

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE NO.5 - FEBRUARY 2024



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Educating generations for over 70 years



A Message from the Principal



Success for all students is ensured at Vahan Tekeyan School by the delivery of an enriching, child centered, and balanced curriculum. Our teachers are qualified and experienced educators who are committed to supporting each student's learning experience through quality instruction and guidance that addresses the needs of the individual child. Teachers work to provide students with differentiated support that address each student's specific needs both academically and socially.

I, personally believe that an education system that develops the imagination of the child is rich. The imagination is where new ideas are created. It is what moves individuals forward, leading to innovation. Vahan Tekeyan School will surely give much importance to imaginative methods.

We firmly believe that the parents are their child's first and most important teacher. Parents play a vital role in the education of their children. We happily welcome all our parents to take an active role in the education of their children. We always strive to build strong parent teacher relationship which is very important for the academic success of our students.

We truly have a fantastic school with a supportive management, kind parent community, dedicated staff and the most fantastic students to work with. At our end, we will always strive to take our school to the next highest level of excellence.

Best wishes,
Sevana Semerdjian Darakjian
Principal



Vahan Tekeyan School in Lebanon Inaugurated the Sam & Sylva Simonian Kindergarten



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SAM & SYLVA SIMONIAN
Kindergarten

Vahan Tekeyan School in Lebanon proudly announces the inauguration of the Sam & Sylva Simonian Kindergarten on Sunday, October 1, 2023. This event took place on the school premises in the presence of the benefactors and their daughter Sevahn, dignitaries and the school community. It marked a significant milestone in the institution's history which spans over 70 years.

The Sam and Sylva Simonian Kindergarten provides a nurturing environment for young learners to embark on their educational journey despite the dire economic situation in Lebanon. Mr. Sam Simonian who resides in the USA with his family is an esteemed alumnus of the school as he attended the Vahan Tekeyan School as a young boy. The contributions made by the couple over the past decades are a testament to their unwavering commitment to education and their dedication to Tekeyan's community in Lebanon.





The Vahan Tekeyan School in Beirut, Lebanon has a strong educational legacy. For over 72 years the Tekeyan Cultural Association (TCA) Board of Trustees in Lebanon have provided governance and oversight to ensure the accomplishment of the educational mission of the association. Armenian students have flocked through its gates seeking student centered education in a caring and nurturing environment. It is worth mentioning that, for the past three years and continuing into this academic year, Vahan Tekeyan School has provided tuition-free education, a magnanimous initiative made possible through the gracious and generous contributions of Mr. & Mrs. Sam & Silva Simonian from Dallas, USA.

The opening ceremony was a remarkable occasion and a moment of pride for the Tekeyan Cultural Association. In her opening speech, Mrs. Annie Lachinian-Magarian, the Chairperson of the Tekeyan School Board, outlined the remarkable achievements of the Simonian couple and reiterated that their generous yearly contributions have become the lifeline of the school. She stated that this momentous event can be defined by three words: gratitude, hope and inspiration.



Among the present dignitaries were Archbishop Shahe Panossian, the Primate of Lebanon, Mr. Mardig Boghossian, the Mayor of the Municipality of Bourdj Hammoud, Mr. Hagop Kassardjian, the Chairperson of the TCA Board of Trustees and Board members, Dr. Avedis Dakessian, the Chairperson of the Armenian Liberal Democrats District Committee and members, Dr. Hagop Papazian, the Chairperson of TCA District Committee and members, esteemed members of the AGBU and AYA, media representatives, donors, friends and school staff. All were gathered to celebrate the official opening of the state-of-the-art Sam & Sylva Simonian Kindergarten.



The event also featured a brief artistic interlude followed by a reception to mark this historic occasion and to provide an opportunity for attendees to connect and share their excitement for the future of Vahan Tekeyan School and its new kindergarten.

The school community expresses deep gratitude to the benefactors, Mr. & Mrs. Sam & Sylva Simonian and wish them health and prosperity!





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's KG2 and KG3 students had a blast in preparing a giraffe by using the special kits and the step by step manual on the interactive whiteboard.



STEAM Education

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





Character Education

Kindness



Hygiene



Diligence



First Aid Lecture and Training

It is important to be aware of the basic methods one should apply after an accident occurs. Students and teachers with good knowledge of the first aid are likely to be more alert. First aid promotes the sense of safety.

