Dear Parents,

**YEAR OF ADVANCEMENT**

Welcome back to another exciting year at AGBU Alexander Primary School! We hope you had a great start to the year and are ready for the ‘Year of Advancement’.

This is the year we aim to advance even further by showing real and tangible results and improvements as a school community. Greater improvements in our already well established and highly developed facilities, resources, administration, communication, welfare, pastoral care, teaching and ultimately in the learning of our wonderful students.

We have started the year with the usual vim, verve and vigour! I’m happy to state that it took no time for the children to resume their routines while looking immensely relaxed and healthy after their holiday. They all began the job of learning enthusiastically and I’m sure this will set the tone for the rest of the year.

A big welcome to Ms Martine Smith who joins us this year as an additional member of staff. A wonderful addition and advancement to our already outstanding student to teacher ratio.

We have a busy year ahead of us and I believe we have the right people in the school community to help us achieve and advance at all levels, as we all help to ‘Advance Australia Fair’.

**GYMNASTICS IS BACK!**

Following the positive feedback from previous years, the well received and requested gymnastics program is back. We have been successful in securing the services of ‘Be Skilled Be Fit’ to run the sessions.

Sports day is on Friday. Please check the newsletter for further details.

**KEEPING UP TO DATE**

Please read all attached documents on school rules, policies and procedures so that you and your child can be up to date with all events and expectations. It is advisable to keep these pages in a safe place for the whole year or to create a folder where the weekly Newsletters can be kept.

With all students having started the school year in Week 2 there will be another Newsletter published on Friday. Please return the plastic pockets promptly to the green baskets in the classrooms every week with any relevant notes, permission slips or payments. These will be recorded by the class teacher and later forwarded to the office.

Please make sure you come along to the Parent Information Evening to gain further understanding of how the classes are arranged and find out what will be going on in your child’s classroom/school this year.

With the support of our school families, once again we look forward to sharing a very busy and productive year with everyone. Hope you have a happy and safe New School Year!

**1st February 2012**

**MANOUG DEMIRJIAN**
**SCHOOL ROUTINE NOTICES**

**Homework &/or Home Reading** will be assigned by Years K-6 class teachers as from next week. Please refer to the “Homework Policy - Parent Handout” to be included with Friday’s Newsletter to familiarise yourself with the school’s expectations on home study.

**Uniform** Please note the correct school uniform in the School Diary or in your Enrolment Package. Also refer to the “Uniform Policy - Parent Handout” included with the Newsletter today to understand the school’s policy on this issue. Girls should come to school wearing their sports briefs and are not allowed to wear coloured long boxer type shorts under their summer uniform. Plain stud earrings only are allowed for girls. Only dark blue hair ribbons, clips and scrunchies should be worn.

**Absences** By law all student absences from school must be explained with a written note from parents. Notes can be in English or Armenian and should be sent on the day the student returns to school following an absence. Notes are legal records and must be written in pen and signed by a parent. Please ensure the following information is provided in a note: **Student’s name, date/s of absence, reason for absence, parent’s signature, date when note is written.** Please find a “Special Reminder” slip attached to this week’s Newsletter with a sample note for absence for you to follow as a guideline. Notes are to be addressed to your child’s classroom teacher.

**Library borrowing** will commence next week. Library day is **Tuesday**. Students must have library bags to borrow books. A library rule is no library bag, no borrowing. Students are rewarded for remembering to bring in their bags. Library bags are simply drawstring bags with dimensions of approximately 30cm wide and 38cm long. Any fabric may be used but please ensure its durability.

**Sports Day** will be on **Friday**. All students must wear complete summer sports uniform as obtained from school. Please note all white sports shoes and all white socks (not anklets) are required. Summer sports uniform must be worn on Fridays for Terms 1 & 4 and winter sports uniform for Terms 2 & 3.

Students not participating in a sports session must bring a signed note from parents with a full explanation.

**Fitness** Year 3-6 students need to bring sports shoes to school each **Monday & Wednesday** for fitness sessions. Students are allowed to leave a second pair of sports shoes at school to change into for their fitness sessions.

**School Hats** must be at school daily. One of our school rules is...“No Hat, No Play”. Students without hats will not be able to use the playground area during play time. They are to sit down in the shade, read a book by themselves and not play.

Students who do not have a hat break the school Uniform Code and will receive a cross in the Red Book.

**Paint Shirts** All students must have a paint shirt for art and craft lessons. Shirts should be of thick fabric to prevent staining of uniforms. Shirts should also have long sleeves with elastic through the wrist band so that long-sleeved shirts and jumper (in winter) are fully covered.

**Kindergarten** students should have a change of underwear and socks in their school bag daily.

**Sunscreen** Parents are reminded that application of sunscreen on children in the morning is essential. It is recommended that students carry sunscreen (roll-on types only) in school bags to reapply. An SPF factor of 15+ (or greater) broad-spectrum, water resistant sunscreen is recommended.

