



The Manoogian Voice

Southfield, Michigan

January 2007

A.G.B.U. Alex & Marie Manoogian School

NJHS Induction Ceremony

The Manoogian School held its first-ever National Junior Honor Society Induction Ceremony on November 9, 2006, with 15 students receiving their membership pin and certificates. The inducted members are



Dolores Duduman and Abigail Newman, 10th grade; Dominique Duduman, Nina Ferhadson, Vartan Kurjian, Luai Kesto, and Kristine Mkoyan, 9th grade; Jessica Ferhadson, Linda Kalfayan, Arsen Melkonyan, and Carolyn Philip, 8th grade; and Damaris Duduman, Ani Karibian, Sevan Markossian, and Inna Mirzoyan, 7th grade.

Did You Know...

One hundred years ago on April 15, 1906, a group of highly respected and wealthy Armenians came together under the direction of Boghos Nubar in Cairo, Egypt, to form a non-political philanthropic organization, the Armenian General Benevolent Union, for the benefit of all Armenians. While the AGBU has always adapted to changing times, it has steadfastly remained true to its mission of preserving and promoting the Armenian identity through humanitarian, educational, cultural, and social programs.

Christmas Donation Drive

This past holiday season, Manoogian students were asked by the Aram Papazian family of Highland, Michigan, to donate new toys and school supplies for three orphanages in Gyumri, Gavar, and Nubarashen, Armenia. In a very short time, Manoogian students collected wonderful Christmas gifts for their peers in Armenia. We present the thank-you letter from the Papazian family to our school for this holiday spirit and generosity.

*Dear Parents, Students, and Faculty,
I wanted to extend a huge thank you on behalf of the Papazian family for the outpouring of support for the Gavar Christmas Project. Due to the overwhelming donations from A.G.B.U. Manoogian School and St. Johns Armenian Church, three orphanages will benefit from all of the wonderful toys collected. The toys collected will be distributed to the Gavar, Gyumri, and Nubarashen orphanages. This gift drive was conducted on a very short timeline, four weeks! And in four weeks, the Detroit Armenian community donated 1,602 items. Thirty-nine boxes weighing 680 lbs. were shipped to SOAR. The children will receive these wonderful Christmas gifts in December. Watch for coming photos of the distribution. We are truly blessed to have such a wonderful and caring community here in Detroit.*

*Our most sincere thanks,
Christina, Aram, Aram Jr., and Sophie Papazian*



Students donate toys for Armenian orphans' Christmas.



Inventions Theme Project

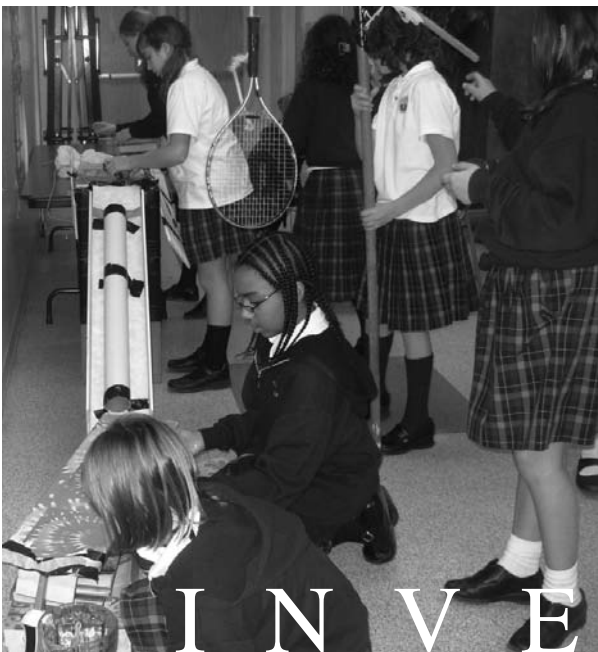
This year, the middle school decided to have theme projects all year long.

Ms. Baker, Mr. Huff, Mrs. Shmarak, and Mrs. Toumajan directed the first theme, Inventions. This theme was divided into three parts: research, creation, and field trip.

Each student in the middle school researched an invention and presented it to their class in some way other than a report. Videos, poster boards, and power point presentations were some ways the students presented their subject. Each class picked the top three presentations that were presented to the middle school. This included Lara Demirjian (escalator), Ovsana Bush (post-it notes), Zena Atcho (traffic light), Damaris Duduman (Tesla Earthquake Machine), Angel Kazandjian (artificial heart), Inna Mirzoyan (computer), Carolyn Philip (parachute) Julian Jarbo (toilet paper), and Linda Kalfayan (piano).

The second part consisted of students breaking into groups to create a Rube Goldberg invention. The requirements mandated that each group create a project that had 10 steps to complete an objective. After three days of parents coming in to help groups, the projects were shown. The top three winners had Rube Goldbergs that could cut paper, feed the cat, and put out a candle.

