

Dear Parents,

A BLESSED START TO A NEW ACADEMIC YEAR

It gives me great pleasure to welcome all members of the AGBU Alexander Primary School family for another exciting year! It certainly was a blessed start to our new academic year, as we welcomed our new Preparatory and Kindergarten students.

During the Wednesday morning assembly, Father Avetis Hambardzumyan welcomed everyone and led a special prayer, officially marking the start of the school's 28th Academic Year. The students recited the Lord's Prayer and after receiving personal blessings, moved to kiss the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.

It is gratifying to see that among the new students we have children of our graduates. They have come to make sure their precious children receive the same nurturing they were blessed with at this wonderful educational institution.

It took no time for everyone to resume their routines, looking relaxed and eager to learn after a long break. It's an excellent start to the new school year!

Lord Jesus, we ask for Your help as we begin this new Academic Year. Allow us to experience Your presence in the many blessings You put before us. Open our eyes to the new challenges and exciting opportunities that this new school year brings. Open our heart and mind to new friends and new teachers. Give us a generous spirit to be enthusiastic with our studies and courage to accept new opportunities. Help us to be attentive to one another and let us experience Your presence in our new friends. Jesus, inspire us to do our best this year! Amen



GYMNASTICS IS BACK!

The well received and requested gymnastics program is back again this year. 'Be Skilled Be Fit' will be back to run the sessions on our **Sports days**, which has been set on **Thursdays for this Term**. Please check the newsletter for further details.

However, for next week only, because of our church visit, on the occasion of Vartanank, we will be having Sport on the morning of Tuesday, 6th February.

KEEPING UP TO DATE

Please read all attached documents on school rules, policies and procedures so that you and your child can be up to date with all events and expectations. It is advisable to **keep these pages in a safe place for the whole year** or to create a folder where the weekly Newsletters can be kept.

Newsletters are distributed every Friday afternoon. Please **return** the plastic pockets promptly with your children to the classrooms every week by placing any relevant notes, permission slips or payments in it.

Please make sure you come along to the **Parent Information Evening on Thursday 15 February**, to gain further understanding of how the classes are arranged and find out what will be going on in your child's classroom/school this year.

With the support of our school families, once again we look forward to a very busy and productive year. Hope you have a happy and safe New Academic Year!

2nd February, 2018

MANOUG DEMIRJIAN

SCHOOL ROUTINE NOTICES

Homework &/or Home Reading will be assigned by the teachers for Years K-6 as from next week. Please refer to the “**Homework Policy - Parent Handout**” (available next week) to familiarise yourself with the school’s expectations on home study.



Uniform Please note the correct school uniform in the School Diary or in your Enrolment Package. Also refer to the “**Uniform Policy - Parent Handout**” included with the Newsletter today to understand the school’s policy on this. Girls should come to school wearing their sports briefs and are not allowed to wear coloured long boxer type shorts under their summer uniform. Students are also not allowed to wear coloured T-shirt under their summer and/or sports uniform. Plain **stud earrings or sleepers** are allowed for girls. Dark blue hair ribbons, clips and scrunchies should be worn.

Absences By law student absences from school must be explained with a **written note** from parents. Notes can be in English or Armenian and should be sent on the day the student returns to school following an absence. Notes are legal records and must be **written in pen** and signed by a parent. Please ensure the following information is provided in a note: *Student’s name, date/s of absence, reason for absence, parent’s signature, date when note is written*. Please find a “**Special Reminder**” slip attached to this week’s Newsletter with a sample note for absence for you to follow as a guideline. Notes are to be addressed to your child’s **classroom teacher**.



Library borrowing will commence next week. Library day is **Monday**. Students must have library bags to borrow books. A library rule is **no library bag, no borrowing**. Students are rewarded for remembering to bring in their bags. Library bags are simply drawstring bags with dimensions of approximately 30cm wide and 38cm long. Any fabric may be used but please ensure its durability.

Sports Day will be on **Thursdays**. All students must wear complete summer sports uniform as obtained from school. Please note **predominantly white coloured** sports shoes and **all white** socks (not anklets) are required. Summer sports uniform is worn in Terms 1 & 4, and winter sports uniform in Terms 2 & 3.



Students not participating in a sports session must bring a signed note from parents with a full explanation.

Sports Shoes Students are allowed to bring sports shoes to school for play. They are allowed to leave a second pair of sports shoes (predominantly white) at school to change at lunchtime for play (eg soccer) then change back.



School Hats must be at school daily. One of our school rules is ...“**No Hat, No Play**”. Students without hats will not be able to use the playground area during play time. They are to sit down in the shade, read a book by themselves and not play.

Students who do not have a hat break the school Uniform Code and will receive a cross in the Red Book.

