The Importance of RECYCLING

Garbage comes in all shapes and sizes. Most garbage goes to a landfill where it will never leave, but a lot of garbage can be recycled. Recycling is when old things are turned into new things. The word ‘recycle’ has two parts to it – ‘re’ and ‘cycle.’ It means that you are cycling again or making something over again. This is what you do when you recycle something. You make an item be used again, which means that you are giving it another cycle.

When we recycle, the items go to a recycling center where they are sorted by: glass, metal, and plastic. The recyclable materials are washed and a machine breaks the items into small pieces where they are recycled into new products.

Recycling is also helpful for the environment. The more things that are recycled, the less amount of natural resources need to be used. For example, if you recycle paper, fewer trees will be cut down. Recycling also saves on energy and money. When we make new products out of recycled materials, we use energy and spend money to create something new.

However, if we produce a product out of recycled materials, we are saving energy and money that is put into creating a new product. Recycling also saves on landfill space. Everything that goes to a landfill stays there, which takes up space. But by keeping recyclable items out of our landfills, it keeps our air cleaner and does not overcrowd our landfills.

A great way to cut back on garbage that we produce every year is to practice the three R’s: Reuse, Reduce, and Recycle. These little actions can make a difference to improve the environment and make our planet Earth a more healthier and beautiful place.

Written by 3A Students: Sophia Azar, Sevana Baghdoyan, Astghik Gasparyan, Emma Haroutonian, Shantel Indjian, Isabelle Jamgotchian, Angie Mitilian, Sevag Sakayan, Arthur Stepanyan, Sarine Vartabedian, Alex Vartanian, Sarine Yeghiayan
GO SMACS LIONS!
by Kindergarten and 1st Grade Students

What is your favorite subject at school? What fun thing have you done during that class?
Narod from KG: My favorite subject is Music because we sing songs and I love it!
Marcus from KG: My favorite subject is Math because we work!
Alexis, Brandon, & Arsen from 1st grade: Our favorite subject is Science because we do a lot of fun things.

What makes you smile when you think about Sahag-Mesrob?
David from KG: Our classroom makes me smile!
Karina from KG: Our classroom’s starbox makes me smile!
Johnny from KG: Miss Tamar makes me smile!
Daniella & Bella from 1st grade: When we think about Sahag-Mesrob, Mrs. Maral makes us smile!

What was your favorite thing you did on the first day of school?
Emily from KG: I made a fish!

Alex B. from KG: I made a purple fish!
Mahrie & Nareh from 1st grade: Our favorite thing on the first day of school was when we got one “Mrs. Maral” buck!

Why do you think the lion is our school’s animal?
Aleena from KG: It is our animal because it is big.
Brianna from KG: It is our animal because it roars!
Daniella & Bella from 1st grade: It is our school’s animal because it is the king of the jungle.

What is your favorite thing you like to do with your friends at school?
Elizabeth from KG: Playing hide and seek.
Sako from KG: Playing at the playground.
Rocco and Vicken from 1st grade: Our favorite thing we do at school with our friends is to play tag.

If you could pick different colors for our school, what would they be?
Micheal from KG: Blue and red because I like them.
Tiana from KG: Yellow and orange because they are my favorite colors.
Mahrie and Nareh from 1st grade:” We would pick the colors red, orange and blue because it is an Armenian school.

What was your favorite story you heard in chapel?
What is your favorite song we have sung?
Andre from KG: Ayp oo pen and Hye em yes are my favorite songs.

Aram and Natalia from 1st grade: Our favorite story was the one about the terrible storm. Our favorite song is “Jesus is Wonderful.”

What is your favorite lunch you have had at school? Why did you like it?
Patil from KG: Mac and Cheese because it’s good.
Lily from KG: Pizza because it’s so good!
Roubeena and Aren from 1st grade: Our favorite lunch is chicken nuggets because they are very yummy.

What part of the school is your favorite?
Isabelle from KG: My favorite part is having a treasure box in our class.
Emma from KG: Doing homework is my favorite part.
Njteh and Claudine from 1st grade: Our favorite part of the school is the lunch area because we love to eat.

What part of your classroom is your favorite?
Victoria from KG: Our play dough is my favorite.
Nicolas from KG: Our fall tree is my favorite.
Rocco & Vicken from 1st grade: Our favorite part of our classroom is the library because that’s where we learn.
Do you like fall? We do! Fall comes between September 21 and December 21. Another word for fall is autumn. Our class likes the cool weather and the breezy wind in the fall. We like to watch the leaves fall from the trees too. In the fall kids and adults can play football. Some of us like fall because it is our birthday in the fall. We will turn seven! If you like fall, then you know that Harvest Day comes in October. It will be on Wednesday, October 31. Everybody wears different costumes. Maybe they will choose the best costume. The boys will wear superheroes and the girls will wear princesses. One girl in our class will even have a bird costume! Our teacher doesn't know what she will dress up as. At Harvest Fair everyone likes to play games. You need tickets to play. Our favorite games are the moon jump and the goldfish game. Maybe they will have a pie throwing game too! We want to remind you that Thanksgiving and Veterans Day are important days in the fall too. This year there is even Election Day on November 6. Fall is so busy. Fall is very fun. We love fall!

