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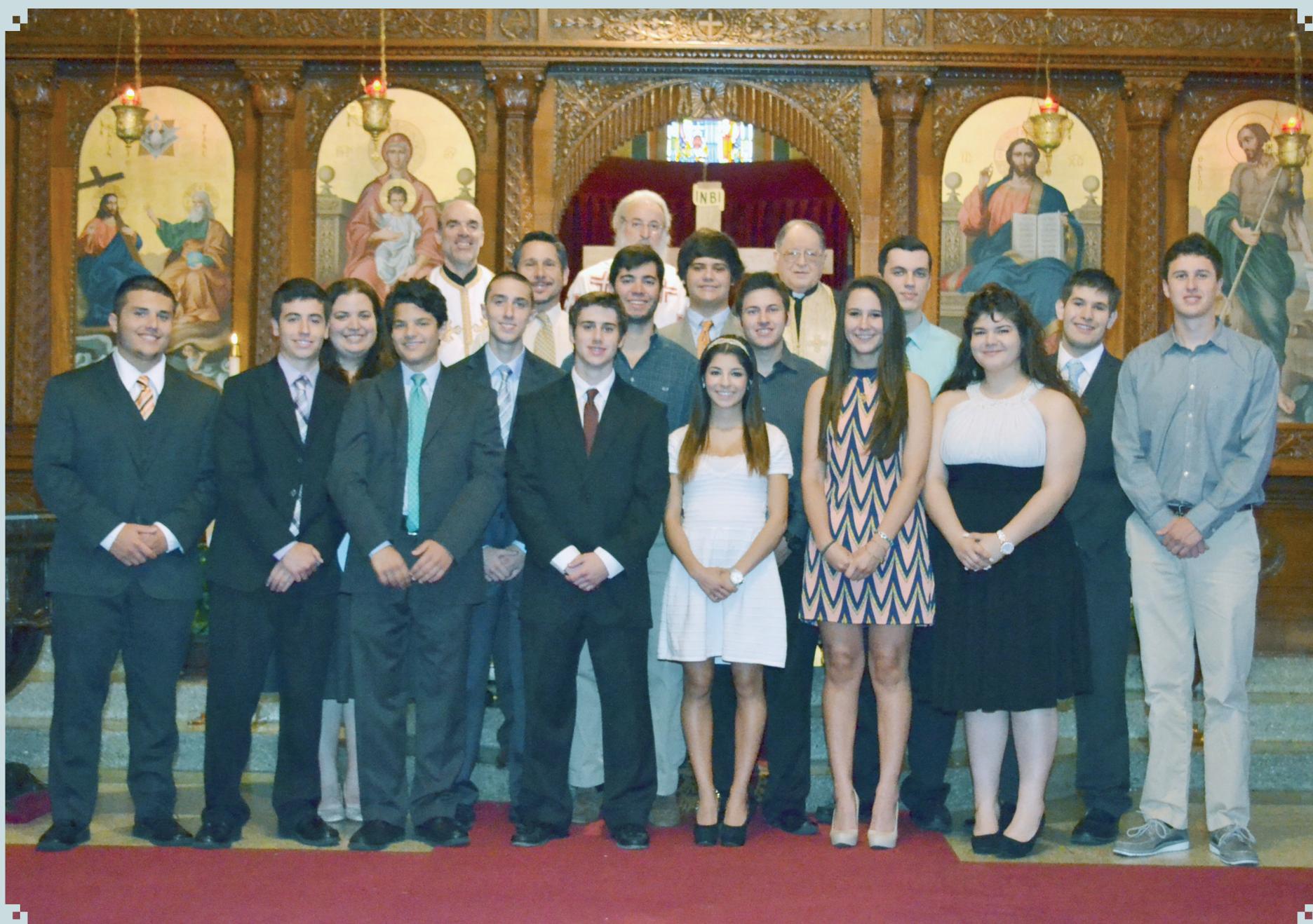
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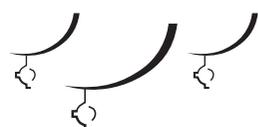
Our Mission

Our Mission is to become faithful followers of Christ and thus active Greek Orthodox Christians by accepting and submitting to the Will of our Lord so that we may realize salvation and enter into the Kingdom of God.

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A Message From The Editor



Hello Again Everybody,

To the Seniors, congratulations! You will now meet the new challenges that await you. You are now our new future. I have been editor of The Voice for ten years and this has always been my favorite issue!

Always remember your classmates. I learned a very important lesson – there were classmates that I did not care for. But guess what? They all came to me and asked me to video their weddings and baptisms. I felt very honored that they chose me. Today when I see all my classmates of 1976, I hug them and kiss them. We talk about our good old days. Life will offer you many paths. Don't forget to look back now and again at where you came from and where your

roots are – Holy Trinity Cathedral and Charlotte, North Carolina.

The fund-raising is coming along nicely. Despite the sudden downpour and running out of food, our parishioners supported the Panegyri by making additional donations and pledges towards the Plateia Beautification. More than \$400,000 has been raised so far.

Attendance at Vacation Bible School was very high. Thanks to all the volunteers for making this year a success.

Until next time, be safe.

Angelo Pete Politis

Editor



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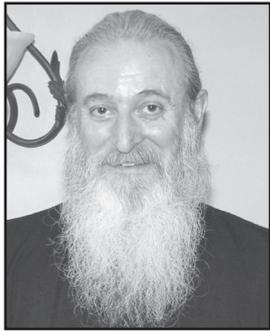
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Remarks From Father Michael



by **Father Michael Varvarelis**
Dean of the Cathedral

Reflections from Saint Porphyrios

Dear friends and parishioners,

Elder Saint Porphyrios (1906-1991) was saying: “Love Christ since Christ is everything; He is the source of life. In Christ everything is beautiful. And away from Christ we have: tribulation, depression, anger, sadness, and memories of the hurts of life, of pressures, of agonizing hours.”

Certainly if we take a look in our society, we see misleading messages (the devil has succeeded) that guide us in the wrong direction in life which forms man that ignores the truth about every value which refers to life, to man, to the world and to God. These messages mainly present the physical, sensual, secular, selfish, inhumane and alienated side of life from the true God where they want to subordinate the interest and the entire life of man. Thus man is directed to the “wide gate that leads to destruction.” (Matt. 7:13).

Though the saints, like the modern Holy Father Porphyrios, show the correct orientation in life. He says: “Turn to Christ, Who is everything, He is the light and the life of man and the world”. The saints are the true educators and advisors that guide man to the truth. The Church fosters this ethos and way of holiness for man to survive. And the existence of the saints in our days is a comforting element and certainty that this ethos is realized in our days. A Christian man has to love the virtuous life and engage in the spiritual struggle with discipline, learning the will of God, prayer, humility, and discretion.

St. Porphyrios who lived in the City of Athens, Greece, confirms that holiness is achieved with the grace of God even today under the condition that man should love God and is willing to be spiritually cultivated. Apostle Paul assures us that we are “fellow citizens

with the saints and of the household of God.” Today with Father Porphyrios we have an example in our lives and through his teaching we have his constant support that inspires and comforts us all and especially people with illness and in bedridden conditions. Moreover, these teachings help parents and especially mothers that perhaps carry a difficult cross with their children.

Father Porphyrios was interested and offered appropriate instructions in interfamily difficult conditions and he gave guidance in the deeper personal relationships of the couple. He believed in the “loving dialogue” that should prevail between parents and spoke that good feelings, kindness, respect, affection and concern for each other should describe their marital life. Moreover, he gave particular attention to pain, sickness and to cases of “confused” children, as he was calling them. They were children with various psychological problems, which usually were created by the turbulent atmosphere of the family. The Blessed Porphyrios spoke for “confused children” of “confused parents.”

He was saying that the different problems of children are happening during the period of pregnancy. Since the pregnant woman does not care to live calmly, with tranquility of soul and with prayer. Father Porphyrios was saying: “The mother starts educating her child in the womb with her spiritual experiences.”

So when there were such problems, of physical or psychological origin, Father Porphyrios supported the family with endless love. The following example shows the diagnostic accuracy of Father Porphyrios and his sacrificial support.

George P. from Messolonghi in 1988 was a student at the Theological School of Athens. He showed in the beginning some instability as he was walking. The illness of muscular dystrophy started and it gradually eroded his muscle tissue. The exact cause of this disease is still unknown. George ended up in a wheelchair. His mother Irene and his father took George to the University to continue his studies. Suddenly the father of George contracted cancer in the brain and in a short time died. Thus, Mrs. Irene shouldered all the family problems. At home there was another child Nektarios who also was in a wheelchair from the same disease. When you visit the family you would feel peace in your soul. The calm atmosphere, the Icons of Saints on the walls, the patient smiles of all at the house were manifesting the Grace of God.

Father Porphyrios knew the family and loved Mrs. Irene and the children. He tried to ease their pain. During the night hours especially between 2 to 3am,

when the pain and the loneliness was unbearable, Father Porphyrios was calling and with his comforting words would take away the harsh pain and their discomfort. Father Porphyrios knew the family’s situation. In fact when Mrs. Irene first visited Fr. Porphyrios, he spoke and described accurately the cause of disease of the children. He had said: “During your pregnancy in your family environment there was prevailing much tension. Then you were submitted physically to some sensitivity. Something changed in the fetus.” When later they visited some specialists in Switzerland they told them that there was a “developmental alteration “of the fetus.

Indeed Father Porphyrios would always make a very precise diagnosis of the diseases and he would give advice to parents for proper treatment and upbringing of their children. Some parents asked him: “What can we do Elder, with our child? He is full of insecurity and fears”. Father replied: “You bear full responsibility for this. From the pregnancy you created, with your bad relationships, all these traumas and psychological problems which he will carry to the rest of his life”. Indeed he was saying to parents: “Not even once should your children see you fighting or raising the tone of your voice, to each other ...” and more particularly emphasized: “The sanctity of the parents save their children. There is only one way, not to have problems with our children: Holiness! Become saints and you will not have any problems with your children ... and of course this is very simple: This is happening when the Divine Grace will come. And how the Divine Grace

is coming? With humility and prayer. Though our prayer must be strong and vibrant. We always get results, when we pray with faith and patience.”

