



☎ 9486 3266

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📠 9486 3204

Dear Parents,

**ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT IN N.S.W. INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS**

A recent analysis has found students in NSW Independent schools participating in the OECD's Program of International Student Assessment (PISA) achieve results that rank them among the best-performing school systems in the world. Released by the *AISNSW Institute*, the analysis - 'Academic Achievement in NSW Independent Schools' - undertaken by Dr Gary Marks of the Australian Catholic University, shows that NSW Independent school students scored significantly higher than the national and state average in the 2012 PISA (the latest available) assessments in mathematical literacy.

Chair of the *AISNSW Institute*, Bill Daniels, said the analysis demonstrates that a significant part of the Australian schooling system is getting things right in terms of helping students to achieve their best, and also counters widely-held perceptions that the decline in the performance of Australian students in international assessments over the past ten years is uniformly reflected across all school jurisdictions.

The mean scores from the 2012 PISA assessments saw the NSW Independent schools sector ranked competitively with the top Asian countries/jurisdictions and Finland, all of which are frequently cited as benchmarks in international student assessments.



I believe more importantly, the analysis also showed that socioeconomic status and family background typically explained only a small part of the variation in student achievement, contrary to common perceptions that these were very strongly linked. The fact that two-thirds of Independent schools in NSW have a socioeconomic score in the lower half of the SES scale, shows that it is parents' education levels and the value they place on education, along with school and teacher quality are the strongest defining factors.

I like to share some of the main quotes that have appeared in the summary report of this research.

Independent school students benefit from the capability of their teachers and a school climate that values academic achievement, provides personal support, a safe ordered environment and a sense of belonging in the community.

High performance at school is linked above all with quality teaching and leadership.

Setting high standards and ambitious learning outcomes are internationally recognised hallmarks of high performing schools and education systems.

**FEDERAL ELECTION & SCHOOL FUNDING**

With the Federal Election coming up, it is incumbent on each of us as voting citizens to be fully informed of the various parties education policies. Education funding is set to be one of the critical discriminating elements in the election campaign. Did you know, for example, that while the federal government heavily supports school education, nearly a third of Independent school education costs are met by parents? In addition to this, each child in an Independent school receives, on average, around \$4000 less funding than a child in a government school. That is to say, it saves the Australian taxpayer a huge amount of money to have strong and reliable Independent schools. This is a simple fact that is often forgotten in the rhetoric that is spun about school education. There is much more to be said and argued about the value of schools such as ours and the issue of school choice, but these and other education debates are matters which I leave to you to develop your own thinking through informed reflection.



With Ottoman authorities suspicious of all political organizations, AGBU founders wisely drafted the organization's by-laws to state "[it] would not engage in politics, but would pursue strictly humanitarian goals." This declaration was necessary to build the network needed to serve Armenians in devastated areas.

Their foresight paid off when on March 3, 1910, the Ottoman government approved its by-laws, allowing AGBU to legally start chapters and projects throughout the Empire.

Միակի ունենալով որ Օսմանեան վերին մարմինները կասկածով կը վերաբերէին քաղաքական կազմակերպութիւններուն, Հ.Բ.Ը.Մ.ի կիմառիքները խնայտօտ կերպով բաժանակէցի Միութեան ծրարը կանոնադիր, շեշտելով որ «[ան] քաղաքականութեամբ սխալ չգրադր, այլ մի միայն մարդասիրական նպատակներ սխալ ինտուպերը»։ Այս յայտարարութիւնը կարեւոր էր որպէսզի կարելի ըլլար ստեղծել աշխատանք շրջաններու հարցեան օգնելու համար անհրաժեշտ կազմակերպական ցանցը։

Անոց ինտուպութիւնը վարկաւորուեցաւ էր 3 Մարտ 1910-ին, Օսմանեան Կայսրութիւնը վաւերացուց ծրարը կանոնադիր, ստորագրելով որ Հ.Բ.Ը.Մ.ը մասնագիտիչ և ծրարիչներ ստեղծել կայսրութեան տարածքի։

1909-1911

WWW.AGBU.ORG

1909-1911

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## HOUSE POINTS TERM 2

*Uniform, Playground, Charity & Awards*



**SEVAN** - 82 points



**YEREVAN** - 81 points

## DONATIONS TO ALEXANDER SCHOOL

*In Support of the School's Ipad Program*

Mr & Mrs Ara and Annette Galstian \$305

AGBU Alexander Primary School welcomes your donation and those of our community members. Donations can also be made in lieu of gift-giving occasions or for memorials. All donations to the School Building Fund are tax deductible.

