

A. G. Minassian Armenian School Newsletter

October 2009
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Upcoming Events

- ◆ October 5 - Picture Day
- ◆ October 11 - Armenian Book Fair
- ◆ October 16 - AGM Fundraiser - (Newport Dunes)
- ◆ October 19 - No School (Teacher in-Service Day)
- ◆ October 25 - Halloween Party
- ◆ October 30 - Monthly Assembly & PTO breakfast

Principal's Message

I am honored to write to you as the Acting Principal of A.G. Minassian Armenian School and look forward to a year of success for our beloved school. There is no greater privilege than teaching today's Armenian youth and it is my goal to ensure that each student is provided with the opportunity to succeed in a positive and conducive learning environment.

A.G. Minassian School is blessed with an exceptional staff and wonderful teachers who work hard as a team to achieve our school's goals. I would like to welcome all our teachers as well as our returning teacher Mr. Russel McCall as 5th and 6th grade Homeroom teacher, and two new part time teachers Mrs. Houri Seraydarian, first grade Armenian teacher, and Miss Karin Cemcem, who teaches Language Arts, Computer and PE to 5th-6th combination class.

2009-2010 academic year started on September 3rd, 2009. Reverend Father Hrant Yeretzian blessed the students and staff at the opening ceremony. The first day of preschool was on September 8th. His Eminence, Archbishop Moushegh Mardirossian, Prelate, Western United

Տնօրէնութեան Խօսք

Արի Կիրակոս Մինասեան Ազգային Վարժարանի նպատակն է միայնգամայն սատարել հայ աշակերտի մտային, բարոյական եւ հոգեւոր զարգացման:

Ա.Կ. Մինասեան Վարժարանը ջանացած է օրուան պահանջներուն համընթաց՝ հայ աշակերտին տալ հայադրոշմ դաստիարակութիւն, անոր մէջ զարգացնելով սէր եւ յարգանք հանդէպ ազգային մշակոյթին ու աւանդութեան, ինչպէս նաեւ պատրաստել տիպար քաղաքացի մը, օգտակար իր երկրին եւ շրջապատին:

States, visited the classrooms in the afternoon and he gave his blessings at the closing prayers.

Our Back to School Night was on September 24th, 2009. It started at 6:30 PM with an overview of our school policies in Gugasian Hall, followed by classroom visitations. Teachers shared their goals, curriculum guidelines and suggestions for an outstanding year.

October is the Armenian Cultural Month. Armenian teachers use various methods to inspire the students and instill in them the love of Armenian culture, language, religion and rich heritage. Kindergarten through sixth grade students will be participating in a program during the Armenian Book Fair on October 11th, 1:30PM. Everyone is welcome.

I am looking forward to a wonderful school year with your support and partnership.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Kohar Zaher
Acting Principal

Գնահատանքի խօսքս կ'ուզեմ ուղղել Սրբոց Քառասնից Մանկանց Եկեղեցոյ հովիւ Տէր Հրանդ Քին, Երեցեանին, Հոգաբարձութեան, Տնօրէնանց Միութեան, Վարժարանիս Խնամակալ Մարմնին, Ծնողա-Ուսուցչական Մարմնին եւ Ուսումնական Խորհուրդին՝ իրենց անսակարկ նուիրումին. ինչպէս նաեւ Ուսուցչական Կազմին տարած անձնուէր աշխատանքին համար եւ վերջապէս՝ Ձեզի, սիրելի ծնողներ, որ ազգային գիտակցութենէ մղուած՝ ձեր գաւակները կ'առաջնորդէք հայկական վարժարան:

Տիկ. Գոհար Զահրը
Գործադիր Տնօրէնուհի

Message from the School Board

The Ari Guiragos Minassian Armenian School Board would like to welcome all parents and students back to school for the 2009-2010 school year! We are very excited about the progress of the school with an increase in enrollment, renovated facilities, a strong school staff, and a revamped fundraising effort. We praise all parents and supporters of our school for encouraging the continued efforts to create a strong educational foundation and cultural environment for our children.

There have been many changes on both physical and organizational levels, which have resulted in a proud and stable school structure. The School Board has divided its tasks and efforts to four major components and the community and parents will regularly hear of these efforts:

1. Fundraising and finances;
2. Facilities (both maintenance and project improvements);
3. Educational and WASC accreditation;
4. Public relations and recruitment.

With this framework in mind, we plan on supporting our wonderful principal Mrs. Kohar Zaher, PTO, and community organizations in any way possible.

