

• A Rich Past, An Outstanding Future •

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ACS

MAGAZINE



ACS

INTEGRITY • COMMITMENT • RESPECT • EXCELLENCE



ACS

Assyrian Christian Schools
Sydney Australia

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Social Media

Follow our schools and stay up to date with the latest news and events



On the cover
Left to right:
School captains,
Ealbra Rezko,
Mary Sada,
Novell Dauod
and Michael
Yousuf. Photo:
David Rouse



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His Eminence
Mar Meelis Zaia AM

Metropolitan of the
Assyrian Church of the
East, Archdiocese of
Australia, New Zealand,
Lebanon & Patriarchal
Vicar General

Message from HIS EMINENCE

As we stand on the threshold of an exciting chapter for our Assyrian Christian Schools, I am filled with gratitude and hope for the future. Our schools are not just centres of education; they are beacons of faith, culture, and community. They play a vital role in nurturing the next generation of leaders grounded in the values of our faith and heritage.

It is my heartfelt desire to see our schools deepen their connection with their faith and the broader Assyrian community. Together, we must

cultivate an environment where faith and education intertwine, inspiring our students to grow spiritually, intellectually, and morally. By strengthening these bonds, we ensure that our traditions and values remain vibrant for generations to come. Our schools are continuing to show great progress, and with progress comes the promise of new opportunities. These opportunities will provide students with broader connections to what is also a growing church that fosters a strong sense of community.

This expansion within our community is enabling students to thrive in their academic pursuits while remaining deeply rooted in their cultural and spiritual identity.

I extend my gratitude to our dedicated educators, staff, and families for their unwavering commitment. Together, let us pray for continued blessings as we embark on this journey of faith, learning, and community. The future is bright, and I look forward to witnessing the remarkable achievements that lie ahead.



His Grace
Mar Benyamin Elya

Bishop of the
Assyrian Church of
the East, Diocese of
Victoria & New Zealand
& Chairman of the
Assyrian Christian
Schools

Message from HIS GRACE

At Assyrian Christian Schools, our mission remains deeply rooted in delivering exceptional Christian-based education, fostering a strong foundation in faith, knowledge, and community. I am delighted to share some recent developments approved by the school board that are set to enhance the teaching and learning experience across our schools.

To ensure the highest quality education, we have introduced a range of new resources and cutting-edge technology. These advancements aim to empower our educators, providing them with the tools to

inspire and nurture our students effectively. From interactive learning platforms to advanced digital tools, these resources will enable us to deliver engaging and innovative teaching tailored to the needs of every learner. In addition, several exciting facility improvement projects have been completed or are now underway at both St Narsai and St Hurmizd. These initiatives will transform our campuses into modern, vibrant spaces designed to support holistic development. This has been achieved through upgraded classrooms, new sports facilities, and state-of-the-art STEAM spaces. Our focus remains on

creating environments where students thrive academically, spiritually, and socially.

At the heart of all these efforts is our commitment to a Christ-centred education that upholds our values and traditions. We have introduced a new Head of Faith and Heritage at both schools and we continue to enhance our Christian Studies and Assyrian Languages programs.

Together, with the support of our dedicated staff, parents, and community, we are shaping a bright future for our students – one embedded in faith, excellence and service.

From the CEO



Aaron Boyd
Assyrian Christian
Schools

Assyrian Christian Schools (ACS) has embarked on an ambitious master plan that underscores its commitment to providing exceptional learning environments for its students. A major milestone in this transformative journey has been the completion of the state-of-the-art Sport and Performing Arts Centre at St Narsai Assyrian Christian College. This impressive facility, capable of accommodating up to 1,700 people, serves as a cornerstone for fostering talent in sports and the arts while also supporting large-scale school events. The Sport and Performing Arts Centre is designed to enhance students' holistic development by promoting creativity, teamwork, and physical excellence. Its multifunctional spaces provide an inspiring venue for learning, religious events, performances, assemblies, fitness and various sporting activities. This facility demonstrates ACS' dedication to providing students with well-rounded skills and opportunities to excel academically and through a range of extracurricular programs. Building on this success, our ACS master plan has shifted its focus to further exciting developments at St Hurmizd Assyrian Primary School and St Narsai Assyrian Christian College. At St Hurmizd, we have completed a range of external works including new shade sails and landscaping to revitalise the K-6 school. Our next stage involves the remodelling of classrooms to create larger,



His Holiness Mar Awa III toured the Mar Meelis Zaia AM Sport and Performing Arts Centre while it was still under construction during his visit to the College.



Mr Boyd with St Hurmizd student leaders.

dynamic and flexible learning spaces. This initiative aims to optimise the teaching and learning experience by integrating modern technologies and fostering collaborative and student-centred learning environments. The upgraded classrooms will better accommodate student learning needs and reflect ACS' commitment to educational excellence. St Narsai will experience further growth with the addition of a new floor above the existing library. This expansion will house new classrooms to support the college's growing student body while maintaining an emphasis on creating vibrant and technologically advanced teaching and learning environments. Following the library addition, plans are underway for our

future K-6 Primary School at St Narsai. This building will provide state-of-the-art facilities, including STEAM facilities that will extend and challenge our younger students from the earliest stages of their educational journey. ACS will also be building the new K-12 Leppington Christian Grammar. This project is addressed in greater detail later in this magazine. All of our projects represent a forward-thinking vision that aligns with our core values and supports academic and extracurricular excellence. By investing in these transformative initiatives, ACS is ensuring that our students are equipped with the resources, facilities, and opportunities needed to thrive in our rapidly changing world.

**Leppington Christian Grammar:
A New Beginning, Page 22**

From the PRINCIPALS



Edwar Dinkha
St Narsai Assyrian
Christian College

As I reflect on the past few years, I am reminded of the many improvements we have made together. Our students achieved outstanding results in NAPLAN and the HSC, and the shift in pedagogical practices has supported independent learning and promoted student engagement in learning. Our dedicated staff leverage contemporary digital technologies to enrich learning beyond traditional classroom boundaries. The college acquired technology-based resources, including robots, 3D printers, Virtual Reality (VR) equipment, and drones, to deepen students' experiences in technology as we contemplate the future. Our school community fosters Christian values, developing individuals who strive for academic excellence, are life-long learners, and live their faith. Staff strive to create future leaders by nurturing Character, Citizenship, Collaboration, Communication, Creativity, and Critical Thinking in every student. The future is bright for our students and college community. Thankyou for being part of our vibrant community and making this year remarkable.



