



The Manoogian Voice

Southfield, Michigan

January 2002

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

Students Get Itch to Act

A group of Manoogian high school students are the first to enter an elective drama course, offered to teach them that drama is “bread and butter” for the soul.

According to administrators, the reasoning behind offering the course is the belief that the spirit, the depth, and the beauty of theater can reach every student.

Teacher Alla Schmidt gives students a look into drama through a brief history of the theater, the introduction of theatrical terms, background on some of acting’s biggest names, reading children’s plays, and, finally, since the only way to really learn is through participation, the students show what they’ve learned through performance.

Students are also encouraged to take several field trips to the theater. They recently were given the opportunity to view two productions from the Massachusetts Chamber Repertory Theater and the National Theater of the Performing Arts.

At the end of the program, the students had to come up with their own project. This was designed to help blossom their imagination, as well as build their creativity, cooperation skills, and confidence.

The 11 members of the drama club (Angela Dawidian, Olexandr Aleksyeyev, Anna Ruzhanovska, Oksana Lats, Stephanie King, Brandi Brisker, Robert Lacefield, Ivanna Tytusa, Francine Jackson, Diana Sharmazanian, and Rita

Yelda) staged their own dramatic work, their interpretation of an Aurand Harris play. Harris is said to be the most prolific young audience writer in the United States. The play centers around children living in a foster home.

“I have great respect for my students and those who really helped and supported us in the adventurous journey of live theater,” said Schmidt.

Schmidt said she was concerned not only with her students’ performances, but with how the young Manoogian audience would perceive the Harris play, “The Pinballs.”

“We were afraid that younger students would get bored with more than a one-hour production,” said Schmidt. “But the play was a smashing success when premiered at Manoogian on December 18.”

First-time performers are not expected to give superb performances, according to Schmidt, but the inventive production created a series of beautiful transformations on stage.

While the entire cast deserves many kudos, individual performers stood out from the group: King portrayed 15-year-old street-wise and vulnerable Charlie; Sharmazanian was 13-year-old orphan Tammy J.; and Ruzhanovska

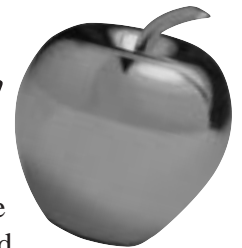


Members of the school's Drama Club are: (left to right, front row) Angela Dawidian, Olexandr Aleksyeyev, Anna Ruzhanovska, teacher Alla Schmidt, Oksana Lats, Stephanie King, and Brandi Brisker; (second row) Robert Lacefield, Ivanna Tytusa, Francine Jackson, Diana Sharmazanian, and Rita Yelda.

was Mrs. Mason, a caring foster mother who made a difference.

In the end, the students gave themselves a truly magnificent stage experience, and Schmidt should be applauded for transforming students into performers.

We're Golden!



Given that December was the holiday season and everyone had other things on their minds, we just wanted to remind the Manoogian School community that we've been awarded our second consecutive Golden Apple Award for academic excellence.

The award is based on Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) test scores from the spring of 2001.

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Students Explore Their Love of Computers

The Chess Club, the newly instituted Drama Club, and, for all the technology aficionados, affectionately known as “computer geeks,” there’s the brand new Manoogian Computer Club.

Under the leadership of Hosesep Torossian and George Rayes, the latest extracurricular activity sponsored by the school was launched in December.

The goal of the club is to demystify computing, according to the club’s instructors. The club will assist computer veterans in exploring their interest further and will help novices answer the most basic questions and not fear the wonderful world of technology.

For its January project, the club elected to begin building a Web site. Early meetings involved brainstorming, including pointing out the characteristics of a good Web site. Computer hardware, networking, and HTML were also elements discussed.

According to volunteer instructor Peter Toukhanian,



Student Christopher Nassouri, armed with an electric screw driver, got down to nitty-gritty repair as he worked on a hard drive in the school’s computer lab.



Manoogian students took their eyes off their screens long enough to pose for a quick photo in the school’s new computer lab. The students are: (left to right, front row) Armen Boghossian, Alex Osipov, Michael Untea, and Vatche Bassmagian; (second row) Avak Kahramanian and Dmytro Pivtorak; (standing) teacher George Rayes and volunteers Mike Arzoumanian and Peter Toukhanian.

the club will continue focusing upon learning HTML, Web site design and how to put together the site.

The goal, said Toukhanian, is to link the club’s Web site with the school’s main site.

The club is made up of Fabian Gammo, Avak Kahramanian, Armen Boghossian, Chris Nassouri, Michael Untea, Vatche Bassmagian, Dmytro Pivtorak, Alex Osipov, and Bashar Makhay.

