



# THE CHRONICLES

## VALUE OF THE MONTH: KINDNESS

As we finish out the month of February, we are excited to shine a spotlight on our value of the month: kindness. At AGM, kindness is a fundamental principle that guides our interactions and shapes our school culture and community. It is reflected in the smiles exchanged in the hallways, the supportive words shared in the classroom, and the acts of generosity that define who we are as a school. Certain students went above and beyond exhibiting kindness throughout the month, and were awarded a Kindness Award.



# SERVICE

To put words into action, 5th & 6th grade were involved with two service projects to spread some kindness and give back to our community. They hosted a donation drive for essential items and delivered them to two local organizations. Students volunteered at the food bank of the OC Rescue Mission and packed birthday boxes at Project Giving Light.

Our lower elementary students were introduced to the value of the month with a story read by Principal Ani Sarkissian. They learned that showing others kindness is like filling a bucket -- we should strive to fill each other's buckets with kindness because that will make those around us happy and loved.

## UPCOMING DATES

**MARCH 4-7: BOOK FAIR**

**MARCH 10: AGM DUCKS NIGHT**

**MARCH 21: OPEN HOUSE (MINIMUM DAY)**

**MARCH 23-APRIL 2: EASTER BREAK**

**USE THE READING MONTH CALENDAR TO KEEP UP WITH ALL THE FUN ACTIVITIES IN MARCH!**





# THE PRESCHOOL POST

## SCIENCE WEEK



Կարդանանք

Նարնջագույն Դասարան  
Orange Class





# WHAT'S UP WITH THE EAGLES?

## 3RD GRADE Հայերէն Լէզու

Անցեալ ամիս, աշակերտները երկու գիրք կարդացին՝ «Թզուկը եւ Ջաղացպանի Աղջիկը»: Ամփոփեցին, շարադրութիւն գրեցին եւ իրենց բառերով բացատրեցին հեքիաթը: Հիմա դասարանին մէջ կը պատրաստեն այս հեքիաթները բեմադրելու անմահ պահելու համար հայ գիրն ու գրականութիւնը:



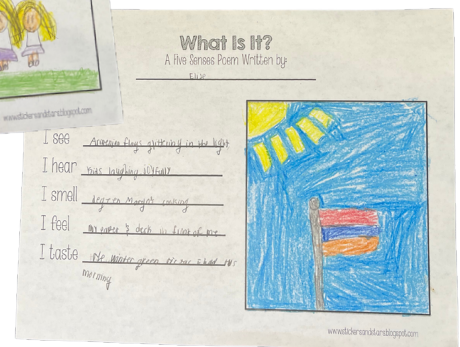
## 4TH GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES

Our 4th graders had the opportunity to report on a California Mission of their choice. They researched and presented their findings to the class and investigated the origins of the mission. To finish out the unit, 4th graders were able to visit Mission San Juan Capistrano where they saw first-hand what life on a mission was in the late 18th century. Students also participated in an adobe brick-making workshop, a common practice of the time.



## 2ND GRADE LANGUAGE ARTS

2nd grade students focused on different forms of poetry as a form of written language expression. Some of the types of poetry they practiced are 5 Senses Poems, Free Verse, and Shape Poems.



# WHAT'S UP WITH THE EAGLES?



## 1ST GRADE ԱԼԱՆԴՈՒԹԻՒՆՆԵՐ

Աշակերտները սորվեցան հայկական տօներու և սովորութիւններու մասին այս տօները ծանօթացնելու համար իրականացուցինք գործնական դաս: Հայերը Տեառնդառաջ կը տօնեն Յիսուսի ծնունդէն 40 օր ետք և կը խորհրդանշէ 40 օրական մանուկի տաճարին նուիրուիլը և եկեղեցոյ բակին մէջ կրակ կը վառեն, որ կը խորհրդանշէ Աստուծոյ լոյս: Մենք ալ խարոյկ շինեցինք և ուխտ մը ընելով, աշակերտները ցատկեցին կրակի վրայէն տէր պիտի կանգնիք մեր հայոց լեզուին ու հայոց պատմութեան:

## 5TH GRADE LANGUAGE ARTS

5th graders have begun to use a new writing program, NoRedInk, which is an online platform that helps to build strong writers and critical thinkers. Practice exercises help students target and master key writing and grammar skills, and quick writes help the 5th graders build their writing stamina and fluency.

## 6TH GRADE MATH

The 6th grade class has learned how to convert decimals into percentages and fractions. To apply this to their everyday lives, they created pie charts that identify the percentage of time they dedicate to each daily activity.



## KINDERGARTEN SCIENCE

Kindergarten students wrapped up their weather unit. They learned about forecasting and different careers related to the weather. Kindergarten has also begun preparing their science fair demonstration of the butterfly life cycle. In class, they are observing larvae turning into cocoons and eventually will see them become butterflies.