Benjamin Khoshabeh
St Hurmizd Assyrian
Primary School

I take this opportunity to reflect on what has been an inspiring and successful past few years at St Hurmizd Assyrian Primary School. Our theme - *SHAPS: Sustaining Health, Amplifying Potential, Striving for Success* - has guided our journey, shaping a year filled with remarkable achievements. We have sustained health by continuing to foster a safe, inclusive, and nurturing environment where students have thrived both academically and personally. Through innovation and dedication, we have amplified potential, unlocking new strengths in literacy, numeracy, leadership, and the arts. Most importantly, we have strived for success, celebrating excellence in academic progress, sporting achievements, and community engagement. Moving forward there is much to anticipate for St Hurmizd. I am confident that our students will embrace the future with determination and continued commitment to learning. We have a dedicated and committed staff and we look forward to the opportunities and successes that await us in the future.



Q&A with the ST NARSAI HEAD OF PRIMARY



Renia Issac
Head of St Narsai
Assyrian Christian
College - Primary

1. What excites you about St Narsai's new Primary School?

The establishment of St Narsai's new Primary School is the continuation of a vision that began over 20 years ago by our Church leaders – a vision to provide Assyrian students with a faith-centred education that nurtures both academic excellence and cultural identity. The opening of this new school is a significant milestone, not only for our students and teachers but for the wider Assyrian community and the Holy Apostolic Catholic Assyrian Church of the East.

With state-of-the-art classrooms, expansive sporting fields, and access to specialist facilities – including a new sport and performing arts

centre, science laboratories, and dedicated art and music classrooms – St Narsai's Primary School will provide an inspiring and well-resourced environment where students can thrive. This is more than just a new school; it is a landmark achievement that strengthens our commitment to future generations, ensuring they receive an education deeply rooted in faith, tradition, and excellence.

2. What opportunities will exist for our Primary School students at St Narsai?

St Narsai's Primary School will uphold the same rigorous curriculum as St Hurmizd, ensuring a consistent educational approach across all Assyrian Christian Schools (ACS). This alignment provides continuity in learning while offering students the opportunity to grow within a familiar academic framework. Beyond the classroom, our students will have access to a diverse range of extracurricular activities, including faith-based events, year-group collaborations, and competitive sporting opportunities. Programs in debating, public speaking, and robotics will further enrich students' learning experiences, equipping them with critical thinking, communication, and problem-solving skills. These initiatives will foster confidence, leadership, and a strong sense of community, ensuring that every student is prepared for future success.



Education extends beyond academics – it is about shaping character, nurturing values, and inspiring young minds to lead with integrity and purpose.

– Mrs Issac

3. How will we engage with families and the wider Assyrian community to strengthen our connections?

St Narsai's Primary School is deeply committed to fostering strong relationships with families and the wider Assyrian community. Engagement will be achieved through open communication, regular school events, and collaborative initiatives that invite families to play an active role in their children's education. By celebrating our shared faith, culture, and traditions, we will create a nurturing environment where students feel a strong sense of belonging. Through faith-based programs, community gatherings, and parent workshops, we will ensure that the school remains a cornerstone of the Assyrian community – one that not only educates but also strengthens the cultural and spiritual identity of future generations.



The expansion of St Narsai Assyrian Christian College

St Narsai has become a Kindergarten to Year 12 College. This change creates unified educational outcomes, streamlining resources and fostering stronger connections. Teachers are able to collaborate across grade levels to ensure seamless transitions and learning opportunities, preparing students for future success. The new Primary School building will provide state-of-the-art facilities promoting a continuous pathway for academic growth, social development, and extracurricular activities.

KEY:	
A: Existing A Block (Office)	H: Existing COLA
B: Existing B Block	I: Existing Courtyard
C: Existing C Block	J: Existing Carpark
D: Existing D Block	K: New Carpark
E: Existing E Block	L: Sport & Performing Arts Centre
F: Existing F Block	M: St Narsai Primary
G: Stage 5	N: Sports field



His Holiness **MAR AWA III VISITS ACS**

His Holiness' visit to ACS was a momentous occasion, inspiring students and staff through his wisdom and presence.

His Holiness Mar Awa III Royel visit to the Assyrian Christian Schools – St Hurmizd Assyrian Primary School and St Narsai Assyrian Christian College was an inspiring and memorable occasion for our school community. This was His Holiness' second visit, and the pride felt by our staff, students, and the entire school community was evident. His presence at St Hurmizd brought a sense of unity and joy, as he interacted with students, visiting various classrooms

and even participating in a game of soccer with the students, showing his warmth and connection with them.

At St Narsai, His Holiness toured the new Sport and Performing Arts Centre which at the time was still under construction, offering words of encouragement for the exciting development. He also unveiled the newly built Cross at St Narsai, a symbol of faith and community. His visit included participating in Christian Studies and Science lessons, providing students with an opportunity to engage with him directly and gain valuable insights.

Throughout the day, His Holiness shared a morning tea and lunch with the ACS staff, where he spoke about the importance of faith, service, and dedication to education. His visit left a lasting impression, reminding all of us of the importance of nurturing both academic and spiritual growth. His Holiness' continued support and presence at both schools serve as a powerful source of inspiration for our students and staff alike, strengthening the bond within the Assyrian Christian School community.



His Holiness unveiled the newly built cross at St Narsai College.



“

Everything that you will see and learn and hear during these years will be with you for the rest of your life. And they play a part in who you are becoming and the future of who you will be is important for our church, our nation and your country.

– His Holiness Mar Awa III Royel



His Holiness was greeted warmly at St Narsai, with students proudly wearing traditional Assyrian clothing and waving flags as he entered.



