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Dear Parents,

THE ROAD AHEAD...

As we approach Easter and get ready to celebrate the resurrection of Our Lord, we also seem to be getting increasingly closer to our families and enjoying the revival in our spiritual life.

The unfolding development of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic is also assessing all aspects of our societies, including our system of education. Over the past decade, there was an increasing debate and argument from different sectors of society, in particular from those outside the education community, against the idea of traditional bricks-and-mortar system of schools. We were constantly reminded that the mass schooling system was not working, and the education provided there was failing our best and brightest students. The argument was that our schools were outdated, inefficient and the factory like production of students had to be reinvented and possibly replaced altogether.



Employers complained that schools were no longer producing the skills and aptitude required in the new workforce. They were supported by the tech industry who were offering digital alternatives, while the idea of online schools was certainly gaining traction. They proposed the concept of allowing students to learn in their self organised, self directed or personalised ways to be innovative and not be blocked by the state.

In a very short period of time, all this thinking is now being put to the test by COVID-19. While it may seem that our current empty classrooms is an old-fashioned concept, the pandemic is demonstrating that there is something irreplaceable about students and teachers coming together to learn in person. From an educational perspective, the virus is certainly stretching our education systems. However, if we're looking for positives, then we can clearly argued that the virus is also beginning to highlight the integral role that mass compulsory schooling plays in society. The first few months of the virus have already demonstrated that we cannot simply 'get rid of' schools and nor should we.

With millions of children around the world now affected by the closure of school, we can now see exactly what schools do for society, and what we would stand to lose without them. Families suddenly faced with home-schooling have been quickly reminded how difficult it is to 'educate' children. Many parents struggling to support their child's learning at home have been taking to social media to praise teachers. At the same time, the efforts of education authorities to provide alternate online tuition is also highlighting the limitations of digital teaching and learning.

Therefore, the time has come for schools and teachers to show their versatility. We have no choice but to also adapt to the current situation and as a result we must be innovative. We want to assure our parents that we will be doing everything that we can to support our students. We understand the road ahead will not be an easy one. But we also need to support one another, parents, teachers, students to make sure we continue to function as a school, as a community.

Over the coming week, the teachers will be reviewing the 'Remote Learning' and planning for the term ahead. We are grateful for all the feedback and want to use the time to rethink, replan and deliver our online learning more effectively. I don't think, but I know, that as a primary school we are way ahead of the rest. But we must also be realistic in our expectations and say that it is impossible to run the school in the same way, so we have to make the most of the situation.

Once again, I wish you and your family all the best during these testing times. Together we pray for all those in our community who are sick and for those who have been indirectly affected by the Coronavirus. We will do everything that we can to assist our families.



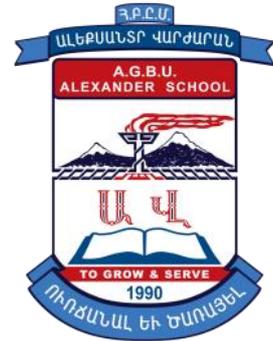
MANOUG DEMIRJIAN

3rd April, 2020

Message to Alexander School Community

Dear Parents,

On behalf of the School Board, we like to thank you for the wonderful messages of support and encouragement that you have sent to our teachers over the past week. We greatly appreciate the fact that our teachers were quick to adapt and respond to the rapidly evolving situation that was being exhibited in our society, as a result of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Following the Australian Government rulings, and the statement by the NSW Premier, our school community has joined the rest of the world in dealing with a different and new set of realities, that may well be with us for some time.



As a school community, it is important that we continue to stay positive and focused on our task of teaching and learning. We know that we will be able to get through this, together. Our faith will ensure that we come out of this stronger. We just need to make sure that we take the medical advice from the Government Health Authorities seriously and do our part to limit the spread of this virus.

However, this does not mean that we drop our tools and do nothing. There is learning to be done, even if this means from our new 'classroom', known as home. It is important to acknowledge that teachers have worked incredibly hard to set our students up for 'Remote Learning'. As a result, we need to look after their safety and well being as well as that of our students and parents, to ensure we continue to successfully attain and serve the educational needs of our community.

As we look towards the final week of term, the School Board has decided to mark these days as 'school pupil free days'. We want to assist our teaching and executive staff during this time by ensuring that we provide them with the opportunity to review and plan for the coming term. During this period, 'Remote Learning' will continue to be provided by our teachers with the support of our parents, who have a very important role to play in ensuring that their child/ren are successfully engaging in learning as best as they can.

