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April 6, 2019

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## **DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE**



Welcome to the First Steps annual celebration!

2018-2019 has been another adventurous year, and we have been busy improving our Honolulu campus. We feel so blessed with our new location, like a blank canvas one can unleash their imagination, and keep creating an amazing landscape where children can explore their environment while growing and expanding their knowledge.

During this year we added the new shade area to the Building 1 playground, installed the water play units at the play corner of Building 2, and art/chalkboards to the walls by Building 3, and planted apricot, peach, nectarine, and plum trees in the new purchased planters by the Building 3 play area. We also installed a bigger, structurally sound storage shed for the field that can withstand wind and rain, where we can store more toys and equipment.

Our future goals include additional play corners in our field - Imagination Playground Big Blue Block sets, a musical play corner, a splash pad water play corner, a climbing wall/rock - among other ideas. We also plan to add a water fountain for the kindergarten playground where kids can refill their water bottles. Your tireless support and contributions will make some of these concepts a reality during this next year.

A gracious thanks to our amazing teachers and staff for their commitment, loyalty, and dedication. I believe their positive energy, love for children, and allegiance to our Armenian culture kindles the eternal flame of learning and preserves the customs of our ancestors. We feel that an education at First Steps successfully balances the Armenian identity with American values. Our students grow with a strong sense of self identity, which allows them to grow into strong adults with strong ethical values shaped around cultural diversity.

I also would like to thank this year's Parent Support Committee for a wonderful job – you've made our comedy night a very special one! And your continuous devotion and support is immensely valued and treasured.

I hope First Steps will continue to provide a most creative and exciting environment for children for many years to come. I truly believe that we, our First Steps community, with our shared values and relationships, can help these young children reach their fullest potential and realize the hopes and dreams of our nation by maintaining our rich Armenian culture and heritage!

#### Katrine Ebrahimian





The PSC works hard throughout the year to organize several fundraising events to help the school make improvements and additions that benefit the children. A big thank you to all the PSC members. We would also like to extend a very special thank you to Vahram Hopalian for working alongside the committee in designing this years Ad book.



FIRST STEPS | APRIL 6, 2019



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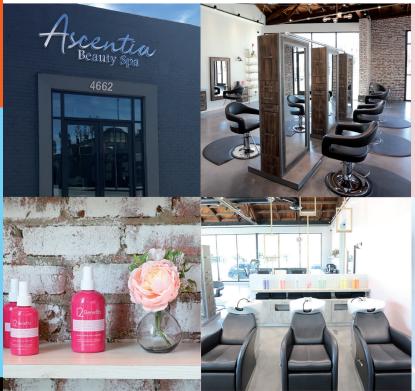
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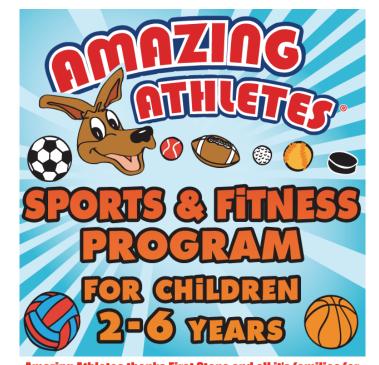


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The session will run from Monday, July 8th through Friday, August 2nd.

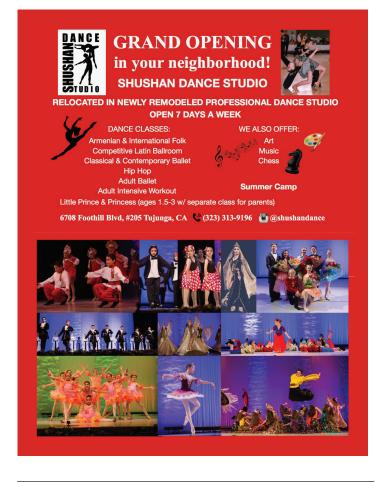
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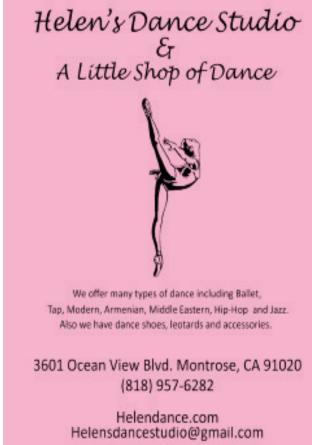
Hours: 7:00a.m. - 6:00 p.m.













