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CONCERT AND GRADUATION EVENING

The 2019 academic year came to a close with the *Christmas Concert & Graduation Evening* on Sunday, 8th December. The Gemjian Hall was filled to capacity with members of the school community, including guests, graduates and founding members.

The evening starting with the national and school anthems, and was followed with a welcome by School Captain Samson Panikian. The initial part of the program included an array of bilingual Christmas songs and poetry recitals, including a musical item by Years 3-6. The highlight included a 'Christmas Tree' song and dance by the Preparatory and Kindergarten students, while Years 1 & 2 performed as Santa's Elves and danced to the song 'New Year'.

Following the intermission, School Board Chairperson Mrs Sossie Giragosian was invited to present and award the '2019 Alexander Medal' to Sara Demirjian of Year 5. This was followed by the School Captain Changeover, where the result of the student election process once again rewarded Sara Demirjian to the position of School Captain for 2020.



During the Principal's Address, Mr Manoug Demirjian reflected on the legacy of Dr Alex & Mrs Isabelle Alexander and outlined the major achievements of the year. He thanked everyone who had helped make the year a great success and congratulated the students and graduates on their achievements.

During the Graduation Ceremony, the graduates Albert Tomassian, Asbed Anoushian, Samson Panikian and Zabel Panikian presented a special program with the support of the Years 3-5 students, dedicated to the 150th Anniversary Birth of Gomidas Vartabed. As the audience watched the 'Unforgettable Memories...' of the graduates, by listening to their reflections and that of their teachers, they realised how the years had passed and the time had come to present them with their graduation certificates. Finally, after the traditional 'Alexander School Farewell Song' was sung for the last time by the graduates, His Eminence Archbishop Haigazoun Najarian concluded the evening with his closing address and prayer.

The school concert once again highlighted the quality of bilingual education offered at Alexander school. It showcased the level of care, the development and fostering of talent to the realisation of each student's potential. By reflecting on the graduates and past students, there is no doubt that the advantage of a small school setting has offered them opportunities that otherwise would not have been possible.

We like to take this opportunity to thank all parents and friends for your support of the school this year. May your Christmas Season be peaceful and happy, and may the New Year bring nothing but good news to you and your family!

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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

- ☺ Our parents and volunteers for providing a great canteen facility for students and staff: Mrs Nune Akayan, Mrs Ani Ananyan, Mrs Sonia Apanian, Mrs Margueritte Boyadjian, Mrs Sarin Elmasian, Mrs Annette Galstian, Yereckin Hasmik Hambardzumyan, Mrs Lisa Jebian, Mrs Svetlana Khachatourian, Mrs Natalie Khoudair, Mrs Vartni Mikaelian, Mrs Jeanette Misislian, Mrs Sonia Panikian, Mrs Cynthia Tomassian and Mrs Araxi Vartanian.
- ☺ Our graduate mum Mrs Maggie Betchakjian who requested to once again be rostered on the canteen menu to help provide a lunch special. Also thank you for her assistance in preparing the Graduation sashes.
- ☺ Mrs Dzovig Kassis for Coordinating the Canteen roster and menu through the school office.
- ☺ P&C members and parents for organising, running and supporting the Christmas Concert canteen and cake stall during intermission. Your help and contribution made the evening a great success! Thank you all!
- ☺ P&C members for organising the Christmas Raffle and to all the donors of the hampers and prizes. Also a huge 'Thank You' to all the families and members of the community who supported the raffle.
- ☺ All members of the P&C and families for organising and supporting the 'Kids Crazy Costume Party'. Your support and contribution helped make the evening a wonderful success. Thank you all for your attendance!
- ☺ Mr Alen Barsamian for once again volunteering to be the all popular DJ at the 'Kids Crazy Costume Party' and entertaining everyone with a list of our favourite tracks... helping keep everyone up on their feet!
- ☺ Mr and Mrs Vrej and Lisa Jebian and family for helping with the school's landscaping project in replanting on both sides of the admin building. Special 'Thank You' also to Mr Greg Khachatourian for his assistance. Finally, a note of appreciation and gratitude to our graduates, Garo and Taniel Betchakjian who provided their support and fantastic effort in helping Mr Jebian complete the project.
- ☺ Mr Michael Aghabekian for volunteering his time to involve the students at lunchtime soccer activity.
- ☺ Mr Arthur Mikaelian for helping transport the students to and from the Armenian Welfare Centre with the school's mini bus, to spread some Christmas cheers to the elderly folk who gather in the church hall.
- ☺ To our Graduate Taniel Betchakjian, who completed his High School Work Placement at Alexander school.
- ☺ Mrs Cynthia Tomassian for providing weekly scripture lessons during term four on a volunteer basis, to help children understand and appreciate the Bible and its teachings.
- ☺ Mrs Armine Sevazlian for her contribution as Library Coordinator by accessioning, organising, sorting and re-shelving the books in the School Library.
- ☺ Mrs Lisa Jebian for Coordinating and running the Alexander Playgroup every Thursday morning.
- ☺ Christine Apanian for her help and assistance in the P-K class and for doing special tasks around the school.
- ☺ All the wonderful teachers and staff who do a great job with the students both socially and academically. Thank you for the hard work and dedication throughout the year. Enjoy your Christmas Holidays and we will see you back in 2020!

