Dear Parents,

**IN MEMORIAM - ROUSANNE KESHISHIAN**

Today, it is with deep sorrow that we mourn the loss of a former student and graduate Rousanne Keshishian. Her funeral service was held this afternoon at the Armenian Apostolic Church of Holy Resurrection before she was laid to rest in peace, following a prolonged period of illness.

Rousanne Keshishian attended Alexander school between the start of 1993 to the end of 1994, becoming our first graduate. She was also awarded the Alexander Medal in 1994.

On behalf of the School Board, teachers, parents and students we pass on our condolences to her parents Mr & Mrs Sarkis and Ophelia Keshishian, her younger sister Lilit (a graduate of Alexander school) and pray for her soul. May she rest in peace.

**I.C.A.S. ENGLISH RESULTS**

We recently received the English results for the UNSW International Competition & Assessment for Schools (ICAS). Congratulations to Lilit for being awarded with a **Distinction** and a placing in the top 8%. Congratulations also go to Matthew, Sara and Harry Khatchadourian for gaining a **Credit** award. Also well done to Kevork for receiving a **Merit** award.

The English test proved to be a very difficult and challenging as it examined the students’ knowledge in literary and factual reading, textual devices, syntax and vocabulary. It involved a great amount of reading which relied on the students possessing a wide vocabulary.

The test and results will be returned with this newsletter. Please take time to review the questions and answers with your child/ren as the test is full of interesting stories and diverse vocabulary. If you have any queries about your child’s result, please do not hesitate to contact their class teacher.

**FRUIT & VEG MONTH**

Eating enough Fruit and Vegetables is an essential part of a healthy lifestyle and is vital in reducing the risk of health-related disease. During Weeks 7-10 of Term 3 (29th August-23rd September), we have and will be participating in **Fruit & Veg Month** with this year’s theme ‘Vegetables are Funky!’

*Fruit & Veg Month* is a fantastic opportunity for children and their families to get excited about fruit and veg. By increasing familiarity with fruits and vegetables, the program aims to:

- Increase positive perceptions of fruit and vegetables
- Increase awareness of the need to eat more fruit and vegetables
- Support behaviour change by incorporating fruit and vegetable themes into class lessons and whole of school activities

**MANOUG DEMIRJIAN**

21st September, 2016

Celebrating 25 Years of Independence for the

REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA
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

**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** - 121 points

**Yerevan** - 123 points

**Dates to Remember**

*Fruit & Veg Month*

19/09 Alexander Rest Home Visit - Slips Due
20/09 Cross Country Run
21/09 Armenian Independence Day
21/09 Alexander Rest Home Visit - Year 5/6
23/09 Last Day Term 3
03/10 Labour Day - Public Holiday
10/10 First Day Term 4
21/10 Start of Swimming Program
13/11 Armenian Cultural Day
11/12 Christmas Concert and Graduation

**Armenian Student Fund**

**Weekly Report: Term 3 Week 9**

8 Points - **Sevan** ............ $8.20

6 Points - **Yerevan** ............ $4.45

**Total:** ............ $12.65

**Accumulated:** ............ $513.70

Sponsor a child in Armenia through the Armenian Apostolic Church

www.armenianchurchsydney.org.au

**Teachers’ Award**

Term 3 - Week 9

Year 6: Matthew Samuel
Year 5: Kevork
Year 3: Albert
Year 2: Stephen Vanessa

**Birthdays of the Week**

Happy Birthday to...

Lilit
Alexander
Mrs Vicky Dernee

**Extra Photo Order**

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.

$25

**2016 Honour Award List**

Congratulations to

Kevork Demirjian

www.alexander.nsw.edu.au
Debating News

Community’s ‘Progress’ Reports...

In the August edition of our local community’s ‘Progress’ newsletter, the following article was published in relation to the finals of the debating competition.

The article is written by Mr Andrew Sutcliffe, who was the visiting adjudicator from the Terrey Hills Library. He had kindly accepted our invitation to help judge the unique three-way debating finals of this year’s competition.

