

Meridianian News

Pursue Excellence

AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2018 • NUMBER 1

ՄԵՐՏԻՆԵԱՆ ՎԱՐԺԱՐԱՆԻ ՎԵՐԱՄՈՒՏՇ

Վերամուտ է: Մերտինեան Վարժարանի տնօրէնութիւնը, ուսուցչակազմը, աշակերտներն ու ծնողները երկու ամսուան դադարէ մը ետք կը վերադառնան դպրոցական իրենց առօրեայ կեանքին ու մարտահրաւերներուն:

Վարժարանս, 37-րդ տարին ըլլալով կը բանայ իր դռները հայ մանուկներուն եւ պատանիներուն դիմաց ու գրկաբաց կ'ընդունի զանոնք, խոստանալով ապահով միջավայր ուր հայ մանուկը հասակ պիտի առնէ ու զարգանայ հոգիով ու մտքով:

Երկուշաբթի, Օգոստոս 20, առաւօտեան ժամը 8-ին հնչեց դպրոցական ներկայ տարեշրջանի առաջին զանգը եւ Մանկապարտէզէն մինչեւ 8-րդ կարգի աշակերտները իրենց ուսուցիչներու ընկերակցութեամբ շտապեցին դէպի վարժարանիս «Արամ եւ Անայիս Տ. Պուլղորճեան» սրահ, ուր իրենց կը սպասէին Տնօրէնուհին Տիկին Լինա Արսլանեանը, հոգաբարձութեան ներկայացուցիչ՝ Տիկին Բիթա Մէնէշեանը, Պատուելի Հէնրիկ Շահնազարեանը եւ վարժարանիս ծնողներու ստուար հոյլ մը:

2018-2019 տարեշրջանի բացման արարողութեան աշակերտները նախ ամերիկեան եւ ազգային ուխտերը կատարեցին եւ ապա Տիկին Ալիս ՏէրԳեորգեանի ղեկավարութեամբ՝ երգեցին զոյգ

քայլերգները, որուն յաջորդեց Մաղմուս 23-ի արտասանութիւնը կրօնի բաժանմունքի պատասխանատու Տիկին Լենա Էքմէքճեանի առաջնորդութեամբ:

Տիկին Արսլանեան ողջունեց բոլորը եւ ապա հրաւիրեց Պատուելի Հէնրիկ Շահնազարեանը, որ աղօթքով ու աշակերտներուն ուղղուած հոգեպարար պատգամով իր բարեմաղթութիւնները փոխանցեց Մերտինեան Վարժարանի մեծ ընտանիքին: Ապա Տիկին Արսլանեան բեմ հրաւիրեց հոգաբարձական կազմէն Տիկին Մէնէշեանը, որ իր խօսքը փոխանցէ աշակերտներուն:

Տիկին Արսլանեան հաճոյքով յայտարարեց վարժարանիս աշակերտներու թուական աճին մասին եւ արագ ակնարկ մը կատարեց ամրան կայացած ճամբարի իրագործումներուն եւ յառաջիկայ տարուան իրագործելիք ընթացիկ ու նոր ծրագիրներուն վրայ, հաստատելով թէ, ընդառաջելով ծնողներու փափաքին, արդէն իսկ գործի կը դրուի արեւմտահայերէնի զուգահեռ արեւելահայերէնի դասաւանդման կրթական ծրագիրը նախակրթարանի առաջին երեք դասարաններուն մէջ: Ան յորդորեց ծնողները գործօն մասնակցութիւն բերելու վարժարանի առօրեայ աշխատանքներուն, յանձնարարելով, որ սերտ կապեր ունենան դպրոցին հետ՝ կամաւոր ծառայութիւններ մատուցելով անոր:

Ապա Տիկին Արսլանեան ներկայացուց 2018-2019 տարեշրջանի ուսուցչական

կազմն ու պաշտօնէութիւնը, բոլորին մաղթելով առողջ յաջող եւ իրագործումներով լի տարեշրջան մը. ան իր երախտագիտական զգացումները յայտնեց անոնց, որոնք ոգևորութեամբ աշխատեցան սատարելով նոր տարեշրջանի հեզասահ ընթացքին:

Բացման հանդիսութիւնը փակուեցաւ «Հայր Մեր»ով, որմէ ետք աշակերտները նոր խանդավառութեամբ մեկնեցան իրենց դասարանները, հանդիպելու իրենց ուսուցիչներուն, նոր ու նախկին դասընկերներուն եւ սկսելու նոր տարեշրջանը նոր յոյսերով, նոր խանդով:

Նոյն օրը ժամը 9:30-ին տեղի ունեցաւ Մերտինեան Վարժարանի Նախամանկապարտէզի վերամուտի հանդիսութիւնը: Խօսք առաւ Նախամանկապարտէզի պատասխանատու՝ Տիկին Մարիթան Գեորգեանը, որ իր կարգին ողջունեց բոլոր ծնողները վստահեցնելով, որ Մերտինեանի Նախամանկապարտէզին մէջ իրենց զաւակները պիտի վայելեն սէր, գուրգուրանք եւ հոգածութիւն: Ապա բոլորը ուղղուեցան իրենց դասարանները, ուրկէ կ'էսօրին մեկնեցան տուն: Բարի վերադարձ դպրոց ու բարի տարի:



PRESCHOOL NEWS

- On August 20, the pre-school opening ceremony took place in the Aram and Anahis D. Boolghoorjian Hall, which was full of excited parents and students. Preschool Director Mrs. Marijan Kevorkian welcomed the parents and introduced the staff. The parents then followed their homeroom teachers for individual classroom orientations.
- This year, many parents were able to attend the Back-to-School Night on August 24. It was a very important and informative night, where teachers discussed the curriculum and their classroom expectations.
- The week of September 17 was dedicated to the celebration of the Independence Day of Armenia. Preschool teachers had discussions with their students about Armenia, followed by related activities.
- September 19 was picture day. Students took both individual and classroom pictures. For some students, it was their first picture in their Merdinian uniforms, which was exciting for both parents and students.
- Ice cream day was another exciting event that took place on September 25. Preschoolers visited the ice cream truck with their teachers and purchased their favorite flavors (chocolate, vanilla, or twist).



PICTURE DAY

Taking school pictures is a cherished tradition. Picture Day this year was on September 12 for kindergarten-8th grade and September 19 for preschool. A very big thank you to our volunteer parents who helped make everything run very smoothly. We are looking forward to receiving all the beautiful and memorable pictures taken of our students for the 2018-19 school year.

ARMENIAN DEPARTMENT

- With the new academic year, parents welcomed the addition of Eastern and Western Armenian language instruction in our curriculum for grades K-3rd. Mrs. Margarit Meghroyan teaches Eastern Armenian to K-3rd graders, while Mrs. Lena Ekmekjian and Mrs. Aline Bezdikian-Shirajian teach Western Armenian.
- Our Armenian teachers, Mrs. Mayda Baboumian, Mrs. Margarit Meghroyan, Mrs. Lena Ekmekjian, Mrs. Aline Bezdikian-Shirajian, and Mrs. Mariam Petrossian attended "Best and Promising Practices" conference for Armenian language instruction. The conference, the initiative of the AGBU Yervant Babayan Institute of Pedagogy for Research and Development, took place on September 22 at the AGBU Tamar and Vatche Manougian Center in Pasadena. Dr. Silva Karayan, professor Emeritus of Graduate School of Education at the California Lutheran University, played a key role in organizing the conference. She was impressed by the commitment and the effort put forth by the

Armenian teachers for the preservation of the Armenian language and culture. During the conference, our teachers, Mrs. Mayda, Mrs. Lena, and Mrs. Aline were among teachers to share resources and helpful ideas for the betterment of Armenian language instruction.



CELEBRATION: ARMENIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY

On the occasion of Armenia's 27th Independence Day, Mrs. Mayda Baboumian took the podium in the chapel to make an interesting presentation about Armenia on September 19. In her opening remarks, she asked the students to pray for a peaceful Armenia. "You will be the future soldiers of our homeland. Soldiers, in the sense of volunteers, to help in the growth of our homeland," said the chair of our Armenian Department. She was followed by a few of our 8th graders, who made a powerpoint presentation on Armenia. The assembly ended with a sing-along of the famous Armenian song by Inga and Anush Arshagians and "Hayr Mer".



TEACHER LUNCHEON

Our wonderful PTO organized a luncheon for the faculty and staff on August 15 to welcome back everyone. Thank you PTO for the delicious lunch!



