Dear Parents,

**MOTHERS’ DAY - THURSDAY ASSEMBLY**

An invitation is extended to all our parents and members of the community to join us during our special **Mothers’ Day Assembly** on **Thursday afternoon**. As stated during the **Parent Information Evening**, the school will not be hosting its annual Mothers’ Day Concert & Picnic this year. To make sure we continue to celebrate this wonderful day, the school has decided to run a special assembly next Thursday, **16 May ‘13**.

During the special assembly, students will have the opportunity to thank their mothers and grandmothers through poetry recitals, song and display. Come and join the celebration **after 2.00pm** to honour the special person in our lives - our mother.

**N.A.P.L.A.N. NEXT WEEK**

We have the compulsory National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) for Years 3 and 5 next week, with the ‘Language Conventions and Writing’ tests on **Tuesday, 14th May**. The ‘Reading’ test on **Wednesday, 15th May** and the ‘Numeracy’ test will be held on **Thursday, 16th May**.

These tests can be stressful for the children. The best preparation is good rest during the week of the test, a calm, unrushed morning and a good breakfast before the test. Keep up the home reading each night so that your child does not find the reading part of the test too difficult. There is always a great deal of reading in these tests, except for the Writing. Even the Maths tends to have quite a bit of reading to get through.

Teachers are available to answer any concerns or questions you have in relation to these tests.

**TSVETANA PASKALEVA**

We were honoured to have a very special visitor yesterday. Tsvetana Paskaleva, an award winning international correspondent and filmmaker presented a glimpse of her documentary/film “Karabakh’s Wounds” during assembly. It was very inspiring and heartening to hear her explain how the children of Karabakh continued to go to school and be playful even during the conflict with Azerbaijan, and how this kept her going as a reporter in the region at worst of times.

The Armenians of Karabakh and around the world will forever be indebted to her, for her amazing courage and dedication. As a Bulgarian born journalist, she had come like an angel to help the people of Karabakh and inform the rest of the world about their plight.

The students were intrigued with her story and asked interesting questions, vowing to never forget the visit and the names of those heroic solders she spoke about. Heroes like... Monte Melkonian, Ashot Ghoulian (Pegor)... heroes of our modern day history, the descendants of Vartan Mamigonian, David of Sasoun...

**WINTER UNIFORM**

The school will change into its Winter Uniform starting next week. Please make sure your children are wearing the correct uniform as outlined in the uniform policy. A reminder that we now have a long sleeved polo shirt for winter sport. Thank you for your cooperation.

**HAPPY MOTHERS’ DAY ~ ՄԱՐՏաՀԵՐե՛ր ԱՄԵնքի ՕՐ**
The Woolworths Earn & Learn program is back! This community program enables schools and early learning centres throughout Australia to earn educational resources simply through the school community shopping at Woolworths. From Monday 8th April to Sunday 9th June 2013, when you shop at Woolworths you will be given a Woolworths Earn & Learn Point. There’ll be one Woolworths Earn & Learn Point for every $10 spent, (excluding cigarettes, liquor and gift cards). Collect these Woolworths Earn & Learn Points and Alexander school will be able to redeem these for educational resources.

DATES TO REMEMBER
14/05 NAP - Language & Writing Assessments
15/05 NAP - Reading Assessment
Book Club - Issue 3 Orders Due
16/05 NAP - Numeracy Assessment
Mothers’ Day Assembly
21/05 I.C.A.S. - Computer Assessment, Years 3-6
22/05 Interschool Debating Comp. # 2
05/06 I.C.A.S. - Science Assessment, Years 3-6
20/06 Life Education Van Visit
26/10 AGBU - 50th Anniversary Concert
03/11 Armenian Cultural Day & Fair
15/12 Christmas Concert and Graduation

Check the online calendar for more details.

ARMENIAN STUDENT FUND

Sponsor a child in Armenia through the Armenian Apostolic Church
www.armenianchurchsydney.org.au

MOTHERS’ DAY ASSEMBLY
Thursday 16th May, 2013 - 2:00pm
Come along to help celebrate and honour the special person in our lives - our mother.

DONATIONS TO ALEXANDER SCHOOL
In Memoriam for the Late Alice Movsessian
Mr & Mrs Vahe & Annie Boyadjian $25
May Her Soul Rest In Peace

BOOK CLUB - ISSUE 3
Order Forms/Money Due by Wednesday 15th May, 2013
Orders after this date cannot be processed. Please place your orders in clearly marked envelopes.

TEACHERS’ AWARD
TERM 2 – WEEK 2
Year 6: Jessica, Ani, Jonathan
Year 5: Narek
Year 2: Kevork, Anita
Lara, Lilit
Kindergarten: Albert

HOUSE POINTS TERM 2
Uniform, Playground, Charity & Awards

ARARAT - 46 points
MISIS - 49 points

ARMENIAN STUDENT FUND
Weekly Report: Term 2 Week 2

8 Points – ARARAT .......... $13.40
6 Points – MISIS .......... $12.50
TOTAL: ............ $25.90
ACCUMULATED: ............ $331.35

SPONSOR A CHILD IN ARMENIA THROUGH THE ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH
www.armenianchurchsydney.org.au
Debating News...

Defending Champions off to a Great Start!

Last Wednesday, Alexander Primary School participated in the ‘Debating Workshop’ held at the Sydney Japanese School. This week we hosted the first debate of the ‘Forest District Interschool Debating Competition’. Our debating team consisted of Christine, Jessica, Ani and Jonathan with Samuel and Kevork acting as timekeeper and chairperson. We were the affirmative team for the first debate “Computers are good for us”. Our first speaker’s arguments were that computers are useful for research and homework purposes, they teach us responsibility and they increase technological skills of school aged students.

