



February 15, 2023

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

Southfield, Michigan

Welcome back, Readers! The Middle School students bring to you their second edition of the Ararat Manoogian School News. We brought back topics that you've enjoyed, and added new ones that you—the reader—have suggested. There is so much going on, it's almost impossible to keep up! Enjoy!
-Mrs. Pupa

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STAFF

Writers:

Erika Amirdzhanian
Jurius Azar
Kohar Karapetian
Zarina Ktdusova
Veronica Kucheinyk
Leah Pogosian
Grace Rayis
Lucia Salatyan
Larisa Saleem
Marciano Shammami
Lavan Yatooma

Thanksgiving Feast

Lucia Salatyan

On November 23, the day before Thanksgiving, the Middle School had a Thanksgiving Feast catered by the school's PTO. Volunteer parents served chicken tenders, salad with dressing, mashed potato, and pumpkin pie with whipped cream. The students filled their plates, went to their last hour class, and enjoyed their food.

While students did enjoy their chicken tenders and their salads, the favorite part of the meal by far was the pumpkin pie! Well, of course, dessert is the best, is it not?

After the lunch, students went home to enjoy their Thanksgiving holiday break.



Bake Sale

Larisa Saleem

On November 16, the Middle School had a Bake Sale sponsored by the student council. The earned money was to go to the school dance. A variety of things were sold from cupcakes, donuts, brownies, and cookies, to drinks like Pepsi, and Sprite. It was a big hit! It's nice that we have been able to return to bake sales—something every student has missed for a while.

Middle School NEON Dance

Veronica Kucheinyk

The Middle School Neon Dance was on December 2, 2022. It lasted about two hours, from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM. It took place in the High School Auditorium, with about eighty people attending. There was a D.J., food and drinks, and different kinds of glowsticks for the students to wear.

In my opinion, the dance was fun to attend. People were dancing and having a fun time. Thank you to the student council and the PTO members for organizing this special event for the Middle School students.



Sixth Graders: Sophia, Olga, Arina, Veronica,



Jad Khalife and Tro Hamakorzian



Christmas Activities

Christmas at Manoogian School was filled with month long activities. First, Middle School held a door decorating competition. Random teams were created and assigned one door to decorate.

There were three sets of winners:

Group 1: Tanya Bahnam, Lorin Dakessian, Ivan Dobrovolskyi, Yeva Biskup, Yan Dzudzylo, Sophia Tymura, and Stanislav Bielozorov

Group 2: Lillyana Akrawi, Mary Donigian, Edo Bedrossian, Artur Bryhadyr, Armen Bassmagian, and Emily Demircioglu

Group 3: Shahan Ashkarian, Olha Chikh, Samuel Avetisyan, Axsel Ozdamar, Aloria Gevargesian, and Oleksandr Semyrozum.

After the competition, students decorated stockings and hung them in the hallway. On the last day before break, students took them home to hang by the fireplace!



The Henry Ford Museum

Grace Rayis

The Henry Ford Museum field trip was on December 9, 2022. The Manoogian School Middle School had a fun and educational experience.

We saw all kinds of things—including the historical bus that Rosa Parks was in when she stood up for African Americans. Students also had the chance to sit in the bus and hear an audio recording by Ms. Parks. We were also able to see the chair President Abraham Lincoln was sitting in at the Ford Theatre when he was assassinated.

The Henry Ford Museum supplied all kinds of experiences for people to flash back to the past! There were machines called “MOLD-A-RAMA.” With hot plastic and a mold of a historical person or item, the machine gives you a plastic model of a piece from history.

The Henry Ford had plenty of classical cars and other classic vehicles to look at. We also watched a 3D movie: *Among the Wild*.

We can all say that this was a fun experience and we all went home having learned something new.



A Mold-A-Rama Machine

Classic cars on display.



Robotics

Jurius Azar

What’s happening in the Middle School robotics program? Lots!

Lately, kids in the seventh and eighth grades have been learning how to code robots for an upcoming competition. This competition's objective is to simply move forward, back, turn left, and turn right. This helps them learn basic coding and robotics.

For the 6th grade competition, the focus is on creating a pizza delivery robot. The object of the competition is to create a robot that can deliver a “pizza.” There are many tasks they must do. Some include the vehicle driving a pre-programmed course autonomously to demonstrate moving forward, reverse, right, and left. The robot must indicate when it is done moving and has completed the challenge by doing things such as blinking or playing a sound. There are many other tasks the robot must complete! The robotics program is open to anyone, just simply show up after school on Mondays, Wednesdays, or Fridays. We will surely find a spot for you!

