

# Meridianian

## News

**Pursue Excellence**

Nov. 2017 • NUMBER 3

### THANKSGIVING PROGRAM

The Thanksgiving program on November 22 was a delight for all who attended. The fourth graders performed in the school hall and demonstrated the spirit of Thanksgiving. It was very



enjoyable and a great success! We thank Pastor Harout for delivering the chapel message.



We also thank our teachers, Mrs. Tania, Mrs. Mayda, and Mrs. Alice for their hard work in planning the program. After the program, the students enjoyed an extended recess.



They had fun cheering for the teachers vs. 8th grade girls volleyball game.



PTO members hosted the traditional Thanksgiving lunch for students and faculty/staff. The faculty also celebrated the November birthdays during their special luncheon. Thank you PTO!



### ARMENIA FUND

Thank you all who participated and helped Meridianian raise \$3000 for Armenia Fund through pumpkin sales, direct donations, snack sales, and a bake sale organized by our 5th and 6th graders! Mrs. Lina Arslanian, Mrs. Mariam Petrosyan, Student Council members: Ani, Hovsep, and Sarin as well as highest donors Robert and Julia attended the Live Armenia Fund Telethon on November 23 to present the school's check. The 8th graders were rewarded with a "Hot Wings" lunch for collecting the most donations.



### STUDENT COUNCIL

The students had a Spirit Day to wear fall colors, red, brown, and yellow. Students and teachers participated and were excited to celebrate the arrival of the season!



## FACULTY CORNER

- Mrs. Marijan Kevorkian attended a one-day workshop on November 29. Educators from many schools examined the current trends as well as perspectives on children's behavior including the latest research on psychological, neurological, and social-emotional foundations.

- Our faculty has a wish list for the year 2018:
  1. A laptop for our newsletter
  2. Two computers for student use in the library
  3. A 3D printer for the Computer Lab

If you are interested, please contact the school office for more information. Thank You!

## PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

On November 15, our Principal, Mrs. Lina Arslanian attended the principals' meeting at AGBU Manoogian-Demirdjian School. During the meeting, the attendees discussed textbooks, April 24 activities, parent/staff seminars, and possible Spelling Bee contests among schools.

## PRESCHOOL

- Preschoolers discussed the importance of giving thanks for their blessings through stories, poems/songs, and prayers. The children were given the opportunity to thank their loved ones (family and friends). On November 22, they thanked the PTO members for preparing the Thanksgiving lunch, which they enjoy every year along with their peers and teachers.

## ARMENIAN BIBLE STORIES FOR CHILDREN ON YOUTUBE!

The Lord has put on my heart to share Bible stories in Armenian on ICFN TV and online through the web (YouTube). This vision aims to spread God's Word to the entire Armenian children around the world.

The realization of this vision provides Armenian Christian educators in schools, Sunday schools, Saturday Armenian schools, and parents, the free Armenian Audio Visual Bible Teaching Resource, that will include 25 ARMENIAN BIBLE STORIES FOR CHILDREN!

God opened the doors of ICFN to be the media platform for the editing, production, and broadcast of these 25 Bible stories in Armenian! So far, ICFN has become one of the answers to our prayers, and we already have 11 Bible stories out on YouTube and on air on ICFN! The additional 14 stories will be uploaded on YouTube in the next weeks! Please take time to view one of the Armenian Bible Stories for Children at the link below or visit the YouTube by typing: Armenian Bible Stories for Children!

([https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_el9VasJraQ&t=12s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_el9VasJraQ&t=12s)) Please pray for a fruitful ministry!

I remain in His service,  
Lena Ekmekjian

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## PTO CORNER

- The PTO Otis Spunkmeyer fundraiser top sellers were acknowledged during chapel time on November 22: 1st place Jason Bustani (2nd Yellow), 2nd place Sam Makaryan (3rd grade), 3rd place Nairi Babayan (1st grade) and John Bustani (PreK 1Red). The winners received monetary gift cards. Additionally, the following classes sold items for \$1000 or more: Pre-K I Red, Pre-K II Yellow, 1st grade, 2nd Yellow, and 3rd grade. These classes received a "free dress" day for their efforts! Thank you all for your support!



