Dear Parents,

**WORKING BEE THANK YOU!**

Many thanks to all the families who attended our Working Bee last Sunday. Thanks to everyone’s effort, we managed to remove the weeds from the gardens and replace them with new plants. The driveway and playground edges were cleaned and weeded out for a much tidier look. Trees were trimmed and dead ones removed. Gutters were cleaned including the stormwater pits. As usual, the children worked very hard and provided help were needed. We also found an ideal spot to plant our Stone Fruit tree, which is grafted with three varieties of fruit.

There is always a great feeling of community and a sense of satisfaction when our families get together, enjoy each other’s company and work for the good of the school in such a willing way. Well done everybody and Thank You - heaps!!

**ALL WELCOME ON PALM SUNDAY, 24 MARCH - OPEN DAY**

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 an Open Day.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have and are working hard to help make the day a success. They include members of the P&C, parents, teachers and students. So come and enjoy the fresh air, the delicious food, the colourful hat parade, the great entertainment and wonderful atmosphere!

A list of student reminders is included in the Newsletter. An updated roster with minor changes and adjustments has also been attached to help spread the tasks evenly across all families.

**NEW ‘PREP’ CLASS - A HEAD START IN EDUCATION**

It’s not even the end of Term 1 and we can already see the many advances being made by our new Preparatory (Prep) class. Some as young as 3½ years of age are making great progress both academically and socially. The special program addressing the NSW Board of Studies Early Stage One outcomes has been well received by students and teachers. The Prep class functions as an integral part of the school and the results are here to show the difference in giving these children the head start in education.

Their presence has certainly pushed the boundaries and the levels of performance for the rest of the school, including the Kindergarten class. The introduction of the Prep class at our school, even at this early stage, can be given the ‘thumbs-up’ in our Year of Achievements!

22nd March 2013

**MANOUG DEMIRJIAN**
REMINDERS…

Palm Sunday Celebration

- Students -

❖ All students are expected to be at school by 1:30pm, wearing a plain white T-shirt, their summer sports shorts/skorts & their white sports shoes & socks.
❖ You are asked to take fancy hats to the Prep/K classroom and place them on desks, ready for the Hat Parade.
❖ Make sure you have taken time to eat and drink before the concert.
❖ Hat Parade, followed by the Palm Sunday Concert. Starting at 2:30pm.
❖ Raffle draw after the performance. Note: Egg & Spoon races for all students will be held on Thursday.
❖ Remember School Rules and do not go out of bounds without an adult. Be polite to all our visitors, smile and make sure you enjoy the day!

- Parents -

❖ Please deliver your sweets for the Cake Stall to the Canteen as you arrive.
❖ Food will be served from 1:00pm. Rolls (Falafel & Chicken) $8.
❖ Please help out as much as possible. Check your roster.

DATES TO REMEMBER
24/03 Palm Sunday Concert & Picnic
29/03 Good Friday - Public Holiday
30/03 Easter Saturday - Public Holiday
31/03 Easter Sunday
01/04 Easter Monday - Public Holiday
08/04 Chocolate Fundraising Money Due
10/4 ICAS Slips and payment due - Years 2-6
11/04 Parent/Teacher Interviews & Portfolios
12/04 Last Day Term 1
15/04 A.G.B.U. Foundation Anniversary
15/12 Christmas Concert and Graduation

Please also check the electronic calendar in the ‘News & Events’ section of the school’s web site.

BIRTHDAYS OF THE WEEK
Happy Birthday to...
Anita
Lara

HOUSE POINTS TERM 1
Uniform, Playground, Charity & Awards

ARARAT - 145 points
MASIS - 144 points

TEACHERS’ AWARD
TERM 1 – WEEK 8
Year 4: Tzolare
Nina
Year 3: Chanel
Year 1: Alexandra

School Banking
Banking Day: Thursday
Students need to have their bank deposit books in order to make a deposit into their account.

ARMENIAN STUDENT FUND
WEEKLY REPORT: Term 1 Week 8

8 Points – ARARAT .......... $13.50
6 Points – MASIS .......... $12.00
TOTAL: ............ $25.50
ACCUMULATED: ............ $184.55

Sponsor a child in Armenia through the Armenian Apostolic Church
www.armenianchurchsydney.org.au
INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS & ASSESSMENTS FOR SCHOOLS - Years 2-6*

Educational Assessment Australia (EAA) specialises in large-scale assessment and measurement programs including the International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS). ICAS are conducted annually in Australia and over 20 countries globally. EAA is an education group of UNSW Global Pty Limited, a not-for-profit provider of education, training and advisory services and a wholly owned enterprise of the University of New South Wales (UNSW).

EAA’s main product is the annual International Competitions & Assessments for Schools (ICAS). Over 1.7 million students from across Australia, N.Z. and the Pacific region participate in ICAS each year, with an additional 700,000 entries internationally from other countries. A University of New South Wales medal is awarded in each subject when a top score in each year level in each locale is judged to be sufficiently meritorious. Other high performing students receive certificates of high distinction, distinction and credit. All students who participate receive a UNSW Certificate acknowledging their achievement.