Paint Shirts All students must have a paint shirt for art and craft lessons. Shirts should be of **thick** fabric to prevent staining of uniforms. Shirts should also have long sleeves with elastic through the wrist band so that long-sleeved shirts and jumper (in winter) are fully covered.



Prep/Kindergarten students should have a change of underwear and socks in their school bag daily.

Sunscreen Parents are reminded that application of sunscreen on children in the morning is essential. It is recommended that students carry sunscreen (roll-on types only) in school bags to reapply. An SPF factor of 15+ (or greater) broad-spectrum, water resistant sunscreen is recommended.

Healthy Lunches Our school health policy insists that only nutritional foods – low fat, low sugar – are consumed at school. We are very proud of the quality of food our canteen provides. We remind all parents to support our policy by continuing to send only healthy type foods in lunch boxes. We expect only one snack type of food for Morning Tea. **Definitely no sweets, chips, chocolates, jam, nutella and “junk” food are permitted.**



Fresh fruit and vegetables are essential foods for children.

Occasionally and in moderation, the school canteen will treat students with a cake stall. The school Newsletter will advise parents of these days.

Information Update Forms “**Student Information Update**” forms for each student will be sent home early next week. The Student Information forms are replaced in our school filing system at the beginning of each year. Therefore, it is important for the school to identify any changes to student details including telephone numbers, address or health risks (e.g. asthma and/or allergy development). Please remember, signatures of both parents in residence are required.



Parents are requested to have completed/updated forms returned to school by **Thursday, 8th February**.

Label Clothing All removable clothing including jumpers, hats, track suit tops and pants, must be clearly marked with your child's name. This will assist the school with lost clothing.

Birthdays **Prep - K students only** are welcome to celebrate their birthdays at school with a cake. Cakes should be as plain as possible with only a small quantity of icing. Parents should notify the school office or class teacher one day in advance if they plan to celebrate at school with a birthday cake. Please do not provide “Party/Lolly Bags” as part of the celebration.



Plastic Newsletter Folders are to be returned to school after correspondence is sent home, preferably on the following school day. Folders are collected from classrooms daily for redistribution.

Covering Books Teachers will send home textbooks and exercise books over the next week or so. Please cover textbooks, diaries and exercise books with **clear contact only**. Some book covers for exercise books will be made by students and/or supplied by the school before contact is applied. Clear contact must be used as teachers will group books into subject areas based on the colours of book covers. This assists with easy sorting and classifying.

School Supplies All supplies for **Years P-2** are provided by the school. Please note: Textas and erasers are not permitted for P/K students.

Students in upper grades need to purchase the following personal stationery supplies:

Years 3-6: Two pencil cases that need to remain at school for classroom use only. One is to be left in the English and the other in the Armenian classroom. Each pencil case should have a packet of lead (HB) pencils (**No Pacers**), eraser, sharpener, 30cm ruler (wooden or plastic, not metal), glue stick, scissors, highlighter, two red pens (medium point), coloured pencils and textas. Please note that **correction fluid (liquid paper or whiteout) is banned**. They also require two blue pens and a geometry set, a USB, headphones for their laptops and a mouse. Dictionary and Atlas at home with a collection of the above for home study use only.



Toys are not permitted at school. P-K class teachers will advise parents with a note, when and if toys are permitted for “News” sessions. Toys will be confiscated. (*Please note: Nintendo DS, PSP and iPods are permitted during bus travel only, and responsibility for safekeeping rests with students*)



Bus Passes The Opal Cards have been distributed to most students. Students are permitted travel without a card only until the end of February. Opal Cards must be presented or tapped on and off thereafter otherwise students are required to pay fare. Please check your child/ren's card to ensure details are correct. Contact the school office immediately should there be any errors.

Canteen will not be available for lunch orders at this stage. Depending on the response we get from parents, we hope to have the Canteen fully functioning two days a week. Parents who are able to assist with canteen duty, regularly or casually, are requested to complete the form on Page 5 and return to the school office by Thursday.

PARENT INFORMATION EVENING

Thursday, 15th February @ 7:00pm sharp!

School's Gemjian Hall



We hope to see every family represented to hear important information on what is happening in your child's school and classroom.



ARMENIAN STUDENT FUND

The Armenian Student Fund program continues this year at AGBU Alexander Primary School and we hope to raise enough money to continue sponsoring two children in Armenia. We know our small effort makes a real difference to these families in need.



This service was incepted in our school program in 1994. Today, Alexander school students continue to sponsor two young Armenians - **Stela Vartanian & Nareg Saghatelian** through the Armenian Apostolic Church child sponsorship program.

How do we raise money for this program?

Students are requested to make a regular donation of a silver or gold coin each week. It is a good idea to have the children donate money from weekly pocket money or earnings regardless how small the donation. The learning experience to share and give selflessly, is a valuable one.

