



ST NARSAI
ASSYRIAN CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

IN HIM WE GROW

HARP OF THE SPIRIT

From the Principal



Dear Parents, Students and friends of the College,

Three weeks ago, we welcomed back our students to Term Three and the start of Semester Two of 2023. Students are now well into their study routines, engaged in learning and catching up with their friends and peers.

Our staff have had time to review and analyse Semester One students' academic performance and are responding to the data to help students improve their learning outcomes in this semester. To this end, Year Co-ordinators will soon start contacting and interviewing parents of students whose Semester One academic performance was of concern. The aim of these interviews or phone calls is to develop individual academic action plans that will assist identified students in making more progress this semester and achieve to their potential.

I would also like to emphasise here that parents have a critical role in helping their child/ children implement their personal plan of improvement and skills development. At a minimum, every student must set a side one hour to complete school-based work at home every evening. Parents are also welcome to work closely with teachers and staff to ensure that their child/ children receive all support available.

I must also emphasise that we expect every student to do their best across all their subjects and that students who demonstrate lack of commitment to their studies will be challenged by staff members.

We wish our Year 12 students the best of luck as they commenced their Trial HSC Examination earlier this week and pray that they achieve their best in their respective exams.

The college will be commemorating next week the **Feast of the Transfiguration of Our Lord Jesus Christ**, which is one of the seven Holy feasts in the Assyrian Church of the East. This feast recalls the revelation of Christ's glory on Mount Tabor in the presence of three of His disciples: Peter, James, and John.

Moreover, our College Chaplain, Fr. Shamuel, Miss. Kako and Miss. David will accompany a group of students to St. Mary's Church for the Commemoration of St. Mary on the 15th of August.

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In a special ceremony next Monday, 7th August 2023, our staff and students will stop and join all Assyrians around the world to remember all Assyrian Martyrs and commemorate the Assyrian Memorial Day, 7th August- **SHAWA B'TABAKH**.

At St. Narsai Assyrian Christian College, we continue to honour our martyrs by offering special educational programs that support our children to know their history better as they develop and strengthen their Assyrian cultural heritage and their Christian faith.

May all our Martyrs rest in peace and may God give them a place in the kingdom of Heaven.

Alaha manyikhlon sahda Atoraye wyawilon sama go malkoota dshmaya.

Thank You,

Edwar Dinkha

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From the Deputy Principal (Curriculum)

Dear Parents and Friends

Subject Selection process for Years 9 and 11, 2023

The 2024 subject selection process commenced last week. It was great to see Year 10 students and their parents at the Information evening with the Year 8 session on next Wednesday.

In Year 10 students will choose the HSC courses that they will study for the next two years. Although there are many pathways to university or college, choosing the right courses for the HSC can make it easier to get into university and succeed in their studies.

Year 8 will choose two elective subjects that they would like to study in addition to their mandatory subjects.




In deciding what subjects to choose, students have been encouraged to:

1. Identify their end goal
2. Consider abilities and interests
3. Explore career opportunities
4. Research study options

Some top tips for choosing HSC subjects provided by UAC (University Admission Centre), include:

- Think about where you want to go after Year 12 and link that to your choices now
- If you want an ATAR make sure you are eligible by completing at least 10 units of ATAR courses
- Choose HSC subjects that you're good at and interested in, and that will lay a foundation for your future plans. In particular, choose courses that will prepare you well for the areas of university study you're planning to pursue.
- Just about any combination of courses can lead to a good ATAR; it all depends on how well you do in all your courses in comparison to other students. The table below addresses a number of scaling 'myths'
- Check if the uni you want to go to, or the course you want to do, has prerequisites (these can include a high-level maths or English course) and assumed knowledge. To make good choices about what to study, work to the best of your ability and focus on your goals for life after school.

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Scaling Myths	
Myth	Fact
 <p>Some courses are always 'scaled up', therefore I should study those.</p>	 <p>The way a course is scaled depends entirely on the average academic performance of all the students doing that course that year – and it can change from year to year. For most courses, your scaled mark will be lower than your HSC mark. To get the best possible position and maximise your scaled marks, select the courses you'll do best in.</p>
 <p>Some courses are always 'scaled down', therefore I should avoid those.</p>	
 <p>I need to study 'hard' subjects to get high scaled marks.</p>	 <p>'Hard' is a subjective term. Everyone has different strengths and interests. Students who achieve an ATAR of 99.95 study a large variety of subjects.</p>
 <p>I should study Mathematics Standard 2 rather than Mathematics Advanced to get a better ATAR.</p>	 <p>It's very difficult to predict which course will lead to a higher scaled mark. Your scaled mark depends on the average academic ability of the students studying that course and your position in the course. When considering which maths course to study, remember that some university courses have prerequisites or assumed knowledge of Mathematics Advanced. It's important to choose the level of maths that best suits your plans for further study.</p>

Students in Year 8 are encouraged to choose the elective subjects that they enjoy.

