Dear Parents,

**CELEBRATING ‘INTERNATIONAL MOTHER LANGUAGE DAY’**

International Mother Language Day (IMLD) was proclaimed by the General Conference of UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) in 1999 to promote all the languages of the world. It has been celebrated every year since February 2000 to promote linguistic and cultural diversity and multilingualism.

This year the theme of the International Mother Language day was ‘Mother tongue instruction and inclusive education’. UNESCO highlights the importance of mother tongue as part of the right to education and encourages its member states to promote instruction and education in the mother tongue.

Earlier this year the Ministry of the Diaspora of the Republic of Armenia had invited all Armenian language schools to mark the occasion. As part of the events dedicated to the IMLD, our school also joined to celebrate the day with a special assembly this week.

The title of the production was ‘Interview with Mesrob Mashdots’. A panel of student reporters and guests had invited the founder of the Armenian alphabet to a television panel show, to conduct an interview on his important invention. During the interview he discussed the main reasons for his mission, which in fact was driven by the need to translate the Bible into their mother tongue. However, the invention not only helped strengthen the Christian belief but it also preserved and enriched the Armenian language and culture.

The surprise ‘guests’ of the show were His Holiness Sahag Bartev (Catholicos of All Armenians) and His Majesty King Vramshabouh. They in turn explained their role in the 404AD invention and discussed the importance of learning and speaking the Armenian language. From the ‘audience’, groups of students came up to recite poetry or sing songs. The final song ‘Hayotst Darer’ was dedicated to the Armenian Alphabet.

Congratulation to all the students for putting together a great ‘show’, in marking this special occasion. Thank you to Mrs Seta Keoshgerian in organizing the event which once again highlighted the quality of education and the expressive use of language at Alexander school.

You can check out the photo gallery in today’s Newsletter or on the school’s website, capturing the special moments of the day. You can also follow the newsfeeds on the school’s Facebook Page. More on this next week...

**MANOUG DEMIRJIAN**
DATES TO REMEMBER
07/03 StartSmart Financial Literacy Program
16/03 Sun Safety and Surf Safety Presentation
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

ARMENIAN STUDENT FUND
WEEKLY REPORT: Term 1 Week 6

8 Points – SEVAN .............. $12.40
6 Points – YEREVAN .............. $10.45
TOTAL: .............. $22.85
ACCUMULATED: .............. $81.20

SPONSOR A CHILD IN ARMENIA THROUGH THE ARmenian Apostolic Church
www.armenianchurchsydney.org.au

HOUSE POINTS TERM 1
Uniform, Playground, Charity & Awards

SEVAN - 56 points
YEREVAN - 47 points

BIRTHDAY OF THE WEEK
Happy Birthday to...
Narek Topouzian

YOUNG AUSTRALIA WORKSHOP - 7th March, 2012
The school has been invited to join a special performance called the ‘The Samba Experience’ at the Sydney Japanese School. The show is an energetic, fast paced and entirely ‘hand-on’ workshop using Brazilian rhythms and instruments. The rhythms are challenging, achievable and produce a powerful groove. No prior knowledge is needed, just energy and enthusiasm! Students will be accompanied by their classroom teacher and will be transported in teacher and volunteer parent cars to the venue.

The cost is $5 per child. Please fill in the permission slip below and return with your payment to the school office by Monday 5th March.

YOUNG AUSTRALIAN WORKSHOP “THE SAMBA EXPERIENCE” K-6
I grant permission for my child/ren to attend the Young Australia Workshop at the Sydney Japanese School on Wednesday 7th March. I understand he/she will travel from school by private cars of teachers and volunteers being accompanied and supervised by class teachers.

NAME OF STUDENT/S: ___________________________ DATE: __________

PARENT’S SIGNATURE: ___________________________ MONEY ENCLOSED: $_______ ($5.00 per child)
Photo Gallery...

Celebrating International Mother Language Day
A world without words?

Celebrating International Mother Language Day

Have you ever heard of kalkoti? An endangered language identified in 2011 by the UNESCO Atlas of the World’s Languages in Danger, it is spoken by only around 4000 people in a village on the north-western border of Pakistan. It is estimated that nearly half of the approximately 6,000 languages spoken in the world could die out by the end of the century, with 96 percent of these languages spoken by a mere 4 percent of the world’s population. “Languages are who we are. By protecting them, we protect ourselves”, - said UNESCO Director General Irina Bokova in her message on the occasion of the International Day.

Linguistic and cultural diversity are of strategic importance for people around the world in strengthening the unity and cohesion of societies. To recognize the importance of linguistic diversity, the UNESCO General Conference proclaimed International Mother Language Day (IMLD) in November 1999. The International day has since been observed every year throughout the world on 21 February to promote linguistic and cultural diversity and multilingual education. It aims to help develop better awareness of linguistic and cultural traditions based on understanding, tolerance and dialogue.

"Multilingualism is our ally in ensuring quality education for all, in promoting inclusion and in combating discrimination. Building genuine dialogue must start with respect for languages. [...] Linguistic diversity is our common heritage, and it is fragile. [...] Multilingualism is a living resource – let us use it for the benefit of all," said UNESCO Director General Irina Bokova.

There is a growing awareness that languages play a vital role in development, in ensuring cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue, but also in strengthening cooperation, building inclusive knowledge societies, preserving cultural heritage and providing quality education for all. This year’s celebration is dedicated to multilingualism for inclusive education: “Learning in a language they can understand is vital for children to enjoy their right to quality education. Mother Tongue and Multilingual Education are key to reducing discrimination, promoting inclusion and improving learning outcomes for all”.

Xinhua - A young student learning Tibetan language in a primary school in the District of Dagze, in the Tibet Autonomous Region UNESCO PRESS © (20/2/12)

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School Banking

Banking Day: Thursday

Students need to have their bank deposit books in order to make a deposit into their account.

Please make sure the slips are filled and completed, with the correct amount enclosed, to help with the transaction.

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Cancer Council recommends you protect yourself in 5 ways:

SLIP on clothing that covers your arms and legs
SLOP on 30+, broad-spectrum sunscreen
SLAP on a broad brimmed or legionnaires hat
SEEK shade
SLIDE on wrap around sunglasses

Protect yourself in five ways from skin cancer