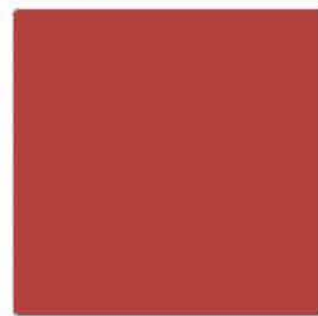
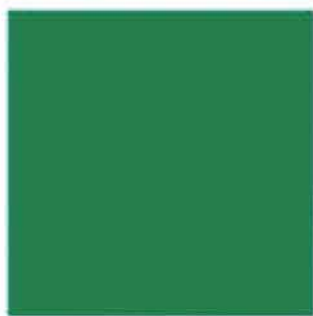


NEWSLETTER

ISSUE NO.9 - MARCH 2026



Educating generations for 75 years





A Message from the Principal

As we reflect on our journey as a school community, we are filled with a deep sense of pride and gratitude. In 2026, Vahan Tekeyan School reached a truly historic milestone—our 75th Anniversary. This moment invites us to pause, celebrate, and honor a legacy that has been built with dedication, perseverance, and shared purpose.

For seventy-five years, Vahan Tekeyan School has been more than a place of learning; it has been a community where young minds are nurtured, values are strengthened, and futures are shaped. The vision and commitment of our founders, combined with the tireless efforts of Tekeyan Cultural Association Board of Trustees, School Board of Education, principals, generations of educators, students, parents, and alumni, have created a strong and enduring foundation that continues to guide us today.

As we look ahead, we carry forward the lessons of our past with renewed inspiration. Our legacy reminds us that excellence is not achieved in a single moment, but through consistent effort, integrity, and belief in the potential of every child. With these values at our core, we remain committed to empowering our students to lead with confidence, compassion, and purpose in an ever-changing world.

The 75th Anniversary will be a time not only to celebrate our achievements, but also to honor our legacy and renew our commitment to providing quality education for generations to come. I look forward to sharing this journey with our entire school community as we work together to uphold and strengthen the proud tradition of Vahan Tekeyan School.

Thank you for being an integral part of our family and for contributing to a legacy that will inspire many more years of excellence.

Warm regards,
Sevana Semerdjian Darakjian
 Principal

Inauguration of the Library

On Saturday, December 27, 2025, a special memorial service was held at Vartanants Church for the late Dr. Vazken Jamgochian, former member of the Board of Education of Vahan Tekeyan School.

Following this, the naming ceremony of the library took place on the first floor of Vahan Tekeyan School, designating it as the **"Children's Library"** in memory of Dr. Vazken Jamgochian.





The library's opening ceremony was held in the presence of the deceased's spouse, Mrs. Garine Jamgochian, their children and family members and relatives; the Chairman of the Armenian Democratic Liberal Party, Dr. Avetdis Dakessian, along with esteemed members; the Chair of the Board of Education of Vahan Tekeyan School, Mrs. Annie Lachinian Magarian, and honorable members; the School Principal, Mrs. Sevana Semerdian Darakjian; as well as the school's teaching staff and personnel.

After the heartfelt address delivered by Dr. Avedis Dakessian, the blue ribbon of the library was cut by the deceased's widow and his grandchild, the young Vazken Jamgochian.



Highlights of our School programs and activities

First Day of School for the academic year 2025-2026 -Elementary and Intermediate



First Day of School –Sam and Sylva Simonian Kindergarten



Academic Activities

Robotics in Action

Our Sam and Sylva Simonian Kindergarten students are diving into **Robotics**, sparking curiosity, creativity, and problem-solving through exciting hands-on activities.



Bringing STEAM and Coding to Life

We've resumed our **STEAM and Coding** program in collaboration with **the Professional Learning Center**, giving students hands-on experiences that spark creativity, curiosity, and problem-solving skills.



Character Education Focus Topics

Bullying



Hygiene



Forgiveness



Safety



Poetry Contest

On January 16, 2026, poetry contest was held at our Barsamian Hall. At the end of the event, outstanding participants received special prizes.



Spelling Bee

On February 23, 2026, the interclass "Spelling Bee" competition (in Armenian) took place in our school's Hagop Barsamian Hall, with the participation of a group of students from Grades 6, 7, and 8. The winning students were awarded certificates of appreciation.



Health Fair Day

On November 10 and 13, 2025, a group of professional doctors and nurses from Howard Karagheusian Association, visited our school for a thorough medical check up with our students.

We would like to express our gratitude to the staff of the Howard Karagheusian Association, particularly Director, Mr. Serop Ohanian, for their generous and unwavering support.



Teacher Development:

Ed-Tech Plus Training

On September 17, 2025, our STEAM teachers Mrs. Cynthia Naccashian, Ms. Rita Agopian, and Mr. Avedis Diban participated in a training session at EdTech Plus on the newest Sam Lab updates, including the launch of the Root Robot.

