Dear Parents,

HOLY COMMUNION

In school tradition, students, parents and teachers attended the Armenian Apostolic Church of Holy Resurrection last Sunday, to receive blessings and Holy Communion for the start of the new school year.

During the sermon, His Eminence Archbishop Aghan Baliozian reflected on the liturgical calendar of the past week, as the church had come to celebrate the Feasts of St Vartan, St Ghevont and Presentation of Our Lord to the Temple (Diarentarach). Like the heroes of Vartanianst, the students received Holy Communion and parents presented their children to the church just as our Lord was presented on the fortieth day of His birth. Congratulations to all the children who displayed exemplary behaviour both during and after the church service. They took part in the congregation by praying, singing the hymns and by following the Divine Liturgy.

Thank you to the parents for your assistance and cooperation.

CHANGES TO THE SCHOOL CALENDAR

We would like to bring to your attention that changes have been made to the 2012 School Calendar. When the school calendar for 2012 was published towards the end of last year, two Staff Development Days were allocated at the start of Term 2, instead of the usual allocations at the start of Terms 2 and 3. This was to better manage the issue of students starting the new term and having the ANZAC Day public holiday the following day.

The calendar was reviewed at the start of the year and it was decided that we revert back to the usual allocation of pupil free days at the start of Terms 2 and 3. This means the students will return on Tuesday 24th April instead of Thursday 26th April (following ANZAC Day public holiday). An updated calendar has been published and is distributed with today’s newsletter.

It is not often that the commemorative date of the Armenian Genocide - April 24, coincides with a school term, as it usually falls during the mid term school holidays. With 24th April being the first day that the students return, we felt that it would be better served if they were to reflect on the day by visiting the Commemorative ‘Khatchkar’ at NSW Parliament House. During this excursion we will also pay our respect to the ANZACS at the ‘Tomb of the Unknown Soldier’ in Martine Place and later visit the Australian Museum. More information will be made available later this term.

If parents have any difficulties with these changes please contact the school office. For those who share the school’s ‘Google Calendar’ through the website or on their smart phones, these changes have been implemented.

MANOUG DEMIRJIAN

24th February 2012
TERM 1 SCHOOL ACCOUNTS
Term 1 School Accounts are being sent home with your Newsletter today. Payment of fees will be due by Friday, 23rd March. We would appreciate prompt payment so that our trade terms with suppliers are met. If you believe there may be an error in your Tax Invoice please contact the school Office. Fees may be paid by cash, cheque or money order.

Parents are reminded that Building Fund contributions are tax deductable and special receipts will be issued in order to claim a deduction.

Payment may be sent through the post or paid directly to the school Office. Students delivering money to school should hand fees to the school office immediately on arrival to school. The school cannot be held responsible for lost money in transit.

STUDENT ATTENDANCE
In response to the national agenda and changes to the NSW Education Act resulting from the Wood Royal Commission and the new School Leaving Age, there are significant changes required to school processes and practices around student attendance. Under the Education Act, schools are required to ensure that individual students meet certain attendance standards. This includes mandatory attendance for students under 17 years of age unless exemptions are applicable.

From January 2012, all NSW schools will be required to use the state attendance codes to record student attendance on the attendance register or roll. In introducing the attendance codes, the NSW Minister for Education has delegated the power to grant or cancel Exemption Certificates to non-government school principals within strict guidelines. This delegated authority ensures that independent school principals have the same level of authority as principals in government schools. It allows principals to provide an Exemption Certificate for students to be exempt from attending school for up to 50 days in a year.

Principals need to strictly adhere to the processes and conditions outlined in the Exemption Guidelines in order to legally apply the exemption. The process includes an ‘Application for Exemption from Attendance at School’ that needs to be submitted by parents. This is then reviewed before a ‘Certificate for Exemption from Attendance at School under Section 25 of the Education Act 1990’ is granted. These forms are available on request from the school office.

As outlined during our Parent Information Evening, a note of reminder to all parents that reasonable or justified explanation of student absence needs to be reported. This includes partial absences or leaves for an extended period. The new coding reflects these changes and teachers need to legally report all absences accordingly.

