

NEWSLETTER

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Educating generations for over 70 years





A Message from the Principal



It is hard to conceive how quickly 2023-2024 academic year has come to a close. Looking back, I'm proud to note how far we have come together as a community, supporting and inspiring one another every step of the way, celebrating our strong enrichment plans, initiatives and activities while building a profound and strong educational structure.

We, as teachers and staff, continued with the genuine desire to help our students be the very best they can be, and we succeeded to meet the diverse needs of those we are called to serve – our students.

We hope to make a big difference in the lives of tomorrow's leaders. We are appreciative of our amazing faculty and staff who tirelessly dedicate their time and energy to our students. We were able to fulfill our mission to Learn to Lead with hands-on learning experience for our scholars.

We have accomplished a lot this year and will do so here on.

To make our teachers feel endowed is my main purpose. To make our students feel enlightened is my supreme duty. To help Vahan Tekeyan School soar to the heights of academic excellence is my ultimate goal.

Until next school year, here's wishing you all love, happiness and learning.

Best wishes,
Sevana Semerdjian Darakjian
Principal



Rotary Club of Beirut Cedars Inaugurates 50KW Photovoltaic System at Vahan Tekeyan School



Beirut, February 8th 2024
– A milestone for green energy in education was celebrated as the Rotary Club of Beirut Cedars unveiled a 50KW photovoltaic system at Vahan Tekeyan School. This significant event, held on February 8th 2024, marked a new era of sustainable development

and educational support.

The ceremony began with PP Ghassan Hajjar, Master of Ceremony, emphasizing the Rotary's enduring principles as embodied by the Four-Way Test. VIP guests, inclusive of Rotary leaders and community stalwarts, were warmly introduced, heralding a collaborative spirit.

Mrs. Annie Lachinian Magarian, Chairperson of the school board, offered an engaging historical perspective on the Tekeyan Cultural Association's role in education since 1947 and welcomed the inauguration of the photovoltaic project. This initiative, she noted, not only





meets the school's energy needs but also significantly alleviates budgetary constraints, allowing for enhanced educational programs. She expressed her gratitude to both the Rotary Club Beirut Cedars for its attachment to helping the school following the Beirut blast under PP Hagop Dantziguian tenure and the donors for their trust in TCA.



PP Hagop Dantziguian presented the project's narrative, from conception to completion, presented the technical aspects of the solution, and recognized the key contributors, thanking Rotary Club Los Angeles Cedars to always being there for the community. He emphasized on how the ball started rolling upon the wish of Beirut-LA City to support a school of the Armenian community in Lebanon with a photovoltaic system. He also thanked the expertise and support provided by Narinco and its General Manager Norayr Elmayan. He also cited the system's robust performance since January, underscoring its value as the seasons progress.



Representatives from the project's donors shared their respective visions for the initiative. Speaking for the Clara Margossian Trust, Mrs. Anahid Dantziguian conveyed the Trust's







commitment to educational projects and its broader mission to meet the community's needs, including health-care, addressing the care trustee Dr. Varouj Altebarmakian has for the communities in the diaspora and in Armenia. Meanwhile, Mr. Ara Kalfayan, representing Los Angeles Beirut Sister Cities, highlighted their focus on enhancing educational opportunities and bridging learning experiences between Lebanon and the American market.

P. Ramzi Abou Samah recounted the Rotary Club's significant contributions to local communities, while Deputy District Governor Chawkat Houalla conveyed Rotary's support for sustainable projects, echoing District Governor Bashar Haddad's endorsement.

The event was brought to a close by the Master of Ceremony, who reaffirmed the Rotary's motto 'Service Above Self.' A networking buffet provided by the school created a space for dialogue on collaboration and future ventures.

The Rotary Club of Beirut Cedars extends its heartfelt gratitude to all partners, donors, and participants who contributed to this project, now a beacon of hope and a symbol of a sustainable, enlightened future.

For more information about the project or the Rotary Club of Beirut Cedars, please check <https://rcbeirutcedars.org/>





Highlights of our School programs and activities

Academic Activities

Character Education

Helping Others



Discipline





Teamwork



Courage





Science Day at Sam and Sylva Simonian Kindergarten

On February, 24, 2024 our little scientists in Sam and Sylva Simonian Kindergarten had the chance to use various objects and experiment the wonders of science.





Pet Day at Sam and Sylva Simonian Kindergarten

To motivate students to take care of pets and enhance their sense of responsibility, our Sam and Sylva Simonian kindergarten students welcomed Milou the dog and Tito the turtle.





