



The Manoogian Voice

Southfield, Michigan

June 2020

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



Senior Class

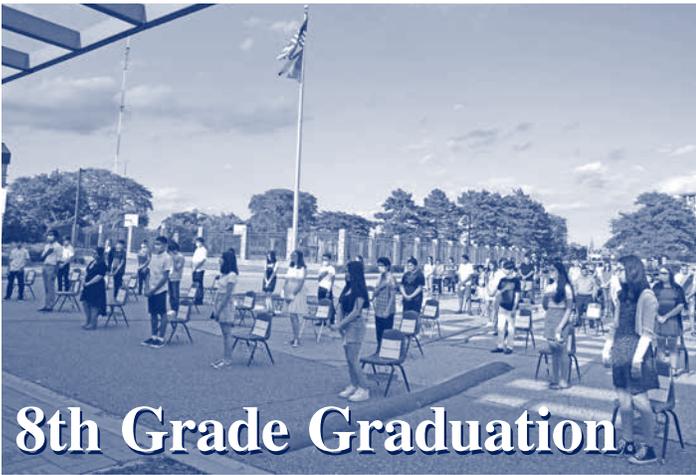
The class of 2020 was understandably upset that the school year did not end according to anyone's expectations. There was no formal senior graduation and no prom. The quarantine became the worst senior prank ever! Nevertheless, maintaining social distancing, the administration, faculty, staff and senior class officers organized a gathering on June 1 to send off the seniors as they did a final drive-through on the school grounds, with admiring family and friends in attendance. In his remarks to the seniors, Dr. Hosep Torossian, the High School Principal, stressed the importance of having grit, that is to say, passion and perseverance, in order to prevail during difficult times and situations. Mrs. Judy Kadri, the High School Head Teacher, recalled the erstwhile British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, during the Second World War, stating that one should "never waste a good crisis," meaning to turn an uncertain and challenging time into a positive reality and brighter future. A more formal festivity will take place when conditions are conducive. We are happy to announce that Nazarii Kifor has earned Valedictorian honors and Raquel Yaldo Salutatorian honors. Heartfelt congratulations to both of them and to the entire class! Graduates will pursue their higher education at local universities and colleges, including the University of Michigan (Ann Arbor or Dearborn), Wayne State University, University of Detroit - Mercy, Oakland University, and Oakland Community College. Sandra Alias, a 2012 Manoogian School graduate, who just earned



her Doctorate degree from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, School of Dentistry, was selected by Dr. Torossian to be the commencement speaker. Her address, as well as a message from Dr. Richard Marburger, Chairman of the

Manoogian School Board of Education, both bearing words of wisdom, was printed and disseminated to the students, along with their diplomas.





8th Grade Graduation

The Eighth Grade graduation was held on June 12 on the school grounds. The weather was perfect, and everyone was in a festive mood. The Elementary and Middle School Principal, Mrs. Sonia Kalfayan, and the Middle School Head Teacher, Mrs. Marlene Pupa, addressed the class, thanked the students, teachers, and parents for their patience and perseverance, and wished the students luck as they enter the next phase of their lives. All students received a certificate for completion of Middle School, while many students received awards for their efforts and hard work. Good luck in High School!



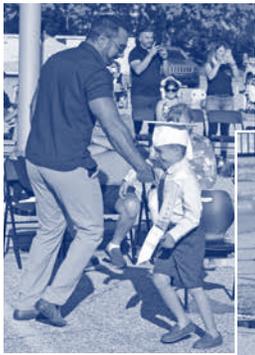
5th Grade Graduation

On the same day, June 12, the Fifth Grade graduation took place in front of the school. Mrs. Kalfayan reminded the class that they would have much more independent work and responsibility in Middle School, but that they would soon overcome any uncertainty and would accept the new challenge. The Fifth Grade teacher, Mrs. Seena Karapetian, spoke to her students and likened them to a big box of colorful crayons, each one of them unique and molding a character of their own. All students received a certificate, handed out by the Elementary Head Teacher, Mrs. Roxanne Kourtjian, for completion of their primary education career. Good luck in Middle School!



Kindergarten

Teachers Mrs. Siran Tcholakian, Mrs. Sosi Palandjian, and Mrs. Anahit Toumajan conducted a Kindergarten graduation on the school grounds on June 15. The graduates all wore caps and sashes, sang Armenian and American songs, danced to a Mexican tune with their parents, and announced what profession they would like to choose when they're all grown up! All 26 graduates received diplomas. Parents and relatives photographed the kids, with everyone maintaining proper social distancing. We proudly present the Class of 2032!

