Dear Parents,

**WORKING BEE - THIS SUNDAY!**

Thank you to all those wonderful people who have volunteered to join our Working Bee to help clean and tidy the gardens and grounds. It’s on this Sunday, and we have plenty to do... Please join us from 10am.

**ALL WELCOME ON PALM SUNDAY - OPEN DAY, 1 APRIL 2012**

We are all looking forward to our annual Palm Sunday concert and picnic. Once again the children have prepared a great programme and we extend a special invitation to all members of the community to join us in our celebration. The day has also been set as our first Open Day for the year.

It is an opportunity for current and future friends and families to visit the school and view our activities. On this special occasion we will be joined by our guest singer and entertainer Robert Chilingirian from Los Angeles. He will be AGBU’s guest of honour next week, as he has been invited for a dinner-dance function on Saturday (31st March, 2012), in support of our school and the AGBU Youth.

So come and enjoy the fresh air, the delicious food, the colourful hat parade, the great entertainment and wonderful atmosphere!

**PARENT / TEACHER INTERVIEWS**

Parent/Teacher Interviews will take place on Tuesday 3rd April. Please make sure the appointment form is completed and returned by Monday. Confirmation of your appointment time will be sent back on Friday.

As you all know, interview ‘peak-times’ are usually right after school or late in the evening. I understand that most of our parents have to travel long distances and sometimes like to have the interviews done just as they are picking up their children from school. However I’m sure you also understand that this isn’t always possible.

We will do our best to accommodate your special requests in relation to appointment times. I’m sure with the three given time slots we will have fewer disappointments, as parents are prepared to accept any time within the slots provided. If you have a problem with the confirmed appointment time, please contact the office to arrange for an alternative.

Please note, Mrs Seta will be available for interviews about the Armenian classes prior to or after your scheduled interview on a first come first serve basis.

Please try to be on time for your appointment, as late-comers put others out. Also please be aware that there is only time for a ten minute interview. If an interview looks like it will go for longer, for instance, if a new discussion point has arisen, another time will have to be scheduled as someone else will be waiting for their time.

Please note that student portfolios will also be given out on the day and we hope parents check, sign and return these by early next Term.

Children may attend interviews if you, they and the teacher are comfortable. If they come along with you, they are expected to stay quietly in one place, preferably with you as much as possible. Before and after interviews - roaming about the school will not be allowed.

23rd March 2012

MANOUG DEMIRJIAN
REMINDER...

We would like to remind those families who so far have not sent in their contribution for the Easter Raffle hampers, if they could donate Easter chocolates by Wednesday 28/3/12.

A variety of chocolates would be appreciated – little sized eggs, medium sized eggs, large-sized eggs, bunnies, chicks, hollow eggs, cream-filled eggs – whatever.

Chocolates with minimal packaging are best suited as they will be rearranged in large baskets. We also use excess chocolate eggs / bunnies as prizes for egg & spoon races.

SCHOOL FEES DUE

A reminder that Term 1 School Fees were due for payment today.

To avoid personal reminders being sent home with your child next week, please send in payment by Monday or contact the school office if you anticipate further delays.

It is important to note that the Term 1 fees mainly cover the expenses that the school has already incurred. Such as text books, exercise books, insurance etc.

Therefore, we would appreciate prompt payment so that our trade terms with the suppliers continue to be met.

BIRTHDAYS OF THE WEEK

Happy Birthday to...

Anita Kachichian
Lara Kachichian

ARMENIAN STUDENT FUND

WEEKLY REPORT: Term 1 Week 9

<table>
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Sponsor a child in Armenia through the Armenian Apostolic Church

www.armenianchurchsydney.org.au

TEACHERS’ AWARD

TERM 1 – WEEK 9

Year 6: Sonya Boyadjian, Levon Kehyayan
Year 5: Kevork Kachichian, Aramis Malouf
Ani Manoukian
Year 4: Krikor Demirjian
Year 1: Jasmine Malouf

HOUSE POINTS TERM 1

Uniform, Playground, Charity & Awards

**Sevan** - 132 points

**Yerevan** - 126 points

DATES TO REMEMBER

25/03 Working Bee - From 10am
26/03 P&C Meeting
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
09/04 Easter Monday - Public Holiday
09/12 Christmas Concert and Graduation
PARENT/TEACHER INTERVIEWS - Forms Due Monday, 26th March

Parent/Teacher interviews will be conducted over one afternoon. Interviews with parents for all students will be held on Tuesday, 3rd April.

If you would like to make an appointment with Mr Manoug on general school matters, please make a note and this can also be arranged for a suitable time or date.

