



# The Manoogian Voice

Southfield, Michigan

November 2002

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

## Armenian Foreign Minister Visits

The Armenian Foreign Minister, the Honorable Vartan Oskanian, recently visited Manoogian School during a trip to the state of Michigan.

The foreign minister came to the area to visit the Detroit Armenian Community. According to school administrators, Oskanian also gave a speech in Ann Arbor and met with Richard Manoogian in Taylor at the Masco Corporation.

During his one-hour visit, Oskanian told the student body they should take pride in being United States citizens, but their first love should always be their ancestral land across the ocean.

According to Hosep Torossian, school assistant principal, Oskanian is Manoogian's most prestigious guest since former U.S. President Jimmy Carter visited the school 20 years ago.

Oskanian is a graduate of an Armenian General Benevolent Union school, having attended in Syria.

One of Oskanian's many accomplishments was starting *Armenian International Magazine (A.I.M.)*, published in English, 10 years ago. It appeals to the same type of person who reads *Time* and *Newsweek*.



*Posing with the Honorable Vartan Oskanian, who visited various institutions within the Armenian Community during a recent trip, are (left to right): Saro Babayan, Aleek Kahramanian, Galine Torossian, Sylva Markosian, and Anita Djaridjian.*

## Internet-based Testing Begins at School

Manoogian School, in conjunction with Central Michigan University, has introduced the Edvision Performance Test, Internet-based testing for third through twelfth grade students.

According to school administrators, outstanding aspects of the new testing program include the fact it is Internet-based and computer adaptive, and that it pinpoints each child's strengths and weaknesses. Areas that require improvement are listed, enabling both teachers and parents to concentrate on students' deficiencies.

The new testing program has other positives as well: students' knowledge in math and reading can be measured in just two hours; results are immediately available; and the test is user-friendly.

The first tests were recently administered, but not before the program was introduced to all Manoogian parents in early September, during the initial Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO) meeting of the school year.

Third-graders began the testing September 24, and it concluded

*continued on page 2*



## Students Lining Up for Admission

No one is pleased at turning students away, but the Manoogian School Administration is encouraged by the school's waiting list, which now stands at 65.

Simply put, a large waiting list means parents want to send their children to Manoogian. According to Hosep Torossian, the school's assistant principal, since becoming a charter school in 1995, this is the longest waiting list the school has had.

The largest numbers come in the earliest grades, as well as in the Middle School. Thirty students await entry to kindergarten or first grade, while 17 students are waiting for sixth, seventh, and eighth grades.

There are just seven students awaiting entry to High School, and all are ninth-graders.

However, as the years pass, these numbers will undoubtedly change, whether due to admission as students move on through graduation, or if more students want

to join Manoogian. And as these students who await entry age, the numbers per grade may change significantly as well.

What is especially encouraging, said Torossian, is that students who have been ensconced somewhere else, jump at the chance to attend Manoogian – even though doing so will most likely turn their academic world upside down.

Currently, enrollment for the charter portion of the school is 319 students. One interesting figure inside the 319 is 21 students in the twelfth grade. If all graduate in 2003, it will be the largest senior graduating class at Manoogian in many years.

## Internet-based Testing Begins at School

*continued from page 1*

October 1 with Manoogian's seniors.

This new testing program replaces the California Achievement Test (CAT). In contrast, the CAT is a paper-and-pencil test covering kindergarten through twelfth grade. The complete battery of tests can take up to nearly three hours.

School administrators urge parents to contact Hosep Torossian or Dyana Kezelian at the school with any questions and/or for further information regarding testing and the testing schedule.

## PTO CORNER

### Upcoming events:

The PTO would like to remind staff and parents of the following meeting dates: **Thursday, November 21;** **Thursday, January 16;** **Thursday, March 20;** and **Thursday, May 22, (for elections).** All meetings will commence at 6:30 p.m.

Stay tuned throughout the 2002-2003 school year for information on future PTO events.



