



BRIDGE - ԿԱՄՈՒՐԶ



PERPETUATING OUR
ՀԱՅ STANDARDS WITH GRADUATES
WHO REACH NEW HEIGHTS





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

WELCOME TO BRIDGE MAGAZINE

Welcome to our inaugural issue of BRIDGE - GAMOORCH - a window into the wonders of our school.

Forty-five years ago, our founders envisioned and built a bridge to our homeland that would span generations of Armenian-Americans who will remain connected not only to their tight knit community, but to our homeland. Krouzian Zekarian Vasbouragan Armenian School has been a bridge between our homeland and the San Francisco Bay Area Armenian community and it is with this consistent connection that we hope to give you a glimpse of our home away from home.

For forty-five years, we have been at the forefront of educating and empowering a community of learners who excel academically, think globally, and move on to be active members of the Armenian diaspora. Armed with 21st century skills which include fluency in Armenian, our graduates go on to universities with a consistent connection to our Armenian language, religion, and heritage. Like San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge, we at KZV consider ourselves a connector to our homeland with bonds maintained from our experience as American-Armenians.

On top of the robust education which feeds into the Bay Area's most competitive high schools, recent graduates have entered our robust alumni as they have been to the most prestigious universities in the country - including, Stanford University, UCLA, UC Berkeley,

New York University, UC San Diego, UC Santa Barbara, UC Davis, UC Santa Cruz, UC Irvine, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, Loyola Marymount, Chapman, and Fordham just to name a few. The pride doesn't stop there - while excelling academically, students maintain their connection to their Armenian roots by interning or serving organizations worldwide. Just this summer, many of our graduates have worked in Armenia for various organizations - this is a testament to the bridge we have built on Brotherhood Way...simply put, our graduates are forever connected to their culture, empowered with fluency in Armenian and a soulful connection to their roots.

We hope you enjoy this first issue of our biannual magazine and hope it will connect you with our dynamic school. Better yet, come and visit us and see the "bridge" for yourself.



With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "G. Andonian" with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mrs. Grace Andonian
Principal
KZV Armenian School



Watch Mrs. Andonian's
Armenian message



ՀՈԳԵՒՈՐ ՀՈՎԻՒԻ ԽՕՍՔԸ

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



Գ ռուգեան-Ջաքարեան-Վասպուրական մեր Ազգային Վարժարանի այս գեղեցիկ

հրատարակութեան ուրախ առթիւ, ջերմ սիրով կ'ողջունենք, առաջին հերթին, մեր հայերէն ընթերցող բարեկամները: Նոյնպէս, կ'ողջունենք մեր Վարժարանի ժրջան մշակները, որոնք յանձն առին իրենց առօրեայ բազմազբաղ ժամանակացոյցին մէջ անւնայն սման նախաձեռնութիւն մը, որ ահաասիկ լոյս կը տեսնէ «Կամուրջ» անունով: Շնորհիւ ապագայատեսիլ հիմնադիրներու, ազգասէր բարերարներու եւ գիտակից ժառանգորդներու, 45 տարեկան այս վարժարանը կը կանգնի՝ որպէս Սան Ֆրանսիսքոյի Հայ Գաղութի խօսուն վկայութիւն, հազարաւոր մղոններ անդին գտնուող Հայրենիքին հանդէպ ունեցած մեր մնայուն կապուածութեան: Իսկ այս պարբերաթերթը, որ իր անուան շնորհիւ հարուստ է պատգամներով, վստահաբար գործնական կամուրջ պիտի հանդիսանայ, դրսեւորելով այն ինչ որ կ'անկնկալուի Հայ Վարժարանէն: Այս ուրախ առթիւ, որպէս համայնքի Հոգեւոր Հովիւը, Աստուծոյ օրհնութեամբ լեցուն յաջողութիւն կը մաղթենք՝ այս եւ գալիք բոլոր հրատարակութեանց աշխատանքներուն:

Աղօթարար,
Արցախ Քհնյ. Պատոյեան
Հոգեւոր Հովիւ

The vision of all Prelacy Schools has continuously been to uphold the Armenian National-Cultural heritage, safeguarding its preservation for future generations. Being part of this network and vision, the K.Z.V. Armenian School has embodied this principle in the Bay Area for 45 years.

By divine grace, visionary founders, philanthropists, and dedicated successors have kept this vision alive by thriving even thousands of miles away from our motherland, Armenia. Today, we celebrate the release of the

Bridge newsletter, a publication that fortifies our connection to the cherished values we hold as supporters of this vision.

On this joyful occasion, as the Pastor of the community, I offer my prayers and seek the blessings of the almighty God for all those who generously contribute to the success of the Bridge newsletter publication.

Prayerfully,
Rev. Fr. Artsakh Badoyan,
Pastor



WHY KZV?