Written on October 17, 2012
by 2nd Grade

How many squares can you see?

• Two fathers and two sons sat down to eat eggs for breakfast. They ate exactly three eggs, each person had an egg. The riddle is for you to explain how?

• A merchant can place 8 large boxes or 10 small boxes into a carton for shipping. In one shipment, he sent a total of 96 boxes. If there are more large boxes than small boxes, how many cartons did he ship?

• Replace the ? with a math symbol so the problem holds true.

• You have two U.S. coins that add up to 35 cents, and one of them is not a quarter. What two types of coins do you have?
Սպաթերան

Մուլտիմեդիայի մեջ տպված հատված

Սաիսուայի արձանագրություն

Առաջնորդ Ջերմանահ Բարել

Առաջնորդ Բոդա Մարկուզ

Առաջնորդ Պազարյան

Առաջնորդ Լեա-Մարի Միլեռ

Առաջնորդ Սարմեթ Յագոսյան

Առաջնորդ Միրիամ Ազար

Սփյուռքային Սուդ

Սփյուռքային սուդի հետևանք ու գրականացում պատմություն

Սփյուռքային սուդ տվյալների մեջ գտնվող հատված

Սփյուռքային սուդ կանոններ և դատարանի պատմություն

Սփյուռքային սուդ այլ գրականացում

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Առաջնորդ Էդրուա Մարկուզ

Առաջնորդ Լինդոր Սարսուրյան

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Առաջնորդ Միրիամ Ազար
PROS:
Over the years, the have been many arguments about whether students should wear uniforms to school or if they should be allowed to dress freely. In our opinion, students should wear uniforms when going to school. There are many reasons why it is beneficial for students to wear uniforms. First, wearing uniforms eliminates competition between students. For example, if we dressed freely, there would be a lot of competition over which student has the more expensive or fashionable clothing. This would cause some kids to feel left out. Secondly, wearing uniforms to school helps others identify which school you are from, which gives us a sense of school spirit. Lastly, wearing uniforms to school makes it easier to get dressed in the morning, because we don't have to think about what clothing to wear that day. For these reasons, we feel that students should wear uniforms to school.

CONS:
There have been many arguments over the years about whether children should wear uniforms to school. In our opinion, uniforms are an old-fashioned idea and should not be worn in school. First of all, wearing uniforms takes away our individuality. We should be able to wear whatever we want to express ourselves. In addition, our uniforms are uncomfortable and itchy. We should be able to wear more comfortable clothes. Lastly, uniforms have to be replaced when dirty or torn and are boring to wear. Therefore, uniforms are a terrible idea. We should be able to dress in whatever clothing we want. I'm sure everyone would agree, free dress day is the way to be!

Written by 4th Grade
Many of our fantastic 8th graders participated in the JPL, "Fall Classic" Robotics Tournament October 27th, 2012 at John Burroughs High School. Ours were the only Jr. high school students to take part in the competition. The students have been investing hours of time after school to get their robot ready. We are fortunate to have JPL in our backyard, so to speak. JPL/NASA scientists and engineers head the competition and are working closely to train our young, eager scientists in the fields of design, engineering, programming, and mechanics. We are extremely proud of the zeal our students are showing!! Huge THANK YOU's also, to the parents of these participating students for encouraging and empowering our students to think outside of the box!! GO LIONS!

by Mrs. Lena Agulian
ALTADENA: CELEBRATING 125 YEARS!

This is Sahag Mesrob's fifth grade class congratulating Altadena for its 125th anniversary.

Altadena's name comes from the Spanish “Alta” meaning “upper” and “dena” came from Pasadena. A plot map was developed by John Woodbury and the Pasadena Improvement Company in 1887. Our school has been in its exact spot for many years. The significance of Altadena's historical and cultural sights has impacted Sahag Mesrob. We appreciate all the hard work that kept Altadena's population growing. Altadena was famous for its train station which carried people up the top of what became Lake Avenue. Mount Wilson offered a spectacular view of the Los Angeles Basin to those who packed up the trail.

Christmas Tree Lane remains its most famous destination. Our school is built in the most historical neighborhood of Altadena.

The Woodbury brothers acquired more than nine hundred acres of the wasteland of the north end of Rancho San Pasqual. An adjoining lot was set aside for his brother James who was the head of the First National Bank in Marshalltown, Iowa. At the time John Woodbury leased a nearby home owned by Col. Jabez Banbury, when he arrived in Pasadena with his family in 1883.

Lillah, Mabel and Clark, their oldest children attended Washington School on Raymond Avenue in North Pasadena. The Woodbury subdivision was laid out by the Pasadena Improved Company two years later. It extended from Lake Avenue to the Arroyo Seco. John Woodbury served as President of the two firms, which were organized in February of 1887. The other officers were E.C. Webster, vice president, R.M. Burlong, secretary; and P.M. Green, treasurer. The land included Col. Banbury property, the California Olive Company Groves, and Peter Garo’s farm. Most of it belonged to the Woodbury brothers, who also owned the water rights in Rubio Canyon. They acquired a half interest in the Millard Canyon water sources for homes in the western portion.