Love Christ since Christ is everything; He is the source of life. In Christ everything is beautiful. (St. Porphyrios)

Another time he was telling to parents: “What you want to tell your children you should tell in prayer to God. Children do not listen with their ears. Only when the Divine Grace comes then it illuminates them to listen to what we tell them. When you wish to say something to your children, tell it to the Virgin Mary and she will act. This prayer of yours will become life giving breath, spiritual embrace that would be attractive, and appealing to your children.”

One could say that the soul of Saint Porphyrios was “affectionate, protective, paternal ... Filled with the Holy Spirit and Divine Grace.” Father Porphyrios would bring man to Christ. Oh, Righteous of God, who lived in our days, Father Porphyrios intercede for us, the unworthy ones to find the “way that leads to the Kingdom of God.” Amen.

Οδηγίες από τόν Άγιο Πορφύριο

Αγαπητοί φίλοι και ενοριτες,

Ελεγε ο Γέροντας Άγιος Πορφύριος (1906-1991) «Αγαπήσατε τόν Χριστόν...ο Χριστός είναι τό πάν, είναι η πηγή τής ζωής. Όλα στόν Χριστό υπάρχουν τά ωραία. Καί μακράν τού Χριστού: η θλίψις, η μελαγχολία, τά νεύρα, η στενοχωρία, οι αναμνήσεις τών τραυμάτων τής ζωής, τών πιέσεων, τών αγωνιωδών ωρών.»

Βέβαια άν ρίξουμε μιά ματιά στήν κοινωνία τότε βλέπουμε λαθεμένα μηνύματα (ο διάβολος τά έχει καταφέρει) πού οδηγούν σέ λάθος κατευθύνσεις και μορφώνουν ένα άνθρωπο πού αγνοεί τήν αλήθεια για κάθε αξία πού αναφέρεται στή ζωή, στόν άνθρωπο, στόν κόσμο και στόν Θεό. Δείχνουν και αναφέρονται κυρίως στή υλική, ηδονιστική, κοσμική, εγωϊστική, απάνθρωπη και αποξενωμένη από τόν αληθινό Θεό πλευρά τής ζωής όπου θέλουν νά υποτάξουν το ενδιαφέρον και ολόκληρη τή

ζωή τού ανθρώπου. Ετσι ο άνθρωπος οδηγείται πρός τήν «ευρύχωρον οδόν τήν απάγουσαν εις τήν απώλειαν» (Ματθ. 7:13).

Όμως οι άγιοι, όπως ο σύγχρονος Άγιος Πατήρ Πορφύριος δείχνουν τόν ορθό προσανατολισμό: στροφή στόν Χριστό, πού είναι τό πάν, είναι τό Φώς και η Ζωή τού ανθρώπου και τού κόσμου. Οι άγιοι είναι οι σωστοί παιδαγωγοί και σύμβουλοι τού ανθρώπου για νά καθοδηγείται στήν αλήθεια. Η Εκκλησία καλλιεργεί αυτό τό ήθος τής αγιότητας ώστε ο άνθρωπος νά επιβιώσει. Η δέ ύπαρξη αγίων και στίς ημέρες μας είναι παρηγορητικό στοιχείο και βεβαιότητα ότι αυτό το ήθος πραγματώνεται και στίς ημέρες μας. Ο Χριστιανός άνθρωπος οφείλει νά αγαπά τήν ενάρετη ζωή και νά επιδίδεται στόν πνευματικό αγώνα μέ άσκηση, μέ μάθηση τού θελήματος τού Θεού μέ προσευχή, μέ ταπείνωση, μέ διάκριση.

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Fellowship:
Recognizing that the Church is a unified body of Christ, we value our Community being renewed and transformed, producing the fruits of the Holy Spirit: Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

The President's Message



by John Tsumas
Parish Council
President

Dear Parishioners,

I would like to thank everyone for your support at the Panegyri celebrating our Cathedral's name day. In spite of the inclement weather, the celebration was a huge success. The turnout was more than expected, providing us lessons for next year. There are many people involved that I would like to take a moment to thank.

I'll begin with the planning committee whose hard work has brought us another great event. Their dedication to our Church is continuing to grow our community, and is truly appreciated. They put a lot of time and effort into the

planning, organization and execution of the Apokriatiko Dance and now the Panegyri. I look forward to what they have in store for us next. I hear there might be an 80's Party in the works!

I am sure everyone enjoyed the smell in the air that morning as you were entering church. The wonderful group of men who cooked the lambs for us really did a fabulous job. They were there bright and early to prepare an excellent feast and we all enjoyed their hard work. Thanks, also, to the people that planned the food for the event, great job! In addition, we had many donations including food and supplies. Thank you to those who were so generous.

Lastly, I would like to express appreciation to all of the people that came out and volunteered the day of the event. From helping to set everything up, working the various booths and games and especially helping us move inside when the sky opened up!

I wish you all a safe and fun-filled summer.

God Bless,

John Tsumas

President

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral

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A Fantastic Turnout on June 8th for Our Name Day Celebration and Cathedral and Courtyard Renovation Fundraiser



On June 8th, we celebrated Holy Trinity's name day with the first annual "Panegyri in the Plateia". It was also a fundraising event for "our plateia", the church courtyard and cathedral. We had a meal of arni sti soufla, souvlaki, horiatiki salata, Greek potato salad and hot dogs. There was ice cream and toys for the children at the periptero along with fun activities. The band Endasi entertained us with Greek music and the klarino for our dancing pleasure.

The event was supposed to take place outside in our plateia, just like the celebrations in Greece. We started outside, but just as church was letting out, the heavens opened up and it began to rain heavily. With everyone's help all the festivities were moved into Fr. C Hall. Although the rain did dampen our plateia, it did not dampen our spirits.

Despite the rain, the event was a success. We sold out of all the food and raised an additional \$6100 in pledges toward the renovation effort. We did not anticipate such a huge crowd. It was a beautiful thing to see the community celebrating together as a church family and supporting the fundraising effort to improve our facilities.

To date we have raised \$407,000 in donations and pledges. We are almost there and need everyone's help to reach our October goal of \$500,000. Please be sure to complete your Holy Trinity Renovation Fund Donation and Pledge Form if you have not already done so. Forms are available at the church office. Donations can be paid all at once or you can make a pledge amount and spread the payments out over one to three years. We want to thank all of our parishioners who have already contributed by making donations, completing the pledge forms, and by contributions collected in the second offering tray during the Divine Liturgies. Again, everyone's support is needed to reach this goal.

There are many people we need to thank for making the "Panegyri" possible...our cooks for preparing the meal, all parishioners that donated food and other items, Fr. Michael and the Parish Council for their continued support, all those who participated in planning and preparing for the event and most of all the Holy Trinity Community for supporting this event and fund raising effort. Thank you to all! With God's blessing and the continued support of our community we can make this dream a reality. Kai tou honrou!



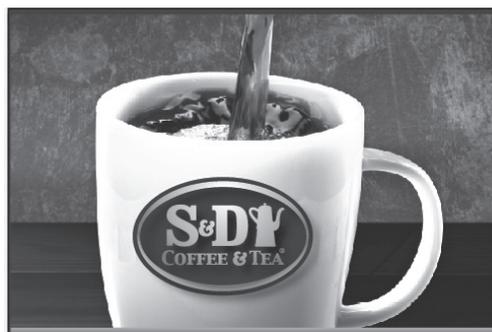
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Continued from page 3

Ο Άγιος Πορφύριος πού έζησε στήν πολυθόρυβη Αθήνα βεβαιώνει ότι η αγιότητα κατορθώνεται μέ τήν Χάρι του Θεού και σήμερα μέ τήν προϋπόθεση ο άνθρωπος νά αγαπά τόν Θεό και νά θέλει νά καλλιεργηθεί πνευματικά. Ο Απόστ. Παύλος μάς βεβαιώνει ότι είμαστε «συμπολίται τών αγίων και οικείοι του Θεού». Μέ τόν πάτερ Πορφύριος και σήμερα έχουμε πρότυπα στή ζωή μας και στηρίγματα αδιάσειστα πού εμπνέουν και παρηγορούν όλους μας και ιδιαίτερα τούς ανθρώπους μέ ασθένειες και τους κατάκοιτους. Ακόμη βοηθούν τούς γονείς και ιδιαίτερα τίς μητέρες πού ίσως σηκώνουν κάποιο δύσκολο σταυρό μέ τά παιδιά τους.

Ο πάτερ Πορφύριος ενδιαφερόταν και έδιδε τίς κατάλληλες οδηγίες σέ ενδοοικογενειακές καταστάσεις καθώς και στίς βαθύτερες προσωπικές σχέσεις του ανδρογύνου γιατί πίστευε στον «αγαπητικό διάλογο» πού θά πρέπει νά επικρατεί μεταξύ τών γονέων, στήν τρυφερότητα τών σχέσεών τους, και στήν έκφραση τής συζυγικής ευαισθησίας. Ομως έδιδε ιδιαίτερη προσοχή στον πόνο, στήν αρρώστια και στίς περιπτώσεις «τών

μπερδεμένων» παιδιών όπως τά αποκαλούσε. Ηταν τά παιδιά μέ τά

διάφορα ψυχολογικά προβλήματα, πού συνήθως δημιουργεί η ταραγμένη ατμόσφαιρα τής οικογενείας. Μιλούσε ο Οσιος Πορφύριος για «μπερδεμένα παιδιά» «μπερδεμένων γονιών».

