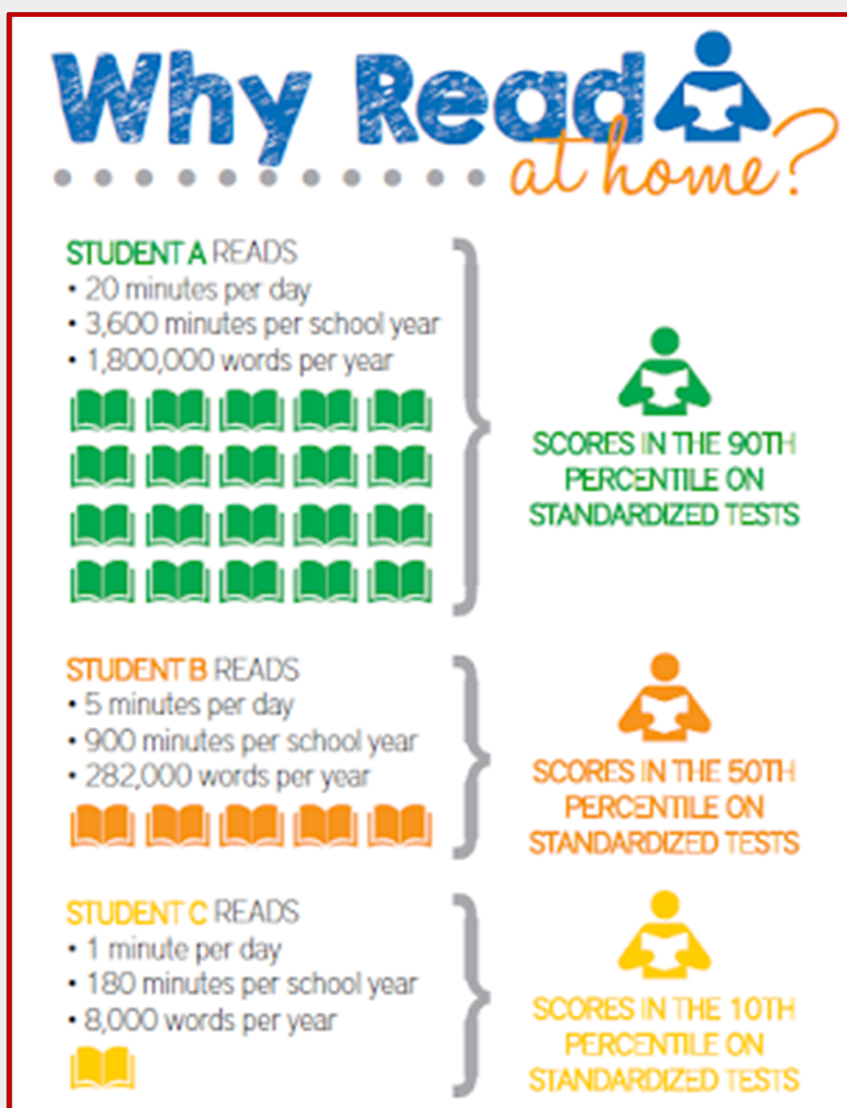


THE IMPORTANCE OF READING

- 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

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Want your child to be a better reader – simple... have them read!



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From the Christian Studies Department

Jessica Kako, Christian Studies Coordinator

Behold, how good and how pleasant
it is for brethren to dwell together in
unity! Psalm 133:1

Dear St. Narsai Parents/ Guardians
and students,

Welcome back to term two! A term where both staff and students have started their work together in spreading the love of our Lord Jesus Christ. As stated in Psalm, all the good and pleasant deeds we do needs to be done together in unity, and in the past two weeks we have done so through our St. Narsai Day Liturgical Service as well as welcoming the ladies of the St. Mary's Retirement Village for Mother's Day.

Christian Representative Council

Last term the College elected the 2023 Christian Representative Council (CRC). These leaders will help empower and contribute towards a positive Christian culture within the College. The following students have been elected:

Year 7: Diliانا Mekhael and Nabeel Amanoeel

Year 8: Zach Hormis and Isaac Al Ishaq

Year 9: Sarah Kina and Sally Esttaifan

Year 10: Nina Audisho and Inana Dinkha

Year 11: Rama Shelimoun and Orshina Khosho

We pray that God guides and protects them as they taken on this leadership role within the College.



St Narsai Day- Liturgical Service

On Thursday 4th of May, the College community gathered to commemorate our patron saint, St. Narsai. The day started with a Liturgical Service, celebrated by College chaplain Reverend Father Shamuel alongside Reverend Father Neil and Reverend Father Shlemon. We pray that our students reflect both Christ and St. Narsai's life through their words and works.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank those involved in making the service a spiritual success. This includes our deacons and choir lead by Mrs. Nancy Bolous and Mrs. Anna Andry with the assistance of Mr. Damian Nasello.



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with a gift as a thanks for their help in shaping the Assyrian Christian community. A huge thank you to Rev Shamuel and Miss Adwena David for their help in organising the gifts and prayer service for the St. Mary's Retirement Village mothers.