**Healthy Lunches** Our school health policy insists that only nutritional foods – low fat, low sugar – are consumed at school. We are very proud of the quality of food our canteen provides. We remind all parents to support our policy by continuing to send only healthy type foods in lunch boxes. We expect only one snack type of food for Morning Tea. **Definitely no sweets, chips, chocolates, jam, nutella and “junk” food are permitted.**

Fresh fruit and vegetables are essential foods for children.

Occasionally and in moderation, the school canteen will treat students with a cake stall. The school Newsletter will advise parents of these days.
Information Update Forms  “Student Information Update” forms for each student will be sent home with Friday’s Newsletter. The Student Information forms are replaced in our school filing system at the beginning of each year. Therefore, it is important for the school to identify any changes to student details including telephone numbers, address or health risks (e.g. asthma and/or allergy development). Please remember, signatures of both parents in residence are required.

Parents are requested to have completed/updated forms returned to school by Friday, 10th February.

Label Clothing All removable clothing including jumpers, hats, track suit tops and pants, must be clearly marked with your child’s name. This will assist the school with lost clothing.

Birthdays  K - Year 2 students only are welcome to celebrate their birthdays at school with a cake. Cakes should be as plain as possible with only a small quantity of icing. Parents should notify the school office or class teacher one day in advance if they plan to celebrate at school with a birthday cake. Please do not provide “Party/Lolly Bags” as part of the celebration.

Plastic Newsletter Folders are to be returned to school after correspondence is sent home, preferably on the following school day. Folders are collected from classrooms daily for redistribution.

Covering Books Teachers will send home textbooks and exercise books over the next week or so. Please cover textbooks, diaries and exercise books with clear contact only. Some book covers for exercise books will be made by students and/or supplied by the school before contact is applied. Clear contact must be used as teachers will group books into subject areas based on the colours of book covers. This assists with easy sorting and classifying.

School Supplies All supplies for Years K-2 are provided by the school. Please note: Textas and erasers are not permitted for K-1 students.

Students in upper grades need to purchase the following personal stationery supplies:

Years 3-6: Two pencil cases that need to remain at school for classroom use only. One is to be left in the English and the other in the Armenian classroom. Each pencil case should have a packet of lead (HB) pencils (No Pacers), eraser, sharpener, 30cm ruler (wooden or plastic, not metal), glue stick, scissors, highlighter, two red pens (medium point), coloured pencils and textas. Please note that correction fluid (liquid paper or whiteout) is banned. Dictionary and Atlas at home with a collection of the above for home study use only.

Year 5-6: Also require two blue pens, a geometry set and a memory stick for the computer.

Toys are not permitted at school. K-2 class teachers will advise parents with a note, when and if toys are permitted for “News” sessions. Toys will be confiscated. (Please note: Nintendo DS, PSP and iPods are permitted during bus travel only, and responsibility for safekeeping rests with students)

Bus Passes have been distributed to students. Students are permitted travel without a pass only until the end of February. Passes must be presented thereafter otherwise students are required to pay fare. Please check your child/ren’s bus pass to ensure details are correct. Contact the school office immediately should there be any errors.

Canteen will not be available for lunch orders at this stage. Depending on the response we get from parents, we hope to have the Canteen fully functioning two days a week. Parents who are able to assist with canteen duty, regularly or casually, are requested to complete the form on Page 5 and return to the school Office by Wednesday.
ARMENIAN STUDENT FUND
The Armenian Student Fund program continues this year at AGBU Alexander Primary School and we hope to raise enough money to continue sponsoring two children in Armenia. We know our small effort makes a real difference to these families in need.

This program was incepted in our school program in 1994. Today, Alexander school students continue to sponsor two young Armenians - Stela Vartanian (12 years) & Nareg Saghatelian (12 years) through the Armenian Apostolic Church child sponsorship program.

How do we raise money for this program?
Students are requested to make a regular donation of a silver or gold coin each week. It is a good idea to have the children donate money from weekly pocket money or earnings regardless how small the donation. The learning experience to share and give selflessly, is a valuable one.

Collection is taken during Recess on Thursdays and students earn points for their House Teams. A weekly report on collections is given during the weekly Assemble and in the Newsletter.

BOOK CLUB - Coming Soon!
Scholastic Book Clubs - bringing children and books together.

Books are a very important part of children’s growth and development, and research suggests that the ability to read is critical to independence, success and personal fulfilment. It is said that, kids who read succeed!

Scholastic Book Clubs offer a good variety of age-appropriate books from Australia and the world at prices below recommended retail prices. Students purchasing from Book Clubs also help in earning Reading Reward Points for our school. These points are used to redeem valuable learning resources for the library and classrooms.