Τόνιζε ότι τά διάφορα προβλήματα τών παιδιών έχουν ως αιτία τήν περίοδο τής κυήσεως. Τότε πού ή έγκυος γυναίκα δέν φροντίζει νά ζει ήρεμα, μέ γαλήνη ψυχής και προσευχή. Έλεγε ο πατήρ Πορφύριος: «Η μητέρα αρχίζει νά παιδαγωγεί τό παιδί της μέσα από τή μήτρα μέ τά ψυχικά της βιώματα».

Οταν λοιπόν υπήρχαν τέτοια προβλήματα, οργανικής ή ψυχολογικής προελεύσεως, ο πατήρ Πορφύριος συμπαραστεκόταν στήν οικογένεια μέ απέραντη αγάπη. Τό επόμενο παράδειγμα φανερώνει τή διαγνωστική ακρίβεια του πατρός Πορφυρίου καθώς και τήν θυσιαστική συμπαράσταση πού έδειχνε.

Ο Γιώργος Ρ. από τό Μεσολόγγι τό 1988 ήτο φοιτητής στή Θεολογική Σχολή Αθηνών. Παρουσίασε καποια αστάθεια στή βιάδισή του. Ετσι εκδηλώθηκε η μυϊκή δυστροφία πού βαθμιαία φθείρει τόν μυϊκό ιστό του ανθρώπου. Αυτής τής ασθένειας τά ακριβή αίτια είναι ακόμη άγνωστα. Λοιπόν, ο Γιώργος κατέληξε στό αναπηρικό καροτσάκι. Η μητέρα του Ειρήνη και ο πατέρας του μετέφεραν τόν Γιώργο στό Πανεπιστήμιο. Ξαφνικά ο πατέρας του Γιώργου προσβλήθηκε από καρκίνο στον εγκέφαλο και μέσα σέ λίγο χρόνο έφυγε από τή ζωή. Ετσι η Κα Ειρήνη επωμίσθηκε όλα τά προβλήματα τής οικογενείας. Στο σπίτι υπήρχε και άλλο παιδί ο Νεκτάριος πού ήταν και αυτό στό καροτσάκι από τήν ίδια ασθένεια. Ομως άμα έκανες επίσκεψη στήν οικογένεια θά αισθανόσουν στήν ψυχή σου γαλήνη. Η ατμόσφαιρα ήρεμη, στους τοίχους εικόνες Αγίων, τό υπομονετικό χαμόγελο όλων στο

σπίτι μετέδιδαν Χάρι του Θεού.

Ο πατήρ Πορφύριος γνώριζε τήν οικογένεια και αγαπούσε και τήν Κα Ειρήνη και τά παιδιά. Προσπαθούσε νά απαλύνει τόν πόνο τους. Τίς νύχτες 2 μέ 3 ή ώρα τό βράδυ πού ήταν αβάσταχτη η μοναξιά, χτυπούσε τό τηλέφωνο και ο πάτερ Πορφύριος μέ τόν παραμυθητικό του λόγο έδωχνε τόν βαρύ πόνο και τούς παρηγορούσε. Γνώριζε ο πάτερ Πορφύριος τήν κατάσταση της οικογενείας. Μάλιστα όταν τόν επισκέφθηκε για πρώτη φορά η Κα Ειρήνη εκείνος τής μίλησε και περιέγραψε μέ ακρίβεια τήν αιτία τής ασθένειας τών παιδιών. Τής είχε πει: «Κατά τήν διάρκεια τής κυήσεως στό οικογενειακό σας περιβάλλον επικρατούσε ένταση. Τότε παρουσίασες στον οργανισμό του κάποια ευαισθησία. Κάτι άλλαξε στό έμβρυο». Οταν αργότερα επισκέφθηκαν ειδικούς ιατρούς στήν Ελβετία τούς είπαν για «αναπτυξιακή αλλοίωση» του εμβρύου.

Πράγματι ο πατήρ Πορφύριος έκανε μέ ιδιαίτερη ακρίβεια διάγνωση σε ασθένειες και έδιδε συμβουλές στους γονείς για τήν σωστή αγωγή και ανατροφή τών παιδιών τους. Κάποιοι

γονείς τόν ρώτησαν: «Τί νά κάνουμε Γέροντα, μέ τό παιδί μας; Είναι γεμάτο ανασφάλεια και φοβίες.» Ο πάτερ απάντησε: «Εσείς φέρετε εξ ολοκλήρου τήν ευθύνη γι' αυτό. Εκ κοιτίας μητρός του δημιουργήσατε μέ τις κακές μεταξύ σας σχέσεις, όλα αυτά τά ψυχικά τραύματα και τά ψυχολογικά προβλήματα, πού θά κουβαλά στή ζωή του». Μάλιστα στους γονείς έλεγε: «Ούτε μία φορά δέν πρέπει νά σάς δούν τά παιδιά σας νά τσακώνεσθε ή νά υψώνετε τόν τόνο τής φωνής σας, ο ένας στον άλλο...» Και ιδιαίτερα τόνιζε: «Η αγιότητα τών γονέων σώζει τά παιδιά τους. Ενας τρόπος υπάρχει, για νά μήν έχωμε προβλήματα μέ τά παιδιά μας: Η αγιότητα! Γίνετε άγιοι και δέν θά έχετε κανένα πρόβλημα μέ τά παιδιά σας... και φυσικά αυτό είναι πολύ απλό: Όταν έλθει η Θεία Χάρις. Και πώς έρχεται η Θεία Χάρις; Μέ τήν ταπείνωση και τήν προσευχή. Αλλά η προσευχή μας πρέπει νά είναι δυνατή και ζωντανή. Οταν προσευχόμαστε μέ πίστη και υπομονή, πάντοτε έχουμε αποτελέσματα».

Άλλοτε πάλι έλεγε στους γονείς: «Αυτά πού θέλετε νά πείτε στα παιδιά σας, νά τά λέτε μέ τήν προσευχή σας στον Θεό. Τά παιδιά δέν ακούν μέ τά αυτιά. Μόνο όταν έρχεται η Θεία Χάρις πού τά φωτίζει, τότε ακούνε αυτά πού θέλουμε νά τούς πούμε. Οταν θέλετε νά πείτε κάτι στα παιδιά σας, πέστε το στήν Παναγία κι αυτή θά ενεργήσει. Η προσευχή σας αυτή θά γίνει ζωογόνος πνοή, πνευματικό χάδι, πού χαϊδεύει, αγκαλιάζει, έλκει τά παιδιά.»

Θά ημπορούσαμε νά πούμε ότι η ψυχή του Οσίου Πορφυρίου ήτο «φιλόστοργος, κηδεμονική, πατρική...πλήρης Πνεύματος και Θείας Χάριτος». Ο πάτερ Πορφύριος έφερνε στον Χριστό τον άνθρωπο που τον γνώριζε. Οσιε του Θεού, Άγιε τών ημερών μας, Πάτερ Πορφύριε πρέσβευε και υπέρ ημών τών αναξίων να βρισκόμαστε στην «οδόν την απαγούσαν εις την ζωήν». Αμήν.

Visit by His Eminence on Sunday, March 16th

We were honored and blessed to have with us His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios on Sunday, March 16th to celebrate the Divine Liturgy and also to tonsure 38 of our Altar Boys as Readers of the Church. Billy Dean, Fr. Michael's



Billy Dean, Assistant to Fr. Michael in the Holy Altar, receives his tonsuring.

Assistant in the Holy Altar, was also tonsured that special day. All the Altar Boys were very enthused and proud of this honor. After the Divine Liturgy a special luncheon was held in the Fr. C Hall honoring

His Eminence for His upcoming nameday on March 17th. Flowers were presented to His Eminence by GOYA representatives. Also His Eminence received some other gifts for His nameday.



Presenting flowers to His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios for his Nameday.

L to R Fr. Michael Varvarelis, Chrysoula Xyrafakis, Katerina Exarhos, Angelika Ballas, His Eminence Metropolitan Alexios, John Tsumas, Parish Council President

The following Altar Boys were tonsured: Michael Beall, Andrew Boukidis, Luke Collins, Nicholas Couchell, Yiorgo Diatzikis, Louis Dizes, Kyriaco Euripides, Sotiri Exarhos, Anthony Gillette, Theodore Harakas, George Holevas, Niko Holevas, Manolis Kanellakis, Theodore Karres, Alexandros Katsaduros, Dimitrios Kelly, Christos Kokalis, Christos Kotrotsios,



It's a joy to see all the Altar Boys with His Eminence.

Harry Koufaliotis, Steven Koufaliotis, Thomas Koufaliotis, Tommy Koufaliotis, Peter Mahairas, Evan Margiotis, Yianni Margiotis, George Matalas, Athanasios Nixon, Yianni Polemides, Yianni Skenteris, Jonathan Troupes, Chris Vlahos, Panos Vlahos, Taxe Vlahos, Vagelis Vlahos, Dean Vrettos, Christos Xyrafakis, Yianni Xyrafakis and Dimitrios Yiottis.