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Dear First Steps,

Please accept our sincere appreciations for your unparalleled efforts to provide outstanding experience for our children. For the past 4 years, you have been the second home for our daughters, where they have been loved, embraced and nurtured. The good memories that you have created will always stay with us.

We would like to thank Or. Nvard, Or. Karoline, Or. Silva, Or. Anita, Or. Armineh A, Or. Varsik, Or. Herachik, Or. Armineh Ag, Or. Dzia, Or. Karineh, Or.Sarah M, and Or. Sara K. for your endless love, patience, and compassion. Special thanks to Or. Armineh G, Or. Nverd, Or. Elya, and Or. Lilit for filling our lives with music and creating unforgettable memories by preparing stunning performances throughout the year.

Or. Marya and Or. Celine, thank you so much for your hard work and dedication. Your kindness is appreciable. Our dearest Eve & Dalita: Now that you are ready to start the next chapter of your educational life, we want you to always remember and appreciate your incredible teachers who helped you to take your first steps...

Best wishes for a bright future! We love you.

With much love, Zareh and Teny Yeghiazarian



Dear First Steps Family,

Thank you for being a loving second home to all three of our boys, where they have been loved, hugged and nurtured throughout the years. This is our final year but the memories we've made will stay with us forever. Thank you to all of the teachers and staff who have touched our lives and made preschool such a wonderful experience for all of our kids, especially Alexander. We are forever grateful for you all!

With Love,

Raffi, Rose, Christian, Dominic and Alexander Safiani

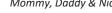
We want to express our deepest gratitude to all the teachers who have been with Lori and Luca from the beginning. You have continued to amaze us with your outstanding commitment and excellence. Each has enriched the lives of our kids and made an impact. All positive. All impressive. All heart, all the time. The place you have created is far more than a preschool. It is an epicenter of genuine joy, of important life lesson and love. Thank you for teaching Lori and Luca the importance of the Armenian culture and making their first set of friends. We could not have asked for more for our kids and we look forward to their future knowing what a beautiful foundation you have laid for them. With love and Thanks, Kazazian Family





Lori and Luca: Your curiosity is going to get you far. This is the beginning of anything you want. Always remember, you are **BRAVER** than you believe, STRONGER than you seem, SMARTER than you think and LOVED more than you know. We love you Forever & Always Mommy, Daddy & Nick



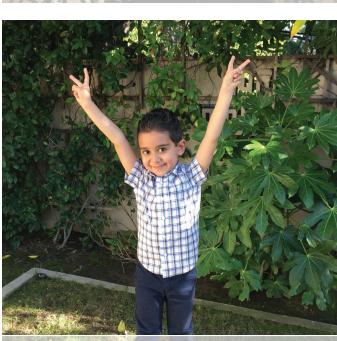






Dear Or. Arpik, Or. Karmen and Or. Lilit we are extremely grateful to have you as our Little Theo's early childhood education teacher. Thanks for your patience and for the quality care you provide each and every day. The hard work, love and the nurture you show to our child contribute significantly to his growth and curiosity for learning and comfort us beyond our expectations while we are away. We can not thank you enough. Stay Gold

**Melikian Family** 



Or. Armineh B., Or. Herachik & Or. Armine (music), We feel extremely grateful to have you as our son's early childhood education teachers. We would like to express our sincere gratitude to you for preparing Andrew for a lifetime of success.

We love you dearly and we are so proud of the smart, eager and loving boy you are turning into.

Love always,

Annie & Armond Avanes



and inspire you to achieve success.

Thank you to First Steps for all the support and love you have given Evan. You have prepared him with tools and knowledge that will promote his education in the years to come.

