



The Manoogian Voice

Southfield, Michigan

January 2004

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

Testing Scores Still Rising at Manoogian

It's not up for debate, Manoogian students continue to test better each and every year.

"Central Michigan University (CMU) is extremely happy with our performance," said Hosep Torossian, Manoogian's vice principal. "They brag about us."

CMU charters more than 50 Michigan schools located in 17 counties. Five of its charters are in Oakland County.

Manoogian's latest numbers from the MEAP show the school has a score above the CMU charter average in four fourth-grade subjects, two fifth-grade subjects, three seventh-grade subjects, and three eighth-grade subjects – 12 categories in all.

The outstanding overall results on the MEAP, as well as the PLAN (pre-ACT) test are thanks, in part, to additional faculty, smaller classrooms, and more dedication to curriculum, according to Torossian.

"We've really made an effort to provide students with what they need," said Judy Kadri, Manoogian's head teacher for the high school.

According to Torossian, the administration is as proud of its MEAP achievements now as it has been in the recent past, when the school was presented with a pair of Golden Apple Awards.

Though Manoogian can no longer achieve a Golden Apple, as the program has been eliminated due to state budget constraints, the

foundation for achieving such academic heights remains.

The latest MEAP results showed Manoogian fourth-graders scored a 92 in math, 88 in writing, 80 in English language arts, and 71 in reading. These scores easily outdistanced their peers at other CMU charter schools and bested the state average as well.

This success shows that doing well on the MEAP is very important to Manoogian.

"We understand the MEAP's importance," said Torossian. "(However), we don't put all of our emphasis on the MEAP. We look at the big picture of the child's total overall education."

On the PLAN, Manoogian's tenth-graders performed better than the national average in English, math, reading, and science.

The Construction Continues...



See page 3 for more construction photos.

5th- and 6th-graders Give Walled Lake Camp a Thumbs Up

Manoogian 5th- and 6th-graders got a pleasant surprise recently when they visited the Walled Lake Outdoor Education Center – they liked it!

According to participant Carolyn Philip, not only was it enjoyable because the students got to be out of the classroom in Southfield for two days, but everyone learned how to be part of a team.

The event took place November 5 and 6 in the northern Oakland County facility run by the Walled Lake Consolidated School District.

“It was wonderful, extremely educational,” said Dyana Kezelian, Manoogian elementary and middle school head teacher, and one of 10 chaperones for the two days of festivities.

According to Philip, students were required to attend a pair of science classes, set the table for



Campers pose for photos prior to lights-out at the Walled Lake Outdoor Education Center in Walled Lake. The students visited the facility in November. Manoogian administrators hope the visit will become an annual tradition.



meals, and, through specific activities, learn how to become part of a team.

The classes the students attended were “Wonderful Wildlife” and “The Water Cycle.” In the former, participants looked for animal tracks and other signs, while in the latter course, students used a map to visit different sites to view percolation, ground water, accumulation, or condensation.

Philip said though she was afraid at first the camp would be boring, she was pleasantly surprised, along with her classmates, and is looking forward to attending again.

According to Kezelian, this was the first time in many years Manoogian students had attended the camp and that it will become a tradition.

The Construction Continues



Though the weather may not be ideal for outdoor work, construction continues at Manoogian. The front-end loader on page one is doing work where the new Pre-K building and playground will eventually be. The new media center also is being furiously worked on, with the foundation already complete. According to the construction coordinators, masons will work through the winter with a goal of 100 percent of the aforementioned buildings completed prior to the end of school in June.



Manoogian Trains Mediators

Manoogian has continued placing emphasis on peer mediation since the counseling office first introduced peer-mediation training in September 2001. Manoogian's first 16 student peer mediators began putting their training to use November 27, 2001, with a classroom presentation to grades 6-12.

Peer mediation is an alternative for conflict resolution. Students train as peer mediators to assist fellow students in resolving disputes.

More than 20 Manoogian School students and teachers began peer-mediation training November 25, with expectations of completing that training following four sessions of four hours each.

During the sessions, students roleplayed by acting out various scenarios mediators may encounter. Varying techniques are taught to help mediators handle these problems.

Bonnie Haynes and Gina Buckley conducted the program.

PTO Corner

The PTO would like to remind staff and parents of the following meeting dates:

Thursday, January 22

Thursday, March 18

Thursday, May 20
(for elections)

Learning and Having Fun!



Manoogian kindergarten through fifth grades recreated the Thanksgiving feast shared by the Indians and Pilgrims. The kindergarten, second and fourth grades portrayed Indians, while the other three grades portrayed Pilgrims. Each class was responsible for one food item. The students learned that not only is Thanksgiving about eating, but, more importantly, it's about caring for one another and giving thanks for everything you have.

Events Calendar

Monday, January 26
MEAP Begins

Monday, February 2
8th-Grade Open House

Tuesday, February 3
5th-Grade Open House

Friday, February 13
Winter Break Begins

Monday, March 8
Science Fair

**D A T E S T O
R E M E M B E R**

School Suffers Losses

Manoogian is saddened to announce that during the recent holiday vacation three members of our community passed away:

Dr. Araxie Arganian, a seven-year

veteran of the school, taught special needs students; Kay Emmanuel served as a lunch aide; and Alex Barsamian was the husband of second-grade teacher Margaret Barsamian.

The administration, faculty, and staff send our deepest sympathies to the families.

All will be missed.

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



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