Students are encouraged to consult with:

- Their class teachers and KLA Coordinators
- Year Coordinator
- Other students that are currently studying the subjects of interest
- Their parents

Other useful resources:

Steps to Uni for Year 10 Students

<https://www.uac.edu.au/future-applicants/year-10-students>

<https://www.uac.edu.au/future-applicants/subject-compass>

What is VET and what are the benefits?:

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/skills-nsw/students-and-job-seekers/what-is-vet-and-what-a-re-the-benefits>

JobJump: <https://www.jobjump.com.au/>

JobOutlook: <https://joboutlook.gov.au/>

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NESA: <https://educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/wps/portal/nesa/11-12/hsc/subject-selection>

Your Career: <https://www.yourcareer.gov.au/>

Year 11 2024 Subjection Selection Process

Careers Expo and Assembly

Tuesday 25th July 2023

Information will be presented and stalls will be set up to provide students with information on future career pathways

Students will also be provided information and links to online resources during their careers classes and on Teams.

Information Evening for Year 10 Students and their parents

Monday 31st July, 6pm.

Information will be presented and stalls will be set up to provide students and their parents information on the process and subjects available

Subject Selection Interviews

Will commence from Wednesday 2nd August 2023.

Students will be interviewed by Mrs Khina (Deputy Principal); and Mr Moushi (Head of HSC Studies)

Subjection Selection online portal

Opens on Wednesday 9th August; 4.30pm

Closes on Monday 14th August; 5pm

Year 9 2023 Subject Selection Process

Information Evening for Year 8 Parents and Students

Wednesday 9th August, 6pm

Students receive handbook and subject selection login details

Online Subject Selection site opens for students at 4.30pm Thursday 10th August

Online subject selection site closes Monday 14th August, 5pm

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Half- Yearly Reports

All Years 7-11 Half Yearly reports were emailed to parents at the end of term 2. Please contact our office on 8818 1300 or info@stnarsai.nsw.edu.au if you have not received your child's report.

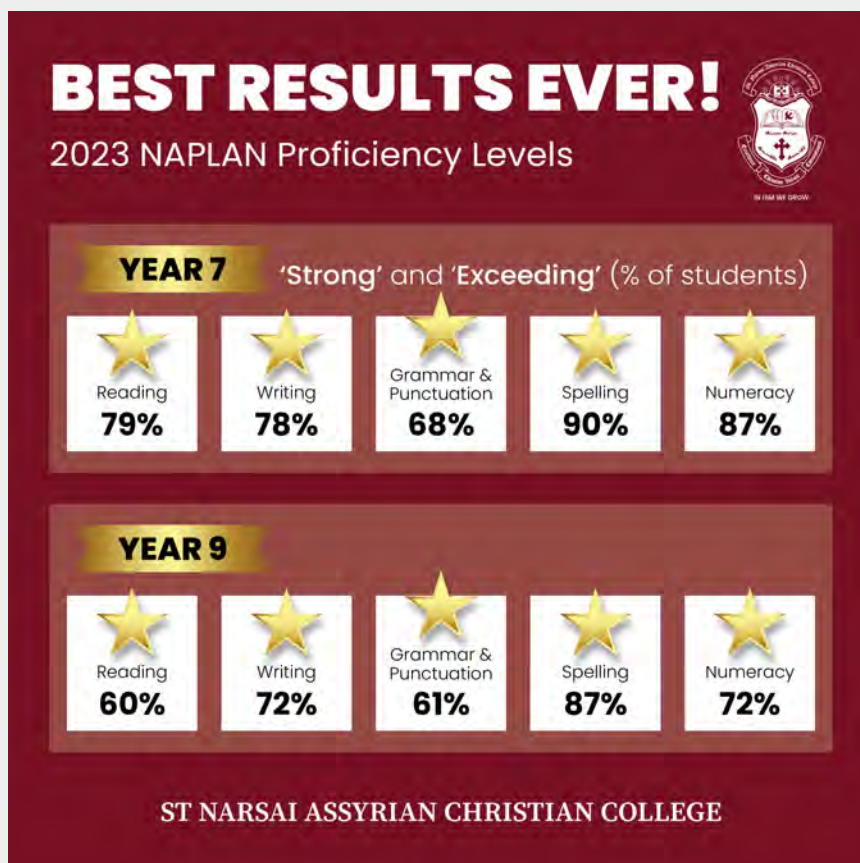
Year coordinators are currently making contact with parents whose child did not perform as expected in semester one. This is in addition to the parent-teacher interviews that were held last term. If a meeting has been requested with you, please attend these interviews to ensure that we can work together to meet the needs of all our students. The year coordinators will be discussing ways that your child can progress further in semester two and beyond.