His Holiness
**MAR AWA III
VISITS ACS**



His Holiness participated in various classroom activities while touring the St Hurmizd campus. The students were overjoyed by his presence.

Event Photographers:
Sam Sitto and Andrew Mammo



Faith & Heritage
**EMBRACING
OUR TRADITIONS**

► Faith and Heritage have always been the pillars of **St Narsai Assyrian Christian College**, bringing together students' cultural identity and spiritual learning to shape their hearts and minds. Our college community embraces this through our annual Christian themes, *'Guided by Faith, Nurtured in Wisdom'* and *'Walk in Christ's Light'*. These themes shape every cultural and religious event, reinforcing our commitment to spiritual growth and academic excellence. A defining moment was the visit of His Holiness Mar Awa III Royel, Patriarch of the Assyrian Church of the East. Welcomed with heartfelt joy, His Holiness' presence was a true blessing. From leading a school assembly, visiting

various classes, to unveiling our newly constructed cross, his visit strengthened our faith and unity. Throughout the years, spiritual and wellbeing days provided students with sacred moments to step away from their daily routines and immerse themselves in faith. Through prayer, scripture reflections, and interactive workshops, students explored the importance of personal growth. Our Assyrian New Year celebrations were a vibrant tribute to our rich heritage. Students delivered powerful speeches and poetry reflecting on the significance of preserving our identity, while classrooms transformed into Assyrian cultural learning spaces with art, music,



and history-focused activities. These moments stand as a testament to how we have been *'Guided by Faith, Nurtured in Wisdom'* and now continue to *'Walk in Christ's Light'*, strengthening our commitment to Christ and our Assyrian heritage.

Jessica Kako, Head of Faith & Heritage,
St Narsai Assyrian Christian College



Students bake cupcakes for Paloo (mid-lent), attend Palm Sunday Mass at Saints Peter and Paul Church and celebrate Assyrian New Year.

► At **St Hurmizd Assyrian Primary School**, our school year has been filled with spiritual growth and cultural pride. We began each term with Holy Liturgies, fostering reflection and blessings. The Rogation of the Ninevites reminded us of repentance and prayer, while our Lenten Fasting Journey calendar helped students deepen their faith with daily tasks. Our unique Paloo (mid-Lent) tradition saw two students and teachers find the cross under their cupcake, symbolising blessings.

Our Holy Week was commemorated through dramatic performances, while feast days like St Mary's and St Hurmizd's celebrations brought the school together. We also honoured the Feast of the Cross with fun activities and explored the account of Queen Helena finding Christ's Cross. The school-wide carol concert for the Feast of Nativity was a beautiful expression of joy. Culturally, we embraced our Assyrian heritage, exploring the contributions of our ancestors to civilisation. Students

participated in Assyrian New Year festivities with songs, dances and other culturally related activities. We also commemorated Assyrian Martyrs' Day, reflecting on the sacrifices of our people. As we continue celebrating our faith and heritage, we ensure our traditions remain alive, guiding future generations to carry our Assyrian legacy alive for years to come.

Carmin Miceli, Head of Faith & Heritage,
St Hurmizd Assyrian Primary School



From the EARLY LEARNING CENTRE

At St Hurmizd Early Learning Centre, we have enjoyed a wonderful time filled with learning, growth, and celebrating our faith and Assyrian culture. Each day, children join in prayer in Assyrian, deepening their spiritual connection and cultural identity. One of the highlights was our Assyrian New Year celebration, where families came together to enjoy traditional food, music, and stories.

Children also had the opportunity to explore how they can care for the environment in meaningful, hands-on ways. They learned about composting through our worm farm and used recycled materials from home to create imaginative crafts. A special visit from "Recycle Man" made sustainability fun and engaging.

Our *School Readiness Program* supports development across all key areas. Children have been practising self-help skills, recognising letters, writing their names, and exploring numeracy through bingo, counting games, and interactive smartboard activities. Daily storytime with educators also supports early literacy, helping children develop a love for books and language.

We also enjoyed an exciting magnetic tiles incursion, where children explored shapes and worked together to build creative structures – encouraging teamwork and problem-solving through play.

We are proud of everything the children have experienced and achieved, and we look forward to continuing their journey in faith, learning, and discovery.

Striving for EXCELLENCE

At St Narsai, our teaching philosophy empowers students to thrive in today's dynamic world. We develop essential knowledge, skills, and character traits through a framework integrating Visible Learning and Deep Learning. The Deep Learning method supports holistic development, preparing students to become future leaders. We emphasise six Deep Learning Competencies: *character, citizenship, communication, collaboration, creativity, and critical thinking*. Our commitment extends to providing a supportive and collaborative learning environment, making learning visible, and encouraging parental and community involvement. Our teaching is centred on the Christian faith and Assyrian heritage of our college, integral to our programs.

Our students at St Narsai achieved outstanding NAPLAN results, surpassing the national average in Numeracy, Writing, Grammar and Punctuation, and Spelling. This success reflects the collaborative efforts of our dedicated staff and hardworking students. We have seamlessly integrated literacy and numeracy into every subject, enhancing learning experiences. Our teachers use creative methods and personalised support, leveraging digital tools to champion these skills. We remain committed to further enhancing all students' literacy and numeracy skills. Our students have achieved the best HSC results in our College's history, a testament to their dedication and perseverance. We congratulate all students on their outstanding achievements, as well as their parents and teachers for their unwavering support. Over 80% of students received a university offer, reflecting our commitment to academic excellence. These exceptional results showcase the high standards of teaching and the hard work of our students.



Justin Zaia
99.20



Joseph Daniel
96.70



Nikolas Niqola
94.50



Giwargis Oraham
93.95



Dankha Jehensha
93.85



Liana Jendo
92.50



Raphaella Shaboo
91.45

Students with the highest HSC ATAR in 2024



NAPLAN assessment at St Hurmizd.

