



ASCSF Newsletter

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Inside this Issue

- 2023 Off to a Good Start
- Ararat Education Center Report
- Bingo Anyone?!
- Our Sponsors

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Ararat Valley Education Center Staff

- Miriam Jamalyan, Program Coordinator
- Marine Galstyan, Program Coordinator

Educators

- Ms. Milena Hoysepyan
English Teacher and Book Club Leader
- Albert Karapetyan
4-H Vegetable Project Leader
- Nver Abgaryan, IT
Artificial Intelligence Instructor

Keeping Up in Lukashin

--Richard Funt, PhD, Executive Director

When I visited Lukashin in March, the Apricots were in full bloom and the trees outside the library (Ararat Valley Education Center) were full of bees. Clearly, the honey that was harvested could be labelled as apricot honey. At my home we rented bees, and the honey could be labeled apple blossom. We also had clover honey as well. It's a pleasure for me to be in Armenia when fruit trees are blossoming. And further, it is exciting to see our students being able to learn about plants, particularly fruits and vegetables.

Once the vegetable seeds that were planted in March germinated, seedlings were transplanted and harvested. Seeds for fall harvest have recently been planted and transplanted soon to be harvested. This is an example of how more food can be grown (double harvest per year). Our greenhouse can extend some crops for multiple harvests in the autumn. Because the Ararat Valley is very dry, the students must use drip irrigation and apply nutrients to the plants through the drip irrigation (called fertigation), using less water and fertilizer as compared to other systems. Also, this can be called 'precision agriculture' because nutrients are applied to the plants and not to the space between rows. Thus, with the high cost of water and fertilizer only that which is needed is applied.

The next step is to collect data on air and soil temperature and moisture and then measure crop yields as well as disease and insect resistance. These measurements will help in building an artificial intelligence program to further to improve crop performance but use less input.

Please read the following report from Mariam. We can all be proud of people who help our students.

Lukashin Center: May, June, and July

--Mariam Jamalyan, Program Coordinator

English Book Club: In the month of June, our English Book Club had an engaging documentary screening on the life of Anne Frank, along with the recommendation of a new book, *Anne Frank Diaries*. As the summer months approach, some of our book club members will be away, so we've decided to pause our activities and resume them at the end of August. During this time, the library will continue to operate on its regular schedule, open three days a week from 10:00 to 15:00. We are grateful to have Ms. Milena Hovsepyan, our English teacher, taking charge of the library as the librarian.

Agriculture Club: We are delighted to inform you that our Agriculture Club currently consists of 10 enthusiastic students. In June, the land next to the greenhouse was prepared for planting. To ensure its readiness, we invested 15,000 drams in a water meter and 5,000 drams for its installation, which will be essential for maintaining the crops.

Under the guidance of our agriculture club leader, Albert Karapetyan, the children have been conducting various experiments with different types of cucumbers, tomatoes, and broccoli. They are also learning to write detailed reports on vegetable cultivation and the essential soil enrichment processes involving potassium, phosphorus, and potassium permanganate, along with a composition known as 20/20/20. It's inspiring to witness our young learners grasp the knowledge of which minerals each plant requires at different stages and in specific quantities.

Recently, our students hosted their first fair, where they successfully sold a variety of vegetables, including broccoli, cauliflower, cucumbers, and tomatoes. The total earnings amounted to an impressive 7,600 drams. Moreover, due to the generosity of many buyers, additional contributions were received, leading to a total accumulation of 17,000 drams.

Heartwarmingly, the students have requested that this accumulated amount be donated on behalf of our fund to assist a fellow villager, Anranik Nazaryan, who is graduating from school this year. Anranik has been diagnosed with blood cancer, and the entire village has rallied to support his family. We are proud of our students' compassion and sense of community.

Renovation of Library Toilet: The renovation and replacement of pipelines in the library's restroom have been completed successfully. A new, modern sink has also been installed, improving the facilities for all library visitors.

Opening of New Sewing and Design Club for Girls: We are excited to introduce the plan for a new sewing and design club for girls, for this we are currently in the active search for a local leader to support the Uplift Armenia team. The club will operate in the library building, utilizing available materials and equipment. If the club leader agrees, we plan to commence operations on September 1st, bringing a creative and educational space for our talented young girls.





Armenian Children's Support Fund
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Thank you Donors



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