Altadena was chosen as the name for the affluent community envisioned by John Woodbury. His dreams began to materialize when Andrew McNally, George Green and Bayard Smith built lavish homes on Mariposa Street in 1887. It was George Green's daughter, who along with her husband built the house, which eventually became Sahag Mesrob. A nearby railroad was completed a short time after between Pasadena and the Lake Avenue terminal. However, the housing market collapsed and the subdivision was sold and resold to speculators.

Here comes Christmas Tree Lane. The trees that line Christmas Tree Lane are called Deodars. Deodars were found in Italy in 1883 and brought to Southern California by John Woodbury. He proclaimed them the most beautiful tree he had ever seen. Woodbury returned with seeds and with assurance from a friend of his at the Department of Agriculture that the trees would do well in California; he planted the trees in Altadena. He moved the trees to Santa Rosa Lane which became a beautiful line of deodars.

Christmas Tree Lane was first lit with lights in 1920.

Mount Lowe was a very important place to the history of Altadena. A railroad was built which carried passengers up Lake Avenue. Then a small tram carried people to a hotel on Mount Lowe. The hotel was founded by the Woodbury brothers. At one point, the debt of $600,000 came due in 1896. Then it was sold to Valentine Peyton for $175,000 in 1900. Eventually it was abandoned and vandalized. The hotel was destroyed in 1962 in a planned explosion. The foundation and gears from the tram are still there as a monument to the history of the Mount Lowe Railway.

Today, Altadena is a culturally diverse community. Its official tree is the Deodar Cedar and the official flower is the Golden Poppy. Altadena is part of the County of Los Angeles and is run by the County Board of Supervisors. The Altadena Town Council meets monthly at the Altadena Community Center to provide a forum for residents and government officials.

Written by 5th Grade
Have people ever wondered what is in their food? Have people thought of why a conventional apple and a genetically modified apple are different? Most individuals still think that the greens they eat are fresh. These individuals don’t know what they eat, because the government won’t tell them. Individuals say that 80% of the people in the world don’t know what they’re putting in their bodies. People can’t even understand the ingredients on food packages anymore, because the companies don’t want them to know. Most people just go to the store and buy what’s on sale. People are capable of understanding what’s written in the back of the food packages. However, companies hire the best lawyers to write the ingredients on the back of the food packages so people won’t understand the written ingredients.

The government does not want people to know what is in their food. There are products with bleached sugar and flour, and high fructose corn syrup. People should avoid these types of foods because these foods are the causes of many diseases. Most people do not have the time to feed their family healthy foods due to the fast paced lifestyles. People have let the government manipulate their food. The government has found ways to make foods unnaturally last longer, and use shortcuts to produce bigger pieces of protein. They have done this by feeding corn to animals, adding chemicals to the foods they eat, and raising animals unnaturally and with hormones. By doing this the people have gone against what God had intended for the earth. God had wanted mankind to live peacefully and naturally, but today we live in a society filled with unhealthy foods that are unnatural. The problem is that the Food Drug Administration (FDA) is allowing farms and factories to do so, but people are missing the question here, what can the FDA do about this situation?

Consumers play a large role in genetically modified foods. People are fooled by the foods they eat today. They are the ones who purchase the foods and eat them. These foods that we eat are the reasons that cause diseases and sicknesses. To cure these problems, we as consumers, have the economic power to put a stop to these food companies. Another group that is involved are the fast food restaurants. People who previously worked in the food industry should not be employed with the government, because in a way, those people can be promoting the businesses they worked for. The government can be really careless when it comes to what we eat. The reason for this is because they want to make money. Also, agricultural corporations are involved in genetically modified foods. For example, the Food Drug Administration (FDA) says that GMO’s should not be labeled. These companies fund the vast majority of research in genetically modified foods. Some brands of foods such as Tyson are involved in genetically modified foods. Tyson, on a regular basis, treats their birds with antibiotics. We do not know how the majority of the foods that we consume are treated. One other group involved in genetically modified foods is the scientists. The scientists that have started research on genetically modified foods have started talking to the public. The farmers are also involved in genetically modified foods. Non-government Organizations who perform issue awareness is another player in the food business. We should all question whatever we see or hear, consumers are being manipulated by super wealthy corporations who employ the best lawyers.

This affects the society because a lot of people are getting sick and sometimes even dying from all these diseases. People think “oh, this is an apple it’s healthy”, not anymore. If you get an apple form a tree and compare it to the apple that you bought from the store the apple from the tree will last only 2 days and the store bought apple will last 2 weeks. The government is treating people like trash and they only care about our money. Even farmers don’t care
about our health. They only care about getting money from the food companies. Young children are getting sick and dying from diseases like E coli. Here are some G.M.F’s: tomatoes, potatoes, bananas, apples, and pineapples. Food companies, such as: McDonalds, Tyson, Burger King, are feeding us these disgusting rubbish and hurting our community. There are many things people can do to resolve the issue. For example people can stop buying unhealthy foods and start buying organic foods. They can look at the ingredients before buying the foods, and they can raise their own animals. People should stop buying unhealthy foods because many people do not know what is in their food. People should buy organic foods because they are healthier. Also, they can look at the ingredients because people need to know what is in the food they are eating. By look at the ingredients people can know which food is healthy. The companies that make the food should put better ingredients in the food. Many people may want to make their own food. By making your own food it is healthier and you know what is in the food. People can also boycott store products. By boycotting people can save money and time.