## TEACHERS' AWARD

TERM 2 – WEEK 7

Year 6: Matthew

Samuel

Year 5: Kevork

Lara

Year 3: Zabel

Asbed

Year 2: Sara

Elizabeth

Lara

Stephen



- Remember -  
5 Teachers' Award = 1 Honour Award

## DATES TO REMEMBER

- 13/06 Queen's Birthday - Public Holiday
- 14/06 ICAS - Writing Test Years 3-6
- 15/06 ICAS - Spelling Test Years 3-6  
'Friendship Day' @ Kinma School
- 22/06 Interschool Debating Comp. # 3
- 24/06 School Photos - Winter Uniform  
Student Half Yearly Reports - Sent Out
- 01/07 Last Day Term 2 - Mufti Day
- 18/07 School Development Day (Pupil Free)
- 19/07 First Day Term 3 - Students Return
- 27/07 Interschool Debating Comp. # Final
- 13/11 Armenian Cultural Day
- 11/12 Christmas Concert and Graduation

## ARMENIAN STUDENT FUND

### WEEKLY REPORT: Term 2 Week 7

8 Points – <b>SEVAN</b>	.....	\$12.10
6 Points – <b>YEREVAN</b>	.....	\$9.45
<b>TOTAL:</b>	.....	<b>\$21.55</b>
<b>ACCUMULATED:</b>	.....	<b>\$310.50</b>

SPONSOR A CHILD IN ARMENIA THROUGH THE  
ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH  
[www.armenianchurchsydney.org.au](http://www.armenianchurchsydney.org.au)

## Debating News...

### 2 Debates ~ 1 Loss & 1 Win

The Forest District Interschool Debating Competition's first round of debates took place on Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> May at Alexander school. In our first debate we opposed the John Colet School. The topic was 'Laptops and tablets should be banned from the main primary classroom', and we were on the negative team. The negative team consisted of Lilit as first speaker, Talia as second speaker, Matthew as third speaker and Kevorak was fourth speaker. Samuel took care of the time keeping and Lara was the chairperson.

Our team was able to use strong arguments and well thought out rebuts, as to why laptops should not be banned from the primary classrooms. They spoke with confidence and did their best to convince the adjudicators. Unfortunately they were unsuccessful against a formidable team and came out second best.



On Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> June, the John Colet School hosted the second round of debates. The topic was 'Science is more important than Art'. We were on the affirmative and our opponents were the German school as the negative. Our team consisted of Christopher as first speaker, Matthew as second speaker, Talia as third and Samuel was fourth speakers.

Christopher started his case by defining the topic and putting forward a strong case line that "Science is a need, were as Art is a want". He used strong arguments and outlined numerous examples over the use of science in our everyday lives and how the world will be a different place for us without science.

Second speaker Matthew was there and ready to rebut many of the points that the affirmative team put forward. He went on to inform us about the benefits of science and how it 'brings art to life'. He argued that in order to enjoy art, one needs to have science first. An artist is unable to create a painting without paint or a brush, both products of science.

Talia, our third speaker came out strong with a number of rebuts on the points the opposition had raised and summed up her team's case. Samuel was our fourth speaker. His role was to help with any rebuts if needed and to thank the adjudicators for rewarding us the win! He also thanked the German school for a challenging debate and the John Colet school for hosting the event.

We like to take this opportunity and congratulate all the students for their effort so far. It is great team work, as every member of class contributes to the process. Special thank you to our Library Coordinator, Mrs Armine Sevazlian for her guidance and support of the students in developing their case.

Our next debate is on Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> June, against the Japanese school. Good luck debaters!

## THANK YOU...

On behalf of Alexander School we like to say a big Thank You to:

**Mr Micheal Taylor & Mrs Vicky Dernee**

for helping us introduce three new Apple iPads into the classrooms.

We also like to acknowledge the support and service of:

**Mr & Mrs Ara and Annette Galstian**

for making this happen.

*Thank You for supporting AGBU Alexander Primary School.*



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His Grace Bishop Haigazoun Najarian  
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of Australia and New Zealand  
invites you to a special presentation from  
the Hon. Greg Donnelly MLC

*Marriage: Changing the Definition and its  
Consequences*



*The Hon. Greg Donnelly MLC is a member of the NSW  
Legislative Council. He sits on the Joint House  
Committee on Children and Young People and is Deputy  
Chair of the Standing Committee on Social Issues. He is  
also Deputy Opposition Whip.*

*Greg's policy areas of interest include family and life  
issues, children and young people, media, employment  
and workplace relations, human rights, biotechnology,  
palliative care and education.*

DATE: Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> June 2016

TIME: 7:00pm

VENUE: Armenian Apostolic Church of Holy Resurrection

ADDRESS: 10 Macquarie Street, Chatswood



For further information please contact Nishan Basmajian on  
[nishanbasmajian@gmail.com](mailto:nishanbasmajian@gmail.com), (02) 9419 8056 or 0413 364 296

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