Our second speaker’s arguments were about entertainment value, opening our eyes to the world and educational games.

Galstaun College was the negative team in the debate. We were able to argue and rebut their team’s case strongly so that we were victorious.

The second debate of the day was between the German International School and John Colet. Their topic was “Contact sports do more good than harm.” There were many good arguments presented by both sides. The negative team John Colet were the winners in the end.

Mrs Terrey would like to congratulate every student in Years 5 and 6 for their hard work in preparing arguments for and against the topic. Also the work that they all did in coming up with rebuttals that they might be able to use during the debate and many of them did come in handy.

Good luck for the next debate, to be held on Wednesday 22nd May at Galstaun College. Any parents that would like to join us are more than welcome and certainly this would help with transporting our Year 5 and 6 students.

Mrs Meaghan Terrey - Debating Coordinator
News from Prep & K…

Jelly Time in the Classroom!

On Thursday the Prep and Kindergarten class made jelly. First of all we wrote that jelly felt wobbly, it smelt sweet, it tasted yummy and that we love jelly! Then Mrs Terrey made the jelly with us. First we sprinkled the jelly crystals into a jug. Secondly, Mrs Terrey poured hot water into the jug to dissolve the crystals. Next we mixed the crystals with the water until we couldn’t see them anymore. We added some cold water and then poured them into cups and put them into the fridge. Today at recess, everyone was able to eat our delicious pink and red jelly. By Albert, Mary, Catherine, Harry, Natalia, Stephen, Sara and Isabella.

We love to dress-up for assembly... We also love playing with puzzles!
Protecting Our Threatened Species

Year 1/2 have been leaning about their local environment. **Duffys Forest Vegetation Community** is found exclusively around Sydney’s Northern Beaches. It is listed as an endangered ecological community and is protected under the **Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995**. The students have been using a program provided by Warringah Council to raise awareness about threatened species found in Warringah. The program aims to educate students about the values of urban bushland and in particular about the endangered vegetation community of Duffys Forest. As a part of the program all the students of the school got to participate in a workshop provided by the council and presented by Leonie Maddigan.

In the workshop the students were provided with an overview of the types of bushland found around Warringah. They were shown how our use of bushland has changed over time. Students were introduced to some of the plants found within the Duffys Forest community and shown the different plant layers. They leant about the types of animals found in the bushland and the basic habitat requirements of these animals. The children were given an understanding of the threats and dangers that are impacting on Duffys Forest Vegetation Communities and other types of bushland.

Leonie was able to make all this learning fun by bringing along examples of our native plants and animals and engaging the students in great games which taught them about plant layers, different types of vegetation and how animals come under threat. It was a fun packed morning full of varied learning experiences.

*Mrs Vicky Dernee - Curriculum Coordinator*
Making Pancakes

The students of Year 1/2 have been learning about India. They read a book about Indian cultures and customs. The book had a recipe for making coconut pancakes which the students were eager to try. Here is an account of what they did.

First Mrs Dernee took out the frying pan and we made the filling for the pancakes. We put in a spoon of butter and it looked like it was slipping.

After the funny slipping butter we put in the grated coconut, sugar and cardamom. The coconut made an enormous white hill and we had so much fun smashing it down and stirring it around the pan.

Then we took the filling mixture out of the pan and we started to make the delicious pancakes. First we got a big bowl and we cracked an egg in it, we added a pinch of salt and some sugar too.

Then we added plain flour and we mixed, and mixed and mixed until all the lumps disappeared.

Next we poured the batter in the pan. Then we had to wait until there were little bubbles on top of the batter. After the bubbles appeared we all had a turn of flipping the pancakes, that was great fun.

When the pancake was brown we took it out of the pan. We put the pancake on the plate. We then place the cooked coconut on the pancake. Next we rolled the pancake up with the filling inside. Sometimes the pancakes were too hot to roll, so we had to wait patiently until they cooled.

Lastly we were able to eat our scrumptious pancakes. Everyone is enjoying learning about India especially when we get to do fun activities like cooking!
News from the Classroom...

Start Smart Program

This term the students participated in the Start Smart program which is designed to change the way students learn about money.

The students of P-2 were introduced to money, what it is used for and how it can be earned and saved. Guided by Captain Super Cents, the students were taught to distinguish between needs and wants and to recognise the dangers posed by Gobbles the Wallet Monster, who represented all those temptations to spend money needlessly. They learnt fun rhymes and tips to help them form solid financial habits.

The Year 3/4 workshop taught the students about earning, saving and spending money. The students also learnt to recognise the social pressures that make them want to spend money in the first place. Coach Cash - their personal financial trainer, trained them to become elite athletes at managing their finances.

Year 5/6 students learnt important financial literacy skills through a range of scenarios that related directly to their daily lives. They were taught about how we can earn money, what it means to earn money responsibly, how to set a budget, what interest is and how to compare prices when shopping.

These fun and engaging workshops equipped the students with the confidence and competence to make smart decisions about money.

These ‘Start Smart’ educational sessions are established and facilitated by the Commonwealth Bank Foundation to communicate with young people in a way they understand.

Photo Gallery - Tsvetana Paskaleva
Photo Gallery - Easter Fun with Egg Hunt & Egg and Spoon Races

http://www.facebook.com/AlexanderSchool