For the past fifty years kids have been eating junk food such as hamburgers, pizzas and French fries that are all from fast food restaurants. Parents may think, “Fast food isn’t that bad for my child.” What everyone might not know is that everyday, children’s lives are at risk from eating fast foods. It affects them because of what the farmers has done to our meats, lunches, and vegetables. The farmers started feeding our cows genetically modified corn, which increased the size of animals and their meat. This is because people want to eat so much meat; the farmers have no choice but to grow the animals in an unhealthy way.

The fattening of their meat are all from the corn that they eat, and all that corn is causing a bacteria called Ecoli. Since the farmers don’t want the Ecoli to spread, they spray the meat in ammonia. Ecoli can affect our children in a very bad way causing the following: Diabetes, Heart disease, Cancer, and Obesity.

In my opinion, instead of factory made foods, we should have what Christians believe, God made foods. That means foods without chemicals or harming diseases, for our children’s lives. Now that we know what to do which is thinking twice about our children’s health and checking the food tags, we should be able to stop harming our kids in this world.

There was a time when the government was concerned for the health of their citizens. The FDA, “Food Drug Administration,” should inspect all slaughter houses in the United States of America. The government does a couple of things to help children stay healthy. First lady, Michelle Obama is running a program called, “Let’s Move.” Barrack Obama is giving money to the “Healthy Hunger -Free Kids,” act. He is giving them $10 billion dollars to make school meals more nutritional. Thirty percent of public high schools are feeding their students branded fast foods. Fast foods are bad for you. For example, the cow’s meat isn’t natural because the cow is eating corn instead of eating grass. A cow’s body is made to eat grass but the farmers are feeding them corn. Something that’s worse than corn is genetically modified corn. Genetically modified corn is hard for the cows to digest. The farmers can stop making the cows eat corn and start feeding them grass. The farmers have to feed them healthy grass instead of grass that has been sprayed by Ecoli. Anyways, since there’s voting going on right now, not only do you vote for a new president, you also vote about propositions. The proposition that is based on food is proposition 37. Proposition 37 is about labeling GMOs. GMO stands for,” Genetically Modified Organisms.” A YES vote on 37 might be one way in which the public can impact the wealthy food corporations as well as the government.
The 10 propositions that will be voted on in the following 2012 November elections will have a direct impact on all people living in California. We feel it our civic duty to inform friends and loved ones from our Sahag Mesrob family about the proposed ballot propositions. Keep in mind that much of what people view on TV and billboards and hear on the radio is so twisted and distorted it often leaves people unsure. The journalist writing for the Lion’s Roar felt it pertinent to inform as well as express our opinions. K-8th grade students are the very journalist that will one day change the world for the better. With God’s guidance, a sharpened pencil and papyrus, we are actively writing to “social action”, to inform our readers about our experiences as well as upcoming events.

- Mr Jack Aghoian

Proposition 30
Governor Jerry Brown is leading the charge for Proposition 30. He plans on increasing income tax on the upper class for seven years, and four years on the middle class. People who make $250,000 or more a year would pay more on income taxes, as compared to the people that make less than $250,000. He is planning on increasing our income taxes from 7.25% to 7.5%.

Voting yes on proposition 30 means people in the upper class would be paying more income taxes, so the money could help pay for educational funds and public programs.

Pros: This proposition would help the middle class, because they would be paying fewer taxes compared to the upper class. Public programs, schools, community colleges, and fire departments’ funds would increase.

Cons: Income taxes would increase by a quarter percent, and it would be difficult for those who have financial difficulties.

Voting no on proposition 30 means the state wouldn’t increase personal income taxes, and public programs could possibly be shut down because of no money to support it.

Pros: People would not have to pay a quarter percent more on income taxes.

Cons: The upper class wouldn’t pay more taxes and help businesses. Teachers and workers could possibly be laid off, because public programs would suffer from budget problems and could be shut down.

8th Grade Sahag Mesrob vote:
YES - 28 students
NO - 4 students

By: Arlene Yeghiayan and Elias Atme

Proposition 31
Proposition 31 will give the Governor the ability to declare a state of emergency if the California congress cannot pass a fiscal budget. Proposition 31 is a proposition that if passed it will increase the Governor’s power in making decisions. If passed, Proposition 31 will give local governments more control in how they plan public services. It will prevent the state from passing budgets in private. Proposition 31 will also limit the law makers ability to pass bills that would increase spending by more than 25 million dollars in a year.

It will allow the Governor to decrease spending if there is a state emergency. If this law is passed, budgets would be planned for two years instead of one. People who are behind this proposition are Congress, Nicholas Berggruen Institute, California Forward, Lenny Madonca, Barclay Simpson, and Thomas McKernan. Politicians spend more money than the government has. So no longer will politicians be able to recruit money from special interest groups.

continues on page 11...
Proposition 31 doesn’t raise taxes; instead, it will help savings by giving tax dollars to cities and counties.

