

Dear Parents,

A BLESSED START

On the first day of our academic year, we started with a visit from **Father Norayr Patanian**. During the morning visit, he welcomed all the children who had assembled in the school hall and led a special prayer with a blessing for the start of the new school year. Following his address, the students recited the Lord's Prayer and after receiving his personal blessings moved to their classrooms.



On Monday, we were visited by **His Grace Bishop Vardan Navasardyan** from Armenia, accompanied by Diocese and Church Council representatives.



Bishop Navasardyan is currently visiting the Australian Armenian community in an official capacity, representing the Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin at the Gala Banquet that will be held this evening to honour the Primate of the Diocese, His Grace Bishop Haigazoun Najarian's 40th anniversary into the holy priesthood. We join with the rest of the community in congratulating the Primate.

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Bishop Navasardyan had a close association with our school as the former parish priest of the Church of Holy Resurrection (2005-2008). He was very happy to be back and be updated with the life of the school, including the advancements that have taken place over the last few years in terms of capital works and classroom innovations. Last year, it was through his efforts that our school was able to establish a 'sister school' relationship with a school in Armenia. As the current spiritual leader of the *Eurmekian School*, our 'sister school' in Etchmiadzin, we were able to use the opportunity to discuss how the relationship between the two schools can be enhanced for the future benefit of students and staff.

A BIG WELCOME

We are please to welcome a new teacher to Alexander school. **Mrs Carmen Giugni** joins us as a recent graduate with a wonderful report and commitment to teach. Prior to completing her *Graduate Diploma in Teaching and Learning (Primary Teaching)* from Charles Darwin University she had obtained a *Bachelor of Nursing* and a *Bachelor of Arts in Communications (Public Relations, Marketing & Advertising)* degrees.

Mrs Giugni has been made most welcome by her students and the school community, including her son Hugo who has joined our Prep class. Once again we congratulate and welcome them to our school family.

CHANGES TO CRUNCH&SIP

We will start the year by monitoring the progress of a second *Crunch&Sip* break introduced to our daily timetable. In addition to the fruit or vegetable break at the start of school we will also stop to 'recharge' at the end of the day, before getting on the bus. We would like our parents to assist in the process by providing an additional portion of fruit or vegetable that can be consumed before the final bell.



6th February, 2015

SCHOOL DISCIPLINE POLICY

The school “**Discipline Policy - Parent Handout**” is enclosed with today’s Newsletter. Parents should read this document carefully to familiarise themselves with the strategies implemented at AGBU Alexander Primary School to encourage positive attitude and behaviour.

The school has expectations of its students to maintain standards which will promote personal achievement and school pride. It is the tone of our school to be positive, encouraging and motivational. Children need this same encouragement from parents in order to succeed. Students achieve highest when parents take an **active** interest and role in their education and school life.



School Standards on Homework:

- ⇒ It is expected that students will complete set tasks to the **best of their ability** - untidy work will not be accepted.
- ⇒ Parents should check each set of homework to make sure its completed at the accepted standard.
- ⇒ Homework should be made a **priority** when students arrive home of an afternoon. However, teachers understand that students may have extra-curricular after school activities. If homework is unable to be completed, please write a note to the teacher stating reason.
- ⇒ If your child has difficulty with set homework, please advise your child’s teacher in writing the following day. If the situation persists, please make an appointment to meet with your child’s teacher.



School Standards on Uniform:

- ⇒ Students are expected to wear **correct** uniform at all times.
- ⇒ Students wearing incorrect uniform (any part) should provide a note to the class teacher stating reason.
- ⇒ Students in Years 3-6 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.
- ⇒ Students must have school hats at school daily. “**NO HAT, NO PLAY**”
- ⇒ Jewellery, nail polish and make-up not permitted. Only one pair, plain stud / sleeper earrings permitted.
- ⇒ Random uniform checks are conducted and students receive House points for correct uniform standards.
- ⇒ Students who lose an article of uniform (eg hat or jumper) will have a week’s grace after which time the article must be replaced.
- ⇒ Students who repeatedly forget sports shoes / hats will have records of misbehaviour sent home.

PARENT INFORMATION EVENING

Our **Parent Information Evening** will be held on **Wednesday, 11th February starting at 7.00pm sharp!** The evening will give parents the opportunity to gain further understanding of how the classes are arranged and find out what will be going on in your child’s classroom and school this year.



