

# HARP OF THE SPIRIT



# From the Principal

Edwar Dinkha

Dear Parents, Students and Friends,

Staff and students were blessed on Tuesday 29th October by the historic Prelates' visit to the college. Students and staff were overjoyed to welcome His Holiness, Mar Awa III Royel, Catholicos Patriarch, His Eminence, Mar Meeliz Zaia AM, His Grace, Mar Benyamin Elya, His Grace, Mar Elia Isaac as well as other special guests.

Students wholeheartedly welcomed His Holiness and the Prelates in their own loving way, and many offered personal explanations about their classwork or projects during brief classroom visits. It was wonderful to see students demonstrating confidence, excellent standards of communication, knowledge and skills in their own subject contexts or learning areas.

In my address during a special welcoming assembly, I welcomed His Holiness and the Prelates and said that our parents, students, and staff feel so blessed because the Church has given us this wonderful college. I also stated that we will always be grateful to our beloved Archbishop, His Eminence Mar Meelis Zaia for his loving and courageous vision to establishing Assyrian Christian schools in Australia.

His Holiness and the Prelates visited three classrooms and learning spaces and they were pleased with the positive interactions with all students. Moreover, His Holiness blessed and opened the newly erected Cross at the front of the school.

On behalf of the St. Narsai Assyrian Christian College community, I wish to thank His Holiness, and the Prelates for their fantastic and fruitful visit to the college.

#### Welcome to Term 4

We welcomed all students back to school as we journey into term four and the conclusion of the 2024 school year. By now, students are back to their usual study routines and are preparing for this term's assessments including end of year examinations.

In a college assembly in week one, I commended all students for demonstrating positive commitment toward college standards at the start of this term, especially the college's academic standards. I reminded students how important it was for all of us to meet the high expectations we set for ourselves earlier this year and how we would be rewarded by doing the right thing every day. I encouraged all students to make a concerted effort to improve their own personal work ethics across all subjects.

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# 2024-25 Student Leadership Team

We are delighted to announce the 2024-25 Student Leadership Team. These students were congratulated for being selected to these very important student leadership roles and we will be introducing them to the college next week. The details of the student leadership are listed below:

### Captains

- Novell Daoud
- Mary Sada

# Vice Captains

- Dylan Jammo
- Nina Audisho

#### **Prefects**

- Aniela Dankha
- Nathan Shamon
- Gabriella Narse
- Anthony Adam
- Olivia Ishak
- David Zughair

#### **HSC Exams**

We extend our best wishes to our Year 12 2024 students and pray that they will be rewarded for their efforts during their HSC exams that concluded on Friday, 7th November 2024. We look forward to this year's HSC results that will be published on the 18th of December 2024.

#### Year 11 2024

Congratulations to Year 11 2024 students for completing the preliminary HSC course requirements last term and good luck to all of them as they commence their Year 12 HSC 2024-25 courses this term. On Wednesday, 16th October, the college hosted the 2024-25 Year 12 Assessment Information Evening for the new Year 12 students and their parents in building F. I reminded students that typical Year 12 students would need to spend 2-3 hrs every school day at home studying, revising, summarising lesson notes, practising exam type responses and working on assignments. I also emphasised that students should attend early to all assessments tasks as all are equally important and have impact on their final HSC mark.

Mr. Younan Moushi- Head of HSC Studies presented attendees with important HSC course assessment information, NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA) assessment requirements and the school-based assessment procedures and protocols. Students who attended this presentation were given a copy of the current HSC Assessment Information Handbook that included all relevant assessment information, including assessment schedules of all subjects offered at the college. Students were also issued with a Year 12 Senior Student Agreement and both students and parents signed this agreement, which is a way to hold students to account in relation to meeting the college's academic high expectations.



