



The Manoogian Voice

Southfield, Michigan

November 2011

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

Back to School!

The 42nd year at the AGBU Alex & Marie Manoogian School got off to a smooth start. Smiling faces, hugs and kisses greeted the students and faculty alike as the academic year kicked off on September 6. The

students were particularly excited to see the brand new, state-of-the-art playground, equipped with a basketball court and attractions. Ms. Dyana Kezelian, principal of the Elementary and Middle School and Dr. Hosep Torossian, the principal of the High School, held assemblies on the first day, stressing the need for good health, cleanliness, decorum, and academic excellence. The student body



numbers over 400 students. Middle and High School classes are almost entirely divided, allowing more teacher involvement with each student. This year the school reopened without the presence of two of its beloved veteran teachers, both of whom retired last year: Ms. Cathy Mracna (Art and Yearbook) and Mrs. Ann Margaret McLean (Math). Several new teachers have joined the faculty.



Upcoming 2012 High School Trip to Armenia

Thirty juniors and seniors are particularly excited about the prospect of visiting Armenia in April, 2012. Various activities and fundraisers are planned for this academic year. Donations are always welcome and may be sent to the attention of the High School principal, Dr. Hosep Torossian, with "2012 Armenia Trip" written in the memo section.

Colleges and Universities Beckon!

The college admission process for high school seniors is in full swing. Admission counselors and officers from the following universities have met with our students, talked about their admission requirements, the programs they offer and even enrolled some graduating seniors: U of M Ann Arbor, U of M Dearborn, U of D Mercy, Oakland University, Central Michigan University, Wayne State University, Michigan State University, and Lawrence Technological University. We thank Mrs. Holsinger for scheduling the above, and helping the senior class with their applications. Our school will graduate a record 40 students in June, 2012.

Exceptional Schools Produce Exceptional Students

(The Center for Charter Schools, Central Michigan University Annual Review, 2011)

AGBU ALEX & MARIE MANOOGIAN GRADUATE AWARDED CHICK EVANS CADDIE SCHOLARSHIP TO UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

For most students, a summer job is a way to stay busy and make some extra money before going back to school. But for 2011 graduate Arsen Melkonyan, what began as a summer job turned into something far more rewarding.

Melkonyan, who recently graduated second in his class at the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU) Alex & Marie Manoogian School, was awarded the Chick Evans Caddie Scholarship, which will provide him four years of tuition and housing at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.

After first hearing about the scholarship as a junior in high school, he applied and was awarded the scholarship based on an excellent academic record and many years of caddying experience at the Tam-O-Shanter Country Club in West Bloomfield.

"I STARTED CADDYING WHEN I WAS 13 OR 14, SO ABOUT FIVE YEARS NOW."

Melkonyan said the diversity and small class size at Manoogian helped him reach his full potential as a student. Through the school's dual-enrollment program, he was able to earn college credit for classes he took at Lawrence Technological University while still in high school.

"There are only about 30 of us, so the counselor knows every single one of us," he said. "Whenever there's an internship, dual enrollment program or scholarship that might help us, he's the first one to say, 'Let's go! Let's get this started!' It's a very friendly environment."

When he begins coursework at the University of Michigan, Melkonyan plans on studying either biology or psychology, eventually completing his education in medical school.

Melkonyan is one of 31 graduates in Manoogian's class of 2011, who have earned a collective total of nearly \$1.2 million in scholarships from local universities. Located in Southfield, the school offers grades K-12 with a total enrollment of 385 students.



New Faculty Members

Ms. Nicole Guyaiana (Art and Yearbook) was born into a very creative family. After graduating from high school, she



spent two and a half years studying advertising in Melbourne, Australia. A recent graduate of Oakland University, Nicole majored in art education with a focus in new media. Her first impression of Manoogian was a school that “works together to create a warm and loving environment for the students.” Her motto for success is, “Make it work!”

Mr. Andrew Middleton (Physical Education and Health) earned his Bachelor’s degree in



physical education at Olivet College in 2009. He was a three-sport athlete in high school and particularly excelled in wrestling in college. Prior to coming to Manoogian, Andrew worked as a direct care worker for special needs children. For the first time in the history of the Manoogian School, a wrestling program is being established. Mr. Middleton enjoys coordinating the sports program at Manoogian.

