Dear Parents,

**NATIONAL SCHOOL CHAPLAINCY & STUDENT WELFARE PROGRAM**

The new National School Chaplaincy and Student Welfare Program (NSCSWP) was announced by the Australia Government in September 2011. Commencing in January 2012, the new Program builds upon the success of the National School Chaplaincy Program (NSCP) and supports school communities to establish school chaplaincy and student welfare services or to enhance existing services.

During the ‘Parent Information Evening’ we were happy to announce that the school had been successful in its submission to enhance the existing NSCP services. As discussed and explained during the evening, the new NSCSWP aims to assist school communities to provide pastoral care and general spiritual, social and emotional comfort to all students, irrespective of their faith or beliefs. This can include support and guidance about ethics, values, relationships and spiritual issues. The program also provides student welfare and enhances engagement with the broader community.

In general, individual schools can decide the sorts of services that are required by their school community. The new services could include:

- providing students, their families and staff with support or referrals for other assistance in difficult situations, such as during times of grief or when students are facing personal or emotional challenges.
- supporting students who express a desire to express their spirituality. This may include providing guidance or referral about spirituality, values and ethical matters.
- providing services with a spiritual content (excluding religious education).
- delivering peer leadership and support programs.
- organising one-on-one or group sessions with students, parents, staff and other members of the school community as requested or required by the school community.
- mentoring/coaching.
- participating in school activities, such as sport, camps, gardens etc.

As stated, the school has appointed Mrs Seta Keoshgerian to be our ‘Student Welfare Worker’. As you know, Mrs Keoshgerian is available on a daily basis, with special time allocated in the delivery of these services. Details of the services that the student welfare worker provides to oversee the spiritual, social and emotional wellbeing of students at Alexander school will be outlined to parents over the coming weeks.

**GYMNASTICS PROGRAM**

Our gymnastics program for the term has been a great success thanks to ‘Be Skilled Be Fit’. The students are making excellent progress with the weekly sessions. The program is well structured and caters for outcomes set out in the curriculum. In this week’s session the students gained experience in team building, problem solving and decision making skills. The instructors have also made positive comments in terms of the goals set and targets achieved by students. We are all pleased with the results. The photos published in today’s Newsletter give a better view of all the fun and action!

MANOUG DEMIRJIAN

16th March 2012
TERM 1 – WEEK 8

**SINCERE CONDOLENCES**

To our Founding Members
Mrs Nevart Poladian and her son
Dr Levon Poladian

Upon the passing of their husband and father

Mr Arto Poladian

who passed away on 11th March 2012.

From the School Board, Parents, Staff and Students of AGBU Alexander Primary School.

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**TEACHERS’ AWARD**

TERM 1 – WEEK 8

Year 6: Garo Betchakjian
Year 4: Krikor Demirjian
Narek Topouzian
Serly Sarkissian
Silvy Giragosian
Stella Pitt

Year 3: Taniel Betchakjian
Nina Kehyayan
Tzolare Giragosian

Year 2: Chanel Dikranian
Matthew Zoelu
Samuel Betchakjian

Year 1: Anita Kachichian

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**HOUSE POINTS TERM 1**

*Uniform, Playground, Charity & Awards*

Sevan - 107 points
Yerevan - 102 points

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**DATES TO REMEMBER**

18/03 AGBU Youth Gala Day - Kent Rd, Ryde
19/03 P&C Meeting
21/03 Book Club - Issue 2 Orders Due
25/03 Working Bee
31/03 Robert Chilinguirian Dance Concert
01/04 Palm Sunday Concert & Picnic
02/04 Chocolate Fundraising Money Due
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

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**ARMENIAN STUDENT FUND**

**WEEKLY REPORT: Term 1 Week 8**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Yerevan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Sevan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACCUMULATED</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sponsor a child in Armenia through the Armenian Apostolic Church
www.armenianchurchsydney.org.au

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**WORKING BEE**

SUNDAY 25th MARCH

From 10am

Thank you to the following families who have volunteered to help.

Amirzaian, Demirjian, Khatchadourian, Manoukian, Misissil, Smith, Tateossian and Topouzian

**JOBS TO DO**

- Weeding
- More weeding!
- Shrub and tree trimming
- Cleaning the gutters
- Soft fall raking
- Mulching
- General cleaning

**THINGS TO BRING**

- Strong gloves
- Tree and shrub trimming implements
- Secateurs
- Weeding implements
- Rakes
- Forks
- Whipper snipper
- Chainsaw

Thanks for your support! See you next Sunday.

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**BOOK CLUB - ISSUE 2**

Order Forms/Money Due by

Wednesday
21st March, 2012

Orders after this date cannot be processed. Please place your orders in clearly marked envelopes.
LIFE EDUCATION NEW SOUTH WALES VISIT - 4th April, 2012
Life Education NSW mobile classroom will be visiting our school on Wednesday, 4th April.

Life Education provides a positive health based education program for students in Kindergarten to Year 6 and helps them to gain an appreciation and respect for the human body. The aim of Life Education is to reduce drug abuse and the older students discuss the effects of drugs on the body.

The Life Education programs are progressive and each year students participate in a different program building on the knowledge gained in previous years. Programs also help to develop life skills enabling students to make informed choices concerning their health and to be confident in politely informing their friends and peers of their decisions concerning drugs and other issues. The programs are a fully integrated part of the curriculum. Specially designed teachers’ manuals and children’s work sheets provide ongoing class material to further develop skills and knowledge.

HAROLD MERCHANDISE

Life Education NSW is a not for profit community-based organization that relies heavily on the raising of funds within the community to assist in meeting the shortfall left after receiving assistance from Government funding.