Forest District Inter-School Debating Competition

The Terrey Hills Library was extended an invitation to help adjudicate at the finals of the ‘Forest District Inter-School Debating Competition’. A library volunteer accepted the task to assist with adjudicating. The finals were on Wednesday 27th July and held at the German International School.

After a rigorous competition three teams were left to debate in the finals. The AGBU Alexander Primary School, the Sydney Japanese International School and John Colet. The debate was on the subject of education. Alexander Primary School held the position that Education through Life Experience was the best form. The SJIS took the task of presenting that Online was the best form and it was down to John Colet to defend the position that the Traditional School model held the key. The teams presented strong arguments for their positions and after many rebuttals to the contrary, the winning team was announced. The honours went to John Colet; congratulations on a terrific performance!

It must be said in today's world, education draws from all three of these forms and if the debating teams are anything to go by the mix is just right. Well done to all competing and well done to the respective schools for producing such knowledgeable and adept students.

NATIONAL ASSESSMENT PROGRAM - LITERACY & NUMERACY (NAPLAN)

All students in Years 3 and 5 throughout Australia were required to sit for these tests in line with educational accountability requirements set by the Australian Government. The first assessment was on Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation, the second on Reading and the third on Numeracy.

The school is charged on student bases by the Board of Studies in the implementation of these tests.

Please send the slip below with payment of the $40 fee to the office by Friday, 23rd September.
News from the Armenian Classroom...

Armenian Salad & Fruit Drink

The theme for this year’s Cultural Day is ‘Armenian Food Safari’. As a result, the theme has once again been incorporated into the Armenian lessons as part of our preparations and learning process. Since the start of the year the senior classes have been learning about traditional Armenian cuisines. They have also been active in preparing and tasting some of the dishes such as the ‘Ghapama’. Apart from this they have also made special Easter salads that are prepared with eggs and potatoes and even fruit drinks or ‘Osharags’!
SCHOOL SWIMMING PROGRAM - Term 4
Our 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.

The swim school expects children to be properly attired for swimming with:

- a one piece costume
- a towel
- a swimming cap
- goggles

Learn to swim for Safety

SOCcer TOURNAMENT
The German International School Sydney in Terrey Hills have invited our school to join in the International Soccer Tournament to be held on Saturday 5th November, 2016.

The soccer tournament will be held between 9:30am to 2:00pm (depending on the number of registering teams) in the gym of the German International School. They are offering two different tournaments for the following age groups: Year 3/4 tournament and Year 5/6 tournament.

Each participating team will have 5 players and some subs. Each winner of a tournament will receive a prize. Last year they had their German teams competing against Australian, Japanese, Italian and Armenian teams!

As it is being held in their indoor gym, the children need to bring clean "non marking" sports shoes and shin pads.

Please let the school office by next week if you would like your children to join in the competition with a team from Alexander school. If there are any further questions don’t hesitate to contact the school on 94863266.

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**SOCCER TOURNAMENT**
**Years 3 - 6 Students Only**

☐ Yes - I will ☐ No - I will not

Accompany my child/ren to the International Soccer Tournament at the German International School in Terrey Hills on Saturday, 5th November 2016.

I understand the tournament will be held for different age group between 9:30am to 2:00pm.

NAME OF STUDENT/S: ________________________________________________

PARENT’S SIGNATURE: ______________________________________ DATE: ____________

2016 | TERM 3 | WEEK 9 www.alexander.nsw.edu.au
National Literacy & Numeracy Week

Read for Australia

We celebrated National Literacy & Numeracy Week by joining schools right around Australia to take part in the ‘Read for Australia’ activity on Friday, 2 September 2016.

‘Read for Australia’ is a national simultaneous reading event celebrating reading together. The students gathered in the Gemjian hall to read aloud this year’s book *My Two Blankets*, written by Irena Kobald and illustrated by Freya Blackwood. The book was the Winner of the 2015 Children’s Book Council Award for Picture Books.

