Principal’s Message and Year-end Report for 2013-2014

Dear Fr. Zareh Zargarian, members of the Parish and School Council, parents, students and student volunteers, educators and assistants, I thank all of you for working hard throughout the year. I really admire and appreciate your devotion to the school community. I appreciate the dedication and the sacrifice you have been making to support St. Sahag St. Mesrob Armenian Saturday School under the auspices of the Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Church.

Dear parents, please, continue your efforts to teach Armenian during the summer months. Review and repeat what your children have learned thus far. Research shows that bilingualism and multilingualism enhance language learning and provide children an advantage expanding their overall learning capacities. I encourage you to regularly read Armenian with your children.

This year was a year of observation and learning for me. I documented over 30 matters to work on during the next coming years and am happy to report that we have already begun implementing some of the initiatives during the 2013-2014 academic year.

This year a new School Council, consisting of five members, was formed with the core responsibilities of ensuring the implementation of new pedagogical approaches and to secure a comfortable learning and teaching environment.

Our new technology group worked hard to start a website for the school and will continue working during the summer months to develop an interactive webpage. As you know, we now have online registration and payment option for efficiency and convenience.

We also introduced a small library of Armenian storybooks in each classroom. The purpose is to encourage reading Armenian for leisure, as I believe that reading and learning are habits that parents should nurture in their children.

I have identified challenges in our teaching methods, which we will be working on to improve for next year. We will make numerous changes to the curriculum in order to offer a more modern teaching approach suitable to today’s children. Our mantra for next year will be “Learning is Fun”.

I hope that we continue to maintain an open communication between parents, teachers, students, and the administration.

Here are a few highlights of what is ahead for the 2014-2015 academic year:

* Implement collaborative and interactive teaching/learning with an emphasis on oral communication and storytelling. We will have poster and storytelling competitions.
* Incorporate aspects from two tested and proven programs Mgnig and Reggio Emilia that are art-based and student-centered approaches to teaching and learning.
* Invest in new textbooks and innovative materials, such as e-books, in order to promote digital literacy.
* Implement professional development days for staff during the summer and throughout the year.
* Adopt Ministry-approved lesson planning strategies.
* Introduce on-going evaluations of our performance in meeting students’ needs.
* Investigate transportation service options for those commuting from Oakville, Brampton, and Mississauga.

I look forward to seeing you all in the fall. Have fun this summer and return to school healthy and happy in September.

Dr. Arpi Panossian Muttart, Principal