ΠΕΝΘΗ ΚΟΙΝΟΤΙΚΑ

Lillian Hendricks Lyles
CHARLOTTE - Mrs. Lyles, 86, of Charlotte, died May 5, 2014 at Sharon Towers. Lillian was born Oct. 21, 1927, in Bluefield, W.Va. a daughter of the late Walter and Naomi Early Hendricks. She was a graduate of Bristol TN High School, Sullins College and the University of Tennessee-Knoxville. Mrs. Lyles worked for many years as secretary to the executive secretary of Tau Beta Pi, the national engineering honor society and later worked as a legal secretary. She was a member of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral and a devoted wife mother and grandmother. Survivors include her husband, Dr. Albert M. Lyles; sons, Lawrence Alan Lyles and Stephen Louis Lyles; grandchildren James Albert Lyles and Shannon Elizabeth Lyles; brother, Evan Scott Hendricks and wife, Mary; sister, Elizabeth Hendricks and many nieces and nephews. Funeral service and Trisagion for Mrs. Lyles was held 11:00 a.m. Thursday, May 8, 2014, at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral. Interment followed in Evergreen Cemetery. Memorials may be made to the Renovation Fund at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral, 600 East Blvd., Charlotte, NC 28203, Sharon Towers Residence Assistance Fund, 5100 Sharon Road, Charlotte, NC 28210 or the charity of the donor's choice. Arrangements are in the care of Hankins & Whittington Funeral Service, 1111 East Blvd., Charlotte, NC. Please share condolences online at www.hankinsandwhittington.com.

www.htgo.org

George Nicholas Mentavlos
GASTONIA - Mr. George Mentavlos, 99, a long time Gastonia native, entered into eternal rest on the morning of Friday, May 30, 2014. Born May 21, 1915, in Karyae (Sparta) Greece, he was the fourth of five children raised by parents Nicholas and Demetra. Like many Greek citizens before him, he migrated to the United States and settled in Gastonia. Some years later at a church dance, he would meet Rougenia (Jean) Petchios and in 1941 married and raised four children. For many years he worked in the produce business with Leventis, Petchios, Trakas Company. He later became a partner at Sweetland Restaurant in Gastonia. He was a most gentle individual who rarely met a stranger. Throughout his life, George took pride in his humble beginnings in Greece. His children learned early to "never forget where you come from" and to appreciate the very special opportunities that the United States presented. He would often say proudly that he worked his whole life and was always deeply appreciative for the love and support of those relatives who came before him. Above all was his steadfast devotion to his Lord, Jesus Christ, wife Jean and his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. A long time parishioner of the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral on East Boulevard in Charlotte, where he enjoyed singing in the choir. But beyond this, it was his loyal dedication to his wife Jean, during her lengthy illness that really defined his character as a Christian, husband and father. He is predeceased by his loving wife of sixty years Jean; daughter Maria Holcombe and his parents and siblings in Greece. Surviving are his son, Nicholas G. Mentavlos and wife, Marian of Charlotte; daughter, Tula Collias and husband, George of Charlotte and Bluffton, SC; son, John G. Mentavlos and wife, Marian of Charleston, SC; seven grandchildren and fourteen great-grandchildren. A trisagion (Prayer)

service was held 7:00 PM Sunday evening, June 1, 2014, at Hankins & Whittington, the family received friends following the service. Funeral service was held at 10:00 AM on Monday, June 2, 2014, at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral with interment following in Gaston Memorial Park, in Gastonia. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be sent to the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church Renovation Fund, 600 East Blvd., Charlotte, NC 28203 or St. Nektarios Greek Orthodox Church, 5108 Kuykendall Rd., Charlotte, NC 28270. Arrangements are in the care of Hankins & Whittington Funeral Service, 1111 East Blvd., Charlotte, NC. Please share condolences online at www.hankinsandwhittington.com.

Panagiotis Tsouroudiakakis
CHARLOTTE - Mr. Tsouroudiakakis, 78, of Charlotte died on Saturday, June 14, 2014, at Hygeia Hospital in Athens, Greece. Panagiotis was born on November 6, 1935, in Potamida, Crete, Greece son of the late Vasilios and Kuriaki Tsouroudiakakis. Mr. Tsouroudiakakis came to Charlotte, NC in June of 1970, with his family. He was a self-employed carpenter that made many beautiful things. After retiring he enjoyed spending quality time with his family, especially his three grandchildren that he adored. He was a loving husband, father and grandfather. Mr. Tsouroudiakakis is survived by his wife, Toula; son, George Tsouroudiakakis; daughter, Sandy Vlahos and her husband, Danny and his grandchildren Taxe, Panos and Demi Vlahos; and many nieces and nephews. The Trisagion and funeral service for Mr. Tsouroudiakakis was held on Monday June 23, 2014 at 10:30am at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral with Father Michael Varvarelis and Father Tommy Vlahos officiating. Interment followed in Evergreen Cemetery. The family greeted friends following the funeral in Father "C" hall. Pallbearers were

his nephews Danny Kefalas, Angelo Kefalas, George Zaharopoulos, John Zaharopoulos, George Stathopoulos and his godsons Andreas Stathopoulos, Gregory Giannibas and Bill Polizos. Memorials may be made to Panagia Prousiotissa Chapel at Elatos Park, 125 Jim Parker Rd., Wesley Chapel, NC, 28110. Arrangements are in the care of Hankins & Whittington Funeral Service, 1111 East Blvd., Charlotte, NC. Please share condolences online at www.hankinsandwhittington.com.

Ardrey Kell honors Mrs.

Sophia's memory with garden

The halls of the sprawling Ardrey Kell High School were hushed Tuesday, June 3, as students completed their final tests before summer. It was almost as if a moment of silence was extended across the entire campus in memory of Sophia Tatsis.

The only sound came from a group huddled quietly together in the corner of the cafeteria, sharing memories of someone who had stood there for years making an impact on students, administrators and her second family.

The group had gathered for a dedication ceremony held just outside the cafeteria, where a small garden and bench now sit in honor of Tatsis, who died earlier this year. Her family, both blood relatives and work relatives, had lived the battle with her – from her cancer diagnosis last year, her determination to continue serving the Ardrey Kell students while receiving treatment, and to her final days, when she helped pick out the flowers that now surround a plaque in her name. Her granddaughter is determined to see daisies planted there next year to join Tatsis's favorite crepe myrtles, roses and geraniums.

"She would have been so happy and so honored," Anna Shinas, Tatsis's daughter, said following Tuesday's dedication. "But she would want it to be

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for everyone. She wants everyone to be honored. She always thought about other people ahead of herself.”

That spirit of caring for others is likely why her co-workers came together en masse to help Tatsis after her diagnosis. Not just well-wishers, but people who gave up their own sick days so Tatsis wouldn't run out; people who gave Tatsis a portion of their lottery winnings; anonymous community members sending checks to the school to help with her treatment; people who would have done anything for their long-time friend. She didn't understand why people would do something special for her. That didn't stop individual students from pitching in with their own fundraisers, while members of the Exceptional Children class – who always held a special place in Tatsis's heart, and she in theirs – came together to create cards supporting her.

Emotional support can be just as valuable as financial support.

“Those cards meant the world to her,” said Marilyn Johnson, the child nutrition manager at Ardrey Kell who worked alongside Tatsis every day. Tatsis would work the cash register when the Exceptional Children class came in, and the bond was clear to see, Johnson said. They called her Mrs. Sophia, and she called them by name, knowing many of the students personally.

“She made them feel so welcomed,” Johnson said.

Tatsis and her daughter would later go through the cards together, and Shinas would watch her mother smile – a vibrant smile, as principal David Switzer called it when dedicating the garden on Tuesday. While many people can remember a special teacher who set them on the right path in grade school, they also can remember a cafeteria worker, resource officer or bus driver who was just as

vital in helping them become who they are today.

“It's a sense of comfort to know that people cared so much,” said Johnson, who acknowledged that sometimes people such as cafeteria employees can be left out of the conversation about the important role school staff play in the development of a child. Later, each member of Tatsis's family stood in line for a chance to hug Johnson and thank her for everything the school had done in helping their loved one.

“She loved working here and wanted to be here to enjoy it even when she was sick,” Shinas said. “There was such love and respect; we know how much they appreciated her.”

Respect was a two-way street for Tatsis, who respected her co-workers too much to take breaks during work or not carry her portion of the responsibilities even when her friends encouraged her to take breaks and let them help her. Shinas knew how much the job meant to her mother, as did everyone who knew Tatsis and saw the impact she had on those around her.

“Sophia Tatsis, in the last months of her life, received and experienced the special support and help from her co-workers and proudly she would refer to these blessed friends and their generous expressions of love to her,” Rev. Father Michael Varvarelis, of Tatsis's church, Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral, said when blessing the garden Tuesday. “I know that this is very special for the family, and I know that Sophia would be smiling down on the whole family and her friends in this school, especially today.”

The family will continue to visit the garden, Shinas said, and help with future plantings to “keep honoring the school and her memory.”

Vacation Bible School



This year's Vacation Bible School was held June 16-20. There were a total of 120 children participating, ranging from rising kindergarteners to rising 5th graders. There were also nearly 70 GOYA volunteers and an additional 30 parent volunteers. The success of this program would not be possible without the commitment of the parents and GOYANs who took the time and worked diligently every day to make sure the children had a fun and positive learning experience.

The children learned about the following miracles at Vacation Bible School this year: the Wedding at Cana, the Feeding of Five Thousand, Jesus Walking on Water, the Healing of the Blind Man and the Raising of Lazarus. They began each day with a morning prayer service led by Fr. Michael, attended class and then rotated through music, art, dance, lunch and gym classes.

In music, the children learned many

hymns of our church as well as some fun children's Bible songs. We ended the week with Yiannoula Kakouras and Michelle Karagounis, our music teachers, leading the children as they performed their favorite songs. The children also created many beautiful crafts including magnets, painted canvases, kites, and coasters. They also enjoyed tie-dyeing t-shirts. We thank all our craft volunteers, as this was a large undertaking! During dance, each class practiced their respective dances for the YIASOU Greek Festival and, of course, all the children loved gym time, where our enthusiastic GOYANs organized many fun games and activities. A highlight for the children was definitely lunchtime, where they enjoyed many great meals prepared by our talented group of parent volunteers and GOYANs.

We thank all our volunteers and look forward to next year!

Additional photos on pages 14 & 15

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Ο ΕΓΩΙΣΜΟΣ ΤΥΡΑΝΝΕΙ .

