Dear Parents,

**ARMENIAN GENOCIDE CENTENARY**

On 24th April, Armenians around the world respond to Hitler’s question, *‘Who remembers the Armenians?’* This day is the 100th Anniversary of the rounding up, imprisonment and eventual deportation and murder of Armenian intellectuals in Istanbul by Ottoman officials, marking the beginning of the *‘First Genocide of the 20th Century’.*

By the end of World War I, at least 1.5 million Armenians or two-thirds of Armenians living in the Ottoman Empire died in the Armenian Genocide. During World War II, over six million Jews lost their lives in the Holocaust. Many believe that Hitler was encouraged to carry out his plan of exterminating the Jews as he was inspired by Turkey’s near success with its systematic destruction of the country’s indigenous Armenian population.

100 years on, Armenians and non-Armenians, world leaders, governments around the world, and more and more Turkish intellectuals condemn this crime against humanity and provide a clear response to Hitler by exclaiming *‘We do!’*. ‘We do’ remember the Armenians by recognising their suffering and resolving to commemorate this important and tragic period of history in the City of Ryde, at Memorial Park. ‘We do’ remember the Armenians and also the Genocide of the Assyrians and Greeks in the parliaments of New South Wales and South Australia. We also believe that in the near future our great country with the acknowledgement of Australian Government will rise above international politics and in the true spirit of the ANZACs recognise and condemn the Armenian Genocide. Once again, let us prove Hitler wrong by saying ‘We do’ remember the Armenians.

As Australian-Armenians we are proud and at the same time humbled by the recent motion, unanimously passed by the City of Ryde in honouring and remembering our great-grandparents. There is no Armenian who is not touched by the Armenian Genocide and like most Armenians around the world our family tree stops dead at our great-grandparents, who were deported from their land, leaving behind their homes, properties, memories, history and were forced to march to the desert towards an ambiguous future.

Many people would ask, what’s the purpose of commemoration? Why remember something that occurred a century ago? As educators, we believe that a nation that does not remember its history is doomed forever. We learn from history in order to not repeat the mistakes of the past. But the Genocide is much more than a history. It’s in our roots. We lost our land, families... a nation was destroyed, and its people driven to the desert. ‘We do’ remember because our ancestors struggled so that, today, our generation lives. As famous Armenian-American writer William Saroyan said, *‘Send them into the desert without bread or water. Burn their homes and churches. Then see if they will not laugh, sing and pray again. For when two of them meet anywhere in the world, see if they will not create a New Armenia.’* Our ancestors didn’t lose hope. They founded and built new homes around the world and in countries like Australia.

How can we make sure these horrendous crimes never happen again if we do not condemn and raise awareness? Adolf Hitler understood the importance of wide recognition of the past when he asked, in a speech impending the invasion of Poland, *‘Who, after all, speaks today of the annihilation of the Armenians?’* The crimes of our past serve as warnings for our future. A century later, we are speaking today of the Genocide of Armenians. No matter how hard one tries to edit history or censor truth, the ghosts of our past will haunt us until they are resolved. This is the reason why we continue to remember and commemorate - so that the next generation sees justice and lives in dignity and freedom.

As Australian-Armenians keep the memory and spirit alive for the victims of the Armenian Genocide, we continue to *‘Remember and Demand’!*

**MANOUG DEMIRJIAN**

24th April, 2015
Armenian Genocide Day | Friday, 24 April

On Friday 24 April, AGBU Alexander Primary School will hold a wreath laying ceremony as part of the Armenian Genocide Centenary Commemoration, at the Armenian Genocide and ANZAC memorials in ‘Memorial Park’ at Meadowbank (Bank Street, Meadowbank).

They will then be transported to the Armenian Apostolic Church of Holy Resurrection and join the congregation to pay respect and take part in the ‘100 Bell Tolls of Remembrance’.

As a result, Alexander school will be closed on that day. In the morning, parents are requested to bring their children to the ‘Memorial Park’. After the wreath laying ceremony, students and guests will be transported by bus to the church where once again parents are requested to collect their children at the end of the day’s activities.

