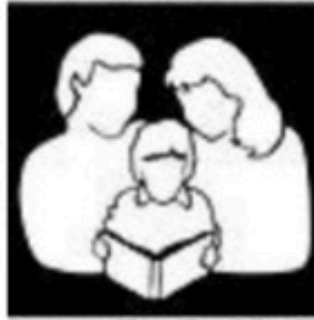


GLENDALE
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GCPEA Fall PEPOR 2020 -2021



PEPOR Editor: Arineh Ebrahimi

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Share my Gift

by Melineh Zohrabian -President of GCPEA 2019-2021

2020 was a challenging year for all in many aspects. One of the very unfortunate happenings was the Nagorna Karabakh war affecting the people of Artsakh and Armenia. GCPEA as a local community with high ethical fundamentals tried to provide all kinds of support to its community who are majority Armenians.

Our kind and knowledgeable instructors not only provided open discussions on how to control the stress and cope with the grief, they were also very supportive towards the families who had a direct family member displaced or fought during this war.

GCPEA with a joint effort with Focus on Children Now (FCN), a nonprofit organization supporting young kids, planned and organized a "Share my Gift" project. The kids of our program were asked to make an art project, or a seasonal greeting card mentioning their names and age along with a \$10 donations to be included in the envelop as a gift to the kids who lost their homes, or dads. GCPEA is so thankful receiving very vast support and participation in this project not only from the families of the program but from the instructors and even from GCC staff. Together we were able to collect \$1380 and 138 unique beautiful letters that were distributed by FCN among the displaced kids matching their age, hoping to enlighten their spirit just a little during this devastating time.

GCPEA will continue its effort helping and supporting its community and beyond. We are hopeful to have similar projects every year during the holiday season hoping to make a slight difference in our children's world.



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Mrs. Barbara's 2 & 3 year old Monday morning #3497

(By Shannon Freyer Moya-Smith)



We start our week off right with Teacher Barbara's 2 & 3 year old Monday morning class. She sings songs and plays music for everyone, and follows up with one of the kids' favorite activities- guessing which colorful house the mouse is hiding behind on the felt board!

Another fan favorite is when each child gets to add an animal to the Old McDonald song. Miss Barbara has shown the kids some fun activities this semester, like the Sink or Float Experiment, or cutting open an apple to see the hidden star inside! After a few more songs,

and rounds of ABCs and numbers, it's playtime for the kids while the parents tackle the weekly discussion post. Topics this Fall have included potty training, chores, consequence vs punishment, learning through play, and overall raising well-balanced and happy children. After our discussion time, the kids come back for some "Show and Tell" time, during which they show their favorite toy, or maybe a craft they have been working on. We finish up class with the "See You Later" song, and look forward to more fun next week.

Thank you, Mrs. Barbara!



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Mrs. Valerie's Wednesday 9am-12pm Multi-age class #3489

(By Shannon Freyer Moya-Smith)



Wednesday mornings are always filled with singing, dancing, and crafting thanks to Miss Valerie and her fun, multi-age class. Many of us students have been taking classes with Valerie for over a year, and although we long for our classes at Palmer Park, we still find joy in her zoom class. Our kids' favorite songs include The 5 Little Ducks, The Freeze Dance, The Dinosaur Stomp (complete with choreography), and of course, the Pirate Song! Valerie even dons her very own pirate hat to get into the spirit! After we sing songs, read books, and dance around our rooms, there is always an exciting new activity to try.

The experiment with baking soda, food coloring, and white vinegar was a big hit with all of the kids.

I'd venture to say that the mommies & daddies enjoy this class as much as the kids do! Our Parent Discussion time is filled with swapping stories, asking questions, and a lively open discussion. Sometimes our discussions turn into an unofficial support group (which I think we all need these days!).

While I know we all worry about our kids, especially during the past 8 months, at least we have Wednesday mornings with Valerie to look forward to- she is always there with a smile, and reassuring words. Thank you, Miss Valerie!



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Magic Show zoom event

(By Sarah Kang)

On Wednesday afternoon, November 18th, 33 families were delighted by the comedic magic of Mr. Funn through Zoom! Kids were smiling and giggling while Mr. Funn cracked jokes, did magic tricks, and interacted with kids and their parents. One child said, "it was so funny it took the words out of my mouth!" He encouraged kids to unmute and chime in, allowing the joyous noise of children's laughter to be heard in all our homes.

On top of families being able to experience a funny magician in the comfort of their home, they were able to see friends they may have not seen for a while due to them being in different classes this semester or graduating from the program. It was a good reunion!

Parent Monique Selvian insightfully shared, "This was very much needed in the middle of a pandemic." During this time of uncertainty and stress, it truly was.

Thank you to everyone who attended the show! We are glad you came!