# From the Deputy Principal (Welfare and Wellbeing)

Mary Ismail

## Presentation Evening - Book the date

The College Academic Presentation Evening will be taking place at Eden Venues - Edessa Hall on Wednesday 11th December 2024 at 6pm. Presentation evening is an auspicious event, to recognise students' academic achievement of students in Years 7 to 11. We acknowledge students who have come first and shown the most improvement in their courses in 2024.

#### **End of School Year**

#### Donation of textbooks

As the end of the 2024 school year approaches, I would like to ask parents if your child has any textbooks that they will no longer be using in 2025, please donate the textbooks to the school so we can support other students that may be unable to purchase textbooks. I ask that the textbooks are in good condition. Textbooks can be donated in the last week of this term.

#### Locker Clean-up

In the last week of this term, please ensure your child does not leave anything in their locker at school over the holidays as there will be no access to the college. Also, all students are to remove their locks at the end of the year as their locker will be allocated to other students in 2025. Any locks that remain on lockers will be cut and disposed of.

#### Women's Wellbeing

St Narsai Assyrian Christian College is joining St Hurmizd's Assyrian Primary School in inviting all parents of ACS to join us for the Empowered Parents workshop on Tuesday 19th November. This workshop has been specifically tailored to women as it will deliver on the important topic of Women's Wellbeing. We will be joined by a guest speaker, Associate Professor Dr Shameran Slewa-Younan, who will share valuable insights aimed at improving and promoting women's wellbeing.

The workshop is held at the St Hurmizd's School Hall and registration is required. If you have not done so already, please use the link below, or the QR code in the image, to register your attendance.

# https://forms.gle/3qny6C1Z7M6jGfC66

N.B. this presentation is intended for parents and carers only and is not a student event.





# St Narsai College Uniform 2026

A reminder that the new St Narsai College uniform is planned to be introduced in 2026. A letter was been emailed to all parents and carers in September and again on Friday 15th November, to inform them that in 2025, the St Narsai uniform remains the same and can be purchased at LOWES Wetherill Park.

God willing, when the new uniform commences in 2026, it will only be compulsory for Kindergarten, Year 7 and Year 11 students. Other year groups will purchase the new uniform when the need arises (if the uniform they have gets small or damaged).

# College social media sites – are you connected?

St Narsai College Facebook Page can be viewed by clicking this link. Be sure to 'like' and 'follow' to keep up to date with what is happening at the College. https://www.facebook.com/StNarsai Website: Visit www.stnarsai.nsw.edu.au for all required forms, information and policies. Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/stnarsaicollege/





## **Google Reviews**

I would like to encourage members of our college community to leave a positive review on St Narsai College's google reviews. As you are aware when you do a Google search on our college the name will appear alongside reviews. Although many of our students and parents leave positive reviews, there are members of the community who do not, and it is the negative comments that impact the overall rating.

Therefore, I would like to encourage our parents, carers, students and families to provide a positive and realistic review of or college so it can truly reflect the quality of education and care received by our students.

#### P and F Kebab Lunch

Thank you to our amazing P and F for a wonderful Kebab lunch on Tuesday 12th November. Your time and effort are always very much appreciated.





# 2025 Student Leadership Training Day

The newly elected student leadership team participated in a leadership work shop today. The day started with prayer and a session with Father Shamuel about Faith in Leadership, and included sessions about the Principles of Leadership by the Principal Mr Dinkha, team building and leadership skills with Mrs Ismail.

Our leaders are ready to lead the college with a focus reflecting the College motto of Excellence, Commitment and Christian Values.





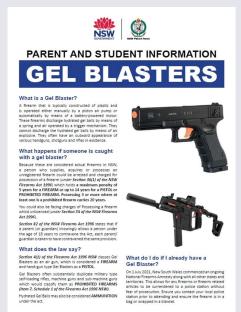
# Message from our Local Youth Police Liaison Officer

In light of the Christmas period fast approaching, and teens starting to request certain gifts from their parents, please find very important information regarding E-scooters, E-bikes and Gel blasters that might be worth reading. Whether people agree or not, this is the law as we currently stand with these things, and we really don't want to see any of our students, or their parents, receiving fines that could be easily avoided, nor do we want to see any young person involved in a serious incident such as a crash.