DATES TO REMEMBER

24/12 Christmas Eve - Public Holiday
25/12 Christmas Day - Public Holiday
26/12 Boxing Day - Public Holiday
31/12 New Year's Eve - Public Holiday
01/01 New Year's Day - Public Holiday
26/01 Australia Day - Public Holiday
27/12 Day off for Australia Day - Public Holiday

28/01/2020 Staff Return - Meeting and Planning
29/01/2020 Staff Preparation Day
30/01/2020 Students Start 2020 School Year

Check the online calendar for the latest updates

DONATIONS TO ALEXANDER SCHOOL

Armenian Apostolic Church Council	\$1,000
Mr & Mrs Arman and Nairi Derderyan	\$500
On the happy occasion on their grandchildren's Zabel & Samson Panikian's graduation.	
Mr & Mrs Varoujan and Sylvia Iskenderian	\$500
Mr & Mrs Yerchan and Sossie Giragosian	\$100

*Thank you for supporting
AGBU Alexander Primary School*

A MESSAGE FROM OUR SCHOOL CAPTAIN



Samson Panikian

I have so many things to say and write, that it can't all be listed in this segment of the newsletter. I will miss AGBU Alexander Primary School so much! There are just so many benefits that it has to offer, it really is impossible to say them all. All the teachers and the staff are just so wonderful at their job. I really want to say thank you to all the teachers and parents for making this school what it is today. I would also like to thank all the students for always being kind and friendly.

What sets Alexander School apart from most schools is the type of education we receive. As a small community school we get many benefits, like more attention from teachers and one-on-one learning. There isn't really anything more a family could ask from a school like this. I know that I haven't been at this school for as long as most of the other students, but I really prefer this school over the other school I went to. I had great, nice friends and all, but there wasn't that feeling that we were all one big family that lived at this school.

As you already know, we do very well in all our tests eg. ICAS, NAPLAN etc... I think this is because of three main reasons. First, we have fantastic teachers and staff that nurture us to reach our full potential. Second, because of our small class sizes that give us the opportunity to have more individual learning sessions. Finally, the great learning environment we come to enjoy every day, that helps us strive to excel in everything we do, to bring out the best in us.

I am going to miss this school very much. Out of the many reasons why, the one that is also towards the top of the list is the homemade lunches. One day it's kebab, the next it's hamburger or meatballs! I would like to thank the P&C and all the parents who have contributed to giving students like me these delicious homemade lunches. I really don't think there is another canteen that provides these types of lunches.

I wish everyone a safe and happy holiday... **Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!**

Photo Gallery

Christmas Concert & Graduation



DONATIONS TO ALEXANDER SCHOOL

In Memoriam for the Late Maro Barsamian

Mr & Mrs Stepan and Shakee Barsamian \$100

Mr & Mrs John & Carmen Esmerian \$50

May her soul rest in peace.



BIRTHDAYS OF THE WEEK

Happy Birthday to...

Samson Panikian

Zabel Panikian

Christmas Cheer...

Armenian Welfare Centre & Alexander Rest Home

On Friday, 6th December the students from Years 5/6 visited the Armenian Community Welfare Centre to entertain the elderly folk who had gathered in the Edgarian Hall of the Armenian Apostolic Church of Holy Resurrection. Once again they did a magnificent job in brightening up everyone's day with wonderful dancing and singing of Christmas Carols. A surprise visit from Santa also helped spread the Christmas Cheer to our students. congratulate them and the teachers for putting together a great program.



The same group performed for the residents of the Alexander Rest Home on Tuesday, 10th December. Our students annual visit creates a joyous atmosphere. This has become a rewarding experience for the elders of our community and we hope, in turn, for our students who will look back on such outings in the years to come with personal gratification.



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



Christmas Party!



REPORTS SENT HOME

Yearly reports have been posted to all the families. Please discuss them with your child but don't ask them to explain the reports. There are many aspects of the reports which are expressed in adult language and the children are not privy to the meaning of this language. We hope you are happy with the progress they have made this year.

Garden Upgrade

Landscape Plan ~ Thank You!

At the start of the year, **Mr & Mrs Vrej and Lisa Lebian** approached the School Board with a 'Landscape Plan' for the gardens on both sides of the administration building. The idea was to regenerate the garden which exotic plants and hedges to make the area more inviting.