- The third PTO parent breakfast was held on November 3. Close to 30 parents attended the breakfast during which they had the chance to not only connect with each other but also to get informed about upcoming school events. The PTO chairlady, Mrs. Azniv Ghazanian highlighted the importance of the highly anticipated event, the "Winter Wonderland" encouraging parents to put every effort for the success of this major fundraiser with activities such as Christmas tree lighting, playing on artificial snow, train rides, and many other fun programs for our students and families.

## FIELD TRIPS

- The 8th graders along with our principal Mrs. Lina Arslanian, Mrs. Mayda Baboomian, and some parents attended on November 2 the play "Groonge ge Ganche" organized by Hamazkayin Theatre Company. The play, written by Jacques Hagopian,



took place at the Agajanian Auditorium of the AGBU Manoogian-Demirdjian School. The event was the second performance by the newly-formed Theater Company, which made its debut last year with "The Secret of the Flower Pot", an original play for young audiences. Unlike the previous one, "Groonge Ge Ganche" was geared toward more mature audiences. The play by Hagopian, who turns 100 this year, highlights two Armenian families in Australia who have shaped their lives in different ways in regards to "Armenianism" in the 1940's.

- Third and Fourth graders had an exciting field trip to the VT Ranch in Santa Clarita on November 28. The third graders learned about the



history of the Chumash Indians and their traditions. As part of learning through hands-on activities, they listened to tribal stories, made Yucca paintbrushes, learned to paint Chumash symbols, and participated in Native American games or activities. Fourth graders learned about the Gold Rush by making butter in a mason jar, studied rocks and minerals, made a candle, did laundry by hand, and played pioneer games. It was a very fun and an educational experience for all!



## TOWN HALL MEETING

This year's first Town Hall Meeting, organized by the Board of Directors, took place on November 9, from 7 to 10 pm in our school Hall. Nearly 60 people were in attendance. Among them were 40 parents along with several Board members, faculty, and staff.

The parents highly praised the safe family environment of the school, the actively-engaged parents, and the Christian and Armenian education provided by our school. Some of the concerns raised during the meeting were the need for increased student enrollment, homework load, and the school budget. The parents also made several suggestions regarding the curriculum and other matters concerning the school. Among the suggestions were

the addition of Eastern Armenian classes, longer recesses, increased security measures, and the need for long-term plans.



## THANK YOU!

We are very pleased to announce that our first graders raised \$800 and donated to the 2nd grade of School #37 in Yerevan, Armenia. The efforts were coordinated by Mrs. Anait Hokyhkyan, a parent. A big thank you to the parents who participated! Through your support, new resources were purchased and classroom windows were repaired. Our first graders also wrote a letter to the students in Armenia with the help of their Armenian teacher.

## LIBRARY CORNER

The Book Fair contest winners were announced in chapel. Students had to guess the number of candies inside a jar, which was placed at the entrance. Alisa Kechejian and Meri Ella Menedjian from third grade received special gifts from our librarian. Congratulations!



## ALUMNI CORNER

Congratulations to South Pasadena School Board Member, Dr. Suzie Abajian (Merdinian Class of 1991), who was honored as the 41st Assembly District Democrat of the Year at the Annual LA County Democratic Party Gala on Sunday, October 29! Assembly District 41 includes South Pasadena and stretches from Pasadena across the San Gabriel Valley to Claremont.



Dr. Abajian has served on the boards of local non-profits including Women Involved in South Pasadena Political Action and Vecinos de South Pasadena. She currently serves on the California School Boards Association Delegate Assembly, is the secretary of the Five Star Coalition comprised of five local school boards and is a member of National Women's Political Caucus (NWPC) of Greater Pasadena. Dr. Abajian has also been involved in the local organic food movement. Her Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) sites in Pasadena and Los Angeles have provided over 1000 families with weekly local organic produce for the past 8.5

years. She is the recipient of a Certificate of Congressional Recognition by Congresswoman Judy Chu for her community work.

Dr. Abajian was born in Aleppo, Syria. When she was 12 years old, she immigrated to the U.S. with her family. She currently teaches at Occidental College and lives with her husband Sean in South Pasadena.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Dec. 25- Jan. 5**

**Christmas Vacation**

**Jan. 8**

**School Reopens**

**Feb. 3**

**PTO Annual GALA**

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