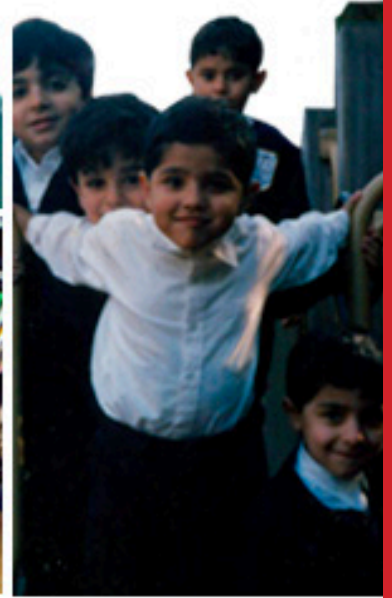




BRIDGE - ԿԱՄՈՒՐՁ



**ՀԱՅ MARKS:
45 YEARS OF
ACADEMIC
EXCELLENCE**







BRIDGE/GAMOORCH

A Biannual Magazine

EDITORIAL STAFF

Mrs. Grace Andonian, Principal
Mrs. Sevana Panosian, Instructional Program and Outreach Coordinator
Mrs. Marina Grigoryan, Layout and Design


Gamoorch is a biannual magazine published by KZV Armenian School, 825 Brotherhood Way, CA 94132.


KZV Armenian School has been at the forefront of bilingual Armenian education for forty-five years. Our mission has been to provide students with the highest level of education in an educational program that fosters a connection to our Armenian culture, religion, and heritage while also providing a strong sense of American-Armenian identity.

If you have any questions about this publication, please send an email to kzvbridgemag@kzv.org or call us at (415) 586-8686.

Follow us at:

 <https://www.kzv.org>

 @kzvarmenianschool

 www.facebook.com/KZVArmenianSchool

PRINCIPAL'S NOTES



mission to educate, empower, and prepare generations of Armenians.

Join us on this voyage - it is truly a cruise of hope and dreams.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Grace Andonian
Principal
KZV Armenian School

For sixteen years, I have been at the helm of this ship and the voyage is one of fortitude - sailing towards the goal of educating and empowering generations of Armenian youth. We have navigated numerous waves and like the epic heroes of our antiquity, our school moves forward on their goal of providing a most excellent, rigorous, relevant, and loving program for our children.

This ship of hope and dreams moves with a collaborative team that shares the same goals - dedicated teachers who toil as seafarers always supporting and steering this cruise. Winds of technological changes, waves of educational trends, weather patterns in literacy or mathematics - these are the conditions and currents that we face as challenges, but we never steer away from our goal - the same goals which were presented forty five years ago - to provide an excellent education to Armenian youth.

We hope you enjoy this second issue of our magazine. Your support of our vibrant school helps us fulfill our

Այս տարուան «Կամուրջ»-ի երկրորդ թիւով կը ներկայացնենք մեր վարժարանի 45 տարիներու անխոնջ եւ նուիրեալ ծառայութիւնը մեր գաղութի զաւակներուն:

Գրեթէ կէս դար առաջ, խումբ մը հայրենասէրներ՝ Գրիգոր Գոուզեանի, Քարլ Զաքարեանի եւ Հրաչ Դարբինեանի գլխաւորութեամբ, հիմը դրին այս վարժարանին՝ այն հեռանկարով, որ հայեցի դաստիարակութիւնը պէտք է շարունակուի նաեւ Սան Ֆրանսիսքոյի Ծովածոցի մէջ:

Այսօր, 45 տարիներ ետք, այդ տեսիլքը կը ծաղկի Գոուզեան-Զաքարեան-Վասպուրական Ազգային Վարժարանի դռներէն ներս՝ դասարաններուն մէջ, երգի ու լեզուի դասապահերուն, հայկական տօնակատարութիւններուն եւ ամէն հայ աշակերտի հայեացքին մէջ:

Այս տարեդարձը առիթ մըն է յատուկ շնորհակալութիւն յայտնելու բոլոր անոնց, որոնք նեցուկ կանգնեցան, սատարեցին եւ

վառ պահեցին մեր վարժարանի ջահը: Այս օճախը կենդանի պահեցին նուիրեալ տնօրէնները, ուսուցիչները, պաշտօնեաները, ծնողները եւ, անշուշտ, մեր շատ սիրելի աշակերտներն ու շրջանաւարտները: Խորին երախտագիտութիւնս կ'ուզեմ յայտնել մեր ուսուցիչներուն եւ աշխատակազմին, որոնք սիրով, համբերութեամբ ու նուիրումով ամէն օր կը ջամբեն գիտելիք, հայրենասիրութիւն եւ հաւատք:

Ինձի համար մեծ պատիւ է վերջին 16 տարիներուն ծառայելու իբրեւ Գ.Զ.Վ. Ազգային Վարժարանի տնօրէն: Այս ճանապարհը եղաւ մարտահրաւերներով լի, սակայն միասնական ջանքերով, անկեղծութեամբ եւ հայկական ոգիով կը շարունակենք, հաւատարմօրէն կառչած մնալ մեր առաքելութեան:

Կը յուսանք, որ հաճոյքով կը կարդաք այս թիւն ալ եւ միասնաբար կը շարունակենք պահպանել եւ փոխանցել մեր լեզուն, պատմութիւնը, մշակոյթը, կրօնն ու արժէքները:

Տնօրէն
Կրէյս Անտոնեան

ՀՈԳԵՒՈՐ ՀՈՎԻՒԻ ԽՕՍՔԸ

FATHER ARTSAKH BADOYAN, PARISH PRIEST, ST. GREGORY ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH

Հայոց ցեղասպանութենէն ճողոպրաղծ, գաղթական մեր իշխանութիւնը, կարծես փոքր «Հայաստան»ներ կերտելու միտումով, իրենց բնակութիւն հաստատած գաղթօճախներուն մէջ հիմնեցին եկեղեցի ու անոր կից համանուն դպրոց, ապահովելու համար մեր էութեան միախառնուած քրիստոնեայիայութիւն մը՝ աշխարհի յորձանքներուն մէջ:

Քառասունհինգ տարիներ առաջ, միեւնոյն տեսլականով, մեր եկեղեցւոյ հիմնադիր բարերարներէն ազնուական հայրորդիներ, հիմնեցին Ս. Գրիգոր Լուսաւորիչ Հայաստանեայց Առաքելական Եկեղեցւոյ Գոուզեան-Ջաքարեան-Վասպուրական Ազգային Վարժարանը, այս անունին միացուելով եւ իրենց ընտանիքի անունները եւ պատմական Հայաստանէն՝ Վան Վասպուրականը: Այս նախաձեռնութեան յառաջընդաց ջահակիրը եղաւ այն օրերու հոգեւոր հովիւ՝ Արժ. Տ. Տաթև Ա. Քհնյ. Գալուստեանը:

Հոգեկան մեծ բաւարարութիւն կու տայ ինձի, ամէն Չորեքշաբթի, որպէս կրօնքի ուսուցիչ եւ հոգեւոր հովիւ, մեր վարժարանի աշակերտներուն հետ ամբողջ օր մը անցնել եւ անոնց սորվեցնել քրիստոնեական հայեցի դաստիարակութեան արժէքները, Աստուածատուր պատուիրանին շունչով՝ «Կրթէ մանուկը իր ճամբան սկսած ատեն» (Առակաց 22):

Քառասունհինգ տարիներ անց,

երբ այս տողերը կը շարադրեմ, միաժամանակ կը մտաբերեմ այն բազմաթիւ գոհողութիւնները, որ թէ՛ մեր նախնիները անցեալին, եւ թէ՛ մեր աշակերտներուն ուսուցիչներն ու ծնողները այսօր կը կատարեն՝ ապահով միջավայրի մէջ մեր ապագայ սերունդը հայ պահելու սիրոյն: Այսօր այդ բոլորին արդիւնքն է որ մենք միասնաբար կը տեսնենք, յատկապէս ականատես ըլլալով, այն իրողութեան, որ ծնողացած շրջանաւարտներ, իրենց ունակեցնելով կ'առաջնորդեն թանկագին իրենց զաւակները՝ մեր ազգի մատղաշ սերունդը:

Թող Աստուած օրհնէ մեր Ս. Գրիգոր Լուսաւորիչ Եկեղեցւոյ Գոուզեան-Ջաքարեան-Վասպուրական Վարժարանի Տնօրէնութիւնը, ուսուցչական կազմը, աշակերտութիւնն ու ծնողները, դալարազարդելով մեր ապագան, նորանոր վերեքներ պարգեւելով մեր ծխական համայնքին:

Աղօթարար,
Տ. Արցախ Քհնյ. Պատուական

After the Armenian Genocide, the displaced leadership of the Armenian Diaspora has built and established churches and schools within the same building compound in their respective “Kaghout” settlement around the world, with a unified name, same as the church, as a symbol for our nation’s constant yearning for our homeland.

Forty-five years ago, that same yearning and vision was the catalyst for the creation of our St. Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Apostolic Church Krouzian



Zekarian Vasbouragan Armenian School. The vision and tireless work of our founders, including Der Datev Kaloustian, the torchbearer and the parish priest of Saint Gregory the Illuminator Armenian Apostolic Church in 1980, is present every day as a testament to the strong bonds, rigorous academic learning, excellent Armenian education, faith-based lessons, and constant educational standards that the KZV forms to this day.

It is my pleasure to work with these children, who thrive with joy in this school. As stated in Proverbs 22: 6: “Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.” Forty-five years later, we are as strong as ever - our graduates attend the best schools, but most importantly, we see our alumni sending their children to KZV forty-five years later. That investment has paid dividends in creating the bonds and connections that are the builders of our community. It fills my heart with pride to see this, and with this second issue of our school’s magazine, I hope that you too will maintain those connections by seeing the work that we do here at this school.

May God bless the administration, staff, teachers, students, and families of our school and guide us in perpetuating those bonds for future generations in our school community.

Prayerfully,
Der Artsakh Badoyan
Parish Priest

A couple weeks ago, I was sitting at my desk and my middle schoolers began discussing their reading assignment for Digin Panossian's (Dig P's) Armenian class - they were to read part of Raffi's "Khentuh" (The Fool) and were going to have a discussion about it in class.

