Principals Message – Graduating Class of 2013-2014

Congratulations Graduates on your successful completion of your studies at St. Sahag St. Mesrob Armenian Saturday School. I am proud of your hard work and perseverance. My wish is that during the next four years you continue to learn Armenian by enrolling in the Toronto Catholic School Board’s Armenian Language Credit Courses. [http://www.tcdsb.org/ProgramsServices/ContinuingEducation/SecondaryCreditCourses/SaturdaySchool/Pages/Armenian.aspx](http://www.tcdsb.org/%20ProgramsServices/ContinuingEducation/SecondaryCreditCourses/SaturdaySchool/Pages/Armenian.aspx)

I also encourage you to pursue higher education, not only in the sciences and business, but also in the fields of general arts and education. Today more than ever our Armenian diasporan community throughout the world is in need of educators to address the challenges that we face in the area of successfully transmitting the Armenian language and culture to the generations to come.

My sincere appreciation to Rev. Fr. Zareh Zargarian and to the Parish Council of Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church for their on-going care and support to St. Sahag St. Mesrob Armenian Saturday School. Many thanks to our Vice Principal, Mr. Ara Ter Haroutunian, our 13 teachers, 3 teaching assistants, and 6 teaching volunteers who have been working diligently to assist our students.

I extend a heartfelt gratitude to Mr. Antranik Tchilinkerian, Mrs. Marieta Gasparian, Mrs. Seta Tchakerian-MacLennan, Mrs. Nata Navasartian, Mrs. Maral Kazarian, and Mr. Ara Karakashian for their relentless effort to educate our Grade 8 students and to prepare them for this special day.

Dear parents, I appreciate the dedication and the sacrifice you have been making all these years by bringing your children to our Armenian school. It takes on-going effort to continue learning Armenian. Please encourage your children to speak and read Armenian not only for a specific purpose but also for the sake of speaking and reading Armenian so that they recognize the usefulness of the Armenian language. Expose them to the language of socialization and entertainment.

Research shows that bilingualism and multilingualism enhances language learning and provides children an advantage to expand their overall learning and decision-making capacities. Multilingualism also opens more doors in their life journey and allows them to have more selections on their path to obtaining higher education.

Dear students, you probably feel that adults constantly tell you what to do, but adults offer you choices in life, that is our responsibility. However, it is up to you to decide which path to take. It is up to you to compose your life and direct it with care and consideration. Learn from our success and in particular learn from our mistakes. Establish your individuality and stand firm in your convictions. Help yourself while helping others. Remember that giving is receiving. Give your time and energy to a cause; hopefully that is also an Armenian cause. You have inherited your Armenianness, cherish it and protect it. As Baron Antranik wrote in his message to you, “Armenianness flows in your blood.” Honour the Armenian in you. Take care of the Armenian language so that it continues to survive.

Congratulations again. Have a wonderful summer. May your trip to Armenia be a fulfilling and an interesting one and may you return energized to assist our Motherland Armenia in ways you can. May you enter your new schools in September with joy and anticipation. And of course, you are always welcome to return to SSSM in September, this time though as student volunteers.

Sincerely,

Dr. Arpi Panossian Muttart, Principal – June 2014