Open Day at Sam and Sylva Simonian Kindergarten





Lecture about Healthy Tips and Study Skills

On March 5, 2024, Ms. Rita Svadjian, an ABA therapist from Howard Karageuzian Foundation, presented a lecture to our parents about hygiene, cleanliness and study skills.



Health Fair Day

On March 14, 2024 we hosted professional doctors and nurses from Howard Karagheusian Foundation for a thorough medical check up to our students and faculty members.







Lecture about Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

On March 20, 2024, Mrs. Sossi Shahinian Sagherian visited our school to present her two books; "Aramo and His Dream" and "Three Sisters Goals". She further explained about SDG (sustainable development goal).





Lecture about Cilicia

On the occasion of our school's "Cilicia Year", the second event took place on February 19, 2024 which included a slide show tour of historical Cilicia presented by our honorable guest Dr. Raffi Gergian.



Exhibition:





General Knowledge Contest about Cilicia:





KG 3 Orientation

In order to ease the transition period for our kindergarten students, our KG 3 students had the chance to visit Grade 1 classroom.





Cultural Activities:

Commemoration of St. Vartan

On February 16, 2024 we commemorated St. Vartan's Day and we hosted Father Ghevont Loshkhajian as a guest speaker.





Cilicia Event

On March 19, 2024 a magnificent event took place at our Barsamian Hall in order to relive the glorious history of Cilicia.





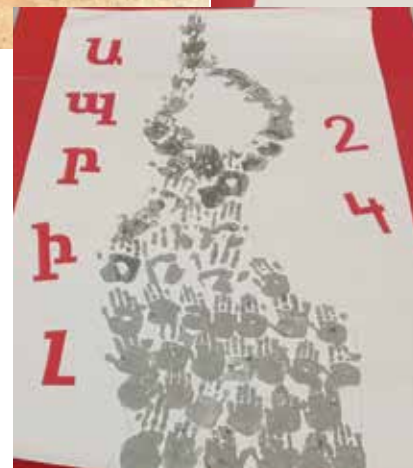
Movie about Cilicia

On April 19, 2024 students from Grade 6 to Grade 9 had the chance to watch a movie about Cilicia.



April 24

Sam and Sylva Simonian Kindergarten students commemorated April 24.





Educational and cultural excursions:

AGBU-AYA Arine's Dance Show

On February 23, 2024, our students from Grades 1 till 9 attended AGBU AYA's Arine Dance remarkable show "Nayirian Blossom" at Emil Lahoud's assembly hall.



Students Impressions:

Watching Arine Dance Group's performance was an incredibly amazing experience. The energy they poured into each dance was remarkable, and I found myself captivated by the detailed movements and colorful costumes that told stories of tradition and heritage. It was truly inspiring, leaving me with a deep appreciation for the beauty of the Armenian dance.

Sonarita Sourmanian
Grade 4

Dance shows enlighten our culture and take us to a different world. On a beautiful day, we headed to Emille Lahoud's Hall to watch AGBU Arine Dance Group performance. Needless to say that the lighting during the dance shows, the music, and the beautiful dance steps took us to a different yet wonderful world!

Melissa Kurkjian
Grade 6



On Friday February 23, 2024, students and teachers attended Emille Lahouds' Hall to watch AGBU Arine Dance Group performance under the title of "Nayiryan Blossom". Moreover, we enjoyed each and every dance show through every beat of the music and the fascinating steps performed. However, we owe a huge thankfulness to our dear school for granting us such a unique opportunity!

Vana Ekmekjian
Grade 7

Municipality of Bourj Hammoud

On February 29, 2024, our students from Grades 7, 8 and 9 visited the Municipality of Bourj Hammoud.





Students Impressions:

On February 2, 2024, cycle 3 students visited the Municipality of Bourj Hammoud with our homeroom teachers. It was a new experience to us. We were eager to discover the place and how it functions. Thus, we were warmly welcomed and met our expectations by asking questions and receiving answers. We extend our sincere thankfulness to the staff who were kindly guiding us there!

Mary Ghazarian
Grade 7

I really love our educational trips that provide us with knowledge and awareness! Grades 7, 8 and 9 students paid a visit to the Municipality of Bourj Hammoud, met the head of the municipality and got the opportunity to know what each employee does there! We thank our school for granting us such a great opportunity!

Vanessa Abu Nader
Grade 8

A Visit to Armenian Catholicosate of Cilicia Commemoration of the Armenian Genocide

On April 22, 2024 students commemorated the 109th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide in the perimeter of the Armenian Catholicosate of Cilicia, along with the participation of students from other Armenian schools.





A Visit to Armenian Theological Seminary in Bekfaya

On April 23, 2024 Grade 1 to Grade 9 students visited the Armenian Theological Seminary in Bekfaya along with their homeroom teachers and the principal on the occasion of the commemoration of the Armenian Genocide.