HOUSE POINTS TERM 1
Uniform, Playground, Charity & Awards

SEVAN - 37 points
YEREVAN - 33 points

DATES TO REMEMBER
07/03 StartSmart Financial Literacy Program
Samba Experience @ SJS
18/03 AGBU Youth Gala Day - Kent Rd, Ryde
25/03 Working Bee
31/03 Robert Chilinguirian Dance Concert
01/04 Palm Sunday Concert & Picnic
03/04 Parent/Teacher Interviews & Portfolios
04/04 Life Education Van Visit
05/04 Last Day Term 1
06/04 Good Friday - Public Holiday
07/04 Easter Saturday - Public Holiday
08/04 Easter Sunday
09/04 Easter Monday - Public Holiday

ARMENIAN STUDENT FUND
WEEKLY REPORT: Term 1 Week 5

6 Points – YEREVAN ............ $11.20
8 Points – SEVAN ............ $12.50
TOTAL: ........................ $23.70
ACCUMULATED: ............ $58.35

SPONSOR A CHILD IN ARMENIA THROUGH THE ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH
www.armenianchurchsydney.org.au

BIRTHDAY OF THE WEEK
Happy Birthday to...
Ani Manoukian

TERM 1 - WEEK 5
What a week Year 3 and 4 have had!

On Monday, Years 3-4, Baron Manoug and I went for a walk to visit the Duffys Forest Bush Regeneration Group. We walked from school to a site at the end of Joalah Rd (bordering Kur-ring-gai National Park). We met the group there and watched them at work, trying to return this area of weed infested bush land to its natural state. This bush regeneration group is organized by an Alexander Primary School neighbour and the Duffys Forest conservation committee coordinator, Barbara Junghans.

The students have met Barbara before. The previous Monday Barbara spoke with Year 3/4, 5 and 6 students about the important role APS has in helping preserve the Duffys Forest natural environment. She taught the students weed identification skills and practical knowledge about how we can use the plant life cycle to not only stop the spread of weeds on our school grounds but importantly in the crown land, national parks and endangered ecological communities that surround our school.

The talk given by Barbara and the walk to see her bush regeneration group at work were wonderful ways to make APS a part of the local community and our students active citizens in this community. These experiences are also synonymous to the topics we are learning about in the classroom. In HSIE, Year 3 and 4 are learning about our local community of Duffys Forest, its natural and built features. In Science we are looking deeply at plants. Therefore these experiences with Barbara are a perfect way to compliment and enrich the learning that is occurring in the classroom.

On Wednesday, Years 3 and 4 cooked and served lunch for most of the students and teachers at APS. We made nachos served with sour cream, salsa and homemade guacamole. For dessert we made fruit kebabs with a delicious chocolate sauce. Silvy, Tzolare, Stella, Nina, Taniel and Krikor did an amazing job following their “to do” lists. Their behaviour was excellent. They focused on their set tasks, behaving sensibly and safely in the kitchen. As a consequence, all the food they made turned out perfect and delicious. Narek and Serly did a fabulous job at collecting and counting the orders and the money as well as setting the tables to restaurant standards.

It sounds like we are having too much fun to be learning but this is not the case. Activities like organizing and preparing lunch help build many social, emotional, practical and academic skills in students. The students also experienced the pleasure of eating the fruits of their efforts and had a sense of pride in their accomplishments. They also made their friends in other classes happy by offering a lunch order service. But the highlight for me is when the whole school community is sitting at the communal tables, eating and chatting together; this is a priceless moment.

On behalf of Year 3 and 4, I would like to thank all families for supporting us and ordering lunch on Wednesday. I would also like to thank Mrs Margo Boyadijian for her invaluable help in cleaning up.

Ms Martine Smith
Year 3/4
INFORMATION REQUIRED TO HELP DETERMINE FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS FOR NON-GOVERNMENT SCHOOLS

PRIVACY NOTICE

This notice is from the Australian Government Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR), to advise you that DEEWR has requested your child’s school to provide the following three pieces of information to DEEWR:

- Students’ residential addresses (not student names)
- Students’ level of education (primary or secondary)
- Students’ boarding school status (boarders or day students)

DEEWR is bound by the provisions of the Privacy Act 1988 (the Privacy Act). Section 14 of the Privacy Act contains the Information Privacy Principles, which prescribe the rules for handling personal information about individuals. DEEWR will not use or disclose the information provided by your child’s school other than in accordance with the Privacy Act.

Purpose of collection

DEEWR is collecting this personal information for the purpose of administering funding to non-government schools, and to determine payments of Australian Government assistance to non-government schools, including under relevant legislation such as the Schools Assistance Act 2008 (Cth). DEEWR will only use this information for this specific purpose.

Disclosure of information

The information provided by your child’s school may be disclosed by DEEWR to contractors working for DEEWR for the purposes of verifying the information. The contractors will not use the information for any other purpose.

DEEWR may also provide this information to the Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA). ACARA will use this information in developing and evaluating Index of Community Socio-Educational Advantage (ICSEA) formulas and school values.

In other instances the information will not be disclosed without your consent, unless where authorised or required by law.

Contact

If you have any questions regarding this Privacy Notice please phone the DEEWR SES Funding helpline on 1800 677 027 (free call) or send an e-mail to: SAAMailbox@deewr.gov.au.