

For Immediate Release

TCA ARSHAG DICKKRANIAN ARMENIAN SCHOOL
1200 CAHUENGA BLVD. LOS ANGELES, CA 90038

TCA Arshag Dickranian School Holds Its 2012 Commencement Ceremonies

Los Angeles, June 28, 2012 - In an air of celebration, TCA Arshag Dickranian School held its 31st Commencement Ceremony for its 12th, 8th, and 5th grades on Saturday June 23rd, 2012 at 5:00 p.m. at the Walter and Laurel Karabian Hall. Honorary guests included Fr. Manoug Markarian and Deacon Sarkis Ailejian, school benefactress Mrs. Laurel Karabian, kindergarten benefactress Mrs. Dikranouhi Mkhsi-Gevorkian and her son Vartan, and school benefactor Mr. Kevork Tashjian, who took their seats along with Board Members, parents and friends to celebrate the proud achievements of the graduating students.

The Commencement Ceremony began with the Processional as the 12th, 8th, and 5th grade students, attired in their caps and gowns, marched into the hall to take their assigned seats, after which all stood up as the American, Armenian and School anthems filled the hall.

Ms. Diana Ovsepien, 2005 alumnus of Arshag Dickranian School acted as the MC of the event. She first greeted the students, the guests and teachers in her opening remarks and gave a heartening speech about her experience graduating from Arshag Dickranian School. "This is the first major milestone you've accomplished Class of 2012," Said she. "In the past, decisions were made for you but from now on you will begin to shape your own future." She also talked about the achievements of previous school alumni, shedding light onto the opportunities lying ahead of the graduating students. "Year to date, over 36 alumni from this school have graduated UCLA, over 40 from other various UC University, one from Harvard University and many others from universities such as Woodbury and USC. The possibilities lying ahead of you are endless."



MC of event Ms. Diana Ovsepian greeting graduates

Ms. Ovsepian then invited Principal Vartkes Kourouyan who presented awards to outstanding students from 5th and 8th grades. Two students were selected from each grade for their high performances. Next, the MC respectively invited 5th Grade Homeroom Teacher Ms. Ashley Kirakosyan and Board Member Ms. Gia Aivazian to present the 5th grade diplomas, followed by 8th Grade Homeroom Teacher and Board Member Mr. Diran Depanian to present the 8th graders' diplomas.

Vice-Chairman Mr. Parsegh Kartalian delivered his remarks on behalf of the Board of Trustees, wishing the graduates of the Class of 2012 the best of luck in their endeavors and reminded them that they are always welcome to serve the school in any capacity of their choosing.

Mr. Kartalian's remarks were followed by the introduction of the senior graduates by Head of the English Department, Dr. Ricardo Rocha. As their names were called, Nvart Agazaryan, Lusine Agekyan, Vartan Baghdasaryan, Maria Gukasyan, Artur Karapetyan, Hagop Karapetyan, Aram Nipiossian, Shant Ogtanyan, Armen Palezyan, Arhur Pambuckchyan, Armine Sanosyan, Morris Sarafian, Harout Seropian, Susan Sherbetchyan, Hovanes Supikyan and Anna Tutunjian stood up and walked across the stage to receive their high school diplomas from Board Member Mr. Osheen Keshishian amid cheers and applause.



Following the presentation of diplomas, Senior Valedictorian Morris Sarafian and the two Senior Salutatorians Armine Sanosyan and Shant Ogtanyan took the podium, who expressed their gratitude for their school, teachers and parents for the education and opportunities they received at TCA Arshag Dickranian School.

The MC then called upon Principal Kourouyan who asked Board Member Mrs. Angine Garibyan to jointly present the awards to the 12th graders for various accomplishments in different areas. Morris Sarafian received the Exemplary Student of the Decade Award and Hagop Karapetian received the MVP Award for his exceptional contribution to the basketball team and tournaments.

