Dear Parents and Caregivers,

We are fast approaching the last week of the year. This parent bulletin will give you some insight from the different areas of our school. Our coordinators have compiled short summaries on what they have been working on that has kept your children learning! We hope you enjoy reading about it as much as we enjoy experiencing it with your children.

Wishing all of our students and families, a very Merry Christmas and Blessings for 2017.

Miss Benjamin

ACERO CHRISTMAS APPEAL RADIOTHON 2016

St Hurmizd Assyrian Primary School have been proud supporters of the ACERO Christmas Appeal Radiothon for the past two years. There's always such a great feeling among the school, and it's so rewarding to be able to support a worthy cause which is close to all of our hearts. We have held fund raising activities which not only helps others in need by giving aid and support. But we're also instilling empathy and a caring attitude in our own children and giving them the opportunity to become really good at giving.

Whether we give a little or a lot, this can be a great way to spread the Joy of Christmas this year, to our brothers and sisters in the Middle East. SHAPS staff, students and families raised $5210.00!

In the Bible Jesus says:
"Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it for Me." May the Lord grant you and your loved ones Love, Joy and Goodwill, this Christmas and all the New Year!

May God bless your generous heart's.

FARWELL YEAR 6 CLASS OF 2016!!

Wishing all our year 6 students all the best as they start their next chapter in their life. We will miss you!

Miss Menashi, Mrs Dasouqi & Mrs Georges
A Message from the Librarians

Library News

As the school year draws to an end I would like to take this opportunity to thank teachers, parents and students for the great help and support they provided the library.

This year the library was put to great use through researching, borrowing and computer skilling along with great events such as the Book Fair and the Crossing Bridge Show.

Remember to keep reading during the school holidays!

We would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Mrs Cutelli and Mrs Shamayil
Teacher Librarian

Message from the Curriculum Coordinator

Sports Report

In term 4, the students at St. Hurmizd Assyrian Primary School were involved in a Learn-To-Swim Program at the M1 Mounties Leisure Centre. The lessons were aimed not only to improve swimming skills but also to teach the students about water safety and life saving techniques.

The program was run by qualified instructors from the Centre and was supervised by the classroom teachers. During the lessons, the students were placed into swimming ability groups to ensure that the lessons were tailored towards the student’s group needs. The students were taught in a fun yet safe environments.

I would like to personally thank all the students for their consistent participation and good behaviour while away from school; the classroom teachers for being there and supervising the students every week and finally the instructors at the M1 Mounties Group for being flexible, accommodating and teaching our students the imperative life skills needed to be able to survive in water.

Mrs Miceli & Mrs Isaac – Sports Coordinators

FACTS ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF SWIMMING

- Swimming lessons reduce the risk of drowning.
- Swimming builds whole body strength.
- Swimming helps kids do better in school.
- Kids who swim get the benefits of participating in an individual and team sport.

WHAT OUR STUDENTS SAY!

The Learn to swim program at Mounties was a great experience. The students at SHAPS have really enjoyed their 45 minute lessons with their fun and interesting swimming instructors. Through our swimming journey with Mounties, we have realised that we have become more confident swimmers since we started here at SHAPS.

“We would like to thank our Sports Coordinators Mrs. Isaac, Mrs. Miceli and the instructors at Mounties for organising the yearly swimming lessons for all the students at SHAPS. This is one of the precious memories we will take away with us when we graduate from SHAPS.”

Bhadriya & Shana in year 6
**A message from Kindy**

This semester Kindergarten students have been working very hard in all subjects. They have been learning to read books about different characters and writing about fairy tales. Kindergarten students have been learning about our local community with an Aboriginal elder visiting the class and speaking to the students about the history of our area. Kindergarten have enthusiastically participated in gymnastics and swim school this semester. They have enjoyed learning to swim and are becoming confident swimmers.

This term Kindergarten students have been learning about the season of Advent and the meaning of the first Christmas. Kindergarten have been learning about Mary and Joseph’s journey to Bethlehem and the birth of Jesus Christ. They have also been celebrating the festive season by making beautiful Christmas art. The students and teachers from Kindergarten wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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**Message from the Stage 3 Wellbeing Coordinator**

St Narsai Assyrian Christian College and St Hurmizd Assyrian Primary School have been working together to ensure our Year 6 students make a successful transition into Year 7. This semester the Year 6 students participated in a high school transition program at St Narsai Assyrian Christian College.

The students were given opportunities to:

- familiarise themselves with the layout of the high school
- read and interpret a timetable
- meet and establish networks with high school students
- understand the high school curriculum (available subjects)
- meet their future teachers
- participate in high school lessons (PDHPE, English, Maths, Food Technology, Music and Science)
- learn about the extra curricula opportunities they can enrol in (sporting groups or creative arts)

The transition has been a successful and positive program as students feel more confident and comfortable with starting their new lives in high school.

