Dear Parents,

**PARENT INFORMATION EVENING**

On Wednesday, we held our annual ‘Parent Information Evening’. I would like to thank all the parents for coming and showing their support in their children’s education and demonstrating interest in their school life. We believe, the commitment of the parent body plays an important role in the life of a school. Therefore, continue with your important effort to get right behind your children and play a supporting role, because your children are the ones who benefit.

During the evening, parents were given an outline of the major functions planned for the year. They were also encouraged to share the Calendar from the school’s website and incorporate it into their smart phones. The policies in relation to discipline, homework and welfare were reviewed and the academic programs discussed. These included the Armenian Language, Chaplaincy and the new K-6 Syllabuses (English, Mathematics, Science and History), incorporating the agreed National Curriculum content. Parents were also informed that soft copies of all School Policies are now shared and made available on the students’ Google Drive.

During the plenary session, Curriculum Coordinator Mrs Vicky Dernee also demonstrated the ‘Classroom’ application in the Google Apps for Education program which has made our School Diary a ‘thing of the past’. Students and parents of Years 4-6 are now using this application to track and submit homework tasks and communicate within the school community.

The parents were also updated about the school’s website and social media. They were informed that the website will soon include a ‘Library’ section and a link that will allow student online access. In addition to the current access to the Library’s Oliver management system via the school intranet, students and parents will also be able to login from home to check and search the library catalogue and their account. In addition, parents had the opportunity to view the system and see how students were able to make better use of the Library with over 5000 of its fantastic resources.

Following a number of important reminders and a general discussion about the P&C, the Volunteer Scheme and proposed activities or excursions, the parents were directed to the classrooms. Teachers of each grade had the opportunity to explain to their parents the special features of teaching and learning which pertain to their classes.

**VARTANANK - HOLY COMMUNION**

Yesterday, in Alexander school tradition, all students and staff attended the Armenian Apostolic Church of Holy Resurrection to receive blessings and Holy Communion for the start of the new school year and on the occasion of St Vartan.

This year, the Primate of the Diocese His Grace Bishop Haigazoun Najarian had invited all schools to join in the special Mass. During the sermon, the students from Alexander School and Galstaun College were asked to reflect on the importance of the ‘Battle of Vartanank’ and its significance to the survival of Armenians as Christians.

The service was followed by confession to which the students responded by “Մեղա Ասդուժո” (Megha Asdoudzo) and were led to take Holy Communion.

Following the service, students were served lunch and light refreshments on the grounds adjacent to the church. The occasion allowed all students to share this important date in our church calendar and was well received by students, teachers and parishioners... The spirit of ‘Vartanants’ was truly among us!
MEETING NOTICE
COUNCIL OF PARENTS & CITIZENS

The first P & C meeting for the year will be held on
Thursday 19th February

Venue: North Ryde RSL
Cnr Pittwater Road and Magdala Roads,

Time: 8.00pm

To Confirm Attendance - Contact:
School office - 9486 3266

P&C Office Bearers are expected to attend to form the new committee.
P&C Assistants are also welcome.

HOUSE POINTS TERM 1
Uniform, Playground, Charity & Awards

ARARAT - 29 points
MASIS - 25 points

BOOK CLUB - ISSUE 1
Order Forms/Money Due by
Wednesday 18th February, 2015

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

DATES TO REMEMBER
18/02 Book Club - Issue 1 Orders Due
19/02 P&C Meeting @ North Ryde RSL - 8pm
14/03 Armenian Genocide Centenary

A Historic - Cultural Evening
29/03 Palm Sunday Picnic & Concert
02/04 Last Day Term 1
13/12 Christmas Concert and Graduation

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 3

8 Points – ARARAT .......... $8.50
6 Points – MASIS .......... $7.30

TOTAL: ............ $15.30

ACCUMULATED: ............ $27.25

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

BIRTHDAYS OF THE WEEK

Happy Birthday to...
Nina
Sargis
Sonya

School Banking

Banking Day: Thursday

Students need to have their bank deposit books in order to make a deposit into their account.

LIBRARY BAGS

Congratulations to all the students who remembered to bring their library bags for borrowing this week. If you forgot to bring yours in, try to remember next week.

LIBRARY DAY IS FRIDAY

BOOK COVERS

All children should by now have covered all school books with clear plastic. Thank you parents for supporting your children in getting this annual chore out of the way.
AGBU Alexander Primary School has a modern Library, which supports the educational program and curriculum of the School through providing relevant and useful materials, resources and teaching programs. The Library has over 5,000 resources including junior and senior fiction, non-fiction, reference materials, teaching resources, audio-visual materials, catalogues, and much more. The Library Automation System operates the Oliver Junior software, a web based library and information management solution, especially designed for schools. This new Library Management System helps to catalogue and circulate books as well as giving the students and teaching staff easy access to the system to locate and use library resources online effectively through its OPAC (Online Public Access Catalogue) system. It allows the students and the teaching staff to access the system online from anywhere and anytime.

The objectives of the Library are:

- to provide the students and teaching staff with resources useful and relevant to the academic needs and teaching curriculum;
- to educate the students to effectively and efficiently utilise online and offline library resources;
- to develop students’ interest in and commitment to books and reading;
- to help students undertake research on a specific project.
- to support students and teaching staff in library related activities and programs.