Success at St Hurmizd

At St Hurmizd Assyrian Primary School, we take great pride in our students' growth and achievements. Our NAPLAN results highlight the strength of our literacy and numeracy programs, with students making remarkable progress. These results reflect the dedication of our teachers, the hard work of our students, and the support of our parents.

Beyond NAPLAN, deep learning is embedded across all subjects. In HSIE and Science & Technology, students engage in inquiry-based learning, developing critical thinking and problem-solving skills. Through hands-on investigations and research projects, they deepen their understanding of the world.

80%
of St Narsai students were offered university entries

>90%
of St Hurmizd Years 3 and 5 students achieved 'strong' or 'exceeding levels' in writing

>80%
of St Hurmizd Years 3 and 5 students achieved 'strong' or 'exceeding levels' in spelling

Students from both schools achieved above the national average in all domains for NAPLAN

Exploring THE WORLD OF TECHNOLOGY

Innovation is thriving as students and staff embrace technology and future-focused skills through STEAM and E-Learning.

This year has been a remarkable one for innovation and technology across both St Narsai and St Hurmizd, as each school continues to empower students with the skills and mindsets needed for a fast-changing, tech-driven world.

At St Narsai, our STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) program has taken significant strides forward. We've invested in exciting new resources, including programmable robotic dogs (making us one of the first schools in Australia to have them!), cutting-edge Virtual Reality with



A student operates one of St Narsai's 3D printers.



Students engaging in a robotics lesson.

a VR treadmill, and four new 3D printers. These tools provide students with hands-on opportunities to explore emerging technologies while developing essential 21st-century skills.

With Australia facing a growing shortage in STEAM-related fields, St Narsai is deeply committed to nurturing student capabilities in these areas. Year 7 students, for example, successfully coded their own interactive music boxes using Python, while the newly established Robotics Club has been actively designing, building, and programming robots for upcoming inter-school competitions. Students are also delving into advanced technologies such as LIDAR and exploring crucial concepts in cybersecurity. It has been a truly inspiring year of creativity, collaboration, and innovation, and we are immensely proud of our students' growing expertise and curiosity.

Meanwhile, at St Hurmizd, E-Learning continues to thrive, enriching how students and staff engage with digital tools, problem-solving, and creative thinking. Students have embraced opportunities through Robotics, Film Club, and Makerspace sessions. The Robotics team meets regularly to tackle real-world challenges while demonstrating the FIRST LEGO League Core Values: Discovery, Innovation, Inclusion,



Showcasing creativity and innovation – students developed apps as part of the AI Micro Course.

Teamwork, Fun, and Impact. Earlier in the year, the Film and Makerspace Club generated excitement for green screen production and storytelling.

Professional learning for staff remains a strong focus at St Hurmizd. Each year group meets weekly with the E-Learning Coordinator to strengthen digital capabilities in Canvas, learning and assessment tools, and data literacy. Teachers also continue to enhance their practice through the use of Microsoft 365, Google Workspace, and classroom demonstrations, ensuring they remain confident in guiding students

through digital workflows. Professional growth is further supported through premium educational tools that enable personalised and differentiated learning experiences.

As both schools prepare for upcoming syllabus reforms in Science & Technology and HSIE, their shared focus on deep learning ensures that students develop critical, connected, and future-ready thinking. With thoughtful planning and strategic investment, St Narsai and St Hurmizd are united in their mission to make innovation sustainable, meaningful, and impactful for every learner.



E-Learning coordinator Harry Truong with the St Hurmizd robotics team.

Jewel OF THE CROWN

A new chapter begins as the **Mar Meelis Zaia AM Sport & Performing Arts Centre** was officially opened – blessed by its first Mass and embraced by the wider community.

Bloompark, PMDL, and COWYN Building Group collaborated on the Sport and Performing Arts Centre project, bringing together expertise in design, planning, and construction.



The opening of the **Mar Meelis Zaia AM Sport and Performing Arts Centre** marked a historic and joyous chapter in the life of our College. On Tuesday 20 May 2025, we proudly celebrated the official grand opening of the Centre, a momentous occasion led by His Eminence Mar Meelis Zaia AM and His Grace Mar Benjamin Elya. Staff, students, and guests came together to celebrate and reflect on the significance of this long-awaited milestone. Joined by Church leaders, Reverend Fathers, and distinguished government officials including The Hon. Chris Bowen MP, The Hon. Mark Buttigieg MLC and

The Hon. Dr Hugh McDermott MP.

The week of celebrations continued with the first Raza Qadisha held in the Centre, a deeply meaningful and inspiring moment for the entire St Narsai community. His Eminence Mar Meelis Zaia AM led the service, joined by His Grace Mar Benjamin Elya, and our dedicated church clergy.

To conclude the week of celebration, the Centre was opened to the wider community on Saturday – an occasion filled with excitement, connection, and shared pride in this remarkable new space for sport, performance, and faith.



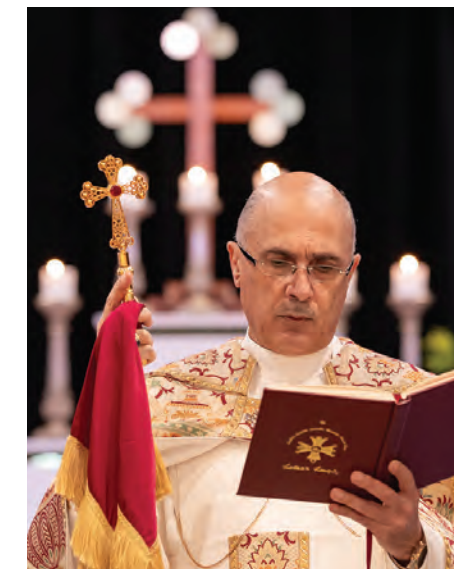
“ It is a proud moment for all of us as we gather here today to celebrate the opening of the new multi-purpose hall – a space that represents more than just walls and a roof, it is a space for growth, for creativity, for connection. This hall is a symbol of the future we are creating here, one that values opportunity, collaboration and ambition.

