Dear Parents,

**USING TECHNOLOGY EFFECTIVELY**

Technology is everywhere we look, and it seems like everything is being enhanced and improved in its capabilities. Electronic, computer and communications technologies in particular are constantly expanding both in capabilities and applications. Not only has the range of technologies changed, but it has also widened access to knowledge to such an extent that students as well as others now have to accept the fact that they need to be lifelong learners. It has been said - ‘The illiterate of the 21st century will not be those who cannot read and write, but those who cannot learn, unlearn, and relearn’. It is also true to say that - ‘Teachers need to integrate technology seamlessly into the curriculum instead of viewing it as an add-on, an afterthought, or an event’. Encouraging students to learn how to learn is, in my opinion, the most important aspect of education.

At Alexander school, members of staff are constantly looking for ways to use technology innovatively and effectively. Undoubtedly, ever since the introduction of the Laptops and the Interactive Whiteboards (IWB) in all our classrooms, major changes have taken place in the way we teach or bring information and knowledge to our students. They have in fact become an integral part of our teaching and learning. These changes have been complemented by the fast internet access and the school network system, including the wireless environment. As a result, the world has been brought to the forefront of our classrooms, greatly benefiting the learning resources now available at our fingertips.

As I have stated in the past, gone are the days when we used computers at Alexander school to do ‘things differently’, the time has come for teachers to use the computer and other modern educational technology and do ‘different things’ in the classroom.

The employees of the future need to be able to think outside the box and do different things in order to have a competitive edge over their counterparts. For this reason it was important that few years ago we were able to embrace the idea of using **Google Apps for Education** to empower our students - the next generation of administrators, CEOs, and technocrats, to give them the knowledge base that will enable them to become masters of their fields. It is proclaimed that modern technology has the power to change the ‘content, pedagogy and effects’ of education on the future generation. Schools and educators have a vital role to play in this. Students enjoy and demonstrate the joy of learning when they become ‘co-constructors of knowledge’ rather than one expert telling them what they know. Students of the 21st Century should be critical thinkers rather than mere ‘empty barrels’ waiting to accept deposits from their teachers.

**Google Apps for Education** has helped us achieve this as a set of flexible, customizable tools that provides opportunities for students and teachers to work more effectively in a collaborative environment. This comprehensive, cost-effective solution which is entirely browser-based, has made it easier for students to work from any computer connected to the internet, without having to purchase expensive software to communicate or do their homework. This example of ‘Cloud’ computing has recently been extended and complemented in our school environment through another computing giant, **Microsoft**.

Since the start of term, all new computers have been installed with **Microsoft Office 365 for Education**. The cloud based version of the full MS Office package, with the latest and familiar tools to help students and educators better communicate, collaborate and achieve more. Together with the **Office apps for Education**, they help to create dynamic learning experiences in and outside of the classroom. This has been another great and exciting step forward in our ‘Year of Growth’.

**MANOUG DEMIRJIAN**

13th May, 2016
Healthy Breakfast @ School
Friday 20th May, 2016

Alexander school will ‘Host a Healthy Breakfast’ for all students to promote a healthy diet in conjunction with regular physical activity as part of the annual Walk Safely to School Day (WSTSD).

WSTSD is a community event promoting Road Safety, Health, Public Transport and the Environment. It is an opportunity for parents and carers of primary school aged children to promote safe pedestrian behaviour, the benefits of walking and the value of a healthy breakfast.

TERM 2 SCHOOL ACCOUNTS
School accounts are enclosed with today’s Newsletter. Payment of account is due by Tuesday, 31st May.

It is expected that all accounts will be finalised by this date. If paying by cheque or money order, please make sure that your payment is to: ‘AGBU Alexander Primary School’.

Payment are also accepted via direct bank deposit. Please refer to your invoice for school account details.

Sincere Condolences
To
Mr & Mrs Alan and Vicky Dernee & Family

Upon the passing of their Father, Father-in-Law and Grandfather

Mr John Dernee

who passed away on 11th May 2016.

From the School Board, Parents, Staff and Students of AGBU Alexander Primary School.

School Banking
Banking Day: Thursday

TEACHERS’ AWARD
TERM 2 – WEEK 3
Year 2: Lara
    Sara
    Stephen
Year 1: Berj
Kindergarten: Peter
Preparatory: Kris

HOUSE POINTS TERM 2
Uniform, Playground, Charity & Awards

Sevan - 27 points
Yerevan - 29 points

DATES TO REMEMBER
17/05 ICAS - Digital Technologies Test Years 3-6
18/05 Interschool Debating Comp. # 1
20/05 Healthy Breakfast @ School - $2 Donation
25/05 Musica Viva Concert @Kinma - Slips Due
30/05 Musica Viva Concert @Kinma
31/05 ICAS - Science Test Years 2-6
05/06 Family Day Picnic
07/06 School Photos - Winter Uniform
08/06 Interschool Debating Comp. # 2
13/06 Queen’s Birthday - Public Holiday
22/06 Interschool Debating Comp. # 3
13/11 Armenian Cultural Day - NEW DATE!
11/12 Christmas Concert and Graduation

ARMENIAN STUDENT FUND

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ARMENIAN STUDENT FUND

Weekly Report: Term 2 Week 3

8 Points – Sevan .......... $10.60
6 Points – Yerevan .......... $10.45
Total: ............ $21.05
Accumulated: ........... $227.05

Sponsor a Child in Armenia through the Armenian Apostolic Church
www.armenianchurchsydney.org.au
Debating News...