Interviews will be of 10 minute duration with your child’s class teacher. Please note, Mrs Seta will be available for interviews about the Armenian classes prior to or after your scheduled interview on a first come first serve basis. Children are not expected to attend this evening. If they come along with you, they are expected to stay quietly in one place, preferably with you as much as possible. Before and after interviews - roaming about the school will not be allowed.

Parents are requested to complete the form below by ticking preferred time slots. Please be prepared to accept any session within that time slot. All effort will be made to ensured preferred appointment times. A confirmation notice will be sent to you early next week.

Please return the completed form to the school Office by Monday, 26th March.

EASTER CAKE STALL - CONTRIBUTION

The P&C would like to ask all families if they can please indicate the type of sweet they will be making/bringing for the Easter Cake Stall. Some ideas for traditional Armenian sweets – choreg, kata, mahmoul, kaghka, kounafa, khourabyeh, baklava or homemade cake (uncut and sold whole). Please return slip to the school office early next week to help us organise the event. Once again, Thank You for your support.

✔ YES, I will be contributing to the Easter Cake Stall and I will be making…

Type of Sweet: ________________________________________  Quantity: _____________

NAME OF STUDENT/S:  _____________________________________________________

PARENT’S SIGNATURE: _________________________________________    DATE:  ___________________
News From the Classroom...

Beach Awareness & Safety Education (B.A.S.E.) Visit

On Friday, 16th March the students had a visit from two of the Life-Savers from Warringah Council. The Life-Savers gave an informative talk about beach safety and awareness.

First they reminded the students about the importance of being sun smart. The Life Savers highlighted the Cancer Council’s campaign of Slip, Slop, Slap, Seek and Slide. The students were taught the valuable lesson of slipping on a hat, slopping on sunscreen, slapping on a t-shirt, seeking shade and sliding on wrap around sunglasses to prevent sun damage.

The students then learnt of the importance of swimming between the flags and the difference between rips and currents. The students now know what to do if they are stung by a blue bottle and can recognise a blue-ringed octopus. They know the correct behaviours that they should adopt, if they get into trouble in the water, and have learnt the places that they should steer clear of when they visit the beach. It was a great program that the children enjoyed. It gave them the skills to be well equipped for a safe visit to the beach.

EnviroMentors - Keep Australia Beautiful

On Wednesday, 21st March the students participated in the EnviroMentors workshop - “Worms, worms, worms!” Students learnt about worm-farming as a simple, effective way to recycle food scraps. Students’ knowledge was tested while they learnt fascinating facts about worms and enjoyed discovering how a real worm farm looks and works. Danielle, the workshop leader, took time to inspect our own worm farm giving it a clean bill of health and encouraging the students to play an active roll in the upkeep and maintenance of the worm farm and the garden that it can support.

Mrs Vicky Dernee
Curriculum Coordinator
SCHOOL EXCURSION TO CITY VENUES: Tuesday, 24th April

On Tuesday, 24th April, all students will travel to the city to visit a number of venues. They will first visit the Armenian Genocide Commemorative ‘Khachkar’ (Cross-stone) within the precinct of NSW Parliament House. The next stop will be the Botanical Gardens where they will increase their understandings and appreciation of plants and the environment through hands-on activities. They will then join the congregation from the Armenian Apostolic Church to pay their respects at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Martin Place on the eve of ANZAC day. Finally, they will head back to school at 2:00pm.

Students will leave school first thing in the morning and return by 3:00pm. Travel will be by North Sydney Bus Charter services and be accompanied by class teachers. The cost of the excursion will be $15 per student.

Please Note: If there are parents who are interested and would like to join the school on the day, please contact the School Office early next week to indicate your interest.

Please return the permission slip and payment by Wednesday, 4th April.
Year 3 & 4 Go on a Bushwalk to Ku-ring-gai National Park

On Monday the 12th of March, Year 3 and 4, Mrs Boyadijian and I walked to Slade Lookout in Ku-ring-gai National Park. This is about a 10 minute walk from school but little feet and inquiring eyes made the journey a much longer one! We stopped along the way and looked at a mother horse and her galloping foal, we tried to photograph elusive peacocks and we again said hello to the Duffys Forest Llama community. These are just the fauna, then there were many stops to discuss the interesting plants (mostly weeds) that we discovered on the journey. We finally reached the national park and ventured along the fire trail, determined to find Slade Lookout. What did we see, learn and feel about this experience? I will use the students words to try to describe this successful excursion.

Narek said: “I learnt and saw how much a national park actually means to endangered species and other plants and animals. I liked going on a bushwalk because there were some nests, homes and insects that I had just explored and had never seen before.”

Krikor said: “I learnt about open trees, plants, weeds and Slade Lookout. I learnt about trees losing their bark and then showing their very shiny trunk. I liked going on a bushwalk because we saw a shiny green ant, a termite mound, we marked our own Alexander Primary School lookout and because it was a very long journey.”

