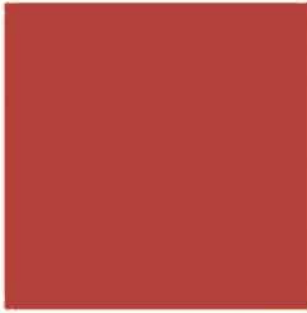


NEWSLETTER

ISSUE NO.7 - MAY 2025



Educating generations for over 70 years





A Message from the Principal



The beginning of the 2024-2025 academic year was unlike any other, as the school community faced the challenges of operating during a time of devastating war. It affected not only the educational environment but also the well-being and daily lives of our students, teachers, staff, and families. Despite the adversity, the school management and administration worked to maintain continuity in education, offering support to students and adapting to rapidly changing circumstances.

In times like these, it is more important than ever to stay connected, supportive, and kind. We have seen remarkable strength in our school community, with students demonstrating empathy, teachers offering extra care and support, and parents showing incredible determination to keep life as normal as possible for their children. Additionally, we had the full support and care of the School Board. Together, we were able to build an environment of solidarity and compassion that helped us through the challenging days.

Looking ahead, the school is committed to continuing its efforts to provide a safe and supportive environment for all students, prioritizing both education and well-being. The school will remain flexible, ready to adapt to the changing circumstances, while also praying for a future where peace and stability might continue to allow for normal schooling.

I wish you all peace, strength, and courage as we face the road ahead, and I hope that we can continue to find moments of hope, joy, and peace even in these challenging times.

With warmest regards,
Sevana Semerdjian Darakjian
Principal



Highlights of our School programs and activities

First Day of School -Elementary and Intermediate



First Day of School -Sam and Sylva Simonian Kindergarten





Academic Activities

Robotics in Sam & Sylva Simonian Kindergarten

Our Sam and Sylva Simonian kindergarten students having a blast during ROBOTICS sessions.





Academic Activities

STEAM Education

We resumed to bring STEAM and Coding to life in our classrooms in collaboration with the Professional Learning Center.





Character Education

Bullying



Hygiene





Character Education

Organization



Discipline





Health Fair Day

On October 24, 2024 a group of professional doctors and nurses, led by the director of Howard Karagheusian Foundation, Mr. Serop Ohanian, visited our school for a thorough medical check up to our students.

Before the general medical examinations, the students of Grades 7,8,9 attended a lecture on health care entitled "Mental Health".

We would like to express our gratitude to the staff of the Howard Karagheusian Foundation, especially the Director, Mr. Serop Ohanian.





Teacher Development:

SEL Workshop

On September 12, 2024 our teachers participated in an effective workshop about Social Emotional Intelligence held by Mrs. Mary Gurunlian at our Barsamian hall.

We owe a huge debt of gratitude to Mrs. Mary for such a great opportunity!



Trauma-Informed Teaching in Times of Crisis

On October 10, 2024, during the challenging times in Lebanon, the administration, teachers and staff participated in an online informative Zoom session on Trauma-Informed Teaching in Times of Crisis instructed by Dr. Shaghig Kandaharian Hudaverdian, initiated by Haigazian University.



Open Day at Sam and Sylva Simonian Kindergarten

Open day at Sam and Sylva Simonian Kindergarten was held on January 17, 2025. It served as a vital opportunity for both parents and teachers to engage with one another in an informal and interactive setting.

Our parents valued the chance to speak directly with the teachers. Moreover, they felt reassured about the quality of care and education their child is receiving.





Cultural Activities

Lebanese Independence Day

On November 21, 2024 we celebrated the Lebanese Independence Day. It is noteworthy to mention that this year the theme of the school is "Peace for Lebanon".







Different Celebrations

Berbera

On December 4, 2024 we celebrated Berbara.





Christmas Mood and Celebration

During December, our students enjoyed the festive season

On December 20, 2024 we had a memorable Christmas celebration at school with the presence of "Powerful Kids Team". We extend our sincere gratitude to the donors, our proud alumni, the Avakian family for their ongoing contribution to make our students happy.

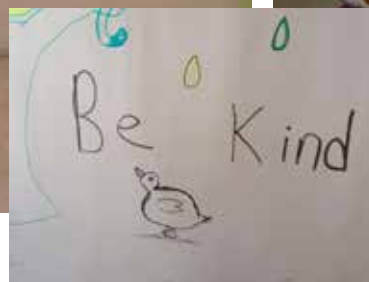




Bullying-Prevention Week (October 28, 2024-November 1, 2024)

Bullying Prevention Week is an initiative aimed at raising awareness about the harmful effects of bullying and promoting actions to prevent it.

Our students took part in various activities that focused on creating a culture of respect, kindness, and inclusion.





Educational and cultural excursions:

National Museum

On January 21, 2025 Grades 7,8,9 students visited the National Museum.





After this insightful and educational trip, they wrote about their impressions in Armenian, English and Arabic.

Students Impressions:

Visiting the National Museum was an incredible experience. I had the chance to step into Lebanon's ancient past. What stood out the most for me were the preserved sculptures and the details of the ancient tombs. Each piece seemed to tell a story of a time long gone.

