



## Hamasdegh PTA Weekly Newsletter

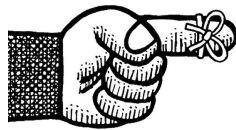
October 24, 2019

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Dear Hamasdegh Parent,

**Thank you, Parents!** A big thank you to our lunch duty volunteers *Tamar Khachaturian, Tamar Kolejian* and *Linda Najarian* who signed up online and who also helped students in lower grades decorate their leaves for Gratitude tree. Many others chipped in on the spot.

**Halloween Treat Bags:** It certainly was a busy Sunday as parents also helped fill 100+ Halloween treat bags. PTA will hand out bags of fun treats and trinkets for our hard working students this Sunday. A big shout out to *Talar Vartanian* who orchestrated everything for the Halloween treat bags.



**A Gentle Reminder:** Parents of students in Grades 2nd through 8th, please make sure your children decorate the Gratitude tree leaves by writing what they are thankful for and bring them back to school this Sunday. Instructions were sent home along with the leaves last Sunday.

**October Pizza Day is here!** Hamasdegh PTA will offer a complimentary lunch on October 27, which will include two slices of Domino's cheese pizza and Honest organic juice box. Please **DO NOT PACK LUNCH** for your children that day. *A big thank you to the Tenkerian family for donating Gogurt boxes to be served to our students along with the pizza!* If your family would like to donate a healthy snack (e.g., fruit, Gogurt or any other nut free, allergy free treats) for November Pizza Day (November 24), please email us at [hamasdeghpta@gmail.com](mailto:hamasdeghpta@gmail.com). [Sign up](#) to be a lunch duty volunteer and serve pizza to students this Sunday!



### FIELD TRIP PUMPKIN PATCH



**Pumpkin Patch at American Plant:** On October 27, from 1:15 pm to 3:00 pm, families of Pre-K to 1st grade students are invited to visit the Bethesda location of American Plant for a popular Fall field trip. Your kids can have fun decorating pumpkins, doing crafts, enjoying popcorn/cider while walking through the Jurassic Park haunted house. Event time allows for later arrival of families with upper grade kids with 2:00pm dismissal. Community children are welcome. This event is rain or shine; all the activities are under cover. Check out the [details](#) on Facebook.

**SAVE THE DATE**

**Armenian DC Field Trip!** By popular demand, Hamasdegh PTA is excited to announce our inaugural field trip for Grades 6th, 7th and 8th and the 2018 graduates on **November 10, 2019** during school hours! We will be visiting three sites: Embassy of Armenia, Armenian Statue at the National Red Cross Headquarters, and ANCA Office. Lunch is included. Field trip transportation is provided by parent volunteers. If you are willing and available to volunteer to provide transportation, please email us at [hamasdeghpta@gmail.com](mailto:hamasdeghpta@gmail.com) with your name, phone number and the number of children you can drive. Flyers and permission slips will come home this Sunday. Please read all the information on the permission slip and return the signed form to your child's teacher by **Sunday, November 3**. **Only children with permission slips signed and returned will be permitted to attend.**

**Get a head start on Christmas shopping for your special someone by pre-ordering from the Arpi Krikorian Collection!** We will be placing an order with Arpi next week so this is your last chance to pre-order items with the design of your choice. Check out the [complete list of Arpi's items](#) we currently offer. Place your order NOW and pick up in three weeks, just in time for the holidays! Email us at [hamasdeghpta@gmail.com](mailto:hamasdeghpta@gmail.com) or stop by the PTA table this Sunday.



Meet Your **TEACHER**

**Basics**  
My name is Sarine Koftikian Olden and I am excited to be the first grade teacher at Hamasdegh School for my second year. I moved to the US with my husband James in 2014 after working in Baghdad for three years. We have two children: Henry (3) and baby Ani.

**Childhood**  
I grew up in both Milan and Beirut with my parents and my younger brother and sister. I've been an arenoush for many years and enjoyed going camping in the summers on Lebanese mountains with my fellow arenoushner. Above all, I loved spending time with my grandparents and hearing stories from their childhood and their struggles starting from nothing during the post-genocide era.