This wonderful book, which is also available in our Library, was displayed on the large screen. The story was viewed by all as we read along. The inspiring story is about new ways of speaking, new ways of living, new ways of being. It captures the reality of what many new immigrants face - the cold feeling of arriving somewhere where you experience nothing but loneliness. The story follows a young girl who flees her war-torn country, and arrives someplace new where she feels displaced and the only way she finds comfort is by embracing the blanket that she brought from her home. Gradually, the girl begins to weave a new blanket out of the new words that she learns. The story therefore teaches us that it’s possible to embrace new things without having to let go of who we are or our background.

Following the discussion that touched on new migrants coming to Australia and into our community, we also reflected on the children of the Armenian Genocide. We discussed how they would have felt in the photos that have reached us from the time, showing them huddling with their ragged clothes and blankets, waiting to be transported to an orphanage.

Finally, the students went outside to find a comfortable spot in the playground to read a book they like.
Photo Gallery...

National Literacy & Numeracy Week
SENDING MONEY OVERSEAS?

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Visit to the Nation’s Capital

With great excitement the students of Year 5/6 boarded the bus at John Colet School for their three day trip to Canberra. The itinerary was jammed packed so as soon as we arrived in Canberra it was off to visit the Museum of Australian Democracy. Here we were able to wander around Old Parliament House, getting to sit in the actual seats of Parliament. In the Senate Lilit was able to role play our 25th Governor General, Quentin Bryce. After an enjoyable lunch, we did a tour of the many embassies in Canberra. At the Australian Electoral Education Centre, we were guided through a 90 minute program with included a multi-media presentation that explored the history of Australian democracy and hands on activities that helped us understand enrolment, voting and representation. We were then able to vote in a simulated election and count the votes to achieve a result. After a dinner of vegetable lasagne at Camp Cottermouth it was off to one of the highlights – Questacon. We had access to over 200 hands on exhibits in themed interactive galleries. The favourite experience for the fearless was the free fall. These students were able to the body’s natural fear response, as well as a very brief moment of weightlessness. They were directed to hang from a bar, then let go so they fell down the slide.

Day 2 began with the National Capital Exhibition. The National Capital Exhibition told the story of Canberra. Through interactive displays the Exhibition illustrated Canberra’s vital role as a symbol of Federation. Next was the National Museum of Australia. Here we visited Circa, which was a 12 minute audiovisual experience taking us on a journey through Australia’s past and introduced us to the National Museum’s collection. Then it was off to Kspace which was an interactive adventure game where we built our own time travelling robot to explore Australia’s past. Before dinner we visited the Australian War Memorial. Our first session was in the Discovery Zone where we were guided through five environments which helped us understand the conditions Australians faced during wartime. Our second session was the Anzac Legacy Program which investigated the contribution and qualities of Australian servicemen and women. Our guide told us personal stories about our ANZAC troops. After dinner it was off for a night tour of the Australian Institute of Sport. We were able to go behind the scenes in a guided tour seeing where our sporting champions are created and gaining an insight into the life of our leading athletes. Then we visited Sportex an interactive sports exhibit. Here we were able to try virtual downhill skiing, rock climbing, football penalty shootouts and many more Olympic events.

Day 3 started with a visit to the Royal Australian Mint. Our guided tour showed us a short DVD about how coins are made. We discovered some interesting facts about the history of coins in Australia and learn about how coins are designed. Then it was off to the factory where coins are made. At the...continued
end of our tour some students made a legal commemorative $1 coin. Our last place of visit was Parliament House. We took a guided tour of the Senate (Red) and the House of Representatives chambers (Green), viewed historic documents such as the 1297 Inspeximus issue of Magna Carta and saw democracy in action first-hand. Lastly we participated in role play about introducing a Bill in the House of Representatives. Anita played the part of the Sergeant at Arms.

After this it was time to board the bus and make our journey home. It was three days full of fun filled learning.

Mrs Vicky Dernee