Our school will again offer these tests for Years 2-6*, which will take place between May and August. The school is offering Computer Skills, Science, Writing, English and Mathematics, while Spelling at this stage is not being recommended. Writing is marked by hand, not by computer, hence the cost difference.

* This year, they have extended the International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS) to Australian students in Year 2. This exciting development brings the well-known benefits of ICAS forward to Year 2, creating an extra 12 months for teachers to diagnose students’ strengths and weaknesses in the subjects of English literacy and Mathematics.

Benefits of Year 2 ICAS:
A rigorous independent assessment of students’ English literacy strengths and weaknesses. A rigorous independent assessment of students’ numeracy strengths and weaknesses. First independent chance to understand your students’ ability and performance – a whole year in advance of the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN). Gives Year 2 students an opportunity to experience external assessments in the core curriculum areas of English and Mathematics prior to Year 3.

The school needs to register the number of students sitting each of the tests. Parents who would like to have their child/ren participate in any one or all of the tests are asked to complete and return the form below. Closing date for applications and payment for all tests is Wednesday, 10th April 2013. Please do not be late.

Indicate your choice of tests by placing a tick in the appropriate box/es. Provision has been made for families with more than one child at the school. Please return form with payment to the office by Wednesday, 10th April.
Important community announcement

Changes to the law on smoke-free outdoor areas

From 7 January 2013, there are new requirements in NSW making the following areas smoke-free.

- Within 10 metres of children’s play equipment in an outdoor public place.
- At public transport stops and stations, including platforms of passenger railways and light-rail stations, ferry wharves, light-rail stops, bus stops, taxi ranks and the area where people gather or queue to wait for the bus, taxi or light rail.
- Open areas of public swimming pool complexes.
- Within 4 metres of a pedestrian entrance or exit from a public building (meaning a non-residential building or a building that combines residential and commercial uses). This requirement will operate from 6 July 2015 for hotels, clubs, restaurants and cafes.
- Spectator areas of sports grounds or other recreational areas during organised sporting events.

From 6 July 2015, smoking will be banned in commercial outdoor dining areas, being:

- A seated dining area – an area in which seating is provided and in which food that has been purchased and served on plates or packaged for immediate consumption is consumed – but only while food is being consumed or is available for purchase and consumption there,
- Within 4 metres of a seated dining area on licensed premises or at a restaurant, or
- Within 10 metres of where food is sold or supplied for consumption at a food fair.

Penalties will apply for anyone who fails to comply with the new laws.

These amendments to the Smoke-free Environment Act 2000 are a key measure in reducing community exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke, tobacco-related harm and the uptake of smoking in NSW.

For more information

Please contact the Tobacco Information Line on 1800 357 412 or visit the NSW Health website: www.health.nsw.gov.au.

The Tobacco Information Line can be accessed by non-English speaking people via the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS) on 13 14 50.
Many thanks to the following families who attended our Working Bee last Sunday. Bozikian (Souren, Sylvia, Isabella & Lara), Demirjian (Manoug), Dikranian (Greg, Chanel, Alexandra & Catherine), Manoukian (Serge & Ani), Misislian (Sarkis & John), Khatchadourian (Victor, Karis, Harry & Stephen), Khatchadourian (Victor, Angela, Natalie & Christopher), Smith (Martine), Tomassian (Vahe, Cynthia, Albert, Berj & Peter), Topouzian (Vatche & Lilit) and Sofia were all here to help maintain the school grounds.
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

AN EASTER STORY MAP

PALM SUNDAY
Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey.

THE LAST SUPPER
Jesus teaches the sacrament of Communion. “The bread is my body.” “The wine is my blood.”

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.

THE GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE
Jesus prays for God to be with Him and watch over Him.

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

DIVINE SERVICES DURING HOLY WEEK & EASTER
AT THE ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH OF HOLY RESURRECTION

PALM SUNDAY - DZAGHGAZART 24/3/13
9:00 a.m. 10:15 a.m. 12:00 p.m.

MAUNDY THURSDAY - 28/3/13
Commemorating our Lord’s Last Supper and the Instuition of Holy Communion - ‘Badarak’ Washing of the Feet ‘Khavaroum’ - Vigil
10:30 a.m. 6:30 p.m. 8:00 p.m.

GOOD FRIDAY - 29/3/13
Crucifixion Service Burial Service ‘Hokehankist’ - Requiem Service
10:00 a.m. 4:30 p.m. 5:30 p.m.

HOLY SATURDAY - 30/3/13
Easter Eve Service ‘Badarak’ - Holy Mass
4:30 p.m. 5:30 p.m.

EASTER SUNDAY - 31/3/13
Commemorating the Resurrection of our Lord
Morning Service ‘Badarak’ - Holy Mass Sermon by His Grace Bishop Haigazoun Najarian, Primate of Australia & New Zealand
8.30 a.m. 10.00 a.m. 12.00 p.m.