Armenian Dance is Back

Kohar Karapetian

Armenian folk dance is over 5,000 years old. The Manoogian School will be re-starting dance classes this year with Mrs. Nayiri Karapetian and Mr. Dikran Callan.

Armenian dance has been a part of our school’s cultural program for many years. Unfortunately, we had to take a break from dance classes due to COVID.

Mrs. Karapetian, who the students call Degeen Nayiri, says, “It has been an honor to teach dance at the Manoogian School since 2005. The Manoogian School has always played a big role in promoting and preserving our rich Armenian culture here in Detroit.”

She said, “There are plans to teach some of the older line dances this year as well as class dances.” We are very excited to finally have Armenian dance back at our school.

Welcome back Degeen Nayiri and Baron Dikran.

Making the Grade

Leah Pogosian

After every quarter, awards are given out for citizenship, honor roll and administrator's list.

Citizenship awards are given to the sixth and seventh grades. In order to be recognized for this award, a student must have a "1" - for outstanding behavior - in every class.

A student makes honor roll if their GPA is 3.0 - 3.49. For students with a GPA over 3.5, they are awarded the Administrator's List.

Those students who are recognized received free dress every Wednesday!
Hard work does pay off!

Congratulations to the following students::

Administrator's List

Sixth Grade: Armen Bassmagian
Edo Bedrossian
Emily Demircioglu
Donavella Kalabat
Kohar Karapetian
Veronica Kucheinyk
Lourdes Najor
Hagop Sarian
Chris Slewa
Tamar Souss

Seventh Grade:
Shahan Ashkarian
Samuel Avetisyan
Tanya Bahnam
Olha Chikh
Lorin Dakessian
Aloria Gevargesian

Eighth Grade:
Jurius Azar
Vadym Baraniuk
Alex Gevargesian
Tro Hamakorzian
Kyaneh Karapetian
Jad Khalife
Bohdan Kinashchuk
Maksim Kuliniy
Alina Malynovska
Leah Pogosian
Licia Salatyán

Honor Roll

Sixth Grade: Lillyana Akrawi
Emilia Kazazian
Vana Shihadeh
Andreea Szabo

Seventh Grade:
Yan Dzudzylo
Angelina Kada
Lavan Yatooma

Eighth Grade:
Erika Amirdzhanian
Liliia Budiak
Veronika Charuta
Illia Enhel
Lina Giniatulina
Viktoria Horniak
Sviatoslav Hoshkoder
Edo Ohanyan
Mariam Yeldo

Citizenship

Sixth Grade:
Armen Bassmagian
Emily Demircioglu
Ilonia Dorosh
Kohar Karapetian
Veronica Kucheiny
Hagop Sasrian
Chris Slewa
Tamar Souss

Seventh Grade:
Shahan Ashkarian
Samuel Avetisyan
Tanya Bahnam
Yeva Biskup
Lorin Dakessian
Viktoria Semerenko
Lavan Yatooma
Anna Zaiats



What are Students Saying?

By Erika Amirdzhanian &
Zarina Ktudsova

What is the Middle School student body talking about? We decided to put on our investigative hats to find the pulse of the student body. We asked questions, looked for opinions about school, and searched for any opinion students might have.

The recent school dance was on the minds of most students. It was certainly a hit and everyone had a great time. According to an unnamed source, “it was fun to see all my friends dressed up nicely. The food and songs were good. And it was great we could invite guests to our dance.”

The field trip to the Henry Ford Museum was another topic being discussed among the student body. According to Tro Hamakorzian, “It was really nice, but they didn’t give us enough time.” An unnamed source mentioned their favorite exhibit was the Disney Display. It was amazing to see the actual Disney costumes that was worn in the movies.

Students also shared their views about Manoogian School. According to unnamed sources, students would like to see more activities, updated books, and making the Middle School more modern. Leah Pogosian thinks couches should be added for students to use. Kyaneh Karapetian would like more field trips. Other unnamed sources complained about the restrooms in the Middle School. They would like to see paper towels added.

And many students were quick to point out, that despite their complaints, they love their school. It’s great having the Armenian heritage artworks hanging throughout the hallways. And one seventh grader pointed out that the teachers are caring. It a place where you can be yourself and feel at home.