The sale of Harold merchandise to the children whilst the program is visiting each school supports the fundraising activities of local committees. These quality products are competitively priced and all proceeds support Life Education within each local area.

These products help to remind children about the messages delivered to them during their Life Education session and have either a picture of Harold or the Life Education logo on them.

The educator will provide the opportunity for children to purchase these products during the school visit. Providing the correct money in an envelope with the item written on the face of the envelope along with your child’s name and class allows the educator to process orders efficiently and accurately.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Healthy Harold Product Description</th>
<th>Price Including GST</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tattoo</td>
<td>$0.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harold Key Ring</td>
<td>$2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stationary Set</td>
<td>$3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harold Hand Ball</td>
<td>$3.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Healthy Harold Product Description</th>
<th>Price Including GST</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Harold Calculator</td>
<td>$7.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harold Wallet</td>
<td>$8.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harold Soft Toy</td>
<td>$8.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Large Harold Soft Toy</td>
<td>$20.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NB - Harold Products are subject to availability

Students may bring extra money to buy Happy Harold products directly from the Life Education Van.

Please return permission slip and money to your child’s class teacher by Friday, 30th April.

LIFE EDUCATION NSW VISIT - K-6

I give permission for my child/ren to attend the Life Education NSW mobile classroom which will visit AGBU Alexander Primary School on Wednesday, 4th April, 2012

STUDENT/S NAME/S: .................................................................

PARENT’S SIGNATURE: ........................................... DATE: ..............

MONEY ENCLOSED: $ ...................... ($10.00 per student)
In May 2012 the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) will be completed by all students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 in all government and non-government schools. NAPLAN has the support of all State and Territory Education Ministers and will assess the literacy and numeracy learning of students in all Australian schools.

The results of the tests will provide important information to schools about what each student can do, and will be used to support teaching and learning programs. Parents will receive a report indicating their child’s level of achievement. Each student’s level of achievement will be reported against the national minimum standard.

Background information (student name, gender, date of birth, language background and Aboriginality) will be collected as part of the National Assessment Program. This information is treated confidentially and held securely to ensure that every student’s right to privacy is maintained.

The tests will be conducted across Australia for all students from **15-17 May 2012**:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TUESDAY 15 MAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY 16 MAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY 17 MAY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Language Conventions</td>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>Numeracy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar)</td>
<td>Number; Algebra, function and pattern; Chance and data; Measurement and Space</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In the Numeracy tests students do not require any measuring tools such as rulers or protractors. In Years 7 and 9 there will be two Numeracy tests: one where a calculator is allowed and one where calculators are not to be used. For the calculator test, the student should use the calculator that they currently use at school.

**Friday 18 May** – A ‘catch-up’ day is scheduled for students who missed a test or were absent on a test day.

Students may be considered for exemption from the tests if:

- they are newly arrived in Australia (less than one year before the test) and with a language background other than English, or
- they have significant intellectual disability and/or significant co-existing conditions which severely limit their capacity to participate in the tests.

All other students are expected to participate in the tests. Special provisions which reflect the student’s normal level of support in the classroom will be provided. Large print, Braille and black and white versions of the test are available for students with vision impairment.

Access to special provisions and exemption from the tests must be discussed with your school’s learning support team and the school Principal, and a parent or carer consent form must be signed. Students may be withdraw from NAPLAN by their parent or carer. This is a matter for consideration by parents and carers in consultation with the Principal. If you wish to withdraw your child from the tests you must sign a parent or carer consent form. Consent forms are available at your school.

Please make an appointment with the Principal of the school your child attends if you would like further information about your child’s participation in NAPLAN.

Additional information about NAPLAN can be found at:
Photo Gallery...

Sports Day - Gymnastics Program
Easter is the most important Christian festival of the year. Most Christians observe Easter on the first Sunday after the first full moon following the first day of Spring in the Northern Hemisphere (or first day of Autumn in the Southern Hemisphere). The festival can occur on any Sunday during the period from March 22 to April 25. The world identifies Easter with various symbols - some religious but mostly, non-religious symbols.

**Hot Cross Buns**
Did you know that the eating of spicy cakes was a custom associated with ancient spring festivals where the tops of buns were scored using the horns from a sacrificed bull? Christians continued to baking sweet, spicy buns and marked them with a cross to commemorate the death of Christ. They are usually eaten hot on Good Friday.

**Rabbits**
Did you know that the original Easter rabbit was actually a hare? In mythology, the goddess Easter was said to be accompanied by a hare. Sometimes hares were offered to her in sacrifice. Hares and rabbits are both symbols of new life. Rabbits, however, appear to be more appealing than hares. Perhaps that is why they have endured as Easter symbols.

**Chickens**
Chickens and eggs are naturally associated. Chicks represent the new life formed in the cold hardness of the egg. Spring is the time when many birds build their nests in preparation for egg laying.

**Eggs**
Did you know that the custom of giving real eggs as spring gifts is very old, dating to well before the time of Christ? Eggs were coloured with dyes from herbs and flowers. The colours represented the awakening of nature in Spring.

**Lights & Candles**
Light is a universal religious symbol representing the victory of good over evil. Candles are lit on Easter Sunday to celebrate the resurrection of Christ. Bonfires are also popular in Europe, they were lit to encourage the return of the sun after the long, dark winter season.

**The Lamb**
One of the origins of the symbol of the lamb is to be found in the Passover Festival. The Jews used to sacrifice a lamb during the ceremony as a forecast of Christ’s sacrifice on the cross. Easter decorations often include a figure of a lamb as a symbol of Jesus.

**What is the TRUE Symbol of Easter? Read through next week’s Newsletter ...**

**Jesus, the Lamb of God**