I asked them which section of the book they were to read and they responded, "Vartan's dream." Looking at their faces, I remembered my father talking about this book which was published in 1881 and deals with the Russo-Turkish

War of 1877-78 long before the large-scale massacres began. Raffi (Hagop Hagopian) called for action, unity, and self-reliance. I remember him talking about this section called "the dream" where, after witnessing the horrific crimes against the Armenians, he had a dream of a utopian society where Armenians lived in peace, and he dreams of self-sufficiency - production of food, energy, and a school. In this detailed dream sequence, Raffi illustrates Vartan in awe of this school, different from ours, but producing the same kinds of "soldiers" that are metaphorically created upon attending our school, KZV.

For forty five years, KZV has been cultivating, tilling, and tending students empowered with not only a robust education, but with the full discernment of their role as Armenians in the diaspora. We hope you love this issue which showcases this work - and ask that you support Krouzian Zekarian Vasbouragan Armenian School so that it will perpetuate this work for many years to come.

Sevana Panosian,
Editor of Gamurj
Middle School English Instructor
KZV Armenian School





NOBEL PRIZE, NEWBERRY AWARD, TOP CHEF SUPERSTAR... ESTABLISHING A NETWORK STARTS AT SCHOOL



KZV's Middle School Students on a Zoom discussion with Nobel Prize Laureate Dr. Ardem Patapoutian. Fall 2023

KZV's students have the benefit of not only being in a city as diverse and rich as San Francisco, but as part of the Armenian diaspora! On top of the bonus of being totally fluent in Armenian, students are presented with numerous opportunities to meet one on one with dynamic members of the Armenian and Bay Area Community.

Our middle schoolers had the opportunity to meet with Dr. Ardem Patapoutian, Nobel Prize Laureate and were able to have an interactive discussion with him through zoom. Students wrote multiple page MLA style research papers on a variety of Nobel Prize winners such as Francis Crick, Malala Yousafzai, Marie Curie, Sir Alexander Fleming, Shirin Ebadi, Theodore



Sayat Ozyilmaz, owner of Dalida Restaurant, leading the students in a guided discussion on Armenian and Near-Eastern herbs - focusing on farm to table dining. Fall 2024



Roosevelt, and of course, our own Armenian winners Dr. Ardem Patapoutian and Dr. Daron Acemoglu!

Our 7th graders researched history of Armenian foods and after reading and analyzing the book *Chew on This*, students had the opportunity to visit San Francisco's Michelin recommended restaurant Dalida, and were given a tour of their garden while also partaking in an amazing meal of Armenian foods from the Levant, Caucasus, and Western Armenia - sou berag, manti, media dolma (stuffed mussels), tabouleh with cordiceps mushrooms, fresh baked pita and amazing gata were some of the amazing foods the students ate. Owners Sayat Oyzlimaz (who is Armenian) and his wife Laura who was a finalist on the show *TOP CHEF* welcomed our students while also guiding them through their garden - watch this video of our trip! We are so grateful to Sayat and Laura for welcoming our students on this interactive trip!



KZV's Eighth Grade English Class had the chance to tour and record at KPIX studios with Anchorwoman Ryan Yamamoto.



Comedienne Lory Tatoulian performing for our school.



Warriors Coach Steve Kerr speaking about the the legacy of his parents during the Armenian genocide.



Students participated in a presentation by the Naghash Jazz Ensemble.



Students established "pen pals" with Newberry Award winning author David Kherdian..

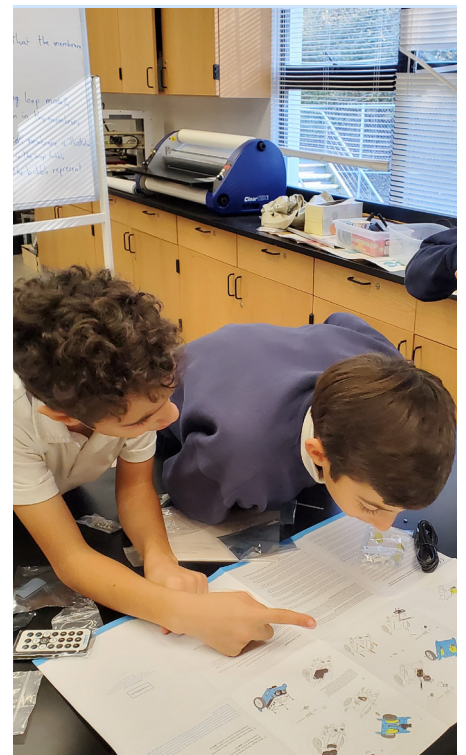
PROMOTING STEM EDUCATION THROUGH KZV'S ARMATH PROGRAM

The ARMATH program is an initiative designed to integrate robotics and mathematics education in a way that makes both subjects more engaging and accessible. It uses robotics as a tool to teach mathematical concepts, helping students see the practical applications of what they learn in the classroom. For example, students might use geometry to design a robot's movement or algebra to program its sensors. The program also emphasizes teamwork and real-world problem-solving, preparing students for future careers in STEM fields.