Major opponents who are against proposition 31 are California Labor Federation, and California’s for Clean Energy and Jobs. If proposition 31 is not approved, it will take 200 million dollars from education to pay for experimental county programs. Proposition 31 doesn’t allow the state from decreasing taxes unless it raises other taxes or cut programs. Some arguments being made for proposition 31 are that it will lessen the state to borrow and spend money. It will also create a two year state budget that will prevent politicians from passing short term budget laws. Some ideas made against proposition 31 is that it will threaten to hurt air and water, public health, and public safety by allowing counties to change critical state laws. It will also lead to lawsuits and confusion.

8th Grade Sahag Mesrob vote:  
YES - 5 students  
NO - 15 students  
By: Shant Terzian and Johnpaul Agulian

**Proposition 32**
Prop 32 prohibits unions from using payroll-deducted funds for political purposes. It also prohibits government contractor contributions to elected officers or their committees.

**Impact:** Increased costs to state and local government, reaching $1 million annually, to enforce the measure’s requirements.

A **yes** vote on prop 32 will not allow unions to use the money that the employees give willingly for advertisement and representation.

A **no** vote on prop 32 will allow unions to continue to use the money that the employees give willingly for representation and advertisements.

8th Grade Sahag Mesrob vote:  
YES - 2 students  
NO - 24 students  
By: Tania Baghdassarian and Ari Ekmekjian

**Proposition 33**
Prop 33 changes current law to allow insurance companies to set prices based on whether the driver previously had auto insurance with any insurance company. It also allows a partial discount for drivers with some previous coverage. Lastly, it increases the cost for drivers without history of continuous coverage.

**If you vote yes:** you would like to allow auto insurance companies to apply a “continuous coverage” discount for new customers who had previously been insured elsewhere. It would also increase rates for those drivers who have no insurance history.

**Voting no:** you want to keep the current rule prohibiting such discounts.

**Who/what it would affect:** if the driver switches insurance providers, they can’t take their current continuous coverage discount with them. For those who want to switch, this measure would offer that benefit. However, it will not help most people who have had a long break in coverage.

The insurance companies are the ones who have drafted this legislation so obviously this proposition was made to benefit them.

8th Grade Sahag Mesrob vote:  
YES - 30 students  
NO - 0 students  
By: Cynthia Khatchikian and Sosse Krikorian

**Proposition 34**
Death Row Inmates, “Proposition 34”. This proposition is an initiative statute, meaning it was thought out by someone in the public, in this case, Jeanne Woodford, the former warden of San Quentin in prison in Northern California. The reason behind Proposition 34 is to repeal the Death Penalty in California. That means that no prisoner should be executed as a penalty for crime.

If the public votes yes, the Death Penalty will no longer remain. If the proposition passes, a one time million dollar fund will be given to help law enforcement agencies to solve more rape and homicide cases. This fund is coming from savings of taking the death penalty away. This fund will be continues on page 12...
effective the day after the elections.

If Proposition 34 does not pass, death penalty will still remain and option of punishment for crime.

Although Christian’s believe that no one should be put to death, but to what extent?

8th Grade Sahag Mesrob Armenian Christian
YES - 7 students
NO - 22 students
By: Serena Pelenghian and Kareen Harboyan

Proposition 35

Human trafficking is defined in two forms: fraud is used to obtain labor, and to influence people into commercial sex acts. This is modern day slavery. The United Nations estimates that 2.5 million people are trafficked annually.

Proposition 35 would increase fines and prison terms. The raise of prison years for labor trafficking would be from five to twelve years. The raise of prison years for sex trafficking for adults would be five to twenty years, and for children eight to life. The maximum fines would rise from 100,000 to 1,500,000 dollars. This proposition would clarify the definition of sex trafficking. Imprisoned sexual traffickers would be required to register as sex offenders. All registered sex offenders would have to report detailed information about their internet access: their servers, screen names, user identities, and more.

A yes vote would mean: longer prison sentences and longer fines for committing human trafficking crimes. A no vote would mean: existing criminal penalties for human trafficking would stay in effect.

8th Grade Sahag Mesrob Armenian Christian
YES - 31 students
NO - 0 students
By: Hrag Kurdoghlian

Proposition 36

Voting yes on Proposition 36 means that people in prison who have committed non-violent crimes get a second chance. It may save tax payers 70 million dollars or more. A con about voting yes is that if this person is in jail is dangerous, he will affect others when he is released. A no vote will continue the three strikes law and keep some prisoners with non-violent crimes in jail for life. That means that we pay more taxes to keep those prisoners in jail. Some of the prisoners are normal people who have got caught doing drugs three times and they will be put in jail for life.

8th Grade Sahag Mesrob Armenian Christian
YES - 31 students
NO - 0 students
By: Pauline Stepanyan

Proposition 37

Proposition 37, is a mandatory labeling of genetically modified foods. This costs 5.2 billion dollars a year. Many markets name their genetically modified foods as “natural.”

Voting yes means that genetically modified foods should be specifically labeled as genetically made. It also means that the citizens of California have the right to know what is in their foods. It’s also good if you label genetically modified foods to be precautionary at unknown risks. Voting no means that genetically modified foods should not have specific labeling. No also means to stop the costly food labeling schemes.

8th Grade Sahag Mesrob Armenian Christian
YES - 29 students
NO - 0 students
By: Tamar Akhian

Proposition 38

Proposition 38 increases state income tax rates for most Californians, concluding in increased earnings to the state of about 10 billion dollars a year. A YES vote on this proposition increases state income tax rates for 12 years. The additional earnings would be used for schools, child care, preschool, and state debt. A NO vote on this proposition keeps state personal income tax rates at their current levels and money would not be available for schools, child care, preschool, and state debt payments.