Οι εγωιστάι μέ τόν εγωισμό τους τυραννούν τούς συναθρώπους των , όπως καί ο Ηρώδης .Εκείνος υποψιάζεται ότι τό Νεογέννητο Εκείνο Βρέφος θά τού πάρει τό θρόνο , καί τόν πιάνει ο φόβος . Καταδιώκει τήν αγία οικογένεια καί τούς αναγκάζει νά ξεσπιτοθούν καί νά φύγουν γιά τήν Αίγυπτο .Αναστατώνει ολόκληρη τή βασιλεία του , ο στρατός βρίσκεται σέ συναγερμό καί εκτελεί τή φοβερή διαταγή του . Ο θυμός του δηλ. ξεσπάει στά αθώα εκείνα βράφη τής Βηθλεέμ καί τών περιχώρων αυτής . Ο εγωισμός τόν αλλάζει καί από προστάτη τών ανθρώπων τής βασιλείας του , γίνεται ο φονιάς τους . Μά καί σήμερα δέν συμβαίνει τό ίδιο ; Ο κάθε εγωιστής γίνεται τύραννος τών άλλων . Υποφέρει η οικογένεια από τόν εγωστή πατέρα. Υποφέρει η Κοινότητα

από τόν εγωιστή πρόεδρο ή καί τόν εγωιστή παπά ακόμη . Η οικογένεια υποφέρει από τά κλάματα καί τίς ιδιοτροπίες τού παιδιού , από τίς φωνές καί τά πεισώματα τής κόρης , από τούς θυμούς τού ανδρός καί τή γλώσσα τής γυναίκας . Ο κόσμος λέγει : Είναι καλλίτερα νά ζεις μαζί μέ οχιές παρά μέ εγωίστρια γυναίκα . Επίσης καλλίτερα νά ζεις μέ τά άγρια θηρία παρά μέ άνδρα σύζυγο εγωιστή . Ολοι τους μέ τό παραμικρό θυμώνουν , τaráσσονται παίρνουν φωτιά , σπάζουν αντικείμενα , δέρνουν , φεύγουν , καί αφήνουν τούς άλλους μέσα στη πίκρα καί τή θλίψη . Καί γενικά όλοι δέν τρώνε γλυκό ψωμί όταν υπάρχει εγωιστής στην οικογένειά τους . Αλοίμονο στους υφισταμένους πού έχουν προιστάμενο εγωιστή στη δουλειά τους . Ο εγωιστής προιστάμενος είναι τύραννος , άλλοι τού φταίνε καί ξεσπάει στους υπαλήλους του. Όταν δέ , είναι σέ μεγάλη εξουσία, ο εγωστής , τότε προβαίνει καί σέ εγκλήματα , κατηγορίες , φόνους

κ.λ.π. γιά νά σταθεί αυτός εκεί πάνω . Η ιστορία έχει νά μάς δείξει τέτοιους εγωιστές πού έγιναν πραγματικά τέρατα καί τύραννοι τών λαών καί ολοκλήρου τής ανθρωπότητας . Ας θυμηθούμε τό Χίτλερ πού από τόν εγωισμό του αιματικόλησε τήν ανθρωπότητα ολόκληρη . Ας ευχόμασθε στό Θεό νά μήν γευτούμε στη ζωή μας τέτοιους εγωιστές . Αμήν .

Ιερέας π. Ταξιάρχης Βλάχος .

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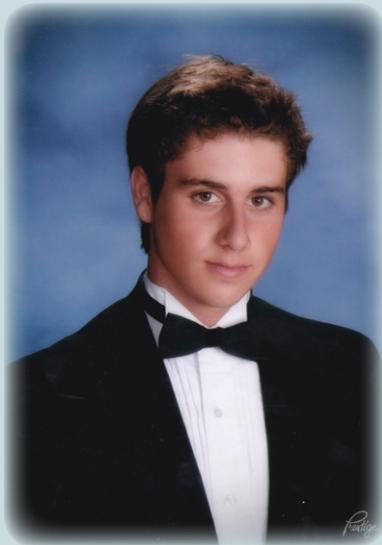
Interests/Extracurricular Activities

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- Golf - 9th and 10th Grade
- Chess Club - 9th Grade
- Interact Club - 11th and 12th Grade
- High-Q - 12th Grade
- Theory of Knowledge Club - 12th Grade - Founding Member
- Electric Guitar
- Basketball

Volunteer Experience

- Haunted Huss - 11th and 12th Grade
- Phillip's Center Creek Cleanup - 12th Grade

College/Future Plans: UNC Charlotte- History Major



John Nickolas Kontoulas

Marvin Ridge High School

Achievements: John is the son of Gloria and Jimmy Kontoulas. While attending Marvin Ridge High School John was an active member of HOSA (Health Occupation Students of America). He successfully completed an internship at the CMC Union County Hospital shadowing physicians of Physical Therapy and other medical fields. He was also an active member of the German Club and served as a team leader. John played soccer for his school during his freshman, sophomore and junior years. He then transitioned to football in his senior year, and earned a starting position on the special teams squad. During high school he also played club soccer with Charlotte United Soccer Club on the Classic A teams.

John's Church activities include Goya, volunteering at the Yiasou Greek Festival, Hellenic Dance Festivals, church basketball and soccer. His favorite church activity was participating in the St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival. The festival provides Greek Orthodox teenagers the opportunity to write and talk about their faith.

College /Future Plans: John is attending the University of North Carolina at Charlotte and majoring in Health Professions. He would like to pursue a career in the fields of health and medicine.



Nikolas Haris Stylianou

Cannon School

Achievements:

- AP Scholar with Honor Award
- Mu Alpha Theta – National High School and Two-Year College Mathematics Honor Society
- National Chinese Honor Society
- Presidential Volunteer Service Award
- Cannon School Boys Soccer Varsity Team
 - ✓ MVP Award
 - ✓ All-State
 - ✓ All-Region
 - ✓ All-Conference
 - ✓ Captain

NC Olympic Development Program - Soccer

- ✓ Selected for NC state team
- ✓ Selected for USA Region III training & tournament

College/Future Plans: UNC Chapel Hill – Biomedical Engineering



George Kourakos

Providence High School

At Providence High School George participated in several extracurricular activities. He was a member of the Spanish Club, FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America) and the FFA (Future Farmers of America).

As part of his Senior Exit Project George actively raised \$2000.00 for the town of Stallings police department, and the proceeds went towards the purchasing of training rifles. The town council recognized him for his honorable efforts of community work and leadership skills. In conjunction with his school activities George participated in educational related events. He attended the nationally recognized Broyhill Leadership Conference at Queens College in Charlotte, NC where he participated in leadership and character building workshops.

Throughout high school George volunteered at local Assisted Living Homes for the elderly, Ronald McDonald House, Dilworth Soup Kitchen, participated in the Joy Prom at Carmel Baptist for special needs individuals and several other charitable organizations. George's church activities include helping at the Yiasou Greek Festival, serving as an acolyte, competing at the Hellenic Dance Festivals and participating in Goya.

College/Future Plans: George plans to attend CPCC and transfer to Appalachian State University.

CONGRAT CLASS C



John X. Dwyer III

Ardrey Kell High School

Achievements: Congratulations to John X. Dwyer III, son of Stephanie Thevaos Dwyer and John X. Dwyer, Jr. and grandson of the late Constantine (Gus) P. Thevaos and Peggy Lampros Thevaos. John graduates from Ardrey Kell High School in June as a member of the AKHS Class of 2014. John has grown up in Charlotte and has been an excellent student at Ardrey Kell High School. John made AB Honor Roll and has been a member of the AK Lacrosse team for 3 of his 4 years at AKHS. John has been honored with membership in the Royal Order of the Purple Knights for his participation in Ardrey Kell High School's Voluntary Community Service Program called "Knights in Action" where he logged over 25 volunteer hours per year for all 4 years of High School. Some of John's favorite volunteer activities include the Yiasou Greek Festival, Beds for Kids, Habitat for Humanity and the YMCA. John's other interests include cars, hunting, golf, surfing, video games, reading and spending time with family and friends.

College/Future Plans: John has been accepted to Appalachian State University beginning Fall 2014 where he plans to major in Computer Science.



Dimitri Angelo Politis

East Mecklenburg High School

Achievements: Dimitri has participated in the Greek Festival as a dancer and worker (K-12), has attended Sunday School (K-12) and Greek School (K-6) and has played basketball and soccer for the church (K-12). He has also participated in church events such as HDF (Greek dancing competition) and WYR and has been an active member of the GOYA. He has also volunteered for church activities such as Vacation Bible School and the Greek Festival. Dimitri has worked at Chick-Fil-A for 2 years now and plans on still working there while in school. While attending East Mecklenburg High School, Dimitri has earned awards for English, has been on the A-B honor roll, and has been recognized to participate in the National Society of High School Scholars.

College/Future Plans: Attending CPCC for 2 years and then transferring to UNCC with plans of majoring in Business and minoring in communications.



Christena Pourlos

Providence Day School

Achievements: Christena is passionate about her Greek Heritage and Church and was active in GOYA, HDF and the Yiasou Festival. At Providence Day, Christena accomplished much inside and outside the classroom while maintaining a rigorous curriculum. She was inducted into the National Chinese Honor Society and the Students of Service, where she volunteered at Misty Meadows and Wing Haven. She also has been riding horses since she began school. Her equestrian background includes 12 years of training in dressage and 13 years of training in jumping. She has over 190 ribbons through the USEF and USDF and has received the highest recognition in the NCDCTA as Grand Champion for "the horse of the year". She hopes to continue riding throughout her college career

College/Future Plans: She will be attending Auburn University in the Fall.



Dean Patrick O'Keefe

South Mecklenburg High School

Achievements: Member of National Honor Society in Junior and Senior year

Member of Beta Club in Senior year

Volunteer and Teen Leader
Volunteer with CMC (Carolina's Medical Center) since June 2012

Works at Chick-Fil-A part-time since summer of 2013

College/Future Plans:

Plans to attend University of North Carolina at Asheville in the fall

Will pursue a degree in Sciences, Biology or Chemistry and will further continue his education to obtain a Pharmacy Doctorate.

Current Career aspirations – Pharmacist

TULATIONS OF 2014!!



Robert Christopher Brendle

Myers Park High School

Achievements: Robert was the only senior to receive the Administrative Award at Myers Park High School, an honor bestowed for academic achievement and outstanding character as voted on by the entire administrative staff. His other achievements include Honors Plus Classes, Sons of Pericles, Part Time Work at Which Wich, 11 years football (5 years high school), 9 years lacrosse (3 years high school), Travel lacrosse (3 years) HTGO basketball, AAU basketball, Recreation league hockey, 2 years HTGO girls basketball coach, Powder Puff football coach, Volunteering at the soup kitchen, Volunteering Greek Festival, Student volunteer for professional lacrosse league.