– His Eminence Mar Meelis Zaia AM



SPORT & PERFORMING ARTS CENTRE – GRAND OPENING WEEK

INAUGURAL MASS – Thursday, 22nd May 2025



COMMUNITY OPEN DAY – Saturday, 24th May 2025



Event photographer: George Brikha



St Hurmizd girls soccer team

GAME ON!

Our students have been showing incredible skill, teamwork, and determination in various sporting events. From thrilling wins to unforgettable moments, the school spirit is stronger than ever!

At the Assyrian Christian Schools, athletics play a vital role in promoting health, teamwork, and school spirit. Throughout the year, students from all year levels actively participate in a wide range of sporting events and competitions. These include annual athletics carnivals, swimming carnivals,

and cross-country events, which not only encourage physical fitness, but also foster a strong sense of community and friendly competition. Students also have the opportunity to represent their school at interschool sporting events, showcasing their talents in sports such as soccer, futsal, netball

and more. These competitions build resilience, sportsmanship, and leadership, while allowing students to shine. Whether it's in the pool, on the track, or on the field, ACS is committed to nurturing the physical development of every student through a vibrant and inclusive sports program.



SPORTS SPOTLIGHT



Miriam Zumaya

St Narsai student who plays for the Western Sydney Wanderers women's team.

When did you first show interest in soccer?

I started when I was 5 years old. I joined my first grassroots club, 'Liverpool Olympic Under 6's'.

Who or what inspired you to start playing?

I was always drawn to the sport. I grew up watching my brothers' games and playing with him in the backyard. That's when I realised, I truly had a special passion for it.

Who's your favourite player or team?

My all-time favourite player is Ronaldinho. His incredible dribbling, precise shooting, vision for creating chances, and his leadership and sportsmanship continually inspire me to improve, both on and off the pitch. As for my favourite team, it's Manchester United.

What's a typical training day like for you?

I train six days a week and have a game on Sundays, so every day is different. Some days I'm up early, and other days I'm training late, it just depends on what the session involves. It's a tough schedule, but I love it.

How do you balance school and sports?

It's not easy, but I've learned to manage my time and stay organised. I make sure to finish my schoolwork early when I know I've got a big game or training session ahead. Sometimes it means giving up time with friends and family.

What's the best part about competing?

The feeling of being part of a team, working together towards a common goal. There's nothing like the rush of running on the field, dribbling or scoring a goal. It's the perfect mix of excitement, challenge, adrenaline and bonding with teammates that makes every game unforgettable.

Where do you see yourself in 5 years?

God willing, I hope to have made my A-League debut, become a key player in the A-League scene, and to have the chance to represent Australia. My ultimate dream is to play in Europe, more specifically, England or Spain.

LEPPINGTON CHRISTIAN GRAMMAR

A New Beginning



Mark your calendars! Coming soon, a faith-based school that provides students with quality education, excellent facilities, and holistic support to ensure they achieve a range of successes in the future.

Leppington Christian Grammar will be a new and inspiring educational institution designed to serve the Christian community in Leppington and surrounding areas. Offering a complete educational journey from Kindergarten to Year 12, the school will be dedicated to fostering academic excellence, strong values, and holistic development for all its students. The school's development is thoughtfully planned to meet the needs of our

community. The first stage of the primary school is planned to open in 2028, providing a nurturing environment for young learners in their education and faith. The first stage of the secondary school will then follow, offering quality state-of-the-art classrooms, modern resources, spaces designed to inspire learning and creativity, and ensuring a seamless transition for students as they progress through their educational journey from Kindergarten to Year 12.



Leppington Christian Grammar is committed to affordability, ensuring that families in the area can access high-quality education without financial strain. The school's approach will provide an exciting and varied curriculum, tailored to meet the needs of each student, while instilling Christian values that prepare our students to be compassionate and responsible members of society.

Leppington Christian Grammar has engaged experienced and dedicated educators. The staff are highly skilled, passionate about fostering a love of learning and supporting the personal growth of every student. Through innovative teaching practices and a commitment to professional excellence, the school will ensure that all students receive the guidance they need to thrive academically.

Leppington Christian Grammar will place a strong emphasis on student wellbeing, recognising that holistic development is key to academic success and personal fulfillment. Programs and initiatives have been designed to promote mental,

emotional, and spiritual health, creating a safe and nurturing space where every student feels valued and supported. The school will actively encourage a sense of community among students, staff, and families, fostering meaningful connections.

Leppington Christian Grammar is more than a school; it is a community where families and educators will come together to cultivate a faith-based environment that inspires students to achieve their full potential. With its affordable fees, experienced staff, and dedication to quality teaching and learning, the school is poised to become a cornerstone of Christian education in the region, equipping students with the skills and values needed to succeed in life.

“ We’re very excited and looking forward to opening our next venture at Leppington Christian Grammar.

– Aaron Boyd



ENROLMENTS – EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Scan the QR code to register your interest and receive more information about our growing school community and the opportunities we offer.



STUDENT TESTIMONIALS

St Hurmizd students



Ealbra Rezko
(School Captain)

Being a Year 6 Captain means leading with kindness, respect, and responsibility. I took on this role so I could inspire others, create an inclusive environment, and proudly serve my school with dedication.

I love St Hurmizd because it feels like a second home, where faith, community, and friendships thrive. Supportive teachers, fun activities, and shared values make every day special and memorable.

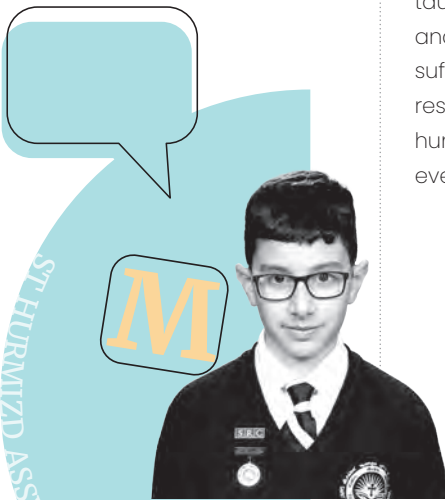
I live out Christian values by showing kindness, respect, and compassion, leading by example, helping others, and spreading positivity at school and beyond to make a meaningful difference.

