

## St. Sarkis School Report

### **St. Sarkis School Board of 2016-2017**

President: Fr. Ghevond Ajamian

Chairwoman: Sandra Morath

PC liaison: Joan Stuckmann

Secretary: Natalie Panoyan

Treasurer: Annie Ghannoum

Advisors: Maral Aznavourian, Ryma Jarur Souvalian

### **St. Sarkis School Staff**

Principal: Maral Aznavourian

Asst. Principal and Faith Education Instructor: Annie Ghannoum

**Ararat/ Lecture series** (7 students)

Lecturers: Seta Barsamian, Boghos Kirazian, Stepan Tabanian

**Karni Classroom** (16 students)

Instructor: Nora Dayian,

Assistants: Liana Rubenyan, Sevag Koulian, Mariam Berberian

**Sevan Classroom** (13 students)

Instructor: Lusine Meeks

Assistants: Julietta Chatinyan, Alice and Hovsep Nahapetyan

**Yerevan Classroom** (19 students)

Instructors: Aida Kantzabedian Assistant: Sisi Berberian

**Ani Classroom** (8 students)

Instructor: Nairi Meras

Assistants: Alexander Meras, Serien Keleshian

There were many celebrations in the months of March, April and May of the 2015-2016 School Year.

In April, the students celebrated Palm Sunday with family and friends and at Easter they had egg hunt, coloring of eggs, and making choereg with their initials, as the Board, with the help of parents, held the annual fundraiser Bake Sale. The students also participated in the commemorative services of the Armenian Genocide of Victors 101.

The year culminated in May with a successful Year End Program (Hantes), preceded by a fun day celebration, as students showcased all they had learned about our language, culture and history throughout the year.

### **2016-2017 School Year**

St. Sarkis School is thriving under the leadership of its President, Board and Staff with the enrollment of 63 students (a 15 student increase from last year's 48), who have the advantage of receiving combined education of faith, language instruction, culture and history for 30 Sundays starting on September 11, 2016. St. Sarkis School (Սուրբ Սարգիս Վարժարան) operates on Sunday mornings from 10:00 am-12:30 pm. For the first time in 20 years, a Pre-school instruction for 3-5 year olds was added to the school curriculum. Due to lack of space, the makeshift thriving pre-school is located in the Kechejian Hall. For the 2016-2017 School year, Ararat classroom students, ages 13-16 are enrolled in lecture series of Armenian history, culture, faith and community service.

St. Sarkis School hosted a successful Thanksgiving celebration in November for the students and celebrated Christmas with Gaghan Baba/Tzmer Babi in December with Armenian Christmas songs. In the true spirit of Christmas, students brought monetary donations to needy community members in our church family.

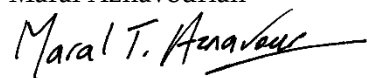
The St. Sarkis School curriculum includes acquisition of the Armenian language as students are taught reading, writing, grammar, comprehension and history. Songs and poems for various holidays are also enjoyed by all. Pride of heritage and the accomplishments of the Armenian people is instilled in students every Sunday.

The Faith Education Portion started the program with the Creation, God's plan of salvation, highlighting the life of Christ leading up to His Crucifixion and Resurrection. Lessons are derived from the Liturgical Bible readings for each Sunday according to the official Church calendar, including the details provided by Diocesan Christian Education Department. Every Sunday Fr. Ajamian applies what the students have learned as he gathers them at his feet for a children's sermon which is followed by the students participating in the Holy Communion at church.

With God's guidance, Fr. Ajamian's advice, the support of the Board, Staff and parents, we continue to seek to instill in the children the love of God, the Armenian Church, our language, people, culture and heritage.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maral Aznavourian



St. Sarkis School Principal