Here is an interview with our current ARMATH teacher, Nshan Kesecker.

What inspired you to start teaching robotics to middle school students, and how has your approach evolved over the years?

I was inspired by the realization that robotics is a perfect blend of creativity, technology, and problem-solving. A good grasp of all of these aspects is essential for navigating the future economy. Middle school is a transformative time when students are curious and eager to explore, and the Armath program provides a hands-on way to engage them in STEM. Over the years, my approach has shifted from focusing solely on technical skills to emphasizing collaboration, creativity, and real-world applications. I've also incorporated more project-based learning, where students tackle open-ended challenges that mirror real engineering problems.



What are some of the most exciting or memorable moments you've had in the classroom while teaching robotics?

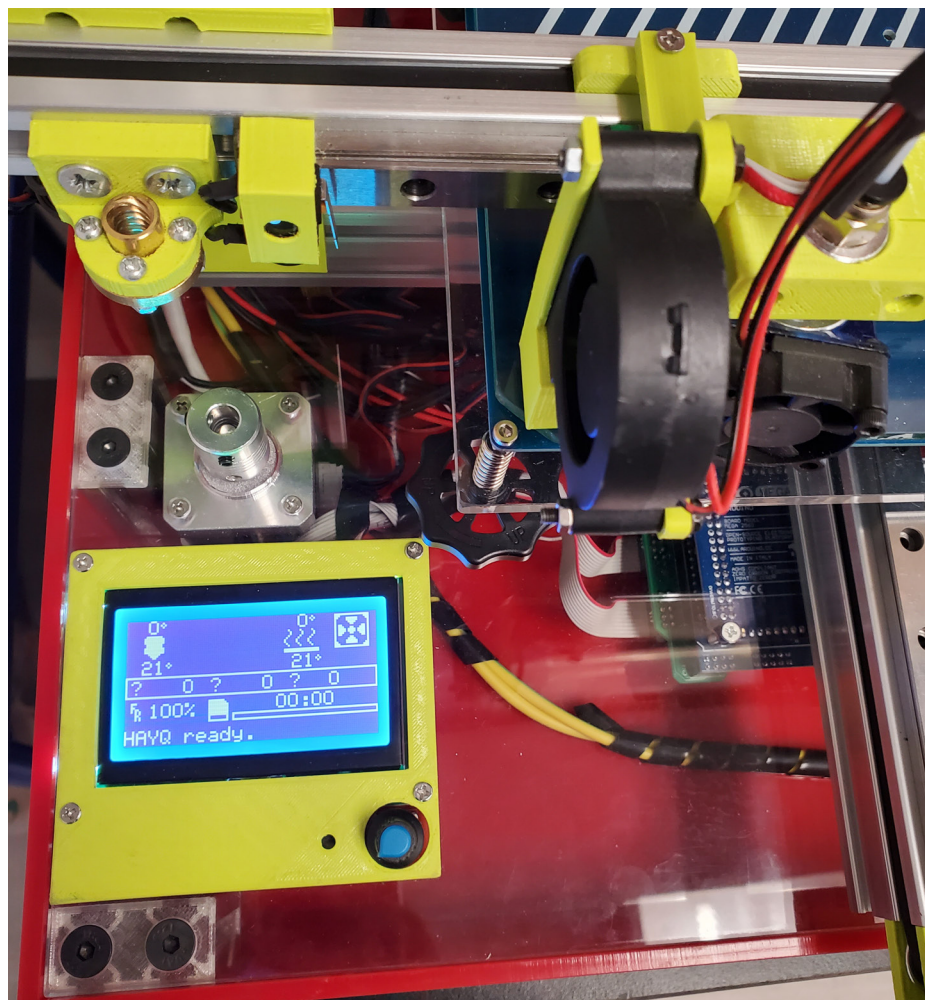
One of the most memorable moments was watching a team of students who struggled initially finally get their robot to complete a complex task. The excitement and pride on their faces were priceless! Another highlight was seeing students who didn't consider themselves "tech-savvy" discover their potential and become leaders in their teams. Moments like these illustrate why Armath is so rewarding—it's not just about the technology but about building confidence and resilience, interaction and play.

How do you see robotics influencing students' critical thinking and problem-solving skills in other subjects?

Robotics teaches students to break down problems into smaller, manageable parts and iterate on solutions—a skill that translates directly to subjects like math, science, and even writing. It also encourages systems thinking, where students learn to see how individual components work together to achieve a goal. These skills help them approach challenges in other areas with a structured, analytical mindset. Plus, the collaborative nature of robotics fosters communication and teamwork, which are valuable across all disciplines.

What advice would you to students who are new to robotics or are unsure if it's the right fit for them?

My advice is to give it a try without worrying about being an expert right away. Armath is about learning through experimentation and failure, so it's okay to feel unsure at first. Start small, ask questions, and don't be afraid to make mistakes—they're part of the process. If you enjoy solving puzzles, building things, or working with others, you might find robotics to be a great fit. And



even if you don't pursue it long-term, the skills you gain will be valuable in many other areas.

Tell us more about the ARMATH program.

