

CASPS 2011 IN REVIEW

COMMITTEE FOR ARMENIAN STUDENTS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Homenetmen Ararat

Board News

CASPS announces the launching of a brand new program to support high school sophomores in overcoming academic challenges. CASPS is also proud to report the initiation of an annual appreciation event in honor of GUSD teachers.

Yes I Can

The goal of this newly implemented pilot program for high school sophomores is to open doors for those who need assistance with "working to capacity", and meeting their natural potential for academic success. CASPS works with counselors, teachers and families to support the program candidates. Most board members are responsible for small groups of students and arrange for finding solutions to needs such as individual tutoring, academic counseling, homework assistance etc., making sure the students remain on track, and show measurable academic improvement. The inaugural "Yes I Can" workshop was held on Friday, December 9, 2011 at the Western Prelacy with 40 participants from GUSD high schools. It is our hope that by the end of the 2011-2012 school year, our efforts will make a significant difference in the academic future of these students

Annual Teacher Appreciation Event

On April 14, 2011, CASPS hosted GUSD teachers of Armenian descent of all academic levels at the Western Prelacy's Community Room. We shared a light meal, a warm collegial ambiance, and a spirited discussion about new approaches for solving old school issues. The event committee surprised the guests with stylized posters of the Armenian Alphabet and a framed message from CASPS. The gathering created much buzz for continued networking, information sharing about pupil services, and strong support for CASPS' mission.



GUSD teacher participants

Honoring GUSD High Achieving Seniors and Art Contest Winners

This 15th annual event drew a crowd of 400 to Brandview Connection on May 26, 2011. Guests included seniors and their families, members of GUSD's Board of Education and Administration, high school administrators, and representatives of various community and professional organizations. CASPS honored about 200 high achievers graduating with 3.5 or better from four high schools. As always, the evening was highlighted with messages by valedictorians, and monetary awards to the students with the highest GPAs. Keynote speaker attorney Garo Ghazarian, shared the ups and downs of his personal life and encouraged everyone to never give-up on their dreams. Concurrent with the recognition of our academic stars, CASPS also recognized the participants in its annual Art Contest with certificates and monetary awards. CASPS extends its heartfelt appreciation to The Armenian Educational Foundation (AEF), and to the Melanie Ookhtens Memorial Fund, for sponsoring the monetary awards for academic and artistic achievement.



GUSD award recipients

Ani Aharonyan, Lillian Boodaghians
Ani Misirian, Anahit Muradyan



Best in show award recipient
Hamlet Sarkisyan from Clark High School

Kudos

CASPS is grateful to Van Nuys High School Counselor Anna Keshisyan, for her involvement and invaluable assistance in conducting the LAUSD honoring program.

Honoring LAUSD Local District 2 High Achievers

CASPS held an awards reception on May 31, 2011 at Monarch Hall on the campus of LA Valley College, recognizing all high achieving Armenian students in grades 9-12, who consistently maintain GPAs of 3.5 or higher. Once again, attorney Garo Ghazarian graciously delivered the keynote address, highlighting the worldwide value given to a degree from American colleges and universities, and emphatically encouraging everyone to remain focused on academic performance. He was followed by Local District 2 Superintendent, Alma Pena Sanchez, who congratulated the students and parents, and expressed her deep respect for the values held by the Armenian family and community at large. Each honoree received a certificate from CASPS; seniors also received certificates from elected officials, and five seniors with the highest GPAs received monetary awards sponsored by the Armenian Educational Foundation "AEF".



LAUSD award recipients

Adrine Gbakian, Kerob Karibyan
Angelica Kechuchyan, Khatcher Margossian
Anna Shirazyan





Mary Tasturian, MC of LAUSD honoring event



Attorney Garo Ghazarian
Keynote speaker for GUSD and LAUSD events

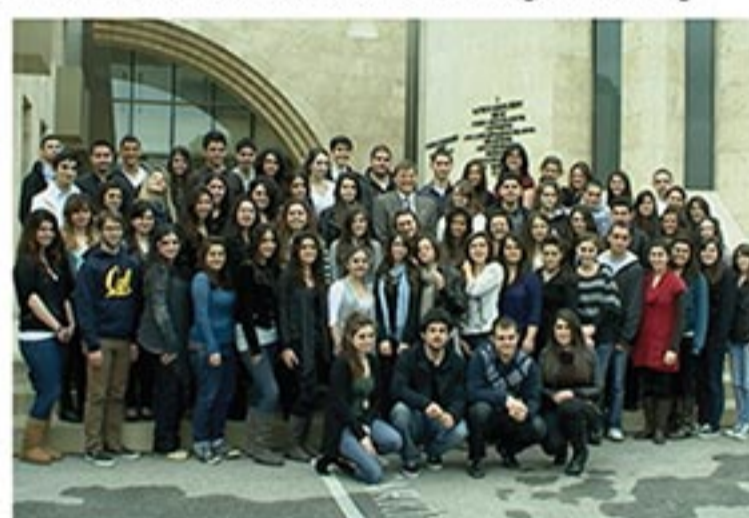
Annual Leadership Conference

The conference theme of "Connecting to Your Community" brought a full capacity crowd of high achieving GUSD seniors to the campus of the Western Prelacy in La Crescenta. A panel of professionals and community leaders from a variety of industries such as Petroleum Engineering, Education, Politics, and Performing Arts, addressed the participants about leadership qualities and the importance of giving back to one's community. The second half of the conference was highlighted by students engaging in interactive activities, focusing on effective communication, self-assessment and goal setting.



Panelists at the conference

Dr. Marina Voskanian, Baytsar Thomasian
Mary Apick, Dr. Katherine Fundukian Thorossian



Student participants with Glendale Mayor Ara Najarian

K-12 Healthy Start & Case Management

CASPS collaborates with GUSD's Healthy Start Program by providing Case Management Services to K-12 students in Glendale schools. Our focus includes new arrivals, academic counseling, and support for at-risk students. For special circumstances that require specific interventions, CASPS is responsible for finding solutions outside the school system, and for facilitating access to appropriate community resources. Our work with immigrant students is at the core of what we do to help newly arrived youngsters and their families adapt to the American public school system.

K-6 Intervention/Prevention Clinical Group Counseling

CASPS initiated this unique pilot in the year 2000. This special program focuses on elementary students in need of behavior modification, and a simple philosophy of "nipping failure in the bud". The program includes 30 sessions of age appropriate play/talk/create activities that help youngsters develop self-discipline, respect for authority, self-control and academic responsibility. The I.P. program continues to be offered at Columbus and Keppel elementary schools by Dr. Ida Karayan and her staff. It is partially funded by a Community Block Grant, and administered in collaboration with the City of Glendale.

Salsa Night Fundraiser

Each year CASPS organizes at least one fund raising event in order to keep its programs afloat. On Cinco de Mayo, CASPS held a well-attended Fundraiser at a Glendale Club. Renowned salsa instructor Emilio Rivas and his colleague, Andrea Ramirez volunteered their help, taught salsa steps and kept happy feet moving. They informed the audience about the origins of Cinco de Mayo and delighted the audience with fully costumed traditional Mexican dances. The elaborate Mexican buffet and beverage stand were entirely sponsored by members of CASPS Board, and topped with delicious Mexican "paletas" of tropical fruits.

CASPS extends its gratitude to each and every one of its friends and supporters for valuing its mission, for standing by our youth, and for helping CASPS make a difference.



CASPS Board members at event

visit
www.casps.org



Instructors Emilio
Rivas and Andrea Ramirez performing