Silvy said: “We learnt about weeds and plants found in the national park. We learnt about the Aboriginal people (Garigal tribe) who once lived there.”

Nina said: “I liked going on a bushwalk because it was very interesting and there was a beautiful view. I was very, very happy and very, very tired, I could never go for a bushwalk this long.” (You did Nina, well done!)

Serly said: “I learnt that Aboriginal people lived in Ku-ring-gai National park in the past and I think I may have found a shell that they may have eaten from. I would like to go on the bushwalk again but I was so tired. I would like to go again to see the view and our Alexander Primary School lookout that we made.”

Tzolare said: “I learnt that no cats and dogs can go in the national park. Also you can not camp in this national park. I like going on the bushwalk because I had a fun time with my friends but I was scared but I got used to it and loved it.”

Taniel said: “I liked going on a bushwalk because there were interesting insects, animals and plants, even good views and very big trees. It was the best day, I wish to go again.”

Stella said: “Bushwalking was a very fun activity and I learnt so much about weeds, flowers and the national park. I saw a sparkly blue ant and a termite mound.”

The reason I took the students on this walk is because they are learning about national parks in HSIE and I believe there is no better way to enforce what they have learnt in the classroom than to experience it hands
on. Learning about Ku-ring-gai National Park is part of a larger environmental and geographic study of Duffys Forest, the suburb that AGBU Alexander Primary School is situated in. Specifically we have focused on the significant natural features of this area. These natural features include Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park and the Duffys Forest endangered ecological plant community. We have also investigated the management and care of this environment by the local conservation group. A member of this group has also visited us at school. Importantly, Year 3-4 have been active citizens by beginning to address the weed problem in our school which directly affects these fragile natural environments.

This learning addresses the outcomes mandated in the *Human Society and its Environment* syllabus, specifically the Stage 2 Environment content strand. The environment content strand is further divided into two sub-strands:

1. **Patterns of Place and Location.**
   OUTCOME: ENS2.5 Describes places in the local area and other parts of Australia and explains their significance.

2. **Relationship with Place.**
   OUTCOME: ENS2.6 Describes people’s interactions with environments and identifies responsible ways of interacting with environments.

What I have described here is just some of the learning that has taken place during our HSIE lessons this term. I hope it shows that the bushwalk to Ku-ring-gai National Park was a vital and I am sure, very memorable part of this learning for the students.

Ms Martine Smith
Year 3/4
The True Symbol of Easter

The CROSS is the true symbol of Easter as it represents the crucifixion of Christ and His victory over death.

The Easter celebration is the most important event on the Christian calendar. Christians around the world, unite to rejoice in the gift that has been given to them by God. God sent His only Son, Jesus Christ, into the world to dwell among mankind. Through His mortal death came the message of eternal life for all who believe in Him. The sacrificial Lamb of God became the hope of the world.

“For God loved the world so much that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not die but have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to be its judge, but to be its Saviour.”  

John 3:16

PALM SUNDAY

Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey.

THE LAST SUPPER

Jesus teaches the sacrament of Communion. “The bread is my body.”

RESURRECTION

Jesus’ dead body was buried in a tomb but on the third day when they visited the tomb, Jesus’ body had been raised from the dead.

CRUCIFIXION

Jesus carried His own cross to Golgotha. He was crucified on the cross.

AN EASTER STORY MAP

THE GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE

Jesus prays for God to be with Him and watch over Him.

DIVINE SERVICES DURING HOLY WEEK & EASTER

AT THE ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH OF HOLY RESURRECTION

PALM SUNDAY - DZAGHGAZART 1/4/12

Morning Service
‘Badarak’ - Holy Mass
‘Turnpatsek’ - Opening of the Doors

9:00 a.m.  
10:15 a.m.  
12:00 p.m.

MAUNDY THURSDAY - 5/4/12

Commemorating our Lord’s Last Supper and the Instuation of Holy Communion - ‘Badarak’  
Washing of the Feet  
‘Khavaroum’ - Vigil

10:30 a.m.  
6:30 p.m.  
8:00 p.m.

GOOD FRIDAY - 6/4/12

Crucifixion Service  
Burial Service  
‘Hokehankist’ - Requiem Service

10:00 a.m.  
4:30 p.m.  
5:30 p.m.

HOLY SATURDAY - 7/4/12

Easter Eve Service  
‘Badarak’ - Holy Mass

4:30 p.m.  
5:30 p.m.

EASTER SUNDAY - 8/4/12

Commemorating the Resurrection of our Lord

Morning Service  
‘Badarak’ - Holy Mass  
Sermon by His Eminence Archbishop Aghan Baliozian, Primate of Australia & New Zealand

8:30 a.m.  
10:00 a.m.  
12:00 p.m.