Dear Parents,

“The true meaning of life is to plant trees, under whose shade you do not expect to sit.”  
Nelson Henderson

I believe this quote is a wonderful metaphor for what we do in schools. Every day the dedicated teachers at Alexander school work tirelessly to lay the foundations for our students to have a great future. The fruits of our collective labours will not necessarily be seen for years or even decades to come - long after schooling has finished. The world would be so much better off if we all thought about the long term and the good of the whole community.

I would like you to consider the following:

✧ We become consumed with marks - NAPLAN results for Years 3 & 5 have been sent home today - when the long term impact of schooling is what really matters. As a school and as educators we aim to equip our students for life-long learning, to make them resilient, to make them truly value their uniqueness and believe in themselves.

✧ We often worry excessively about risks. It is our job and responsibility to keep our students safe. It is also our job to encourage our students to take sensible risks so that life will be full of opportunities. We do not want our children to be so hesitant that life’s opportunities pass them by. It is ironic that we worry over risks like sport, play and the little squabbles they may have in the playground when the real risks such as poor diet, inactivity, low self-esteem and the failure to develop self-control are far more real and dangerous.

✧ We hesitate to contribute to a future that may not be ours but are happy to accept those things that have been provided by others in the past. A poster in the school foyer states - ‘The fruit you eat comes from trees planted by those who came before you... ’ I appreciate and value the ongoing contribution of parents and the community in general on various aspects of our school life. These will not only benefit the children of today but also those of tomorrow. We have Benefactors and Founding Members who are no longer with us or ongoing contribution by parents whose children no longer attend the school. Their legacy benefits your children today and your support in return is vital in ensuring we continue to build for the future.

Teachers, parents and the students have ‘planted’ so many trees in this past term alone... Book Week, National Science, Literacy and Numeracy Weeks, Debating, Gardening activities and excursions to Canberra, Sydney Symphony and Olympic Park. From Multicultural Costume Shows and theatrical performances to Integrated Sporting and Cross Country days and Sports Carnivals are just a few examples of the wonderful things that have happened, aside from the excellent learning that is routine at Alexander school. It is comforting to know that the values and skills learnt from such accomplishments will live on in the lives of our children... What you learn here is like planting trees for those who will come next.

Have a lovely break and we hope to see you back refreshed next term.

21st September 2012
Dear Parents,

**MULTICULTURAL COSTUME SHOW**

On Wednesday, our school was invited to take part in the MOSAIC and Community Group’s Spring Festival - ‘Multicultural Costume Show’, organised by Willoughby City Council. The presentation took place at The Theatre on The Concourse, in Chatswood.

In front of an audience of over 400 and among 11 cultures represented on the day, our students did an excellent job in presenting and displaying traditional Armenian costumes. Not only did they win the hearts of the audience and the Mayor for Willoughby Mr Pat Rielly, but they also had the unique opportunity to experience, learn and share from other cultures in our community.

**THEATRICAL PRODUCTION - ‘I, BUNYIP’**

On Thursday, the students travelled to the Glen Street Theatre to watch the production of I Bunyip: ‘The magic of our land revealed through the stories of our mysterious creatures’.

This was a unique performance of puppets, visual effects and multi-media that took the audience deep inside the mysterious heart of Australian imaginings with an inimitable cast of unique Australian characters brought to life on stage.

The students were introduced to authentic stories, passed down by Indigenous communities for hundreds of years. Developed in consultation with five different Aboriginal communities around the country, I, Bunyip gave the students a rare chance to meet very real characters from Australia’s oldest stories with many students being selected to interact with these creatures. All the students came away with smiles on their faces and a great insight into some dreamtime stories.

**ALEXANDER NURSING HOME**

Today, on the 21st Anniversary of Independence for the Republic of Armenia, students of Years 5-6 visited the Alexander Nursing Home at Dee Why to celebrate the special occasion.

In school tradition, our annual visit included a program of poetry recitals and patriotic songs much to the delight of the elderly. The children sang and spoke well and were deeply appreciated by the residents, who also loved the opportunity of getting to know them afterwards.