Students Impressions:

Visiting the sacred location to commemorate the Armenian Genocide was a deeply moving experience. It made me feel a profound sense of sorrow and empathy for the countless lives lost and families torn apart. The experience left an unforgettable mark on my conscience, reminding me of the power of remembrance and standing against injustice.

Ralph Abou Nader - Grade 4

On April 23, 2024, Vahan Tekeyan students went to Bekfaya to commemorate the Armenian genocide. We were well prepared to sing Armenian songs and recite poems. We are proud to be Armenians, we will keep on fighting for justice and never forget our history!

Melissa Kurkjian - Grade 6



A Visit to Animal City

On May 10 and 16, 2024 our Sam and Sylva Simonian Kindergarten students and Grades 1 - 3 little ones paid a visit to Animal City and enjoyed the close encounter with the friendly animals.





A Visit to Hamazkayin's Knar Dance Show

On May 17, 2024 students from Grades 6 till 9 attended Hamazkayin's Knar dance show.



A Visit to Nor Serount's Arek Dance Show

On May 30, 2024 students from Grades 4 - 6 attended Nor Serount's Arek dance show where a few of the school students were participating.





Different Celebrations:

Teachers' Day

On March 8, 2024 we celebrated Teachers' Day and appreciated their dedication.

Also, on March 13, 2024 the chairperson of ALP Shushan Varteni Club, Mrs. Annie Yerganian, and other members visited our school to appreciate our teachers' diligent work.





First Day of Spring

Sam and Sylva Simonian Kindergarten students celebrated the first day of Spring on March 21, 2024 by making beautiful crafts.



Children's Rights Day

On March 21, 2024 students at Vahan Tekeyan School had an enjoyable "Children's Rights" day by expressing their thoughts and ideas through drawings and words.

We also welcomed members from Armenian Relief Cross of Lebanon who explained to our Grade 3 and 4 students about children's rights through a video and distributed to them informative files.





Easter Celebration

On March 22, 2024 our students celebrated Easter at the school.

Our sincere gratitude to school alumna Ms. Ani and Ms. Taline Avakians and their mother Mrs. Alice Avakian for their donations to make the Easter celebration a memorable one.







Last Bell

On June 3, 2024 a magnificent ceremony was held at our school's Hagop Barsamian Hall to celebrate the last bell of the Intermediate graduates. The atmosphere was happy and emotional!



Sports Day

We had an amazing Sports Day on June 7, 2024. It was a day full of games and fun where some parents also participated!





Special Visits:

Sevag Armeni Ghazarian's Visit

On March 26, 2024 we hosted Barouyr Sevag's grandson, the literary scholar Sevag Armeni Ghazarian and his spouse, as well as the distinguished director and actor Tavit Hagopian. The guests were accompanied by the director of the Hamazkayin library and the Vahe Setian publishing house Mr. Hagop Havatian.



Mr. and Mrs. Karnig and Mania Kazezians' Visit





Mrs. Ayda Markarian's and Mrs. Lucy Calousdian's Visit



Rotarian Guests





Contests

A group of our students participated in a drawing contest organized by Hamazkayin Toros Roslin Drawing Academy. We are thrilled to announce that Alik Darakjian from Grade 3 won the 3rd place for the drawing subject "Family".



We are excited to announce that our little artists Celina Keusseyan from Grade 9 and Hasmig Garabedian from Grade 6 are the winners of the Fabriano Contest.

"Mer Shougan"

On April 14, 2024 the Municipality of Bourj Hammoud

organized an event named "Vernissage" at Master Mall. Vanessa Abou Nader participated in the cultural program with an Armenian traditional dance, choreographed by Ms. Patil Balabanian.





Workshop

On April 6 and 13, 2024 Mrs. Nora Malatian participated in "Social Media Proficiency" Workshop, hosted by Haigazian University in collaboration with the Social Committee of the Armenian Prelacy in Lebanon, Led by Mr. Shant Estepan.



Workshop of Carving Armenian Ornaments

On May 21, 2024, students of Grades 8 and 9 gladly participated in the special workshop of carving Armenian ornaments, organized by Haigazian University Student Affairs Office and Yerevan Folk Art Museum named after Yovhannes Sharambeyan.





Sam and Sylva Simonian Kindergarten's End of Year Graduation Ceremony

On Sunday June 16, 2024 at 11:00 a.m., we had our Sam and Sylva Simonian's Kindergarten's end of year graduation ceremony at "Hagop Barsamian" Hall, which included all the KG students and graduates. Our students presented a creative and vibrant program and then the graduates were given their first diplomas.





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