These innovative solutions will enrich our students' learning experience, making it more engaging, interactive, and future-oriented.



AI Orientation Day

On Saturday, October 25, 2025, a group of teachers from our school participated in the Artificial Intelligence Day organized by the "Khoren A." Center Committee of the Catholicosate of the Great House of Cilicia, in collaboration with Haigazian University.



When AI Meets SEL

On January 9, 2026, our teachers participated in a workshop about the connection between education and artificial intelligence. It was inspiring to discover how AI can support emotional awareness, empathy, and personal growth in modern learning environments.

A special thanks to Mrs. Mary Ghazarian Gurunlian for leading this session with such passion, clarity, and dedication.



Project-Based Learning (PBL) Workshop

On February 20, 2026, our dedicated teachers participated in an engaging Project-Based Learning (PBL) Workshop conducted by Mrs. Mary Ghazarian Gurunlian.



Open Day at Sam and Sylva Simonian Kindergarten

On December 18, 2025, Sam and Sylva Simonian Kindergarten proudly held its Open House, welcoming parents into the classroom to experience firsthand how our children learn, play, and grow with each day. Families had the opportunity to observe our learning environment, explore the activities their children enjoy, and feel the joyful and engaging atmosphere that fills our classrooms. It was a truly special moment of sharing, connection, and celebration, and we were delighted to welcome our parents into our school community.



Cultural Activities

Feast of the Holy Translators (Tarkmanchats)

On October 14, 2025, the Feast of the Holy Translators was celebrated in our school's Barsamian Hall. Our students presented a well-prepared program, singing, reciting, and dancing in Armenian. Following the program, the guest speaker of the day, Father Sahag Keshishian, pastor of the Holy Savior Armenian Catholic Church, delivered an inspiring and spiritually enriching message to the students.



Lebanese Independence Day

On November 21, 2025, we celebrated the Lebanese Independence Day.



St. Vartan

On February 18, 2026, we commemorated St. Vartan's Day and we hosted Reverend Father Mikael Demirjian and the Vice-Chairman of the Board of Education Mr. Berj Arabian.



Paregentan

On February 14, 2026, our Sam and Sylva Simonian Kindergarten students joyfully celebrated "Poon Paregentan".



Different Celebrations

Berbara

On December 4, 2025, we celebrated Berbara.



Christmas Mood and Celebration

On December 19, 2025, 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.





Welcoming Pope Leo XIV of Rome

Organized by the Bourj Hammoud Municipality, on December 2, 2025, a grand public reception was held on the Bourj Hammoud main highway in honor of Pope Leo XIV of Rome. Among the participants in the event were also the students of Vahan Tekeyan School's Intermediate classes.



Community Service

On December 11, 2025, a student of our school's Grade 9 class, Mary Gahazarian, gave a performance of an Armenian folk dance at the Yercho Samuelian- Yerakouyn Ballroom during the Christmas event organized by the Howard Karagheusian Association. Special thanks to our dance instructor Ms. Arin Seferian for her dedicated and consistent work.



"Career Day" at Sam and Sylva Simonian Kindergarten



Guests

Mr. Vartan Nazirian:

On Saturday, September 6, 2025, our school had the honor of hosting a distinguished personality, donor and a friend of our community, Mr. Vartan Nazirian from USA. The visit brought together the Chair of the TCA Board of Trustees, Mr. Hagop Kassardjian; Chair of the Board of Education, Mrs. Annie Lachinian Magarian; Chair of ADL, Dr. Avedis Dakessian; Vice Chairman of ADL, Mr. Harout Yerganian and the School Principal, Mrs. Sevana Semerdjian Darakjian.



The meeting provided an intellectual platform for exchanging insights regarding the development and advancement of the school. Special attention was also given to the forthcoming 75th Anniversary, a milestone that reflects the school's longstanding dedication to education and community service.

Dr. Hrayr Jebejian:

On November 6, 2025, the students of Grades 4,5,6, and 7 had the opportunity to meet a distinguished guest of the school, Dr. Hrayr Jebejian, Secretary General of the Arabian Gulf Bible Society and representative of the Middle East Bible Society.

The meeting was warm, uplifting, and inspiring. He introduced and distributed to the students his latest book "Let Us Read and Tell the Children's Bible Together," using simple, illustrated, and love-filled language.



Educational and cultural excursions:

Sin el Fil Park:

Our Sam and Sylva Simonian Kindergarten KG2 and KG3 students had an exciting trip to the park to welcome autumn.



Lucy Tutunjian Hall:

On December 8, 2025, students from Grade 3 to Grade 9 attended the **Pan-Armenian Book Exhibition** - organized by Hamazkayin's "Vahe Setian" Publishing House.



Students Impressions:

On Monday, December 8, our class visited the Hamazkayin Library next to our school. There, I saw many interesting books, including one with Albert Einstein on its cover. The library also had board games, prayer books, and books about Armenian history. In the end, I chose a few books to take home and share with my brother.