Our graduates will not only attend the best high schools in the Bay Area, but will go on to excel at universities and professions with a constant connection to the Armenian nation at large.



At KZV, we recognize that education is not a one-size-fits-all proposition, and therefore seek to fulfill our mission to educate, empower, and prepare generations of Armenian American students with the robust tools to navigate the global world as empowered, bilingual, Christian, and erudite Armenian youth.



Reverend Father Der Datev Kaloustian, parish priest of Saint Gregory Armenian Apostolic Church and one of the founders of KZV



Saint Gregory's Armenian Apostolic Church Saturday School, 1976-1977. Principal Rosdom Aintablian. Teachers Asdghig Boursalian, Aghavni Shahveklian, Luceen Israelian, Alice Gregorian, Mannik Kostanian, Hourig Aintablian, Helen Daigian, Mania Shahveklian, and Ani Markarian. Armen Bagdasarian, Chairman of the Educational Committee

What started in 1980 has now blossomed into a vibrant school and community of learners. Being one of the oldest bilingual schools in the Bay Area, we have collaboratively invested in our belief that our graduates will not only attend the best high schools in the Bay Area, but will go on to excel at universities and professions with a constant connection to the Armenian nation at large.

In its close to forty-five year history, KZV Armenian School has weathered the numerous educational trends,



Armenian Kindergarten class, Saint Gregory's Armenian Church Saturday School, 1977

economic fluctuations, wars, political turmoil in Armenia, and a pandemic while upholding the high standards and community based atmosphere to make sure every, single student receives the strongest education. We have adapted our curriculum and teaching according to each student so that every student graduates armed with fluent Armenian and high level higher order thinking skills.

KZV is one of the oldest bilingual schools in the Bay Area. The movement to open bilingual day schools in the Bay Area began with French American (1966) and the German American schools. However, the beginnings of the dream to open an Armenian day school begin in 1961 with two teachers and twenty-five students with the original principal being Mr. Hagop Barsoumian, teachers Reverend Fathers Vahrij Shirinian and Rev. Father Nareg Shirikian. Many of our current commu-

nity pillars were staff members who volunteered their time, energy, and love to raising a generation of Armenians, and are currently involved in supporting our school to this day.

In the 1970s, Armenian students attended a Saturday school Chaired by one of our founding fathers the late Mr. Armen Bagdasarian and Reverend Father Der Datev Kaloustian, led by the principal Mr. Rosdom Aintablian (who humbly served since 1973). Teachers focused on a curriculum which taught Armenian language, history, religion, and singing every Saturday morning at A.P. Giannini Middle School in the Sunset District and as the community grew, the urgency and need for a day school became evident.

In 1976, a lot at 825 Brotherhood Way was purchased with donations bequeathed by our benefactors Mr. Carl Zekarian and Mr. Krikor Krouzian.



Armenian Teen Class, and teacher Mr. Rosdom Aintablian, Saint Gregory's Armenian Church Saturday School, 1977

The groundbreaking for our current school site took place on July 9, 1978. Following the purchase of the lot, a building committee of engineers and architects who were members of the community was established and after much planning and community collaboration, the first floor of our building was built. (The second floor of KZV was constructed in 1985.), funded by Mr. Hratch Tarpinian who chose to name the middle school after his ancestral home of Vasbouragan.

BILINGUAL EDUCATION AND ITS OVERWHELMING BENEFITS



Individuals who are bilingual and bi-literate switch between two different language systems. Research shows that this process of “code switching” helps students develop strong thinking skills, promotes the understanding of math concepts, aids in the ability to focus, remember, and make decisions. Most importantly, students who attend KZV for the full eight years graduate with total fluency in Western Armenian with a full understanding of the cultural, linguistic, and religious traditions of our ancient people. It is interesting to note that our students who attend the University of California are able to waive their foreign language requirement by waiving three quarters of foreign language (similar to the class waiver upon passing Advanced Placement coursework).

Students who attend KZV for the full eight years graduate with total fluency in Western Armenian.



SMALL CLASS SIZES = ENGAGED AND INDIVIDUALIZED LEARNING

Currently, the United States is seeing the upwards trend of the breadth and impact of micro-schooling - school districts and larger private schools are seeing the benefits and appeal of the “small, home-like, personalized environment.” (Forbes, 2023) The overwhelming educational research has suggested several benefits of small class sizes.



Smaller classes allow for more individualized attention and interaction between teachers and students leading to better understanding and retention of the material.



With fewer students in a class, there is often a greater opportunity for students to actively participate in discussions and activities, fostering a more engaging learning environment.



Local high schools often comment on how well prepared the KZV student is - our academic rigor is evident in our students achievement at the high school levels - students meld seamlessly into their high school communities as involved and active youth, while also maintaining their deep connection to the Armenian community. Upon graduating (often with honors or as top students in their graduating classes) our graduates are often admitted and attend the best universities nationwide, going on to achieve graduate degrees in their chosen fields.



