

# Merdinian

## News

**Pursue Excellence**

MAY-JUNE 2018 • NUMBER 10

MONTHLY

### **Merdinian School's 36th Anniversary Banquet Honors Dr. John and Mrs. Mary Kassabian**

On Sunday, May 6, friends and supporters of the C & E Merdinian Armenian Evangelical School gathered at Vertigo Hall in Glendale to celebrate the School's 36th Anniversary Banquet. After the welcoming remarks by Banquet Committee Co-Chair Rita Meneshian, MC Diana Mangioglu Nazarian invited Rev. Dr. Vartkes Kassouni, former Minister of the United Armenian Congregational Church and one of the pioneers of Merdinian School, for the invocation. Following the national anthems of the United States and Armenia, sung by a group of Merdinian students, Dr. Nazareth Darakjian, President of the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA), delivered greetings from the AMAA and once again reassured the Association's continued support for the School. Before inviting Principal Lina Arslanian to deliver her remarks, Mrs. Nazarian acknowledged the outstanding

Armenian, Christian-based education provided by Merdinian School and praised the Principal and the teachers for their devotion. Mrs. Arslanian then shared some of the school's achievements and announced the Board's decision to offer Armenian language instruction in both Eastern and Western Armenian dialects beginning with the next academic year. Alidz Agbabian, a gifted storyteller, entertained the guests by telling a folktale of the legendary Gor who was one of the heroes of ancient Armenian legends. After a delicious dinner, talented vocalist Anna Boyrazian entertained the guests with her beautiful voice, offering a selection of Armenian and classical songs. Dr. Vahe Nalbandian, Chairman of the Board, greeted the guests and expressed his appreciation to the Co-Chairs Rita Meneshian and Louisa Janbazian, and members of the Banquet Committee. Dr. Nalbandian then introduced the honorees, Dr. John and Mrs. Mary Kassabian, and thanked them for their many years of support, friendship, and hospitality. Over the years, the Kassabians hosted many Merdinian School fundraising events at their beautiful home in Pasadena. A gift and a certificate of recognition were presented to the Kassabians as a small token of

appreciation. Merdinian School PTO Treasurer Tamar Poladian-Perron presented a check for \$20,000 to the School. Likewise, the Women's Auxiliary Co-Chairs, Ani Hanessian and Louisa Janbazian, presented the School with a check for \$20,000 in support of the School's scholarship program. The enjoyable evening concluded with a closing prayer by Pastor Harut Khachatryan, Youth Pastor of the United Armenian Congregational Church.



## PRESCHOOL CORNER

On May 19, the preschool "Hantes" was a very successful event, where kids performed with songs, poems, prayers, and a variety of dances. The Aram & Anahis D. Boolghoorjian hall was full of proud parents who were amazed with their children's performances. We thank all teachers for their hard work throughout the year.



## KINDERGARTEN GRADUATION

"Pomp and Circumstance" was played in the Aram and Anahis D. Boolghourjian Hall when 24 Kindergarten students walked on stage to receive their diplomas on June 2. Before they put on their caps and gowns, the Kindergarten Red and Yellow students presented a rich program, which included prayers, songs, recitation, and dances. Parents showed their appreciation to the hardworking kindergarten teachers, with bouquets of flowers. After the program, the little graduates, their parents, and the guests enjoyed a lavish reception, organized by our PTO. In addition to their diplomas, the class of 2018 graduates were delighted to receive special gifts from our PTO. We thank Kindergarten teachers for their hard work.

## 5TH AND 8TH GRADE GRADUATION

Our 5th and 8th graders took the stage to receive their diplomas from Mrs. Lina Arslanian. The graduates sang the National Anthems in Armenian and English. Rev. Serop Megerditchian opened the program with a prayer as well as gave a heartfelt message to the graduates. Eloquent poems and biblical verses were recited in Armenian and English. Mrs. Alice DerKevorkian led the students in singing beautiful songs. Dr. Vahe Nalbandian, Board Chairman, and Principal Lina Arslanian addressed the students, parents, and teachers. We thank the teachers and all the parents for their support. Following the nice program, our PTO hosted the 5th and 8th graduation banquet held at

the beautiful Impressions Banquet Hall in Glendale. We congratulate our graduates on their achievements and wish our 8th graders the best in high school.



## NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

We had a special extended chapel service for National Day of Prayer on May 3. We thank Pastor Harut Khachatryan and Mrs. Lena Ekmekjian for a very organized service and deliverance of the word of our Mighty Lord.



## FIELD TRIPS

### • Shane's Inspiration

On Wednesday, May 2, the 7th graders wanted to show love in action as they headed to Rocket Universe Park to meet with seven children who have physical, social, and cognitive challenges as well as disabilities. Merdinian students were peered with Shane's Inspiration kids and spent a half day playing with and learning from each other. Our students did an awesome job as they tried to communicate, befriend, and put a smile on their peers' faces.



Here are some of the thoughts our students have shared:

"My buddy liked to play. She was flexible and energetic. She loved to swing, mumble, and smile."

