



On July 1, 2016, the Calouste Gulbenkian Hall of the Hayartun Center at the Armenian Diocese in Georgia hosted the morning performance of the "St. Movses Khorenatsi" Preschool graduating students of the 2015/2016 academic year. Senior group students dressed in the national Taraz costumes were proudly sitting in the center of the festively decorated hall, while their friends gathered around them to bid farewell.

The hall was crowded. In attendance were parents, teachers, former graduates, the clergy of the Armenian Diocese in Georgia, representatives of the RA Embassy in Georgia, guests from Armenia and faraway Novosibirsk.

The morning performance was opened with the Lord's Prayer and the blessings received from the Diocesan Primate. The Director of the Educational Department of the Armenian Diocese in Georgia and Preschool Director, Eugenia Markosyan, gave opening remarks. She referred to the work of the Primary School over the last 5 years, and mentioned that eleven out of sixteen kindergarten students would attend Armenian school. The Director of the Educational

Department praised the staff, supporters and particularly parents, who highlighting Armenian upbringing of their children, had contributed in the kindergarten activities.

Junior group students delivered farewell wishes, performed songs and dances, recited poems. Senior group students had truly grown up. Admired by the performances, full of beautiful recitation, joyful song and graceful dance, the guests saw the children's love for the Armenian Church, the mother language and the Motherland, developed through years of education and the hard work of Yevegenia Markosyan, preschool's teachers Oksana Sharoyan, Metaksia Ghazaryan, Maria Abulyan, Ivane Mkrtchyan.

The children received congratulations from Mrs. Eleonora Vardanyan, the wife of the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of RA to Georgia; the Armenian Embassy's cultural attaché Elina Mkrtchyan; the Director of the Hayartun Center, Levon Chidilyan.

The founders and benefactors of the Hayartun Center, father and son - Boris and Artur Saakov; a member of the Board of Trustees, Sos Sahakyan; Very Rev. Father Khoren Hovhannisyan, assistant to the Primate of the Armenian Diocese in Georgia; seeing good fruits of good work, praised with admiration the undertaken work, which promoted the child's Armenian upbringing and was the road to life with national mindset. On behalf of parents Anzhela Khachatryan thanked the Diocesan Primate, the Cultural Center's and the preschool's staff, for mothering and teaching their children with Armenian spirit; she appreciated the fact that the day at the preschool had begun with the prayer and blessings of the priests.

The Primate of the Armenian Diocese in Georgia, His Grace Bishop Vazgen Mirzakhanyan gave a concluding speech and thanked the management, teachers and parents. The Primate highlighted that to preserve the mother language and the Armenian spirit outside Armenia was a daily struggle, positive results of which were presented in Tbilisi, Batumi and other places inhabited by Armenians. The Diocesan Primate stressed that the preschool was not only an educational institution, but was a cultural environment, where together with basic knowledge, through songs, dances and different games, children learned about their own culture, learned their mother language.

At the conclusion of the event, the students received graduation certificates, kindergarten vignette and blessings from the Diocesan Primate.