We recognise for many of our families that this is an uncertain time. We ask parents to contact us, where you need assistance. We are here to help.

In God we Trust... To Grow & Serve

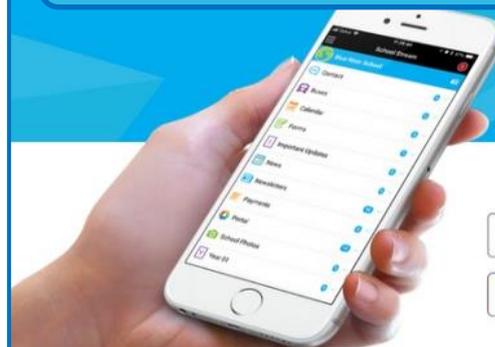
AGBU Alexander Primary School Board



DATES TO REMEMBER

- 06/04 Start of Parent/Teacher Interviews
- 09/04 Last Day Term 1
- 10/04 Good Friday - Public Holiday
- 11/04 Holy Saturday - Public Holiday
- 12/04 Easter Sunday - Public Holiday
- 13/04 Easter Monday - Public Holiday
- 24/04 Armenian Genocide Commemoration
- 25/04 ANZAC Day - Public Holiday
- 01/08 30th Anniversary Concert - Zenith Theatre
- 15/08 30th Anniversary Dinner Dance - Miramare
- 20/09 Armenian Cultural Day

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Special Note...

Student Attendance - Flexible Leave

From Tuesday, 24 March 2020 the teachers have been asked to mark their rolls in line with the new arrangements put in place by the NSW Education Standards Authority (NESA).

As a result, all students in **Kindergarten to Year 6 only** have been placed on **Flexible Leave (Code: F)**, a status that recognises the continuity of their Learning from Home.

Students on Flexible Leave are not regarded as absent from school.

However, in order for the teacher to mark the student with the code "F", they **need to be satisfied that the student has been on duty and attending to tasks set by the class teacher during that day.**

Therefore, apart from the requested 'roll call' that the students may need to attend to every morning, they are required to produce **'evidence' of completed work or tasks during the day.** This is to show that they have been 'in class and working' on activities assigned by their teacher/s

If we have **no engagement** by a student or contact by the parent on behalf of their child during the day, the student will be **marked as "A"** - in other words there is no evidence of student completing work, therefore they are on unapproved leave.

When parents advise the school or teacher that their child is **sick** and is not able to attend to tasks set by the teacher, or is unable to complete work, they will be marked with the **code "S"**.

Once again we thank the parents for their support and understanding. The new coding reflects the recent changes and teachers need to **legally report** all absences accordingly.

Next Week...

Parent-Teacher Interviews



For the first time in the history of the school, **Parent-Teacher Interviews will be conducted online.** We have allocated extra time and days to run the interviews over the coming week. We understand that teachers have been in contact with our parents on a regular bases over the past few weeks. However, this will allow time to review and assess the progress students are making, and how we can effectively use the Easter holidays to work on areas of improvement.

The teachers will be emailing parents with allocated days and times. If your scheduled interview time is not suitable, please make alternative arrangements.

We would like our parents to limit their interviews to the allocated times. If extra time is required, we ask that you schedule another appointment. This will assist teachers to allocate their set time and be available to provide support for their students in 'Remote Learning'.



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Online safety resources to help at esafety.gov.au





JOIN US FOR OUR
**LIVE FEED ON
FACEBOOK FOR**

PALM SUNDAY

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**SUNDAY 5TH APRIL
2020**

**MORNING SERVICE
"JAMERKOUTYOUN" @ 9:30AM**

**HOLY MASS "BADARAK" @
10:30AM**

**FOLLOWED BY OPENING OF
THE DOORS "TURNPATSEK"**



Dear Parents,

As you are aware, all the church services are occurring behind closed doors until further notice.

The Holy Week will be unlike any in living memory, with faithful Armenians *physically* isolated, but joining *spiritually* with the aid of various media - and the Holy Spirit.

The best way to stay up to date with everything that is happening at the church is through the Facebook page: -

<https://www.facebook.com/ArmenianApostolicChurchofHolyResurrection>

All the services will be broadcast live via Facebook with the times being regularly posted on the page.

Let's all pray and watch together during these uncertain times. Feel free to leave messages as you watch to let others know you are there.