"My buddy was smiling and articulating some sounds letting me know he liked something..."

"My buddy liked to explore with his hands, playing with sand and grass..."

"i learned how to act as i learned to adapt to a different kind of communication. i became less nervous and felt comfortable playing with my buddy!"

"i learned to be patient."

"i learned not to judge people by the way they look."

The students were very happy for giving their buddies the gifts of time, joy, friendship,

and bonding! Our buddies in turn gave us the following gifts: joy, patience, peace, and a new experience of serving the little ones as serving to Jesus.

### • Marionette Show

Kindergarten Red and Yellow classes and the Pre-Kii students, along with their homeroom teachers and their parents, went on a field trip on May 9 to the Bob Baker Marionette Show. Seals, clowns, lions, elephants, ostriches, puppies, acrobats, tightrope walkers, and fabricated puppets created an extraordinary show for the students who watched it with fascination. After the show, the students were served ice-cream and had a close encounter with some of the puppets who visited them in the guest room.

### • Graduation Field Trip

Students had a blast at Universal Studios for their graduation field trip on June 5. The 8th and 5th graders spent the day, accompanied by their homeroom teachers, enjoying the many fun activities the theme park had to offer.



## TEACHER APPRECIATION

A number of events were held to celebrate "Teacher Appreciation Week" during the week of May 7 through 11. We thank our great Student Council for the delicious lunch, the wonderful PTO for the brunch, the fabulous administration for the cute gifts, the supportive Board of Directors for the delicious desserts, and Board member Helen Haig for the Starbucks gift cards. Merdinian is blessed with a dedicated group of faculty and staff members and appreciates their hard work, dedication, and commitment to the mission of the school.



## PTO

- The last PTO parent breakfast was held on May 4. The parents as well as PTO members who joined had the opportunity to do their last mingling with teachers, staff, and other parents while enjoying coffee/breakfast. Members discussed the upcoming graduations. Everyone's ideas and inputs were appreciated.



- The new PTO executive committee was formed during the PTO elections, which took place on May 25. The following individuals are the members of the PTO executive committee for the year 2018-2019: Azniv Ghazanian, chairlady; Anush Asmerian, vice-chairlady; Tamar Poladian-Perron, treasurer; and Marine Galadjian, secretary. With the start of the new academic year, the PTO will invite volunteer parents to join the committee.

## PARENT REPRESENTATIVE ON THE SCHOOL BOARD

A "Meet and Greet" candidates for the school board parent position took place on May 21. In addition to the PTO representative, the Board of Directors approved to have one more parent representative on the school Board. Over fifty percent of our parents participated in the voting for the position for the

2018-2019 academic year. Ovsanna Takvoryan, Merdinian parent for the last 7 years, won the election. "I believe that the parent board member should be able to put his or her personal views and feelings aside and represent the collective interest of Merdinian parents on the Board," said Takvoryan, who serves as an attorney in the Los Angeles area.

## CARNIVAL FUN ON CAMPUS

Water slides, carousel, games, merchandise booths, delicious barbecues, and lots of fun were the highlights of our annual carnival, which was held on May 5 from noon to 5 p.m. on our campus. The fun event, organized by our PTO, attracted the student body, alumni, parents, and friends of Merdinian School. The success of the event is credited to our hardworking PTO as well as our volunteer parents, teachers, and staff. On May 14 the students whose parents volunteered in the school's annual carnival were allowed to come to school wearing free dresses.



## RECOGNIZING VICTORY IN ARMENIA

The victory of the Velvet Revolution in Armenia was recognized on May 9 during our chapel service. Mrs. Mayda Baboosian and Mrs. Aline Bezdikian-Shirajian took the podium to explain the meaning and the importance of the peaceful revolution as well as its victory led by Armenia's new Prime Minister, Mr. Nikol Pashinyan.



## STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

- Merdinian student, Emily Sayadian, 7th grade, participated in the Art Competition for Armenian Students (fine art category) dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the First Republic of Armenia, organized and sponsored by Hamazkayin Armenian Educational and Cultural Society.



- Sophia Seradarian has been awarded the second place prize for poetry (English) in the Juniors Category of the 78th Annual Competition of the Armenian Allied Arts Association.



- Assemblymember Adrin Nazarian and his office organized their 4th annual Art Walk on June 2 at Van Nuys district office court yard. This event included live music, art exhibition, arts & crafts workshop, live painting, and free appetizers prepared by the local culinary school students. Merdinian student, Emily Sayadian, 7th grade, was among the participants of the art exhibit, and even sold one of her artworks at this event.



- Academic achievement and excellence is not new for Merdinian school. Our school proudly received the news regarding Nicole Tilkian who was awarded the Notre Dame High School Holy Cross Distinguished Student Award at Entrance. This year's 8th grade salutatorian, has achieved this honor from Notre Dame High School, based on her HSPT Entrance exam score of above 95%. This scholarship will be renewable each year as long as she continues her academic excellence. During the 8th grade graduation ceremony, the principal, Mrs. Lina Arslanian announced the news and wished Tilkian continued success. Tilkian has been a Merdinian student since Preschool.