Year 12 Trial HSC Exams

I wish all Year 12 students the best of luck as they commenced their trial HSC exams on Monday. For most students, this is the last assessment task for their courses before the final HSC exams. I also wish all students completing their practical projects all the best as they complete a major component of their coursework in the coming weeks.

NAPLAN Results

Congratulations to all the students for outstanding NAPLAN results.



Mrs. Mary Khina

Deputy Principal – Curriculum / Teaching and Learning

From the Deputy Principal (Wellbeing)

ONLINE SAFETY FOR FAMILIES

Short videos and easy-to-read advice sheets to help you talk with your children about online safety are available in English and Arabic on this link from the eSafety commission

<https://www.esafety.gov.au/parents/resources/online-safety-for-every-family>

Join one of the eSafety Commission's free webinars for parents and carers. The live webinars give parents and carers the knowledge, skills and tools to support their children to have safe online experiences. Their 2023 webinars include a broad range of topics that will be delivered by expert education and training team. See what is available by visiting this link: <https://www.esafety.gov.au/parents/webinars>

FACTS ABOUT VAPING

The college treats vaping very seriously, and severe consequences apply to any student who brings vapes to school or is engaged in vaping. I advise all parents and carers to read the information in the student diaries from the Student Code of Conduct on page 9 through to the college policy on plagiarism on page 38. These pages briefly outline college policies and procedures. Visit our college website for more detailed policies and procedures including the College Behaviour Support Policy.

Please see below NSW Government's information for parents and carers on the facts about vaping.

FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

THE FACTS ABOUT VAPING

Electronic cigarettes or e-cigarettes, often called 'vapes', are electronic devices designed to deliver vapourised liquids into the lungs. There are many different styles of vapes available and they can be difficult to spot.

The main ingredient in vapes is propylene glycol, vegetable glycerine or glycerol, and they often also contain nicotine, flavours and other chemicals. Vapes may contain harmful chemicals that aren't listed on the pack.

The biggest misunderstanding about vapes is that they are harmless compared to cigarettes. This is not true. **Vapes are not safe.**

DO YOU KNOW WHAT THEY'RE VAPING?

NICOTINE Many vapes contain nicotine making them very addictive	FRUITY The nicotine in 1 vape can =50 cigarettes	Young people who vape are 3 times more likely to take up smoking
Vaping has been linked to serious lung disease	Vapes can contain the same harmful chemicals found in cleaning products, nail polish remover, weed killer and bug spray	Vapes come in a variety of designs and styles and can be easy to conceal

NSW GOVERNMENT

Do you know what they're vaping?
Get the evidence* and facts at health.nsw.gov.au/vaping

*All statements are backed by evidence which can be found on this website

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LATE TO SCHOOL ISSUES AND PUBLIC BUSES

It is unacceptable for students to be late to school.

A letter was sent to all parents/carers on Wednesday 2nd August informing parents of issues the college is seeing with regards to students coming late to school due to them not using the public buses exclusive to transporting students to St Narsai college available.

On a daily basis, approximately 20 to 30 students are left behind on the Prariewood Tway station, as the last bus (8.04am) cannot accommodate the excessive number of students waiting on that bus. This is a major safety and school attendance issue that must be easily solved.