Collection is taken during Recess on Thursdays and students earn points for their House Teams. A weekly report on collections is given during the weekly Assemble and in the Newsletter.

BOOK CLUB - Coming Soon!

Scholastic Book Clubs - *bringing children and books together.*



Books are a very important part of children's growth and development, and research suggests that the ability to read is critical to independence, success and personal fulfilment. It is said that, *kids who read succeed!*

Scholastic Book Clubs offer a good variety of age-appropriate books from Australia and the world at prices below recommended retail prices. Students purchasing from Book Clubs also help in earning *Reading Reward Points for our school*. These points are used to redeem valuable learning resources for the library and classrooms.




Pamphlets will be sent home regularly throughout the year, with 8 issues all in all. The school distributes book club pamphlets which are recommended as age specific for your child(ren), however, should you wish to receive upper levels, please contact the school Office.

All book club orders must be placed using the order form in the pamphlet. Money and completed order form (including your child's name) should be placed in an envelope clearly marked **"BOOK CLUB ORDER"**. Students should place envelopes in *green* classroom baskets for collection to the school Office.



School Banking

Please contact the School Office
if you are interested in opening a
Commonwealth Bank Dollarmite



BIRTHDAYS OF THE WEEK

Happy Holiday Birthdays to...

David
Isabella
Lara K
Mrs Seta Keoshgerian

DATES TO REMEMBER

- 05/02 Sports Day Permission Slip Due
- Holy Communion at Church - Slip Due
- 06/02 Sports Day - Gymnastics
- 07/02 Canteen Volunteer Workers forms due
- 08/02 Holy Communion at Church - St Vartan
- 15/02 Parent Information Evening - School Hall

TERM DATES FOR STUDENTS - 2018

- TERM 1:** 31/01/2018 to 13/04/2018
- TERM 2:** 01/05/2018 to 06/07/2018
- TERM 3:** 24/07/2018 to 28/09/2018
- TERM 4:** 15/10/2018 to 19/12/2018

Cancer Council recommends
you protect yourself in 5 ways:



- SLIP** on clothing that covers your arms and legs
- SLAP** on a broad brimmed or legionnaires hat
- SLOP** on 30+, broad-spectrum sunscreen
- SEEK** shade
- SLIDE** on wrap around sunglasses



SUPERVISOR

Mrs Margo Boyadjian

0411 069 804

Please keep this contact number handy for any bus related communication.

CANTEEN - Volunteer Workers

In order for the Canteen to run smoothly for our children's benefit, the P&C requires Volunteer Workers: *(Please circle and indicate your preferences below)*

P & C needs to know this information to get the Canteen roster formulated. Please return the slip to the school Office by **Wednesday, 7th February**.



CANTEEN - VOLUNTEER WORKERS

Name: _____

Between 10am to 1:30/2:00pm	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri	→	Weekly	Fortnightly	Monthly
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Signed: _____

Date: _____

SPORTS DAY GYMNASTICS PROGRAM

The sports program in Term 1 will be a special gymnastics program, provided by 'Be Skilled Be Fit'. The weekly sessions start on **Thursday, 8th February**.



The **subsidised cost** of the gymnastics program is **\$70** per student for the ten sessions. The actual cost is \$10 per session or a total of \$100. However, this has then been subsidised by 'Sporting Schools' at \$30 per student. The school will issue invoices later with the Term 1 fees.



PE, SPORT & GYMNASTICS PROGRAMS

Please return the permission slip by **Monday, 5th February**.



SPORTS DAY GYMNASTICS PROGRAM YEARS P - 6

I grant permission for my child/ren to take part in the Sports Day Gymnastics Program provided by 'Be Skilled Be Fit' over a ten week period. Starting **Thursday 8th February to 12th April, 2018**.

I understand students will be instructed by qualified gymnastics coaches.

NAME OF STUDENT/S: _____

PARENT'S SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____



Under the auspices of His Grace Bishop Haigazoun Najarian

AGBU Sydney
presents

THE POWER OF UNITY

ARMENIAN DANCE CONCERT

SYDNEY CONCERT
Chatswood Concourse
Sunday 11 February
5:00pm

Tickets - \$65

AGBU Office: 9908 3911
Hovhanes Kouyoumdjian: 0408 283 826
Online: ticketek.com.au



AGBU Sydney welcomes you to the biggest Armenian dance concert of the year, with 30 dancers from Nairi de Lyon (France), 30 dancers from Azad Gharibian (Melbourne) and our very own Tamzara!

MOBILE PHONE POLICY - Application for Permission

As part of the school Mobile Phone Policy, parents are reminded that children first **need to request and be granted permission in writing**, before being allowed to carry a mobile phone in their bag.



Students who were granted permission to carry a mobile phone last year need to **renew their application**. A copy of the policy is available to parents on request. The policy includes the relevant application form.