The ARMATH program is an initiative designed to integrate robotics and mathematics education in a way that makes both subjects more engaging and accessible. It uses robotics as a tool to teach mathematical concepts, helping students see the practical applications of what they learn in the classroom. For example, students might use geometry to design a robot's movement or algebra to program its sensors. The program also emphasizes teamwork and real-world problem-solving, preparing students for future careers in STEM fields. It's been incredibly rewarding to see students gain confidence through hands-on projects.

The program also emphasizes teamwork and real-world problem-solving, preparing students for future careers in STEM fields.

STEM - MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE AT KZV

Our math department has always pushed and integrated a love of math throughout our school. Mr. Jean Paul Sallat has been a part of our program for many years. Here is an interview.

What inspired you to become a math teacher?

My journey to becoming a math teacher began with a deep curiosity during my student years. I was fascinated by why some students faced challenges in the classroom and how I could support them. This curiosity guided me to study neuroscience in college, where I explored how learning physically transforms the brain. Math, to me, is a steadfast discipline—reliable, honest, and rooted in predictable outcomes, which I find incredibly reassuring. From a scientific perspective, consistent results not only validate the process but also enrich the experience. Algebra, in particular, offers a valuable life lesson: it teaches us how to solve complex problems by breaking them down into smaller, manageable steps. This approach isn't just a skill for the classroom; it's a profound tool for life.

What do you love most about teaching middle school students?

Middle school is such a fascinating and pivotal time. Students still carry the wonder and curiosity of childhood, but they're also beginning to develop more structured and deliberate ways of thinking, akin to adulthood. Their openness to learning through various methods is truly inspiring. I cherish the opportunity to guide them through this

transformative phase and to inspire confidence as they tackle challenges and discover their passions.

How do you help middle school students overcome struggles with math?

I often share the concept of brain plasticity—the idea that learning changes the brain in a physical way. Just as exercise strengthens muscles, rigorous mental training can build cognitive skills. I use sports analogies to make this relatable and help students understand that their brains can grow and adapt. I also emphasize strategies and habits that encourage positive progress, ensuring they feel empowered to take on challenges.

What is your approach to making math enjoyable and engaging for students who lack confidence in their abilities?

I focus on breaking the curriculum into manageable pieces, allowing students to master foundational skills before moving forward. I also bring math to life by connecting it to real-world situations and demonstrating its relevance across subjects, helping students see its value beyond the classroom.

How do you connect math to the real world in your classroom?

I design hands-on labs where students use manipulatives to solve puzzles and tackle problems with common-sense reasoning. This often comes before introducing the formal mathematical language that models the situation. By anchoring abstract concepts in real-world contexts, students gain a deeper appreciation and understanding of math's practical applications.



THE FOREST IS OUR CLASSROOM!

The annual trip to Yosemite fosters earth science while also transforming the park into their own natural classroom. Our students explore the rich biodiversity of the park while being immersed in the ancient redwoods and waterfalls of Yosemite. Through this annual trip, students gain a deep appreciation for environmental science which works hand in hand with their work on Raffi's garden. It is these outdoor trips that foster the academic standards we pride ourselves on while also having students be in touch with the natural world.

“Let Nature be your teacher.”
– William Wordsworth



“RAFFI’S GARDEN” BLOOMS WITH A SPIRIT OF HOPE AT KZV ARMENIAN SCHOOL

In a heartfelt tribute to the life and spirit of our beloved student Raffi Arabayan, the KZV Armenian School community has come together to create “Raffi’s Garden,” a living memorial in honor of Raffi, who passed away in May of 2024. Sponsored by the school and nurtured with compassion and care, the garden has blossomed into a space of growth, remembrance, and positivity - the same positivity that Raffi was known and loved for.

With the support and guidance of Yeretsgin Annie Ash, this project has sprouted from a dream into a garden where students will learn the value of sustainability, stewardship, and nature. Through hands-on experience, they are exploring composting practices and cultivating a variety of local herbs and vegetables. One of the early successes of Raffi’s Garden—radishes—are already thriving, a fitting symbol of resilience and renewal.

More than just a school project, Raffi’s Garden is a place where students find connection: to the soil, to their lessons, and most importantly, to the memory of their friend. In nurturing the garden, they are reminded of Raffi’s strength, kindness, and love of life. His spirit continues to inspire every sprouting seed and every caring hand that helps tend this special corner of the school. Stay tuned for future updates about this garden of learning where we hope to integrate stewardship and environmental education into our robust curriculum.



HEALTH AND WELLNESS AT KZV!

MEET OUR SCHOOL COUNSELOR DR. ATINA MANVELIAN



Dr. Atina Manvelian is an Armeni-an-American licensed clinical psy- chologist specializing in relationship psychology and youth mental health. Her mission is to help people feel more confident and connected to one another, and she is very excited to bring her expertise to the students and families of KZV.

Dr. Manvelian was primarily raised in LA (yes, in Glendale!). She double majored in Biological Anthropology and Psychology at the University of California, Santa Barbara, and she earned her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from the University of Arizona. Dr. Manvelian moved to the Bay Area three years ago to pursue her postdoctoral training at Stanford University.

