



February Newsletter

Issue 5

February 2013

TCA ADS Observes Vartanatz

TCA Arshag Dickranian Armenian School

*"Be Kind Whenever Possible.
It is always possible"*

~ Dalai Lama

TCA Arshag Dickranian School celebrated Vartanantz on Thursday, February 7, during the last period. Students gathered at the Walter & Laurel Karabian Hall at 2:30 pm to attend an event organized by the Armenian Department and music teacher Mr. Komitas Keshishian. The guests of the event included Fr. Manoug Markaryan and parents.

The event started with the opening prayer of "Hayr Mer" which was sung by 10th grade student Armine Gulyan, followed by two Armenian songs by the school choir comprised of elementary and junior high school students. Eighth

graders Mania Mgdsyan, Marine Sanosyan, Lily Sarafian and Ani Sarafian recited poetry by Vatchagan Hovanesyan and 10th graders Luiza Hekimyan and Anais Nahapetyan read a literary piece dedicated to Armenia. Next, high school students presented a vivid play based on Yeghise Badmich's book about Vartanantz, depicting previous leaders and Arme-

nian religious figures who were ready to sacrifice their lives to maintaining the Christian identity of Armenia. This was followed with a performance by 4th grade male students who presented how Armenians nowadays still carry the torch of the spirit of Vartanantz. The event was concluded with the song "Zartir Lao" and the closing remarks of Fr. Manoug Markaryan who talked about the importance of celebrating the historical event of Vartanantz and never forgetting it.



The school was closed on Friday, February 8 in observance of this historical event.

TCA ADS 32nd Annual Banquet To Take Place on March 22

The 32nd Annual Banquet of the TCA Arshag Dickranian School will to be held on Friday March 22nd, 2013 at 7:00 p.m., at the school's Walter & Laurel Karabian Hall. The theme of the event will be "Greek Night".

The honorary guests of this year's event are Mr. and Mrs. Ara and Julia Aghishian. Mr. Aghishian, a prominent attorney, was a member of the Board of Trustees of TCA Arshag Dickranian School and currently serves as the president of Hayastan All Armenian Fund's U.S. Western Region. Mrs. Aghishian works as a volunteer teacher at Dickranian School and teaches first grade and high school grades.

The Annual Banquet is a traditional event of the Parent-Teacher Organization, which brings together the large circle of parents, teachers, students, alumni and guests dedicated to the success and progress of the school. The event also allows students endowed with artistic gifts to present their talents individually or collectively to their appreciative audiences. The prize of the raffle this year is one week paid hotel accommodation in Greece.

Tickets are at \$75.00 for adults and \$50.00 for students, which may be acquired by contacting the school office at (323) 461 – 4377 or PTO Chairwoman Mrs. Armine Gasparian at (323) 428 – 4747.

Investment Club Winners Announced

Every October 1st, the senior students at TCA Arshag Dickranian School participate in an educational project created by their economics teacher Mr. Ron Morrissey called the "Investment Club". At the beginning of the project, every student receives mock money for the sum of \$100,000 which he or she is instructed to invest in stocks, bonds, real estate and bank certificates of deposit. The students track their investments for 15 weeks on a weekly basis and then create a spread sheet showing the earnings and losses made. At the end of 15

weeks, the 3 top earners win a dinner at the Marina Del Rey Tony P's Dockside Restaurant which they attend at the end of the year with their teacher Mr. Ron Morrissey. This year's winners are David Ananyan earning \$54,000, Aram Ekimyan earning \$22,500 and Michael Abassian earning \$13,500. Congratulations to our winning students. We wish you good luck in the future as possible entrepreneurs!



Dissection in Science Laboratory

On Thursday, February 14, the 10th grade students performed a dissection of sheep brains in the junior science lab for their biology class. Mr. Vigen Avedissian provided the class with 10 brains; each couple received a brain to work on.

The students had mixed feelings about this project since it gave them the opportunity to have direct contact with an actual animal brain but found it highly educational and helpful for their studies.



KAHAM Games Update

The elementary and junior high basketball teams of TCA Arshag Dickranian School participated in KAHAM matches at Birmingham High School on February 9. Our elementary basketball team which is comprised of 3rd and 4th graders played against Sahag Mesrob Christian Armenian School and won by a score of 25 vs. 5;

our junior basketball team which is comprised of 7th and 8th graders played against Ferrahian Armenian School and won by a score of 27 vs. 14. We are very proud of our students for this achievement! We wish them good luck throughout the rest of the games!