Our heartfelt gratitude to the Armenian Relief Cross of Lebanon for providing our students and staff with vital instructions about first aid.



Open House in Sam and Sylva Simonian Kindergarten





Teacher Development

Classroom Management and Emotional Intelligence Workshop

Our teachers participated in an effective workshop about "Classroom Management" and "Emotional Intelligence", held by Mrs. Mary Ghazarian Gurunlian at our Barsamian hall. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to Mrs. Mary for such a great opportunity!



Aflayouth Workshop

An effective workshop was held at AGBU schools in partnership with AFLATOUN International and YMCA Lebanon and sponsored by Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation to empower Armenian teachers.



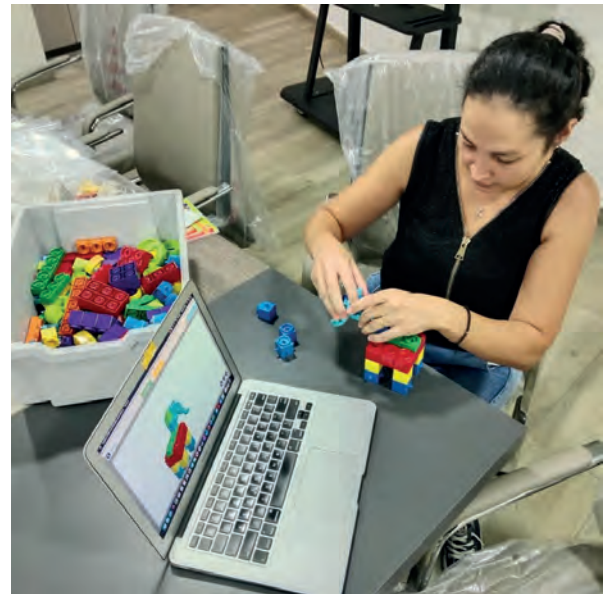
Our diligent Armenian & Armenian Culture teachers Ms. Seta Bakkalian and Mrs. Rita Tamougian, along with the school's English coordinator Ms. Tamar Jehizian, participated in this beneficial workshop.



Robotics Workshop

Robotics offer educational tools for children to think out of the box!
Children use robotics to make their ideas turn into reality.

Thus, Mrs. Vera Sounghoulian Hanna, our diligent KG coordinator, attended a seminar, to help our little children achieve their dreams - through Robotics!



Teacher Development Program

We congratulate Mr. Avedis Diban for receiving a certificate as he completed the Teacher Development Program for the Armenian Schools in Lebanon that extended from November 21, 2021-September 23, 2023 developed by the Lebanese American University in cooperation with the Armenian Communities Department of the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation.



Cultural Activities

“Tarkmanchaz” Day

As part of our Armenian Language and Culture, we proudly celebrated “Tarkmanchaz” Day on October 13, 2023



We Stand with Artsakh





The 145th Anniversary of the Birth of Vahan Tekeyan

On November 9, 2023 it was a unique day at our school, since we commemorated the 145th anniversary of the birth of the great poet, novelist, and editor Vahan Tekeyan.

Poetry competition was held among cycle 2, and cycle 3 students. The winners were given certificates.





Lebanese Independence Day

On November 21, 2023 we celebrated the Lebanese Independence Day.

Our children are proud citizens of Lebanon!





Donations

Solar Panel

Our heartfelt gratitude to Rotary Club of Beirut Cedars, especially to its President, Mr. Ramzi Abou Samah, and other Rotary affiliates for their ongoing support to our school.

The Photovoltaic Project was partially funded by Clara Margossian Trust.

We also extend our profound thankfulness to Past President of Rotary Club of Beirut Cedars, Mr. Hagop Dantziguian, for being the initiator of this project.



School Bus

As a result of the fundraising organized to buy a new bus through our benefactors and friends, our school was finally endowed with a new bus. Therefore, we express our heartfelt gratitude to all our donors and supporters, in particular to the managers, members, supporters and friends of the West Coast and Greater New York Chapter of Tekeyan Cultural Association, for their generous financial support.

We will be able to provide better transportation service to our students because of this new acquisition.





Different Celebrations

International Day

On December 8, 2023 our students celebrated International Day to learn about other cultures, food and languages while forming a greater understanding of their place in the community.

