



9486 3266

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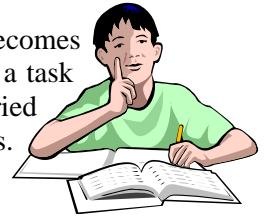
9486 3204

Dear Parents,

### FOSTERING INDEPENDENT LEARNING

The next few weeks are test and assessment weeks for all students, prior to the teachers writing Half Yearly Reports. It is during this time that we make note of those children who can and will work independently, ie without adult support or help.

In general, teachers notice that some students cannot keep on a task as soon as it becomes difficult. These students have a poorly developed sense of the benefits of trying to do a task themselves. They fear failure without support. They ask for guidance before they have tried and failed. They take no risks and therefore do not learn many new things for themselves. These children will need support increasingly if it is given to them too easily.



#### **Keep Trying**

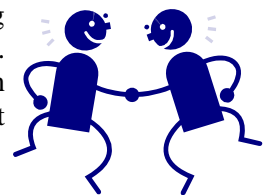
Telling these children to keep trying is not much help either. They need to be taught how to try. As adults, we can show them some strategies, eg 'Work out an answer and then ask to see if you are on the right track', OR 'Ask for a little clue to start you off'.

There are some children who tend to ask that a parent sit beside them whilst they are finishing homework, and that correction of the homework takes place before it comes back to school. This is not the aim of homework. Teachers would rather see incorrect work that has been done by the child's own efforts, than corrected work where parents have had too much input. Most work sent home should be able to be done by the child and if they have too much difficulty, they should refer to their class teacher for assistance, not parents. They should have given it a really good try before either option is taken.



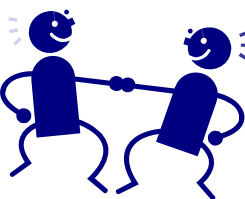
#### **Encourage!**

If encouraged and expected to do so, most children can manage their work on their own. Reward *efforts* in the learning phase, not always results. You will notice that most of our school awards are for trying, not necessarily for achieving the highest scores. Teachers know who to sit beside during their class to give assistance, but many want the attention and give up far too easily. There are even instances where, if the work is difficult and likely to present less than perfection in the outcome, children refuse to complete the work. This is absolutely not acceptable. Don't let 'Perfectionism' take hold!



#### **Guidance is needed now**

Please do everything you can to encourage your child to be independent at everything involving school tasks, from getting dressed in the morning, to packing their bag, bringing in notes, bringing back the plastic sleeve, looking after their clothes and their belongings, their rooms and their free time. The work for the adults will be less. Remember, when they are 18 and going out to work or University, it is too late to blame them for having poor work habits and poor rate of success. We have to guide them towards this goal of independent learning from the earliest age.



Every parent wants their children to lead a happy life. When we dream about the future, parents have hopes that their children will be part of a community, have friends, live independently, and enjoy health and well-being. We already know that the skills and behaviours children develop early in life lay a strong foundation for their adolescence and adulthood. For this reason, we need to think about how we can begin early to promote lifelong independence for our children.

**HAVE A WARM, RELAXING AND SAFE LONG WEEKEND EVERYONE!**  
See you back refreshed on Tuesday!

6<sup>th</sup> June, 2014

# ALEXANDER PRIMARY SCHOOL

## ENROLLING NOW FOR 2015



Do you have a child who is ready to start school?

Are you still undecided about the choice of school that best serves the needs of your child?

Would you like to see them in class, experiencing the real school environment before you make your final decision on the school of your choice?

Contact us to arrange for up to a week long school experience for your child - 9486 3266

AGBU Alexander Primary School caters for students from **Preparatory (Prep) to Year 6**. Enrolment is open to all children of primary school age and applications are accepted for entry at all year levels. The age requirement for students entering **Kindergarten is 5 years by 31st July** of the enrolment year, while for **Prep it is one year prior to Kindergarten** enrolment.



## REMINDER: Don't Forget the Fruit!

The school has a Crunch&Sip break at the start of each day, for students to refuel on fruit and vegetables and rehydrate on water.

Please make sure your son or daughter has an extra piece of fruit or vegetable for Crunch&Sip each day.

**Crunch&Sip**<sup>®</sup>

**BOOK CLUB - ISSUE 4**

Order Forms/Money Due by  
**Wednesday**  
**11<sup>th</sup> June, 2014**

Orders after this date cannot be processed.  
Please place your orders in clearly marked envelopes.

**BIRTHDAYS OF THE WEEK**

*Happy Birthday to...*

**Lara**  
**Krikor**

**HOUSE POINTS TERM 2**

*Uniform, Playground, Charity & Awards*

**SEVAN** - 106 points

**YEREVAN** - 95 points

**TEACHERS' AWARD**

**TERM 2 - WEEK 6**

Year 3: Kevork

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

- 09/06 Queen's Birthday - Public Holiday
- 11/06 Book Club Issue 4 - Orders Due
- 16/06 I.C.A.S. - Writing Assessment, Years 3-6
- 18/06 Interschool Debating Comp. # 3
- 20/06 Half Yearly Reports
- 27/06 Last day Term 2
- 28/06 'Teddy Bear's Picnic' - Pre-schoolers
- 14/07 School Development Day - Pupil Free
- 15/07 First day Term 3 - Students Return
- 29/07 I.C.A.S. - English Assessment, Years 3-6
- 30/07 Interschool Debating Comp. # 4
- 14/12 Presentation and Graduation Concert

**ARMENIAN STUDENT FUND**

**WEEKLY REPORT: Term 2 Week 6**

8 Points – <b>YEREVAN</b> .....	\$9.70
6 Points – <b>SEVAN</b> .....	\$8.70
<b>TOTAL:</b> .....	<b>\$18.40</b>
<b>ACCUMULATED:</b> .....	<b>\$300.75</b>

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ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH  
[www.armenianchurchsydney.org.au](http://www.armenianchurchsydney.org.au)

## Debating News...

### Defending Champions off to a Great Start!

The debating season has arrived! On the 7<sup>th</sup> of May the Year 5/6 students went to the Sydney Japanese School for the debating workshop. While we were there we learnt all the key rules about debating for example roles of speakers, rebuts, repairs and thinking on the spot.

On the 21<sup>st</sup> of May the debating season kicked off. Our school was the host of the first round. We were up first debating against Galstaun Collage. The topic of our debate was "Homework is necessary". We were the negative team.

The negative team consisted of Silvy as first speaker and Serly as second speaker because she filled in for Narek. Krikor was third speaker and Stella was fourth speaker. The chairperson and timekeeper of the two debates of the first round was Tzolare. The result was very close but we were slightly better and we **WON!!!**

The debate after that was John Colet School versus the German School. The topic was for their debate was "Schools should be coeducational". The John Colet School won that debate.

Our next debate is on the 18<sup>th</sup> of June. Our opponent is the John Colet School and the host is the German International School. Our topic is "we can choose how active we need to be". Again we are the negative team. We are confident in this topic but will have to have good research and rebuts to beat this strong opponent. Fingers crossed!

By Krikor and Tzolare



*Crafts By Maggie*

A collection of colorful crafts including a blue bow, a teddy bear, a basket of fruit, and a cupcake.

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Mob: 0432 128 115

 **firstnational**  
REAL ESTATE

Frenchs Forest

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*Photo Gallery...*    Excursion to City Venues

*Australia Museum & Art Gallery*



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