Looking forward to the next 3 weeks of the term – and I still can't believe how quickly the time flew.









# From the Deputy Principal (Curriculum)

Mary Khina

#### **HSC Exams**

HSC Exams concluded for St Narsai students on Thursday 7th November. I commend all year 12 students on their resilience and perseverance through the exams. We look forward to celebrating their achievements when they receive their results on the 18th December.

# **Presentation Evening**

The College Presentation evening will be held on Wednesday 11th December 2024, 6pm, at Edessa Hall. We are excited to be organising this event again and inviting parents to join us in celebration of their child's achievements. Parents will receive an invitation to the evening closer to the date. Wednesday 11th December is also the last day of school for 2024 for students.

#### Years 7-10 Final Assessments

Year 10 students completed their yearly exams last week. Year 9 will be completing their exams this week and Years 7-8 will be completing their exams next week. All students are encouraged to put in their best effort and seek assistance from their teachers to ensure that they receive their best possible results for their final report at the end of this term. Students are also encouraged to take on the feedback from their teachers to improve on areas needing improvement next year.

All subject teachers have issued students with assessment notifications and revision guides. Please discuss the exam timetable and revision material with your child to ensure that they are prepared.

# Study Skills Handbook

Students have access to the Study Skills handbook available at www.studyskillshandbook.com.au. The login details have been posted on Teams for all students and parents to access the useful resources. Here is an excerpt from the site:

Overcoming Roadblocks to Study Success (from studyskillshandbook.com.au)

- 1. Find Your "Why": Search for a meaningful reason to aim higher than the minimum. Whether it's getting into your dream course, pursuing a career you're passionate about, building your neural capacity as a learner, or just proving to yourself that you can succeed—use that as motivation to stop making excuses and invest extra effort.
- 2. Tame Your Distractions: Distractions are everywhere—social media, friends, pets, hobbies can all pull you away from your studies. Implement strategies like turning off notifications, setting specific "study hours", or using apps designed to limit screen time so you can focus and allocate enough time to your schoolwork. A distraction–free environment helps you stay on track and makes study sessions more effective.
- 3. Turn Mistakes into Momentum: Don't let mistakes discourage you; instead, see them as stepping stones to growth. Each error or setback is a chance to identify what you can improve. Reflect on what went wrong, adjust your approach, and focus on learning from your experiences. Mistakes are often the best teachers and can launch you toward greater achievements if you use them wisely.



- 4. Set Small, Achievable Goals: Break down big tasks into smaller, manageable goals. Rather than thinking about an entire semester's worth of material, focus on mastering one chapter or concept at a time. This makes studying less overwhelming and gives you a sense of accomplishment with each small win, motivating you to keep going.
- 5. Create a Supportive Study Environment: Surround yourself with people who encourage your success—whether it's classmates, friends, or family members who support your study efforts. Consider forming or joining a study group to share resources, discuss topics, and keep each other accountable. A positive support system can keep you motivated and make studying feel like a team effort rather than a solo challenge.
- 6. Develop a Routine That Works for You: Consistency is key to successful studying. Establish a study routine that fits your lifestyle and energy levels. Whether it's studying early in the morning, after school, or late at night, find a time that you can consistently dedicate to your work. A consistent routine helps your brain recognise study time, making it easier to focus and be productive.
- 7. Reward Your Progress: Motivation is easier to maintain when you celebrate your achievements, no matter how small. Set rewards for yourself when you complete a study session, finish a chapter, or achieve a good result. It could be something simple like a snack, time with friends, or a short break doing something you enjoy. Rewarding progress helps reinforce positive habits and keeps you motivated to keep pushing forward.

Parents and students can learn more about how to study effectively at www.studyskillshandbook.com.au by logging in with the details made available for all students on Teams.

