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 first session of the evening, 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. Following a short break, the second session was held in the school hall where 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 web site 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, 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.

The parents were also updated about the school’s web site and social media. They were informed that the website includes a new ‘Library’ section and a link that allows student online access. In addition to the current access to the Library’s Oliver management system via the school intranet, students and parents are able to login from home to check and search the library catalogue and their account.

Following a number of important reminders and a general discussion about the Volunteer Scheme and proposed activities or excursions, the parents were also encouraged to support and join the P&C.

**TEACHING ASSIGNMENTS FOR 2016**

**Class Teachers:** Years 3-6 Mr Vicky Dernee | Years 1-2 Mrs Carmen Giugni | P-K Mr Manoug Demirjian and Mrs Seta Keoshgerian.

**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 Yereckin Hasmik Hambardzumyan. She joins the Armenian classroom every Thursday 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 Fridays 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 few days a week. 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 Mrs Margueritte Boyadjian. She will continue her travel on the Ryde bus providing supervision and support. She also assist with the running of the school canteen. Miss Christine Apanian is our volunteer classroom and office assistant.

11th February, 2016

MANOUG DEMIRJIAN
**DATES TO REMEMBER**

- 15/02 Volunteer Contribution Choices due
- 06/03 Working Bee
- 20/03 Palm Sunday Picnic & Concert
- 08/04 Last Day Term 1
- 30/10 Armenian Cultural Day
- 11/12 Christmas Concert and Graduation

You can 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.

**BOOK CLUB - ISSUE 1**

Order Forms/Money Due by Monday 15th February, 2016

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

**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.

**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**

**ARMENIAN STUDENT FUND**

**WEEKLY REPORT: Term 1 Week 3**

- 8 Points – **SEVAN** .......... $0.00
- 6 Points – **YEREVAN** .......... $0.00

**TOTAL** .......... $0.00

**ACCUMULATED:** .......... $0.00

**SPONSOR A CHILD IN ARMENIA THROUGH THE ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH**

www.armenianchurchsydney.org.au

**BIRTHDAYS OF THE WEEK**

- Happy Holiday Birthday to... Lillian
- Happy Birthday to... Sargis

**MEETING NOTICE**

**COUNCIL OF PARENTS & CITIZENS**

The first P & C meeting for the year will be held on

**Thursday 25th February**

**Venue:** Armenian Church - Hall 10 Macquarie Street, Chatswood

**Time:** 7.00pm

To Confirm Attendance - Contact:
Hasmik Hambardzumyan 0421 854 709
School office - 9486 3266
PC@alexander.nsw.edu.au

All parents are welcome!
ALEXANDER SCHOOL LIBRARY

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 P&C Coordinator: Hasmik Hambardzumyan 0421 854 709

The P&C Committee will have its first meeting on Thursday, 25 February, please check the newsletter for details.

Please fill in the ‘2016 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 2 and $100 in Term 3). 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, we 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, 15th 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.

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

Signed: ___________________________ Date: ____________________

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2016 VOLUNTEER CONTRIBUTION CHOICES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Family:</strong> _______________________</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ Working Bee March - 50 points per adult</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ Working Bee July - 50 points per adult</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ Working Bee October - 50 points per adult</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ Canteen Coordinator - 100 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ Canteen Volunteer - 20 points per day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ P &amp; C Office Bearers - 100 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ P &amp; C Assistant - 20 points per event</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ Library Coordinator - 100 points</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please check the boxes ✔️ for the tasks you choose.

**TOTAL:** ☐ I will earn 200 or more points.

* I will earn 200 or more points.

* If you are unable to commit to any of the above tasks, the contribution charge will be passed on as a donation to the school.*
Concert

2015 Concert & Graduation Evening

AGBU Alexander Primary School’s annual Presentation Evening & Graduation Concert took place on Sunday 13th December. The Gemjian Hall was filled to capacity with members of the school community, including guests, graduates and founding members.

The evening starting with the national and school anthems, and was followed with a welcome by School Captain Taniel Betchakjian. The initial part of the program included an array of bilingual Christmas songs and poetry recitals, which was concluded with a beautiful song called ‘My small boat’ (Im pokrig navag).

Mr Ari Zolru address the audience on behalf of the School Board, outlining the achievements and objectives of the school and by also congratulating the graduates. It was then time to reward the students with the presentation of awards and certificates. According to school tradition, graduates were invited to present the awards. This year the honour went to one of our very first 1995 graduates, Garine Varjabedian and a graduate from 1999, Sayat Elmasian. Joining in the presentation and awarding the ‘Alexander Medal’ was former AGBU Sydney Chapter and School Board Chairman Mr Zaven Tchetchenian.

