Dear Parents,

**BILINGUAL EDUCATION**

Many physiological studies have shown that the brains of bilingual people operate differently to single language speakers, and in fact that learning a second language is a great asset to the cognitive process. Experts say, that children who learn a second language beginning in early childhood can benefit from increased critical thinking skills, memory and flexibility of the mind.

University of Queensland bilingual education expert Dr Simone Smala says other benefits of bilingualism include a slower mental decline, a better appreciation of other cultures and increased job prospects. However, despite the benefits, the proportion of students in Australia studying a second language is low compared with other countries. While the government has tried to push and encourage the learning of languages up to the senior years of high school, unfortunately speaking a second language is a skill that isn’t valued by the majority of Australians.

We do know that children who learn languages early have a lot of advantages. For example, there’s an interdependent relationship with English literacy development for children who learn languages early. There is also a greater meta-linguistic awareness, which basically just means the engagement with a second language makes even very young children a lot more aware of language, of its different roles, the structure of sentences and so on.

We also find that there is an increased mental processing capacity through the engagement with a second language, which leads to a better memory and better control over information processing. For example, children become better at ignoring not so important facts and focusing on the important things.

In general, there are many advantages to being bilingual. One interesting benefit, based on many research studies, is that knowing a second language can slow down mental decline later in life. We can also see long term benefits in the way that it’s easier to learn more languages if you have learned a second one early in life. Knowing a second language also instils a general appreciation of other cultures and better intercultural understanding.

What we are starting to see now is that most industrialised nations are training their citizens well in English, so their citizens become fully bilingual. Monolingual English speakers might soon be the only monolingual speakers in the world and might be competing for jobs with people who can speak English as a second language well, but also have another language.

**FEDERAL ELECTION UPDATE**

The Association of Independent Schools (AIS) has updated its Election 2016 webpage to provide details of the school education policies of each of the major political parties as we head into the 2nd July 2016 Federal Election. The page provides links to each major policy announcement, a comparison of the respective policies, useful information documents and links to other relevant websites. Information is also provided to assist schools and their supporters who may wish to engage with local members of parliament on matters affecting independent schools.

The page can be accessed via the Election 2016 button on the AIS home page at www.aisnsw.edu.au

Manoug Demirjian

17th June, 2016
DATES TO REMEMBER
22/06 Interschool Debating Comp. # 3
School Photos (CHANGE OF DATE)
24/06 Student Half Yearly Reports - Sent Out
01/07 Last Day Term 2 - Mufti Day
18/07 School Development Day (Pupil Free)
Emergency Care & CPR Staff Training
19/07 First Day Term 3 - Students Return
27/07 Interschool Debating Comp. # Final
02/08 ICAS - English Test (Years 2-6)
16/08 ICAS - Mathematics Test (Years 2-6)
22/08 Start of Book Week and Book Fair
13/11 Armenian Cultural Day
11/12 Christmas Concert and Graduation

SCHOOL PHOTOS
School photos are being taken on Wednesday 22nd June (please note the change of date). Students are expected to wear their full WINTER UNIFORM on this day. Please make sure you return your order with the special envelopes that have been provided. We would like to point out that the school is not associated with your order and you need to check and follow all instructions on the form and enclose the correct amount.

IMPORTANT: Every student must return their envelope - Even if not purchasing photos.

P&C - CANTEEN SURVEY
A ‘Canteen Survey’ has been organised by the P&C and distributed today with the Newsletter. We request all our families to take few minutes in completing the form and returning it back to the office by Wednesday next week. This will help better plan the canteen roster and menu for the following term.
We also like to thank and welcome Mrs Sarah Dixon and Mrs Annette Galstian for volunteering to the role of Canteen Coordinators. We sincerely thank Mrs Karis Khatchadourian for her years of service in this position.