There is a battle between two propositions continues on page 13...
trying to accomplish similar goals. Both 38 and 30 are attempting to allocate money to help education. If both pass one will be eliminated. Proposition 30 provides specific details where the money will come from, from those who earn $250,000 or more and raising the current sales tax to .25 cents more. Proposition 38 provides no information where the money is coming from.

8th Grade Sahag Mesrob Armenian Christian
YES - 0 students
NO - 16 students
By Natalie Majarian

**Proposition 39**

Businesses that have locations in different states would have to pay their income tax based on what portion of their sales are in California. A company that sells one-quarter of its amount here would pay income tax on one-quarter of total profit. Companies would no longer have a reason to keep their California staff small.

Prop 39 will provide: Energy efficient equipment and put in different energy projects in public buildings, such as solar panels on a school roof. Financial and technical assistance for the retrofits; Job training in clean energy and energy efficiency for army veterans and disadvantaged youth.

Pros: Prop 39 gives California businesses a better opportunity to compete with out of state companies; Puts much-needed profit into California's general fund, and invests in our clean energy future.

Cons: Lowers incentives of corporate loans in California

8th Grade Sahag Mesrob Armenian Christian
YES - 24 students
NO - 3 students
By Grace Ounjian

**Proposition 40**

Proposition 40 is a referendum on the state redistricting. Prop 40 is the ballot for November six as a veto referendum. Prop 40 is trying to cancel the California State Senate redistricting Commission. California Citizens Redistricting Commission is a State agency made by the passage of California proposition 11 in 2008, it was also known as a voter’s first act. Sponsors and opponents of prop 40 announced that on July 12 they would stop campaigning the referendum, but prop 40 would stay on the ballot.

If people vote “YES” and approve the state Senate district maps, there would be no permanent effect on the state or local government.

If people vote “NO” and reject the state senate district maps the state would make people pay $500,000 to change the senate district. Counties would have to pay $500,000 statewide to make new district maps and similar supplies for the new district.

Pros: supporters of prop 40 think that voting “YES” would protect the state senate maps. People say that the existing redistricting plan has made a fair redistricting process with no legislator input.

Cons: there us not a serious argument about prop 40. However, Supreme Court said that the state senate redistricting maps need to stay the way they were after prop 11 in 2008. After this announcement, opponents of prop 40 decided that they would stop campaigning against the referendum.

8th Grade Sahag Mesrob Armenian Christian
YES - 25 students
NO - 0 students
By: Alissa Kurdoghlian

8B Students
The following are the parties and the candidates running for President of the United States of America. Although your vote for president is decided by the Electoral Votes, the following information will help you better understand the parties involved, the candidates, and the platform of the candidates.

The Libertarian Party

The Libertarian party is one of the 5 main parties of the United States. It stands for freedom for all and believes that many freedoms are being taken away from citizens. They will try to get citizens their freedoms back and stop more freedoms from being taken away. The Libertarian Party wants to restore equality in the United States. “As Libertarians, we seek a world of liberty; a world in which no individual has ultimate power over lives and no one is forced to sacrifice his or her values for the benefit of others.”

Gary Johnson is the nominated candidate for the Libertarian Party. He is the former governor of New Mexico. He has done many things like cutting taxes 14 times while never raising them, and created over 20,000 new jobs. He left the state of New Mexico with more money in their treasury.

The Libertarians have well rounded ideas of how we as Americans, should live. Their platforms fall under personal, economic, and national liberty. Some of these platforms include communication, privacy, environment, and education. They believe in freedom of speech, press, and religion, and they support the fourth amendment (the requirement of a search warrant). They are also against the Patriot Act which gives the government the right to spy on who they believe to be a threat. They also believe that parents should make the decision whether to send their child to a public school, private school, or have them home schooled. These are just a few of their ideas of change.

By: Hovig Tabakian, Nairy Kenderian, and Bryan Ishkhanian

The Green Party

The Green Party is a political party that focuses on the environment, which was founded in 1991. The green party addresses environmental issues, such as global warming and animal extinction. It also supports non-violence, grassroots democracy, and social justice.

Dr. Jill E. Stein is a candidate for the 2012 Presidential Election. She graduated from Harvard College and became a physician. Dr. Stein represents the Green Party of the United States of America. She was born in Chicago, Illinois, and dedicates her life and her campaign in bringing peace to the world, and currently resides in Lexington, Massachusetts. Jill doesn’t have a campaign like all the other candidates, but she tries hard in bringing non-violence to the world.

The Platform of the Green Party is about being eco-friendly. The Green movement’s obligation cuts abuse of natural resources, such as coal, fossil fuels, rocks, and mineral resources. The Green Party has a list of problems they would like to change in the environment. For example, they would like to cut pollution rates in America.

The Green Party is a political party that focuses on bringing happiness, joy, and environmental innovations to America. They plan to increase the sustainability of the United States. Without the innovations, such as greenhouses and eco-friendly automobiles the Green party has provided to America, the environment would not be at its growing state today.