**Education**  
I studied at the Armenian schools: St Hripsimiantz College and Tarouhi-Hovagimian Secondary School in Beirut. I have a BA from the American University of Beirut and I am currently enrolled in an online MA in cybersecurity at RIT. I'll be graduating in 2020.

**A few of my favorite things**

Color:	Red, white, and navy blue	Armenian dish:	Eetch in summer and Nunuk soup in winter
Season:	Winter	Armenian movie:	Mayrig
Animal:	Dogs and horses	Armenian book:	Metzabadiv Mouratsganner and The Myth of Dork Ankegh
Restaurant:	Old Ebbitt Grill		
Store:	Amazon		

**1st Grade**

## Հայկական պար

What kind of dances have your children been learning in class, and what is the approach? We asked *Alex Avaneszadeh*, the dance teacher at Hamasdegh School, to provide some insight. Thank you Alex and we are lucky to have you join our community!

“We often think of Armenian dance as choreographed and performed on stage, or something that we do during weddings, parties and social gatherings. Although this is true, my approach to teaching Armenian dance (*Azgagrakan Par*/Ethnographic Dance) is focused on the fact that we are traditionally engaged in rituals through dance, equally as much as celebration and recreational fun. In class, we have been learning various categories of dances such as *Kocharis*, *Shorors* and *Gyovends*, which thus far include *Karno Kochari*, *Ver Veri*, *Shatakh Gyovend*, *Karno Shoror* and *Tamzara*! Since these dances originated from the villages and regions of historic Armenia, we are learning about the spiritual and social symbolism of specific movements, the context in which these dances were engaged in, as well as ritualistic terminology, its history and its presence in Armenia and the diaspora. It has been an absolute pleasure teaching your children so far and happy to see them enjoying it!”



Did you know that Alex also offers private lessons to children interested in learning Duduk or Dhol? Please feel free to reach out to him by [email](#) or by phone at 805.816.5610 for details and scheduling!

### Did You Know?

- Recently, Hamsdegh PTA has funded the enhancement of certain classrooms. The work was undertaken by *Dr. Zareh Soghomonian* to whom we are profoundly grateful.
- 1st Grade and pre-K students had a blast at Halloween Party last week. Thank you *Vivian and Arin Akopian* for hosting, *Ani Aroush* for coordinating the party, and all other parents and teachers that came together to make this a success!





- We still need room parents for 5th and 7th grades. If interested, please email us at [hamasdeghpta@gmail.com](mailto:hamasdeghpta@gmail.com) or reach out to one of the PTA board members. Learn more about room parent program [here](#).

## Important Links

- [Join the PTA](#)
- [Get Involved! Join a committee](#)
- [Complete the parent survey](#)
- [Amazon Smile](#)



## Armenian DC Field Trip (Grades 6-8)



**When:** November 10, 2019, 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM  
**Where:** Embassy of Armenia, National Red Cross Headquarters and ANCA Office  
**What to wear:** Hamasdegh uniform, jackets, and comfortable shoes

## PTA EVENTS - SAVE THE DATE!!

October 27, 11:00-12:00pm	Pizza Day sponsored by PTA (do not pack lunch)
October 27, after school	Students receive Halloween treat bags
October 27, 1:15-3:00pm	American Plant Pumpkin Patch
November 10, 10:00 am-2:00pm	Armenian DC Field Trip (Grades 6-8 and the 2018 Graduates)
November 17, 9:30-10:30am	Parent Coffee and PTA General Meeting
November 17, 1:00-2:30pm	Cookie Decorating Party

## [Full Calendar of Events \(pdf\)](#)

## STAY CONNECTED

[HamasdeghPTA.weebly.com](http://HamasdeghPTA.weebly.com)  
[Hamasdegh School Facebook Page](#)



Contact us at [hamasdeghpta@gmail.com](mailto:hamasdeghpta@gmail.com)

Please be sure to add [PTA email](#) to your address book to receive the newsletter and all email notices.

If you no longer wish to receive emails from Hamasdegh PTA, please reply to this message with “Unsubscribe” in the subject line.