Dear Parents,

21st CENTURY EDUCATION

There are many views about what education is and is not, what it should be and should not be. It is stated that the “purpose of education is not to fill the minds of students with facts… it is to teach them to think.”

For others, “education means learning to think for yourself, learning to make and repair friendships, learning to see other people’s points of view, learning not to be frightened of uncertainty or difficulty, learning how to live in society, learning how to be a good citizen, learning how to be self-reliant.”

Therefore, education needs to prepare children for the real world. Students need to learn to problem solve and show initiative. They need to be able to work as a team and develop great communication skills. Developing the ability to think creatively is very important as well as having the curiosity to explore areas of interest and excitement.

The way that students learn is also changing rapidly and it is quite different from the education of even few years ago. Blackboards and chalk have been replaced with whiteboards and interactive technologies. The Google Apps for Education empower our students to connect with others not only in their classroom, but also with the much wider community. Video conferencing with students in Singapore or connecting with the Eurnekian sister school in Armenia are just some of the examples at Alexander school.

At the same time, the role of the teacher has changed dramatically. While they may no longer be seen as the ‘fountain of all knowledge,’ their role is as important as ever in teaching children how to process the massive amount of information now available to us. Developing these skills is a critical part of education.

Teachers are now very aware of the need to engage their students by ensuring they understand clearly the purpose and real life application of the skills being taught.

Teachers need to have the time to develop knowledge, skills and character, whilst also teaching students how to learn. In developing knowledge teachers must connect content to real-world experience.

21st century skills such as the 4 Cs – Creativity, Critical thinking, Communication and Collaboration are essential for absorbing knowledge and for work performance.

Children need to develop character, including behaviours, attitudes and values, to face an increasingly challenging world. For this reason, programs which develop traits such as adaptability, persistence, resilience, integrity, justice, empathy and ethics are increasingly important. Our Values Education program is important in reinforcing the development of character.

Teaching children how to learn, how to connect their learning in one discipline to another, developing curiosity and providing time for students to follow their own passions and interests are similarly important.

At Alexander school, together with the teaching staff and the school community, we need to continually evaluate what we do and how we do it, to ensure that we are providing the best possible educational opportunities for all children. This is our goal and commitment in our ‘Year of Growth’.

MANOUG DEMIRJIAN

9th September, 2016
Cancer Council recommends you protect yourself in 5 ways:

- **SLIP** on clothing that covers your arms and legs
- **SLAP** on a broad brimmed or legionnaires hat
- **SLOP** on 30+, broad-spectrum sunscreen
- **SEEK** shade
- **SLIDE** on wrap around sunglasses

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

- **Fruit & Veg Month**
  - 19/09 Alexander Rest Home Visit - Slips Due
  - 20/09 Cross Country Run
  - 21/09 Armenian Independence Day
  - 23/09 Last Day Term 3
  - 03/10 Labour Day - Public Holiday
- **Year 5&6 Uniform, Playground, Charity & Awards**
  - **Sevan** - 111 points
  - **Yerevan** - 109 points

**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 MONDAY**

**HOUSE POINTS TERM 3**

**Uniform, Playground, Charity & Awards**

- **Sevan** - 111 points
- **Yerevan** - 109 points

**EXTRA PHOTO ORDER**

**SCHOOL PHOTO**

If you are interested in ordering a whole school photo, then please contact the school office on 9486 3266 and request the special order form and payment envelope from ‘Academy Photography’. Alternatively, complete the order form when you have viewed the sample copy near the office.

**ARMENIAN STUDENT FUND**

**WEEKLY REPORT: Term 3 Week 8**

- **8 Points** – **Yerevan** .................. $0.00
- **6 Points** – **Sevan** .................. $0.00

**Total:** .......................... **$00.00**

**Accumulated:** .......................... **$001.05**

Sponsor a child in Armenia through the Armenian Apostolic Church

**www.armenianchurchsydney.org.au**

**2016 HONOUR AWARD LIST**

**Congratulations to**

- **Sara**
Sports News

International Sports Day

On Wednesday (31/8/16) our students joined students from the German International School, the Italian Bilingual School, Galstaun College and Sydney Japanese International School for a fun packed ‘International Sports Day’. Sydney Japanese International School hosted a fantastic day of varied and exciting activities.