Mother's Day Event

To help celebrate Mother's Day, on Tuesday 9th of May, our mothers of the St. Mary's Retirement Village visited our College for the first time! They spent this time speaking with College principal Mr. Edwar Dinkha, taking a tour of the College and being a part of the prayer service conducted by Reverend Father Shamuel. Our CRC gifted the mothers



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Upcoming Events

Please make note of the following events St. Narsai students will be partaking in through this term:

Week	Date	Initiative
3	Monday 8/05	Morning Roll Call Prayer Service with Rev. Father Shamuel every Monday
4	Thursday 18/05	Feast of the Ascension
5	Thursday 25/05	Year 9 Spiritual Day
6	Monday 29/05	Feast of the Pentecost
8	Thursday 15/06	Year 8 Spiritual Day
9	Tuesday 20/05	Whole School Liturgical Service (Raza Qadisha)

God bless you all,

Jessica Kako

Christian Studies Coordinator

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From the English Department

Amy Kurver, English Coordinator

The Extension English Class Explores the Realm of Gothic Fiction and Unleashes their Creative Writing Skills

Dear St Narsai community,

We are excited to share an update from our Year 11 Extension English class, where our talented students have been diving into the mysterious and captivating world of Gothic fiction. Over the past weeks, we have been honing our creative writing skills while immersing ourselves in the spine-chilling tales of the genre's most renowned authors.

Gothic fiction, with its eerie settings, supernatural elements, and brooding atmospheres, has captivated readers for centuries. Under the guidance of our dedicated English teacher, Mrs. Kurver, the Extension English class embarked on a literary journey to explore the works of iconic authors such as Edgar Allan Poe, Charlotte Perkins Gilman and Bram Stoker.

We began our exploration by studying the characteristics and conventions of Gothic fiction. We delved into the intricate web of gloomy settings, haunted mansions, and characters tormented by their own demons. Through in-depth analysis and thought-provoking discussions, we gained a profound understanding of the genre's themes, including the exploration of human psychology, the struggle between good and evil, and the consequences of repressed desires.

Armed with this newfound knowledge, we embarked on our own

creative writing projects, allowing our imaginations to run wild within the confines of Gothic fiction. We were encouraged to experiment with suspenseful plots, vivid descriptions, and memorable characters who grappled with the darkness lurking within their souls.

Throughout the creative writing process, Mrs. Kurver provided invaluable guidance, encouraging her students to take risks and push the boundaries of their writing abilities. We explored different narrative techniques, honed our descriptive skills, and experimented with the art of crafting tension and suspense. The classroom buzzed with excitement as we shared our drafts, providing feedback and support to each other, fostering a collaborative and nurturing environment for growth.

In the coming weeks, the Extension English class will be compiling our stories and publishing an anthology of gothic fiction. This anthology will showcase the incredible talent and creativity of our class, providing us with a platform to share their unique perspectives and narratives. The process of curating and editing the anthology will not only further develop our writing skills but also instil a sense of pride and accomplishment as our stories find a home within the pages of a professionally published collection. Keep an eye out for the anthology in our school library!

Warm regards,

Justin Zaia and Giwargis Oraham

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From the Science Department

Ornilla Shamon, Head of Science

Dear parents/guardians,

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 rockets and jet propulsion reactions. Students created dry ice rockets, investigated the reaction of acid and vinegar, and witnessed the balloon rocket experiment. Their excitement and enthusiasm was evident and we look forward to seeing them as St. Narsai students in the near future!

Last term also saw the start of the Celestino Science Park Challenge, led by Mr. Elias Atto and Mrs. Ramina Moshi with select students. The Celestino Science Park Challenge is an annual competition for students in years 7-12 to design and build a sustainable, resilient, and livable community using Sydney Science Park as the centrepiece. The challenge is designed to engage students in STEM education and to give them the opportunity to collaborate with industry experts and bring their ideas to life. The challenge is divided into three stages:

Stage 1: Students are given a challenge question that revolves around a complex issue in the planning for infrastructure at Sydney Science Park. They must work together to research the issue, develop a solution, and create a presentation to share their ideas.

Stage 2: The top teams from Stage 1

are invited to attend an urban thinktank where they will have the opportunity to meet with industry experts and mentors who will guide them on their projects.

Stage 3: The teams from Stage 2 will then have the opportunity to build their models and present their solutions to a panel of judges.

The Celestino Science Park Challenge is a great opportunity for students to learn about STEM education, sustainability, and urban planning. It is also a chance for them to collaborate with industry experts and bring their ideas to life.

This term also 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 been developing their working scientifically skills by conducting experiments they have designed on the study of factors that affect enzyme activity. 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.

Year 10 students, interested in stage 6 chemistry and physics, have also started attending tutorials as part of the entry process for the subjects. Students will have to complete a workbook during these tutorials followed by an entry exam.

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If meeting the minimum requirements, they will be allowed entry into the subjects for 2024. The sciences are rigorous subjects and historically students have struggled because they lack the fundamental scientific skills needed to excel. These tutorials allow students to have a taste of the subjects prior to selecting them and also allow them to assess their understanding and ability before making the commitment to choose them for stage 6.

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

Ms Ornilla Shamon

Head of Science