

Dear Parents,

WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL

A big welcome to all members of the Alexander school family, in particular the students who are looking older, wiser and immensely relaxed after a long break. A warm welcome to our new Kindergarten students. They have settled in immediately, impressing everyone with the ease in which they have fitted in, appearing quite comfortable with their new found friends and environment.

For the rest of the students, it took no time for them to resume their routines, they began the job of learning enthusiastically, in spite of the heat.



TEACHING ASSIGNMENTS FOR 2009

Years 5 - 6 are taught by Mrs Vicky Dernee. I have them for Armenian, Armenian History, Religion and Culture and Sport lessons.

Years 2 - 4 are taught by our new teacher Miss Meaghan Knudsen. We welcome her to our school and wish her all the best. Year 2 students go to Mrs Seta Keoshgerian and Year 3/4 come to me for Armenian. I also take them for Culture, Sport and Computer lessons.

Kindergarten - Year 1 students are taught by Mrs Seta Keoshgerian. She also takes them for Armenian and Culture. Miss Knudsen joins the class nearly every day for literacy support.

Music Lessons are taught with the assistance of Miss Zela Margossian. She also provides private piano lessons during Wednesdays and Thursdays. Please contact the school office if you want to enrol your child.

School Office is managed by our two office personnel, Mrs Margueritte Boyadjian and Mrs Sonia Apanian. Mrs Boyadjian will generally be in the office between Mondays and Wednesdays and Mrs Apanian on Thursdays and Fridays. They will continue their travel on the **Ryde bus** providing supervision and support.

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

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. Take note of the 'Special Reminder' note as this highlights the areas which need special attention by our school families.

With the support of our school families, once again we look forward to sharing a busy and productive year with everyone. Hope you have a happy and safe New School Year.

30th January, 2009

MANOUG DEMIRJIAN
Head Teacher

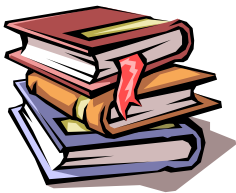
SCHOOL ROUTINE NOTICES

Homework &/or Home Reading will be assigned by Years K-6 class teachers as from next week. Please refer to the “**Homework Policy - Parent Handout**” included with today’s Newsletter to familiarise yourself with the school’s expectations on this issue.



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 issue. Girls should come to school wearing their **sports briefs** and are not allowed to wear coloured long boxer type shorts under their summer uniform. Plain stud earrings only are allowed for girls. Only dark blue hair ribbons, clips and scrunchies should be worn.

Absences By law all 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 **Tuesday**. Students must have library bags to borrow books. A library rule is **no library bag, no borrowing**. 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. There are some excellent library bags on the market at larger department stores if you are unable to sew one.

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



Fitness Year 2-6 students will bring sports shoes to school each **Tuesday & Thursday** for fitness sessions.

*Year 2-6 students who do not have sports shoes for fitness,
break the school Uniform Code and will receive a cross in the Red Book.*

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



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.

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.



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 have been sent home with today’s Newsletter. 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 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 **Monday, 2nd 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 K- Year 1 students 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 K-1** are provided by the school. Please note: Textas and erasers are not permitted for K-1 students.

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

Years 2-6: A small pencil case for the desk containing two lead (HB) pencils (**No Pacers**), eraser, sharpener, 30cm ruler (wooden or plastic, not metal), glue stick, scissors, highlighter, two red pens (medium point), a second pencil case containing coloured pencils and textas. Please note that **correction fluid (liquid paper or whiteout) is banned**. Music Folder (display book with clear plastic sleeves). Dictionary and Atlas at home. Recorder.



Year 5-6: Also require two blue pens, crayons and a geometry set.

Toys are not permitted at school. K-1 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 have been distributed to students. Students are permitted travel without a pass only until the end of February. Passes must be presented thereafter otherwise students are required to pay fare. Please check your child/ren’s bus pass to ensure details are correct. Contact the school office immediately should there be any errors.

