Dear Parents,

#ARTSAKHSTRONG

It has been a very difficult week and a tense time for the Armenian nation, following the recent large-scale offensive by Azerbaijani forces against the Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh (Artsakh), which has resulted in the greatest number of casualties since the ceasefire was first declared in the region in 1994.

We join with Sydney’s Armenian community to call upon the Australian Government and the international community to condemn and sanction Azerbaijan’s recent military aggression against the Armenian population of the Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh, including atrocities against defenceless civilians. In the early hours of last Saturday, Azerbaijan launched a clearly pre-planned massive military operation, with multiple-rocket launchers, helicopters, tanks and heavy artillery, along the whole cease-fire contact line between Azerbaijan and Artsakh, which had declared independence from Azerbaijani administration nearly 25 years ago. In this latest cease-fire violation the Azeris had deliberately targeted the civilian population of Artsakh. This included the killing of one student by mortar fire in a school in the Martuni region.

On Monday, our thoughts were with the people of Artsakh and Armenia during our morning prayer. This was following by a special lesson and briefing with the senior students to explain and make sense of all the discussion that was starting to take place in their homes and to provide reassurance and comfort.

The AGBU Central Board (New York) has released the following statement and has joined in the relief effort.

AGBU STRONGLY CONDEMNS ATTACK BY AZERBAIJANI FORCES IN NAGORNO-KARABAKH AND CALLS ON ALL GOVERNMENTS TO TAKE A CLEAR STAND

On April 1, Azerbaijani forces launched a large-scale offensive against the Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh that resulted in a number of casualties. The Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) strongly condemns the attack on the part of Azerbaijani forces and calls upon the international community to unambiguously condemn this latest indiscriminate and irresponsible attack. AGBU urges international mediators with the OSCE Minsk Group to take concrete steps to not only condemn, in the strongest possible terms, this latest violation, but also to implement more effective actions to prevent further escalation and to ensure the government of Azerbaijan strictly adheres to the ceasefire.

AGBU joins all Armenians around the world, and more specifically the people of Nagorno-Karabakh, in these difficult times, and shares their grievance and pain in the loss of life of the valiant soldiers and innocent civilian victims in recent days at the hands of the Azeri aggressor. We stand in solidarity with the people of Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh and the Armenian Armed Forces in their struggle to safeguard our homeland.

The organization calls upon all nations, international institutions, humanitarian and peace-building organizations to make their voices heard in protest and condemnation of these attacks that risk not only to disrupt regional, but also international, peace and security.

WINTER UNIFORM

The school will change to Winter Uniforms starting Week 3 of Term 2. During the first two weeks of Term 2 either uniform will be acceptable. To ensure your Winter uniform needs are met, please ask your children to try on old uniforms and check if garments need replacement. As we keep limited uniform stock at school, late orders may not be filled quickly.

Please make sure your children are wearing the correct uniform as outlined in the uniform policy. Also a reminder that we have a long sleeved polo shirt for winter sport. Thank you for your cooperation.

I take this opportunity to pray for every blessing on families for the forthcoming school vacation period and look forward to another successful term commencing Tuesday 26 April for staff and Wednesday, 27 April for the students.

MANOUG DEMIRJIAN
We’d like to say a big Thank You to …

😊 Our school mothers and volunteers for providing a great canteen facility for all the students and staff: Mrs Margueritte Boyadjian, Mrs Annette Galstian, Mrs Rita Kalajian, Mrs Svetlana Khachatourian, Mrs Angela Khatchadourian, Mrs Natalie Khoudair, Mrs Cynthia Tomassian and Mrs Natalie Urriola.

😊 All members of the Parents & Citizens Committee: Mrs Ani Ayanyan, Mrs Sarah Dixon, Yereckin Hasmik Hambardzumyan, Mrs Karis Khatchadourian, Mrs Gayane Topouzian, Mrs Natalie Urriola, Mrs Bianca Zorlu and Mrs Margueritte Boyadjian (Office Liaison).

😊 All school families including the P & C for organising and running the Easter Concert & Picnic. Your help and contribution helped make the day a great success. Thank you all!