Mr. Robert Maul (Chemistry and Physics) grew up in Midland, MI, and studied education at Ferris State



University. He loves to play banjo, joining his parents in the Sunshine String Band. Robert recalls trying to find the Manoogian School for his initial interview and how helpful the summer school students were in welcoming and guiding him. His goal is to show his students how to be problem solvers and critical thinkers.

Ms. Molly Dinsmore (Math) was born and raised in Troy, MI. After graduating from Troy Athens High



School, she matriculated at Grand Valley State University, majoring in business and dance. Then she transferred to Eastern Michigan University, majoring in math and education. Ms. Dinsmore is fond of ballet and, particularly, tap dancing. After attending a large school and universities, she appreciates the close atmosphere at the Manoogian School.

Ms. Amanda Clark (Physical Science and Biology) grew up in Ypsilanti, MI, graduating from Lincoln High School.



She graduated from Kalamazoo Valley Community College and Western Michigan University. She is very attached to her little sister, Alyssa, and her “obese” tabby cat, named Tiny! She loves the friendly atmosphere at the Manoogian School. Her motto is: “Make exceptions, not excuses!”

Mrs. Dzovinar Hamakorzian (Pre-K 4) was born and raised in Beirut, Lebanon. She was educated



at Haigazian University in Beirut, studying English literature, and continued her studies at Yerevan State University, receiving her B.A. in Education. Dzovinar attained an M.A. and certificate of teaching English as a second language from the American University of Armenia, in Yerevan. She is conversant in five languages (Arabic, Armenian, English, French, and Turkish). Dzovinar is the mother of two sons, Garod (5- Manoogian Kindergarten Student) and Tro (2). A believer in the Montessori Method, she states, “Never help a child with a task at which he feels he can succeed.”

Ms. Maral Karadolian is the High School Secretary and Spanish teacher for grades 10-12. She is a former



Manoogian School student (Pre K-5th grades) and began substituting at AGBU in 2008. She received her B.S. in Marketing and Spanish at Oakland University and is currently in the process of receiving her Master’s Degree in Elementary Education. Ms. Karadolian says, “It feels great to be back at the Manoogian School as a Spanish teacher! I am blessed to have such a wonderful group of bright and enthusiastic students to work with for my first year. I love teaching Spanish and I look forward to going into my classroom each day!”

Exciting Programs!



On October 27, 2011, the Manoogian School held its annual celebrations of Armenian Independence Day, Holy Translators and Armenian Culture Month. This year marks the 20th anniversary of Armenian Independence (September 21, 1991). The morning Elementary program began with welcoming remarks by the principal, Ms. Dyana Kezelian. Two fifth graders, Celine Philip (Armenian) and Marlene Koti (English) shared the message of the day. This was followed by a YouTube segment of Mr. Serge Sargsyan, President of Armenia, greeting the Armenian army on the 20th anniversary, then the playing of “Mer Hayrenik” (The Armenian National Anthem). Students also watched former Eurovision participants, sisters Anush and Inga, introducing a new song, “Hayastane Du Es” (You Are Armenia). Poetry recitations and songs were presented by the students



in grades one through five. The highlight of the program was a play, “Ankhelk Martuh” (The Foolish Man), staged by Mr. Sebouh Avedikian’s fifth grade class, which had the audience bursting in laughter.



The afternoon Middle and High School program began with a welcome from the principal, Dr. Hosep Torossian, and opening remarks by 12th grade students, Hagop Krikor (Armenian) and Sandra Alias (English). After viewing YouTube segments from Armenia, the students

listened attentively to the keynote speaker, Mr. Edmond Azadian, Vice Chairman of the Manoogian Board of Education. Mr. Azadian reflected upon his experiences, having been present in Armenia on Election Day twenty years ago and having just returned from the Armenian ancestral homeland after twenty years of independence. In his remarks directed particularly at the thirty eleventh and twelfth grade students who are planning to visit Armenia in April of 2012, Mr. Azadian urged the students to carry themselves with pride, keeping in mind Armenia’s history and geography, and the Armenian people’s tenacious and undaunted spirit to be free and independent. The program concluded with a montage of beautiful Armenian poems recited by students of Mrs. Anahit Toumajan. We thank Mr. Sebouh Avedikian for organizing and coordinating the above celebrations.

Visit Manoogian School’s Web Site: www.manoogian.org



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