What makes a difference for our Library is its bilingual nature, which allows the students to be exposed to a variety of materials and resources both in Armenian and English. The Oliver Junior library software also allows us to have a bilingual resource database in which we can search for resources in both English and Armenian.

**Library Opening Hours**

The Library is open on **Mondays** and **Fridays** from 9:00am to 3:00pm. On Mondays the Library will be open for students to have an opportunity to familiarise themselves with new books obtained by the school, search for books of their choice to read in the library during the recesses or do research related to a specific homework or assignments. Friday is Library Day, for the students to borrow new books and return the ones they’ve read.

Mrs Armine Sevazlian  
Library Coordinator

**P&C COMMITTEE AND VOLUNTEER SCHEME**

As discussed during the Parent Information Evening, we would like to see the volunteer tasks for the school spread evenly across the parental body. This year the points system is back and we are asking parents to indicate their choice and consider what they can do to assist in the running of the school. Further details about the updated and improved scheme is provided elsewhere in the newsletter.

We would like to take this opportunity and indicate that the P&C meetings are a good forum to bring your ideas or suggestions for the everyday running needs of our school. If you have any suggestions please approach P&C members to discuss and to include them on the Agenda for the following meeting. As you know the P&C plays an important role in running the canteen and catering special events. They are also responsible in organising a number of in-school events and providing general feedback and assistance in areas of need.

We understand that it’s not possible for all families to get involved in all aspect of the P&C or school life, however we encourage you to have your say. We would like to receive feedback as to how we can improve the services being provided to students and guests. For more information and to see how you can contribute to the Committee please contact our current coordinator: Hasmik Hambardzumyan 0421 854 709

The P&C Committee will have its first meeting next week, please check the newsletter for details.

Please fill in the ‘2015 Volunteer Contribution Choices’ form and return it to school by **Monday** to kick-start the committees.
SCHOOL FAMILY VOLUNTEER CONTRIBUTION SCHEME

Once again, we would like to see the volunteer tasks for the school spread evenly across the parental body. For this to come about, a system of points is again in operation. As most of you know, the scheme is based on a family committing to volunteer 200 points of time and effort to school tasks. Please consider what you can do to assist in the running of the school.

Please fill in the form below to claim your tasks to the value of 200 points per family. Where there can only be a set number of volunteers for the job, eg Canteen Coordinator, decisions will be made on a ‘first in first served’ basis.

The major difference this year is that families will be asked to make a monetary contribution in advance. Families will have a separate charge of $200 in their School Fees, split over two terms ($100 in Term 1 and $100 in Term 2). The monetary contribution will be fully refunded to the family towards the end of the year when it is established that all volunteer contributions have been fulfilled to the value of 200 points*.

While our aim is to involve all families in the school community, I trust the new improved scheme will be fairer and more transparent, thanks to your support and commitment.

Please fill in your choice/s below and return the form to the office by Monday, 16th February.

*While we prefer your non-monetary contribution, if you are unable to commit (or can only do so in a limited capacity) to any of the above tasks then the contribution charge will be passed on as a donation to the school.

Please check the boxes for the tasks you choose.

TOTAL: □ I will earn 200 or more points.

I wish to submit my choice of volunteer time for the school.

Signed: ___________________________ Date: ______________

2015 VOLUNTEER CONTRIBUTION CHOICES

Family: ____________________________________________________________________________________

☐ Working Bee March - 50 points per adult       ☐ Driver - 20 points per event

☐ Working Bee July - 50 points per adult        ☐ Garden Maintenance - 20 points per hour

☐ Working Bee October - 50 points per adult     ☐ Additional maintenance work - 50-100 points

☐ Canteen Coordinator - 100 points             ☐ Organise School Projects - 50-100 points

☐ Canteen Volunteer - 20 points per day        ☐ $100 Donation - 100 points*

☐ Board Representative - 100 points           ☐ $200 Donation - 200 points*

☐ P & C Office Bearers - 100 points            ☐ Other: Please specify below - points as agreed

☐ P & C Assistant - 20 points per event

☐ Library Coordinator - 100 points

Please check the boxes for the tasks you choose.

TOTAL: □ I will earn 200 or more points.

I wish to submit my choice of volunteer time for the school.

Signed: ___________________________ Date: ______________

Under the Auspices of His Grace Bishop Haigazoun Najarian
Primate of the Armenian Apostolic Church of Australia and NZ
and
The Armenian Genocide Centenary Commemoration Committee Australia
The Cultural Sub-Committee

Presents

A Historic-Cultural Evening
Dedicated to the Armenian Genocide and the events from 1900 - 2015

Saturday, March 14, 2015 6:00 pm
The Concourse Concert Hall, Chatswood
Tickets $50.00

For tickets and information, please contact:
Nora Hekimian - 0425 330 803
Varouj Vartan-Boghossian - 0414 708 921
Arpine Ankeshian - 0419 443 118
Kevork Bedrossian - 0435 995 279
Sarkis Manoukian - 0421 666 408
Haig Lepejian - 0410 597 290
Hishir100@outlook.com