Studies have indicated that students in smaller classes tend to perform better academically.



KZV ALUMS GIVE BACK TO OUR SCHOOL...AS TEACHERS! MEET DIGIN ARPI

Arpi is a Class of 2000 alumna. After KZV she attended Mercy High School in San Francisco, graduating in 2004. Arpi attended San Francisco State University. She graduated in 2008 with a major in European History and a minor in Middle Eastern History. She continued her graduate education at Santa Clara University and in 2011 graduated from the School of Education and Counseling Psychology, with a Secondary History Credential. Growing up Arpi played basketball with Hometmen San Francisco and on her high school junior varsity team. This led her to become a coach for Hometmen's 8-10 years old girls' team for two years. As an undergraduate student



at SFSU, Arpi was a member of the Phi Alpha Theta Honor Society for History Students. From 2011 to 2019 she lived in Paris, France where she taught English as a second language for eight years to undergraduate and graduate students in a private university in Paris' 8eme arrondissement.

Currently, Arpi is the 5th Grade home-room and the 8th-grade Social Studies teacher here at KZV. She chose this path because she loves kids and she loves teaching. She says that history is her greatest passion and teaching it to kids is the next best thing to writing about it! What she loves most about her job is that she gets to go to work at her second home, literally. Her colleagues are like her family members and her students

are her kids; the bond she shares with her students is like no other. She says it's incredible to be able to work side-by-side with the women who taught her when she was a KZV student - Oriort Nazik, Mrs. Nahabedian, and Mrs. Andonian.

Arpi is married to Raffy, a third generation French-Armenian whom she met while in Paris. She has two children, Levon who is in Red Group and Vicken, who will start Yellow Group in January 2025. She hopes to instill the same love and appreciation for Armenian culture and history in her students and children.

THIRD + SIXTH = OUR ORIGINAL “MATHLETE” ORIORT VANA



Vana Andonian is KZV’s third grade homeroom and 6th grade math teacher at KZV Armenian School. Perhaps being the daughter of a teacher and then principal has instilled a strong sense of the importance of education in her, but since being a little preschooler downstairs, KZV has been her ever-present home. Having graduated from KZV in 2008, she continued her education at Mills High School in Millbrae and then was accepted to UC Santa Barbara, where she graduated with a degree in Biological Sciences and a minor in English. Having been an athletic student, she played soccer and basketball and was a member of the local AYF Rosdom chapter, as well as a Homenetmen athlete and scout.

As a founding member of the local Armenian Youth Camp, she currently serves on the board and is extremely experienced in working with children. Working with kids has become her passion, and she wants to ensure that our next generation is full of strong Armenians ready to help Armenia and Artsakh.



It has been a surreal experience to have had the joy of spending much of her life within the hearth of the Bay Area community - this “ojakh” has been part of the catalyst for her dedication to teaching and working with our local youth. As our MathCounts coach, Vana has grown a knack for teaching higher order thinking and mathematical thinking tools through working with her students on recognizing and analyzing patterns, representing relationships, and modeling how to analyze how things change. Having been a “math and science geek” throughout her life, she has developed a love of seeing that “lightbulb” moment when a student understands difficult algebraic concepts. The students love to call themselves “MATHletes” and she proudly works with them to create a new generation of 21st century thinkers!

FROM USF TO UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO...TO THE HALLS OF KZV NSHAN KESECKER



Nshan Kesecker was born in 1992 and attended KZV from kindergarten to eighth grade. He has so many memories from KZV that he cherishes, from the early days of his attendance in the late nineties all the way to middle school. Some of the vivid memories include Baron Panossian's Jbour choir practice, Digin Karpanian's Armenian alphabet lessons, and the field trip he took to Armenia with Oriort Avakian in 2005.

After graduating from KZV in 2006, he attended Lowell High School, then receiving a bachelor's degree in history from the University of San Francisco in three years rather than four. In 2013, he attended the University of Chicago and graduated in 2015 with a master's degree in Middle Eastern Studies. He had to take courses in several ancient languages, including Akkadian, Old

Persian, Pahlavi, Hittite, Sumerian, and Classical Armenian, oftentimes utilizing textbooks that were in German, French, or Italian. These were the years of the polar vortex near the Great Lakes region, so on top of his impossible schedule, the wind chill was negative 40 degrees Fahrenheit.

Nshan taught seventh grade social studies and computers at KZV from 2016-2017. In 2017, he applied for an internship with Birthright Armenia and went to work at Yerevan State University.