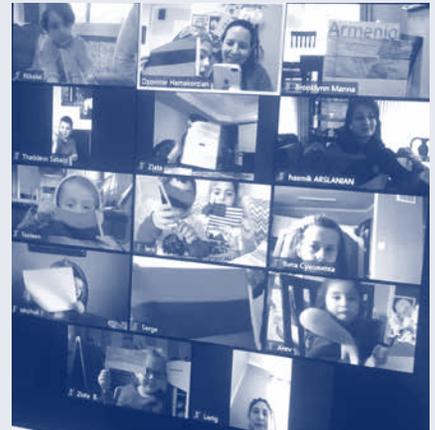


Pre-School

The Pre-K 3 Zoom class devoted the entire week, leading up to April 24, to studying Armenian culture. Not being in school did not prevent the class from commemorating the Armenian Genocide. Under the guidance of Mrs. Dzovinar Hamakorzian, the students learned about Armenia: Mt. Ararat, Lake Sevan, Yerevan, and much more. Fifth grader Tro Hamakorzian showed the students



some Armenian dance steps, and the preschoolers joined, through Zoom, dancing to Armenian Lorke music. Mrs. Hamakorzian talked about Armenian carpets, khachkars (cross-stones), the Armenian flag, Armenian costumes, and Doof Kar (Armenian volcanic stone). She made a model of Tsitsernakaberd (the martyrs' memorial in Yerevan), while the students made Forget-Me-Not flowers and pretended to place them around the monument. Some of the students had dressed up in traditional Armenian clothing.



The Pre-K 4 and Pre-K 3 students, led by their teachers, Mrs. Lisa Shekerdeman, Mrs. Karen Koundakjian, Mrs. Dzovinar Hamakorzian, Mrs. Hasmik Arslanian, Mrs. Arlen Mirachian and Mrs. Lorig Toukhanian, celebrated the 100th day of school on February 10 by dressing up as 100-year-olds. The girls wore printed shirts, sweaters, shawls, and colored their hair white. The boys wore plaid shirts, cardigan sweaters, suspenders, bow ties, hats, and gloves. Many of the kids were referring to themselves as grandma and grandpa!



Dedication Ceremony

On January 26, 2020, in conjunction with the 50th anniversary of the A.G.B.U. Alex and Marie Manoogian School, a Dedication Ceremony was held in memory of individuals who have made a difference in the half century of the school's existence. Prayers and blessings were offered by Very Rev. Fr. Aren Jebejian, Pastor of St. John Armenian Church. Principals Dr. Hosesep Torossian and Mrs. Sonia Kalfayan, as well as school board member and very first graduate of the school, Mr. Dickran Kurjian, greeted the numerous family members and guests in attendance. Henceforth, the elementary school multi-purpose hall will fittingly bear the name of longtime teacher and principal, Dyana Kezelian, who devoted over forty-four years of her life to the school, embodying its heart and soul. Her actual signature can be seen when entering the hall. The main office will bear the name of gynecologist and obstetrician, Dr. Maro Sarafian, a 1986 graduate, who went on to receive degrees from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, and Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. The home economics room

was named after Hagop and Meline Gigian, both of whom spent countless hours preparing food in the kitchen. The middle school science laboratory was named after Drs. Hamazasp and Vrejouhi Darian, who never skipped community events taking place at the school. The high school social studies room will bear the name of the Honorable Y. Gladys Barsamian, who was a courageous defender of women's and children's rights. The high school music room will bear the name of Mr. Richard Apkarian, former chairman of the Manoogian School Board of Education. Plaques were placed on the wall of the front lobby, memorializing Mr. Minas Arslanian, Mr. Ashod Torosian, and



Dr. Ara Yarjanian, first chairman of the school board fifty years ago! The plaques were donated by former school board member, Mr. Marty Shoushanian, and the bows by the school choir director, Mrs. Paulette Apkarian. A lavish buffet was prepared by Mr. Gary Reizian, proprietor of Uptown Catering, while the school PTO supplied the sweet table. May the memory of the donors live on in perpetuity.

Middle and High School Armenian Song and Dance Program

This year's program was held February 14 and was a spectacular performance. The middle and high school choir, under the direction of veteran choir director and choreographer, Mrs. Paulette Apkarian, rendered Armenian songs with impressive authenticity. The Valentine duet, performed by seventh graders Anthony Mirachian and Nayiri Ourlian, was particularly touching and innocent. Solos by high schoolers Sofiia Groshko and Narod Kiwanian sounded majestic. Complementing the choirs were the energetic and enthusiastic dancers, under the expert direction of Mrs. Nayiri Karapetian and Mr. Dikran Callan. The dancers thrilled the audience, which included many parents and relatives, as well as students in the fourth and fifth grade classes who will soon be



joining the ranks as members of the choir and dance teams. Prior to this event, the elementary song and dance program, which was held on December 13, was a most fitting kickoff to the new year and holiday season. Kudos to all the participants!





The annual Vartanants program for Elementary grades one through five was held February 27 to celebrate Armenian resistance to the Persians in the fifth century, allowing the Armenian people to freely worship their faith and avoid assimilation. First, second, third, fourth, and fifth graders recited poems and sang songs in memory of those brave Armenians who fought and defended their country and people for the sake of liberty. Mrs. Tamissa Dakessian's third grade class presented a play, displaying the heroism of the Armenian defenders.