We wish her the best.



Congratulations to Emily, Sophia, and Nicole for their accomplishments! We are proud of our students and alumni.

## STAR STUDENTS

We started the new "Star Card" program in January to award five students every month for being exemplary students in showing kindness, being helpful, displaying sportsmanship, and/or keeping our school clean.



The following students were the "Star Students" for the month of April: Joseph Asmerian and Olivia Seradarian, 2nd Yellow; Sophie Karaguoizian, 4th; and Anthony Aywazian and Alec Haig, 5th. The students were rewarded with ice cream.



As for May "Star Students", the following students were the winners: Vidal Virabyan, 2nd Yellow; Sophie Karaguoizian, 4th; Sarkis Migranyan and Anthony Aywazian, 5th; and Nikolas Jamgochian, 7th. These students were awarded for their excellence on May 29 with Baskin Robbins gift cards.



## ԱՆԿԱՍՈՒԹԵԱՆ ՏՕՆԸ ՄԵՐՏԻՆԵԱՆ ՎԱՐԺԱՐԱՆԷՆ ՆԵՐՍ

Մայիսեան յաղթանակներու ոգետորիչ խանդը հասաւ ու վարակեց Մերտինեան վարժարանի ընտանիքն ալ: Մայիս 25-ին վարժարանիս սրահին մէջ կայացաւ Հայաստանի Հանրապետութեան հարիրամեակի տօնախմբութիւնը: Աշակերտական խորհուրդի նախագահ՝ Անի Քօսօյեանը առաջնորդեց «Հայ Աշակերտին Ուխտը» եւ ապա երրորդ դասարանի աշակերտ՝ Անտրիս ՊԷՆՆԷԷԿԵԱՆԻ դաշնակի ընկերակցութեամբ երգուեցաւ «Մեր Հայրենիք»-ը:



Տիկին Բաբումեան հակիրճ պատմական ակնարկ մը կատարեց 1918 Մայիսեան վճռորոշ կոիւներուն մասին, որոնք դարձան հիմնաքարը մեր նորօրեայ լուսաւոր հայրենիքին: Ապա Ե. եւ Բ. կարգերու աշակերտներ արտասանեցին եւ մեր շնորհալի աշակերտներէն՝ Անի Քօսօյեանը նուագեց դաշնակի վրայ:



Օրը կրկնակի տօնակատարութեան վերածեց օրուան հիւր

երգիչը՝ Մարտիկ Յովհաննէսեանը, որ հմայիչ թաւշեայ ձայնով, իր առաջին իսկ երգով, ոգետորեց աշակերտութիւնը, որոնք ինքնաբոլիս իրար ձեռք բռնած շուրջպար պարեցին սրահին մէջ:



Զինուորի երգին հետ բարձրացան բեմ ու տողանցեցին կարգապահօրէն : Մարտիկին առաջնորդութեամբ Զ.- Ը. կարգի աշակերտները երգեցին՝ «Գետաշէն», «Երեւան Էրեբունի» եւ «Սարդարապատ» երգերը:



Կեցցէ՛ Հայաստանի Հանրապետութիւնը,  
Կեցցէ՛ Արցախի Հանրապետութիւնը  
Կեցցէ՛ Մերտինեանը, որ առիթ կու տայ հայրենիքէն հեռու հասակ առնող հայ մանուկներուն շարունակել հայօրէն ապրիլ:

## PRINCIPALS' MEETING

The Armenian school principals' meeting took place at Sahag-Mesrob Armenian Christian School on May 1. The attendees discussed professional development opportunities, an upcoming principals' retreat/conference, and other school matters.

## TERRA NOVA

The standardized tests were administered to our 1st through 8th graders on May 15-17. The achievement tests are designed to assess students in Reading, Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, Vocabulary, Spelling, and other areas. Our students did an awesome job!

## SPIRIT DAY

Students and teachers came to school with crazy hair and crazy socks on May 24. A schoolwide parade took place for students to have the opportunity to show their hair and socks. Students enjoyed the parade very much! That same day the school Spirit Committee provided ice cream to all the students during lunch recess, adding on the excitement.



# SUMMER CAMP 2018



## "MAD SCIENCE" AT MERDINIAN

Mad Science visited the school on May 1 for our 3rd & 4th graders. They brought the discovery of Science, exploration, and hands-on experiences to reinforce the curriculum.



## MAC GAMES

The Merdinian Athletic Committee concluded the 2017-2018 academic year with the traditional MAC games on May 11. Parents and students played basketball and soccer games against each other with great excitement during a fun-filled afternoon.



*Have a great summer and see you all on August 20!*

**Editorial Staff:** Lina Arslanian, Naira Nalbandyan, Armine Nalbantian, Aline Bezdikian-Shirajian, and Fredrick Sayadian  
**Design and Layout by:** Fredrick Sayadian



**CHARLOTTE AND ELISE MERDINIAN  
ARMENIAN EVANGELICAL SCHOOL**  
13330 Riverside Drive, Sherman Oaks, CA 91423