Michael Yousuf
(School Captain)

Being a School Captain is about actions, not titles. It means leading with dedication, listening to students, and creating a supportive, safe, and inclusive environment where everyone feels valued.

St Hurmizd is more than a school – it's a family. Through faith, community, and learning, it strengthens my connection with God and provides the foundation for growth, success, and a bright future.

God is my top priority, and Christian Studies lessons shape my actions, guiding me to live with faith, devotion, and a commitment to righteousness.



Michael



Anita Asaad (Year 6)

St Hurmizd is a place of faith, growth, and heritage, where teachers guide us, friendships strengthen belonging, and we are shaped into better people, ready for the future.

The Procession to Golgotha taught me humility, kindness, and acceptance. Jesus' suffering showed me to respond with love, stay humble, and remain kind even in difficult moments.

ST HURMIZD ASSYRIAN PRIMARY SCHOOL

Anita

St Narsai students

Mary Sada (College Captain)

At St Narsai, I cherish belonging to my Assyrian Christian community. The college fosters faith, heritage, and culture, instilling pride in my identity and education. Surrounded by supportive peers and teachers, I've grown personally and academically, believing education unlocks endless opportunities.

I value the college's focus on charity and service, which shaped my understanding of leadership. Through fundraisers and volunteering, I've learned that true leadership means positively impacting others.

Programs like the *Young Mentors Program*, where I helped elders with technology, taught me empathy and the importance of bridging generational gaps. These experiences have strengthened my leadership skills and deepened my connection to the Assyrian community.



Mary

ST NARSAI ASSYRIAN CHRISTIAN COLLEGE



Novell

Novell Daoud
(College Captain)

As College Captain, I value how St Narsai has strengthened my faith, resilience, and leadership. The supportive environment fosters personal growth, helping me overcome challenges and engage in the school community. Emphasising faith and education has shaped me into a determined individual, inspiring academic excellence while staying true to my values.

St Narsai's focus on Assyrian traditions has deepened my identity. Teachers' care creates a nurturing space, motivating me to lead by example. Integrating Christ's teachings into daily life has strengthened my faith and commitment to service.

Experiences like attending a seminar with His Holiness Mar Awa Royel III, participating in sports, and school camps have taught me teamwork and resilience, shaping my leadership and appreciation for faith and culture.



Brasheeta

Brasheeta Moshi (Year 11)

I enjoy how St Narsai supports my faith, heritage and education. The College has shaped me by increasing my cultural and spiritual identity through our Assyrian and Christian Studies lessons; helping me grow into a more confident and educated individual.

At St Narsai, I value the strong sense of community, faith and tradition. These aspects guide me in living out my Christian values, fostering unity, and empowering me to lead with compassion and integrity.

The unique opportunities at St Narsai that have had the biggest impact on us include, Spiritual Days, Prayer Services, and Lunch with the Chaplain. These experiences have shaped my journey at St Narsai, reinforcing the importance of spiritual growth in my daily life.

ST NARSAI ASSYRIAN CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

STAFF Q&A



Ramina Moshi
Head of Learning Enhancement
St Narsai Assyrian Christian College

8
YEARS OF
SERVICE

1. What do you love most about working at St Narsai, and how has it shaped your experience as an educator?

What I love most about working at St Narsai is the incredible sense of community among both staff and students. As the Head of Learning Enhancement, I've also had the opportunity to mentor, inspire and learn from my students and colleagues. Seeing students overcome challenges, achieve their goals and develop a passion for learning has been incredibly rewarding.

2. What do you find most rewarding about teaching in the Selective Stream at St Narsai, and how does it challenge and inspire your students?

The most rewarding part of teaching the Selective Stream is seeing students take ownership of their learning and develop a genuine passion for it. I am constantly inspired by their curiosity, drive, and willingness to embrace challenges and strive for success. I hope to inspire them to tackle problems in the world beyond high school, and always believe in themselves, just as I believe in each one of them.



Brian Parker
Science Teacher
St Narsai Assyrian Christian College

12
YEARS OF
SERVICE

1. What do you love most about working at St Narsai?

St Narsai is a special place, built on a strong foundation of faith, community, and education. One of the things I love most about working here is the sense of belonging and support among staff. The staff members are always uplifting one another and working collaboratively to create a positive learning environment. Our students are just as inspiring as they are respectful and kind-hearted. This makes the classroom experience meaningful and rewarding. Additionally, the outstanding facilities at St Narsai provide a well-equipped, modern space that enhances both teaching and learning.

2. How has your experience as a science teacher shaped your teaching approach in the classroom?

As a science teacher, nothing brings me more joy than seeing students' eyes light up with curiosity and excitement. I have found that hands-on, inquiry-based learning is the most powerful way to engage students in science. Conducting experiments, making discoveries, and encouraging critical thinking allow students to develop a genuine love for learning. Practical activities spark their curiosity, foster deeper understanding, and leave them eager to explore more.



Allira Henry
Kindergarten Stage Leader
St Hurmizd Assyrian Primary School

10
YEARS OF
SERVICE

1. What do you love most about working at St Hurmizd, and how has it shaped your experience as an educator?

I feel a strong sense of community and collaboration among staff, students, and families. The welcoming and inclusive culture creates a supportive learning environment for both students and educators. I appreciate being part of a workplace that upholds the values of Faith, Heritage, and Education, as these pillars play a crucial role in shaping the future of our children. Our School's dedication to excellence and student-centered learning has further fueled my passion for education and strengthened my role as a teacher.

2. How do you create a nurturing and engaging learning environment that helps young children feel safe and excited to learn?

Creating a nurturing and engaging learning environment begins with building strong, trusting relationships with students and their families. I do my best to program and deliver lessons that are fun, engaging and challenging. We celebrate all levels of growth, building student confidence and capacity.



Rouzet William Hydo
Years 5 & 6 Stage Leader
St Hurmizd Assyrian Primary School

20
YEARS OF
SERVICE

1. How has St Hurmizd changed over the past 20 years, and what has remained special about the school throughout your time here?