Love, Hairapetian Family



Thank you to the wonderful teachers and staff at First Steps for making Areni's first year of school memorable! We appreciate all the love and care you show to our kids every single day!

Love, **Aboulian Family** 



Dear Avery and Mia: We have watched in amazement and with pride as you have grown into the little ladies you are today. Thank you for the love, laughter, and joy you have brought into our lives. To all of the staff at First Steps, thank you for helping to bring out the best in our children.

With love and gratitude, Mommy and Daddy (Christine and Brian Hearn)



#### Our Dearest Natalie,

We are so proud of the strong, smart and sweet girl you are today. We can't wait to watch you grow and learn as you take your next steps in life.

Thank you Or. Carolin and Or. Armineh for guiding and inspiring our darling Natalie every day. She has had such a smooth transition to First Steps because of you. Your kindness and hard work is deeply appreciated.

Betcheri & Hopalian Family

#### Dear First Steps Family:

Thank you for equipping Liam for a better future. We would like to express ou sincerest gratitude in providing a safe and friendly atmosphere for him to grow

#### Dearest Liam:

Love you more each day I am forever proud of you Always know you can accomplish anything you set your mind to May all of your wishes come true

Arlen, Teny, Ryan, and Grandparents



Or. Anita, Armineh & Lilit, because of your love & guidance, Emily has blossomed right in front of our eyes! You three have left a priceless mark or our daughter and for that, we're foreve

Emily girl, you continue to impress us with your tenacity, wit and kindness! We love you!



#### Daniel jan,

Your smile fills our heart with so much love and gratitude.

Your curiosity opens doors to a whole new world for us.

Your sweet words make us wonder how so much kindness could exist in one little boy.

Your playfulness teaches us how to find happiness in everything.

We love you!

Yeganians Family



Or. Elizabeth and Or. Hasmik, Evan's daily smiles are a testament of your LOVE and instruction. His eyes beam with excitement when he talks about you! Thank you for helping spread his wings as he prepares for Kindergarten.

Evan, you are getting sweeter and brighter with every passing day and it's our favorite thing to witness! We love you!



Heartfelt thanks First Steps for the past 3 years. Notably Or. Arpine, Or. Alina, and Or. Zoya. We will forever cherish the wonderful journey and memories.

Dmitry, we're SO incredibly proud of you baby. Your passion to learn amazes us! Can't wait to see you in Kindergarten and beyond...YOU GOT THIS!

Love you. Mom & Dad







#### **ARTWORK**





Here at First Steps we love nothing more than being part of the daily life of young children. We believe nurturing children is the most important, rewarding, sometimes challenging job in the world!

It is a part of our core beliefs that children growing up closer to nature have a better chance to learn, to respect their environment, and every living thing in it. The many threats to our natural world remind us that we all have a role to play in rehabilitating our environment, no matter how big or small. With this in mind, First Steps decided to support the National Wildlife Federation with a symbolic "Species Adoption" program. This year, each age groups' art project is dedicated to an animal from the list of vulnerable to critically endangered species. Our students had the opportunity to learn about those animals and their habitats and learned about the adoption program.

Through your tax-deductible donations, in purchasing the beautiful art created by our students, you help First Steps play a role in the World Wildlife Federation's global efforts to protect wild animals and their habitats. In educating our students, we hope to raise the next generation of environmental stewards who will not only respect nature but fight to preserve it. First Steps has supported the World Wildlife Federation for many years. From supporting their wildlife adoption program since the 1990s, to integrating environmental curricula, to the certification of our Foothill campus garden as a Natural Wildlife Habitat in 2010, we are proud to incorporate environmental awareness throughout our curriculum. We've introduced the concepts of urban wildlife, backyard gardens, and other real-world examples of environmental stewardship to our students. Our First Steps family is passionate about everything we do, and every group is very proud of their art project on display here today. There was so much fun, and love put into the process! We sincerely hope you will enjoy this unique one-of-a-kind artwork for many years to come.





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