Pamphlets will be sent home regularly throughout the year, with 8 issues all in all. The school distributes book club pamphlets which are recommended as age specific for your child(ren), however, should you wish to receive upper levels, please contact the school Office.

All book club orders must be placed using the order form in the pamphlet. Money and completed order form (including your child’s name) should be placed in an envelope clearly marked “BOOK CLUB ORDER”. Students should place envelopes in green classroom baskets for collection to the school Office.

BIRTHDAY OF THE WEEK
Happy Holiday Birthdays to…
Chanel Dikranian
Mrs Seta Keoshgerian

Cancer Council recommends you protect yourself in 5 ways:
SLIP on clothing that covers your arms and legs
SLAP on a broad brimmed or legionnaires hat
SLOP on 30+, broad-spectrum sunscreen
SEEK shade
SLIDE on wrap around sunglasses

Protect yourself in five ways from skin cancer

DATES TO REMEMBER
03/07 Start of Sports Day Gymnastics Program
07/02 Parent Information Evening - School Hall
08/02 Canteen Volunteer Workers forms due
09/02 Church visit - Slips due
10/02 Student Information Update forms due
19/02 Holy Communion at Church on Sunday

TERM DATES FOR STUDENTS - 2012
TERM 1: 01/02/2012 to 05/04/2012
TERM 2: 26/04/2012 to 29/06/2012
TERM 3: 16/07/2012 to 21/09/2012
TERM 4: 08/10/2012 to 12/12/2012

SCHOOL Banking
Please contact the School Office if you are interested in opening a Commonwealth Bank Dollarmite account for your child/ren.

www.alexander.nsw.edu.au
HOLY COMMUNION: Church Visit - Sunday, 19th February 2012
In school tradition, all students and staff will attend the Armenian Apostolic Church of Holy Resurrection, Chatswood on Sunday, 19th February 2012, to receive blessings and Holy Communion for the start of the new school year.

Students are expected to arrive at the Armenian Apostolic Church by 10.30am to join the Church Service and receive Communion. Full school uniform must be worn. Girls will need school hats. Please indicate your response and return the slip by Thursday, 9th February.

HOLY COMMUNION - Sunday 19th February 2012
STUDENT’S NAME/S: ____________________________ CLASS: ____________________________

Please tick box and return form to school Office by Thursday, 9th February.

☐ YES, my child/ren will be attending church to receive Holy Communion on Sunday 19th February, 2012.

☐ NO, my child/ren will be unable to attend church to receive Holy Communion on Sunday 19th Feb. 2012.

PARENT’S SIGNATURE: ____________________________ DATE: ____________________________

CANTEEN - Volunteer Workers
In order for the Canteen to run smoothly for our children’s benefit, the P&C requires Volunteer Workers: (Please circle and indicate your preferences below)

P & C needs to know this information to get the Canteen roster formulated. Please return the slip to the school Office by Wednesday, 8th February.

CANTEEN - VOLUNTEER WORKERS
Name: ____________________________________________

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<tr>
<th>Between 10am to 1:30/2:00pm</th>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Tues</th>
<th>Wed</th>
<th>Thu</th>
<th>Fri</th>
<th>Weekly</th>
<th>Fortnightly</th>
<th>Monthly</th>
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Signed: ____________________________ Date: ____________________________

SPORTS DAY GYMNASTICS PROGRAM
The sports program in Term 1 will be a special gymnastics program, provided by ‘Be Skilled Be Fit’. The weekly sessions will start on Friday, 3rd February.

Cost of the full program: $90 per student will be invoiced with the Term 1 fees. Please return the permission slip by tomorrow, Thursday, 2nd February.

SPORTS DAY GYMNASTICS PROGRAM
YEARS K - 6
I grant permission for my child/ren to take part in the Sports Day Gymnastics Program provided by ‘Be Skilled Be Fit’ over a nine week period. Starting Friday 3rd February to 30th March, 2012.

I understand students will be instructed by qualified gymnastics coaches.

NAME OF STUDENT/S: ____________________________

PARENT’S SIGNATURE: ____________________________ DATE: ____________________________
Armenian Apostolic Church of Holy Resurrection

SUNDAY SCHOOL TO RECOMMENCE IN 2012

Register your little ones now
Join our team of volunteers in this ministry

Christian education is an important element in childrearing & what better way to learn the stories of the Bible, principles for Christian living & church traditions than Sunday School among friends, fun activities & games in the blessed environment of the Armenian Apostolic Church.

For more information or registration call Liza at the church office on 9419-8056 on Monday - Wednesday - Friday from 9am-3pm

※ Child registration open to 4+ years
※ Casual or regular attendance welcome
※ Volunteers welcome to join our team of facilitators in providing lessons or helping out in Christian service

“And whoever welcomes a little child like this in my name welcomes me.”
~ Matthew18:5 ~