This is what’s on the minds of the Middle School students.

Caught Ya Cards

Students continue to be good citizens, helping faculty and classmates. As a reward for their kindness, students are given a Caught Ya Card. Students fill these out and turn them into the office. A weekly drawing takes place and one student wins a Target gift card and has their picture posted up in the Middle School hallway.

Here is an updated list of winners from the last news edition:

Lorin Dakessian—7th grade
Samuel Avetisyan—7th grade
Chris Slewa—Sixth grade
Ilona Dorosh—7th grade
Kohar Karapetian—6th grade
Natalia Afacanyan—7th grade

Keep up the good work!!

The Spelling Bee

The yearly Scripts Spelling took place this year in Mrs. Pupa’s room—and it was exciting. The final results for the class winners are:

Sixth grade: 1st place—Lillyana Akrawi
2nd place—Armen Bassmagian
3rd place—Andre Frangulian

Seventh grade: 1st place - Angelina Kada
2nd place—Olha Chikh
3rd place—Oleksandr Semyrozum

Eighth grade: 1st place—Jurius Azar
2nd place—Michael Togmajyan
3rd place—Jad Khalife

These nine students then competed for the school winner. This person will advance to the Regional Bee on March 4 at Oakland Center at Oakland University.

And the winner is...Michael Togmajyan

Good luck, Michael!

Welcome Back, Mrs. Panabaker!

Marciano Shammami

Ms. Panabaker is the new English teacher in the High School. She is a graduate of the Manoogian School. After receiving her university degree, Mrs. Panabaker spent the next nine years teaching in different states: Idaho, Washington, and Arizona.

Mrs. Panabaker had fond memories as a student at Manoogian School. Never did she think she would enjoy being a teacher even more than being a student.

Knowing English, according to Ms. Panabaker, is important because you have to know English to be successful in other subjects. To her, English is both practical and beautiful.

When she's not teaching, Ms. Panabaker is cooking, working out, and traveling.



Welcome back, Ms. Panabaker!

What's Happening in the Elementary??

Math Day and Character Day

Contributing author Lavon Yatooma

Math and Character Days were a two-day Spirit Week for elementary students to dress up. Mrs. Karineh Toukhanian helped organize this event which took place on November 21 and 22. The first day, students participated in math games held in the library. Students rotated from center to center run by Honor Roll and Administrator's students. The second day, students came to school dressed up as their favorite literary character and had to explain their character to others.



My Personal Experience Protesting for Armenia

Kohar Karapetian

On February 1, 2023, I headed out to Washington D.C. with my mom to attend the Armenian National Committee (ANC) Advocacy Days. The event centered around the urgent situation happening in Artsakh.

For over 50 days, Azerbaijan has blocked the Lachin corridor, the only road that connects Artsakh to Armenia. There are 120,000 Armenians who live there—and 30,000 of them are children. The Azeri government has cut all power, gas, heat, and supplies to these people.

Before the blockade, 400 tons food, medicine, and other supplies were shipped each day to the Artsakh people. Now, their lives have been cut-off from the world including no internet. Also, children cannot go to school.

Hundreds of people showed up in Washington D.C. to advocate for the people of Artsakh. I met with Senator Deborah Stabenow, and Ani Toumajan—a graduate of Manoogian School. Through our conversations I learned that they were interested in helping the Artsakh people, and Ms. Toumajan knew that other senators, including Senator Gary Peters were also interested. I met with Senator Jack Bergman (from the upper peninsula), Hailey Stevens (Troy), Hillary Schoten (Grand Rapids), and Tim Walberg (southern Michigan). I also had a conversation with Congresswoman Rashida Thalib. Both she and Senator Stevens have agreed to co-sponsor our resolution.

At a protest on Capitol Hill, Congressmen Adam Schiff and Frank Pallone both came and spoke out in support of Artsakh, saying “enough is enough. No more money or weapons to Azerbaijan.”

I left Washington D.C. feeling both disappointed and fulfilled. I was disappointed when I saw how some of our politicians didn't seem to care too much about the Artsakh situation; some seemed to feign interest when maps and conversations were introduced.

I felt positive because there are people who care about what's happening in Artsakh. I learned that it is important to ask members of Congress to co-sponsor resolutions to become stronger. We started with only eight sponsors, but when I left, we had around fifty supporters. I hope this is enough to go to a vote soon, and when it does, I hope good wins over evil.



Smile!



You should be dancing!