As a result, the area was cleared from the old and overgrown vegetation and left to the expertise of Mr Vrej Jebian to revitalise the entrance to the school. After many days and hours of hard work, the Jebian family with the support of some parents and graduates completed the project and will continue with the task of its ongoing maintenance. The area has been transformed and will only improve as the new plants start to take shape. Once again, thank you for your support!



Preparatory & Kindergarten Graduation



Performance

‘The Litterbug Ruins Christmas’

On Wednesday, 11th December the students were entertained and educated by a show called ‘The Litterbug Ruins Christmas’. The performance was presented by the Northern Beaches Council as a litter reduction educational campaign. The story of ‘The Litter Bug and Lisa the Litter Guard’ was brought to the school as a complementary show, with the support of the council.

In this exciting and engaging production the students were taught about the importance of saying ‘NO!’ to single use plastics and learnt what they could use instead of these plastics. The students were riveted by the cast’s engaging performances bringing to life the important message of caring for our environment. The students thoroughly enjoyed participating in the show and will remember its sentiments for years to come.



Thank You!

Supporting the Duffys Forest RFS

On Thursday, 12th December AGBU Alexander Primary School student representatives went to the NSW Rural Fire Service centre in Terrey Hills to donate \$500 from their fundraising efforts to the Duffys Forest Rural Fire Brigade, who have been active in fighting the NSW bushfires. Thank You!



Capital Upgrade

Fencing Project

There was further upgrade to the Fencing Project recently. Extra aluminium slipper panels were installed at the bottom of the fence posts along the eastern boundary. This was to help create a garden bed along the path to give a much pleasant look to the school and the surrounding streets. The final stage of the project will involve the installation of automated security gates with intercom, to augment the school's general level of security. This major capital upgrade is expected to be completed at the start of next year.



Food Drive!

FoodBank Collection ~ Thank You!

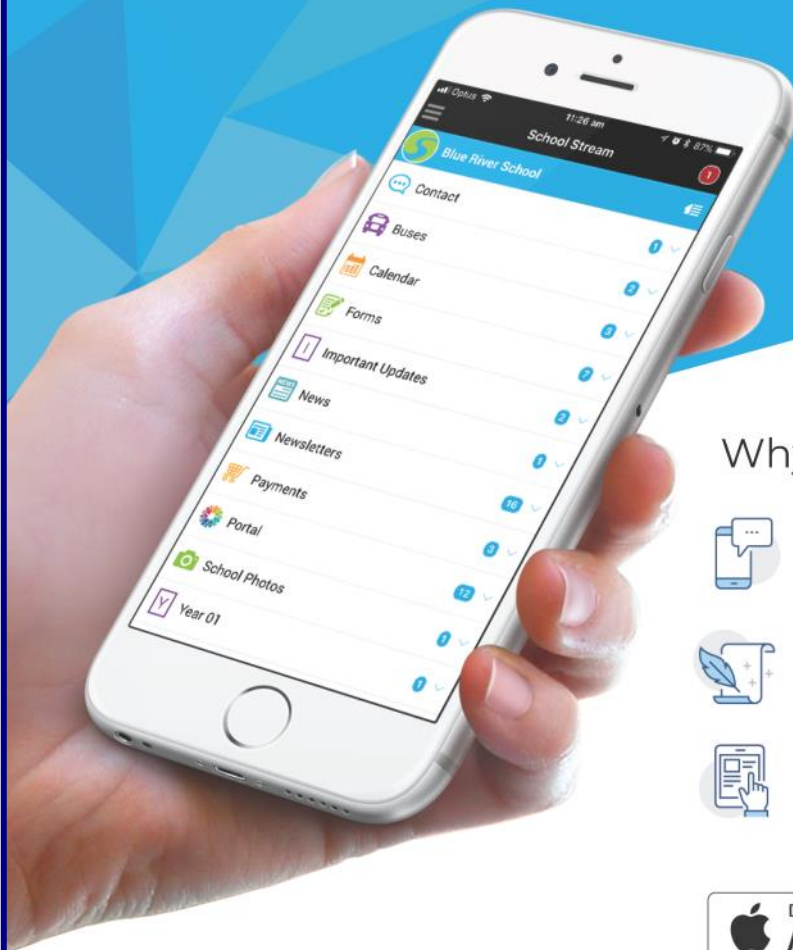
We like to thank all the families who supported the FoodBank drive by contributing to the collection under our Christmas Tree. On Friday, 13th December we delivered the school's FoodBank Collection to the office of our Federal Member of Parliament, Mr Jason Falinski MP.

In previous years, Mr Falinski's office has had a fabulous response from schools in the seat of 'Mackellar', that we are part of. This year was no different, as school communities were once again ready to give back at Christmas.

Hunger is a hidden crisis in Australia with over 3.6 million Australians seeking food relief at some point each year. Half of those are children.



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Keep up to date with events and set reminders.



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