We have received various sources of support from individuals and organizations in the community during the summer and beginning of the school year.

We will continue with major fundraising and we expect the assistance of all parents of this continued effort especially with Bingo volunteering on Friday evenings. Finally, a Poker Night fundraiser has been planned for October 16, 2009 at 7:30pm at the Newport Dunes Resort. Please make every effort to continually support our school in any way possible.

Together, we will build a strong, robust, and sustainable Armenian School in Orange County.

Very Truly Yours,

A.G. Minassian School Board

The School Board would like to thank the entire community and especially:

Pastor and Board of Trustees of Forty Martyrs Armenian Apostolic Church (\$5,000.00 donation)
 ARS Sevan Chapter (\$5,000.00 donation)
 ARF Armen Karo Gomedeh (\$3,000.00 donation)
 Mr. Vicken Apelian - Apel, Inc. (\$1,000.00)
 PTO (school flooring replacement - \$5,000.00)
 Dr. Garo Agopian (computer lab upgrades)
 Mr. and Mrs. Mark and Dalida Karatas (financial contribution toward new chairs for all students)
 Mr. and Mrs. Raffi and Tahlene Gourdikian (office reception countertop)
 Mr. and Mrs. Armand and Mary Malakian (teacher desk, teacher chairs, school supplies)
 Mr. and Mrs. Harout and Meline Guldjian (AGM logo bags, pencils, etc)
 Mr. and Mrs. Haig and Karina Mihranian (plasma monitor and AGM logo bags, lunch bags, pencils, etc)
 Mr. Michel Khairalla (electrical services)
 Mr. & Mrs. Chahe Kechedjian (refrigerator for conferene room)
 Mr. Nazo Dishoian (Restroom renovation)
 Mr. Hovig Megerian (assistance with furniture)
 Mr. Tro Tutunjian (assistance with renovation)
 Mr. Raffi Sarkissian (assistance with renovation)
 Mr. and Mrs. Vram Ohanesian (assistance with renovation-truck)
 Mr. Kevork Keshisian (assistance with renovation)

Together we can, together we will

September Student of the Month

First Grade

Emma Khacherian

Second Grade

Alex Guldjian

Third Grade

Vache Madenlian

Fourth Grade

Karin Codilian

Fifth Grade

Alen Ashikian

Sixth Grade

Mary Dishoian

Message from the Education Committee

The Education Committee is looking forward to a wonderful school year that will academically challenge the Minassian students, while encouraging them personally to do their best work. We have a new Acting Principal, Mrs. Zaher, with whom we look forward to working with throughout the coming year. Our faculty has been and continues to be a tremendous asset, and we look forward to supporting their efforts. In addition, Mr. McCall, as a GATE

certified instructor, will be spearheading the Minassian School's objectives to apply the methodology within the classrooms. The Minassian School Board has positively reinforced our efforts in the past, and they have shown a renewed interest in our work for which we are thankful. We welcome all our Minassian School students and parents, both old and new, to a successful academic year!

Mrs Talin Minassian

What has PTO done for you

PTO is in charge of the fun events like Halloween party, Christmas Boutique and Annual Dinner-Dance in March. It requires hours of volunteer work to plan and organize each event. During the summer of 2008, PTO replaced the old gate with a new electric one, renovated the first floor classrooms and repainted the exterior of the school. This summer, PTO continued the renovation of the second floor classrooms including the library and staff lounge. All classrooms now have pergo floors.

PTO also funds the annual Thanksgiving luncheon for all the students, as well as all faculty gifts for the faculty and all the gifts for Christmas and teacher's appreciation week.

On behalf of the entire PTO executive committee, we would like to thank you all for your past support and encourage you to partake in all our efforts by volunteering your time or by supplying for hospitality.

Mrs. Allise Panosyan

Mayrig and Me

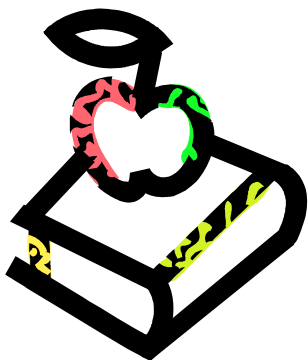
Music and Movement Program
(ages 18 months to 3 years old)

This is the first Toddler music and movement program in Armenian. Each Tuesday morning children enjoy a special Armenian program, to develop their listening and Armenian language skills, as well as their creativity and physical coordination, through an engaging musical experience. Parents enjoy the companionship, support, and joy of interacting with their child. This class presents Armenian songs, puppets, instruments, movements

and material for the children to enjoy during the 45-minute class. The instructor interacts with each child involving and engaging them with the music and dance while children also interact with their mothers/fathers.

