



Ս. ԳՐԻԳՈՐ ԼՈՒԻՍԱԻՈՐԻՉ ՎԱՐՃԱՐԱՆ
ST. GREGORY'S ARMENIAN SCHOOL
ESTABLISHED 1985

23rd May 2008.

Mother's Day Function at the School

On Friday, 16th May, the Annual Mother's Day celebration was held in the School Hall. Around 90 parents, students, and friends of the School came together to celebrate that one time of the year when all mothers are remembered and embraced for the enormous amount of energy, thought and sheer work that they put in—day in and day out—to look after their families.

There were many helpers on the night and many who helped in the preparation of the evening to ensure its success.

The Committee members were: Sona Stamboulian, Zhenik Yoonan, Katrin Ghougassian, Lucineh Kosyan, Consuella Jankovic, Henda Massih, Flower decorations donated by Mr. & Mrs. Giragos Bakalian.



After initial cocktails and hors d'oeuvre in the Year 6 classroom, the crowd was ushered into the Hall. A special flower greeted each mother, with a winning number for the night's door prize.

Mezza was (as usual) very filling.

Incidental music was provided at the beginning and throughout the evening by none other than our ever-present DJ—and one who has been with the School Board in many guises through the years (even helping Father Anton in his selection of the current school site) - Hrair Badelian. Thanks to Hrair's technical skills, the evening went off without any technical glitches: Many Thanks!

Music was provided by a pianist over dinner, Charles, playing some well-loved softer songs for the audience—Many Thanks!

After the dinner (stuffed chicken with rice and vegetables), entertainment continued with singing from one of the mothers at the School, Lucineh Kosyan. Much-loved renditions of Armenian and Arabic "classics" were then danced to: Many Thanks are also due to her!



The usual lotteries were entered and prizes won—every table on the evening shared one of the major prizes!

Dessert was an enormous celebratory cake with coffee—cut by the eldest mothers on the night— and enjoyed by



As one who has been to many functions over the years, it was gratifying to see the spirit of true “family” exhibited by all those who attended on the night. The whole night, once again, demonstrated the true spirit that pervades everything we do at St. Gregory’s. On these occasions, we remember the words of William Saroyan—see if they will not build another Armenia!

Once again, a big THANK YOU—to all those who helped before and on the night—as well all those who attended to share (and create) that spirit of the evening! {If one asks what do we expect from being Armenian— from remaining Armenian—the question was answered, resoundingly, on this evening.}

Happy Mother’s Day to all and see you again next year!





Developments Around the School

The broad developments around the School continue apace. Visitors are now met with a new round-about on the Western side of the School. This should slow the traffic down before it gets to the Slow-Down School Zone sign. This approach should now be safer than previously.

The front of the School is now very well exposed as negotiations with the landscaper allowed us to get the best vantage for our School that was consistent with Baulkham Hills Shire Council requirements. Excess (clean) soil from the excavations was re-deposited in the back of the School and will be contoured into the ground once some trees are removed.

Use of the School Sports Field

The Sports field was out-of-bounds during the recent re-modelling of the School front as it was felt that safety may be an issue with trucks delivering soil to the back of the School. Since the completion of the soil re-placement, the soil has been cordoned off and children are back to using the field for their daily sports activities.

Father Anton's Visit to Sydney

Father Anton, founder of St. Gregory's and its first Principal for the first 17 years or so, has been visiting Sydney during the last week and will be leaving again this Saturday. Many Parishioners, students, ex-students, and parents have taken the opportunity of catching up with Father Anton and in hearing of his continuing work with our fellow countrymen and women in Armenia. There is still much work to be done and much help that we can offer.

Father Anton Meets with Ex-Students

On Monday night Father Anton caught up with some ex-students at the School and impressed on them the benefits that they have received from their attendance at St. Gregory's. Being an uncle of ten children who have or still do attend St. Gregory's, I could well appreciate the efforts that the School puts in and the vast difference between St. Gregory's and other schools—not only in its "healthy" approach to limit all "junk" foods; its zero tolerance for drugs and smoking; its strong but fair discipline—but also the transfer to the younger generation of a love for the Armenian culture, language, Feast days, values and shared history.

Father Anton shared his views, that, compared to the "positives" stated above, the "negatives" were really quite in the minority (though not to be neglected) and something the whole community needs to work on. He invited the ex-students in particular, to become committed and to contribute in a real way: not just to have the grandiose (though wonderful) ideals of Youth but to commit themselves to real contributions that will stand the tests of practicality.

Father Anton and the Alumni Association of St. Gregory's

Several ex-students highlighted their particular concern that they felt "left out" of many Armenian organizations in Sydney and that they were at risk of simply "drifting" from Armenian-ness. Many Armenian organizations simply do not make room for the younger graduates of any institution.

Whilst initially touted 4 years or so ago, now, in the School's 23rd year, it is time to commit to the development of an effective St. Gregory's Armenian School Alumni Association—so that ex-students DO have something practical to contribute and CAN continue to show their commitment to Armenian education in Sydney: their children's education depends on it!

Father Anton collected a lot of e-mail addresses and will work with ex-students to ensure this is finally formed and takes its rightful place for many years to come. All ex-students are invited to join and the details of the Association function and membership are to be developed.

School Drive-way Development

During the next few weeks, when the weather permits for three "clear" days, the School's drive-way will be re-cemented. Because Mass is said in the School Hall on Saturday night and Sunday mornings (all School parents, children and friends are most welcome to attend any of these Masses), the re-cementing shall be done during School days. Teachers and bus drivers are informed and will be parking outside the School on those days. Extra supervision for children getting on and off the buses will be provided.

