

Dear Parents,

WELCOME BACK TO A NEW ACADEMIC YEAR

Welcome back for another exciting year at AGBU Alexander Primary School. We are all set to get under way with the usual vim, verve and vigour! I'm happy to state that it took no time for the students to resume their routines while looking immensely relaxed and healthy after their holiday. They all began the job of learning enthusiastically, in spite of the heat....

We started the year with a special visit from His Grace Bishop Haigazoun Najarian and Rev. Father Avetis Hambardzumyan. During our morning assembly students and parents were introduced to the members of staff and their classroom teachers. After a brief introduction to school routine, His Grace was welcomed to lead a special prayer, officially marking the start of the school's 29th Academic Year. The students joined with the Lord's Prayer and in receiving personal blessings, moved to kiss the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.



BLESSING OF THE SCHOOL BUS

Following our welcoming assembly, the students and guests made their way to the front of the school in order to bless the new private school bus. His Grace Najarian with the support of Father Hambardzumyan led a special prayer and blessing of a cross, which was then placed in the bus to provide safe travels and the protection of Our Lord. May the watchful eye of Our Saviour guide the driver and the passengers of the bus that helps serve the families from the Hills district and surrounding suburbs.

HIS HOLINESS TO VISIT ALEXANDER SCHOOL

His Holiness Karekin II, Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos of All Armenians will be our Guest of Honour on **Wednesday, 6 February 2019** between 10am to 12pm. We will hold a special assembly in the Gemjian Hall and welcome members of our school community to join us on this special occasion.

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 **Fridays for this Term.**

1st February, 2019

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 **Fridays**. 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 as soon as possible.

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 students are expected to use their Opal Cards from last year. New students need to apply or lost ones need to be replaced by an online application. Students are permitted to 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.

PARENT INFORMATION EVENING

Monday, 11th February 2019

Time: 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 - **Arpine Nersissian** & **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 account for your child/ren.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- 06/02 Visit of His Holiness Karekin II Supreme Patriarch and Catholicos
- 08/02 Sports Day - Start of Gymnastics
- 11/02 Parent Information Evening - School Hall
- 28/02 Holy Communion at Church - St Vartan

TERM DATES FOR STUDENTS - 2019

- TERM 1:** 31/01/2019 to 12/04/2019
- TERM 2:** 30/04/2019 to 05/07/2019
- TERM 3:** 23/07/2019 to 27/09/2019
- TERM 4:** 14/10/2019 to 12/12/2019



BIRTHDAYS OF THE WEEK

Happy Holiday Birthdays to...

Zabel
Samson
Lia
David
Lara K
Isabella
Mrs Seta

Slip	Slop	Slap	Seek	Slide
				



HRASHAPAR

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SATURDAY 2 FEBRUARY AT 12.00PM



Join us in welcoming to our Diocese
the Catholicos of All Armenians
HIS HOLINESS KAREKIN II
in the official procession to the
Armenian Apostolic Church
Of Holy Resurrection
10 Macquarie Street, Chatswood

Following the church service
refreshments will be served on the lawn area

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Diocese Office [02] 9161 4000 - Church Office [02] 9419 8056

DIOCESE OF THE ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH OF AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND
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11 Chatswood Avenue, Chatswood NSW 2067 Phone: (+612) 9161 4000 Email: diocese@armenian.com.au

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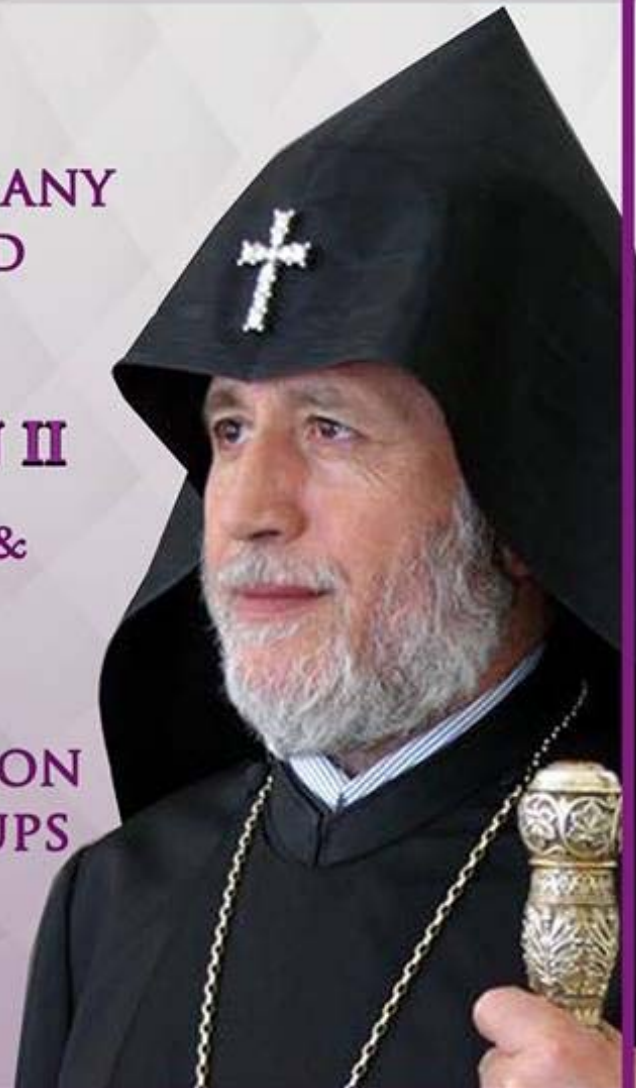
Youth Discussion Night

COME PREPARED WITH ANY
QUESTIONS YOU WOULD
LIKE TO ASK

His Holiness KAREKIN II

SUPREME PATRIARCH &
CATHOLICOS OF ALL
ARMENIANS

FOR AN OPEN DISCUSSION
WITH ALL YOUTH GROUPS



THURSDAY, 7th FEBRUARY, 7 pm

@ Armenian Apostolic Church of Holy Resurrection
10 Macquarie Street, Chatswood

Armenian Church Youth of Australia / Sydney