We expect to see all families represented at the Parent Information Evening. This is the opportunity you have to find out exactly what is happening on a day to day basis in your child’s classroom and what our expectations are of students and parents. Parents will also be briefed and updated on some of the major programs in place and will hear about the various ways they can contribute to the school community. The education of children is a huge task. We all need to pitch in and play a supporting role - teachers supporting parents, parents supporting teachers, the school Board and school programs.

Please be reminded that this is not a time to talk about your child’s progress specifically. By all means, make an appointment to meet your child’s teacher if you need to do so. Teachers will also brief and update parents on occasions. Children who attend the evening because there is no one else at home are to remain in close vicinity of the school hall and not go out to play in the playground.

PARENT INFORMATION EVENING

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

We hope to see every family represented to hear important information on what is happening in your child’s school and classroom.



DATES TO REMEMBER

11/02 Parent Information Evening - School Hall
12/02 Holy Communion at Church
18/02 Book Club - Issue 1 Orders Due
29/03 Palm Sunday Picnic & Concert
02/04 Last Day Term 1
13/12 Christmas Concert and Graduation

Please mark these important days in your calendar & check this box regularly for updates. You can also check the electronic calendar in the 'News & Events' section of the school's web site. The electronic calendar can be shared on your phone. Contact the school to find out how.

ARMENIAN STUDENT FUND

WEEKLY REPORT: Term 1 Week 2

8 Points – **ARARAT** \$6.55

6 Points – **MASIS** \$5.40

TOTAL: **\$11.95**

ACCUMULATED: **\$11.95**

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

CANTEEN OPENS NEXT WEEK

Thank you to the families who responded to our call for canteen duty. The **Canteen Calendar** for the first term has been provided with today's Newsletter. **The calendar is subject to change and it is important that parents also check the school website to confirm the latest menu or canteen days.**

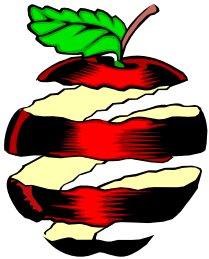


We are always keen to have new mums join the team. If you have not yet signed up for canteen duty, but would like to take an active role, please contact the school Office. Should we have sufficient volunteers, full canteen facilities will be available on additional days.



Children love to see their parents actively involved in their school... even if it's only once a term. The positive effect of your support will reward your child, your school and you.

STUDENT LUNCHBOXES



We are generally very happy with the contents of our students' lunchboxes. Our school would rate fairly well with all the attention given to ensure school lunchboxes contain mostly foods with good nutritional value. Whilst children may complain about lack of variety, try being inventive with the way you serve foods. Please continue to help us with this school program - keep up with the practice of providing low-fat, low-salt, low-sugar foods.

Fruit size can make all the difference between "fruit eaten" and "fruit wasted". Please buy small sized fruit for small mouths to chomp around, otherwise send cut fruit to school. Many of the younger children (P-2) could be wasting good fruit because it is just too hard to eat.

THE SCHOOL LUNCH BOX

Parents are instrumental in the success of our school's healthy food program as providers of good, nutrition-filled lunch boxes.

To help parents with the confusing task of deciding on suitable snack foods, below is a list of what we consider to be appropriate.



ONE ONLY - Snack Food which includes any one of the following: baked biscuits or snacks such as BBQ shapes; yoghurt or other dairy dessert such as Yogo or Petite Miam; slice of plain cake, fruit muffin or fruit toast; fruit straps/bars; breakfast/muesli bars, plain pop corn.

SNACKS WHICH DO NOT QUALIFY: All chips, roll-ups, LCM's, chocolate muffins, cream biscuits and wafers.

UNLIMITED AMOUNTS OF - Fresh Fruit & Vegetables ... fruit bars and fruit yoghurt are no replacement for fresh fruit.

AT LEAST ONE SERVE OF - Bread ... sandwiches

Sandwiches are the most ideal lunch food but we do understand that children need some variety and often have home-cooked meals to replace sandwiches.

SUITABLE LUNCH DRINKS FOR SCHOOL - fruit juice, milk, water.

TEACHING ASSIGNMENTS FOR 2015

Class Teachers: Years 4-6 Mr Vicky Dernee | Years 1-2 Mrs Carmen Giugni | P-K Mr Manoug Demirjian.

Armenian Language & Culture: Armenian Language lessons for Years P-6 are with Mrs Seta Keoshgerian | Armenian History, Religion and Culture (Culture) lessons for Years P-6 are with Mr Manoug Demirjian.

Eastern Armenian: The lessons are taught with the assistance of Yerekin Hasmik Hambarzumyan. She joins the Armenian classroom every *Tuesday* to deliver these lessons.