#### Year 12 2025

Year 12, 2025 students have now commenced their HSC coursework and assessment tasks for their courses. They are all encouraged to put in their best efforts as their results will be cumulative for their final HSC marks.

# **Textbooks and Stationery for 2025**

All books are available through boxofbooks.com.au

To ensure you receive your physical items in time for the start of term, please place your order as soon as possible. For orders placed after the due date, the availability of items for start of term delivery cannot be guaranteed.

Steps to order:

- 1. Visit Box of **Books Shop** to log into your existing parent/guardian account or create a new account if it is your first purchase.
- 2. Add each student, including school email if possible, and nominate school and year group
- 3. Select the items you wish to purchase from the booklist shown
- 4. Use the checkout to organise postage direct to your nominated address and complete payment

Digital texts that have been purchased can be accessed through the student's Box of Books portal. We strongly recommend students sign in to Box of Books prior to the start of the year to ensure their textbooks and publisher interactives (e.g. online quizzes) are set up before classes commence. For further assistance, please see this short informative guide on How to Purchase Books or contact the Box of Books team through the in-app support function.

Stationery requirements will be posted on students Teams pages.



At the minimum students will need the following stationery items for their classes:

- A 192 page exercise book
- Casio Calculator
- Black, Blue and Red pens
- · Lead pencil, eraser and sharpener
- Highlighters
- Glue
- Ruler
- Protractor
- Coloured pencils
- Laptop device with earphones

All items should be clearly labelled with your child's name.

#### **NAPLAN**

As children progress through their school years, it is very important that checks are made along the way to see how well they are learning the essential skills of reading, writing and numeracy – skills that will set them upon the path to success as adults.

NAPLAN is a point-in-time test that allows parents to see how their child is progressing in literacy and numeracy against the national standard and compared to their peers throughout Australia. At the classroom level, NAPLAN provides additional information to support teachers' professional judgement about student progress.

In 2025 students in years 7 and 9 will complete the NAPLAN tests in the testing dates of 12-24 March. More details about the dates of each test will be sent to caregivers closer to the date. How can students prepare for the NAPLAN tests?

In preparation for these tests, students are 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.

All students in Years 7-10 have access to Mathletics, MathsOnline, Education Perfect and Lexia online programs. Your child's English and Maths teachers are monitoring student completion of the tasks as well as progress. Please encourage your child to logon to these programs daily and complete the tasks assigned. Students who complete the most set tasks will be awarded with prizes as part of our Literacy and Numeracy challenges.

Details on the programs are available at https://www.lexialearning.com/ and https://www.mathletics.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.

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

Year 7



# From the Mathematics Department

Adwena David

Dear family and friends of St Narsai school community.

The Mathematics Faculty warmly welcomes you back to the final term of 2024. This will be a busy period for our students as they prepare for their final exams that mark the conclusion of yet another successful and fruitful academic year in mathematics.

# **External Mathematics Competitions**

In August this year, St. Narsai students participated in two external competitions, the ICAS Mathematics Competition and Australia Mathematics Competition (AMC). These online assessments provide students the opportunity to demonstrate a deeper, more integrated, and thorough level of learning.

The competitions are a rewarding opportunity for students to extend themselves beyond school Mathematics through challenging exams, allowing them to bring their skills back to the classroom and use them to inspire others. I take this opportunity to congratulate the students who received Proficiency, Merits, Credits and Distinctions in these competitions, giving us the best results in our school's history of participation.







## Spring Numeracy Challenge

During the spring holidays, students had the opportunity to enhance their maths skills while embracing the beauty of the season. This challenge inspired learners in Years 7–10 to tackle a variety of numerical puzzles, fostering critical thinking, problem-solving, and a deeper understanding of mathematical concepts. From discovering patterns to calculating ratios, students engaged in dynamic online activities that strengthened their numerical abilities and sparked a passion for math.