These are the details for the day:

8.30am | Parents start bringing their children to the 'Memorial Park' at Meadowbank (Bank Street).
9.00am | All students are expected to have arrived at the park.
9.30am - 11.00am | Students and Graduates take part in special activities, including educational workshops and preparation for the official wreath laying ceremony.
11.00am | Wreath laying ceremony at the Armenian Genocide and ANZAC memorials.
11.30am | Students and Graduates are transported by bus to the Armenian Apostolic Church of Holy Resurrection. (10 Macquarie Street, Chatswood).
12.30pm | Students and Graduates join the congregation to pay their respect and take part in the ‘100 Bell Tolls of Remembrance’.
1.00pm | All of Australia’s churches have been invited to join the Armenian Apostolic Churches worldwide to toll church bells 100 times at 1.00pm, in remembrance of the 100th anniversary to honour the memory of the 1.5 million martyrs.
2.00pm | Parents can start collecting their children from the church.
3.00pm | All students to have been collected.

The school is also inviting parents, graduates and members of the community to join us on the day.

Students are to wear full winter uniform including hats. The girls are to wear their stockings but can bring their socks to change into, if the weather gets warm. They do not need bags, but are required to have their lunch and drink. It is best to have these in disposable bags so they do not carry around with them all day.

The school expects all students to take part in this event. If there are any difficulties with this arrangement please contact the school do discuss.

Members of the community have been requested to close their business next Friday or take the day off work and school. Parents and graduates who like to join and help us on this occasion can should RSVP.

Graduates who will be joining us, instead of going to their high school, will be provided with a letter of explanation. It is best that this letter and the reason for their absence is made to their school in advance, to help raise awareness of our Remembrance Day.
ԿՇՈ Սամութսահաբութեան

Կարող ենք կերպերի Հայաստանի հայրենիքում Արցախի Հանրապետութեան, Հայաստանի Հանրապետութեան, Լոս Անջելեսի Քենմոլերի քաղաքային հանգամանքին:

Հայերը չեն ոգեշնչեն ոչ մի կողմնակիցի կողմից բնակիչների ազատության պայքարին, և մինչև երկրի համար նախորդական պահեստերի վերջերի միջազգային և ազատագրական պահեստերի վերջին համարը Մեհեր Քերանյան հայրենիքից վերապատրաստվել է մարմին: Մեհեր Քերանյան հայրենիքից վերապատրաստվել է մարմին: Հայերը չեն ոգեշնչեն ոչ մի կողմնակիցի կողմից բնակիչների ազատության պայքարին, և մինչև երկրի համար նախորդական պահեստերի վերջին համարը Մեհեր Քերանյան հայրենիքից վերապատրաստվել է մարմին: Հայերը չեն ոգեշնչեն ոչ մի կողմնակիցի կողմից բնակիչների ազատության պայքարին, և մինչև երկրի համար նախորդական պահեստերի վերջին համարը Մեհեր Քերանյան հայրենիքից վերապատրաստվել է մարմին: Հայերը չեն ոգեշնչեն ոչ մի կողմնակիցի կողմից բնակիչների ազատության պայքարին, և մինչև երկրի համար նախորդական պահեստերի վերջին համարը Մեհեր Քերանյան հայրենիքից վերապատրաստվել է մարմին: Հայերը չեն ոգեշնչեն ոչ մի կողմնակիցի կողմից բնակիչների ազատության պայքարին, և մինչև երկրի համար նախորդական պահեստերի վերջին համարը Մեհեր Քերանյան հայրենիքից վերապատրաստվել է մարմին:
#PROTESTDENIAL

#SYDNEYPROTEST AGAINST 100 YEARS OF TURKEY’S DENIAL OF THE #ARMENIANGENOCIDE

FRIDAY, 24 APRIL 3-4PM
TURKISH CONSULATE
66 OCEAN ST., WOOLLAHRA, NSW

Buses from Ryde (Ararat Scout Hall, Santa Rosa Park), Forestville (Jamieson Square, Warringah Road Forestville), and Willoughby (Armenian Cultural Centre, 259 Penshurst Street Willoughby will depart at 2PM and return by 5PM.