St Hurmizd Assyrian Primary School has evolved significantly, combining modern education with our rich Assyrian heritage, culture, and Christian faith. The school has also introduced various extracurricular activities, helping students grow beyond the classroom. It's been a privilege to see former students return as teachers, now teaching my own children. Despite all the changes, the school has remained true to its values, where tradition and progress thrive together.

2. What do you enjoy most about teaching Year 5, and how do you support your students in their growth and development?

I enjoy preparing Year 5 students for NAPLAN, helping them build skills and confidence. I support their growth through a mix of instruction, encouragement, and constructive feedback, focusing on both academics and personal development. Watching them achieve their goals is truly fulfilling!

Nurturing WELLBEING AT ACS

Wellbeing at ACS extends beyond programs and activities – it shapes the way our school community learns, connects, and grows together.

Student wellbeing remains at the heart of our holistic approach to education. Both schools prioritise supporting students academically, socially, emotionally, and spiritually, ensuring they have the tools and guidance needed to thrive.

At St Narsai, this commitment is guided by the ACS K-12 Wellbeing Framework – Connect, Thrive, Accomplish. Students participate in targeted wellbeing lessons tailored to their cohort's unique needs. Key initiatives include the Transition Program for Year 5 and 6 students, designed to build confidence and connection as they prepare for high school. Each year group also takes part in Spiritual and Wellbeing Days, fostering reflection, resilience, and emotional growth. Celebrations such as Harmony Week, RUOK? Day, and the Year 12 Enrichment Day reinforce values of inclusiveness, kindness, and mental health awareness. The ongoing 'Student of the Week' initiative highlights outstanding efforts and values-based leadership, while the Pastoral Care team, together with the College

Chaplain and Counsellor, provides daily guidance and support.

At St Hurmizd, wellbeing is promoted through initiatives such as Feelgood Friday and Wellbeing Days. Feelgood Friday, led by the school counsellor, offers weekly lessons on emotional literacy, resilience, problem-solving, and positive coping strategies, tailored to each grade. Wellbeing Days, are held twice each semester, focusing on the core values (Commitment, Integrity, Excellence, and Respect) while exploring the five domains of wellbeing: spiritual, academic, physical, social, and emotional. During these days, students engage in activities and workshops designed to build resilience,

encourage personal growth, and support overall wellbeing. Adding a touch of fun and engagement, Lionel, the school mascot, visits a different class each week, creating a supportive space for students to reflect on their mental and emotional health.

Together, these programs create a safe, inclusive, and nurturing

environment across both schools. By fostering resilience, connection, and personal growth, St Narsai and St Hurmizd empower students to flourish academically, socially, and emotionally, ensuring every child has the opportunity to reach their full potential.

“ACS’ mission is to provide a positive, nurturing environment for all students.



ACS students participate in various wellbeing events including Wellbeing Day, RUOK? Day, Harmony Day, Year 6 Transition Day and Spiritual Day.



Creative Corner

Students have embraced opportunities to explore their creativity through performance and the arts. From music and drama to visual arts, technology, and design, they continually develop new skills, express their ideas, and collaborate on meaningful projects. Their dedication shines through in every showcase, exhibition, and performance, reflecting the vibrant creative spirit that enriches our school community.



*Creativity grows the more we use it.
When we share our ideas and our talents,
we inspire others to do the same.*

CONNECTED COMMUNITY: P&F

The Parents and Friends (P&F) Committees at St Narsai and St Hurmizd play an invaluable role in fostering collaboration, community spirit, and support across both school communities. Through their dedication and generosity, they actively contribute to the schools' missions – organising fundraising initiatives and events that enhance the student experience and strengthen the bond between families, staff, and the wider community.

At St Narsai Assyrian Chrsitian College, the P&F Committee focuses on community engagement through a range of successful fundraising activities. Funds raised support initiatives such as donations to ACERO (Assyrian Church of the East Relief Organisation), extra-curricular programs, student wellbeing activities, and essential school resources. The committee members are also among the first to volunteer at school celebrations, including St Narsai Day and the Assyrian New Year. Activities include Falafel and Fries Day during the Great Fast, Dessert Days, Burger Days, and Kebab Lunches – each event bringing smiles to students and staff alike.

Similarly, at St Hurmizd, the P&F Committee has been an incredible source of support, funding various school improvements such as new classroom resources, playground enhancements, and technology upgrades. They've also organised cherished community events, including Mother's Day and Father's Day stalls, BBQs, Easter raffles, and Christmas celebrations. These initiatives have not only enriched student life but also created lasting memories for families and the wider school community.

Together, the St Narsai and St Hurmizd P&F Committees exemplify the true spirit of partnership, generosity, and community – continuing to make a meaningful difference in the lives of students and families across both schools.



“ Thank you to our families and staff for another wonderful year of connection, collaboration, and community. — P&F Committee



Our ACS Marketing CAMPAIGN

The Assyrian Christian Schools’ **“See What You Become”** campaign is designed to inspire both current and prospective families by showcasing the transformative journey students experience at our schools. The campaign emphasises that when a child enters our school community, their talents and aspirations are nurtured, helping them reach their full potential and become who they are meant to be. This idea is captured in the tagline “See What You Become”.

Complementing this, **“See What I’ve Become”** targets alumni, celebrating their achievements and demonstrating the long-lasting impact of an Assyrian Christian Schools (ACS) education. Through alumni interviews, career spotlights, and success stories shared across social media and community events, we reinforce the value of our schools in shaping leaders, professionals, and active community members. Alumni testimonials instil pride in current students and strengthen the connection between past and present generations.

Together, these campaigns create a compelling narrative that reinforces our commitment to faith, education, and community. They invite families to see the lasting influence of an ACS education – one that shapes students into lifelong learners and leaders. By showcasing both the present and past, we highlight the enduring legacy of our schools, encouraging prospective families to become part of this inspiring journey. Through these stories, we celebrate the ongoing growth and success of our students, both past and present, as they continue to thrive in various aspects of life.