The day started with all the students joining together and competing as coloured teams, not school groups. This enabled the students to meet and make new friends. After an invigorating warm up, the students participated in the 100m sprints. All students then had the opportunity to partake in the long jump. After that all the students showed their strength in the whole team event of the tug of war. The teams were able to compete in Tamaire, a traditional Japanese game where balls are thrown into high baskets on poles. Many students then chose to involve themselves in the taxing 800m race.

After stopping for lunch all students did the Ghenghis Khan dance. Next it was time for the Big Ball race. The race winners were then acknowledged in a certificate presentation. All the students would agree that it was a stimulating day for all involved.

http://www.facebook.com/AlexanderSchool
ALEXANDER REST HOME VISIT - ARMENIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY 21st September
On Wednesday, 21st September 2016, Year 5/6 students will visit the Alexander Rest Home at Dee Why and give a small performance on the 25th Anniversary of Armenian’s Independence. The students’ visit always brings such cheer to the faces of the elderly and no doubt, this special occasion will do the same.

The students are expected to leave the school at around 10:00am. They will be transported by private cars and will be accompanied by school staff.

The school requires a parent volunteer to help with the transportation. If you are available and can assist, please let us know by selecting the appropriate box below.

Please return permission slips by Monday, 19th September.

I grant permission for my child/ren to attend the Alexander Rest Home at Dee Why on Wednesday, 21st September on the occasion of Armenian Independence Day. I understand he/she will travel to and from school by private cars of school staff and a parent volunteer and will be accompanied by classroom teachers.

NAME OF STUDENT/S: ____________________________________________

PARENT’S SIGNATURE: ______________________________ DATE: ___________

I am able to assist with transportation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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**SCHOOL SWIMMING PROGRAM - Term 4**

The School Sports Program for Term 4 will be swimming lessons for 8 weeks, commencing Week 2 for all students. The School Swimming Program will once again be conducted at Terrey Hills Swim School, offering students a chance to improve their swimming skills. The program is run during school hours by accredited swimming coaches catering for all levels of swimming ability from learn to swim to advanced swimmers. Life saving skills are also taught as part of the swimming lessons.

Please complete the information form (Required by the Swim School) and the permission slip below. Return to the School Office by *Friday, 16th September.* More information next week.

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**SCHOOL SWIMMING PROGRAM - TERM 4**

Please complete the information form below for *each student* in your family and return to the School Office.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STUDENT 1</th>
<th>STUDENT 2 (if applicable)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>NAME:</strong></td>
<td><strong>NAME:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>AGE:</strong></td>
<td><strong>AGE:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CLASS:</strong></td>
<td><strong>CLASS:</strong></td>
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</tbody>
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**Please circle the box that best describes your child’s swimming ability.**

- **1** My child is a non-swimmer i.e. cannot glide with face in water.
- **2** My child can swim but needs stroke correction.
- **3** My child can swim 25 metres of each stroke competently.
- **4** My child does lessons at Terrey Hills Swim School.

**Additional information:-**

* Please circle the box that best describes your child’s health.

- **A** Is on medication ____________________________
- **B** Has a medical condition ____________________
- **C** My child has special needs & has a Carer*
  * Please note the Carer must be willing to assist in the water.

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I grant permission for my child/ren to participate in the School Swimming Program to be held at Terrey Hills Swim School for 8 weeks commencing *Friday, 21st October.* I understand students will travel to and from school by private bus services under the supervision of class teachers. Swimming lessons will be conducted by accredited swimming coaches from the swimming facility.

**PARENT’S SIGNATURE:** ____________________________  **DATE:** ____________________________
Photo Gallery

Fathers’ Day Picnic

http://www.facebook.com/AlexanderSchool

Visit us on Facebook