

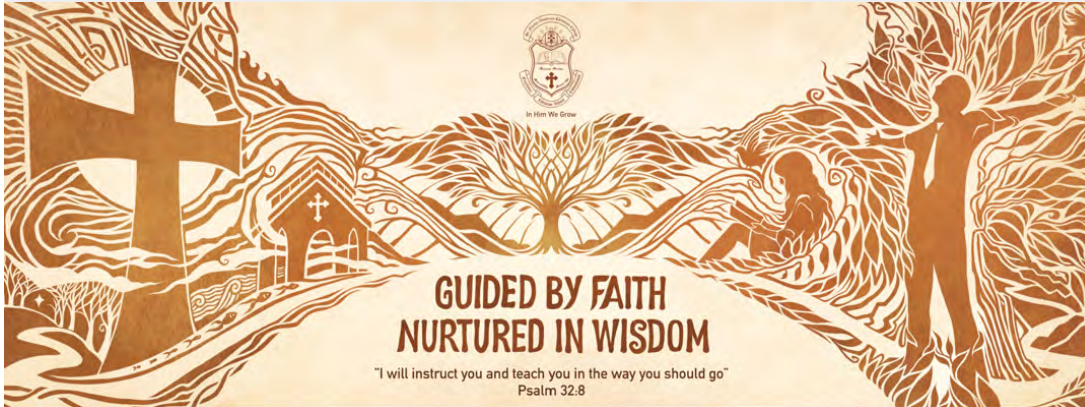


ST NARSAI
ASSYRIAN CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

IN HIM WE GROW

HARP OF THE SPIRIT

From the Principal



Dear Parents, Students and friends of the College,

I am delighted to welcome you- our existing St. Narsai college families back to St. Narsai College. I also extend a very warm welcome and greetings 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 restful summer break with your loved ones and are excited as we embark on a new school year in 2024.

On behalf of all our staff, I extend a sincere congratulations to our graduating Year 12 2023 students for completing the High School Certificate last year and for achieving some outstanding HSC results.

We also extend our appreciation to the parents and families of the Class of 2023 for supporting their children throughout their studies over the last six years at the college.

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 2024 and beyond.

This year's college spiritual theme is 'Guided by Faith, Nurtured in Wisdom'. The theme is inspired by Psalm 32:8 "I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go", which beautifully captures the ethos of our college community that is anchored in our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

We hope that our students can be reminded daily that the Lord is always with us and guides us in all that we do at the college. For us as staff, the theme reminds us of our responsibility to nurture our student's growth and development in alignment with Christ's teachings.

I would like to thank the Christian Studies Department for this effort in selecting this fitting theme for 2024, in particular, I wish to thank Mrs. Kako and College Chaplain, Fr. Shamuel for their leadership in this area.

ISSUE 1 | TERM 1

In this issue

Deputy Principal
Curriculum

Deputy Principal
Wellbeing

KLA Report
English
Science
Christian Studies



ST NARSAI
ASSYRIAN CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

IN HIM WE GROW

HARP OF THE SPIRIT

As I shared with the many parents that attended various Assessment Information Evenings over the last three weeks, it has been 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 this week's college assembly and previous brief cohorts assemblies, I emphasised that the college would continue to 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. Other staff also addressed students and encouraged them to take responsibility for their learning and invited students to take initiatives that will help them to become effective learners that can improve and make progress throughout 2024.

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.

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.

In 2024, college staff will be working on implementing the new ACS School Improvement Plan 2024-2026. This Assyrian Christian Schools (ACS) three-year plan uses five important 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 and Pastoral Care teams will develop targeted Improvement Plans to address relevant elements from the five Pillars mentioned above.

Finally, as we start this new school year, I wish to welcome back Mrs. Neesan, Mrs. Kaya & Mrs. Ashoti from their maternity leave.

Thank you,

Edwar Dinkha

HARP OF THE SPIRIT

From the Deputy Principal (Curriculum)

Dear Parents, Students and Friends of the College Community

Welcome back to the 2024 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 2024 schooling year.

HSC Results

Congratulations to all our class of 2023 students. They have achieved some great results.

We are proud of all the achievements of our students. Their hard work through their schooling journey and in Year 12 resulted in some outstanding results.

Thank you also to their teachers for their dedication and persistence guiding our students to achieve. We also extend our appreciation to the families of the Class of 2023 for supporting their children throughout their studies.

We are proud to share with you the following highlights.