Fall program has currently started. We are planning to add a Thursday afternoon session. Please, reserve your spot by calling A.G. Minassian School at (714) 839-7831.

Instructor
Talin Artinian



Pre-KI News

Our first week in PK1 was invigorating! We have some new and some old friends in PK1. Our schedule includes short group times, as well as plenty of flexible work time, which has worked very well with this busy group of enthusiastic learners. Children were introduced to a new material each day. They were anxious to try these activities, and have successfully repeated them independently.

Some popular activities that were available everyday are 'coco mulch,' 'shaving cream', 'easel', 'dino' matching with numbers, pictures matching with letters, etc... The children are looking forward to the month of October to celebrate Halloween, go to the pumpkin patch and choose their own pumpkin. For cultural month, we have learned two poems, which are Mesrob Mashdots and Shad Ge Seerem Eem Hye Lezoon, and one song, which is Ayp Pen Keem. I am looking forward to a wonderful school year.

Mrs. Talin Wartan



Prelate's visit to our school

Pre-KII News

We have a smart bunch in PKII. They are very bright and eager to learn. The first day of the school, Serpazan visited us and the children sang two songs for him, that they had learned the same day. On September 15, we walked to the church parking lot, gathered twigs and built bird's nest..... On Tuesday September 22, we had cooking day. The children measured and

mixed the pancake mix and had a yummy breakfast. We celebrated three birthday parties with cup cakes and fresh fruits and played musical chairs. PKII kids are very excited about Halloween and cannot wait to visit the pumpkin patch in Irvine, and have a pajama afternoon.

Mrs. Astrid Ashkarian

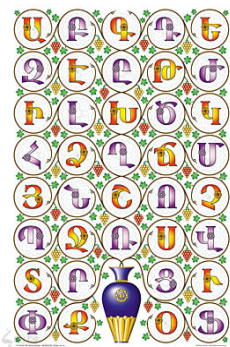


Kindergarten News

For the month of September, the Kindergarten has been very busy learning about the rules, behaviors, and routines for school. It is different from preschool and the students need to learn what to do. The better they know the rules and routines the better success the classroom will be. In addition, the students are learning about working together and making

friends in the reading themes. In phonics and writing, the students have been learning to write in their first/last names with lowercase letters and the sounds in their names. In math, the students have been learning the numbers 1-5, and counting groups of numbers 1-5. Next week the students will have their first math test. It has been a great month. Keep up the great work.

Miss Kelly Koopman



Լուրեր Մանկապարտէզէն

2009-2010 Մանկապարտէզի աշակերտները Մեր Լեզուն հայերէնի դասագրքերու շարքը սկսած են, որ հիմնուած է տառաճանաչման, բառագիտութեան, բերանացի արտայայտութեան, ընթերցանութեան, գրավարժութեան աշխատանքներուն վրայ: Սեպտեմբեր ամսուան ընթացքին աշակերտները սորված են

երեք տառեր, արտասանութիւններ, նուիրում Հայաստանի Չրդ Անկախութեան, Առաջին Ուսուցիչ՝ Մեսրոպ Մաշտոցին ու Աշնան եղանակը ներկայացնող երգեր:

Հայերէնի Դասատու՝
Օր. Թալին Արթինեան



First Grade News

September was a busy month full of back-to-school assessing and reviewing of last year's concepts! In math, first grade began working with numbers 0 through 10 and exploring patterns. Language Arts time was spent remembering capitalization and punctuation rules. Our first chapter in science taught us how to be scientists. Then it was on to learning all about plants! We also learned all about apples

and culminated that theme by making homemade applesauce. September also marked the first time the students had Music and Religion. This month we will concentrate on numbers 11 through 20, our first chapter of Social Studies and making sure we're writing complete sentences. Not to mention the fun we will be having learning about pumpkins and bats!