**N.A.P.L.A.N. - RESULTS**

The National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) results for Years 3 and 5 go home this week. I am pleased to report that the school average in Year 5 was above the State average in Writing, Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation, Numeracy and Number Patterns and Algebra. There is no school comparison for the averages in Year 3 as means are only compared for groups with 5 or more students, but I am happy to report that no student in Year 3 or Year 5 fell below the minimum standard in any tested area. If you have any queries about the test or your child’s results please do not hesitate to contact the school.

**ELECTRICITY SAFETY WEEK**

This week the students have participated in a number of electricity-related activities. These activities aim to promote their awareness of and make informed decisions about safe practices while using electrical items. Today the students will receive electricity safety Dynamo flashlights from Ausgrid. These flashlights are rechargeable torches for students to self power the built-in generator by squeezing the handle.

**SCRIPTURE LESSONS - THANK YOU**

Our weekly Scripture sessions conducted for the past two terms ended this week. Special thank you to the Armenian Apostolic Church school scripture program coordinator Mrs Laura Artinian and volunteer teacher Mrs Shake Vartanian for this service.

Apart from our weekly ‘culture’ lessons, where we cover topics of Armenian history and religion, these scripture lessons have helped reinforce and engage the children with the stories from the Bible. We hope to continue the program again next year.

PORTFOLIOS GO HOME TODAY. PLEASE RETURN THEM PROMPTLY NEXT TERM.

**VICKY DERNEE**
Curriculum Coordinator
SWIMMING LESSON NEEDS FOR TERM 4

Students require the following items for swimming lessons to commence on Friday, 19th October (Week 2).

- **Swimming Costumes:** Girls must wear one piece costumes, no board shorts (two-piece costumes are not permitted). Boys are to wear only Speedo type swimmers, not board shorts. All costumes must be worn under sports uniform.
- **Swimming Cap:** All students must wear swimming caps to reduce the risk of earaches and avoid wet hair. Please label caps with student’s name.
- **Swimming Goggles:** All students must wear goggles to reduce irritation to eyes. Label goggles for easy identification by students.
- **Thongs/Sandals:** Bring a pair of thongs or sandals which will be worn to and from the pool. Again, please label each thong or sandal with your child’s name to avoid confusion.
- **Undergarments:** Clean underwear should be supplied for students to change into after swimming.
- **Towel:** Supply a towel adequate in size for drying.
- **Swimming bag:** This should be separate from school bag and will store towel, undergarments and thongs.

**SPORTS DAY IN TERM 4 IS ON FRIDAY**

① Remember... Swimming lessons start Week 2.

TERM 4 SCHOOL UNIFORM

Students will return to school next term wearing Summer Uniform. However, during the first two weeks after the holidays either uniform will be acceptable, depending on the weather.

To ensure your summer uniform needs are met, please ask your children to try on old uniforms and check if garments need replacement. The school has limited stock of uniform so should you require new garments please ring the school office as soon as we return from holidays.

HOUSE POINTS TERM 3

**Uniform, Playground, Charity & Awards**

- **Sevan** - 299 points
- **Yerevan** - 305 points

TEACHERS’ AWARD

TERM 3 – WEEK 10

Year 6: Sonya Boyadjian  
Year 5: Ani Manoukian  
Samuel Tateossian  
Christine Boyadjian  
Jessica Jelenkerian

NATIONAL ASSESSMENT PROGRAM - LITERACY & NUMERACY (NAPLAN)

All students in Years 3 and 5 throughout Australia were required to sit for these tests in line with educational accountability requirements set by the Australian Government. The first assessment was on **Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation**, the second on **Reading** and the third on **Numeracy**.

The results have been released and individual reports have been provided with the Newsletter today. The school is charged a fee in relation to the marking and reporting of these tests by the NSW Department of Education and Communities.

Please send the slip below with payment of the $40 fee to the office by Friday, 12th October.

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N.A.P.L.A.N. 2012 TESTS  
Years 3 and 5 Only

Enclosed is payment for my child/ren’s NAPLAN tests.

**STUDENT’S NAME:** ___________________________  **DATE:** ________

**PARENT’S SIGNATURE:** ___________________________  **MONEY ENCLOSED:** $ ________  
($40 per student)
FRUIT ‘N’ VEG MONTH 2012

Eating enough fruit and veg is an essential part of a healthy lifestyle and is vital in reducing the risk of health-related disease.