College Dux and Top ATAR: Aniela Shemon with an ATAR of 92.65 received a Band 6 in the following

Mathematics Standard 2

Society and Culture

Distinguished Achievers

9 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
Oneeta Benyamen	Society and Culture
Elissa Daniel	Society and Culture
Orhi Dawod	Society and Culture
Sevan Hekmat	Ancient History Society and Culture
Samantha Ismail	Society and Culture
Nina Khaey	Ancient History Community and Family Studies Society and Culture
Antonella Mammo	Society and Culture
Meera Qachi	Society and Culture
Aniela Shemon	Mathematics Standard 2 Society and Culture

HARP OF THE SPIRIT

ATAR Results

Our students achieved some great ATAR Results. The following students are congratulated on achieving an ATAR above 90.

Aniela Shemon
Atiama David
Sevan Hekmat
Nina Khaey

90% of our students received a university offer for 2024 in various courses and universities. We are proud of all our students' achievements and wish them the best in all their future endeavours.

Alumni

We are always looking to keep in touch with former St Narsai students. If you graduated from St Narsai, please email us and let us know what you're doing post high school. We will be having opportunities for former students to come back and visit the College and share their experiences with current students. Please email info@stnarsai.nsw.edu.au if you are interested in joining our alumni mailing list or visit our St Narsai Alumni Facebook page.

NAPLAN Tests

All Year 7 and 9 students will be sitting the 2024 NAPLAN online tests from 13th – 25th 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 online literacy and numeracy programs including Mathletics, Maths Online, Lexia and Education Perfect. 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.

The Excel books may be useful to assist students with their preparation for the tests. These are available for purchase at Newsagencies, Big W, or other department or book stores. They are also available online at exceltestzone.com.au.

HARP OF THE SPIRIT

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 2024, 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.*

Engagement – *I am involved in my own learning.*

Persistence – *I always strive to achieve my best.*

Self-Regulation – *I take charge of my own learning.*

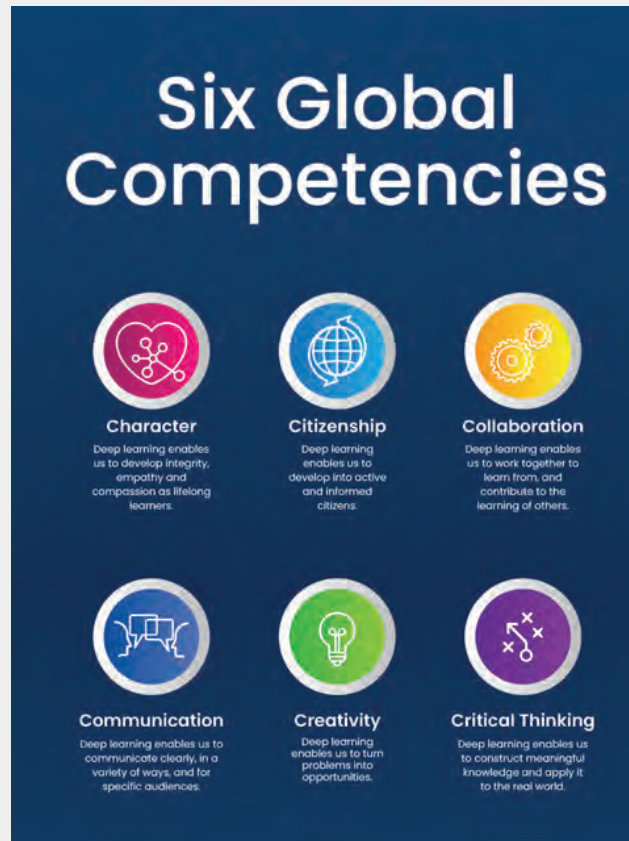
Innovation – *I embrace creativity.*



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

HARP OF THE SPIRIT

In addition to these, students are all working on developing the 6 global competencies as we continue on Deep Learning at the College.



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.

Information Evenings

Thank you to all parents that attended our information evenings recently. It was great to see you in attendance. If you were unable to attend, please make sure that you speak to your child about the evening as all students will have been given a session and provided with the handbook. We encourage all parents to attend these evenings as we provide important information and they are an important opportunity for you to meet with your child's teachers.

I look forward to working with all parents/carers as we continue the journey of student learning at St Narsai.

Mrs. Mary Khina

Deputy Principal – Curriculum / Teaching and Learning

HARP OF THE SPIRIT

From the Deputy Principal (Wellbeing)

Dear Parents/Carers and Students

Welcome back to the start of the 2024 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 from our school uniform provider. Our uniform items have been coming into the store throughout the past weeks. Currently, we only await the blue sports polo shirt everything else is in store.

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 2024 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.

HARP OF THE SPIRIT

Year 7 and 10 Immunisation Schedule 2024

This week parents/carers of Year 7 and 10 students received information via email and SMS regarding Year 7 and 10 vaccinations in 2024. There is a new online process to register your child. Please contact the school if you have not received this information.