Currently, Dr. Manvelian is an Assistant Professor at Santa Clara University.

She teaches counseling psychology for master’s level clinicians in the child and adolescent track. She also conducts research to understand how to best promote healthy relationships and well-being for youth and adults. Outside of being a faculty member, Dr. Manvelian maintains a small private practice where she sees teens, adults, couples, and families for therapy.

Dr. Manvelian has been working with our K to 8th students and parents, offering invaluable support through various workshops (students and parents) and one-on-one sessions to foster a positive and nurturing environment for our children.

KZV Armenian School is committed to further supporting the emotional and mental well-being of our students and welcomed Dr. Atina Manvelian to our team.



KZV ARMENIAN SCHOOL'S FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

For the 2024-2025 fiscal year, KZV Armenian School is reporting total income of \$1,656,000. The majority—\$1,418,000—comes from net tuition. Additional revenue includes \$75,000 from banquet and fundraising events, \$50,000 in donations, \$50,000 from endowment returns, \$40,000 from daycare services, and \$23,000 from special contributions made in memory or in honor of loved ones.

Total expenses will reach \$1,963,000, with the largest share—\$1,678,000—allocated to wages and benefits. Other key expenditures include \$120,000 for curriculum and programs, \$70,000

for professional, administrative, and office needs, \$60,000 for security, and \$35,000 for repairs and maintenance. This results in a net deficit of \$307,000.

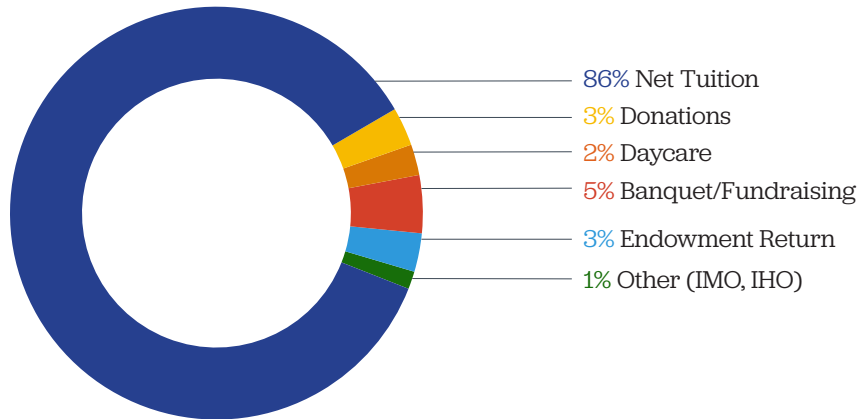
Over the past several years, we've been fortunate to receive generous and sometimes unexpected gifts from community members, which have helped us bridge financial gaps and invest in key improvements. Contributions designated for projects like bathroom renovations and playground upgrades have already made a meaningful impact.

In 2005, an Endowment Fund was established for the benefit of the school, known as the KZV Endowment Fund. It

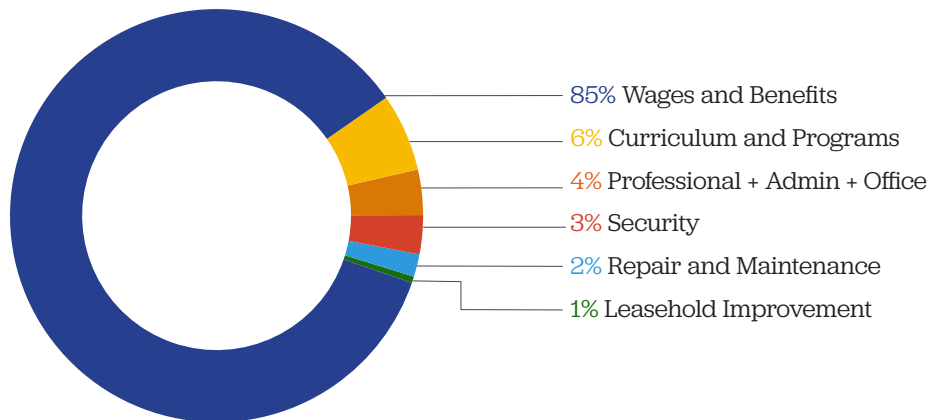
is a long-term investment in the school's future. The principal amount of \$4.3 million stays untouched to protect financial stability. Each year, a small portion of the annual interest income yielded by the Endowment Fund from the previous year is distributed back to the school to support our programs. If you'd like to help us close the gap, please consider a donation. Every gift makes a difference.

With your continued support, we can sustain the quality of education our students deserve and ensure KZV remains a vibrant and thriving institution for generations to come.