During Weeks 7 - 10 of Term 3 (27th August - 21st September), we will be participating in Fruit ‘n’ Veg Month.

GO FOR 2 & 5®: HOW MUCH IS A “SERVE”?

Targets for fruit and vegetable consumption are measured in “serves”. It’s important to know how much a serve is so you can work out how much you’re currently eating and if you need to eat more.

A “serve” of fruit or vegetables is as follows:

One serve of FRUIT is 150 grams of fresh fruit or:

- 1 medium piece (e.g. apple)
- 2 small pieces (e.g. apricots)
- 1 cup chopped or canned fruit

One serve of VEGETABLES is 75 grams of vegetables or:

- ½ cup cooked vegetable or cooked legumes
- 1 medium potato
- 1 cup salad vegetables

You will notice that a serve of vegetables is half the amount of a serve of fruit (75g instead of 150g).

In fact, 2 ½ cups of cooked vegetables every day will provide an adult with their recommended daily intake (5 serves of vegetables)! Knowing the correct serving size helps people to put the target of 2 serves of fruit and 5 serves of vegetables into perspective.

OUR VEGGIE GARDEN!

A number of families have already experienced the taste of our vegetable garden! Many more will have the opportunity when we return as next term is sure to be a period of harvest and reward time for our labour. 😊
Congratulations!

Miss Meaghan Knudsen
&
Mr Russell Terrey

On behalf of the Alexander school students, staff and parents we would like to wish them all the best for their future. The Wedding Ceremony will be during the holidays and Miss Knudsen will be returning as Mrs Terrey!

DONATIONS TO ALEXANDER SCHOOL

*In Memoriam for the Late Yeran Tashkapoulian*
(Passed away in USA)

- Mr & Mrs Zaven and Marie Tchetchenian $50
- Mr & Mrs Garo Zerounian $50
- Mrs Haygouhi Soghomonian $50

*In Support of Alexander School*

- Dr Artin Jebedjian $200

The very competitive fees at Alexander Primary School often prompt school families to make financial donations to the school to further support school projects. The school welcomes your donation and those of our community members. Donations can also be made in lieu of gift-giving occasions or for memorials. All donations to the School Building Fund are tax deductible.

DATES TO REMEMBER

**Fruit ‘n’ Veg Month**
08/10 First day Term 4
14/10 Working Bee - Spring clean
16/10 Junior First Aid Course - Years 3-6
17/10 Interschool Debating Final (New date)
19/10 Start of School Swimming Program
28/10 Armenian Cultural Day 2012
07/12 Armenia’s Earthquake Remembrance Day
09/12 Christmas Concert and Graduation

**Check ‘Coming up’ on our website for the latest.**

ARMENIAN STUDENT FUND

**WEEKLY REPORT: Term 3 Week 10**

8 Points – **YEREVAN** .......... $11.50
6 Points – **SEVAN** .......... $10.90

**TOTAL:** .......... $22.40

**ACCUMULATED:** .......... $483.60

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

We’d like to say a big Thank You to...

- Our school mums and volunteers for providing a great canteen facility for students and staff: Mrs Sonia Apanian, Christine Apanian, Mrs Maggie Betchakjian, Mrs Margueritte Boyadjian, Mrs Salina Dikranian, Mrs Elena Kehyayan, Mrs Angela Khatchadourian, Ms Martine Smith and Ms Elena Zalata.
- The P & C for organising and running the Fathers’ Day Stall and the Sports Day Canteen facilities.
- Mrs Maggie Betchakjian for preparing and cooking special dinner packs for canteen sales.
- Mrs Sonia Apanian for donating a new sandwich maker for the canteen.
- Mr Serge Manoukian for electrical repairs and for setting up a new telephone line in the admin building.
- Our Graduates, Serop Aslanian and Alexander Apanian for helping with maintenance work.
- Mrs Angela Khatchadourian for her effort in maintaining the school gardens and supplying equipment.
- Ms Martine Smith and her student army of lunchtime volunteers for their tireless effort in developing and maintaining the Vegetable Garden including the composting and worm farm.
- Christine Apanian for her help and assistance in the K-2 class and for doing special tasks around the school.
- All the wonderful teachers who do a great job with the children both socially and academically. They are a great asset to the school. Enjoy your break!