Miss Rebecca Johnson

Հայերէն – Առաջին դասարան

Ա դասարանի ծրագրուած դասագիրքն է «Մեր Լեզուն» շարքին, թիւ 1 մասը. - Կարմիր Չուկ Դեղին Չուկ-ը իր Կարծութիւններու Տետրակ-ով: Մեպտեմբերին, աշակերտները արտադրեցին 27 տառերու ձայներն ու անունները: Սոյն տառերով բերանացի արտայայտեցին դասին բառերն ու պատմութիւնը: Կետադրութեան նշաններէն սորվեցան ստորակետը, վերջակետը, ինչպէս նաեւ հարցման նշանի ու շեշտի գործածութիւնը:

Գծագրութեամբ, ձեռային աշխատանքով և նախադասութիւններով «Թղթակցութեան Տետրակ»-ին մէջ արտայայտեցին իւրաքանչիւր շաբթուան ընթացքին իւրացուած բոլոր գիտելիքները:

Այս ամսուան ուղղագրութեան բարձրագոյն նիշը ապահովող աշակերտները պարգևատրուեցան: Ընթերցանութեան լաւագոյն չափանիշը ունեցող աշակերտը ստացաւ յօդուած մը գործ մնաց իր տրամադրութեան տակ մէկ շաբաթ, որմէ ետք ներկայացուց դասարանին որպէս «պզտիկ ուսուցիչ»

Տիկ, Հուրի Սերայտարեան

Second Grade News

Second grade also began with a battery of back-to-school testing and reviewing. We worked with addition and subtraction in story problems and learned new ways to solve them. In science, second grade also learned how to be scientists and then studied flowers and life cycles. We concentrated on complete sentences and nouns in Language Arts and creative drawing in

Art. Our monthly theme was strawberries which led us to make a strawberry book and strawberry shortcakes! In October, students can look forward to writing paragraphs, working with patterns and place value and reading our first chapter in Social Studies! Our theme is spiders, so students can look forward to some creepy, crawly assignments in October!

Miss Rebecca Johnson

Third Grade News

Language Arts has been filled with grammar review of subjects, predicates, complete sentences, and nouns. We have been learning to write multi-paragraph essays with the help of the writing process. The third grade is also doing a genre study and has been reading mystery novels. They will have a book project due each month on a specific genre too. We are reading Sarah, Plain and Tall and have been learning vocabulary and comprehension skills using the book. In math, the third grade has been learning different

methods to solve advanced addition and subtraction problems, such as proof drawings and the numerical method.

They have also been taking multiplication and division drills to be more than ready. Social Studies has been filled with learning about different communities in the United States and around the world. In science, the students have been learning about plant and animal adaptations in different land biomes. It has been a month of reading, writing and taking notes too. They are up for the challenge of being treated as an upper grader now!

Mrs. Amber Rivera

Develop your Character

When you take responsibility for your own success, you will expect to achieve the goals you set. It will encourage you to follow your plan step by step until you achieve your goal.

Fourth Grade News

Language Arts has been filled with grammar review of subjects, predicates, and complete sentences. We have been learning and practicing how to write five paragraph essays with the help of the writing process. Our class has started their genre study and have been reading mystery novels which will be presented through a book project due soon. We are reading a hilarious book by Judy Blume, Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing. Students are doing activities and comprehension skills with it. In

math, we are practicing our multiplication and division facts, while learning how to write equations, factoring triangles and fast arrays with them too. In social studies, the students have been taking notes on the five regions of the United States and learning about climate around the United States.

Science has been filled with learning about plants, photosynthesis, food chains and food webs. It has been a busy month of reading, writing and taking notes. Get ready for hands on experiments and projects after the basics are learned!



Mrs. Amber Rivera

Fifth Grade News

Language Arts - (writing composition) We have begun the writing process, and completed our first essay. These essays were inspired by choosing one of two picture prompts. All essays have been a lot of fun to read, and each student will contribute their essays from the entire year so we can publish a complete anthology

Language Arts - (grammar, spelling, and reading) We have nearly finished reading and discussing Hatchet. This story is about a boy who struggles to overcome isolation and surviving a plane crash. 5th grade will be expected to

write a response to an essay question upon completion of the book. The weekly spelling words have been taken from this story - culminating in a final spelling bee. In Grammar, we have learned about nouns and verbs - as well as practiced their use with worksheets, textbook, and daily writing (Daily Journal).

Math - We have taken assessment for this grade level (which will be used to compare growth with the end of the year). We have also been reviewing math vocabulary (variable, product, factor, etc.), as well as beginning to

understand Algebra. 5th graders have also been taking weekly timed division facts quizzes and everyone has continued to improve their time every week!

