

NEWS

release

Holy Trinity Armenian Church

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CHELTENHAM, PA.: The Holy Trinity Armenian Church School implemented, during the weeks of July 13 and 20, the idea presented by the Diocese's Armenian Language Lab of having a two week summer school program. It was a resounding success!

Miss Berjoohy Haigazian, Parish Council Chairman and Church School Superintendent, lost no time in April recruiting teachers and helpers, and then putting in untold hours preparing and making available most of the material to be used through the two weeks. Her enthusiasm was contagious because no one refused her when approached to volunteer their time for this program.

The Very Rev. Haigazoun Melkonian, Pastor of Holy Trinity, instructed those advanced in the Armenian language and also taught "Armenian Religion and History" classes. In addition, Fr. Haigazoun instructed the boys ten years and older in serving at the Holy Altar as acolytes. Mrs. Angel Tookmanian taught "Learning Armenian" and "Conversational Armenian". Mrs. Marian Kalenian, with a strong assist from Mrs. Hyarpi Garibian, taught "Music and Dance." When Mrs. Kalenian learned Christine and David Hoplemazian, Haig and Stepan Hovnanian and J. Wesley Walker ^{WERE} musically inclined, she had them bring in their respective instruments and students were treated to "jam sessions" of Armenian music during the lunch hour. Mrs. Sarah Babaian and daughter Caryn taught "Arts and Craft". Miss Haigazian, the driving force behind

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PAGE 2

this entire endeavor, had put together an excellent teaching staff, kept everything running according to the schedule she had prepared, as well as covering in any class where necessary. Twenty-nine students registered, and there was almost perfect attendance each day.

The Closing Day Luncheon to which parents were invited was followed by an exceptionally enjoyable program conducted by Mrs. Kalenian with Mrs. H. Garibian assisting. Three groups performed according to age, singing and dancing and then all together they sang the "Armenian Alphabet" song composed by the Primate, His Eminence Archbishop Torkom Manoogian. Christine and David Hoplamazian played selections on their violins. David also joined Haig and Stepan Hovnanian, who play the dumbeg and saxophone respectively, to accompany some of the group singing, and at the end of the program they played Armenian selections from their "jam sessions".

Fr. Haigazoun presented each student with a cross and a chain and a set of notepaper.

Miss Haigazian took the opportunity of the Closing Day Luncheon to showcase the newly published outstanding Church School Books, which are indicative of the emphasis the Diocese is putting on teaching Church School students. Mrs. Sara Babaian, a member of Holy Trinity, participated in this project with her artwork.

.....more..... - See Page 3

Special thanks to the parents and parishioners who donated
hamburg meat, cup cakes, ice cream and cookies.

Lunch was served each day as well as a morning little treat, and
a wonderful group of mothers pitched in to help in this area. Mrs. Berjoohy
Haigazian Murray was the leader of this group comprised of Mrs. Chris Boyajian,
Mrs. Rosemary Garibian, Mrs. Carol Hoplamazian, Mrs. Gail Lulejian, Mrs. Anahis
Mahserejian and Mrs. Anna Polizzi. Mrs. Merle Santerian prepared the menus for the
two weeks as well as purchasing the food.

This was a tremendous experience for all who participated in this
program, and parents were overwhelmed and impressed at how much had been accomplished
in just two short weeks. When people care enough and volunteer in their
respective fields, just think how much more could be accomplished.

-Acabe Boornazian

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