Manoogian parents Chris Sarkissian and Toukhanian serve as volunteer instructors. Mike Arzoumanian and his firm, Arzo Computers, serve as technical support.

PTO Corner

It’s Family Fun Night time! Be sure to mark your calendars and plan to join the rest of the Manoogian School community on Friday, March 1. Please plan on attending this fun-filled evening.

We’d like to thank a pair of Manoogian School hard-workers: both Sona Kalfayan and Haigan Ferhadson spearheaded fund-raising activities. Kalfayan led the way in the school’s pizza kit sales, and Ferhadson coordinated the sale of entertainment coupon books.

Speaking of fund-raisers, the Scholastic Book Fair earned the school \$1,963.00 of credit toward the purchase of new books. Many items from the wish lists of teachers were purchased, as well as donated by parents. The Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO) also purchased several Armenian books, and then donated them to the school.

We’re Golden!

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Manoogian was recognized in the “High Achieving” category. In 2000, the school earned its first Golden Apple, achieving recognition not only in the “High Achieving” category, but the “Most Improved” category as well.

We again would like to congratulate our faculty, staff, students, and especially the parents of our students. With the concerted efforts of everyone involved, and with the dedication of our educators, our students continue to exceed established academic standards.

To all who have contributed to our success, “Thank you.”



The Time for Celebration, Reflection

December was the season for celebration, and Manoogian did its share. In 2001 it was also a time for reflection, given the events of September 11, as well as a time to assist our fellow citizens.

The World Trade Center tragedy affected and touched everyone, including members of the Junior A.G.B.U. Club.

According to Dr. Nadya Sarafian, the school's principal, the club was eager to donate a portion of the proceeds from its annual fall fund-raiser to a family directly affected by the events of September 11.

Unfortunately, Garo Vosgerichian's family was one of those families. Vosgerichian lost his life in the World Trade Center as he was attending a meeting at the Twin Towers on the morning of September 11.

Vosgerichian leaves behind his wife and three small children.

In December, the club, in conjunction with Manoogian School, sent a check for \$1,000 to Nayda Vosgerichian. The young members of the club also sent a letter with condolences and good wishes for the entire Vosgerichian family.

Also in the spirit of giving, the elementary school donated hundreds of new toys for needy children.

This marks the second consecutive year that Manoogian families have generously supported the Toys for Tots program, a charity sponsored by the United States Marine Corps.

Kaye Emanuel, mother of students Jordan and Caylin, delivered the toys on behalf of Manoogian.



From top to bottom: In December, Manoogian's elementary student body welcomed Santa Claus, who led them in a sing-a-long; fifth-graders treated a holiday audience to a top-notch presentation as they performed "The Liar"; and students pose with Manoogian's Toys for Tots offerings.



Tips For Parents

Discipline

It's easy to forget how often children learn from adults. Many parents are reminded when kids repeat something embarrassing, such as a bad word. Telling children "Do as I say, not as I do" isn't the answer. Kids need parents to set a good example.

Here's a great way to remember you're a role model. In ethical situations, ask yourself what you'd want your child to do. Then act accordingly. Use this technique to guide all your actions – big and small. Soon it will affect your child's behavior, too.

The Magic of Music

Here's a fun way for your children to enjoy music and practice listening. Sing a familiar song but replace the words with "la, la, la." Can they guess the song?

Building Language Skills

Talking to Babies Builds Brain Power – Adults naturally babble around babies, and it's a good thing. Research shows that talking to babies can improve their thinking skills for life. One study showed that children who heard the most words per hour did best on intelligence tests years later. Here are some tips for talking to babies as they grow:

- **One to three weeks:** Talk to your baby in a soft and caring manner. But don't talk so much that you overstimulate them.

- **One to three months:** Reduce outside distractions, such as the TV and radio, while you talk to your baby. This makes it easier for them to focus.

- **Three to six months:** Talk directly to your baby about what you're doing. For example, "I'm putting you in your car seat." Their understanding will be limited, but they'll learn new sounds.

- **Six to nine months:** Keep talking to your baby throughout the day. They're beginning to recognize tones of voice and certain commands.

- **Nine to twelve months:** Use more signs and gestures when you speak. This helps your baby understand what words mean.



PTO treasurer Bob Stepanian (second from left) and Cynthia Stepanian (far left) confer during Manoogian's successful Scholastic Book Fair.

*Remember to Visit Our Web Site for a Virtual Cornucopia of Information
About the Manoogian School: www.manoogian.org*



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