*On October 10, Manoogian's middle school soccer squad defeated Connor Creek Academy of Warren, 7-3. Scorers for the Ararat team included Paul Dawidian with three, Garen Torossian, two, Harout Hartounian, and Garo Demirdjian. Team members seen here include: front row, left to right: Razmig Dawidian, Vazken Bassmagian, Anoush Mardigian, Lucig Palanjian, Simon Melkonian, Garo Demirdjian, Vazken Hartounian, and Mikey Kalfayan. In the back row, left to right: Head Coach Hosep Torossian, Arten Inofak, Mireille Demirdjian, Vatche Vartanian, Avo Tcholakian, Saman Koreil, Harout Hartounian, Paul Dawidian, Nareg Mianassian, Garen Torossian, Shant Palanjian, and Josh Klein. In a rematch 13 days later, Manoogian won again over Connor Creek, 9-0.*

# Ambassador Comes to Manoogian



*The American Ambassador to Armenia, the Honorable John Ordway, and his entourage were recent guests of Manoogian School. Sitting among a room full of students are Ralph Kurtjian; David Terzibashian; Vazken Setrakian; Director of the United States Agency for International Development for Armenia, Keith Simmons; Ordway; Edgar Hagopian; Dr. Nadya Sarafian; and Dr. Richard Marburger.*

# Manoogian Hosts Singer



*Armenian recording artist Nune Yessayan, recently came to Manoogian following a Dearborn concert. Pictured are (left to right): Shake Basmagian, Stepan Partamian, Garo Guiragosian, Nune, Anahit Toumajan, Dr. Nadya Sarafian, and Hosesep Torossian.*

## Events Calendar

### Wednesday, November 13

Conferences  
10-11:30 a.m.  
1-3:30 p.m.  
5-7:30 p.m.

### Wednesday, November 27

Half Day  
11:30 a.m. Dismissal

### Friday, December 20

Half Day  
11:30 a.m. Dismissal

### Monday, January 20

Half Day  
11:30 a.m. Dismissal

### Wednesday, January 27

MEAP Testing  
(Grades 4, 5, 7, 8)

### Wednesday, February 19

Spring Pictures  
(Free Dress/No Retakes)

### Friday, February 21

Mid-Winter  
Vacation Begins  
3:05 p.m. Dismissal

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



# Interaction Is the Key

## *The Basics*

The experts tell parents, "Parental involvement improves student achievement." There are 12 steps those same experts urge parents to use to help their children achieve:

1. Encourage your child.
2. Serve your child a good breakfast each day.
3. Get your child to school on time.
4. Ask your child about his/her day and what he/she learned.
5. Review your child's completed class work.
6. Give your child a quiet and well-lit study space.
7. Monitor your child's homework.
8. Limit your child's television viewing.
9. Help your child learn responsibility.
10. Organize your time in order to read with your child.
11. Give your child a set bedtime.
12. Get actively involved in your child's school.

## *Finding Time to Talk to Your Child*

As children age, parents will find it more difficult to speak with or even have so much as a minute-long chat with their kids. A perfect time to hold a conversation with your child is riding in a car. There are no phones, television, or friends to interfere – and no one can get up and leave the room.

## *Television's Influence*

TV has several negatives, particularly from a parent's point of view:

- It can affect physical fitness – the more sitting in front of a TV, the less activity one will participate in.
- TV exposes children to too much violence, which can tend to desensitize them.
- TV keeps children preoccupied, leaving less time for chores, homework, sleep, etc.

However, there are several solutions:

- Limit weekly TV viewing. Pick a few specific programs to watch, and then turn the TV off.
- Monitor what your children are watching and keep them away from the remote control.
- Talk to your children about what they watched.

## *Reading Is Fundamental*

Every child should live a life filled with books and reading. They should be encouraged to read outside of school. Your school, city, or county librarian should be able to recommend an age-appropriate array of reading materials. The following is a partial list of recommended books your children could read now or pick up in a few years' time, depending on their age:

- *Aesop's Fables*
- *Amelia Bedelia*
- *Charlotte's Web*
- *Frog and Toad* series
- *Little House* series
- *Magic School Bus* series
- *Sarah Plain and Tall*
- *The Diary of a Young Girl*
- *The Hobbit*
- *The Secret Garden*
- *To Kill a Mockingbird*
- *Winnie the Pooh*

*Remember to Visit Our Web Site for a Virtual Cornucopia of Information  
About the Manoogian School: [www.manoogian.org](http://www.manoogian.org)*



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