Catch-up vaccinations for students who missed their vaccination in 2023 will also be available.

Public Buses

Every morning, there are 5 public buses that leave Prairiewood 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 from Tway at Stocklands:

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

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 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.

Chewing Gum Policy

On Tuesday 13th February all parents/guardians received a reminder of the College chewing gum policy and consequences. Please ensure your child is following the policy and complying with the consequences if found in breach.

HARP OF THE SPIRIT

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.

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).

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 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.

HARP OF THE SPIRIT

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.

God bless you all.

Mary Ismail

Deputy Principal- Wellbeing

HARP OF THE SPIRIT

From the English Department

Empowering Literacy with Lexia Power Up

Greetings St Narsai College community,

As educators committed to fostering academic excellence and empowering our students with the essential skills for success, we are thrilled to continue our journey with the Lexia Power Up Literacy program, which has been running successfully for over a year at our school.

Designed to target crucial aspects of literacy including vocabulary enhancement, reading comprehension, and grammar proficiency, the Lexia Power Up program is a comprehensive online resource tailored to the needs of students in Year 7 to 10. This initiative aims to provide our students with a structured and engaging platform to enhance their literacy skills both within the classroom and at home.

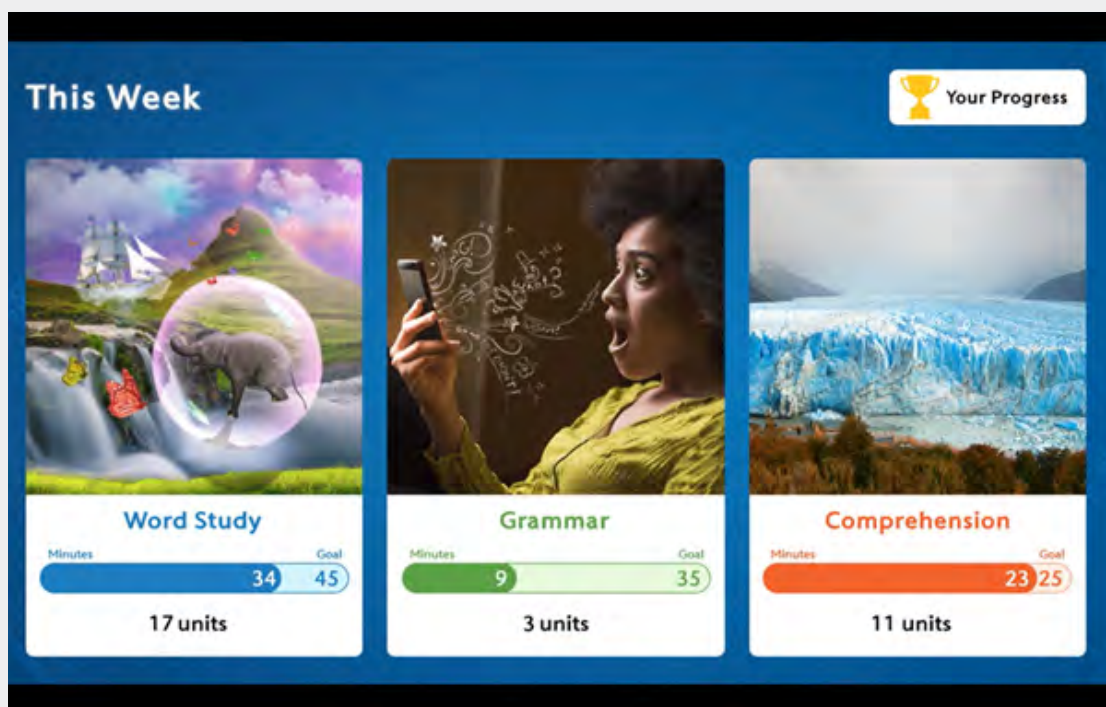
One of the key features of the Lexia Power Up program is its flexibility, allowing students to seamlessly integrate their learning into their daily routines. With the expectation of dedicating 120 minutes per week to navigating through the program's diverse components, students have the opportunity to pace themselves and delve into the various modules at their own convenience. This flexibility not only encourages independent learning but also instils a sense of responsibility and commitment to personal academic growth.

Moreover, we are encouraging parents to actively monitor their child's use of the program. Parental involvement plays a crucial role in supporting and reinforcing students' learning experiences, and by staying engaged with their child's progress, parents can provide valuable encouragement and assistance as needed.