SEE
WHAT
YOU
BECOME

Marketing Coordinator: Anabelle Khanano;
Graphic Designer: Evelyn Barota;
Illustrator: Aeluna Nissan; Photographer: David Rouse

Students were photographed in a range of carefully thought-out poses to help the illustrator portray them in different professions.



PARTNERSHIPS AT ACS

At Assyrian Christian Schools, we continue to foster meaningful partnerships that enrich our students’ educational journey and strengthen our connection with the wider community.

This year, our alumni played a key role in various school events – including the **Careers Expo** – returning as guest speakers to share their experiences and inspire current students. Their involvement reinforces the lasting bond between our graduates and the school, highlighting the impact of an ACS education in shaping future pathways.

Our partnership with **Western Toyota** brought valuable road safety education to our senior students, equipping them with essential knowledge and skills to stay safe on the road. These sessions provided practical insights into responsible driving, ensuring our students are well-prepared for life beyond school.

The growth of our partnerships has allowed us to strengthen our connection with alumni, industry leaders, and the broader community. By fostering these relationships, we continue to create opportunities that support student learning, personal development, and career readiness. I look forward to expanding these partnerships further, ensuring our students and staff benefit from a network of support.

Lena K Lazarou, ACS Partnerships Coordinator



The ACS 12-seater HiAce van donated by Western Toyota.



The ACS CEO and Partnerships Coordinator visited our valued partners, Western Toyota, at their Guildford dealership.

CAREERS EXPO 2025

St Narsai students participated in the first **Careers Expo** held at the Mar Meelis Zaia AM Sport and Performing Arts Centre. They engaged with industry professionals across fields, including health, education, law, engineering, and architecture, gaining valuable insights and inspiration as they explored future academic and professional pathways.

CAREERS EXPO
Inspiring Purpose,
Guiding Futures





SEE WHAT WE'VE BECOME

Assyrian Christian Schools proudly highlights the journeys of our alumni, whose stories inspire our community. Our graduates share how their experiences shaped their personal and professional paths.



Paul

As a **Project Manager** for the Department of Defence at **JLL**, I credit my success largely to the foundation built at our Assyrian Christian Schools. The education I received was comprehensive, with dedicated teachers fostering both academic

growth and personal development. The school instilled discipline, resilience, and a commitment to excellence that guided me in my career. Importantly, it reinforced my Assyrian identity and Christian faith, which have flourished in my professional life. These values have shaped my leadership, decision-making, and work ethic. I take pride in being a

patriotic Assyrian and Christian, carrying forward the principles of integrity and service embedded during my schooling at St Hurmizd and St Narsai. The nurturing environment not only prepared me academically but also equipped me with the cultural identity and values that continue to define my approach to work and life.



Youlia

I graduated from St Narsai Assyrian Christian College in 2013. With nearly 10 years experience at the **Commonwealth Bank of Australia**, I currently serve as an **Industrial Relations Manager**, ensuring employees receive their correct entitlements under the applicable Award or Agreement. My Christian faith, Assyrian heritage, and education at the Assyrian Christian Schools have shaped my values and character, influencing the way I navigate both my career and personal journey. The supportive environment strengthened my faith and deepened my connection with God. The teachers not only provided a strong academic foundation but also set powerful examples of integrity, decision-making, and faith — principles that continue to influence how I approach challenges and interactions in life.

MAIN PHOTO (LEFT): Paul Rasho, Youlia Yousif, Kewarkees Shamuel and Mary Oraham



Kewarkees

I graduated in 2019 and now work at **THE ICONIC** as a **Senior Operations Analyst**. The staff at ACS weren't just teachers, they were mentors who supported and pushed me to do my best. Their guidance gave me the confidence to take on challenges and grow beyond school. Studying business taught me how to think critically and communicate effectively, skills that have been key in managing projects and working with numerous stakeholders. The school's focus on wellbeing helped me develop resilience and adaptability, which I use daily in my career. Faith and values shaped how I lead and collaborate, teaching me the importance of integrity and respect in everything I do. Today, I use data to drive meaningful change, shaping strategies and solutions that create significant business impact. Looking back, I can confidently say my education didn't just prepare me for the corporate world, it gave me the mindset and skills to thrive in it.



Mary

I graduated from St Narsai in 2018 and currently work as an **Operations Development Manager** at **Amtek**, a vehicle bodybuilder specialising in Ambulances and Police Cars. My ACS education was pivotal in preparing me for life as an Assyrian Australian with a Christian faith. It allowed me to explore my Australian identity while staying grounded in my Assyrian roots and nurturing my spiritual growth. This education gave me the ability to read and write in Assyrian, a deep understanding of Church of the East traditions, and the opportunity to pursue a degree in Aerospace Engineering. Having teachers who shared my heritage and faith fostered a sense of belonging and mentorship, giving me a strong foundation as I entered Australian society as an adult. ACS provided a robust Australian education while incorporating important Assyrian traditions like Assyrian New Year, Assyrian Martyrs Day, Spiritual Days, Holy Mass, and Christian Studies — for which I am grateful.

Full Circle: From Students to Staff



Standing (L to R): Andy Hormoz, Maryam E William, Anabelle K Khanano, Melenia Cheery, Mariann Narsi, Ashurina Menashi, Veronia Shemmoon, Jessica Zaia, Ranah Dawood, Lena K Lazarou, Mathew Atto.
Seated: Simone Yaco, Mary Samuels, Kimberley Khamo, Eden Daniel, Merna Hermiz and Divina Korkis.



ACS Alumni Connect:
Stay connected with Assyrian Christian Schools! Scan the QR code and register to keep up with alumni news, events, and opportunities.



Enrolling Now

Scan the QR code to begin the process.



St Hurmizd Assyrian Primary School
7-9 Greenfield Road, Greenfield Park NSW 2176



St Narsai Assyrian Christian College
217-241 Horsley Road, Horsley Park NSW 2175



Leppington Christian Grammar
320 Dwyer Road, Leppington NSW 2179



ACS

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