From 2017-2022, he lived and worked in Armenia and after this internship, he worked in the Department of Iranian Studies at Yerevan State and taught a course in Old Persian (in Armenian). At the same time, he worked as an editor and translator with Dr. Yervand Grekryan on the Aramazd: Armenian Journal of Near Eastern Studies and translated a few dozen articles. He also taught seventh grade British History and English

at the British International School of Armenia from 2019-2021. Nshan then met his wife, fellow KZV teacher Sona Davtyan, at the Department of Iranian Studies of Yerevan State University in 2017, where she taught Modern Persian. They were married in 2019 and had their son, Aram Toros, in 2021.

In 2022, they moved to San Francisco and Nshan returned to KZV as the middle school English instructor and social studies teacher for sixth and seventh grade. In the summer of 2023, he went to Armenia to receive training for the Armath engineering program, in order to implement it at KZV and revamp the computer lab. Some of the best moments he has had as a teacher the past couple of years have been having their students participate in the National Spelling Bee competition in 2023 and more recently in the international Digicode coding competition hosted in Armenia. Regarding the latter, he had two projects from KZV be selected to participate in the final round hosted at the American University of Armenia, where he had two fifth graders present their coding project to several thousand people in Armenia and around the world over Zoom.

Nshan's goal at KZV has always been to make learning fun and motivate students to maximize their creative potential - and his deep roots in the community are a testament to his dedication to KZV.



SFO > LAX > SFO ... ARDA DAYANS'S PATH BACK TO KZV'S FIRST GRADE CLASSROOM



Arda Garabedian Dayans is KZV's First Grade teacher who comes to our school with a wealth of experience in teaching. She was born in San Francisco and lived in the Bay Area until the age of 15. Along with her older brothers, she graduated from KZV, which they still consider their second home. There, they created lasting memories filled with laughter and joy while exploring the world around them. As active members of the community, Arda and her brothers participated in HMEM, scouts, Hamazkayin, and AYF, and In 1998, Arda graduated from KZV and attended Burlingame High School for a year before moving to Los Angeles. In Los Angeles she enrolled at Ferrahian High School, one of our sister prelacry schools.

Arda attended Cal State Northridge, earning a bachelor's degree in Family and Consumer Sciences with a minor in Marketing. After dedicating many hours to volunteering and working with children, she decided to follow her passion and return to school to obtain a teaching credential from CSUN and cleared it at UCSD. After volunteering in a public school, she then spent four years teaching at Ferrahian.

In 2016, Arda married fellow KZV alumnus Christopher Dayans. Upon returning to San Francisco, she spent three years teaching second grade in the Millbrae School District before welcoming their first daughter, Areni. Two years later, their second daughter, Nareh, was born. From the moment they entered the world, Arda and Chris knew their daughters would attend KZV. Now, 5.5 years later, Areni is in kindergarten, Nareh is in Red Group, and Arda is teaching first grade. Each morning, they walk hand in hand to the school that has always felt like home, where their shared love for the school and community continues to connect them in profound ways. This is a testament to the power of KZV.

THE OVSANNA MISSERLIAN PRESCHOOL

AN INTERVIEW WITH OUR PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR, MRS. CAROLINE ARISTAKESSIAN

The Ovsanna Misserlian Armenian Preschool is committed to fostering continued growth and development of the “whole child”, which encompasses the areas of social, emotional, cognitive, creative and physical skills in a nurturing and wholistic environment.

Here is an interview with our current preschool director, Mrs. Caroline Aristakessian.

How long you have been a part of the KZV family?

I was a parent from 1996-2007, and am the parent of two KZV graduates. I joined as a preschool director in 2013 and happily co-teach the Blue Group 4-5 years old.

What sparked your interest in Early Childhood Development?

I AM A LIFELONG LEARNER! Volunteering at my children’s classrooms in private and public settings, sparked my interest in teaching and helping little kids learn life skills early on is important to help them grow and be an important part of this world.

What a joy it is to see the world through a child’s eyes. Working with children for the last sixteen years has taught me to be present at the moment and ignite



the love of learning in them through interaction and play.

What are future goals for the preschool program?

My goals for the preschool program is to continue providing a safe and secure environment for the children to learn through play and thrive every day, expand the preschool to offer indoor art and music at a very young age, upgrade and update the preschool playground, and encourage more family involvement in the classroom.

Caroline holds a BA in Psychology from Notre Dame De Namur University. She is the recipient of the Excellence in Teaching Award from First 5 of San Francisco and holds a preschool director's permit from the Commission on Teacher Credentialing from the State of California. As the parent of three young adults, Caroline and her husband Mar do are active members of the Bay Area Armenian Community.



Digin Caroline Aristakessian drawing with preschool children.



SOCIAL STUDIES FAIR





*KZV Armenian School
students are not only an
active part of San Francisco,
but are proud and
empowered members of
American society.*

VETERAN PROFILE

MRS. SIRAN NAHABEDIAN

THIRTY-SEVEN YEARS OF KZV LOVE!