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Our Canberra Adventure

On Wednesday 12th September, Years 5 and 6 accompanied by Miss Knudsen set out for Canberra. After a long drive, we finally arrived at the National Capital Exhibition - Regatta Point. Inside, we learnt about our nation’s capital Canberra, why it was chosen, the name meaning ‘Meeting Place’, who designed the city and much more. A scale model of Canberra introduced us to all the sites we would be visiting over the next 3 days.

Next stop was Parliament House. We were greeted by the Hon Bronwyn Bishop MP, the member for Mackellar. She spoke about what her role was in parliament and shared her connection with Alexander Primary School. We sat in on Question Time in the House of Representatives and then Senate. We listened to the politicians speak nicely and not so nicely to each other.

Our last attraction of the day was the National Archives of Australia. We were amazed by how old some of the documents were inside the museum. Letters signed by Queen Victoria and the first Australian Constitution. There were photos dating back to the beginning of the 20th century as well as letters and objects owned by Prime Ministers and other important people. We all undertook a dictation test that immigrants had to take when they arrived in Australia in the 1920s. Unfortunately it was so hard, even Miss Knudsen would have been deported for not passing the test!

The next morning, full of energy and ready to learn more we arrived at the National Museum of Australia. There were many exhibitions showcasing historical artefacts of Australia. The most exciting part was when we visited K-Space - a technology centre for kids. In pairs, we designed our own spaceships on computers and then watch a 3D movie of our designs.

Our next stop was the High Court of Australia. We were shown through the three different courtrooms. Courtroom 1 is where all the big cases happen before seven Justices of the High Court. Courtroom 2, dealing with appeals sitting before five Justices of the High Court. Then Courtroom 3 is very small. The room has one Justice of the High Court and is hardly ever used.

The Australian War Memorial was next. We were able to learn about all the wars that Australian soldiers have fought in throughout history. We saw planes, tanks, guns and soldiers that were a part of the different wars. Walking through ‘The Hall of Honour’ containing the names of all soldiers and support people that gave their lives for their country, was very moving.
Last of all on Day 2 was the CSIRO Discovery Centre. Here we all learnt about the genetic modifications that the CSIRO scientists are currently working on, the different discoveries they have made using different insects - including a substance from frogs that they have been able to make into rubber. We then became the scientists - carrying out our own experiments, looking into microscopes, rebuilding skeletons and making our own coins.

Our final day had arrived and our first stop was the National Film and Sound Archive. Firstly we watched snippets of movies made in Australia. The oldest was a Ned Kelly film from 1906, then Felix the Cat animation from 1925, an Aeroplane Jelly commercial from 1942. We were shown how film and sound has developed from the early years of its invention. There was a large exhibit of movies, sounds, actors and other Australian people who have been involved in Australian film and television.

The Australian Institute of Sport was our last attraction of the trip. On our tour we saw the most highly, technical swimming pool, complete with underwater viewing areas, cameras above and below the water costing around $18.5 million. Next was, the gym where the athletes come to train, the volleyball courts and the gymnasts training centre. We recognised athletes from the Summer and Winter Olympics and Paralympics names on the walls around the institute. After our tour we got to explore the interactive, hands on sports room. We had so much fun shooting hoops, cycling, skiing, climbing, the ‘Skeleton’ lugging on your stomach, testing our reflexes and standing on the podiums like medallists!

Exhausted, we got on the bus ready for our journey back to Sydney. We were sad to leave Canberra, but had so much fun learning and visiting all the fantastic attractions it has to offer.

Years 5 & 6 Students

NOTE: The Australian Government recognises the importance of all young Australians being able to visit their National Capital as part of their civics and citizenship education. To assist parents in meeting the cost of the excursion the Australian Government is contributing funding ($20 per eligible student) under the Parliament and Civics Education Rebate (PACER) programme towards travel expenses incurred. This contribution will be paid directly to the school upon completion of the excursion. The school would like to thank the Australian Government for their support of this program.
Photo Gallery...

Multicultural Costume Show

Alexander Nursing Home Visit