Social Studies - We have begun learning about American History. Our first chapter is about learning culture, primary sources, and immigrants. We have also learned that hunters and gatherers first came over to North America during the ice age when glaciers connected Asian with North America.

Mr. Russ McCall

Sixth Grade News

Language Arts - (writing composition) We have begun the writing process, and completed our first essay. These essays were inspired by choosing one of two picture prompts. All essays have been a lot of fun to read, and each student will contribute their essays from the entire year so we can publish a complete anthology. 6th grade is emphasizing complex sentences.

Language Arts - (grammar, spelling, and reading) We have nearly finished reading and discussing Hatchet. This story is about a boy who struggles to overcome isolation and surviving a plane crash. 6th grade will be expected to write a final literature response essay upon completion of the book. The

weekly spelling words have been taken from this story - culminating in a final spelling bee. In Grammar, we have learned about nouns and verbs - as well as practiced their use with worksheets, textbook, and daily writing (Daily Journal).

Math - We have taken assessment for this grade level (which will be used to compare growth with the end of the year). We have also learned about The Order of Operations (and what to do when there are no parentheses). We have learned Algebra vocabulary (variable, coefficient, expression, equation, etc.) and begun to understand that Algebra is really all about finding a missing number.

Social Studies - We have begun learning about Ancient Civilizations. The

exciting part of this new textbook is that it is tied into interactive web-based learning. Chapter one: Lesson 1 The World's Geography Lesson 2 How Maps Help Us Study History Lesson 3 How Archaeologists Study the Past Lesson 4 How Historians Study the Past An exciting aspect of the web-based curriculum is the Flip Cards that can be accessed from home and school. These cards are great study tools. Overall, we have gotten off to a great start. The goals that have been established have been the beginning of this year's plan. I look forward to continuing the learning with our students.

Mr. Russ McCall

Հայերէն – Երկրորդ դասարանէն Վեցերորդ դասարան

Յարգելի Ծնողք,

Նկատի ունենալով որ արդէն իսկ ասարտած ենք քառամեակին մէկ երրորդը, երկրորդ դասարանը, որ կը բաղկանայ Յ խումբերէ առաջինը՝ արդէն իսկ սորված են տառաճանաչումը եւ սկսած ընթերցանութեան. երկրորդը՝ սկսած են տառաճանաչման երկրորդ գիրքին իսկ երրորդ խումբը որոնք կ'օգտագործեն երկրորդ դասարանի սովորական դասագիրքը արդէն իսկ սորված են Չայնաւոր, Չոյլ Չայնաւոր, Վանկի բաժանում, Տողադարձ եւ Ածանցեալ բառեր, ընթերցանութեան եւ բառագիտութեան կողքին:

Գ.կարգի աշակերտները սորված են Չայնաւոր, Չոյլ Չայնաւոր, Վանկի բաժանում, Տողադարձ եւ Ածանցեալ բառեր: Ընթերցանութեան եւ բառագիտութեան կողքին որուն կ'ընկերանայ դասագիրքի վարժութեան տետրակը ինչպէս նաեւ բերանացի դասի ամփոփումը:

Դ. Ե. եւ Զ. դասարանի աշակերտները սորված են Չայնաւոր, Չոյլ Չայնաւոր, Տողադարձ, Ածանցեալ, բարդ Բառ, Հոմանիշ, Հականիշ ինչպէս նաեւ Միավանկ բազմավանկ բառերու գործածութիւնը: Ընթերցանութեան կողքին կ'ընկերանայ դասագիրքի վարժութեան տետրակը ինչպէս նաեւ բերանացի դասի ամփոփումը, բառագիտութեան կողքին:

Այս բոլորին հետ զուգահեռ կ'ընթանայ Հայոց Պատմութեան դասաւանդումը, ուր մինչեւ Դ. դասարան կը սորվին առասպելական շրջանի կարեւոր դէպքերու եւ դէմքերու մասին, իսկ Ե. եւ Զ. դասարանը՝ ունի իր յատուկ դասագիրքերը իր վարժութեան տետրակով:

Նկատելով, որ յառաջիկայ ամիս Թարգմանչաց Տօնն է, բոլոր կարգի աշակերտները կը սորվին Ե. դարու Սուրբ Մեսրոպ Մաշտոցի հանճարով ծնած հայերէն գիրերու գիտի մասին, անոր նուիրուած արտասանութիւններ, ինչպէս նաեւ ձեռային աշխատանքներ:
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