

Merdinian News

Pursue Excellence

NOVEMBER 2016 • NUMBER 3

Parent/Teacher Conference

ARMINE NALBANTIAN

Our parent-teacher conferences for first semester took place on November 3. Kindergarten through 8th grades had a seventy-two percent attendance of parents who met with the teachers and reviewed areas of strength and areas needing improvement.

Safety Workshop

ARMINE NALBANTIAN

On November 9, Kindergarten through 5th grade students attended a very informative workshop regarding safety awareness and prevention to help keep our children safe! We thank Wendy and Tony from Children's Rescue Alliance for the very educational assembly! The students received certificates of participation, erasers, and coloring books!



Student News

ARMINE NALBANTIAN

*Free dress day was awarded on November 10 for those students who had no tardy for the 1st Quarter. Great job!
 *Every 2nd Tuesday of the month, students who are in after school athletic programs have free dress day!

*The students had a Spirit Day organized by Student Council on November 15 to wear fall colors, red, brown, yellow, and gray. Students and teachers participated and were excited to celebrate the arrival of the season!

*Merdinian had another very exciting Pep Rally for our Volleyball athletes on November 18. The students cheered for our athletes and took pictures with the school mascot, The Lion. Thank you Mrs. Beth Chatalyan and MAC members for organizing the rally!



*Our fourth graders presented their Literary Pumpkin Projects to the Kindergarteners on November 18. They had transformed pumpkins to characters from their favorite books. It was a great learning opportunity for all the students. Thank you Mrs. Mary and fourth graders for the fun projects!



PTO/Book Fair Contest Winners

ARMINE NALBANTIAN

The PTO Otis Spunkmeyer fundraiser top sellers, Sam Makaryan 2nd grade Red, Jason Boustani 1st grade Red, and Nairi Babayan Kindergarten Yellow, were acknowledged during chapel time on November 17. Thank you all for your support!



Our Armenian Book Fair contest winners were also announced: Andrew Manikyan, 8th and Celine Nalbantian, 4th. Congratulations!



Photo Exhibition

Aline Bezdikian-Shirajian

Our school hosted a photographic exhibition prepared by Rev. Vatche Ekmekjian on the occasion of the 170th anniversary of the Armenian Evangelical Church. The photographs, which were displayed on easels in our school hall, were from his latest bilingual book, "Whisper of the Roots: Surviving the Armenian Evangelical Sanctuaries in Historic Armenia." Thank you Rev. Ekmekjian!

Thanksgiving Programs

ARMINE NALBANTIAN

On November 23, the Thanksgiving program was a delight for all who attended. The first graders performed in the school hall and demonstrated the spirit of Thanksgiving. It was very enjoyable and a great success! We thank Rev. Ara Chakerian for delivering the chapel message as well as teachers Mrs. Ani Virgili, Mrs. Lilit Beyleyan, Mrs. Margarit Meghroyan, Mrs. Alice Derkevorkian, and Mrs. Sossy Nakkashian for their hard work in planning the program.



After an extended recess, our hard-working PTO members hosted the traditional Thanksgiving lunch for students and faculty/staff. The prayer before lunch was offered by a group of our middle school students who also thanked the PTO for their hard work and support.



Archbishop Moushegh Mardirossian Visits Merdinian

Aline Bezdikian-Shirajian

H.E. Archbishop Moushegh Mardirossian, prelate visited our school on November 17, accompanied by Archpriest Fr. Pehlivanian and Archpriest Fr. Khatchadourian. They were invited by the school Board of Directors and the administration. The guests were greeted by Principal Lina Arslanian, Rev. Hendrick Shahnazarian, Chairman of the Board of Directors Dr. Vahe Nalbandian, Board member Mr. Harold DeMirjian, teachers, and students from first through 8th grades. The prelate took a tour of the new buildings and departments. The students presented a short program with songs and prayers in the school hall.

Following the program, the prelate conveyed his message in which he cited the words of Khachadour Apovian to emphasize the importance of faith and language and reminded the students to read the Bible and Armenian books. He then presented a memento to the administration and books to the students.

The program concluded with the Lord's Prayer followed by a reception in the teacher's lounge.



Merdinian Takes Part in the Armenian Telethon

Aline Bezdikian-Shirajian

Our principal, Mrs. Lina Arslanian, along with our teacher, Mrs. Aline Bezdikian-Shirajian, elementary students Chloe and Julia Hamalian, Student Council President Raffi Karapetian, and Vice-President Ani Kosoyan represented Merdinian School at the Armenia Fund Telethon, which was broadcast live across the country and in many other countries around the world on Thanksgiving Day. Merdinian School presented a donation of \$3,000 that was raised through snack sales and proceeds from 2 film screenings, Apricot, the Blessed Fruit of Armenia and the musical cartoon, "Anban Hurin".



Cartoon Screening for Good Causes

Aline Bezdikian-Shirajian

First through 8th grade students watched the screening of the newly released musical cartoon based on Hovhannes Toumanian's famous tale, Anban Hurin on November 28 in the Aram & Anahis D. Boolghoorjian Hall. Fifteen dollars were collected from each student to cover the cost of the film's rental and to raise funds for the Armenia Fund Telethon and SARF (Syrian Armenian Relief Fund). The students spent a fun afternoon while serving their homeland and their Syrian Armenian compatriots.

Seminars and Workshops

Aline Bezdikian-Shirajian

*Principals of Armenian schools in California attended the first meeting of the current academic year on November 2 at the St. Gregory Hovsepian School in Pasadena. Our principal, Mrs. Lina Arslanian took part in the meeting. The agenda of the meeting focused on changes in Standardized Tests, April 24 programs, and first day of the 2017-2018 academic year as well as the upcoming meetings with Armenian Language and History teachers.

*Our Preschool Director, Mrs. Marijan Kevorkian participated in a seminar titled "The 101 Strategies: Help Your Kindergarteners Become Successful Readers/Writers". The seminar was held on November 10 in Monrovia sponsored by The Institute of Educational Development.

*Miss Sandra Bessos, our business manager, attended a one day seminar "Payroll Law" on November 29 at the Hilton Hotel in Burbank.

A Different Kind of Lunch Menu

Aline Bezdikian-Shirajian

It was a different day with a different lunch menu at our school on November 15 when Hamburger food chain The Habit Truck came to Merdinian. The whole student body as well as the faculty and staff enjoyed The Habit Hamburger/Cheeseburger with fries and drinks. It was a fundraiser organized by PTO. Thank you, PTO for this enjoyable day! The students had a lot of fun during the extended recess with live music and dancing led by our students Elina, David, and Jean-Pierre.



Field Trip

Aline Bezdikian-Shirajian

The Fourth graders went on a field trip to Mission San Juan Capistrano on November 30. Its ruins are located in present-day San Juan Capistrano, in Orange County. The Students made adobe bricks and had a docent tour during the field trip. "It was a very hands-on trip, which meets the standards of the State of California," said Mrs. Mary Mekikian.



Mock Elections

Aline Bezdikian-Shirajian

While American citizens were voting on November 8 across the United States to elect their 45th president, Merdinian students in the elementary and middle school grades were participating in mock elections in their classrooms. Through this educational activity, they learned the process of presidential election.



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