If you are a graduate of our school, you probably have many memories in the loving warmth of two individuals who are anchors to our staff - Mrs. Siran Nahabedian and Mrs. Nazik Garabedian.

KZV Armenian School prides itself on the continuity of our high standards - and part of that continuity comes from one of our veteran teachers, Mrs. Siran Nahabedian, who has been a teacher at our school since 1987.

Mrs. Nahabedian's parents immigrated to the United States from Bulgaria in the late 1960s, and she attended the then newly founded Alex Pillbos, of which she was one of the first graduates. After graduating from high school, Siran attended UCLA as an English Major. In 1987, Siran married her high school sweetheart and moved to the Bay Area where they had three sons who are now grown adults.

What made you start working at KZV Armenian School?

Getting a job at KZV was purely by chance. My husband moved to the Bay Area a few months prior to our wedding and inquired from a friend that KZV was looking for a second grade teacher. I applied and was hired over the phone after an interview (on my honeymoon) by Dr. Arsine Oshagan. We then moved to the Bay Area in the summer of 1987, and started working - it has been my home away from home.

As educators meander the trends in education, what do you think are the tried, tested, and true elements of teaching 21st Century learners? What evidence do you have that this works?

A teacher must have a deep knowledge of the subject they are teaching, the teaching climate at the school must be positive, and all teachers must behave in a professional way. On top of the fact that a teacher must display a love of learning and education and students need to know that teachers truly CARE. That said, KZV is a special place because the teachers get the chance to truly know the families they serve and we establish very close bonds with the students we serve. Effective teaching must revolve around student based activities where higher order thinking is explored. Also, I am very skeptical of trends - the benefit of being a veteran teacher is that I have been around long enough to see them come, AND GO!

What are the benefits of attending KZV? How did you witness this in your own children? Tell us about them.

As a teacher, I have always had smaller classes and can devote more one on one time with each student. I am given greater freedom to create my own lesson plans and be more flexible. We



A teacher must display a love of learning and education and students need to know that teachers truly CARE

have always had high levels of parent involvement with the collaboration of families. We have higher graduation rates from college with most of our students going on to graduate programs.

KZV is a FAMILY! The culture of our school is healthy. It promotes a positive learning atmosphere, a culturally immersive experience, better behaved children, teamwork, and a management structure that does not have red tape.

My three boys were prepared at KZV. We instilled a strong work ethic, and they were given many opportunities to learn and challenge themselves. Upon attending Saint Ignatius College Preparatory, they felt that KZV had instilled resilience and high level academics - which made them succeed in every element of high school. Aram, the oldest, holds an economics degree from University of Southern California and an MBA from John Hopkins. Sevan, holds a genomic degree from UC Davis and after working in biotech for five years, is currently a Law student at UC Hastings.

My youngest son, Daron, holds a BS in Computer Science from UC Davis and currently works at Apple. I am very proud of them.

As you look to the future, what are the skills that kids take from a KZV education?

By the end of Eighth Grade, most KZV students are self directed and engaged learners. They have good communication skills and are great at teamwork, and the small classes promote that. They are taught to be hard workers who are not afraid to take risks and have a strong sense of cultural identity. Our students have cultural awareness and are taught to be more inclusive in the global world.

What are the benefits of working at KZV? How do you stay dedicated after so many years as a teacher?

Working at KZV is very special. This is an exceptional community where strong teacher-parent relationships



are fostered in and outside the school. I value the close knit relationships, the safety, and the confidence that one develops here. It has been a gift to connect with the students and their families. Some of my best friends are former parents and colleagues today. I feel valued and have positive relationships with all. Seeing students learn, succeed, and do well in life motivates me to keep going.

VETERAN PROFILE

ORIORT NAZIK GARABEDIAN

THIRTY-SIX YEARS OF “LEARNING THROUGH PLAY”



Oriort Nazik began teaching at KZV in 1988 under the guidance and at the request of our then preschool director, Mrs. Knarig Shahijanian. The school was still in its early years, and the community was growing with a need for more teachers in our active and robust preschool program. Upon starting her son Hratch in preschool, Nazik began her tenure and training as a preschool teacher. Between teaching, completing coursework for the California Early Childhood Education requirements, and raising her three sons Garo, Digran, and Hratch, Nazik has continuously been a lifelong learner. The warm and loving environment was one thing that attracted her to our school, but most of all, it was her deep love for educating our youngest students, many of whom currently teach at our beloved school! If you see Oriort Nazik, you will notice her love and patience with our little ones - she spends time with them, nurturing their young minds with empathy and patience to prepare them for our school's rigorous classroom environment.