Manoogian School Students Visit Henry Ford Hospital



On March 10, before our world changed and Michigan was impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic, the Middle School Robotics Team and the High School Project Lead the Way class were fortunate to have the opportunity to visit Henry Ford Hospital's Simulation Center, in a safe environment, to learn about advances in medical technology. The Center offers procedural simulation technologies, using computerized mannequins and other medical devices.

The students met with Dr. Scott Dulchavsky, Chairman of Surgery at Henry Ford Health System and Medical Director of the Simulation Center. Dr.



Dulchavsky has developed portable remote ultrasound technology, which he teaches to astronaut and cosmonaut crews of the International Space Station, to use in case of medical emergencies and for medical care of exploration class spacecraft. He has also modified remote ultrasound technology to be used on Earth to support on-site care of professional sports teams and U.S. Olympic Committee Team athletes during the Olympic Games.

Later, the students toured the Henry Ford Simulation Center, the



largest in the Midwest and the second largest in the country, where each student had the opportunity to test the portable ultrasound technology on each other. The field trip sparked valuable conversation amongst students and faculty about science and medicine. Thanks to math teachers, Mrs. Mae Gosaynie and Mrs. Alenush Telbelian, as well as Dr. Torossian, for organizing this exceptional event.

National Junior Honor Society (NJHS)

The members of the Manoogian School NJHS visited Gleaners Food Bank in Detroit as part of Gleaner's "Kids for Kids" program. The students spent the morning bagging food items to be handed out to needy school children in the Metro Detroit area. The event was organized by the Guidance Counselor, Mrs. Joanna Holsinger.





Geography and Spelling Bees



Middle School students competed in two competitions: Eighth grader Garod Hamakorzian became the 2019-2020 Manoogian Middle School Geography Bee winner. Other students who placed in the competition were eighth graders Abhik Arya and Maxim Trufyn, seventh graders Sophia Basmadjian, Sevag Ghazarian, and Viktoria Palamarchuk, and sixth graders Sofi Dakessian, Anastasiya Kapushchak, and Diana Kovalchuk.

Eighth grader Christina Putrus became the 2019-2020 Manoogian Middle School Spelling Bee champion. Other winners were eighth graders Abhik Arya and Eliana Yalda, seventh graders Nayiri Ourlian, Viktoria Palarmarchuk, and Daniel Yeldo, and sixth graders Jessica Bahnam, Mher Derwartanian, and Lili Hovhannisyan.

Congratulations to all, including Middle School Head Teacher, Mrs. Marlene Pupa, who organizes the event every year.

The Coronavirus Challenge and the Manoogian School

Abiding by the guidelines issued by Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer and the Michigan Department of Education, the school was closed to students on Friday, March 13, 2020. Teachers met that day and prepared homework packets which were picked up by parents on Monday, March 16. Later, Governor Whitmer announced that all schools would remain closed for the remainder of the year. Manoogian School faculty immediately sprang into action, transitioning into off-campus teaching through Zoom and other platforms. The school provided laptop computers to students and teachers who needed assistance. The transition and adaptation were generally a smooth undertaking. Teachers, teaching remotely, met regularly with students during the week, and on a weekly basis with the school Principals, and even occasionally with Board of Education members, in order to brainstorm, exchange ideas, and resolve outstanding issues. The administration, with input from teachers, is considering various options for reopening the school in the fall. Of course, much depends on decisions made by the federal and state governments and Central Michigan University, which hold the charter for the school. Nevertheless, among the scenarios being considered are resuming normal school operations, resorting to full-time virtual learning, or having half the student body attending school on Monday and Tuesday and the other half on Thursday and Friday weekly, with a complete cleaning and disinfecting of the entire school taking place on Wednesday and over the weekend. The remainder of the week will be devoted to on-line teaching and at-home learning. Also under consideration are physical space, classroom size, and siblings in school on the same days to facilitate drop-off and pick-up. The administration will keep parents and students informed on a timely basis.

Pilgrimage to Armenia

Enthusiasm and excitement were building among the 29 diverse juniors and seniors who were to spend nearly two weeks (from late March until early April) in the ancient land. They were to be accompanied by the school's two principals, Dr. Hosesep Torosian and Mrs. Sonia Kalfayan, and two of their Armenian teachers, Mr. Sebouh Avedikian and Mrs. Anahit Toumajan. The group was going to spend time not only in the capital city, Yerevan, but also in Armenia's second and third largest cities, Gyumri and Vanadzor. Unfortunately, due to the Coronavirus, the trip was cancelled. However, next year's juniors and seniors, perhaps joined by some members of the 2020 graduating class, will hopefully be able to make the pilgrimage at a convenient time in 2021.

New STEAM Center

The STEAM Center is in the architectural planning process. Our expectation is that construction of the brand new, state-of-the-art Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math (STEAM) building will begin during the 2020-2021 academic year, thanks to the benevolence of Mr. Richard Manoogian. The STEAM structure will be located adjacent to the high school building. The photo depicts the architect's rendition of the new addition.



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