😊 Mrs Maggie Betchakjian for preparing, making and donating the lovely craftwork for the Easter Concert & Picnic raffle tickets.

😊 All school families for their generous contribution of chocolate Easter eggs. Making sure we had beautiful gift hampers as raffle prizes and the delicacies for the cake stall helped boost our profits for the day.

😊 Mrs Cynthia Tomassian for providing weekly scripture lessons during term one on a volunteer basis, to help children understand and appreciate the Bible and its teachings.

😊 Mrs Armine Sevazlian for continuing to make an important difference with her contribution as Library Coordinator. Apart from accessioning, organising, sorting and re-shelving the books, she has also helped make the Library more inviting and accessible to the students.

😊 Mrs Karis Khatchadourian for Coordinating the Canteen rosters and menu through the school office.

😊 Christine Apanian for her help and assistance in Years P-2 and for doing special tasks around the school.

😊 All the wonderful teachers who do a great job with the children both socially and academically. Thank you for the hard work. Enjoy your break!

HOUSE POINTS TERM 1

Uniform, Playground, Charity & Awards

SEVAN - 107 points
YEREVAN - 111 points

DATES TO REMEMBER
15/04 AGBU Foundation Anniversary
24/04 Armenian Genocide Commemoration
25/04 ANZAC Day - Public Holiday
26/04 School Development Day (Pupil Free)
27/04 First Day Term 2 - Students Return
04/05 Interschool Debating Comp. - Workshop
10/05 NAP - Language & Writing Assessments
11/05 NAP - Reading Assessment
12/05 NAP - Numeracy Assessment
17/05 ICAS - Digital Technologies Test Years 3-6
18/05 Interschool Debating Comp. # 1
30/10 Armenian Cultural Day
11/12 Christmas Concert and Graduation

ARMENIAN STUDENT FUND

WEEDLY REPORT: Term 1 Week 11

8 Points – SEVAN ............... $13.65
6 Points – YEREVAN ............... $9.15
TOTAL: ................... $22.80
ACCUMULATED: .............. $170.75

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

Remember...
Please remember to check, comment, sign & return the Student Portfolios next Term.
INTERSchool DeBATING COMPETITION: Years 5 - 6

The Forest District Debating Competition for Years 5 and 6 will get under way next term. There will be a Debating Workshop to teach debating skills and formats to all students of the four* schools on Wednesday, 4th May. This will be held at the Sydney Japanese School.

* Hamazkaine A&S Galstaun College will not be taking part in the competition this year.

Debating rounds will commence soon after with our first debate on Wednesday, 18th May at our school. The competition will comprise of three rounds of debates (with no Byes), with the final being held on Wednesday, 5th August 2016.

Below is a schedule of debating venues and we ask parents to sign-off on all venues to grant permission for your child to attend. Travel to and from venues will be private cars of school staff and parent volunteers, if required.

Our students will be accompanied to debating sessions by Mr Manoug Demirjian.

This year the competition is being coordinated by Mr Demirjian and Mrs Dernee.

Please return the signed form to school by Monday, 2nd May.

FOREST DISTRICT INTERSCHOOL DEBATING COMPETITION - Years 5 - 6

I grant permission for my child/ren to attend the debates as outlined below. I understand s/he will travel to and from school by private cars of school staff and parent volunteers, if required. The debaters will be accompanied by Mr Manoug Demirjian.