The keynote speaker of the event was Prof. Peter Cowe, holder of the UCLA Narekatsi Chair for Armenian Studies. Dr. Cowe at first startled his audience with his impeccable Armenian, then changed to his native English and greeted the graduating students, encouraging them to pursue their goals and dreams without being discouraged by the inevitable difficulties of daily life. "Cherish the moments you've had together because they have had more impact on you than you realize." Said Mr. Cowe. He then added, "And never forget to have fun because learning is stimulating and fun." Prof. Cowe ended his remarks by advising the students to be good Armenians and to maintain their culture.



Keynote Speaker Prof. Cowe encouraging graduates to follow their dreams

Principal Vartkes Kourouyan followed with his message, in which he stressed the importance of safeguarding the Armenian identity which can be achieved through taking children to Armenian schools, where they can learn the Armenian language, history and culture. He also said that Armenian schools do not fall short in their level of education and programs compared to public schools, except maybe in the sports area. Principal Kourouyan sealed his message by bidding farewell to students and congratulating them and their parents for this memorable achievement. The commencement ceremony was concluded with the closing prayers of Fr. Manoug Markarian and Deacon Sarkis Ailejian who delivered their blessings on behalf of Archbishop Fr. Hovnan Derderian, Primate of the Armenian Church of the Western Diocese. Students then marched out of the hall where they gathered with family and friends for carousing, picture taking and congratulating one another.

Located at 1200 North Cahuenga Blvd., Los Angeles, the TCA Arshag Dickranian Armenian School is a federally tax exempt, Pre-K to 12th grade private educational institution. For more information visit www.dickranianschool.org.

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Prom Night at TCA Arshag Dickranian School

Los Angeles, June 26, 2012 - On Sunday, June 18th 2012, TCA Arshag Dickranian School held its Annual Prom Night (Graduation Ball Prom) to celebrate the graduation of its Middle School and High School graduates. The ball took place at the Ballroom of Anoush Restaurant in Glendale, where the families, friends and teachers of the graduating students gathered to enjoy a night of dinner, dance and celebration.

The event began with the opening remarks of 11th grade student Lucy Tekneyan, MC of the event and Secretary of the Student Council of 2011- 2012, who welcomed the attendants and wished them a pleasant evening. She then called upon 8th grade homeroom teacher Mrs. Alvard Uzunyan to present her graduating students. Mrs. Uzunyan then introduced her 8th graders one by one with a funny description, pointing what made everyone unique as individuals. Next, students of Class of 2012 were inducted individually by high school math teacher Mrs. Vergine Harutunyan, who highlighted the accomplishments and talents of each and every student when calling their name. Each graduating class gathered to have a group picture taken before being seated at their tables.

After their introduction and as delicious and diverse entrees were being served, the MC took turn calling upon all the 12th and 8th graders to get to the dance floor to have their first dance with their parents and later with their partners. The dance floor was filled with excited students and parents, dancing in celebration to various tunes played by DJ Yaman and live songs performed by Arsen Aloyan and Aram Mardirosyan.



**Class of 2012 with Principal Vartkes Kourouyan
and high school math teacher Mrs. Vergine Harutunyan**

After bidding farewell to the 12th graders on behalf of the 11th graders, the MC invited Principal Vartkes Kourouyan to deliver his remarks. Mr. Kourouyan first humored the graduating students and wished them well in their endeavors. He then thanked Mr. and Mrs. Hagop and Adelina Supikyan, for accepting to be the guests of honor of the event on the occasion of their 12th grader son Asatour's graduation. He also thanked former board member Mr. Ara Aghishian and his wife Julia, and Messrs. Hakop Supikyan and Vrej Sarkisyan, owners of Anoush Restaurant, for their generous contributions.

Getting to the highlight of the event, the Principal then announced the Prince and Princess of the Prom, 8th graders Harry Farisyan and Lilit Shishikyan and the King and Queen of Class of 2012, Asatour Supikyan and Lusine Agekyan. Amid cheers and applause, the royal couples were then invited to the dance floor to make solo round. The hall was filled with an air of celebration while students, parents and guests intermingled in merriment till the wee hours of the morning.



**Prince and Princess of the Prom Harry Farisyan and Lilit Shishikyan and
King and Queen of Class of 2012 Asatour Supikyan and Lusine Agekyan**

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