Following the awards presentation, Matthew Zorlu was announced as the School Captain for 2016. During the Principal’s Address, Mr Manoug Demirjian reflected over the past year by thanking everyone for making the 25th Anniversary of the school a great success. He also invited former and current AGBU Chairmans and founding members, led by His Grace Bishop Haigazoun Najarian to take part in the official unveiling of the plaque dedicating the Principal’s Office to the memory of Mr Yervant Babayan. In his speech Mr Demirjian said: “During Alexander School’s 25th Anniversary Concert, I had the honour of making the announcement that the Principal’s Office will be dedicated to the memory of Mr Yervant Babayan. Mr Babayan, who passed away over a year ago, was a well known long time educator, prolific writer, public speaker and author of many books. He was also a good friend of the AGBU Sydney community, where he spent some time during his visits in the 1980s. His presence and significant contribution was instrumental in the establishment of Alexander school. Together with the support of the AGBU Sydney Chapter committee, he was able to bond a great friendship and earn the trust of our Benefactors Dr Alex and Mrs Isabelle Alexander... Together with many of our past and present parents, I too have had the privilege of being his student when he was the Principal of the Vahan Tekeyan School in Beirut, Lebanon. In fact, the Primate of the Armenian Apostolic Church of Australia & New Zealand, His Grace Bishop Haigazoun Najarian was also Babayan’s student. Mr Babayan has a noted and distinguished record in the preservation of the Armenian identity, particularly in the younger generation. There is no doubt that he has had a profound impact by instilling in the hearts of his students the everlasting love for the motherland, the Armenian people and the Armenian Church. It will be an honour for us to dedicate the Principal’s Office in his memory. I like to acknowledge the role of the AGBU Sydney Chapter headed
by Chairman Mr Toros Boghossian in establishing this memorial. The notion of dedicating the Principal’s Office to Mr Yervant Babayan was first proposed by the Chapter Committee. The School Board endorsed the proposal and made the announcement on Saturday, 17 October during our 25th Anniversary Concert.

During our initial communication with the family and children of Mr Babayan, we received the following note from his son, Nerses Babayan. “...With deep gratitude we received your invitation to be present and to participate in the celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the AGBU Alexander Primary School and the accompanying commemoration of my father’s contributions to its viability. Regretfully, time and distance will deprive me of the joy of attending these noteworthy functions. However, it is reassuring to know that the AGBU Primary School to which my father contributed and helped establish is continuing in a robust and strong manner. I commend and very much appreciate your initiative to acknowledge his efforts. It is not only heart warming but also bestows a type of immortality on my father’s life’s work and blessed memory. Of all the Diasporan Armenian communities that my father visited, Australia occupied a unique and special place in his heart and mind. In this regard, he was especially proud of one of his former students, your current Primate, His Grace Bishop Haigazoun Najarian. On this milestone in the life of the AGBU Alexander Primary School, I request that you kindly convey my warm regards to Mr Manoug Demirjian, its Principal, also a former student of my father. These two individuals I have mentioned are only two of father’s students who have gone on to take their luminous place in the Armenian community and to carry on his legacy for the betterment of future generations.”

The students of Years 3-6 concluded the first part of the concert by performing a vibrant Armenian dance that they had choreographed to the song ‘Tricolour’ (Yerakouyn).

During the second part of the concert the graduation ceremony took place. Teachers and students farewelled the 2015 graduates Taniel Betchakjian, Nina Kehyayan and Tzolare Giragosian, wishing them all the best in their future studies. The AGBU Chairman, Mr Toros Boghossian presented the graduation certificates. After the traditional ‘Alexander School Farewell Song’ was sung for the last time by the graduates, His Grace Bishop Haigazoun Najarian concluded the evening with his closing address and prayer.

The event once again highlighted the quality of bilingual education offered at this superior educational institution. It showcased the level of care, the development and fostering of talent to the realisation of each student’s potential. Taking into account the graduates and past students, there is no doubt that the advantage of a small school setting has offered them opportunities that otherwise would not have been possible.
Photo Gallery - 2015 Presentation Evening and Graduation Concert
TAMZARA KIDS!

COMING SOON

AGES 4 AND UP

CLASSES START FRIDAY MARCH 4

2 YEOMAN STREET, NEUTRAL BAY

5:30 PM