Importantly, the implementation of the Lexia Power Up program aligns with our school's broader objective of enhancing student outcomes, particularly in the NAPLAN literacy tests. By systematically targeting areas of literacy that are crucial for success in these assessments, we are equipping our students with the necessary skills and confidence to excel academically and achieve their full potential.

In conclusion, the ongoing success of the Lexia Power Up Literacy program underscores our commitment to empowering our students with the literacy skills essential for success in their academic journey and beyond. With its flexible structure, engaging content, and focus on targeted skill development, we are confident that this program will continue to make a tangible difference in enhancing student learning outcomes and fostering a culture of literacy excellence at St Narsai College.

HARP OF THE SPIRIT



Students in 8B English using Lexia during their lesson this week

HARP OF THE SPIRIT

From the Science Department

Dear Parents/guardians,

Welcome to the 2024 school year. The Science department is enthusiastic and eager for the exciting teaching and learning experiences that lie ahead this year. We extend a warm welcome to our new Year 7 students at St Narsai! They've kicked off the year positively, delving into science, its various branches, and real-world applications. Alongside, they've been enjoying hands-on activities like experimenting with the Bunsen Burner and getting familiar with different laboratory apparatus. Our focus is on enhancing students' scientific skills as they gear up for their first assessment task – a practical investigation. We hope our new students have a fantastic year ahead and seamlessly adapt to their new journey as secondary students.

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.

As Year 11 students transition into the senior ranks, sporting their distinguished blue shirts, they exude a sense of maturity and readiness to confront the Sciences with determination. We're thrilled by the enthusiasm they've been demonstrating, yet it's crucial to remind them that the Stage 6 Science courses pose challenges that require dedicated effort, both in class and at home, to meet the course objectives. This advice holds true for our Year 12 cohort as well. We strongly encourage them to take advantage of the after-school classes available to deepen their understanding and enhance their academic performance.

In closing, I encourage students to embrace science with curiosity and excitement. It's a new beginning, and our teachers are here to support and guide them toward success. Let's work together to foster a love for science and create a learning environment where students can thrive. 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.

HARP OF THE SPIRIT



Ms Ornilla Shamon
Head of Science

HARP OF THE SPIRIT

From the Christian Studies Department

"I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go"

Psalm 32:8

Dear St. Narsai Parents/ Guardians and students,

As we embark on a new year, I am excited to unveil our College's spiritual theme for 2024, 'Guided by Faith, Nurtured in Wisdom'.

The theme is inspired by Psalm 32:8 "I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go", which beautifully captures the ethos of our College community anchored in Christ. For students, it serves as a source of comfort and assurance, signalling that our Lord is present in their spiritual and educational journey. The verse resonates with staff, reminding them of their sacred duty to instruct and teach in alignment with Christ's teachings, ensuring a holistic and value driven education. The College itself becomes a vessel for God's instruction, embodying a collective commitment to nurturing not only academic development but also spiritual growth.



The Great Fast

On Sunday 11th of February, the Great Fast begun, marking one of the significant fasting periods in the Assyrian Church of the East. Over the next six weeks, the following initiatives will take place throughout this time:

1. During our whole school assembly, our school captains read a passage to the whole school marking the start and importance of the fast.
2. Recess Prayer Service (Monday 12/2) conducted by Rev. Father Shamuel to commemorate the beginning of the fast. All staff are welcome to attend.
3. Every Tuesday morning during roll call, there will be a prayer, reading or Bible verse read by a student on the PA system. This is a time for students to grow in Christ's wisdom. During this time selected students will be coming around to each roll call room to provide bisma.
4. The Great Project- Starting in week 4, every Wednesday break 2, students will have the opportunity to participate in activities aimed at illuminating the annual theme and the significant message of the Great Fast.

HARP OF THE SPIRIT



Senior Sermons

Last week, year 11 students had their first Christian senior sermon with Reverend Father Shamuel and Reverend Father Ramen. These special sermons serve as a cornerstone for our seniors, offering a unique opportunity to delve into complex societal matters and seek guidance. The interactive nature of these sermons encouraged students to actively participate, fostering a space for open dialogue and exploration.

HARP OF THE SPIRIT



Upcoming Events

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 15/2	Year 7 Liturgical Service	Year 7
	Monday 12/2	Readings for the Great Fast	Whole School
4	Monday 19/2	Morning Roll Call Prayer Service with Rev. Father Samuel	Year 12 and 11
	Thursday 22/2	CRC Induction Day	CRC Students
5	Friday 1/3	Middle of the Great Fast	Whole School
9	Tuesday 26/3	Whole School Liturgical Service (Raza Qadisha) and Palm Sunday Procession	Whole School

God bless you all,

Jessica Kako

Christian Studies Coordinator