College/Future Plans: Planning on attending Miami of Ohio or UNCC to study Computer Engineering.



Eleftherios "Evan" George Vlahos

Myers Park High School

Achievements: Evan is a member of the National Honors Society and on the Honor Roll. He has played Varsity Football all four years at Myers Park High School and is a recipient of the Southwestern 4A All Conference Award, the Bronko Nagurski Award, and Student Athlete of the Year Award. He also received a scholarship to attend the Outward Bound School of NC. Evan is the President of GOYA, he was the Vice President of Ideation last year and has been a class representative since the 6th grade. He participated in the St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival and was a finalist. He participates in the Hellenic Dance Festivals, and also received the Odyssey Scholarship. He volunteers at the Yiasou Greek Festival and also participates in church basketball and soccer.

College/Future Plans: Evan will be attending East Carolina University in the fall as a Biology major.



Antoune Elias Battah III

Charlotte Country Day School

Achievements: Leader in Younglife, a Christian organization for high school kids that comes together about twice a week to stay connected with one another through Christ.

Participated in four years of Varsity football, church basketball for Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, indoor soccer, and two years of Varsity Track over my high school career.

Volunteer with the Special Olympics every year, where I volunteer my time to work with special needs children and help them and encourage them while they are participating in their events.

College/Future Plans: I am going to Appalachian State University, and there I am going to study International Business. I plan on finding a part-time job during the school year, then next summer I will work with my father in his business or find work elsewhere in Charlotte.



Sotiris Vasilios Exarhos

Marvin Ridge High School

Achievements: Sotiri is the son of Vasili and Vicki Exarhos. While attending Marvin Ridge High School, Sotiri was a four-year A/B Honor Roll student and an active member of the Interact Club. His athletic involvement included JV soccer during his sophomore year, where he earned the MVP Offensive player award; he also played club soccer with Charlotte United Soccer Club on the Classic A team up until his freshman year. Sotiri's Church activities include: serving in the altar, graduating first in his class from Greek School, GOYA member, volunteering at the Yiasou Greek Festival, dancer in both the Greek Festival and Hellenic Dance Festival, St. John Chrysostom Oratorical participant (10th grade), and playing on the Holy Trinity basketball and soccer teams. He most enjoyed being an assistant basketball coach for the 3rd grade girls basketball team this year.

College/Future Plans: Sotiri will be attending UNCC/CPCC Charlotte through their Passport Program, with plans to major in Physical Therapy.

CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2014!!



Elina Nixon

Myers Park High School

Achievements: Some of my achievements were being chair leader of the DECA program, organizing tutoring for biotechnology classes, and organizing photo montages for the art department. Activities outside of school consist of working, going to church, and spending time with my family and friends.

College/Future Plans: Attending CPCC in the fall with plans to transfer to East Carolina University. Major will be biology. Summer plans consist of interning with Walgreens in hopes of pursuing my career in pharmacy.



Anastasios (Taso) Nick Karnazes

Providence Day School

Achievements: National Honor Society; PDS Honors Jazz Ensemble; Varsity Soccer; Model UN; Model UN, President; Model UN, Best Delegation

College/Future Plans: Boston University, Kilachand Honors College, undecided major



Jonathan Paul Troupes

Ardrey Kell High School

Achievements: Varsity Dive team grades 9-12 and Regional/Conference qualifier grades 10-12, Ardrey Kell Knights in Action award for 100+ volunteer hours, Holy Trinity Basketball MVP, CMC-Pineville teen volunteer grades 9-12, GOYA Vice President, International Cliff Diver

College/Future Plans: Plans to attend NC State in the fall



Amelia Pantazis

Indian Land High School

Achievements: Member of National Honor Society, Beta Club, Future Educators of America, National History Day South Carolina State Winner in 2010, GOYA, Varsity Cheerleading Captain, cashier and assistant manager at Jomars Family Restaurant

College/Future Plans: College of Charleston; Majoring in Biology; Want to be a Pediatrician; Received the LIFE scholarship



Michael Joseph Ziozios

United Faith Christian Academy

Achievements: Graduated from United Faith Christian Academy

Attended United Faith for 13 years - Preschool to Senior year

Sports: Varsity Soccer all of high school
Varsity Soccer Captain 12th grade
Varsity Soccer MVP 12th grade
Church Basketball
Church Soccer

Student Government
Homecoming King 12th grade
National Honors Society 12th grade

College/Future Plans: Planning on attending CPCC and transferring to a University 2nd year and then studying abroad in another country

Majoring in business

Oratorical Festival

On Sunday, February 23rd, the Sunday School Program hosted our annual St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival, where students in the 7th through 12th grades had the opportunity to research, write and prepare speeches on topics related to our Orthodox faith. This year's Junior Division participants were: Georgia Athens, Constantine Boardman, Floriana Boardman, Mimi Dizes, Lea Holevas, Ronnie Holevas and Chrysoula Xyrafakis. In the Senior Division: Angelika Ballas, Katerina Exarhos, Despina Giotis, John Kontoulas, Margarita Margiotis, Stefani Palamaris, Sophia Politis, and Evan Vlahos.



congratulate these exceptional students for their achievements. Our local finalists will compete at the District Division Oratorical Festival, which will be held at St. Luke's Church in Mooresville, NC on Saturday, April 5th. We wish them all the very best!

Just as the students work hard to prepare for the competition, a tremendous effort goes into preparing for the event itself. We are so fortunate to have Jerri Holevas as chairperson for our local festival, and we appreciate the efforts of Jerri and her committee members in preparing such a beautiful and well-organized program. We also thank our

wonderful chefs, Mr. Spero Kalevas and Mr. Constantine Katsoudas; the meal they prepared was delicious. A special thank you goes to Georgette Boukidis, Fotini Kaltsounis, and Christina Melissaris who served as our Junior Division judges, to Tina Christenbury, Evan Metaxatos, and Joanna Pitsikoulis who served as our Senior Division judges, and to our timekeeper, Anna Pitsikoulis. Many thanks to all of you for contributing your time and talents to this special event for our Sunday school students.

Although all of the participants did an excellent job, we want to especially congratulate the finalists in the Junior Division - Floriana Boardman and Lea Holevas. In the Senior Division - Katerina Exarhos and Margarita Margiotis were the finalists.

In addition to receiving a plaque, each finalist was awarded a \$100 check from our local Philoptochos chapter. A sincere thank you goes to the Philoptochos for their generosity, and we

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GOYA-HOPE/JOY

Seniors' Trip to St. Augustine, FL

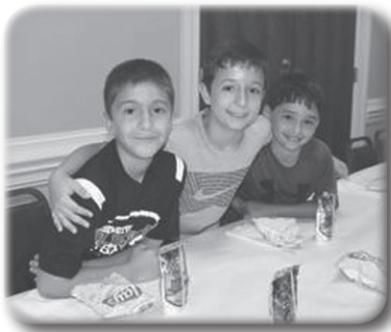
We had a beautiful trip to St. Photios Shrine in St. Augustine, FL on April 3rd to April 6th with our Senior Sunday School Class, their teacher and Sunday School Supervisor, Miss Effie Fotopoulos, Chaperones and Fr. Michael. We visited the St. Photios Shrine on St. George Street with Mrs. Polly Hillier, Director of the Shrine, giving a most detailed tour of the Shrine and the first established Greek immigrant settlement. Also we visited OCMC (Orthodox Christian Mission Center) where our Seniors experienced a grand welcome, saw a video on mission work in Africa and participated in a valuable discussion learning the effective



Dinner with the Seniors and Fr. Michael at a Greek-owned restaurant in St. Augustine.

work of OCMC abroad. We had the Akathist Hymn Service at St. Photios Shrine and had the opportunity to tour St. Augustine on the trolley cars. On Saturday and after some soul-searching and uplifting spiritual discussions at the Shrine, we also went to the shore. On Sunday morning we had Divine Liturgy at St. Photios Shrine and left for Charlotte. All the participants young and old had a great time. The Seniors that attended were: Sotiri Exarhos, John Kontoulas, George Kourakos, Elina Nikopoulos, Amy Pantazis, Dimitri Politis, Christena Pourlos, Jonathan Troupes and Evan Vlahos. We look forward to next year's trip with our Senior Class of 2015.

Vacation Bible School



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Vacation Bible School



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Preschool By Preschool Staff



Whooh's in the News at the Preschool?

Christ Is Risen! Truly He Is Risen

It is hard to believe that the school year is over. It was such a joy to see all of our preschoolers learn and grow throughout the year. We will miss all of our children over the summer and look forward to seeing our students who will be returning in September. We would also like to welcome the new students who will be joining our preschool family this fall. To our rising kindergartners, we wish them many blessings as they begin this new journey towards Kindergarten. Our preschool program strives to provide each child with a solid foundation for them to build upon as they move on to Elementary School. We are proud to know that our rising kindergartners are well prepared to move on to "big school". We hope they will come and visit us at the preschool...we will miss them!

At HTGOP, we are truly blessed to have such wonderful parents in our preschool family. We appreciate all they have done for the school and for supporting all of our programs, activities and fundraisers. The parents are a huge part of what makes our preschool so successful. The staff would also like to thank the children and the parents for the many thoughtful things they've done for us throughout the year.. Most of all, we are grateful to our parents for allowing us to share in the academic, social and spiritual development of their children. They will always have a special place in our hearts. May God continue to bless all of our preschool families.