BREAKFAST WITH THE PARENTS

The first "Breakfast with the Parents," hosted by the PTO, was held in the school hall on September 7. During this event, parents had the opportunity to meet each other as well as share ideas and suggestions.



WINE AND CHEESE

In the spirit of "First Day of School!", our PTO hosted a successful Wine and Cheese mixer on September 7. It was a great opportunity for parents to mingle while child care was provided on campus.



STUDENT COUNCIL

Grades 3rd through 8th students elected their student council representatives on August 24. The 5th through 8th grade candidates prepared their speeches and campaign posters, which they placed on campus walls and in hallways. They presented their speeches on August 31 in the chapel during the student assembly. Following the assembly, the students completed their ballots to vote.

The following are the elected Student Council members for 2018-2019:

President: Vahe Snappyan (8th)
 Vice-President: Diana Hovhannisyan (7th)
 Secretary: Sarine Boyadjian (6th)
 Treasurer: Gregory Alandjian (5th)



This year, the Student Council advisors are Mrs. Naira Nalbandyan, Mrs. Carmen Bezerdjian, Ms. Sevana Hakopian/Mrs. Tania Avakian. They conduct regular meetings to plan activities throughout the year and raise funds from snack sales to help Armenia and other humanitarian causes.

STAR STUDENT

Students receive the Merdinian Star Card for the following criteria: Showing kindness, Being Helpful, Displaying

Sportsmanship, and Keeping Our School Clean.

After they are nominated, five names are drawn by the end of each month during our chapel service. The lucky ones are later awarded with a prize.



Kyle, Sophia, Arpi, Lena, Paul

SPIRIT COMMITTEE

To make our school spirit even higher, some volunteer parents had the great idea to serve free slices of watermelon to the students on a hot and sunny day of August 24. With the initiative of the same committee, the ice cream truck made a stop at Merdinian on September 25 to serve the students yummy ice cream. The Spirit Committee is composed of three volunteer parents, Marine Galadjian, Tamar Yeghishian, and Lucy Makaryan.



BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT

We had a great turnout for our Back-to-School Night. Over 76% of parents attended this very important and informative night on Friday, August 24. The event began with our third annual Wine and Cheese Night, hosted by our dedicated Parent-Teacher Organization, where the attendees enjoyed delicious food and great company. The Principal, Mrs. Lina Arslanian, introduced the new and returning teachers, welcomed all attendees, and thanked parents for taking an active role in their children's academics. Board member Mr. Harold DeMirjian wished our parents and faculty members a productive and successful school year. Mrs. Azniv Ghazanian, the PTO chair, shared her positive experiences and memories at Merdinian, reviewed the different duties and responsibilities of PTO members, and encouraged parents to get involved in their children's lives. Parents were then dismissed to visit their children's classrooms and get acquainted with the curriculum, procedures, and expectations.



TEACHERS' PUBLICATIONS

- The Armenian Christian Heritage Committee of the Armenian Evangelical Union of North America sponsored a new publication "*Heroes of the Bible: Moses and Jonas*" published for ages 5-10. The book is compiled by our Religion Department chair Mrs. Lena Ekmekjian. It includes an audio CD and original illustrations. The publishers hope to add more volumes featuring heroes of the Bible.
- Our Armenian language and history teacher Aline Bezdikian-Shirajian published her 11th book titled *Loriyin yev Naregin Donagan Orereh*. The book tells about the Armenian traditional holidays illustrated with scenic pictures of Armenia.

TEACHERS' PREPARATIONS FOR THE NEW ACADEMIC YEAR

The three days preceding the start of the new academic year, teachers worked hard setting up classrooms, preparing course overviews, holding meetings, and attending a workshop on bullying presented on August 16 by our parent, Mrs. Lilit Vartanian, Teacher and Positive Discipline Educator.



NEW FACULTY MEMBERS

We are delighted to announce that new faculty members have joined Merdinian School this year. Mrs. Carmen Bezerdjian is our Third Grade Yellow homeroom teacher. We are thankful for Ms. Sevana Hagopian who is the Fourth Grade homeroom teacher while Mrs. Tania Avakian is away on maternity leave. Mrs. Salpy Tejirian is our PreK Blue Homeroom Teacher and Mrs. Shogher Shanoian is our new Administrative Assistant. We welcome them and wish everyone an amazing school year.