Upon asking Oriort Nazik about what she thinks about teaching, she states, “teaching is the most rewarding job because when you see the children innocently playing, you notice that they are not just learning about the world but are learning about themselves and their social skills.” As the years go by, the one constant she believes in is the most important element of parenting - spending quality time with your child. Reading, baking, and even simply spending time away from phones and technology are some of the building blocks of raising successful children. After all, “we learn through play.”

Chances are that if you attended KZV, you were cared for by the loving and indefatigable “Oriort Nazik.” We at KZV pride ourselves on the community bonds that have been established here, and the constant continuity of teachers like our beloved Nazik.

NOTES FROM OUR INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM AND OUTREACH COORDINATOR, MRS. SEVANA PANOSIAN

If you google the name “Sevana Panosian” you’ll find numerous awards, publications, and testimonials to “Digin Sevana’s” passion for teaching. During her tenure as a teacher at El Camino High School in South San Francisco and Eleanor J. Toll Middle School in Glendale, California, Sevana was an indispensable asset to the English Department, where she stands, to this day on the school’s mural. Her willingness and ability to connect with each student by addressing each student’s unique talents and specific needs is evident in her numerous awards, and deep connection to the written word as a writer. Previous administrators stated that she stands apart from the crowd as a teacher who is willing and able to take on what is often a highly strenuous workload and at the same time be involved in extra-curricular activities and the community at large, and this stems from her deep commit-



ment to the Armenian community. As the lead teacher of her previous school’s Advanced Placement courses, the program consistently produced students of outstanding character and academic ability. Many of Sevana’s students have gone on to attend top universities and to this day call her “Mama P.”

She joins KZV with a wealth of experience of over a decade of being a Master Teacher through San Francisco State University’s Secondary Education program where she mentored and trained

numerous teachers who work in the Bay Area. As KZV entered its 44th year of high level instruction, we felt it was crucial to have an instructional coach to guide our staff to use modern methods of instruction - in her former role as the English Language Arts Department Chair, Sevana led her team to raise scores on state exams with a pass rate of 90% on the Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition exam.

It is this experience that led her to KZV and the school has been a part of her existence since she was 10 years old. Although she was too old to attend KZV when it opened, she remembers her father Armen Bagdasarian, one the founders of the school, working tirelessly to open this home to our Bay Area Armenian Community. Upon retiring from public schools, she wished to serve the KZV community by taking on our Middle School Language Arts classes, while also working as our Instructional Coach by building new curriculum, instituting our Character Education program, modeling teaching practices and helping any teachers with curricular or instructional needs, re-instating a positive behavior strategy matrix, and also working with Principal Andonian in any and all outreach efforts for our school.

Sevana Panosian holds a BA in English, an MFA in Writing, and a clear Secondary credential in teaching preschool through adult English. Sevana lives in San Francisco with her husband Eric Panosian, and is the proud mother of Areni (KZV Class of 2017) and Sophene (KZV Class of 2020) who went on to Saint Ignatius College Preparatory in San Francisco and currently attend UCLA and UCSB.