Revenue Breakdown



Expense Breakdown



Revenue Breakdown	
Net Tuition	\$1,418,000
Donations	\$50,000
Daycare	\$40,000
Banquet/Fundraising	\$75,000
Endowment Return	\$50,000
Other (IMO, IHO)	\$23,000
Total Income	\$1,656,000
Expense Breakdown	
Wages and Benefits	\$1,678,000
Curriculum and Programs	\$120,000
Professional + Admin + Office	\$70,000
Security	\$60,000
Leasehold Improvement	\$10,000
Repair and Maintenance	\$35,000
Total expenses	\$1,963,000
Net Deficit	- \$307,000



OVSANNA MISSERLIAN PRESCHOOL - ENGAGING OUR YOUNGEST “SPROUTS” IN SCIENCE AND MATH LITERACY

Teaching math to preschoolers is important because it helps them think, solve problems, and get ready for school. Early math skills can make learning other subjects easier and give kids confidence in learning. Here are some simple reasons why math matters for young children:

- Helps them do well in school later.
- Teaches problem-solving with fun activities like puzzles.
- Builds thinking skills with counting and sorting.
- Encourages them to ask questions and find answers.
- Makes their memory and focus stronger.
- Helps with small hand movements like writing and drawing.
- Let them be creative by exploring different ways to solve problems.
- Makes kids feel proud when they learn something new.
- Is useful for daily life, like shopping and cooking.
- Prepares them for harder math in the future.

Here are key reasons to teach preschoolers science:

Develops Critical Thinking: Science activities foster children’s ability to analyze, observe, and draw conclusions, enhancing their critical thinking skills.

Fosters Curiosity: Preschoolers are naturally inquisitive, and science activities build on this curiosity by providing opportunities for them to ask questions and explore.

Improves Observation Skills: Science experiments and explorations require

children to pay close attention to details, which strengthens their observational abilities.

Builds Problem-Solving Skills: By engaging in science activities, children learn to identify problems, test hypotheses, and develop problem-solving skills.

Enhances Language Development: Discussing observations and discoveries during science activities promotes vocabulary-building and communication skills.

Promotes a Love of Learning: Hands-on science experiences can ignite a lifelong passion for learning and discovery. Teaching science to preschoolers not only equips them with essential skills but also nurtures their natural curiosity and passion for exploration. The kids engaged in an “Ice Experiment” where they made observations, predictions, they learned before and after the process, and used charts to record their findings. This hands-on

approach made learning about science fun and interactive, sparking their curiosity and enthusiasm

Blue Group Science Project:

Ice formation

Blue Group Math: Understanding number and quantity, sorting, comparing, basic arithmetic.

Red Group Science Project: Sink and Float Project

Yellow Group Science: The Science project for Yellow group students was about mixing primary colors. The objective for this Science experiment was helping the children to make predictions and observations and see how primary colors turned into secondary colors.





*Yellow Group
Science
Project: Mixing
primary colors*

*Red Group
Science
Project: Sink
and Float*



*Blue Group
Science
Project:
Ice formation*



OBJECTS IN MOTION STAY IN MOTION!!!! WATCH OUT FOR THE KZV VAN CATS!



Our Physical Education program is a robust and active way to help students on their pathway to health! Here is an interview with the force behind that motion - our beloved teacher and coach, Ms. Rocio Mendoza.

What inspired you to become a physical education teacher, and what excites you most about teaching at KZV Armenian School?

Growing up, I was not that good at sports! However, after having an amazing PE teacher who taught me to find the fun in athletic activities I developed a passion for sports, nature, and physical activities. Volleyball, boxing, basketball and of course soccer, the best one out there. Every day when I come to work, I love to see the excitement when my students have PE. I truly enjoy answering the same question about 20 times a day, "what are we doing for PE?" Seeing the kids have fun while being active thrills and excites me.

How do you create an inclusive and supportive environment in your PE classes, especially for students with varying skill levels?

I try my best to create an inclusive and supportive environment during PE classes by listening to everyone's needs and opinions about the activity we are doing. I try my best to understand and know every student's skill levels - let's face it, not everyone is a super athlete, but EVERYONE can enjoy a sport! This way I have activities planned that all can participate in while having fun. In due time, everyone is able to get better and push themselves. I have a motto: we play and participate to have fun, we help each other to get better and if we lose there is always a next time.

Can you share a memorable moment or success story from your time teaching at KZV Armenian School?

I love listening to students' stories about their soccer games, basketball games

over the weekends. The Armenian athletic leagues that they participate in are amazing! There have been lots of times where alumni have come back and share their stories about the sports they are playing in HS. Again, I love hearing that my former students have found a love for physical activities and have found the sport they enjoy playing at a more competitive level.

How do you incorporate what you teach into our team practices for the VAN CATS league?

When I coach our VAN CATS teams, I like to work on each student's individual skill level. It takes a lot of hard work and dedication but with reinforcement and encouragement, students have fun and become better athletes. I try my best to work in a positive environment and teach our players to have good sportsmanship and a positive attitude. Your attitude determines your altitude!

What makes the KZV Armenian School community stand out to you compared to other educational environments you've been a part of?

I have held positions in two other educational institutions, but none like KZV. KZV has a special place in my heart. It has helped me grow as an educator and as a global person. It has brought me much joy and many fun memories. It has given me the opportunity to meet amazing people. I have a tremendous respect, love for this community. It feels like family and I enjoy my employment here because of my students and colleagues.

