



Merdinian

News

Pursue Excellence

AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2016 • NUMBER 1-2

Campus News

ALINE BEZDIKIAN-SHIRAJIAN

The Building Committee worked diligently this summer to start off the new academic year with state-of-the-art innovations on campus.

Our new 6,840 sq. ft. building encompasses five classrooms, a library, a science lab, an art room, and an office for the athletic coach. Benefactors Mr. and Mrs. Albert & Terry Bezjian, who were visiting Los Angeles from Michigan, toured the newly completed building on July 19 and were impressed with the quality of construction, elegance, and functionality of the new structure. Our school is offering an opportunity for interested families to name the classrooms in the school in memory of their loved ones. If interested, please contact the school at (818) 907-8149.

We also have a new marquee sign located in the parking lot. Please review the announcements posted on it every month.



Curriculum & Discipline Updates

ALINE BEZDIKIAN-SHIRAJIAN

This year, our school implemented a new Common Core Math curriculum for grades K through 6th. "Common Core curriculum allows the students several ways to solve a problem, which helps them to do what makes sense to them," said Mrs. Allison Hammond, Math and Science Department Chair.

The school revised its Discipline Policy that is posted on our website in the Handbook section. Please review it with your child.

Student Achievements

LINA ARSLANIAN

Congratulations to Marianna Dzhuryan, 7th, Andrew Manikyan, Lark Kabakian, and Raffi Karapetian, 8th as well as to their teachers and parents! Our students participated in the Talent Search Contest organized by Johns Hopkins University in June. Marianna took the SCAT test as a 6th grader competing with 9th graders. Andrew, Lark and Raffi took the SAT test as 7th graders competing with 12 graders. We are proud of all students.

Andrew has scored better than 84 percent of the 12th graders in the Reading & Writing section and better than 73 percent of the 12th graders in the Math section nationwide. Lark has scored better than 79 percent of the 12th graders in the Reading & Writing section nationwide.

Opening Day

ARMINE NALBANTIAN

The anticipation and excitement of students, parents, and faculty filled the school campus at the start of the academic year 2016-2017 on August 18. The Principal welcomed parents, students, faculty, and staff. She introduced our new and returning teachers. Mrs. Lena Ekmekjian, Religion & Armenian/Armenian History teacher, graciously led the prayer and wished everyone a successful year. The students recited verses and sang songs along with our music teacher, Mrs. Alice Derkevorkian. The Preschool had its own opening ceremony followed by an orientation for parents in each classroom.



Faculty News

ARMINE NALBANTIAN

Merдинian School would like to send out a warm welcome to our new faculty members this academic year:

Mrs. Mayda Baboumian, 4th, 6th, 7th, & 8th grade Armenian and Armenian History teacher; Mrs. Lilit Beyleyan, 1st grade Yellow homeroom teacher and 5th grade Social Studies teacher; Mrs. Aline Bezdikian, 3rd grade homeroom teacher and 7th grade Social Studies teacher; Mr. Zorik Isajane, Physical Education coach and athletics director; Mrs. Mary Mekikian, 4th grade homeroom teacher and 6th grade English teacher; and Mrs. Lusine Sarafyan, pre-K I Yellow and Blue teacher's assistant.

We wish them all a successful academic year!

PTO Corner

ALINE BEZDIKIAN-SHIRAJIAN

Our 2016-2017 PTO has launched a new academic year filled with exciting events. After hosting a luncheon for our faculty and staff on the first day of the new academic year, they held a lavish wine & cheese event before our Back-to-School Night. During the opening segment, the co-chairs addressed the PTO message to the parents as well as encouraged them to join the PTO and participate actively in the events to benefit our school.



Upcoming Events

- Otis Catalog Sale between September 23 and October 17
- Armenian Cultural Day Lunch on October 28
- Habit Food Truck on November 15
- Thanksgiving Lunch on November 23
- The Gala Banquet at the Brandview Collection in Glendale on December 2
- Christmas Bake Sale on December 22

We are pleased to announce that the following individuals joined the PTO along with Mrs. Lina Arslanian, principal as well as Sandra Bessos, Hasmig Shahinian, and Fredrick Sayadian from the faculty and staff: Linda Qasabian and Diana Mangioglu co-chairs, Mariam Kuregyan, vice chair, Anush Asmerian, secretary, Marine Galadjian, assistant secretary, Tamar Perron Poladian, treasurer, Ara Aprahamian, assistant treasurer, Betty Nazarian, homeroom liaison, Tenny Avanesian, Maria Benneian, Mary Karapetian, Raffi Khatchadourian, Lucine Makaryan, Elina Mendelson, Angela Nizian, Silva Seradarian, Lisa Ter-Minasian, Lucy Uhl Papazyan, and Lilit Vartanian, advisors.