May and June were busy months at the preschool. Along with the warmer weather came spring fever. The classes were able to go outdoors more to see and learn about the beauty of the spring renewal. To celebrate our Mothers and Grandmothers for Mother's Day, we

invited them to "Muffins for Moms" on May 13 and 14. They spent the morning in their children's classrooms enjoying coffee and muffins, and sharing some special time together. Our three and four year old classes went to the Charlotte Nature Museum for a field trip on Friday, May 30th. The children enjoyed seeing all the different animals, reptiles and insects. It was a fun and educational way to finish out the school year. On Friday, June 6th, the preschool had its Graduation Program and End of Year Celebration. It was a time to honor all the classes and bid goodbye to our four year graduates before they move on to kindergarten. Once again, all the classes did a great job entertaining us with a medley of songs in Greek and English. The end of the year is always bittersweet as we see our graduating class moving on to the next stage in their lives. We will now turn our focus to the 2014-2015 school year as we await to see our children's smiling faces in the preschool classes once again. Have a happy and safe summer break!



Nature Museum Field Trip

Teacher's Corner:

M-F 4's – The Little Explorers – Angelina Korinis and Athina Politis

ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ ΑΝΕΣΤΗ!!! CHRIST IS RISEN!!! May is the month of the year that makes us pause, blink our eyes, take a deep breath and proclaim that we do not know where time has gone (so far as school goes), as we have been busy covering a myriad of areas both academic and social. Well, the end of the school

year is just around the corner, just like Summer, Kindergarten and a number of waiting new experiences (hopefully positive); and yet, we still have to cover quite a few new things which proves that learning never stops (for any age), never takes a vacation and never goes to sleep!

In the month of May, our 4/5 year olds



Nature Museum Field Trip

will explore and learn about: 1.Oceans and Sea Life, 2.Personal Safety, 3.Mother's Day and Unconditional Love, 4.Space (The Final Frontier!), 5.Music and Sound Production, 6.Turtles, 7.Money Recognition, 8.Telling Time, 9.Ancient Greece and The Olympics, 10.Ancient Egypt, 11.Medieval Times, 12.The 7 Continents and 13. The importance of obeying God and doing His will (γεννηθήτω το θέλημά σου) through the story of Jonah and the Whale.

Hopefully, time will permit us to do some interesting experiments with water, such as "bulging" water and proving that water has skin (surface tension). We will also talk about gravity. If May gets too hot, we invite you to come and play/splash in our mini ocean in our water table, but if you are afraid of sharks, whales, or manta rays and the like, then you need to bring the proper gear to protect yourself.....

Two more fun and worthwhile functions: 1) Muffins for moms (May 14) and, of course, grandmas, aunts and godmothers are also invited and very welcome. 2) A field trip to the Nature Museum- so much to see and experience! (May 30)

See you in June!

MWF 3's – The Cuddly Kittens – Athina Politis and Anna Koufaliotis

Our year is coming to a close and our "Cuddly Kittens" have grown and progressed so much. We fully believe in this verse of the Holy Scripture of Proverbs 22:6 "Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it". With this in mind, throughout the year, that's what we tried to do for our children. We tried to teach them, to guide them, to help them grow academically, socially and emotionally. We think that we have succeeded.

Our class has been such a joy to teach this year. We are so proud of our children. Their enthusiasm, their love,

their laughter, their hugs and kisses will be missed. We hope that they continue to grow as they enter the 4 and 5 year old class.

May will be a full month. The highlights of this month will be: "Our Muffins for Moms" on May the 14th. At the end of the month we will venture beyond our little "nest" (our classroom), and with much anticipation and excitement, we will participate in a field trip to the Nature Museum.

Mrs. Athina and Mrs. Anna will miss you and we wish you all a wonderful and great summer and hope it will be restful and joyful.

TTH 2's – The Leaping Frogs – Vicki Exarhos and Vickie Koskinas

We welcome May, the month of flowers with many exciting and fun crafts, and activities. Spring is in the air and summer is soon to follow. We will be busy reviewing our colors, shapes, numbers, and alphabet. We will discuss God's little creatures that come in all shapes and sizes. We will be exploring the wonders of the ocean and sea life and the little critters that inhabit it. We are thrilled to be hosting "Muffins for Mom" honoring all of you special mothers and grandmothers.(check your calendars for the upcoming dates). We can't wait to see you!

May is sure to move very quickly and June will be here before we know it! The children will be very busy learning our graduation songs, which they can't wait to perform for you. We will be



Graduation & End of Year Celebration June 6, 2014

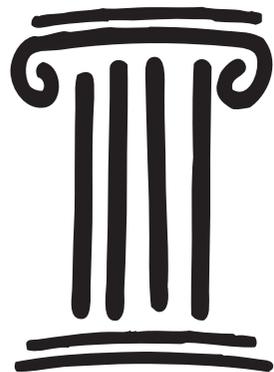
discussing hot weather, summer safety, and "Father's Day." This will conclude our wonderful year of learning. We wish you all a very safe and restful summer with your families. Καλό Καλοκαίρι!

MW – The Toddling Turtles – Maria Beall and Andrea Mahi Politis

April showers bring May flowers! This month we'll practice our graduation songs, make some crafty flowers, and we'll discuss God's beautiful creatures. Some insects we will learn about include caterpillars, ladybugs and butterflies.

After our Memorial break, we'll discuss Ascension and our love for Jesus and our church. We will conclude the month with fun sea life activities, and review all shapes and colors.

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Preschool Cont.

This year marks the anniversary of our very first Holy Trinity preschool class to be graduating from high school. What a proud moment this is for our graduates, our teachers and their families! Although it may have been a small class consisting



Elina Nixon, John Nicholas Kontoulas, Sotiri Exarhos and Vivian Burrows

of only 4 children, their accomplishments have been great in number. They were blessed to receive a wonderful start to their education with Miss Aggie Poulos, whom the kids still love and respect to



John Nicholas Kontoulas, Aggie Poulos, Sotiri Exarhos and Elina Nixon

this day! We congratulate them for their achievements and wish them all the best for a successful future. May Our Dear Lord and Most Holy Theotokos watch over them as they enter into the next chapter of their lives and bless them as they continue on their life's journey.

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Philoptochos

The members of Agia Elpis Philoptochos started preparing for the festival in May. Thousands of dolmades were made in record time. Hundreds of pans of galactoboureko were also made. Many thanks to all who came and helped!

For our spring outing in May, we went to the Daniel Stowe Botanical Gardens



and afterwards had lunch at Glenway Premium Pub in Belmont.

The end of the year picnic was held in June. Several ladies brought in their hand-made baby blankets. These blankets were blessed in Church and delivered



to Levine Children's Hospital. This is a project that we have done for so many years and we are very proud that we can help in the Charlotte community!

We had several workshops for the "no-sew" blankets. This is the project that we chose for our "Chapter Challenge" that will be presented at the National Clergy-Laity. Several of these blankets were also distributed to our shut-ins.

We will start baking again in August. Please come and help whenever you can.

The mission of Philoptochos is to provide aid to the poor, hungry and sick, to those who need it the most. All the ladies of the community are invited and welcomed to join Philoptochos.

Service:

As believers we like to fulfill our commitment to serve others within and outside our Community. We do this by sharing our time, talent and treasures for the ministry and the glory of the Lord.

Daughters of Penelope

The DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE, Venus chapter #102, met on May 20 at the Open Kitchen to conclude its 2013-2014 meeting schedule. Christina Skiouris, President, presided. After a delightful dinner, elections were held for the next calendar year. Co-presidents are Patricia Economides and Eleni Livas Bingham. Vice President is Dot Delano; Recording Secretary is Irene Politis; Corresponding Secretary is Mary Alexis; and Treasurer is Dianne Leventis.

There was a general discussion of next year's HIGH TEA & FASHION SHOW which is scheduled for February 21, 2015 at Carmel Country Club. The Daughters has pledged \$50,000 to establish a special room at the Levine Cancer Center for Doctors Consultation.

We encourage interested persons to make plans to attend and purchase tables of ten (10). Tickets are \$40 each and can be ordered from Dianne Leventis, 704-366-8284. daleventis@bellsouth.net. To date, thirteen tables (13) have been sold.

We encourage companies to purchase corporate champions to assist in the fight against breast cancer. Please contact Dianne Leventis for any of the following:

- PLATINUM (\$1000 and up)
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Choir News

The Sunday School year wrapped up with its second service choir rotation schedule between three choirs: the Adult Choir, the St. Romanos Baritone Choir and the St. John Koukouzelis Youth Choir. This rotation provided a nice rotation schedule for everyone. The Youth did a wonderful job this Sunday School year—kudos to them for their efforts and cooperation! We certainly look forward to their return in the Fall for the start of another Sunday School year and new rotation choir schedule.

We also mourn the loss of two choir members from the first service choir, Marie Pitsikoulis and Lillian Lyles. They both now dwell in a place of light where there is no pain or sorrow. May their blessed memory be eternal.

Our Adult Choir has held practices in preparation of this summer's 38th Annual Conference of the Southeastern Federation of Greek Orthodox Choirs and Musicians (SFGOCM) to be hosted by Holy Trinity in Charleston, SC on July 17-20. The Liturgy arranged by the late Dr. Michael Petrovich will be conducted by Dr. Nick Maragos of Rochester, MN and will be chanted acapella.