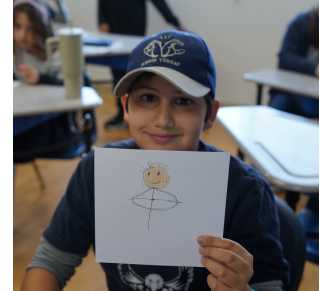




# THE SCHOOL-WIDE SCOOP

## ԲԱՐԵԿԵՆԴԱՆ GREAT LENT

Բարեկենդանի տօնի յաջորդ օրը կը սկսի Մեծ Պահքը: Աշակերտները դիմակ շինեցին, եւ պատրաստեցին Ակլատիզը, որ իր 7 փետուրներով կը խորհրդանշէ Պահքի եօթ շաբաթներ: Նաեւ գետեղեցինք մեր դասարաններէն ներս և բարեկենդանի առիթով համստեսցիք համով հատիկ: Հայերը Տեառնդառաջ կը տօնեն Յիսուսի ծնունդէն 40 օր ետք և կը խորհրդանշէ 40 օրական մանուկի տաճարին նուիրուիլը և եկեղեցոյ բակին մէջ կրակ կը վառեն, որ կը խորհրդանշէ Աստուծոյ լոյս:





# THE SCHOOL-WIDE SCOOP

# Վարդանանց Օր

Ինչպես ամեն տարի այս տարի եւս հաւաքուած ենք միասնաբար տօնելու Վարդանաց պատերազմի նահատատներու յիշատակը, որովհետեւ առանց անոնց քաջութեան եւ նուիրումին մենք պիտի չունենայինք մեր երկիրը Հայաստանը, ինչպէս նաեւ հայ ազգ գոյութիւն պիտի չունենար: 451 թուին Վարդան Մամիկոնեանի՝ կողքին հայ ժողովուրդը ամբողջութեամբ բանակ մը եղած է խնդիր Սուրբ հաւատքի ու հայրենիքի պաշտպանութեան: Ժողովուրդ մը իր սեփական ուժով ու իր միասնականութեամբ կրնայ տապալել ամենէն զորաւոր թշնամին: Այսօր Վարդանի բանակի զինուոր՝ է այն հայը որ իր Քրիստոնէական հաւատքը պահած է, եւ մինչեւ օրս կը պայքարի մեր ժողովուրդին ու հայրենիքին համար:



**CLICK HERE TO WATCH THE VARTANANTS DAY PERFORMANCES**

## WITH OUR LOVED ONES

Every year, we invite our loved ones to have breakfast and lunch with us on Valentine's Day! A beautiful AGM tradition we look forward to continuing in the years to come!





# THE SCHOOL-WIDE SCOOP

## KAHAM BASKETBALL GAMES

Basketball season is here! AGM competed in the 2024 Homenetmen KAHAM Basketball games that took place at Ferrahian Armenian School with three strong teams! Every week our players showed up to practice, strengthened their skills, and built upon their teamwork mindset. We are so proud of their hard work and determination. Of course, none of this would be possible without the endless dedication from our one-of-a-kind volunteer coaches, and our amazing parents who make the trip all the way out to the games!



Coin Wars, a school-wide fundraiser organized by the PSC, was an innovative and fun way to raise money for our school! Each class was tasked with collecting spare change to earn points for their class. The class with the most amount of points would win a prize. But here's the catch: if a class had dollar bills or checks placed in their class box, it would be counted as negative points. For an entire week, students were seen placing coins in their boxes, and plenty of dollar bills in other classes, building up to a full-on Coin War! In the end, Kindergarten took home the first-place trophy. Collectively, we were able to raise \$3,937.52! Go AGM Eagles! Go PSC!

## COIN WARS WAS A SUCCESS!





**THE SCHOOL-WIDE SCOOP**

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

Teaching staff took some time to elevate their teaching practices to new levels. Elementary teaching staff participated in a series of trainings that included topics such as tailored differentiation strategies, psychologically safe schools, best practices in utilizing benchmark testing scores, and progress monitoring. Armenian teachers and preschool staff participated in a professional development focused on Armenian language integration. Preschool staff were also trained in new Armenian language curriculum that will be implemented at the preschool level.



**COMMUNITY CORNER**

**BOOK TALK EVENT**

**WITH AUTHOR DR. KATIA TAVITIAN KARAGEUZIAN**

Several community organizations partnered to organize a book talk event featuring Dr. Katia Tavitian Karageuzian, author of *Forbidden Homeland, Story of a Diasporan*. Using personal accounts of diaspora, the author delves into her cultural past to start solving mysteries about her family history with a focus on the Armenian Genocide and the ongoing Karabakh conflict. "This is the story of all of us.' Keeping memories alive is very important for the identity preservation of a people in exile. As Armenians, we should never let go of our truths to appease others. A nation that does not uphold its history jeopardizes its very existence," shared Dr. Karageuzian.

