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# Hellenic American Academy

Academic Achievement, Cultural Awareness and Pride, Spiritual Enrichment

## Socrates Hellenic American Day School

Weekly Newsletter

January 8, 2010

### FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Best wishes to everyone for a happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year.

With the Holidays past and the New Year resolutions made, let us all commit ourselves to the pursuit of academic excellence and growth of our Socrates Hellenic American Day School.

January is **National Reading** month and our School-Wide New Year Resolution is to read nightly a minimum of: 15-20 min. for Preschool; 20-30 min. for K - 3<sup>rd</sup> grades; 30-45 min. for 4<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> grades. Parents please encourage your children to fulfill this resolution by providing them with opportunities to share their reading skills with you in both languages, Greek and English.

### GREEK ESSAY COMPETITION "TO AGRAFON"

This Saturday, January 9, all HAA students 6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> grade will have the opportunity and are invited to participate in the Greek Essay Competition "To Agrafon", in memory of Fotios Litsas, sponsored by the Metropolis of Chicago.

PLACE: HAA / TIME: 9:30 a.m. / WHAT TO BRING: Pencil & Eraser

### GREEK LETTERS CELEBRATION - PANSCHOLIKI YIORTI

Our school will participate in the Greek Letters Celebration (Panscholiki Yiorti) organized by the Metropolis of Chicago on Saturday, Jan. 23, at 3:30 p.m., held at St. Nectarios Church, 133 S. Roselle Road, Palatine. Please join us.

### OPEN HOUSE/FUN FAIR - JANUARY 22, 6 - 8:30 P.M.

We will be hosting an Open House and Fun Fair to introduce new families to our Day School. We kindly ask all parents to support this event by spreading the word about the Open House and inviting their friends and relatives to visit our school.

### THANK YOU!

The faculty and staff would like to thank the PTO for your thoughtful Christmas gifts to students and faculty.

### REGIFT CHRISTMAS GAMES

Did your child receive too many games for Christmas? We have a solution for you!! Bring your gently used (*must have all pieces*) or new games to Hellenic American Academy office to be used by our students during: indoor recess, before and after care.



**SATURDAY, JAN. 9 - 7:30 P.M.**

The Greek Folk Song (Επιτραπέζιο)  
*A wonderful and authentic presentation of a folk art, a product of the genius and the creativity of the Greek people.*

**PRESENTING GREEK FOLK SINGER**

*Chrysanthi Trakos*

**ACCOMPANIED BY CLARINETIST**

*Jim Stoyanoff*

**VOCALISTS**

*Toula Bozonelos, Athina Lykourazos & Ted Stamison*

**SATURDAY, JAN. 16 - 8 P.M.**

Taverna style Greek music night. Meet old friends, make new ones, sing and dance to quality songs and music by Dimitris Marinou, Andrew Georgas & Nick Lambrinos.

Appetizers: 8 p.m.

Live Greek Music: 8:30 p.m.

Donation: \$10

### CHESS WIZARDS - WELCOME BACK!!!

Beginning Friday, Jan. 15, students in grades K-8<sup>th</sup> will have the opportunity to participate in 9 week after school enrichment class. Registration forms were already sent home, if you didn't receive one please stop by the office to register your child (*ren*).

### ART CLASSES

Beginning Thursday, Jan. 21, students in grades 1<sup>st</sup> thru 8<sup>th</sup> will have the opportunity to participate in a 9 week Art afterschool enrichment class. Registration forms were already sent home, if you didn't receive registration information please stop by the office to register your child (*ren*).

*Note: There will be an Art Class Enrichment program available for Kindergarten students in the spring.*

### DATES TO REMEMBER

- Thurs., Jan. 14 - Fundraiser - Out of Uniform/Crazy Hair Day
- Fri., Jan. 15 - Chess Wizards @ 3:20 - 4:20 p.m.
- Thurs., Jan. 21 - Art Classes @ 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.
- Sat., Jan. 23 - Greek Letters Celebration @ 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.
- Sat., Feb. 6 - Apokriatiko Dinner Dance

### INCLEMENT WEATHER

WEBSITE - [HellenicAmericanAcademy.org](http://HellenicAmericanAcademy.org) (*Emergency Closing Link*) or [www.emergencyclosingcenter.com](http://www.emergencyclosingcenter.com)

TEACHER CALL - *Your child's teacher will call your home between the hours of 6:45 - 7:15 a.m.*

NEWS/RADIO - *We typically follow the district closure announcement (i.e. Deerfield, Glenview or Northbrook schools).*

*If our school remains open and you feel driving conditions are not favorable, please use your best judgment in deciding whether or not to bring your child to school.*




# STUDENT COUNCIL UPDATE

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Hi, my name is Maria Tabakis student council secretary and I would like to update you on student council activities. The Socrates Day School student council has the responsibility to:

- ➔ Govern the student body
- ➔ Support our school
- ➔ Support community events
- ➔ Raise funds for worthy causes
- ➔ Promote school spirit

We kicked off our year with elections for the student council body.

Our first event was *Denim Day* for *Breast Cancer* awareness.  The money we raised supported the American Cancer Society. During the next event, students in 4<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> had the opportunity to feed the less fortunate. We served over 175 meals, feeling good that we made a difference. Before we knew it, it was Thanksgiving! Additionally we collected non-perishable foods for the food drive.

This brings me to the New Year and the differences we would like to make. Following is a quick update on the first two endeavors.

At our last meeting, we tackled two very different but equally important subjects. First, we reviewed the playground proposal. All I have to say is “*WOW, WOW, and WOW!*” Second, we discussed a topic near and dear to everyone’s heart, raising funds to support a little boy named Yano Pournaras, age 3 that has Neuroblastoma (*a disease in which malignant cancer cells form in nerve tissue of the adrenal gland, neck, chest, or spinal cord*). Currently, Yano is at the Comer Children’s Hospital in Chicago undergoing a stem cell transplant. He has stage 4 cancer and was given 30% chance of living.

The Student Council along with the support of the teachers and administrators will have a **Fundraiser** where 100% of the money raised will help Yano’s family with their medical expenses. On Thursday, **January 14**, all students from Pre-school through 8<sup>th</sup> grade are being asked *not to wear their Uniform* and to come to school with “*CRAZY HAIR!!!!!!*” in support of little Yano. We are also asking for a donation of \$10 (*or whatever you can afford*) per student. Checks can be made payable to: “*To Benefit Yano Pournaras*”. For more information, please stop by the school office.

Thank you for supporting this worthy cause.