The third, and last, part of the Inventions project was a trip to the COSI in Toledo, Ohio. This hands-on museum allowed students to interact with different ideas related to science and inventions.



JUNVENTIONS



Great Achievement in High School

When the first-quarter GPAs were calculated, a sense of joy permeated the High School. Principal Dr. H. Torossian posted the results on the bulletin board that reads "Manoogian Pride." The analysis of the GPAs indicated that 32% of the high school students were on the Administrator's List, having achieved a GPA of 3.5 or better. In addition, 17% of the students were on the Honor Roll, with GPAs between 3.0 and 3.5. It is also worth mentioning that 36% of the students achieved a GPA between 2.0 and 3.0, making this first quarter the best in the high school's academic history. The school's administration, faculty, and staff are equally proud that 48 students, out of a total of 112, having maintained perfect citizenship, were also honored during the high school assembly, which took place on November 21, at the high school multi-purpose room. Several parents and the entire High School faculty were present to congratulate the Manoogian scholars. "This unprecedented success is partly due to the fact that 25 of last year's 28 eighth-graders joined the Manoogian High School, and were major contributors to our academic success," said Dr. Torossian.



A school-wide canned-food drive, poster decorating, and visits to classrooms by upper-level students were some of the activities that happened during Character Week at the Manoogian School, from November 27 to December 1. The Manoogian Chapter of the National Honor Society sponsored the event.

Students brought in 1,310 cans of food during the week to donate to Forgotten Harvest. The fourth-grade class, which collected 267 cans, was awarded a pizza party for bringing in the most cans. Classes throughout the school decorated posters to represent the six pillars of character: respect, responsibility, caring, fairness, trustworthiness, and citizenship.

Middle school students participated in "Mix It Up" at lunch on November 29, in which students sat with other students they don't normally sit with, in an effort to interact with new people.

High school students were treated to a guest speaker, police officer William Pylkas, who spoke about character and talked about his experience as an undercover police officer.

To finish the week, students in 7th through 12th grades visited students in Pre-K 4 through 6th grades for one hour. The students worked together on character-building activities.

JAGBU Fund-raiser

Sponsored by third-grade teacher Mrs. Roxanne Kourtjian, the JAGBU (Junior Armenian General Benevolent Union) Club members sold Sally Foster wrapping paper and specialty items as a fund-raiser. The total amount raised was \$4,400.50. The Manoogian School gets 50% of the profit from this sale. The top sellers this year were Aram Ferhadson \$509, Ararad Shirvanian \$376, and Karine Eurdekian \$306.



JAGBU committee members, from left to right: Gohar Melkonyan, treasurer; Taline Bedirian, vice president; Christopher Kourtjian, vice president; Grace Torossian, President; Karoun Tcholakian, secretary; and third-grade teacher Mrs. Roxanne Kourtjian.

Successful Halloween Party

The PTO Halloween party, which was held on October 25, 2006, was a great success. The clown, the scary haunted house, design-your-own and coloring tables, in addition to delicious food and desserts, made the evening a memorable one for the little "monsters," "draculas," and other creepy characters. The pictures of this event are on the Manoogian Web site. Thanks to all the PTO members, parents, and students who helped out with this evening.

Walled Lake Camp

On November 6 and 7, 2006, the fifth- and sixth-grade classes once again went to the Walled Lake Outdoor Educational Center. When we went this year, we were pleasantly surprised to find the facility renovated. It did look wonderful.

The fifth-grade class participated in the Water Cycle and Wonderful Wildlife classes, while the sixth-grade class participated in the pond studies and forest community. Meanwhile, each class had the opportunity to participate in the 40-ft. climbing tower and the outdoor group activities, which enhanced their teamwork skills. The first evening at camp, the students enjoyed the campfire, storytelling, and the delicious smores.

On the way back to school the following day, fifth- and sixth-graders made a stop at McDonalds and enjoyed the lunch. It was a great learning experience for all.



Prevention

Please encourage your child to practice personal hygiene. It is still the best method to prevent illness. Please remind your child of the following tips:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water.
- Cover your nose and mouth when coughing and sneezing, try to use a tissue.
- Dispose of dirty tissues promptly and carefully.
- Avoid sharing cups and glasses.
- Be a good example to others.

Armenian Alphabet

Every year, the discovery of the Armenian Alphabet celebration takes place in Manoogian School during the month of October. This year was no exception. On Monday, October 30, the Armenian Department Faculty put together a program for grades K-8 in which all students participated in reciting Armenian poems and songs. The program was followed by cake for the entire school.

*Remember to Visit Manoogian School's Redesigned Web Site:
www.manoogian.org*



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