

Greek School Newsletter – 2009

Γεια σας και Χριστός Ανέστη σε όλους!

As we approach the end of the school year, I would like to thank all of the parents for their continuous support and the students for their dedication to learning the Greek language and culture. In the past 11 years it has been a fantastic journey and wonderful professional experience being the Director and Teacher of the St. Sophia Afternoon Greek School. Many students have passed through our classroom and graduated with honors but most importantly they have had the satisfaction of learning their heritage language and culture. As I prepare to graduate in the coming year my youngest child from our program and in addition to my full time teaching job at Niskayuna High School and the offer to continue to take more teaching responsibilities during the evening as adjunct professor of Greek and Spanish at the College of St. Rose, I find that this is the right time for me to embark on new challenges. Our program has prospered and will continue to do so. I am most of proud of this. It has been with great thought and deliberation that I have decided to resign my position of Greek School Director and Teacher and pass the reigns to the very capable Kiki Maglaras as director and teacher. Eleni Efstathiadis will also be continuing as our other teacher. This fabulous duo have done a superb job in the past few years and I have full confidence in their teaching abilities and their love of the program. I will still be administering the NYS Greek Regents Examination at Niskayuna High School and helping them whenever needed. My heart will always be with the Afternoon Greek School Program. Let us all give our full support to our new director and teaching team of Kiki and Eleni!

I hope every one of our students will be returning (with the exception of our graduates, of course!). Learning a foreign language is a skill that takes time, practice and patience. It is similar to learning how to play an instrument or a sport. Only with these three elements can a working proficiency in a foreign language be obtained. It is well worth the effort!!

Our March 25th program was very well received this year. We continued our Dance/Dinner/Program theme again for the fifth year and it proved to be a great success. Our thanks to the AHEPA and Sons of Pericles for co-sponsoring the event with us. Our Dinner / Dance / Program made the tri-city community proud to be Greeks and we were proud to be able to present our unique celebration of Greek Independence Day to all three Greek communities. Our Greek School also participated in the Greek Independence Day Parade in New York City for the 10th year. We again had a beautiful float and truly felt our Greek pride. Our heartfelt thanks to the AHEPA for subsidizing the remaining cost of the bus. It was a great day, especially since we had so many newcomers and fabulous weather. Our thanks again to the community for supporting us with our main dinner/dance fundraiser.

On the back of this letter is the 2009 - 2010 Greek School Registration Form. Please take the time to register your child early and either send it to the church or leave it in the church office. This allows us to begin scheduling grade levels and class times earlier rather than waiting until one week before classes begin in September.

Below are important dates for our Greek School. Students are expected to attend all events. Thank you again and thanks for a great 11 years! Enjoy the summer. Καλό Καλοκαίρι!

Kyria Eleni Christou
Director/Teacher (1998 – 2009)

IMPORTANT DATES:

May 17th - Deadline for the Oral Part of the N.Y.S. Regents Examination

June 2nd - Final Assessment Examination for the Tuesday classes

June 4th - Final Assessment Examination for the Thursday classes

June 5th - Final Assessment Examination for the Friday classes

June 6th - Final Assessment Examination for Saturday classes

June 7th - Greek School Graduation and Sunday School Graduation. All report cards, diplomas, awards and graded examinations will be distributed. We will also have our family barbeque picnic for ALL after graduation. Admission is FREE! (Sponsored by St. Sophia)

June 23rd - Tuesday - 3:30 pm – 6:30 pm at Niskayuna High School - New York State Regents Examination in Modern Greek

Week of September 14th - The 2009 - 2010 Greek School Academic Year begins