KZV GALA SHINES BRIGHT

KZV's community gathered to celebrate the 45th Anniversary anniversary of the school's founding on May 3, 2025. Over 220 guests mingled and marveled over the gorgeous venue which took place here at Saroyan Hall. Our guest of honor was Giant's General Manager Zach Minasian whose inspiring words resonated with the positive tone of the evening. KZV's Alumni of the Year was Hrag Kalebjian, a dedicated parent and previous board member who has always shown support for our school. During his speech, he pointed out the impact that his KZV family has had on his life. The evening's festivities were enhanced by the amazing culinary talents of Sayat and Laura Ozyilmaz of San Francisco's award winning DALIDA restaurant.

The event raised more than \$200K for the school including a generous donation of 150K from Raffi Khatchadourian which will cover the construction of our new primary playground. Guests who attended experienced an auction marketplace which raised 18K leading to a grand total of more than \$225K in donations. Thank you to everyone who participated and helped KZV shine - our planning committee outdid themselves by making this elegant and festive event an evening to remember.



Our auction highlight was an original piece by William Saroyan, 1968. Donated by the William Saroyan Foundation



KZV 8TH GRADERS VISIT WASHINGTON, D.C. TO LEARN ABOUT GOVERNMENT, CIVIC DUTY, AND GRASSROOTS ADVOCACY

This spring, our Eighth Grade class embarked on an educational journey to Washington, D.C., immersing themselves in the heart of American government to deepen their understanding of civic duty and public service.

As part of their civics curriculum, the students visited major landmarks, including the U.S. Capitol, the Supreme Court, and national monuments, gaining first hand insight into the institutions and history that shape American democracy. But one of the most impactful stops on their trip was a visit to the headquarters of the Armenian National Committee of America (ANCA).

At ANCA, the students were welcomed by Executive Director Aram Hamparian and Communications Director Elizabeth Chouldjian, who led an inspiring session focused on grassroots activism and civic engagement. Hamparian and Chouldjian shared stories of advocacy and perseverance, illustrating how ordinary citizens can influence national policy through informed debate, strategic communication, and community mobilization.

The students participated in interactive workshops where they practiced debate skills, learned how to craft persuasive arguments, and explored the power of storytelling in political advocacy. They also discussed how young people can begin to make a difference in their own communities and beyond.

For many of the students, the visit to ANCA offered a unique connection between their Armenian heritage and American civic life. It served as a powerful reminder that active participation



in democracy is not only a right, but a responsibility.

The trip was both educational and empowering, equipping KZV students with knowledge and tools they'll carry with them as future leaders and engaged citizens.



Watch our student produced show KZVtv



«...ԴՈՒ ԳԻՏՈՒԹԵԱՆ, ՀԱՅ ԴՊՐՈՒԹԵԱՆ ԼՈՅՍԻ ՕՋԱԽ» ՍԱՐԳԻՍ ՓԱՆՈՍԵԱՆ



Ըորս տասնամեակներ շարունակ, աշխարհի այս ծայրամասին մեջ, գիտության և դպրության այս օջախէն անցան 444 մանուկներ և պատանիներ: Սփիւռքեան իրականության մեջ հայակերտումի և մարդակերտումի գործընթացին մեջ, մեծ դեր ունեցած է և ունի Հայ դպրոցը: Դժուարությունները և մարտահրավերները շատ են, սակայն շնորհիւ անձնուէր Հայ դաստիարակներու մեր վարժարանը կը շարունակէ իր նուիրական և նորարար ծառայությունը: Մայրենի լեզուի, կրօնքի ու Հայոց Պատմության կողքին, Հայկական Բաժինը մեծ

կարեւորութիւն կընծայէ հայկական ամենօրեայիններուն և սովորութիւններուն: Կը հաւատանք, որ ազգային ու կրօնական մեր արժէքները պահելը և փոխանցելը նոյնքան կարեւոր են հայ մանուկին և պատանիին ինքնութեան կազմաւորման, ինչպէս նաեւ մեր գոյութեան ամրապնդման ու զարգացման մեջ: Հակառակ տիրական միջավայրի ազդեցութեան, մեր վարժարանին մեջ ամուր շեշտը դրուած է հայկական ամենօրեային: Մեր աշակերտները Սրբոց Թարգմանչացին խաչքար կը շինեն, ամէն տարի կը սորվին Ամանորի և Սուրբ Ծննդեան սովորութիւնները, Բուն Բարեկենդանին կը ծափուին

հայկական տիպարներ, Տեառնընդառաջին կրակին վրայէն կը ցատկեն, նշխար և մաս պատրաստելու արարողութեան կը մասնակցին, Մեծ պահքին կը պատրաստեն պահքի յատուկ կերակուրներ, ակռահատիկի արարողութիւն կընեն, Զատիկին կը ներկեն տխով հաւկիթներ և կը մասնակցին Համբարձման վիճակին: Երբ Ն.Ս.Օ.Տ.Տ. Արամ Ա. Վեհափառը 2025 տարին հռչակեց որպէս «Ամենօրեայիններու վերակենսաւորման Տարի», երկնի տարիներու մեր աշխատանքը արժեւորուեցաւ և խթան հանդիսացաւ աննկուն շարունակելու մեր առաքելութիւնը: **Տիկ. Փ.**





*45 Years of
Connection to
our Homeland*





*45 Years of
Smiles*



*45 Years of
Friends*



*45 Years of
Excellence*