By: Alexandria Postajian, Daniel Mouradian, and David Kazarian

continues on page 15...
Candidate for the Constitution Party: An American politician named Virgil Goode is the Candidate for the Constitution Party. He entered politics after graduating law school and one of his major campaign focuses was advocacy for the Equal Rights Amendment. He became famous for his support for the tobacco industry. He was a graduate of the University of Richmond on University of Virginia School of Law. He served in Virginia legislature form 1973-1997. During the year 2002, he joined the Republican Party and was re-elected 3 times. Virgil served as a Republican member of the United States House of Representatives from 1997 to 2009. He’s a six-term U.S congressman for Virginia. He’s now a candidate for president for the Constitution party. He was known in Congress as an immigration hard-liner. His plan put a moratorium on immigration until the unemployment rate falls. Virgil Goode represents the 5th congressional district of Virginia, joined the Constitution Party and is the party’s 2012 nominee.

Platform: The Constitution Party supports legislature to stop the flow of drugs from foreign sources. Support parents to pick what they think is the best for their children including home, private, and religious. Reject the argument of the perceived threat of man-made global warming that has been proven wrong by many scientists. Oppose legal recognition of homosexual unions and adoption of children by homosexual singles or couples. They are opposed to entangling alliances like treaties or any other kind of commitment. Also, they are opposed to government sponsorship, involvement, or promotion of gambling. Upholds the right of citizens to keep and bear arms. Oppose extension of amnesty to illegal aliens and the provision of welfare subsidies and other taxpayer-supported benefits to illegal aliens.

By: Nerses Kazarian and Elizabeth Stepanian

The Democratic Party

The Democratic Party’s mission statement is to year after year, to evolve, innovate, and overcome major challenges of our time. It is to renew the promise to provide citizens with opportunities for a better life. The Democratic Party’s mission is to make that statement true.

Barrack Obama is running for president as a Democrat. He was born in Honolulu, Hawaii on August 4, 1961, he went to Harvard Law School also studied in Chicago. He lived in Indonesia for four years of his life with his mother.

The platform of the Democratic Party is to cut taxes on the middle-class and raise taxes on individuals who make 250,000 a year. The party supports gay marriage only if church agrees, and religion says so. The Democratic Party is known to support the immigration law, as long as one does not commit a federal offense. Medicare is one of the biggest problems in the United States, the Democratic party is working to improve Medicare by adding more benefits like fighting fraud and better care for patients. They also pledge to continue with building the new health care law that is accessible, affordable, and gives high-quality care. Finally the Democratic platform states that the war in Iraq is over and the Al-Qaeda is on the path of downfall after killing the major leader Osama Bin Laden. Democrats also promise to spend money wisely on national defense.

By: Hakop Feroyan, Nathalie Kouladjian, and Michael Berian

continues on page 16...
The Republican Party

The Republican Party also known as “G.O.P”, for Grand Old Party, believes that citizens make the best decisions, not the government. The mission of the Republican Party is to keep things in an old-fashioned manner. They also try to keep the government’s power as small as possible.

Mitt Romney is the representative for the Republican Party. He is running against the president Barak Obama and many other candidates. Mitt Romney was a Mormon missionary, but now is a recognized leader of his church. He was the 70th governor of Massachusetts. He graduated from Harvard. He mastered in business. He has tried to get rid of three billion deficits by raising taxes and fees on corporations and by closing illegal loopholes. He is trying to be strict on China by not allowing funding to Chinese corporations such as the “Public Broadcasting Station” has tried to (also known as PBS.) Mitt Romney has tried to run for running for president but lost to John McCain.

Some of the important platforms the Republican Party has announced are Environment, Education, Capital Punishment, and Job Creation. For education this party believes that children require education with high standards, in which students can reach their maximum potential. As for job creation they plan to make the tax system simplified. Capital Punishment is also known as the death penalty. The Republican Party is against the death penalty, so instead of death the plan on sentencing people to life in prison with no possibilities of being released.

By: Sophia Sakayan, Meghree Hzor, and Jonathon Minassian

8B Students
Oh by gosh by golly, is it really time for mistletoe and holly?

Yes, it's hard to believe that it is almost that time of year again, and to kick off the holiday season the SMACS Athletic Department is conducting its very first Christmas Tree Fundraiser with proceeds to benefit SMACS Athletic Department.

It is the goal of SMACS Athletics to provide a positive experience for student athletes, their families, and the community.

The SMACS Athletic Department dedicates itself to hard work to improve students' athletic skills and conditioning while maintaining performance in the classroom.

While we appreciate all the fantastic support given to our athletic teams by students, parents, faculty, alumni and the entire community, there are only so many tickets that we can sell and only so many sodas we can pour. We need to do more and that's why this fundraising event is very important to the survival of the athletic program.

I have been the phys-ed teacher for six years now at SMACS and my 8th graders are by far the most enjoyable group of kids I have ever had the privilege to teach. I have been with them since they first stepped through our school doors and have watched them develop into fine boys and girls. Their commitment to athletics has been an inspiration to my entire staff and myself. They should know that all their hard work and determination will prove to be a positive experience in their lives for years to come. I respect and admire every single one of them.

