

For Immediate Release

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

TCA Arshag Dickranian School's Annual Thanksgiving Dinner Celebration

Los Angeles, November 29, 2011 - On November 18th, the community of TCA Arshag Dickranian School enjoyed the traditional Thanksgiving Dinner-Dance held each year by the Parent-Teacher Organization at the Walter & Laurel Karabian Hall.

Friends, parents, teachers and students gathered in the tastefully decorated hall to celebrate the occasion together as one large family. As in previous years, the menu was comprised of an assortment of festive Armenian appetizers and the Thanksgiving turkey entrée catered by Mirage Restaurant.



2010 - 2011 Student Council Chairperson Morris Sarafian and current Student Council Chairperson Lucy Bambalyan delivering the opening remarks

Prior to serving dinner, 2010 - 2011 Student Council Chairperson Morris Sarafian and current Student Council Chairperson Lucy Bambalyan got on stage to deliver the opening remarks, welcoming guests and interactively explaining the purpose of the day. They also used the occasion to thank parents and faculty for the opportunity given to them for the quality education they receive at Arshag Dickranian School.

Following the opening speech, students from Pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, fourth and fifth grades took the stage respectively and recited poems and riddles about Thanksgiving. Sixth grader Diana Gasparyan recited a poem about the importance of sharing, which was followed by a poem about luck performed by eighth graders Lilit Shishikyan and Lianna Sultanyan. Continuing with the program performed by an all student cast, the first, second, and third graders delighted the audience with short plays revolving around the origin of Thanksgiving, ending their performance by singing "This Land is Your Land".



Students reciting Thanksgiving poetry

Next, ninth grader Armine Gulyan sang "Komitas", a song not too foreign to Armenian ears, followed by a dance performance by third graders Lilit Hayrapetyan and Hakob Tumanyan who represent Queen of Dance Sport Studio, and an exquisite gymnastic performance by seventh grader Elizabeth Petrosyan, which left the audience in total awe of her talent. Elizabeth has been performing in the area of gymnastics since she was four years old and is a member of the Junior Olympic Team. The school choir then gathered on stage and sang various songs about Thanksgiving.



Gymnastic performance by 7th grader Elizabeth Petrosyan

On the high school level the guests were entertained to a live set of short improvisational performances directed by their English and drama teacher, Mr. Ricardo Rocha. The students were given a time frame of 30 seconds to 2 minutes to come up with creative ways to act on various scenes called in by Mr. Rocha and improvise on them, which cracked an air of humor in the hall. At the end, the panel of three judges gave the first place award to the tenth grade performers. The program ended with a medley of Armenian folk songs performed by 2011 school alumna Ani Nercessian and Yerevan's famous opera singer Mr. Ruben Telunts.

PTO Chairperson Mrs. Houri Taglyan - Kourouyan took turn to express her thanks and appreciation to her co-chair Mrs. Armine

Gasparian and PTO colleagues for organizing the event, Armenian teacher Ms. Emma Umroyan, kindergarten teacher Ms. Anahid Avanesian, pre-kindergarten teacher Ms. Madlena Marikyan, dance teacher Mr. Robert Arakelian and music teacher Mr. Komitas Keshishian for putting up the successful program, and Principal Vartkes Kourouyan, administrative secretary Mrs. Arpy Mazlounian and PR Coordinator Ms. Salpi Asayan for extending their valuable services to ensure the total success of the evening. She also thanks Mrs. Kristine Mkryan for decorating the Christmas tree and the pastry buffet, the Shishikyan family for donating fruits and Los Feliz Café for the tasty pumpkin pies.

The evening continued into the late hours of the night, dancing to the music of disc jockey Shahen. Due to the large number of student attendance taking part in the program, the evening turned more into a family type gathering, bustling with the spirit of Thanksgiving.

Over the years, the PTO has been vigorous in supporting the school by organizing various social and fundraising functions, by serving students' daily lunches and by promoting goodwill.

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 the school website at www.dickranianschool.org.

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