CHARACTER OF THE MONTH

Kindness was the character of the month of September! Our kindergarten classes, guided by their religion teacher, Mrs. Karinae, had a special presentation in chapel "Throw Kindness Around Like a Confetti," on September 25. They also made special art projects to decorate around the school. Great job kindergarteners!



Armenian Book Fair

Հայերէն Գիրքերու Ցուցահանդէս

Շ. Եւ Է. Մերտինեան Հայ Աւետարանական Կարծարան

Հայերէն Գիրքեր



Հայերէն Գիրքեր
Ձեռագին Աշխատանքներ
Ցուշանուէրներ
Դպրոցական Պիտույքներ

«...Հայ լեզուն...մեր գերագո՛յն
գանձը, հայ մշակույթի հրաշքներուն
մեծագո՛յնը»:
Արշակ Զօպանեան



- Books
- Arts & Crafts
- Memorabilia
- School Supplies

Tues., Wed., Thurs. & Friday

October 23—26, 2018

9:00 am—1:00 pm

Food Matters: Positive Changes Coming Your Way!

As more families are making health conscious decisions regarding food choices, so is Merdinian School! Merdinian believes in offering our students the very best and that includes healthy lunch meals. Research has shown that school food is a major player in the fight against childhood obesity and many diet-related diseases among children. Our food task force has recently reviewed our lunch meals and we have come up with some great changes. Some of the great changes are:

1. No processed meat.
2. More salad varieties.
3. More vegetarian varieties.
4. More fresh fruit and vegetables.

Did you know?

1. The chicken tenders are homemade with fresh chicken breast and ingredients.
2. Pizza is made fresh every Wednesday!
3. Mac and Cheese is made fresh daily, with real macaroni and real cheese.

Bon Appetit!



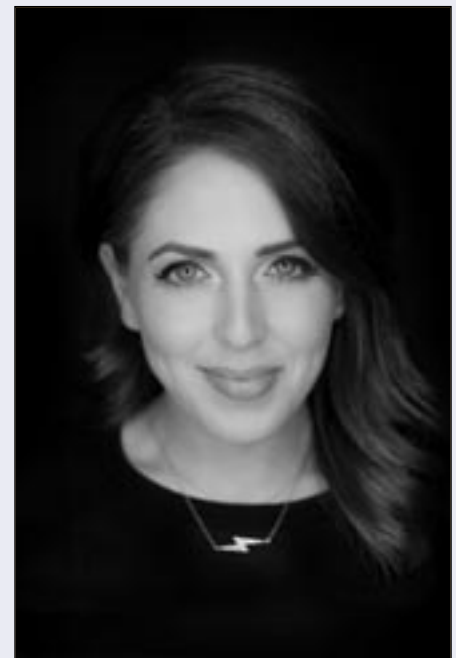
ALUMNI CORNER

Natalie Qasabian graduated from USC's School of Cinematic Arts in 2014 and has been building her career as a producer ever since. The first short film she produced, "Join the Club" premiered at the Sundance Film Festival in 2016. From there she went on to produce three Duplass Brothers features: "Rainbow Time," "Take Me," and "Duck Butter" directed by Miguel Arteta. She also produced "All About Nina" starring Mary Elizabeth Winstead and Common, which premiered at the Tribeca Film Festival earlier this year and was acquired by The Orchard.

Her latest feature

"Searching," a thriller starring John Cho and Debra Messing premiered at North America's largest film festival Sundance in January and won the Audience award and Alfred P. Sloan award for its use of science and technology. "Searching" was distributed by Sony pictures both domestically and internationally. The film shattered box office expectations and received rave reviews from both critics and audiences.

Currently, Natalie is producing "Run" for Lionsgate alongside "Searching" producer Sev Ohanian and director Aneesh Chaganty. Natalie also recently graduated with an MBA from Pepperdine University. She is a proud class of 2010 Merdinian Alumna.



Editors' Notes:

Certain scenes from the movie were filmed at Merdinian School, which is featured in the credits of the film.

Editorial Staff: Lina Arslanian, Carmen Bezerdjian, Armine Nalbantian, Aline Bezdikian-Shirajian, and Fredrick Sayadian
Design and Layout by: Fredrick Sayadian



**CHARLOTTE AND ELISE MERDINIAN
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