I tell you this because the SMACS Athletic Department is an essential and integral part of every SMACS student's educational experience. It is proven that kids who play sports tend to perform better in school than kids that don't. Research has time and again demonstrated a strong and positive correlation between school sport participation and academic achievement.

This is why I am asking each and every one of you, parents and students, to please help support our athletic programs by purchasing your Christmas trees from us this year during our First Annual Christmas Tree Fundraiser. Your help today will ensure a bright future for our student athletes of tomorrow.

We've always known Christmas as the time for giving, a time of sharing. Our fundraiser is an opportunity for you to practice the essence of benevolence --- that, we should help not because somebody else is in need of help, but because it is our virtue to offer a hand. Benevolence should not cease when Christmas season ends --- rather, it should only be the beginning. By supporting this fundraiser you will be helping not only your student athlete succeed, but all student athletes for years to come. Imagine, the support you provide today will benefit some unknown SMACS child down the road who may very well become the next Ara Parseghian, the famed football coach of Notre Dame University.

If the past has taught us anything, it is that every action has a consequence. So make your actions count in this time of giving by buying your tree from us during our fundraiser and in return you will not only receive a beautiful tree, but you will be supporting our school, our athletic department and our children's athletic and academic future.

In the season of giving, we need you to participate and support our First Annual Christmas Tree Sale. We would like this to become a new holiday tradition here at SMACS that will bring us all
Dear Sahag Mesrob family, we are extremely happy to announce that now we have an AFTER-SCHOOL DANCE PROGRAM that teaches Armenian Traditional dances as well as many other types. We have fifteen excited students enrolled who have welcomed a significant part of our culture into their lives. During the school concerts and events, we hope to present to you what we build during the rehearsal times. If you are interested in helping our children become part of this amazing journey, and also gain confidence and stage presence, then please contact the dance instructor, Astghik Sinanyan, via email: astghiksinanyan@yahoo.com or phone number: (818) 414-3192.

Sincerely,
Jack Dabbaghian
Director of Athletics
www.xtremevelocitiesports.com
Christina Sahagian
Pastel Scarecrow, 2nd Grade

Isabelle Mazmanian
Cross Stained Glass, 5th Grade

Susan Kazarian
Henna Hand, 5th Grade

Harout Nazarian
Optical Art, 6th Grade

Tamara Hovsepian
Negative Space, 7th Grade

Sosse Krikorian
Typography Art, 8th Grade

Elias Atme
Typography Art, 8th Grade

Tania Baghdassarian
Typography Art, 8th Grade

SMACS Student Art Gallery
**STAR STUDENTS**

1st QUARTER

**Kindergarten**
Narod Ekmekjian
Tiana Tatikian
Victoria Postajian
Elizabeth Feroyan
Lily Balian
Brianna Balian

**1st Grade**
Claudine Azilazian
Rocco Boyadjian
Natalia Abadjian
Daniella Agojian
Vicken Kouladjian
Aram Kenderian
Brandon Indjeian

**2nd Grade**
Natel Titizian
Andrew Mazmanian
Angela Babayan
Nicole Jamgotchian
Christopher Atme
Angelina Khatchikian

**3A Grade**
Astghik Gasparyan
Shantel Injeian
Alex Vartanian
Angie Mitilian
Sarine Yeghiayan
Isabelle Jamgotchian

Sevag Sakayan
Alex Avanesyan
Christine Chiranian
Arin Boyadjian

**3B Grade**
Liana Chiranian
Kristina Agojian
Melana Gendal
Jeffrey Balian
Sonia Darakjian
Hagop Kiledjian
Shant Yepremian

**4th Grade**
Avo Akhian
Hrag Ekmekjian
Sevan Krikorian
David Chepeian
Tigran Arabyan
Heiko Abadjian
Alex Azilazian
Christian Lambadjian

**5th Grade**
Sabrina Pelenghian
Susan Kazarian
Mireille Minassian
Isabelle Mazmanian
Shoghik Gasparyan
Tatiana Hamparsomian
Lara Gendal

**6th Grade**
Raquel Indjian

**7th Grade**
Talia Kazandjian
Garbis Darakjian
Rita Tajerian
Tamara Hovsepian
Arthur Hakopian
Vazken Hzor

**8A Grade**
Daniel Mouradian
Elizabeth Stepanyan
Michael Berian
Nathalie Kouladjian
Jonathan Minassian
Katia Antablian
Nerses Kazarian
Sophia Sakayan

**8A Grade**
Serena Pelenghian
Hrag Kuroghlian
Cynthia Khatchikian
Shant Terzian

**Teacher’s Corner**

Name: Nicole Mazmanian
Occupation: Art Teacher and Mom
Place of Birth: Sydney, Australia.
Hobbies: Reading, crocheting, knitting, and just about any craft.
Dislikes: Bananas!!!!
Favorite Quote: When God leads you to the edge of the cliff, trust Him fully and let go, only 1 of 2 things will happen, either He’ll catch you when you fall, or He’ll teach you how to fly!

3 items I can’t live without: Coffee, my flat iron, and my computer.
Favorite Movies: The Bourne Series and The Avengers.
Favorite Books: Twilight Series, The Hunger Games, Before I Fall, Divergent.
Message to Students: Enjoy every minute of your childhood. You will never be able to re-live these moments again!