Our very own principal, Ani Sarkissian, offered opening remarks and welcomed the attendees. Hamazakayin OC "Siamanto" Chapter representative, and former AGM principal, Kohar Zaher thanked all the community organizations for their collective efforts in bringing this event to fruition: Forty Martyrs Armenian Apostolic Church, ARF "Armen Karo" Gomideh, A.G. Minassian Armenian School, Hamazkayin "Siamanto" Chapter, and ARS "Sevan" Chapter.

*Forbidden Homeland, Story of a Diasporan* is available for purchase online and in select Barnes & Noble bookstores. To learn more, you can read the full article posted on Asbarez.com.





# TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

## MS. LAUREN ABAJIAN

### WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO BECOME AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHER?

My second-grade teacher, Miss Webber, inspired me to become a teacher. She was a beautiful young lady who was kind and respectful. She had pets in her classroom, which we were able to take home when it was our turn. She had plants we had to water and a huge stuffed teddy bear we got to sit with if we were on our best behavior. I remember how happy we all were in her classroom and I thought, what a wonderful thing to do with your life...make children happy.

### CAN YOU DESCRIBE YOUR APPROACH TO CREATING A POSITIVE CLASSROOM ENVIRONMENT?

Establishing clear expectations is my number one approach while teaching. I outline expectations for behavior, participation, and respect from day one to set a positive tone for the class. The best part about it...it works!

### HOW DO YOU DIFFERENTIATE INSTRUCTION TO MEET THE DIVERSE NEEDS OF STUDENTS IN YOUR CLASSROOM?

I offer varied instructional strategies to meet the needs of my 3rd graders. I employ a variety of teaching methods including visual, auditory, kinesthetic, and tactile approaches. Children love to do projects, so I always try to add as many as I can to each unit I teach.

### 3RD GRADE



### HOW DO YOU FOSTER A LOVE OF READING AND LIFELONG LEARNING AMONG YOUR STUDENTS?

Fostering a love for reading has become a difficult task in this digital era. I do my best by selecting novel studies that have rich themes, relatable characters, and engaging story lines. Throughout the story, I incorporate various activities and discussions to deepen students' understanding. Not to mention, we get to watch the movie after finishing each novel! Who wouldn't love that?



### WHAT DO YOU BELIEVE ARE THE KEY COMPONENTS OF A WELL-ROUNDED ELEMENTARY EDUCATION?

Core academic subjects, a strong literacy program, opportunities for problem solving, visual and performing arts, community service, outside classrooms, a strong physical education program, a great librarian, homemade lunches, space for play, religion, traditions, small class sizes, and highly educated teachers. So basically...AGM!

### CAN YOU DESCRIBE A MEMORABLE TEACHING MOMENT?

Perhaps it's each year during "Open House" when children bring their families to come view the place they spend their days learning, growing, laughing, and making memories. They give their parents a tour of the classroom and as they are walking around with a glowing smile, proud stance, and excited voices, they present all the work they have completed. They transform into confident young people taking charge of their learning. It's beautiful!





**BE ON THE  
LOOKOUT!**

**SUMMER  
PROGRAMS**

# PRESCHOOL SUMMER CAMP

June 24th - August 2nd

# KINDER JUMPSTART

June 24th - August 2nd

# CAMP ARDZIV

July 8th - August 2nd

**REGISTRATION  
IS OPEN!  
SPOTS LIMITED!**

**AGM SOCCER  
LEAGUE**



**SOCCER LEAGUE**  
6 WEEKS OF GAMES  
JOIN IN ON SOME FRIENDLY COMPETITION & ROUND ROBIN STYLE GAMES

KINDER - 6TH GRADE **\$50** INCLUDES PARTICIPATION T-SHIRT  
ATHLETIC ATTIRE REQUIRED

**WEDNESDAYS 3:15 - 5PM**  
▶ **APRIL 3 - MAY 15** ◀

SIGN UP THROUGH FACTS FORMS DEADLINE TO REGISTER: MARCH 20

LOOKING FOR PARENT VOLUNTEERS TO HELP SUPERVISE DURING THE GAMES.

**DEADLINE TO REGISTER IS  
MARCH 20TH.**

**GAMES ARE WEDNESDAYS,  
APRIL 3RD TO MAY 15TH.**

**SCHOOL  
REGISTRATION**

## REGISTRATION FOR THE 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR IS NOW OPEN!

Early registration (with a reduced fee) is open until April 5th.

After April 5th, the registration fee will be \$800.