We wish great success in their endeavors!

Women's Auxiliary

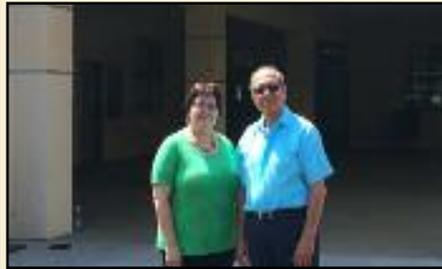
ALINE BEZDIKIAN-SHIRAJIAN

The C & E Merдинian Armenian Evangelical School Women's Auxiliary held a luncheon on September 10 at Braemar Country Club in Tarzana. The event, A French Buffet Luncheon, attracted close to 100 guests to raise funds for our school. "We had a great time specially with the beautiful entertainment provided by the musicians," said Mariam Petrosyan, Kindergarten Art/ASL teacher and teacher's assistant.



Guest

Mr. Zaven Khanjian, Executive Director of AMAA, visited the school on August 5 and toured the new building.



Picture Day

ARMINE NALBANTIAN

Our much anticipated Picture Day was on September 6. Students arrived at school dressed in their uniform and coiffed in their best hair style. A big thank you goes to all the PTO members who came to supervise the students, while teachers gathered in the hall for a group picture!

Student Council

ARMINE NALBANTIAN

The Student Council began its Phase I elections by electing representatives from grades 3rd through 8th. During Phase II, students prepared speeches and spent a week campaigning all around the school for the Student Council President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer positions. Council Members:
 President: Raffi Karapetian
 Vice President: Ani Kossoyan
 Secretary: Hovan Boyajian
 Treasurer: Van Avanesian

The Student Council meets with their advisors to plan different activities such as snack sales during morning recess. Proceeds of the sale will be donated to SARF & Armenia Fund benefitting our brothers and sisters in Syria and Armenia, respectively.



Preschool News

On behalf of Merdinian Preschool we welcome everyone to the Merdinian family. We all look forward to a happy and blessed 2016-2017 academic year.

On August 18, the preschool opening ceremony took place in the Aram and Anahis D. Boolghoorjian Hall. All parents and students attended, eagerly waiting for the first day of school. We started the year with happy faces and few tears. Now all students and parents have adjusted to preschool.

On Saturday, September 24, the preschool families were invited to a delightful "foul"



breakfast. Over 100 parents and teachers enjoyed the delicious breakfast prepared and hosted by our Preschool teachers. In the coming months we look forward to new adventures and fun days.

Back to School Night

ARMINE NALBANTIAN

We had a great turnout for our Back-to-School Night. Over 60% of parents attended this very important and informative night on Friday, August 26. The Principal, Mrs. Lina Arslanian, welcomed and thanked parents for taking an active role in their children's academics. Dr. Vahe Nalbandian, chairman of the Board of Directors, wished parents and faculty members a productive and successful school year. Mrs. Diana Mangioglu and Mrs. Linda Qasabian, the PTO co-chairs, reviewed the different duties and responsibilities of PTO members, and encouraged parents to get involved and run for office. Parents were then dismissed to visit their children's classrooms and get acquainted with the curriculum, procedures, and expectations.



Donation

On September 15, Wells Fargo Bank donated \$1000 to Merdinian School for Community Service. We appreciate the support Wells Fargo provides to the community. We thank Mrs. Susanna Toneryan, a parent, for facilitating the process and accepting the grant on the school's behalf.



Thank You

We thank the United Armenian Congregational Church and its Christian Education Board for meeting the needs of the Religion Department through donations to purchase workbooks and teaching resources. We thank the community for participating in this drive.

"This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God."

2 Corinthians 9:12

Upcoming Events

- **October 14: Pupil-Free Day (Professional Development Day)**
- **October 19: Quarter I ends**
- **October 25- 28: Armenian Book Fair**
- **October 28: Armenian Cultural Day assembly and luncheon; Free Dress**
- **October 29: Talin & Friends concert**
- **October 31: PK Career Day**

Editorial Staff:

Lina Arslanian, Aline Bezdikian-Shirajian, Armine Nalbantian, and Fredrick Sayadian

Design and Layout by: Fredrick Sayadian



CHARLOTTE AND ELISE MERDINIAN ARMENIAN EVANGELICAL SCHOOL

13330 Riverside Drive, Sherman Oaks, CA 91423