Debating Workshop

Last Wednesday, students in Years 5 & 6 travelled to the Sydney Japanese School to participate in a debating workshop to kick off the 20th year of the Forest District Interschool Debating Competition. In 2016, AGBU Alexander Primary School students will compete against Year 6 students from The German International School, Sydney Japanese School and John Colet School for the Interschool Debating Trophy. Unfortunately, Hamazkaine A&S Galstaun College has decided not to take part in the competition this year.

Students began the workshop moving out of their comfort zone, meeting and greeting students that they didn’t know. Continuing to be tested, the students were asked how they might define topics, to think of reasons for and against different topics, and give rebuttals to the arguments of the opposing team.

Students came away from the workshop with a sense of excitement after sizing up the competition, ready for their first debate.

The first round of debates will take place on Wednesday, 18th May at Alexander School. The John Colet and Alexander schools will debate the topic ‘Laptops and tablets should be banned from the main primary classroom’, while the German and Japanese schools will face the topic ‘Children should go without technology for two days a week’. Good luck to all the debaters!

Coming up!

Family Day Picnic - Sunday, 5 June 2016

Venue: Lane Cove River Park... More information coming soon.
Community Announcement

A.C.Y.A SYDNEY

PRESENTS

LET’S TALK

YOUTH, FAITH AND THE CHURCH

THURSDAY
19 MAY

AN OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK DIRECTLY TO SERPAZAN HAYR IN AN INFORMAL SETTING

FROM 6:00PM
10 MACQUARIE STREET, CHATSWOOD NSW 2067

FREE

PIZZA & DRINKS
WILL BE PROVIDED ON THE NIGHT

Community Announcement
MUSICA VIVA: “Tigramuna” – 30th May, 2016
Alexander school has been invited to join a special performance called ‘Tigramuna at the Kinma School on Monday 30th May at 1.30pm.

TIGRAMUNA - SAILING THE SOUND OF SOUTH AMERICA

ARIA-nominated ensemble ‘Tigramuna’ brings a multicultural musical feast to your school. This stunning performance of contemporary South American urban music explores haunting Latin American indigenous rhythms and instruments combined with the harmonies of Western art music and jazz. This stirring combo of Andean flutes, jazz and South American guitars, bass, flutes, Saxophones and Cuban and South American percussion will evoke the sounds of Latin America and the Caribbean, and awaken your students to a whole new world of music.

Students will be accompanied by their classroom teacher and will be transported in teacher and volunteer parent cars to the venue. If parents are able to help with transport, please contact the school office.

The cost is $8.00 per child.

Please fill in the permission slip below and return with your payment to the school office by Wednesday 25th May.

I grant permission for my child/ren to attend the Musica Viva - ‘Tigramuna’ performance at the Kinma School on Monday 30th May. I understand he/she will travel from school by private cars of teachers and volunteers being accompanied and supervised by class teachers.

NAME OF STUDENT/S: _____________________________________________  DATE:  _________________

PARENT’S SIGNATURE: __________________________  MONEY ENCLOSED: $_______  ($8.00 per child)

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2016 ARMENIAN GENOCIDE COMMEMORATIVE LECTURE
TUESDAY, 17TH MAY 2016 | NSW PARLIAMENT HOUSE

WREATH LAYING CEREMONY
PEACE GARDEN
6:00 PM
Wreath laying ceremony at the ‘Katchkar’ in the Peace Garden, Level 9 Parliament House followed by prayer service.

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE COMMEMORATIVE LECTURE
PARLIAMENT HOUSE THEATRETTE | 6:30 PM

Distinguished Guest Speakers

Vicken Babkenian
Co-Authors, Armenia, Australia & The Great War

Professor Peter Stanley

A short lecture will be followed by a Panel Discussion featuring the Co-Authors, and NSW Treasurer, the Hon. Gladys Berejiklian MP, officially launching their book.

TRANSPORT
One bus will leave from Armenian Cultural Centre (259 Penshurst Street Willoughby), and another bus from Ararat Scout Hall (Santa Rosa Park, Quarry Road Ryde) at 5pm. Both buses will return passengers to their pick-up locations at the conclusion of the event.