There are 6 public buses leaving Prariewood Tway every morning exclusively coming to St Narsai College and 6 returning in the afternoon. They are only for our students. The bus timetable for the morning buses is: 7:29am, 7:36am, 7:41am, 7:48am 7:54am and 8:04am

Therefore, I strongly request that

- a. If you drive your child to the Tway, please have them there by 7:29am and wait for them to get onto the bus at that time.
- b. If your child makes their own way to the bus, please have them be at the Tway before 7:45am so they can use one of the first 3 buses.
- c. If your child uses an adjoining/connecting bus service, view the timetable for an earlier bus if possible.

The last public bus, the 8.04am will be for students with connecting bus from suburbs further away. All other students must use the buses before this time.

AFTERNOON DETENTIONS

Afternoon detentions are held every Wednesday afternoon from 2.50 to 3.50pm.

If a student is issued with an afternoon detention, they must serve it on the date written.

If the student does not attend, and other arrangements had not been made by the parents, they will be issued a second afternoon detention with a warning of suspension.

Afternoon detentions must be attended. Multiple lunch detentions will not be organised to replace afternoon detentions. A good rule of thumb is, if you cannot attend afternoon detentions, advise your child not to get them.

If a student is issued 3 afternoon detentions (3 consecutive weeks) or does not attend the second afternoon detention, the student risks being suspended.

STUDENT DIARIES

Every St Narsai student was issued a student diary in the beginning of the school year. Please ensure you are checking the diaries and signing them at the conclusion of every week. If your child has lost their diary – one must be purchased from the college office.

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NO STOPPING SIGNS

A reminder the grassed area outside the school has “no stopping” signs along the side of the road. Therefore, please take caution do not park or wait there, as you risk receiving a fine and possible loss of points. Please note parents have received hefty fines and loss of points for parking on a nature strip. This is not in the hands of the college but the council.

Final Word

As Year 12 complete their trial HSC examinations, I wish our Year 12 students the best in their results. I pray you are rewarded for your hard work, and we look forward to celebrating your achievements with you.

Ms Mary Ismail

Deputy Principal (Staff and Student Wellbeing)

From the Christian Studies Department

"But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection" -Colossians 3:14

Dear St. Narsai Parents/ Guardians and students,

At St. Narsai, spreading the Love and Teachings of Christ is not just a belief; it's a way of life. Through their dedicated charitable actions, the College's students and staff embody the spirit of compassion and selflessness. Whether it's organising community outreach programs or lending a helping hand to those in need, the school fosters an environment of empathy and understanding, making a positive impact on the lives of others while exemplifying the principles of Christ's teachings. Their commitment to serving others inspires a sense of unity and goodwill among all who are touched by their generosity.

St. Vincent De Paul Winter Appeal

In early June, the Christian Representative Council (CRC) initiated the commencement of the Annual Winter Appeal, an altruistic endeavour aimed at extending aid to the less fortunate. Within the tight-knit St Narsai community, a collective effort was made to ensure that individuals in need would find warmth and comfort during the winter season through generous donations of winter essentials to the St. Vincent De Paul Society. Heartfelt gratitude is extended to the compassionate staff, diligent students, as well as the caring parents and guardians for their unwavering benevolence and steadfast support, which played a pivotal role in the success of this charitable initiative



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Senior Sermon- Guest Speaker

St Narsai's senior students were granted the esteemed opportunity to engage with His Beatitude Mar Meelis Zaia, who eloquently delved into the profound history and establishment of the Assyrian Church of the East. He also offered profound insights into Christology, with a particular emphasis on exploring the profound interplay between the humanity and divinity of Christ.

We extend our appreciation to His Beatitude for graciously setting aside valuable time from his demanding schedule to impart his vast knowledge and wisdom upon our senior students. As we unite in prayer, we earnestly beseech God's continued guidance and protection for His Beatitude as he shepherds the Assyrian community with profound dedication and care.



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Senior Food Run

With the 2023 College theme 'Together in Christ', it is only fitting for our students to put into practice what they learn in the classroom. This year's theme is aimed at fostering a profound sense of charity and almsgiving within the hearts of every student. In line with this purpose, our dedicated Year 11 and 12 students have devoted their Saturday evenings to providing essentials to the less fortunate at Martin Place through their involvement with the Maidservant of the Lord's Mission. Engaging in meaningful discussions with those in attendance, they embrace the opportunity to connect on a deeper level.

As they earnestly devote themselves to this noble service, we lift our heartfelt prayers, that God may graciously accept their selfless deeds, and instil within them an ever-growing spirit of charity and almsgiving.