The challenge not only encouraged friendly competition across grades but also helped students sharpen their analytical and practical skills. Congratulations to the students who excelled and achieved top scores in their respective year levels!









# **Term 4 Yearly Assessments**

The preparation for exams holds great importance in students' educational journeys. Exams not only evaluate one's knowledge and comprehension of the subject matter but also foster essential skills and habits for long-term success. Preparing for exams enables students to solidify their learning, review crucial concepts, and pinpoint areas needing further attention.

It is recommended that students commence with their study notes, complete revision booklets, and mark off all outcomes on their checklists to ensure readiness for their upcoming assessments. These exams not only serve as a summative assessment of their academic journey in 2024 but also provide a platform for students to showcase the depth of their understanding and application of mathematical principles. The mathematics department commends each student for their efforts and wishes them the best of success in these end-of-year exams, confident that their dedication will be reflected in the results they achieve.

As the year comes to an end, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to all Year 12 students, particularly our mathematicians, on successfully completing their studies at the college. I am eager to witness the impactful ways in which you apply the mathematical knowledge and skills acquired during your time at St Narsai in your future academic pursuits, professional endeavours, and life experiences. May your path ahead be illuminated with brightness and prosperity.

In closing, I offer my prayers for a joyous Christmas and New Year celebration for you and your families. May God's blessings be upon you, guiding and safeguarding you throughout the coming year. I eagerly anticipate another year of academic growth, deepening our understanding of mathematics, nurturing our faith, and strengthening our spiritual journey with Christ. Looking forward to our continued journey together.



# From the TAS Department

Dragana Zivkovic

#### A Year of Innovation

The year 2024 has been another exciting and productive one at St Narsai Assyrian Christian College, with students demonstrating their skills across a wide range of technologies. As the Technology and Applied Studies (TAS) Coordinator, my focus has been on enhancing digital learning, supporting faculty and students, and leading initiatives that prepare our school for the future.

In the Stage 4 Technology Mandatory course, students explored various technologies, laying the foundation for deeper learning in later years. This year, they ventured into coding, aerodynamics, and flight investigations, and even participated in "MasterChef" challenges, preparing meals and creating websites to showcase their work. Practical, hands-on experiences have been key to their success.

Stage 5 saw students specialise in electives such as Food Technology, Textiles, Industrial Technology (Timber), and Information and Software Technology. Despite the challenges of working with robotics and drones, students also created educational games, applying their coding skills across other learning areas.

In the senior years, TAS offers a broad range of electives, including the rigorous Design and Technology course, which features a Major Work Project. Our dedicated hardworking year 12 students are currently sitting their HSC exams, and we excitedly await their results, and have no doubt they will make us proud.

As educators, we must inspire our students, fostering curiosity and believing in their potential. In doing so, we help shape the future, which is in the hands of these bright young learners.



# From the HSIE Department

Sandy Nona

Dear family and friends of St Narsai Assyrian Christian College,

As the year draws to a close, it's a perfect time to reflect on what has been a productive and rewarding year for both our staff and students. Term 4 offered a range of academic activities and initiatives designed to engage our learners actively and help them reach their personal best.

#### Year 9

In Year 9 Commerce, students concentrated on the processes involved in promoting and selling products. They explored the strategies companies use to build brand awareness and the factors that differentiate products, such as advertising, promotions, and sponsorships. Additionally, they gained insight into ethical and unethical practices, equipping them with the awareness to make informed choices and avoid companies that exploit workers, harm the environment, or engage in child labour.

Year 9 also delved into a detailed study of World War II, which enabled learners to strengthen their historical skills through a variety of activities centred on understanding the war's significance and key events. Literacy skills were embedded within these activities, helping learners develop and enhance their writing abilities. By analysing historical sources, students gained an empathetic understanding of Australians' roles in the war and expressed their knowledge by commemorating Remembrance Day.