I will sing to the Lord as long as I live, I will sing praise to my God while I have my being.
-Psalm 104:33

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Νέα & Φωνές του Ελληνικού Σχολείου Αγίας Τριάδος

ΘΕΡΜΟΤΑΤΑ ΣΥΓΧΑΡΗΤΗΡΙΑ ΣΤΟΥΣ ΑΠΟΦΟΙΤΟΥΣ 2014

Κανονικό Πρόγραμμα
(με αλφαβητική σειρά)

ΚΩΝΣΤΑΝΤΙΝΟΣ ΒΡΕΤΤΟΣ * ΣΑΡΑ ΚΑΚΟΥΡΑ
ΔΗΜΗΤΡΑ ΚΑΡΥΓΙΑΝΝΗ * ΜΑΡΙΑ ΚΑΣΤΑΝΑ
ΝΙΚΟΣ ΚΑΣΤΑΝΑΣ * ΓΙΑΝΝΗΣ ΣΚΕΝΤΕΡΗΣ
ΕΛΙΣΑΒΕΤ ΤΟΥΦΕΚΟΥΛΑ

Πρόγραμμα Προφορικής Επικοινωνίας

ΕΛΕΥΘΕΡΙΑ ΕΥΡΙΠΠΗ

ΚΟΡΥΦΑΙΟΙ ΑΠΟΦΟΙΤΟΙ

ΠΡΩΤΗ ΘΕΣΗ

ΕΛΙΣΑΒΕΤ ΤΟΥΦΕΚΟΥΛΑ

ΔΕΥΤΕΡΗ ΘΕΣΗ

ΔΗΜΗΤΡΑ ΚΑΡΥΓΙΑΝΝΗ
ΓΙΑΝΝΗΣ ΣΚΕΝΤΕΡΗΣ

Με επιτυχία τελείωσε άλλη μια χρονιά στο ελληνικό μας σχολείο. Ο π. Μιχαήλ, το Κοινοτικό Συμβούλιο, η Διεύθυνση του Ελληνικού Σχολείου, το εκπαιδευτικό προσωπικό και ο Σύλλογος Γονέων και Διδασκάλων εύχονται σε όλους τους μαθητές και γονείς τους καλό καλοκαίρι και χαρούμενες διακοπές.

Τη σχολική γιορτή αποφοίτηση που έγινε την Τρίτη, 20 Μαΐου 2014 τίμησαν με την παρουσία τους και ευλόγησαν ο προϊστάμενος του Καθεδρικού μας Ναού π. Μιχαήλ Βαρβαρέλης και ο π. Ταξιάρχης Βλάχος, οι οποίοι στη συνέχεια μίλησαν στους μαθητές ενθαρρύνοντάς τους και παροτρύνοντάς τους να συνεχίσουν την εκμάθηση της ελληνικής γλώσσας, να είναι υπερήφανοι για την ελληνική τους κληρονομιά και ο Χριστός να φωτίζει τις ψυχές τους και να καθοδηγεί τις πράξεις τους.



Τα θερμά τους συγχαρητήρια προς τους μαθητές εξέφρασαν επίσης ο διευθυντής του σχολείου Ελευθ. Περούλας, η κ. Κάθυ Πίτμαν και η κ. Μήνα Νίζον ως αντιπρόσωποι του Συλλόγου Γονέων και Διδασκάλων. Δεκάδες μαθητές βραβεύθηκαν γιατί άριστευσαν, άλλοι γιατί δεν είχαν καμία απουσία και μερικοί γιατί πρώτευσαν στους αθλητικούς αγώνες της Πρωτομαγιάτικης εκδήλωσης που πραγματοποιήσε και φέτος το σχολείο μας στο Ελληνικό μας Πάρκο. Αξίζουν θερμά συγχαρητήρια σε όλους τους μαθητές και ιδιαίτερα στους μαθητές της έκτης τάξης που παρουσίασαν εξαιρετικές πτυχιακές εργασίες με θέμα «Η γενέτειρα των Προγόνων μου».



Στη συνέχεια, οι μαθητές όλων των άλλων τάξεων απήγγειλαν ποιήματα, τραγούδησαν αποχαιρετιστήρια τραγούδια και χόρεψαν ελληνικούς παραδοσιακούς χορούς. Ήταν μια όμορφη και λαμπρή εκδήλωση που θα μείνει αξέχαστη σε όλους μας.

Τέλος, μετά την εκδήλωση και προς τιμήν των αποφοίτων προσφέρθηκε από τους γονείς τους και τις άοκνες κυρίες του Συλλόγου Γονέων και Διδασκάλων ένα θαυμάσιο δείπνο. Κατά τη διάρκεια της εκδήλωσης αυτής δόθηκε η ευκαιρία στους απόφοιτους να μιλήσουν για τη ζωή τους και τα πλεονεκτήματα που τους πρόσφερε η ελληνική τους εκπαίδευση επί επτά ολόκληρα χρόνια. Όλοι οι απόφοιτοι είχαν την ευκαιρία να ευχαριστήσουν τους γονείς τους, τους εκπαιδευτικούς και τους ιερείς που όλα αυτά τα χρόνια ήταν δίπλα τους και που κόπιασαν για τα παιδιά να πετύχουν τους θεάρεστους στόχους τους.

Θερμά συγχαρητήρια στους γονείς τους για τις θυσίες που έκαναν όλα αυτά τα χρόνια για να διατηρήσουν τα βλαστάρια τους την ελληνική τους συνείδηση και να νιώθουν στη ζωή τους ιδιαίτερα υπερήφανα για την ελληνική τους καταγωγή και την ελληνορθόδοξη πίστη τους.

Γι' αυτό δεν πρέπει να λείπει κανένα Ελληνόπουλο φέτος από το Ελληνικό μας Σχολείο. Είναι χρέος όλων μας να προσπαθήσουμε με κάθε θυσία να μάθουν τα παιδιά μας την πλουσιότερη γλώσσα του κόσμου, τη γλώσσα των Ευαγγελίων μας, την μητέρα των γλωσσών... την ελληνική μας γλώσσα.



Και όχι μόνον!

Να τους μεταλαμπαδεύσουμε τις αζεπέραστες αξίες του λαμπρού μας πολιτισμού, της ένδοξης ιστορίας μας, των ελληνοχριστιανικών μας ιδεωδών και της ελληνοχριστιανικής μας κληρονομιάς.

Στιγμιότυπα από το επίσημο θαυμάσιο δείπνο των αποφοίτων 2014 του Ελληνικού μας Σχολείου



Xίλια
Ευχαριστώ
Thank You

Η Διεύθυνση του Ελληνικού Σχολείου, οι Εκπαιδευτικοί και ο Σύλλογος Γονέων και Διδασκάλων εκφράζουμε τις θερμότερες ευχαριστίες μας στους:

Τριαντάφυλλη Καπερώνη, Λάρυ Μηννακάκη και Ντίνα & Αλίκη Στασινού

για τα αξιόλογα χρηματικά βραβεία που πρόσφεραν στους κορυφαίους απόφοιτους αλλά και στους απόφοιτους με τις καλύτερες πτυχιακές εργασίες. Ευχόμαστε η θεάρεστη αυτή πράξη να γίνει παράδειγμα προς μίμηση.

ΘΕΡΜΟΤΑΤΑ ΣΥΓΧΑΡΗΤΗΡΙΑ

Σε όλους τους απόφοιτους για τις εξαιρετικές πτυχιακές εργασίες τους που υπέβαλαν, ως προϋπόθεση αποφοίτησής τους, στη Διεύθυνση του Ελληνικού μας Σχολείου με θέμα:

«Η ΓΕΝΕΤΕΙΡΑ ΤΩΝ ΠΡΟΓΟΝΩΝ ΜΟΥ»

Οι εργασίες αυτές είχαν σαν αποτέλεσμα να ενθαρρυνθούν οι τελειόφοιτοι αυτοί μαθητές να μάθουν πολύ περισσότερα για τη γενέτειρα των προγόνων τους και να παρακινήθούν να δημιουργήσουν άρρηκτους δεσμούς με τους συγγενείς τους στην Ελλάδα και να είναι υπερήφανοι που είναι Αμερικανοί Ελληνικής Καταγωγής.

Νέα & Φωνές του Ελληνικού Σχολείου Αγίας Τριάδος

Μαθητές, εκπαιδευτικοί και γονείς γιορτάζουν στο Ελληνικό μας Πάρκο την Πρωτομαγιά 2014.



Μεγάλη επιτυχία είχαν οι αγώνες δρόμου, σκυταλοδρομίας, αυγοδρομίας και άλλων παιχνιδιών που οργάνωσαν η διεύθυνση και οι εκπαιδευτικοί του Ελληνικού μας Σχολείου. Χίλια ευχαριστώ στις άοκνες κυρίες του Συλλόγου που πρόσφεραν τα φαγητά, και τα λουλούδια για τα παραδοσιακά στεφάνια

Και του χρόνου με υγεία!

ΘΕΡΜΟΤΑΤΑ ΣΥΓΧΑΡΗΤΗΡΙΑ ΣΤΟΥΣ ΕΠΙΤΥΧΟΝΤΕΣ ΣΤΙΣ ΕΠΙΣΗΜΕΣ ΕΞΕΤΑΣΕΙΣ ΕΛΛΗΝΟΜΑΘΕΙΑΣ ΤΟΥ ΜΑΪΟΥ 2014. Η ΕΠΙΤΥΧΙΑ ΤΟΥΣ ΞΕΠΕΡΑΣΕ ΚΑΘΕ ΠΡΟΣΔΟΚΙΑ ΜΑΣ. ΑΙΕΝ ΑΡΙΣΤΕΥΕΙΝ!



Οι επιτυχόντες κατ' αλφαβητική σειρά και επίπεδο επιτυχίας:

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LEVEL OF PROFICIENCY C2: BROUZOUKI ARGYRO * BROUZOUKIS VASILEIOS

Ο Διευθυντής του Ελληνικού Σχολείου και υπεύθυνος του Εξεταστικού Κέντρου Ελληνομάθειας του Καθηδρικού Ναού Αγίας Τριάδος, Ελευθ. Περούλας, εκφράζει, εκ μέρους όλων των εκπαιδευτικών που συνέβαλαν στην επιτυχή διεξαγωγή των εξετάσεων, εγκάρδια συγχαρητήρια στους επιτυχόντες, εύχεται, εις ανώτερα και κάθε επιτυχία στις ακαδημαϊκές τους σπουδές. Στα τέλη Ιανουαρίου 2015 θα γιορτάσουμε στο σχολείο μας τη μεγάλη διπλή τρανή γιορτή των Τριών Ιεραρχών και των Ελληνικών Γραμμάτων κατά τη διάρκεια της οποίας θα απονεμηθούν και τα Πιστοποιητικά Ελληνομάθειας στους επιτυχόντες.

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