HOUSE POINTS TERM 2
Uniform, Playground, Charity & Awards

SEVAN - 99 points
YEREVAN - 93 points

TEACHERS’ AWARD
TERM 2 – WEEK 8
Year 5: Lilit
Year 2: Harry
Isabella
Year 1: Berj
Sargis

ARMENIAN STUDENT FUND
WEEKLY REPORT: Term 2 Week 8
8 Points – YEREVAN ……….. $13.30
6 Points – SEVAN ……….. $10.70
TOTAL: ……….. $24.00
ACCUMULATED: ……….. $334.50

SPONSOR A CHILD IN ARMENIA THROUGH THE ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH
www.armenianchurchsydney.org.au
News from the Classroom...

Friendship Day @ Kinma School

On Wednesday 15th of June, Year 6 went on a trip to the Kinma School for ‘Friendship Day’.

Our secretary, Mrs Boyadjian, took us to the Kinma School. There were a lot of students from different schools there. Some of the teachers and students introduced themselves and showed us around the school. They also told us where to sign in and put our bags.

After signing in they told us that we had to write our name on a piece of paper then fold it up and put it in a bowl. Then we put our bags in the hall and started to play.

A while later they called us into the hall. In the hall there were speeches and we were told why we were at their school and how ‘Friendship Day’ started.

After their speeches they told us to get into a circle. This is when they got the bowl out with all our names folded in it. Everybody had to pick out a name, but if it was someone from your school or someone you knew then you had to put it back and pick out a different one.

After everybody picked out a name and a name tag, each person had to decorate the name tag for the person they chose from the hat. After everybody had decorated the name tag for somebody else, we had to go and find that person, meeting new friends along the way.

Then it was question time. This was when some students from the Kinma School asked each of the schools some questions.

After all of the questions were asked it was time for morning tea. For morning tea we had veggies with dip, fruit and sweets. It was very yummy!!! We then played for about 10 minutes.

When morning tea ended, it was time for a bushwalk. On the bushwalk we went past the stream. On the bushwalk there was clay on the ground and we got to hold it and mould it. There was an Aboriginal rock which was shaped like a boat, and this rock was used as a Birthing place by the Aboriginal people. At the end of the bushwalk they gave us a small box to put our clay in.

After we washed our hands and put our boxes full of clay near our bags, then it was time for lunch. For lunch we had spaghetti Bolognese. It was really yummy too!!! When we finished our food we were able to play. We played for a long time.

During lunch some of the students helped a teacher get the wool and clipboards, so anyone who wanted to, could make friendship bracelets. There were a couple of students who taught us how to make two different types of friendship bracelets. We made the friendship bracelets for about half an hour.

When it was time to go, everyone got their bags and clay creations. We waited at the basketball court to be picked up.

When we got to school we told our class what we did there and we also taught them how to make two different types of friendship bracelets.

So that is the end of our trip to the Kinma school.

By Talia
Letters to Armenian Soldiers

As you all know, the Armenian nation experienced tense and very difficult times following the recent largescale offensive by Azerbaijani forces against the Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh (Artsakh), which resulted in the greatest number of casualties since the ceasefire was first declared in the region in 1994.

Following a request from Armenia’s Ministry of Diaspora, the students of Years 5 and 6 have been writing letters to the young Armenian soldiers that are protecting the national borders. We like to share a sample of the letters and drawings done by the students during their Armenian lessons, that share their support and solidarity for these heroes. It is important to note that the single and most important wish that has been stated in all the letters is peace and God’s protection of the Armenian homeland.
Panda 500: 500 elements have been generated.

In a university setting, 500 students are often involved in various projects. Unfortunately, the exact details of these projects are not provided in this document. It is clear that the university has a significant number of students engaged in diverse activities. Further details are needed to understand the specific contributions and outputs of these students.

Australia: 500 elements have been generated.

In the context of the Australian diaspora, 500 individuals are typically involved in various capacities, such as education, business, and philanthropy. The document highlights the significance of this group in the broader community and emphasizes the need for continued engagement and support.
Armenian General Benevolent Union
Sydney Chapter

2 Yeo Street, Neutral Bay NSW 2089
Postal address: PO Box 778, Willoughby NSW 2068

Phone: Office - 9908 3911  Mob - 0418 288 731
Email - office@agbu.org.au

Office hours: Monday - Friday between 10am - 6pm

For any enquiries, information, assistance, correspondence, please contact:
Mr Sarkis Manoukian
AGBU Executive Director