**Please Note:**
The school may require parent volunteer/s to help with the transportation.

If you are available and can assist, please let us know by selecting the appropriate box.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DEBATE</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>VENUE</th>
<th>TRAVEL</th>
<th>PARENT’S SIGNATURE</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Workshop</td>
<td>Wednesday 4th May</td>
<td>Sydney Japanese School</td>
<td>Private cars of staff &amp; parents</td>
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<tr>
<td># 1</td>
<td>Wednesday 18th May</td>
<td>AGBU Alexander Primary School</td>
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<tr>
<td># 2</td>
<td>Wednesday 8th June</td>
<td>John Colet School</td>
<td>Private cars of staff &amp; parents</td>
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<tr>
<td># 3</td>
<td>Wednesday 22th June</td>
<td>Sydney Japanese School</td>
<td>Private cars of staff &amp; parents</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final &amp; Party</td>
<td>Wednesday 5th August</td>
<td>German International School</td>
<td>Private cars of staff &amp; parents</td>
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</tbody>
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SCHOOL CHOCOLATE DRIVE - THANK YOU!
Thank you to the families who so promptly sent in money and also to those who were able to sell another box and help the school reach its target. All money should be received at the office by now. If you have not yet sent in your payment, please do so when the school resumes next term.

We are happy to announce that the funds from this activity will be put towards new resources to benefit the school and all of our students. Once again Thank You for everyone who took part in this activity. Hope we can do it again another time!

PRIZES: The P&C will provided the following Lucky-Dip Prizes: 2 x Lunch Special Vouchers.

Winners: Peter Tomassian and Elizabeth Ananyan

CONGRATULATIONS!
Mrs Maggie Betchakjian

On behalf of the Alexander School community we like to congratulate Mrs Maggie Betchakjian for attaining ‘First Prize’ and receiving a ‘Standard of Excellence’ in her craft work and display at this year’s Royal Easter Show.

Mrs Betchakjian is well known to our community for her intricate craft work. Her latest needlework is not only a magnificent display of craftsmanship, but a true masterpiece and a great work of art. We congratulate her and wish her all the best to continue producing what she loves doing best.
Showcase
Armenian & European Favourites

AGBU Agoump
2 Yeo Street, Neutral Bay

Saturday, April 16
7pm

Tickets $35

For tickets please contact us via:
email: Info@rhhsop.org.au
Kev: 0403 659 575
DISCOVER ARMENIA is a non-stop three-week tour designed specifically for high school students. The program begins in Yerevan before taking off to some of the country’s most famous sites. Trips to the ancient temple of Garni, the Madenataran, Lake Sevan and Mount Aragats number among the favorites.

Participants are committed to leaving the country stronger than they found it, through various community service projects.

**PROGRAM DATES:** August 5 - August 22, 2016  
**AGES:** 15-18  
**TUITION:** 1,000 euros (includes the accommodation and all the activities organized during the program)  
**APPLICATION DEADLINE:** May 1, 2016

www.discoverarmenia.org

http://www.facebook.com/AlexanderSchool
FUNDRAISING DINNER FOR:

SYRIAN ARMENIANS

AGBU AGOUMP
2 YEO STREET, NEUTRAL BAY
SATURDAY APRIL 9
7pM

For more information contact us on the following details:

AGBU Office - 9908 3911
Hovaness Kouyoumdjian - 0408 283 826
Arto Karagelinian - 0418 162 820
Mihran Lepejian - 0478 127 708

DONATION:

$50

#ICareICan
Commemoration of the 101st Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide

Distinguished Guest Speaker
PROFESSOR PETER STANLEY
MILITARY HISTORIAN, AUTHOR

Peter Stanley is a Professor at the University of NSW (Canberra). He is one of Australia’s most distinguished military social historians, and was formerly Principal Historian at the Australian War Memorial.

As an award-winning author, he has published over 30 books. Most recently, he co-authored ‘Armenia, Australia and the Great War’ - the first book covering Australia’s humanitarian response to the Armenian Genocide.

The Willoughby Concourse, Concert Hall
Victoria Avenue, Chatswood NSW
Sunday, 24th of April 2016, 7:00PM

Under the Auspices of
His Grace Bishop Haigazoun Najarian

The Armenian Apostolic Church, The Armenian Catholic Church, The Armenian Evangelical Church

Organised by The Armenian Genocide Commemorative Committee

Member Organisations
Social Democrat Hunchakian Party, Armenian Revolutionary Federation, Armenian Democratic Liberal Party, Hamazkaine, Tekeyan, Homenetmen, Armenian Relief Society, Dikrouni, Armenian Youth Federation, Nor Serouni