CULTURALLY IMMERSED



MATHLETES



AWARE OF THEIR AMERICAN CIVIC DUTY



SPIRITED





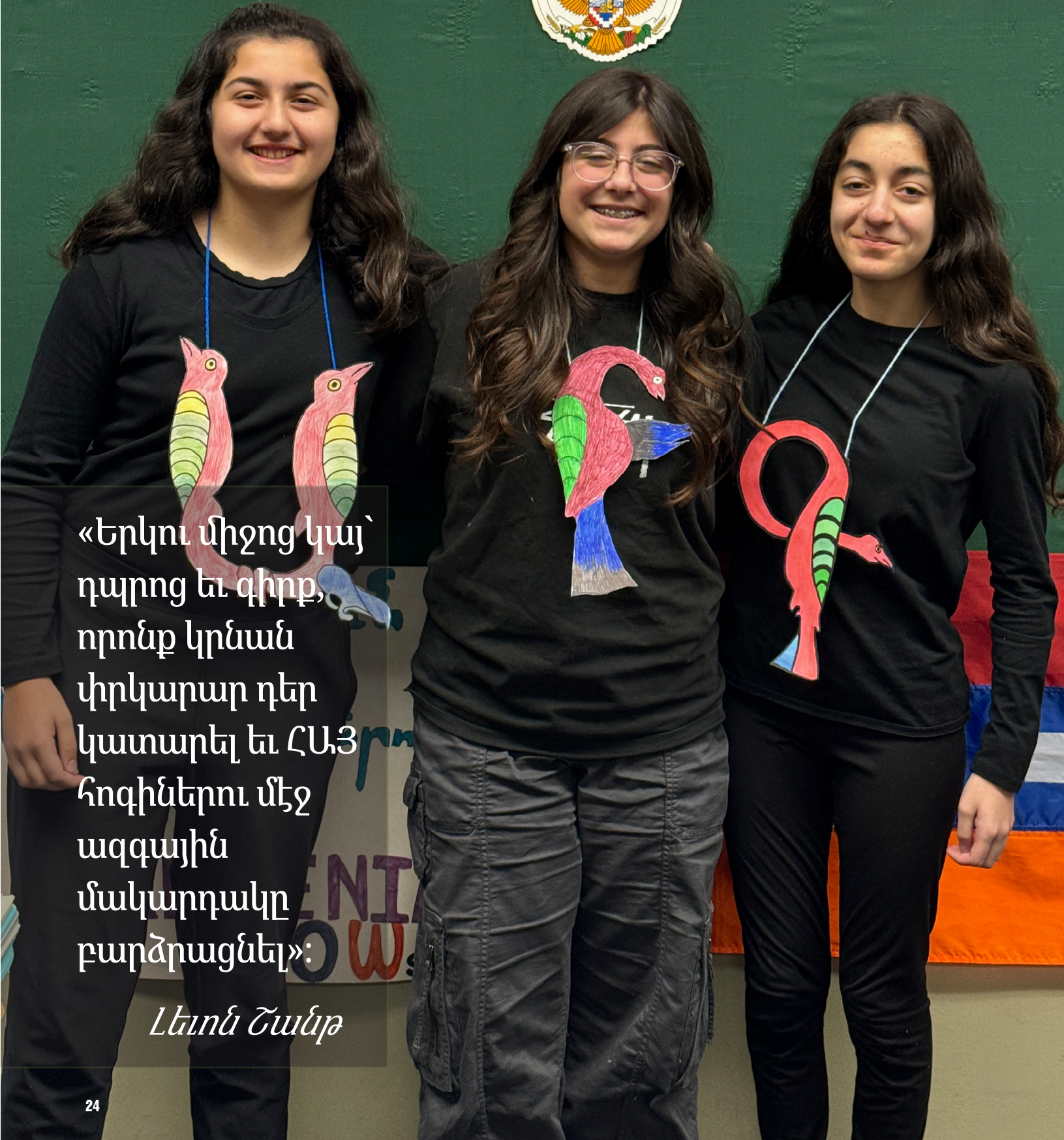
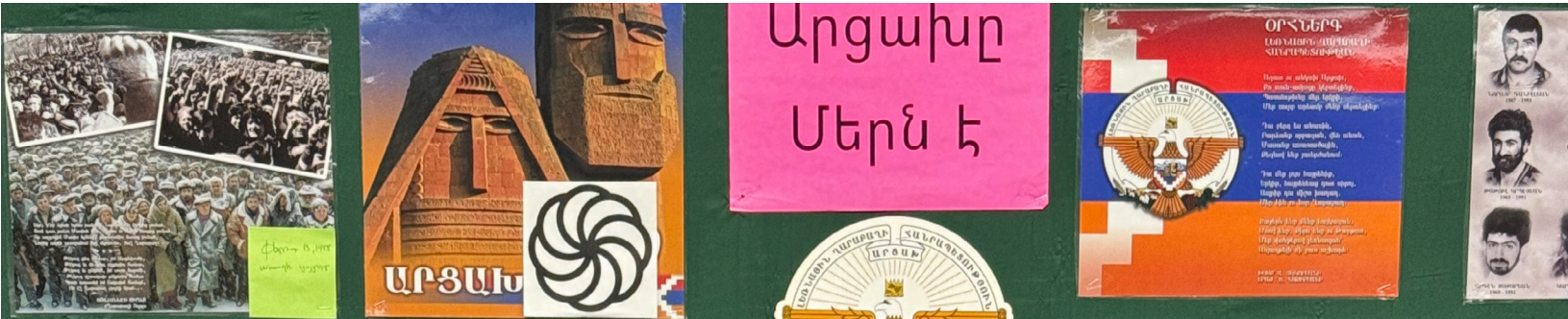
PEOPLE OF FAITH



TRADITIONAL



COMMITTED TO SERVICE



«Երկու միջոց կայ՝
դպրոց եւ գիրք,
որոնք կրնան
փրկարար դեր
կատարել եւ ՀԱՅ
հոգիներու մէջ
ազգային
մակարդակը
բարձրացնել»:

Լեւոն Շանթ



Մօտաւորապէս դար մը ետք, ոչինչ փոխուած է, ընդհակառակն, Հայաստանի հաստատութիւններէն կարելորագոյնը կը մնայ Հայկական Վարժարանը: Դարեր շարունակ օտարներու լուծին տակ ապրած, ապա Ցեղասպանութեան ենթարկուած մեր ազգը, ձուլման վտանգի եւ ինքնութիւն կորսնցնելու սպառնալիքին տակ, ամէնուրեք հիմնած է Հայկական Դարբնոցներ:

Հայակերտումի, հայեցի դաստիարակութեան, սերունդներ կրթելու համար Հայկական վարժարան հիմնել եւ պահելը Հերոսութիւն է:

Հակառակ նշմարուող նահանջին, Հայկական Վարժարանի սինը համարուող Հայերէնի ուսուցիչը, ասանդը կը շարունակէ խիզախութեամբ եւ նուիրումով: Ժամանակն է, որ երախտագիտական խօսքերէն անցնինք գործնականի, առաւելագոյն չափով գնահատելու



Հայ Ուսուցչի անսակարկ ծառայողական ոգին, որպէսզի հրապուրիչ ասպարէզ դառնայ Նորերուն: Արամ Ա. Վեհափառը 2024 տարին հռչակեց «Մարդուժի պատրաստութեան Տարի»: Ուստի, աշխարհական թէ հոգեւորական, կրթական մշակ ու ծնողք, գաղութի կազմակերպութիւններ եւ միութիւններ, հայակերտման դերին հաւատացողներ,

բոլոր-բոլորին ուշադրութեան կիզակէտին մէջ պէտք է ըլլայ Հայկական Վարժարանը եւ իր գոյութիւնը ապահովող կարելորագոյն մարդուժը՝ Հայերէնի Դաստիարակը:

Անհամար դժուարութիւններ յաղթահարող մեր դպրոցը՝ Հիւսիսային Քալիֆորնիոյ միակ ամէնօրեայ վարժարանը՝ Գոուզեան-Ջաքարեան-Վասպուրական Ազգային Վարժարանը, մեր գաղութի սիրտն է: Գիտակից եւ անվեհեր սերունդ մը ստեղծեց զայն եւ իրենց նմաններ կը շարունակեն պայքարը: Այս դպրոցէն անցան ազգային դաստիարակութեան նուիրում՝ մշակներ, վճռակամ ազգայիններ եւ յանձնառու ծնողներ: Բոլորիս պարտաւորութիւնն ու պարտականութիւնն է, սիրտը առողջ պահել, որպէսզի երկար տարիներ շարունակէ բաբախել եւ ծառայէ մեր գաղութին:

Տիկ. Փ.

KZV STUDENT MATRICULATION: PERPETUATING EXCELLENCE IN COLLEGE AND BEYOND

For the last forty-five years, KZV has been at the forefront of providing a bilingual, community based education which is known for its rigor and academic preparedness. High schools throughout the Bay Area welcome and actively recruit our graduates not just because of our academic excellence, but for their immersion in their Armenian heritage and culture and their sense of community. Our graduates are routinely accepted into their first choice high schools, often with honors, representing a mix of the Bay Area's top parochial high schools and public institutions. Students immerse themselves in their high schools while also maintaining bonds with their KZV Armenian School friends and community.

Upon graduating from high school, KZV's alumni go on to top-ranked colleges across the country, excelling in virtually every field including Engineering, Biological Sciences, Film, Journalism, Medicine, Business, Criminal Justice, Law, and others. Alumni maintain the tightly knit connections which were woven in our community, and move on to perpetuate the high standards of an Armenian education.

In the last ten years our graduates have been accepted to the following colleges and universities (in alphabetical order):

California State Polytechnic
San Luis Obispo

California State Polytechnic
University, Pomona

California State University, Fresno

California State University,
Long Beach

California State University,
Los Angeles

California State University, Northridge

California State University,
Sacramento

California State University, Sonoma

Chapman University

Fordham University

Gonzaga University

Loyola Marymount University

Menlo College

New York University

Penn State

Pepperdine University

Pitzer College

San Diego State University

San Francisco State University

San José State University

Santa Clara University

Stanford University

University of Arizona

University of Colorado, Boulder

University of California, Berkeley

University of California, Davis

University of California, Irvine

University of California, Los Angeles

University of California, Riverside

University of California,
Santa Barbara

University of California, Santa Cruz

University of San Francisco

University of Washington

2024 GRADUATES



AIDA ARTASHESYAN

Valedictorian of the Class of 2024

Currently an Ignatian Scholar at St. Ignatius College Preparatory in San Francisco.



Watch Aida's valedictory speech



Dear KZV extended family,

Future editions of our magazine will include a page dedicated to milestones. You can submit your stories and update your information on any milestones (graduations, weddings, births) by sending us the following:

- Your name
- Milestone
- A short two sentence information statement about the milestone.
- Year you graduated KZV (Class of...)

Please send the information to Sevana Panosian at **kzvbridgemag@kzv.org**.

«Ճանաչել զիմաստութիւն եւ զխրատ, իմանալ զբանս հանճարոյ»

Առաջին նախադասութիւն գրուած հայերէնով, թարգմանուած Հին Կտակարանի Սողոմոնի «Առակաց» գիրքէն, 405 թուականին