#### Year 10 Commerce

Year 10 commerce also studied the unit 'Law, Society and Political Involvement.' They have recently explored various types of laws, with a focus on Criminal and Civil Law. Students worked in small groups, taking on the role of detectives to solve a murder mystery. They assessed evidence, pinpointed key events in a timeline, and read through case files to crack the case. This activity not only reinforced their understanding of the distinctions between criminal and civil law but also helped them recognise the different elements of criminal law, such as intent, motive, and the burden of proof.

### Year 12

Finally, congratulations to our Year 12 students on completing their HSC exams! I am confident they will succeed in their future endeavours, and I know their achievements will make our community proud. I'd like to take this opportunity to wish you all a blessed Feast of the Nativity and a prosperous new year. I look forward to writing to you again in 2025.









# From the CAPA Department

Jessica Mann

This term our students are focusing on revision of theoretical content and analysis of the Arts in preparation for their Yearly Exams.

#### Music

Year 7 Music students are focusing on Orchestral music including music in Film. Using the Concepts of Music terminology they have analyzed scenes from Harry Potter (the first Quidditch match) and The Parent Trap (the Sisters scene, right) to see how Music emphasizes the emotion or dramatic action in the scene. With a focus solely on the music itself and no visual content, they have analyzed pieces by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Johann Strauss II, and Richard Wagner. They are also exploring these musical genres through practical lessons on Piano Keyboard and through Composition using the BandLab for Education software.



Year 8 are becoming proficient in analysing Rock music by exploring the various styles of Rock from the 1950s and including the sub-genres Soft Rock, Heavy Rock, classics from the 1960s-1980s, Punk and Grunge. After their exams they will explore how the Concepts of Music are used in Electronic Rock, Australian Rock, Country and Christian Rock. To further boost their listening skills they are learning basic drumming patterns first on the drum rebound practice pads (right) and then on the proper kit after their exams are over.



# Art

Year 7-10 Visual Arts classes have been revising their skills in analysing different artworks using TEE sentences (Technique, Example, Effect), PEEL paragraphs (Point, Example, Effect, Link), and PTEATEAL (Point, Technique, Example Effect/Analysis, Link etc).

The Under The Sea installation by Year 9 Visual Arts was displayed for multiple weeks at the stairs in D block (right) and was completed with 'found objects'. Also on display is our multicultural wall displaying mixed media artworks of members of our community and information about their culture. Year 10 Visual Arts finished their functional ceramic (clay) object with many students choosing Christmas as a theme. First they had to learn how to properly mold the clay into a cube (left) and roll it out to create a clean and smooth slab.





## Visual Design

Our Visual Design students are now working on their first term as Year 12 students!

Currently they are creating printed materials for the Hospitality industry – a restaurant, café or food truck.

This assignment requires them to create a business name and logo, design a restaurant menu, along with internal and external advertising. They are enjoying the gift of choice that this course brings, along with the rreal-world applications.



# From the Learning Support Faculty

Lynn Middlebrook

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the importance of encouraging your child/ren to continue to develop their literacy and numeracy skills over the summer holiday. It is vital that children of all ages continue to increase their understanding and achievement in these crucial areas that are vital for success in and beyond their educational years. At St Narsai Assyrian Christian College, all staff are committed to improving students' literacy and numeracy skills not only during school terms but also outside of school terms.

Therefore, St Narsai Assyrian Christian College is again running its annual Summer Holiday Literacy and Numeracy Challenge for students in Years 7-10. Please see details of the challenges below and please encourage your child/ren's participation in these challenges as they will assist in developing your child/ren's literacy and numeracy skills.

Students can collect the Summer Literacy and Numeracy Bingo Challenge cards from the front office.

Lastly, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members of the Learning Support Faculty for their tireless work throughout the year. Your dedication and commitment to our students is greatly valued and appreciated. I also pray that the students, parents, carers and staff of the St Narsai Assyrian Christian College community have a blessed Christmas as we celebrate Jesus!



