

Dear Parents,

A WARM WELCOME - YEAR OF ACHIEVEMENTS

A warm welcome to all members of the Alexander school family for another exciting year! A special welcome to our new Preparatory class and Kindergarten students. They have settled in well and seem 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 looking relaxed and eager to learn after a long break. It's an excellent start to the new school year.

We started the year with a visit from Rev. Father Avetis Hambardzumyan. During our morning assembly he welcomed all the children and led a special prayer and blessing for the new school year. The students joined with the Lord's Prayer and in receiving His blessings moved to their classrooms.

We have a busy year ahead of us and I believe we have the right people in the school community to help us make this year the *Year of Achievements*.



GYMNASTICS IS BACK!

Following the positive feedback from previous years, the well received and requested gymnastics program is back. We have been successful in securing the services of 'Be Skilled Be Fit' to run the sessions.

Sports day is on Wednesday. Please check the newsletter for further details.

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.

Please return the plastic pockets promptly to the green baskets in the classrooms every week with any relevant notes, permission slips or payments. These will be recorded by the class teacher and later forwarded to the office.

Please make sure you come along to the **Parent Information Evening on Tuesday 12 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 sharing a very busy and productive year with everyone. Hope you have a happy and safe New School Year!

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 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. Students are also not allowed to wear coloured T-shirt under their summer and/or sports uniform. Plain **stud earrings only** 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 **Friday**. 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 **Wednesday**. 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 Wednesdays for Terms 1 & 4 and winter sports uniform for Terms 2 & 3.



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

Fitness Year 3-6 students need to bring sports shoes to school for fitness and play. Students are allowed to leave a second pair of sports shoes at school to change into for their fitness sessions.



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 has 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, 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 **Wednesday, 6th 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 - Year 2 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**.

Dictionary and Atlas at home with a collection of the above for home study use only.



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

Toys

are not permitted at school. P-2 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 most 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 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 Wednesday.

PARENT INFORMATION EVENING

Tuesday, 12th 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 program was incepted in our school program in 1994. Today, Alexander school students continue to sponsor two young Armenians - **Stela Vartanian** (13 years) & **Nareg Saghatelian** (13 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.



School Banking

Please contact the School Office if you are interested in opening a Commonwealth Bank Dollarmite account for your child/ren.



BIRTHDAY OF THE WEEK

Happy Holiday Birthdays to...

Noah
Isabella
Chanel
Ms Smith
Mrs Seta

DATES TO REMEMBER

- 06/02 Start of Sports Day Gymnastics Program
Canteen Volunteer Workers forms due
Student Information Update forms due
Church visit - Slips due
- 10/02 Holy Communion at Church on Sunday
- 12/02 Parent Information Evening - School Hall

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TERM DATES FOR STUDENTS - 2013

- TERM 1:** 01/02/2013 to 12/04/2013
- TERM 2:** 30/04/2013 to 28/06/2013
- TERM 3:** 16/07/2013 to 20/09/2013
- TERM 4:** 08/10/2013 to 18/12/2013



Slip Slop Slap Seek Slide

Protect yourself in five ways from skin cancer

HOLY COMMUNION: Church Visit - Sunday, 10th February 2013

In school tradition, all students and staff will attend the Armenian Apostolic Church of Holy Resurrection, Chatswood on **Sunday, 10th February 2013**, to receive blessings and Holy Communion for the start of the new school year.



Students are expected to arrive at the Armenian Apostolic Church by 10.30am to join the Church Service and receive Communion. Full school uniform must be worn. Girls will need school hats. Please indicate your response and return the slip by *Wednesday, 6th February*.



HOLY COMMUNION - Sunday 10th February 2013

STUDENT/S NAME/S: _____ CLASS: _____

Please tick box and return form to school Office by Wednesday, 6th February.

- YES, my child/ren will be attending church to receive Holy Communion on Sunday 10th February, 2013.
- NO, my child/ren will be unable to attend church to receive Holy Communion on Sunday 10th Feb. 2013.

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 *Wednesday, 6th 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 will start on **Wednesday, 6th February**.



Cost of program: \$100 per student (\$10 per session). It will be Invoiced later with the Term 1 fees. Please return the permission slip by *Monday, 4th 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 **Wednesday 6th February to 10th April, 2013**.

I understand students will be instructed by qualified gymnastics coaches.

NAME OF STUDENT/S: _____



PARENT'S SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____