In addition to the high school transition program, the Year 6 students have been a part of several fundraisers throughout the year. These included Mother’s Day and Father’s Day stalls, School Disco, Cadbury Fundraiser and the Toblerone Raffle. These were organised to raise funds for our Year 6 students so they are able to receive a graduation gift, farewell excursion to Luna Park and to donate back to the school.

*Miss Menashi- Stage 3 Wellbeing Coordinator*
Message from the Christian Studies Coordinator

Christian Studies 2016

Christian Studies is a key learning area (KLA) in the curriculum structure of St Hurmizd Assyrian Primary School. In semester 2 (Term 3 & 4) the Christian Studies lessons enabled students to explore what living as a follower of Jesus would look like for them. They were given the opportunities to read the Bible and understand that it contains God's instructions about how to live His way.

The students explored what it looks like to pray to God, to thank and honour Him in our prayers & hymns. The unit concluded with Jesus, the true King at Christmas.

**Nativity Story**
The nativity plays a major role in our Christian liturgical year. Students in Year 3 will perform the story of Jesus' birth on Presentation day and during the end of term 4 Assembly.

**Religious Education Books**
The Religious Education Texts Project, with the mission to create new texts specifically designed for the Assyrian Church of the East teachings, is almost completed for K-2. God willing our new RE resources will be available to be implemented in 2016.

As part of our Christian Studies program of reaching out to those in need which extends the teaching of being people of mission, we have organised a few activities in Term 4.

**Visit to Bossley Park Nursing Home**
As the Christmas season approaches it is important that we teach our students about the real meaning of Christmas. To do this we will be visiting Bossley Park Nursing Home on **Wednesday 14th December**. The students will have the opportunity to sing a few Christmas carols, have a chat with the residents and give them a small Christmas gift.

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Message from the Stage 2 Coordinator

This year, Stage 2 students (grades 3 & 4) have been very busy learning, exploring, experimenting and growing through a variety of learning opportunities. Below is a quick insight into what your children were busy learning:

**English:**
In term 3, Year 3 we studied the book, “The BFG” by Roald Dahl. The students participated in activities to explore and expand their imagination relating to the events of the text. To consolidate their class time reading experience, they attended an excursion to Hoyts Cinemas and watched the movie. Along with the text and movie, they were given tasks to complete during class where they were studied the writing that Roald Dahl used within the text.

In Year 4 the students started a new program in English called PALS (Peer Assisted Learning Strategies). The program is made up of 4 activities which are Partner Reading, Retell, Paragraph Shrinking and Prediction Relay. The program is designed to assist and improve the students’ reading and comprehension skills and we are seeing exceptional results.

Mrs Isaac- Stage 2 Coordinator
**Message from the Stage 3 Coordinator**

Term 4 has been a busy one for Stage 3. Year 5 students have been learning to play the recorder and have surprised all of their teachers with their progress. They have learnt to read music, including notes on the treble clef, time signatures, rests and much more. They have also built up quite the repertoire of pieces of music that they can now play!

Both Year 5 and 6 students have been participating in swimming lessons this term. Their swimming skills are improving and many students are even learning how to dive correctly.

Year 6 students had their farewell celebration at Luna Park yesterday, 8th December. All students had a fabulous time and were well-behaved, representatives for our school and community. It was a great day out for students to socialise with each other, and to form some final and lasting memories of their years at SHAPS.

*Mrs Feil – Stage 3 Coordinator.*

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**Extra Curricula Activities**

In term 4, the year 3 students were given the opportunity to perform the drama of the Nativity at the Christmas assembly. Fourteen students were chosen to represent the grade in the play. They learned that drama is a mode of visual representation of dialogue, performance and team work. All students are congratulated for their hard work and determination to present this play.

Year 4, had also taken part in two plays which were presented during Holy Week. Students re-enacted Palm Sunday and The Last Supper early this year and did a fantastic job performing their drama in front of their teachers, peers and families.

Fairfield City Council provided Year 4 with the opportunity to plant trees at the Western Sydney Parklands (Lizard Log) and learn about the importance of tree planting. They were taught the importance of promoting life in a healthy environment.

*Thank you from all Stage 2 Teachers*

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the parents for their continuous support and to wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

*Mrs Isaac- Stage 2 Coordinator*

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**UNIFORM SHOP**

If you need to purchase uniform before school returns in 2017, the uniform shop will be open on the following days and will then commence as per their usual days:

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<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>23rd January</th>
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<td>Tuesday</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
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<td>Tuesday</td>
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<td>Wednesday</td>
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