Dear Parents,

**INTRODUCING A PREPARATORY (PREP) CLASS IN 2013!**

At the start of the year we announced that this was the ‘Year of Advancement’. I further went on to state that we will aim to advance even further by showing real and tangible results and improvements as a school community.

As we do a half yearly review, I can proudly state that we have made significant advances both inside and outside the classroom. By introducing an additional member of staff we have made advances not only in our already outstanding student to teacher ratio but ultimately in the learning of our students. Apart from the general upgrades in the school infrastructure and the additional storage area now being constructed adjacent to our new Covered Outdoor Learning Area we have had a major upgrade and advancement in our wireless network over the past week. In addition, the computers and student laptops have been upgraded to the latest MS Office softwares, greatly enhancing our advanced teaching of computer technology.

The latest and most exciting advancement was announced today with the introduction of a new Preparatory or ‘Prep’ class in 2013. The new class will function as an integral part of the school and provide educational programs for children one year prior to enrolment in Kindergarten. The new Prep class will help better prepare children for their formal education. It will allow a smooth progression as the children are made familiar with the environment, routines and staff while at the same time addressing the NSW Board of Studies Early Stage 1 outcomes.

After years of community interest in this area and following consultation with the NSW Board of Studies, the School Board amended the enrolment policy last week to allow children into this special class up to a year before school starting age. The fee for under age students has also been reviewed with the annual tuition set at $3,000. With no government funding the school subsidised fees will ensure parents have the chance to give their children the best start in education.

The move is supported by the Association of Independent Schools and comes as schools around Australia finalise the second round of data collection for the Australian Early Development Index* (AEDI). In 2009, the AEDI report on the Warringah community indicated that around quarter of children did not attend preschool in the year before they commenced school. This is believed to increase with the rising cost of early learning centres.

I’m please to state that enrolments for the Prep class have started and parents need to register their children to secure their place. For more information please contact Mrs Vicky Dernee.

*The AEDI is a measure of how young children are developing and like the Census provides a snapshot of early development across Australia.*

**SPORT - BASKETBALL**

For the past few weeks, we have been joined by members of the AGBU Youth to help deliver our sporting program for the Term. Members of the AGBU Girls Basketball team have volunteered to come and support the teachers in our weekly sports sessions. Two of our graduates, Natasha Dertadian (School Captain 1997) and Talar Keoroghlanyan (Alexander Medal 2002) are joined by team mate Alina Guleserian. They have been doing an excellent job in motivating the students and teaching them all the necessary basketball skills. If your children are interested to continue developing their skills in basketball, then please check the newsletter for details about weekend training sessions.

**MANOUG DEMIRJIAN**

15th June 2012
DATES TO REMEMBER
18/06 I.C.A.S. - Writing Assessment, Years 3-6
21/06 Excursion to Kimbriki Tip - Years 3-4
22/06 Reports sent home
27/06 C.A.R.E.S. Bike Safety visit - Years 4-6
29/06 Last day Term 2
07/07 Aida Sargsyan Concert @ North Sydney Leagues
16/07 School Development Day - Pupil Free
17/07 First day Term 3 - Students Return
28/10 Armenian Cultural Day 2012
09/12 Christmas Concert and Graduation
Check ‘Coming up’ on our website for the latest.
YEARS 3/4 EXCURSION TO KIMBRIKI: Thursday, 21st June

This term, Year 3 and 4 are learning about ‘Rubbish’ as part of their HSIE unit. Specifically the kinds of rubbish we produce, where it goes when we throw it away, how we can make less of it or dispose of it more thoughtfully.

To complement this learning, on Thursday 21st of June we are going on an excursion to Kimbriki Tip, Mona Vale Road, Ingleside to see an excellent example of recycling, reusing and rethinking.

Kimbriki is a wonderful place, full of interesting and insightful sustainability practices, including their Eco House and Garden. It is no longer the landfill site that you may remember. Please have a look at their website if you are interested (www.kimbriki.com.au).

Mr Manoug and I will help with transport. We will leave before the bell to be at Kimbriki by 9am. Please make sure students are at school by 8.45 on this day. We will stay at Kimbriki for about two and half hours. We will be given a guided tour of the site by sustainability expert, Peter Rutherford and engage in other age appropriate, hands on activities in the Eco Garden.

As always, any questions or concerns please call me and you are most welcome to come with us!

Please return the permission slip below by Tuesday, 19th June.

Ms Smith
martine@alexander.nsw.edu.au

SCHOOL EXCURSION TO KIMBRIKI
YEARS 3-4 ONLY

I grant permission for my child/ren to go to the Kimbriki Tip excursion on Thursday, 21st June, 2012.

I understand students will travel by private cars and be accompanied by their teachers.

NAME OF STUDENT/S: ________________________________

PARENT’S SIGNATURE: ___________________________ DATE: ________________
AGBU Youth

Every Sunday!!
From 2pm...

Kids Basketball Training!!

AGBU Alexander Primary School
Cnr Thuddungra & Namba Rd
Duffys Forest, NSW, 2084

Absolutely Free!!

All ages are welcome!!
5 – 17’s already playing...

Give-Aways • Chocolates • Lollies

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