Canteen will not be available for lunch orders next week, and will start in Week 3. Depending on the response we get from parents, we hope to have the Canteen open two days of the week. Parents who are able to assist with canteen duty or other tasks this term, regularly or casually, are requested to complete the form on Page 5 of this Newsletter and return to the school Office.

PARENT INFORMATION EVENING

Wednesday, 11th February @ 7:00pm sharp!

School 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 program was incepted in our school program in 1994. Today, Alexander School students sponsor two young Armenians - **Manig Avedissian** (18 years) & **Nareg Saghatelyan** (9 years) 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.



DATES TO REMEMBER

- 02/02 Student Information Update forms due
- Canteen Volunteer Workers forms due
- 11/02 Parent Information Evening - School Hall
- 13/02 First Aid & CPR Training forms due
- 16/02 Vartanank - Permission slips due
- 19/02 Vartanank - Holy Communion at Church

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TERM DATES FOR STUDENTS - 2009

- TERM 1:** 29/01/2009 to 09/04/2009
- TERM 2:** 29/04/2009 to 10/07/2009
- TERM 3:** 28/07/2009 to 02/10/2009
- TERM 4:** 19/10/2009 to 16/12/2009

DONATIONS TO ALEXANDER SCHOOL

*To help with the purchase of an Interactive
Whiteboard and related school equipment.*

Mothers' Christmas Club	\$4,100
(A group of ladies who donate proceeds from their annual collection to benefit the school in some way.)	
Armenian Apostolic Church Council	\$500
Ararat Cultural Association	\$250
For their Granddaughter Tatiana's Graduation	
Mr & Mrs Bedros and Ilda Zorlu	\$100
For Silvy's successful first year of school	
Mr & Mrs Yerchan and Sossie Giragosian	\$100
For Stella's successful first year of school	
Ms Flora Pourhartonian	\$100
In Lieu of Flowers - Late Sahag Ohanessian (USA)	
Mr & Mrs Noubar and Knar Soghomonian	\$100

FIRST AID & CPR TRAINING - Tuesday, 10th March 2009

Would you know what to do in an Emergency? Learn First Aid with a qualified instructor and feel more confident about dealing with emergencies. If you have done a recent training, review or update your skills.

The school needs to determine interest and establish minimum numbers before the course date is finalized . If interested, please fill in the form below and return to the school Office by *Friday, 13th February*.



FIRST AID & CPR TRAINING



YES, I'm interested in the First Aid training course to be held at school on **Tuesday, 10th March**. I understand the cost is **\$100** p/person for the full day course or **\$40** p/p for the annual CPR review.

NAME/S: _____

Full Course	
CPR update	

SIGNATURE: _____ Number of interested people:

VARTANANK: Holy Communion - Thursday, 19th February 2009



In school tradition, all students and staff will attend the Armenian Apostolic Church of Holy Resurrection, Chatswood on Thursday, 19th February 2009, to receive blessings and Holy Communion for the start of the new school year. Parents are invited to share the morning with the children.

We expect to arrive at the Armenian Apostolic Church by 10.00 a.m. for a brief talk by one of the clergy followed by a Church Service & Communion. Students are expected to arrive back at school by 11.30. Full school uniform must be worn. Girls will need school hats. Students will travel to and from school by Forest Coach Lines.



Please return permission slip below to class teachers by *Monday, 16th February*.



VARTANANK - HOLY COMMUNION

I grant permission for my child/ren to attend the Armenian Apostolic Church of Holy Resurrection on **Thursday, 19th February, 2009** on the occasion of Vartanank to receive Holy Communion and blessing. I understand students will be accompanied by class teachers and travel to and from school by Forest Coach Lines.

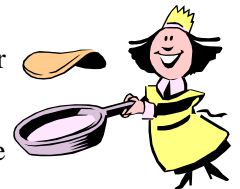
STUDENT/S NAME/S: _____

PARENT'S SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

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 *Monday, 2nd 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: _____

A.G.B.U. Alexander Primary School

STANDARD COLLECTION NOTICE

This page has been left out from the Internet version of the Newsletter.

Please contact the School Office for a copy.

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