



# HARP OF THE SPIRIT

## From the Principal



Dear Parents, Students and friends of the College,

College students and staff welcomed the start of the Great Fast for the Feast of the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ (Easter) two weeks ago through daily prayers in every homeroom as well as weekly special prayer services at the College organised 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 that it encourages them to observe the Great Fast every day so they can grow in Christ. This nurturing of faith is done through a series of faith-based activities run by groups of students and involving all students and staff throughout the Fast period.

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All staff are working within their KLA teams on developing strategies that would address elements of the College's Roadmap to Academic Success document as well as responding to the 2023 RAP Analysis (Results Analysis Package HSC) conducted earlier this year. This exercise allows the college Executive to analyse and discuss last year's HSC results with all KLA Co-ordinators.

Since then, KLA teams are undertaking specific actions and steps to respond to students emerging needs and are considering many improvement initiatives across all areas.

Year Co-ordinators are working on their respective Cohort Improvement Plans (CIP's) that they will use throughout 2024 to systematically address all components of the 2024 strategic plan with a focus on students' wellbeing and learning outcomes.

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**ST NARSAI**  
**ASSYRIAN CHRISTIAN COLLEGE**

IN HIM WE GROW

# HARP OF THE SPIRIT

We have wonderful students- your children that we believe can achieve great results this year and every year, but we need you to ensure that your children do complete homework or home study every day at home. You would know that your child's commitment to their studies, hard work and achievement this year will strongly affect their potential academic performance this year and into the future.

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It is with pleasure that I announce that the College has commenced enrolment interviews for Year 7 2025 and 2026 for parents who had submitted applications last year or at the start of this year. Moreover, we are now accepting new enrolment applications for Year 7 2025 and 2026 from all parents. Prospective parents are encouraged to access online enrolment application forms via the college's website.

You may also be aware that the college organises regular Open Days each week and we will be happy to facilitate your tour of the college once a request is made by contacting the college reception.

**Thank you,**

**Edwar Dinkha**

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## From the Deputy Principal (Curriculum)

### Dear Parents, Students and Friends of the College Community

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:

- How are they working 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?
- 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 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

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.

The College Library  
is open every  
morning from  
7.50am

Teachers are avail-  
able in the library to  
assist students with  
homework and  
assessment tasks.

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## 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 and half hours
Year 9 & 10	One and half to two hours
Year 11 & 12	Three hours or more

Students can also logon and complete online revision tasks on Education Perfect or Atomi.

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 9th April 2024. 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 9th April 2024.

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. 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.

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## 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. Some students may be asked to select subjects from the non-ATAR pathway if they haven't shown diligence and sustained effort in their classes in Year 10.

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## NAPLAN tests

NAPLAN tests for years 7 and 9 students are coming up from 13th – 25th 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](mailto:library@stnarsai.nsw.edu.au).

**Mrs. Mary Khina**

**Deputy Principal – Curriculum / Teaching and Learning**

# HARP OF THE SPIRIT

## From the Deputy Principal (Wellbeing)

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?



### Cybersafety, Bullying, Young Offender's Act and Driver Safety

In week 4 and 5 of this term 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 and Bullying to year 7 and 8, The Young Offender's Act (Rights and Responsibilities) to students in Years 9 and 10 and to our Seniors, he presented a session on Driver Safety. For great parent advice and support regarding cybersafety please visit

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



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## P and F Falafel and Fries Fundraiser

Thank you to our amazing P and F Committee for their amazing support and dedication to our Falafel and Fries fundraiser on Thursday 7th March. Nothing beats family and delicious food. Thank you to Mr Apram Shlimon, Mr Bethuo Bethuo, Mrs Nahrain Gorges, Mrs Soria Namato and Mrs Roza Adam as well our Year 10 students Sarah Khina, Ramta Kina, Larissa David and Sara Dawood for being fabulous helpers.



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## Social Media

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

Social media platforms, such as Omegle, TikTok, Snapchat and 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 ☐ Better yet, find a book you both would enjoy and read together.

**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	Standardized Test Scores
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



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## 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 must remain for the entire detention and catch the next bus available.

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.

## Textbooks

It is week 7 and there are still students without textbooks. If there has been a delay in delivery, please contact Endeavour Books. If you are yet to purchase the required texts, please visit the school website <https://stnarsai.nsw.edu.au/downloads/#booklists>

## Attendance

Attendance letters have been issued to all parents/carers of students whose attendance is below 95%. 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.

**God bless you all.**

**Mary Ismail**

**Deputy Principal- Wellbeing**

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## From the Mathematics Department

### **Dear family and friends of St Narsai school community.**

Welcome back to another year of teaching and learning at St. Narsai. A heartfelt welcome to all students, with a special emphasis on our newest members in Year 7. May your experience at St. Narsai be filled with brightness and success and may your passion for Mathematics illuminate your daily learning.