<http://www.facebook.com/AlexanderSchool>



VARTANANK: Holy Communion - Thursday, 8th February 2018



In school tradition, all students and staff will attend the Armenian Apostolic Church of Holy Resurrection, Chatswood on Thursday, 8th February 2018, to receive blessings and Holy Communion for the start of the new school year and on the occasion of St Vartan.

Once again, we have received an invitation from His Grace Bishop Haigazoun Najarian (Primate of the Armenian Church of Australia & New Zealand) to join in the special Mass on St Vartan's day.



On this special occasion, the students will reflect on the importance of the 'Battle of Vartanank' and its significance to the survival of Armenians as Christians. The invitation has also been extended to other Armenian schools and **parents are invited to share the event with us**. Light refreshments will be served following the church service.

We expect to arrive at the Armenian Apostolic Church by 10.30am to join the Church Service & Communion. Students are expected to arrive back at school by 2.30pm. Full summer school uniform must be worn. Girls will need school hats. Students will travel to and from school by a charter bus.

Please return permission slip below to class teachers by *Monday, 5th February*.



VARTANANK - HOLY COMMUNION

I grant permission for my child/ren to attend the Armenian Apostolic Church of Holy Resurrection on **Thursday, 8th February, 2018** on the occasion of Vartanank to receive Holy Communion and/or blessing. I understand students will be accompanied by class teachers and travel to and from school by a charter bus.

STUDENT/S NAME/S: _____

PARENT'S SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

YOU HAVE E-M@IL

With the ever increasing changes in communication technology, the school needs to maintain and update its database by collecting email addresses of school families and friends. Please complete the form below and return to the office at your earliest convenience. **Email addresses of both parents or the family are required.**



SCHOOL DATABASE UPDATE - EMAILS

FAMILY NAME: _____ DATE: _____

Please add our email/s to the database. We understand they will be used in line with the school's Privacy Policy.

Name 1: _____ Email 1: _____

Name 2: _____ Email 2: _____



A.G.B.U. ALEXANDER PRIMARY SCHOOL Հ.Բ.Ա.Ս. ԱԼԵՔՍԱՆՏՐ ՎԱՐԺԱՐԱՆ

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FAX: (+61 2) 9486 3204

WEB: www.alexander.nsw.edu.au

EMAIL: office@alexander.nsw.edu.au

STANDARD COLLECTION NOTICE

1. The School collects personal information, including sensitive information about pupils and parents or guardians before and during the course of a pupil's enrolment at the School. This may be in writing or in the course of conversations. The primary purpose of collecting this information is to enable the School to provide schooling to the pupil and to enable them to take part in all the activities of the School.
2. Some of the information we collect is to satisfy the School's legal obligations, particularly to enable the School to discharge its duty of care.
3. Laws governing or relating to the operation of a school require certain information to be collected and disclosed. These include relevant Education Acts, and Public Health and Child Protection laws.
4. Health information about pupils is sensitive information within the terms of the Australian Privacy Principles under the Privacy Act. We may ask you to provide medical reports about pupils from time to time.
5. The School from time to time discloses personal and sensitive information to others for administrative and educational purposes, including to facilitate the transfer of a pupil to another school. This includes to other schools, government departments, medical practitioners, and people providing services to the School, including specialist visiting teachers, sports coaches, volunteers and counsellors.
6. Personal information collected from pupils is regularly disclosed to their parents or guardians.
7. The School may store personal information in the 'cloud' which may mean that it resides on servers which are situated outside Australia.
8. The School's Privacy Policy sets out how parents or pupils may seek access to personal information collected about them. However, there will be occasions when access is denied. Such occasions would include where access would have an unreasonable impact on the privacy of others, where access may result in a breach of the School's duty of care to the pupil, or where pupils have provided information in confidence.
9. The School Privacy Policy also sets out how you may complain about a breach of privacy and how the School will deal with such a complaint.
10. As you may know the School from time to time engages in fundraising activities. Information received from you may be used to make an appeal to you. It may also be disclosed to organisations that assist in the School's fundraising activities solely for that purpose. We will not disclose your personal information to third parties for their own marketing purposes without your consent.
11. On occasions information such as academic and sporting achievements, pupil activities and similar news is published in School newsletters and magazines, community newspapers and on our website. Photographs of pupil activities such as sporting events, school camps and school excursions may be taken for publication in School newsletters and magazines, website or any other marketing material. Please advise us if you do not wish photos of your child to appear in such publications.
12. We may include your contact details in a Class List and School Directory.
13. If you provide the School with the personal information of others, such as doctors or emergency contacts, we encourage you to inform them that you are disclosing that information to the School and why, that they can access that information if they wish and that the School does not usually disclose the information to third parties.

2/02/2018