A BUS FROM BONNYRIGG (PANOYAN CENTRE, 682 CABRAMATTA ROAD) WILL DEPART AT 1:30PM AND RETURN AT 5:30PM.
ARMENIAN GENOCIDE CENTENARY
NATIONAL COMMEMORATION EVENING

Featuring Keynote Speaker
Geoffrey Robertson QC
Leading International Human Rights Lawyer
Author of “An Inconvenient Genocide: Who Now Remembers the Armenians?”

FRIDAY, 24TH APRIL 2015
7PM SHARP
AT 7:15PM (19:15), EVENT WILL START WITH INTERNATIONAL
1 MINUTE’S SILENCE IN MEMORY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE.

SYDNEY TOWN HALL
Parking available in Queen Victoria Building

Buses have been arranged, and will leave at 6:15PM SHARP from Frenchs Forest (Austral-Armenian
Hall - 5 Grattan Crescent), Willoughby (Armenian Cultural Centre - 259 Penshurst Street), Ryde (Ararat
Scout Hall - Santa Rosa Park, Quarry Road), and Bonnyrigg (Panayan Centre - 682 Cabramatta Road)

I REMEMBER AND I DEMAND

Member Organisations – Խարության հայտնագործության պահպանել հարցեր
Armenian Apostolic Church • Armenian Catholic Church • Armenian Evangelical Church
Social Democrat Hunchakian Party • Armenian Revolutionary Federation • Armenian Democratic Liberal Party
Armenian General Benevolent Union • Hamazkayne Armenian Educational & Cultural Society

Ազգային զենքի պահպանել հարցեր • Հայ համայնքի պահպանել հարցեր • Ազգային զենքի պահպանել հարցեր
Համակարգչային բարիստրատոր ժողովածու • Համացանցային զենքի պահպանել հարցեր
Արաբական զենքի պահպանել հարցեր • Արաբական զենքի պահպանել հարցեր
The Armenian Church of Holy Resurrection

CHURCH SERVICE & 100 BELL TOLLS

Friday April 24th from 12:30pm

A Prayer Service will be held in remembrance of the Holy Martyrs followed by the symbolic 100 tolls of the Church bell at 1:00pm. Churches throughout Sydney and Australia will join the Armenian Apostolic Church in this sign of respect, acknowledgement and unity, including our neighbouring Catholic parish of Our Lady of St Dolours Church in Chatswood.

The Community faithful are invited to attend this solemn occasion.
To whom it may concern

This letter is intended for employers and school administrators to verify that the 24th of April 2015 is a day of remembrance for the Armenian-Australian community.

On that day, Armenians around the world will mark the Centenary of the Armenian Genocide and pay their respect to victims of this greatest crime against humanity. Australia is home to a large number of descendants of survivors of the Armenian Genocide.

In 1997 the New South Wales Parliament, declared April 24th “in every year hereafter throughout New South Wales as a Day of Remembrance of the 1.5 million Armenians who fell victim to the first genocide of this century.”

In light of this proclamation and the significance of the Centenary, I have urged all Armenians to dedicate the entire day of April 24 to solemnly reflect and pay homage to the memory of victims of the Armenian Genocide.

I sincerely hope that you will respect the major significance of the occasion and excuse from work or school employees or students who are members of the Armenian-Australian community. It is especially important that parents and children be able to share this day of solemn remembrance together.

Thank you for your kind consideration. May God bless you.

With prayers,

Bishop Haigazoun Najarian
Primate of the Armenian Apostolic Church of Australia and New Zealand
The Armenian Apostolic Church will join the Commemoration March on SUNDAY 26 APRIL, held under the auspices of His Grace Bishop Haigazoun Najarian organised by Homenetmen Australia and its Chapter Scout Troops.

A Service of Prayer and Intercession of the Holy Martyrs of the Genocide will be part of an outdoor program planned for the community following the March.

The steadfast faith of the Armenian people, rooted in the witness of the Apostles Thaddeus and Bartholomew continues to live on 100 years from the Genocide of 1915.

Join us in commemorating the memory of the Armenian martyrs as a resurrected, united people.

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.

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

Visit us on Facebook

http://www.facebook.com/AlexanderSchool

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