Lucas Godjigian- Grade 3

On a cozy winter day, the students of Vahan Tekeyan visited the Hamazkayin Library. We saw many books with different topics and contents. I bought my favorite book so that I could read it during the Christmas vacation. We really enjoyed the tour while exploring the books. Finally, we are thankful for the chance to visit the library.

Mathew Ishkhanian –Grade 7

Ghosta:

This year, Lebanon's Independence Day held a special meaning for the students of Vahan Tekeyan School, as they were given the opportunity to meet members of the Commando Regiment (Ghosta) on November 12, 2025.



Students Impressions:

On a beautiful sunny day, the students of Vahan Tekeyan School visited Ghosta. We had the opportunity to meet soldiers who demonstrated their remarkable skills. Afterwards, we toured the museum and observed symbolic artifacts belonging to soldiers who had sacrificed their lives in previous wars. We also experienced a short ride in an army Jeep, which was both exciting and memorable. Overall, we are grateful to have celebrated Lebanon's Independence Day in such an educational and meaningful way.

Mikael Boranian-Grade 7

Students Impressions:

On a beautiful day, we went on a school trip to a military camp in Ghosta. We got to see soldiers and their impressive demonstrations. We also rode in an army Jeep—it was so much fun! During the trip, we visited the cemeteries of the soldiers and observed a moment of silence to honor the souls of those who lost their lives, sacrificing for their beloved country, Lebanon. Overall, it was an educational and memorable trip, and I am thankful that our school took us there!

Charbel Salameh- Grade 8

One bright and clear morning, our class set off on a school trip to a military camp in Ghosta. We got to watch the soldiers' impressive demonstrations and even went for a ride in an army Jeep, which was so thrilling! We also visited the soldiers' cemeteries and paused to honor those who gave their lives defending Lebanon. It was a quiet moment that made me reflect on their courage and dedication. The trip was both fun and informative, giving us a closer look at the life of soldiers and the importance of serving one's country. I'm really grateful to our school for giving us this special opportunity.

Aghassy Papazian – Grade 9



AGBU-AYA Arine's Dance Show

On November 28, 2025, our students from Grades 1 till 9 attended AGBU AYA's Arine Dance remarkable show "I Want to Go to Armenia" at Casino Du Liban's assembly hall.



Students Impressions:

On November 28, our school took us to the Casino du Liban Theatre to watch the Arine Dance Group's performance. The dancers came from different Armenian schools and danced beautifully in colorful costumes. While they were performing, we watched a young girl named Arine on the screen behind them, showing her love for her motherland and for Lebanon. In the end, I felt proud to be an Armenian Lebanese student who was able to watch such a wonderful show.

Galina Boranian –Grade 4

On the 28th of November, our school took us to the Casino du Liban Theatre to watch and support the Arine Dance Group. Before each dance, we watched a short clip of a little girl named Arine "talking" with her motherland, Armenia. The dances were not only Armenian or Lebanese but also included some European ones. Some dancers were very young, while others were adults. The costumes were interesting and colorful. In the end, I had a great time watching their dance performance.

Lucas Salameh Al Baresh – Grade 5

The Arine Dance Group is one of the best dance groups, known for its amazing performances. Its unique dance moves and cultural symbols—like tulips for nourishment, pomegranates for abundance, and a swan for purity—touched our Armenian hearts and reminded us of the richness of our culture. We enjoyed every beat of the music at the Casino du Liban, and we are grateful that our school gave us such a wonderful opportunity!

Freddy Chahan – Grade 6

Bourj Hammoud's Public Garden

On January 27, 2026, the students of Grades 2 and 3 headed to the Bourj Hammoud Public Garden to participate in a tree-planting activity organized by the Municipality of Bourj Hammoud in cooperation with the local NGO SEMA.



Students Impressions:

On Tuesday, January 27, our class visited Bourj Hammoud's Public Garden together with the Grade Two students. We began by playing for a short time, then a group showed us how to plant strawberries. A kind man helped us use different gardening tools as we planted the strawberries. We were excited to take our plants home in plastic cups. Since we had already learned about planting in our science class, the activity was even more meaningful. In the end, it was a fun and special experience to have our very own plant to care for.

Kevin El Hout - Grade 3

Contest:

We are thrilled to congratulate our talented student Sharbel Salameh Al-Baresh for winning the Fabriano 2025 Competition!

His outstanding drawing, created on the theme "Charles Corm et ses écrits: dessine-moi un poème !" has been exhibited at the Charles Corm Foundation in Ashrafieh – Beirut on Saturday, February 21, 2026.





Email: info@vahantekeyan.com
Website: www.vahantekeyan.com
Facebook: Vahan Tekeyan School in Lebanon
Instagram: [vahan.tekeyan](https://www.instagram.com/vahan.tekeyan)
Phone number: 01/260525 - 01/260574