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ACERO fundraiser

This week the College launched its annual ACERO fundraiser! The funds raised through this endeavour will be dedicated to assisting families in dire circumstances, residing in the Middle East and struggling to access basic essentials essential for their well-being. In our unwavering quest to sow seeds of hope and love, we earnestly seek to extend a helping hand to our fellow brothers and sisters during these trying times.

With an ambitious target of raising \$3000 we strongly encourage all students to partake in this charitable initiative by contributing even a small amount, thereby joining in our united efforts to make a meaningful difference in the lives of our brothers and sisters in the Middle East.



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Week	Date	Initiative	Year Group Involved
3	Wednesday 2/08	Morning Roll Call Prayer Service with Rev. Father Shamuel	Year 9 and 8
4	Monday 7/08	Feast of the Transfiguration	Whole School
	Thursday 10/08	Year 7 Spiritual Day	Year 7
5	Tuesday 15/08	Commemoration of St Mary	Whole School
8	Monday 4/09	Father's Day	CRC
	Thursday 7/09	Whole School Liturgical Service (Raza Qadisha)	Whole School
9	Wednesday 13/09	Feast of the Holy Cross	Whole School
10	Monday 18/09	Year 12 Liturgical Service (Raza Qadisha) and Breakfast	Whole School

God bless you all,

Jessica Kako

Christian Studies Coordinator

HARP OF THE SPIRIT

From the Science Department

Dear parents/guardians,

As we commence term 3, I want to extend a warm welcome back to all our students. We hope you had a restful break and are now ready to dive back into the world of science with enthusiasm and curiosity. Firstly, we welcome Ms. Mariella Hurtado Silva to the Science team, a passionate and enthusiastic teacher with industrial experience. Ms. Hurtado Silva replaces Mrs. Rose Vi Tungul. We thank Mrs. Tungul for all her efforts and her commitment with the students. She will be missed!

Last term was a very exciting one for the Science faculty! 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. Year 5 students were able to experience Science in all its glory, led by Mrs. Tungul. Experiments explored all different branches of science, including Chemistry, Physics and Biology. Students observed chemical and physical changes, made catapults, and looked at living specimens using microscopes. Their excitement and enthusiasm was particularly evident and we look forward to welcoming them as St. Narsai students in the near future!

This current term promises to be a fruitful and exciting one for science. Students across all grades have commenced their new units for the term where they will undertake various activities that align with the concepts being taught in each respective year group. We firmly believe that true learning is best achieved through experience and exploration. With this in mind, we are committed to providing our students with ample opportunities for hands-on experiments and practical application of scientific concepts, of which students have already started undertaking.

Our year 12 students have spent two weeks revising in preparation for their trial examinations. We wish them the best as they sit their exams, may their hard work and determination be evident in their results. Year 11 students are busy finishing their courses in preparation for their upcoming preliminary examinations. Alongside this, as part of their syllabus, Year 11 Biology students will be attending an excursion to conduct field work at Narabeen Rock Platform. This ultimately supports their studies of ecosystems as they delve into the complex relationships that exist within and between different ecological communities. As part of science week, stage 4 students have been invited to a live stream with Dr Karl Kruszelnicki as a Q&A on the role of science and technology in combating bushfires. During Science week, a STEM design competition will be running for all interested students, with winners awarded gift vouchers to encourage and fuel their bright, aspiring minds. We encourage all students to participate 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 excel and familiarise themselves with the impact of science on the world we live in today.

HARP OF THE SPIRIT



Ms Ornilla Shamon

Head of Science

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From the English Department

Riverside Theatre

On the 29th of June, 9A English went on an excursion to the Riverside Theatre in Paramatta, to witness William Shakespeare's timeless masterpiece, "Romeo and Juliet." The class first met up with their teacher at Fairfield station then started their day by travelling to the theatre in Paramatta by train. After a nice walk, it was time to attend their booked session. The staff at the Riverside Theatre were so welcoming and put the students in a positive atmosphere. The play was fantastic and filled with emotion as the actors echoed their voices across the whole room. The students also got the chance to buy and enjoy some snacks while watching the play. Following the end of the performance, the class roamed through the streets of Paramatta. We ended the day by buying and enjoying food together at Paramatta's food courts. It was a fun and adventurous day! All thanks to Miss Middlebrook and Miss Sebo.



Ms Lynn Middlebrook

Stage 4 English Teacher