

Dear Parents,

NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK

Australians were encouraged to learn more about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history during this year's *National Reconciliation Week* by embracing the theme 'Don't Keep History a Mystery: Learn. Share. Grow'.

During our weekly assembly, we acknowledged *National Reconciliation Week* and used the opportunity to celebrate and reflect on the history of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. It was explained that Reconciliation Week, which runs from 27th May to 3rd June, is book-ended by the anniversary of the 1967 Referendum on 27 May, and Mabo Day on 3 June, which celebrates the historic High Court decision in the Mabo case in 1992.

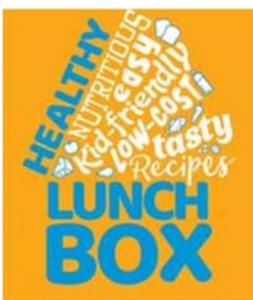


For most of us, it is surprising to note that it was only after the 1967 referendum, that saw more than 90 per cent of Australians vote to give the Australian Government power to make laws for the First Australians and recognise them in the Census. Australia has come a long way since then, by not only saying 'Sorry' but also working to correct the injustices done against the 'Stolen Generation'. By learning about the struggles, success and resilience of its people.

As members of the Australian-Armenian community, we understand the importance of the week as we also joined to celebrate earlier this week, the 100th Anniversary of the *First Republic of Armenia*. An important moment of history, that directed a nation of genocide survivors to independence in 1918.



HEALTHY LUNCH BOXES - ONLINE!



Cancer Council NSW has recently launched an interactive Healthy Lunch Box website for families. The task of packing healthy school lunches kids will love is now easier with Cancer Council NSW's new Healthy Lunch Box website:

www.healthylunchbox.com.au.

We know that 93% of children don't eat enough vegetables and 22% are overweight. The website includes recipes and tips on how to include more fruit and veg in the family's diet and is complete with an interactive lunch box builder to involve the kids, at home, or on the move with a smartphone or tablet.

The had a look at the lunch box builder during assembly and received good feedback from the students. We hope our students and their families utilise it for healthier lunch choices, that will be consumed.

The website has been launched as part of Cancer Council NSW's *Eat It To Beat It* program which runs free sessions and workshops for parents of primary aged school children, helping them to understand why fruit and vegetables are so important.

1st June, 2018

MANOUG DEMIRJIAN

Debating Workshop

Last Wednesday, Alexander students travelled to the Sydney Japanese School to participate in a debating workshop to kick off this year's Interschool Debating Competition.

In 2018, Alexander School students will compete against students from The German International School, the Sydney Japanese School and the Italian Bilingual School.

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 great sense of excitement, after sizing up the competition, ready for their first debate.

The first round of debates will take place on Wednesday, 6th June at Alexander School. The Sydney Japanese School and Alexander schools will debate the topic 'Technology (ipads, laptops, internet based devices) in Primary classrooms should be banned.', while the Italian and German schools will face the topic 'Primary school students should not play competitive team sports'. Good luck to all the debaters!



DATES TO REMEMBER

- 06/06 Interschool Debating Comp. # 1
- 11/06 Queen's Birthday - Public Holiday
- 13/06 ICAS - Spelling Test Years 3-6
- 14/06 ICAS - Writing Test Years 3-6
- 29/06 Student Half Yearly Reports - Sent Out
- 03/07 School Photos - *New Date*
- 06/07 Last Day Term 2 - Mufti Day

- 23/07 School Development Day (Pupil Free)
Emergency Care & CPR Staff Training
- 24/07 First Day Term 3 - Students Return
- 31/07 ICAS - English Test Years 2-6

ARMENIAN STUDENT FUND

WEEKLY REPORT: Term 2 Week 5

8 Points – Sevan	\$10.40
6 Points – Yerevan	\$7.20
TOTAL:	\$17.60
ACCUMULATED:	\$237.90

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Reading...

The More You Read, The More You Know...

'Use it or Lose it!' It becomes apparent after each holiday period that most children have a decline in their reading ability. Lack of practice causes some children to regress quite noticeably in their reading skills. Let's admit, we all know the adage 'Use it or Lose it!' All skills in their early stages must be constantly polished. Reading is a very important life skill and we hope that children keep progressing all year.

Support and Encourage. It is important that parents encourage all aged children to keep reading all kinds of materials. They do not need a holiday from reading! They do, however, need to be encouraged in a way that is supportive, non-threatening and surrounded by positive feelings of enjoyment.

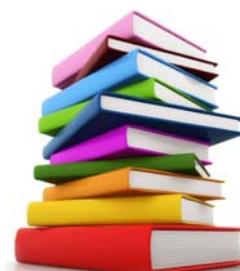
It all counts. All parents can help by exuding a positive attitude to reading themselves. Read for information, jokes, sports results, news and communication with relatives. It is all reading and can be demonstrated as a useful part of everyday life. Whilst shopping, you can make children aware of all the times you read to gain information from shop fronts, advertisements, labels and posters.

Give help. Whilst reading for enjoyment, give all the support that is required, even reading just ahead of your young reader. Let them follow your reading and stop to give them a chance to read the next word if they need lots of help. They are learning if they are following with you. It helps them to just hear the sound of words as they see the shape on the page.

Visit the Library. A visit to your local Council Library will help fill up many hours during the weekend and holidays if you are not going away. Libraries have story times and other advertised events for children. Take home a load of books and set aside some times for children to have quiet time to read as often as you can.

Say It Again and Again. Young children love repetition and even if they can 'read' the book by heart it is very comforting to them. Older children also like re-reading old favourites but this may be because they are too comfortable with the vocabulary to branch out and work hard on a new book. Try one by the same author as the old favourite. Series are good fun!

Enjoy reading all year round! Movies and TV are fine in their way but reading good stories and for information is good food for the soul. As we say...



"The More You Read, The More You Know, The More You Know The Smarter You Grow!"

 **BIRTHDAYS OF THE WEEK**
Happy Birthdays to...
Lara E.
Lara B.

HOUSE POINTS TERM 2
Uniform, Playground, Charity & Awards

 **YEREVAN** - 42 points 
SEVAN - 46 points

DONATIONS TO ALEXANDER SCHOOL

In Memoriam for the Late Ida Bodkin

Mr & Mrs Dikran and Seta Dikranian \$50

In Lieu of Flowers for the Late Hagop Der Bedrossian

Mr & Mrs Stepan and Shakee Barsamian \$100

The very competitive fees at Alexander Primary School often prompt school families to make financial donations to the school to further support school projects. The 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.



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