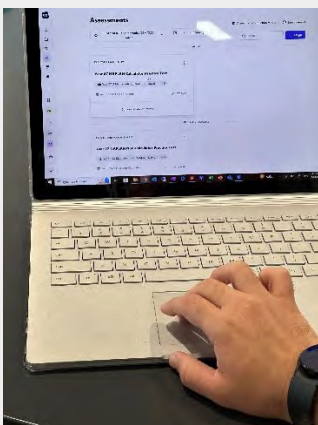
### **Class of 2023**

It has been an exciting start to 2024 with the great news of our class of 2023 students. I would like to congratulate all Mathematics students who went above and beyond to achieve outstanding and pleasing results in their mathematics exams; with special congratulations to Aniela Shemon who achieved Band 6 in Mathematics Standard 2.

### **Numeracy in Roll Call**

Prioritising the enhancement of student numeracy and mathematics proficiency in our curriculum, the college has decided to renew its subscription with Maths Online. This initiative aims to strengthen students' comprehension of classroom-taught concepts. By providing students with their own personal math tutor, Maths Online facilitates the reinforcement of classroom teachings through explicit video explanations and subsequent comprehension assessments.

Engagement with this program has been incorporated into the Tuesday and Friday roll call routine, allowing students dedicated time to work on it. Additionally, students are encouraged to log into their accounts independently to revisit and reinforce any math lessons they may find challenging in the classroom.



### **Year 7 and 9 Practice Numeracy**

In our Mathematics classrooms, our instructional approach centres around cultivating the numeracy skills evaluated in the NAPLAN tests. Our primary goal at St. Narsai is to continuously enhance the numeracy proficiency of our students. Consequently, all Year 7 – 9 classes incorporate numeracy content throughout each mathematics lesson, concentrating on refining the skills essential for a successful performance in the NAPLAN numeracy exam in March.

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In addition to the dedicated numeracy content, two practice tests were conducted for both Year 7 and 9, explicitly designed to mirror the upcoming exams in March. These assessments were conducted under exam conditions, guiding students on how to navigate online exams, and emphasising the importance of completing the required working out before selecting answers.

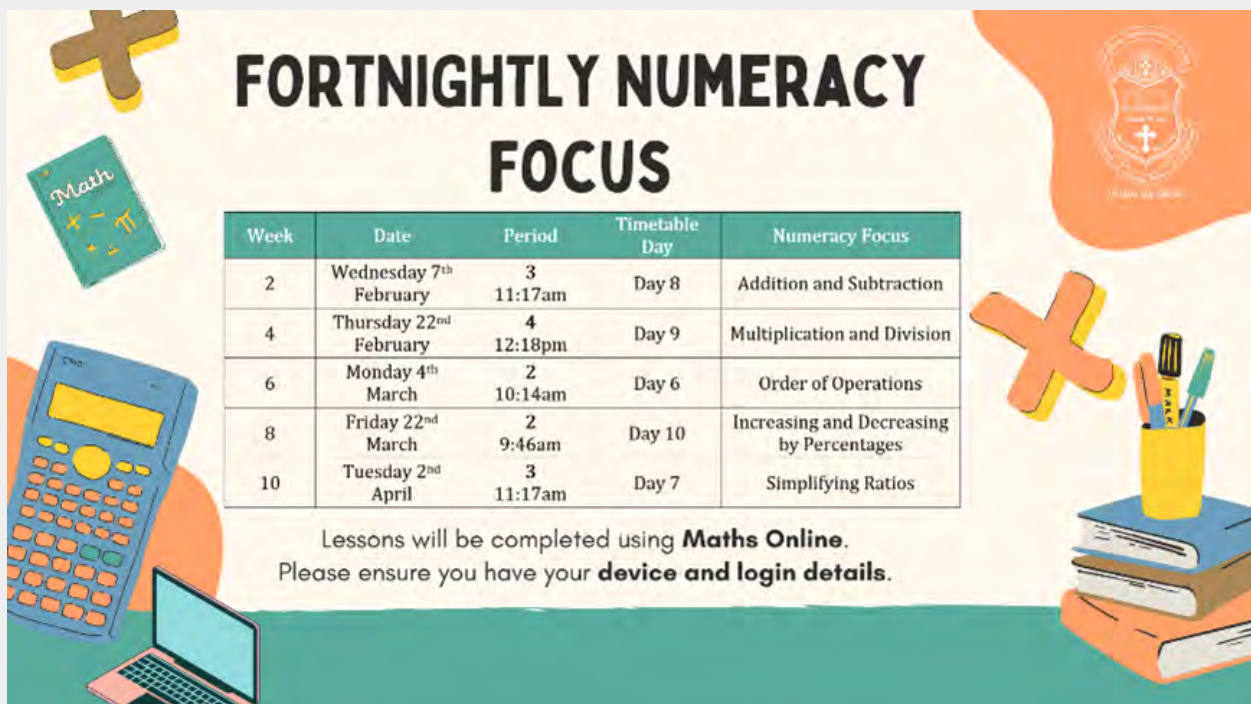
These comprehensive numeracy initiatives empower students to concentrate specifically on foundational math and numeracy skills crucial for excelling in the subject. This approach fosters their ability to become independent problem solvers.