Melissa Kurkjian-Grade 7

Walking through the museum felt like traveling through history. The informative displays were helpful in understanding the significance of each exhibit, and it was fascinating to see how Lebanon has played such an important role throughout history. I was also amazed at how well the museum is maintained—it's clear that great care goes into preserving these priceless artifacts.

Mary Ghazarian-Grade 8

One of my favorite parts of the visit was the section dedicated to Phoenician history. I had learned about the Phoenicians in school, but seeing the ancient artifacts up close made their history feel much more real. It was a remarkable experience to see the connection between Lebanon's past and its present."

Vanessa Abou Nader –Grade 9



Educational and cultural excursions:

Haigazian University

On January 31, 2025 Grades 7,8,9 students visited Haigazian University, which hosted a special exhibition titled “The Western Armenian Educational Effort: Educational Networks and Output in the Pre-Genocide Period” at the Matossian Gallery of the Mugar Building.





Students Impressions:

The layout of the exhibition was very engaging. The photos were informative, helping me gain a deeper understanding of Armenian history. It was also insightful to see how many prominent Armenian intellectuals were involved in these educational efforts.

Emmanuel Sdepan -Grade 7

What I found moving was the connection between education and resistance. The exhibit not only highlighted the importance of schooling but also showed how these educational efforts helped preserve Armenian identity and culture, even in the face of repression. It made me reflect on the strength of the Armenian community.

Vana Ekmekjian – Grade 8

This exhibition made me appreciate the power of education in shaping communities and cultures, and it gave me a greater respect for the Armenian people's determination to preserve their heritage during such a difficult time.

Steven Adjemian – Grade 9





Chess Club:

We are thrilled to announce that students who have joined the Armenagan Youth's Movement Chess Club, directed by Mr. Vicken Tossounian, are displaying exceptional enthusiasm and commitment to the game of chess. This club is designed to provide an inclusive and engaging space where young minds can sharpen their critical thinking, strategy, and problem-solving skills.

We are proud of all the students who are contributing to the success and growth of the club and look forward to seeing their continued progress.





Parents Feedback about their experience with the Vahan Tekeyan School

Khabayan Family: “We are so grateful for the school’s focus on social-emotional learning. The lessons about empathy, resilience, and mindfulness have made a positive impact on our child’s emotional growth and well-being. Thank you for prioritizing this important aspect of education.”

Hanna Family: “I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to this amazing institution – Vahan Tekeyan School for its unwavering commitment to excellence in education and student development. Both as a teacher and a parent, I have witnessed firsthand the supportive and nurturing environment that encourages every child to thrive academically and individually. The dedication of the staff, the engaging curriculum, and the emphasis on values and holistic growth make this school a truly special place. Thank you for fostering a community where students, teachers, and parents feel valued and inspired. Progressive success to our amazing school!”

Adjemian Family: “We are so grateful for the wonderful experience my children have had at this school. Both my daughter and son have attended Vahan Tekeyan School and now my youngest son is continuing the family tradition. The school has always been a nurturing and supportive environment, helping students to grow both academically and individually. We can’t be more pleased with the school’s commitment to excellence. We feel confident knowing our son is in such great hands, just as his siblings were! Thank you for everything!”

Godjigian Family: “We want to express how proud we are that our children are part of this school. The teaching strategies and the dedication shown by the staff are truly commendable. It’s inspiring to see how engaging the learning methods are, ensuring not only academic growth but also the personal development of our kids.”

Ghazarian Family: As a mother of two, I am truly grateful for the nurturing and supportive environment at Vahan Tekeyan School. The dedicated teachers genuinely care about the child growth. Both of my children feel encouraged to exceed academically and participate in extracurricular activities. It’s comforting to know they are in a such positive and safe environment every day. Thank you for all the hard work you put into shaping our children’s future.



Parents Feedback about their experience with the Vahan Tekeyan School

Boranian Family: Vahan Tekeyan School is an outstanding school where students thrive in a nurturing and inspiring environment. The dedicated teachers make learning exciting and meaningful.

Kissoyan Family: Thank you for all the love, care and dedication that all the teachers put into their teaching! We are beyond grateful for your guidance and support. My daughter has shown a lot of progress; thanks to your teaching methods! It is noteworthy to highlight the positive outcome from the "Bullying Prevention Week" back in October, 2024. Thank you for making the school a safe environment!

Fares Family: I want to take a moment to express my gratitude for the wonderful work you all do as a team. Your efforts to create a positive and engaging environment are truly appreciated. My kids have enjoyed attending school and have shown great progress.

Ketroumian Family: Happy to express our opinion regarding this esteemed school in the presence of the esteemed principal, Mrs Sevana Semerdjian Darakjian. Teachers and staff treat my daughter in a very respectful way; appreciating her efforts and progress.

Salameh Family: Vahan Tekeyan School provides a high-quality education with a well-structured curriculum. Teachers are skilled, supportive and committed to helping students succeed. The school creates a safe and welcoming environment where students feel valued. The support given for students' personal growth, mental and emotional well-being is highly appreciated.

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