Scripture: This year the extended scripture instruction program will continue to be implemented across the whole year. Mrs Cynthia Tomassian has once again volunteered to join the weekly Culture classes on *Mondays* to assist with the teaching of scripture during Terms 1 and 4.

Music: The lessons are taught with the assistance of Mrs Zela Margossian-Gaspar. She also provides private piano lessons on *Tuesdays*. Please contact the school office if you want to enrol your child. Lessons have commenced and we would like to remind students to have their piano books in their bags.

Library: Mrs Armine Sevazlian has volunteered to continue her role as Library Coordinator. Library borrowing days and lessons are on Friday, however the Library will also be open during recess and lunch on Mondays.

School Office: The office is managed by our two administration personnel, Mrs Margueritte Boyadjian and Mrs Sonia Apanian. Mrs Boyadjian will generally be in the office on Mondays and Tuesdays and Mrs Apanian on Thursdays and Fridays. They are in the office on Wednesdays on an alternate basis.

They will continue their travel on the **Ryde bus** providing supervision and support. They also assist with the running of the school canteen.

Miss Christine Apanian is our volunteer classroom and office assistant.

KEEPING UP TO DATE

Please read all attached documents on school rules, policies and procedures that have been published in the first two Newsletters of the year so that you and your child/ren 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.

The weekly Newsletter is published on Fridays. 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 forwarded to the office and recorded by the office personnel.

Please make sure you come along to the **Parent Information Evening on Wednesday 11 February** to gain further understanding of how the classes are arranged and find out what will be going on in your child's classroom or 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.



REMINDER: Don't Forget the Fruit!

The school has a **Crunch&Sip break at the start and also the end 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®



AGBU Alexander Primary School

Web Site www.alexander.nsw.edu.au



Are you a regular visitor to our web site or the Facebook page?

Are you happy with the content? What would you like to be included? we like to hear from you.

Please send your emails to: media@alexander.nsw.edu.au



Visit us on
Facebook

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



SCHOOL BANKING - Youthsaver Account with Commonwealth Bank

School Banking at Alexander school has developed and grown over the past few years. We now have a large percentage of students taking part in the savings program.



'Get ready to take your child on an intergalactic savings mission' - Youthsaver account opening kit is enclosed with today's Newsletter for those students who have not yet joined or are new to the program. In the packaged envelope you will find all the required information and forms to start your child's account.

Once the accounts are set up and ready to go, your child/ren will be able to take part in '**School Banking Day**' now set for **Thursdays**. This is when students can bring their deposits to be banked through the School.

Parents who are interested in getting their children to join the savings program can contact the office for more information. For new students, if your child already has a Youthsaver account, they too can join the program.

Message from the Bank...

Dear Parent,

Teaching your child the all-important skills of money management and saving when they're young can empower them for success in the future. Commonwealth Bank Student Banking is a special initiative designed to do just that. Through education and fun, we aim to help make your child a Super Saver.

Student Banking - teaching kids Super Saver powers.

The Commonwealth Bank Student Banking program runs within primary schools to help boost your child's understanding of money and saving.

- ◆ **Educational resources** - We provide schools with fun resources to assist teaching of basic skills.
- ◆ **Weekly banking** - Your child can do their banking at school where it's easy for them to make regular deposits. Student Banking coordinators often allocate a class banking day and a banking monitor to help teach children the responsibility of saving.
- ◆ **Money for their school** - When your child signs up for Student Banking or makes a deposit at school, the Bank will pay a commission to your school. This money can help buy new books, computers, sports equipment or whatever else the school may need.



Get your little Super Saver started now.

It's easy to get your child involved with Student Banking. Just sign them up for a Youthsaver account. It's packed with fun features your child will love.

School Banking accounts can now be opened at any Commonwealth Bank branch. You no longer need to complete application forms and return them to school. Just go into any branch and ask to open a Youthsaver account for School Banking.

Remember to take in identification for you and your child (such as drivers license and birth certificate), you will receive a Dollarmites wallet and deposit book on the spot and be able to start banking on the next business day – it is that easy!

If you are a Commonwealth Bank customer with NetBank you have the option to open the account online as well!

When children make their first deposit our school will receive \$5 and 5% commission of every deposit made (up to \$10 per individual deposit). Thank you for supporting our school and teaching your child good savings skills.

For more information on a Youthsaver account please call 13 2221, visit commbank.com.au/dollarmites or drop into any Commonwealth Bank Branch.

Photo Gallery - Father Norayr Patanian & Bishop Vardan Navasardyan



More photos on our Facebook page.



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