## Fortnightly Numeracy Focus

With a continued strong emphasis on Numeracy in 2024, 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 ask students to login into Maths Online, watch a short video explaining a fundamental numeracy concept and complete a short formative. 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.

A colorful poster titled "FORTNIGHTLY NUMERACY FOCUS". The title is in large, bold, black letters. Below the title is a table with five columns: Week, Date, Period, Timetable Day, and Numeracy Focus. The table lists five sessions. The poster is decorated with illustrations of a math book, a calculator, a laptop, a stack of books, and a pencil holder. In the top right corner, there is a crest with a cross and the motto "LEARN TO SERVE".

Week	Date	Period	Timetable Day	Numeracy Focus
2	Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> February	3 11:17am	Day 8	Addition and Subtraction
4	Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> February	4 12:18pm	Day 9	Multiplication and Division
6	Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> March	2 10:14am	Day 6	Order of Operations
8	Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March	2 9:46am	Day 10	Increasing and Decreasing by Percentages
10	Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April	3 11:17am	Day 7	Simplifying Ratios

Lessons will be completed using **Maths Online**.  
Please ensure you have your **device and login details**.

Miss Adwena David

Mathematics Co-ordinator

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## From the TAS Department

**Dear Student, Parents and SNACC Community,**

As we embark on a new academic year at St Narsai, we are excited to share with you the latest developments from the dynamic realm of technology education. The TAS Faculty is committed to providing your child with an enriching and innovative learning experience that equips them with the skills necessary to thrive in our ever-evolving digital landscape.

Our technology faculty has curated a cutting-edge curriculum that not only covers the fundamentals but also delves into emerging technologies shaping the future. From coding to robotics, your child will have the opportunity to explore a diverse range of topics, preparing them for the challenges and opportunities of the digital age.

In our technology programs, we emphasise hands-on, project-based learning. Students are encouraged to apply theoretical knowledge to real-world scenarios, fostering critical thinking, problem-solving skills, and creativity. These experiences not only deepen their understanding of technology concepts but also prepare them to tackle complex challenges in their future careers.

In an increasingly connected world, cybersecurity is a crucial skill. Our faculty is dedicated to instilling a strong sense of cybersecurity awareness in students. Through specialised courses and practical experiences, we empower students to navigate the digital landscape responsibly, ensuring they are equipped to protect themselves and contribute to a safer online environment.

We believe in the power of collaboration between parents and teachers to support the educational journey of our students. Throughout the academic year, we will welcome you to our elective information evenings and parent teacher interviews to keep you informed about your child's educational experience.

As we embark on this exciting journey together, we want to express our gratitude for your trust and partnership. The TAS Faculty is dedicated to nurturing your child's technological curiosity, creativity, and resilience, preparing them not only for academic success but also for a future where technology plays a central role.

If you have any questions, concerns, or would like to learn more about our technology programs, please feel free to reach out. We look forward to a year of exploration, growth, and technological innovation.

# HARP OF THE SPIRIT



Sincerely,  
Dragana Zivkovic  
TAS Faculty Coordinator

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## From the PDHPE Department

The PDHPE faculty has commenced 2024 on a positive note. It's been a pleasure to welcome back all students from grades 8-12, as well as our new year 7 students embarking on their first year at the college. We have been focusing on getting all students settled in and motivated to learn, by starting off the year with a positive attitude to learning and school life.

This term, our focus is on enhancing students' understanding and abilities to make healthy choices, alongside honing their practical skills across various sporting disciplines such as Gymnastics, Dance, Volleyball, and NFL.

We trust that this term will be fulfilling for all students, encompassing both the theoretical and practical aspects of PDHPE. We also wish our senior students years 11 and 12 the best of luck as they sit their assessments this term.

In the sporting arena, we have had futsal teams represent the school and this Friday the college is holding our annual swimming carnival. We look forward to seeing all of our students in the pool and enjoying the sunshine while supporting their house colour with pride.

**Warm regards,**

**Mrs. Victoria Tatian**

**PDHPE Coordinator**