ADS Students in 20th Annual LADWP Science Bowl

High school students Aram Ekimyan, Michael Abassian, Onnig Ashikian, Nerses Bogosyan and Arthur Mazloumian participated in the 20th Annual LADWP Science Bowl which took place at the LADWP Center in Downtown Los Angeles on Saturday, February 23. More than 260 students in 55 teams from public, charter and private schools participated in the contest competing to win \$25,000 in combined college scholarship funds

along with other prizes from sponsoring companies. The LADWP Science Bowl is designed to test students' knowledge of science and teamwork skills. The ADS team which was headed by Aram Ekimyan was asked to build a boat using the materials provided to them. The LADWP will announce the winners once projects are assessed. We wish good luck to our students!!

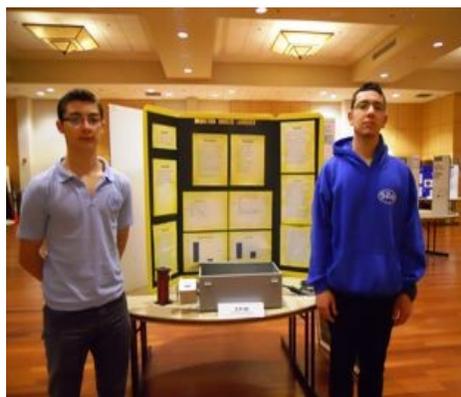
5th Graders Visit Lab

On Thursday, February 7, for their science class, the 5th grade students visited the senior science lab of the school along with their teacher Ms. Laura Atteukenian, to learn about distillation of water. Senior science teacher Mr. Iain Tyson performed the process of distilling salt water and the students were very excited to observe the process. This was a great hands-on experience for the 5th graders and one of their first visits to the senior lab.

Science Fair

Students ranging from 6th through 11th grades participated in the school's Annual Science Fair which took place on Monday, February 25. The students' projects consisted of cardboard presentations of topics they have learned about in their science classes this year, under the guidance of senior science teacher Mr. Iain Tyson and junior science teacher Mr. Vigen Avedissian. The judging committee of the fair consisted of Armenian Engineers and Scientists of America (AESA) Committee Members Dr. Louisa Manasyan and Ms. Vivian Taslakian, former ADS teacher Mr. Vatche Semerdjian and parent Ms. Armine Klitchian. The assessment of the projects will be based on the understanding of the material, creativity, effort, skills, use of the scientific tech-

nique and the responses students give the committee when interviewed about their projects. The names of the winners will be announced during the Awards Night on March 6. The students will be participating in the Annual Science Olympiad in March at Woodbury University in Burbank.



Our elementary students also had a science fair, taking place on February 22. The 1st graders did a group project about weather; the 2nd graders

did a group project investigating the effect of sugar water versus tap water on plant growth; whereas the 3rd graders did a project on the solar system. The 4th graders did their projects in pairs and the 5th graders did them individually; their experiments included topics such as how to grow candy, what affects blood glucose level and what strengthens an electromagnet. High school science teacher Mr. Iain Tyson and junior high science teacher Mr. Vigen Avedissian will be assessing the projects and the winners will be announced on March 6 as well.

"We are 100 days smarter"

Tuesday, February 19th was the 100th day of this scholastic year. In order to celebrate this milestone, faculty and staff organized a breakfast which was held at the Walter & Laurel Karabian Hall, where students and teachers gathered in the morning, enjoying one another's company and bonding. The slogan of the day was "We are 100 days smarter." During the last hour of the school, everyone from Pre-K through 12th grade gathered at the Karabian Hall where they engaged in educational games such as naming 100 countries, 100 Armenian names and 100 animals. The games were both in English and Armenian.



Elementary Book Reading Contest

In observance of the National Reading Month which is in March, 1st through 8th grade students are participating in the Book Reading Contest organized by the school administration. To participate and win in the contest, students were encouraged to read as many age-appropriate books as possible and create book reports. The book reports were submitted this month to the English Department to assess winners based on the number of books read. The names of winners will be announced in March.

ADS Principal & Teachers Visit Meridianian Evangelical School

On February 13th, Principal Maral Yeranossian and teachers Ms. Noushig Gilabouchian and Mr. Adam Ocampo visited Meridianian Evangelical Armenian School where they met with Principal Ms. Lina Aslanian and the graduating class of junior high school to invite them to attend high school at TCA Arshag Dickranian School next year. Ms. Gilabouchian presented a short video of our current 9th grade students talking about our school and the reasons why they are happy to be Dickranian students while Mr. Ocampo talked about the courses we offer. The Meridianian students were pleased with the visit and found it informative and will be most welcome if they decide to attend ADS next year.

6th Graders Raise Money to Redecorate Their Classroom

The 6th grade students held a bake sale on February 11, to raise money to redecorate their classroom. Thank you for taking care of your school!!

Announcements

Basketball KAHAM Games Schedule

March 9 and 10

March 18 KAHAM Closing Ceremonies

Soccer KAHAM Games Schedule

March 10

March 18 - KAHAM Closing Ceremonies

School will be closed from March 22nd to April 1st in observance of Easter Break. Happy Easter everyone!!