We thank our teachers as well as our students for making this event a successful one!





Berbara

On December 1, we celebrated Berbara bringing joy and happiness to our students.





Christmas Mood and Celebration

During December, our students enjoyed the festive season.

On December 22, 2023 we had a memorable Christmas celebration at the school with the presence of "Powerful Kids Team". We extend our sincere gratitude to the donors, proud alumni, Ms. Annie Avakian, and Ms. Taline Avakian and their mother Mrs. Alice Avakian for their ongoing contribution to make our students happy.





"The Birth of Jesus Christ" Event

On December 20, 2023 our Sam and Sylva Simonian Kindergarten students presented "The Birth of Jesus Christ". It was a successful event organized by our Sam and Sylva Simonian Kindergarten teachers.





Zumba Day at Sam and Sylva Simonian Kindergarten

Zumba is a dance-fitness combination that improves endurance, and increases kids' enthusiasm for diverse music and dance.

Thus, on January 19, 2024, our Sam and Sylva Simonian Kindergarten students had a blast with Ms. Meghry Gemijian, a professional Zumba instructor, who gave the opportunity to our students to enjoy a unique Zumba class, with her marvelous fitness program.



From Our Educational and Cultural Excursions

65th Beirut Arab International Book Fair and Theater

On October 27, 2023 our cycle 1 and cycle 2 students had an educational trip to Seaside Arena in Downtown to participate in the 65th Beirut Arab International Book Fair and to watch a play.





Students Impressions:

A visit to book fair is an event that brings together books under one roof, from all over the world. We visited a big showroom, where there were interesting and multi- cultural books. Thus, the book keepers were very helpful and kind, they helped us find the suitable book for our age.

Emmanuel Stepan-Gr. 6

On Monday November 27, 2023, Vahan Tekeyan students visited a book fair named “65th Beirut Arab International Book Fairl.” The showroom was amazing, filled with multi-cultural books with different languages. I loved every corner of it and I hope we revisit this mesmerizing showroom! Thus, it was such a great enlightenment for us all!

Mairy Ghazarian-Gr.7

On November 27, 2023, Vahan Tekeyan students visited a book fair. It was a big showroom with multi-cultural and interesting books in different languages. Thus, we sincerely appreciate our school for letting us live such a wonderful experience!

Vanessa Abou Nader-Gr.8

On November 27, 2023 we had the golden chance to visit the “65th Beirut Arab International Book Fair” with our teachers and friends. We were delighted by this visit, since we got the chance to choose books that are suitable to us.

Celena Keusseyan –Gr. 9



Christmas on Ice Show

On December 28, 2023 our Grade 6 and Grade 9 students attended the "Christmas on Ice" show at Palais des Congres, Dbaye.

Our heartfelt and sincere gratitude to BASSMA as well as Mrs. Anahid Dantziguian for giving our students this golden opportunity.



A Visit to the Cilicia Museum

Our school has declared the 2023-2024 academic year as the "Year of Cilicia", with which a number of programs will be implemented. The first of those programs took place on Thursday, January 25, 2024. Students from Grade 4 till Grade 9 paid a visit to Cilicia Museum in Antelias.





Students Impressions:

We had the golden chance to visit the Cilicia Museum. It was an educational and exciting experience, which provided me with the opportunity to learn and witness more about my culture!

Nancy Fayad - Grade 9

Vahan Tekeyan students had an educational trip to Cilicia Museum. We saw various objects carried by our ancestors in this amazing museum. My heartfelt gratitude to our principal for providing us with such an opportunity.

Steven Adjemian - Grade 8

Students of grades 6,7,8 and 9 had an exceptional school day at the Cilicia Museum. I was impressed to see everything I have learnt, such as The Roman Empire items, Phoenician coins, Alexandre The Great's coin and lots of international, historical and valuable items related to our rich Armenian history. Finally, we owe a huge thankfulness to our school management for granting us such a golden opportunity!

Mary Ghazarian - Grade 7



On January 25, 2024, Vahan Tekeyan students visited Cilicia Museum. There, we saw various ancient items carried from our legendary ancestors. Thus, I felt grateful that I have experienced such an educational yet inspiring day at the breathtaking museum.

Lory Arakelian - Grade 6

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