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NEWSLETTER

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A Message from the Principal

Vahan Tekeyan School is a 70-year-old intermediate school located in Bourj Hammoud, Lebanon, and serves as a bastion of education and pillar of Armenian culture.

Vahan Tekeyan School's mission is to offer a high-quality learning experience to Armenian students.

- Our curriculum focuses on cultivating critical thinking, leadership skills, character building, and self-discovery.
- We value the social and emotional development of each student, striving to make their learning experience an engaging and exciting one.
- We adopt innovative, student-centered pedagogy to engage students, help them achieve their goals, and be productive citizens and lifelong learners.

Together as a school community, we aspire to build on the traditions of the past and meet the challenges of the future through innovative ways and with confidence, determination and enthusiasm.

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to our leadership and school community for their commitment and dedication. I specially thank all the donors who always support us through thick and thin, enabling us to continue in our educational mission: provide safe and quality education to our beloved students.

Sevana Semerdjian Darakjian - Principal

March 20, 2022

Highlights of our School programs and Activities in 2021-2022

In the academic year 2021-2022 and after almost two years of remote learning, we were delighted to welcome our students with in-person teaching.

In the following pages, you can see that pictures say more than what words can express:



First Day of School Elementary and Intermediate
2021-2022



First Day of School KG Classes

STEAM Education

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

We continued our agreement with E-Skool to better connect the students, teachers and parents, where our parents can check the everyday agenda, grades, and daily plans. Through E-Skool we can have our Zoom sessions whenever needed.



Character Education

This academic year, we incorporated Character Education Program from KG to Grade 9. We believe that this is the ideal approach to promote moral and performance values as the foundation of good character. Using comprehensive, deliberate and practical approach to character development, we will create a caring community. Thus, students will be provided with opportunities for moral action, and develop their character.

Teacher Development

During September, our mentors Mrs. Vera Hanna and Mrs. Nawal Kasparian participated in teacher- training organized by Dar el Mashrek about the way of using Arabic e-books in KG.



Through the sponsorship of the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, the Lebanese American University is conducting "Teacher Development Program for the Armenian Schools in Lebanon". Our Armenian Language & Culture Coordinator, Mr. Avedis Diban, is participating in this special program.

On October 16, 2021 Mr. Avedis Diban and Mrs. Rita Tamougian attended the online launch of the zndoog.com website; an online educational resource center for Western Armenian.



Donations

On October 12, 2021 Vahan Tekeyan School hosted a delegation of the Rotary Club Beirut Cedars (RCBC), led by the District Governor of Rotary Club Gyumri, Armenia, Mr. Ashot Karapetyan. We were grateful for the donation of a new water filtration system, 17 UPS's and three interactive digital boards for our Kindergarten. We are grateful for the efforts of the previous President of RCBC, Mr. Hagop Dantziguian, who had initiated this project, among others, for our school.

We are also grateful to all the money donations, kits and supplies which we have received from individuals and organizations.

School Assemblies

To build a strong sense of contribution, and involvement, to reinforce our school's mission and values, and to develop identity, our school continued our school assemblies. Our students participated in the different activities with great enthusiasm.



Lecture about COVID-19 by our Science teacher, Ms. Cynthia Miladenian



We had an interactive presentation about Bullying as part of our Character Education Program, prepared by our English teachers Ms. Tamar Jehizian and Ms. Narin Khachadourian.

As part of our Armenian Language and Culture, we celebrated "Tarkmanchaz Day" and we hosted Fr. Avedik Apegha Der Garabedian as a guest speaker.





We had commemoration day for Ms. Loris Toughlajian, celebrating her lifetime dedication to the Vahan Tekeyan School as a teacher and Board member.

Distribution of books

On November 9, our school hosted Dr. Hrayr Jebejian who distributed “Manougneru Patsadragan Asdvazashunch” books to the students from Grade 2 till Grade 7.



On December 15, our staff and students received dictionaries “Oughakragan Patsadragan Pararan” from Mr. Yeghia Kayayan.

Celebrations and Contests

We celebrated the Lebanese Independence Day on November 19 with full enthusiasm.



On December 3, our students celebrated "Berbara"



- On December 4, our students Manuel Boranian (Grade 9), Marie Claire Naltchajian (Grade 8), Serly Sdepan (Grade 8), Celina Keusseyan (Grade 7) participated in "Lucy Tutunjian" drawing contest.
- During December, our school enjoyed a warm Christmas atmosphere;
- "Santa Hat Day" on December 14.
- Santa Claus visited our school and received the letters prepared and drawn by our students from Grades 1 till 5.
- During January, students from cycle 3, Valentina Srabionian (Grade 9) , Aline Kevorkian (Grade 9) , Alex Kojayan (Grade 8) , Serly Sdepan (Grade 8), Patil Papazian (Grade 7) participated in Hamazkayin's "Kir ou Kraganu tyun" online contest "Poems to Santa Claus".

On December 16 we had our annual Christmas Celebration with the presence of Powerful Kids Team. Our students received their special gifts from Santa. Students from Nursery to Grade 3 went to a short trip to "Master Mall" where they enjoyed the Christmas spirit and had a memorable time.





We celebrated St. Vartan Day on February 23, 2022

We celebrated Teachers' Day on March 8, 2022

Health Fair Day

On March 10, 2022 we hosted professional doctors and nurses from Howard Karagheusian Foundation for a thorough medial check up to all our students.



Twin School with Artsakh

On November 4 we initiated to establish a stronger tie with Artsakh and we started to coordinate details concerning the "Twin School" idea.



Later, on December 15 another zoom meeting was organized with several other Armenian Schools in Lebanon.



Our Kindergarten celebrated "Dearntarach" on February 16 and "Paregentan" on February 25, 2022.



Our diligent parents' committee are always ready to support our school's mission and provide a healthy atmosphere.

From our game-based learning activities:





On March 16, 2022 our school had the honor to host the President of the Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU), Mr. Berge Setrakian. He was accompanied by the Chair of the AGBU District Committee, Mr. Gerard Tufenkjian. The Chair of the Tekeyan Cultural Association Founding Board of Trustees, Mr. Hagop Kassardjian, and the School Board Chair, Mrs. Annie Lachinian-Magarian, presented an award to Mr. Setrakian congratulating his lifetime dedication and service to the AGBU and for the 20th anniversary of his presidency.

On this occasion, special thanks and words of gratitude were conveyed for the substantial donation offered by the AGBU to renovate our school building after the Beirut Port blast in August 2020.

Mr. Gerard Tufenjian's team of contractors and our School Board's Vice-Chair Mr. Berge Arabi-an were instrumental in completing the renovation project of the school. Dr. Hagop Papazian and Mr. Mike Vayejian were also present for this event.





On Sunday the 20th of March 2022, the Municipality of Bourj Hammoud organized an event named "Vernissage" at Master Mall. A group of our students participated in the cultural program with an Armenian traditional dance, choreographed by Ms. Patil Balabanian.



On March 21, 2022, our students celebrated the first day of spring.



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