

ΤΑ ΝΕΑ ΜΑΣ

HELLENIC ORTHODOX COMMUNITY NEWS

20th September 2008



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Wow, what a month. September was extraordinary for our school.

On the 5th September, I attended the "Minister's Awards For Excellence In Student Achievement 2008" with Mrs Miroula Koliri and Ms Elena Koliri. These are prestigious awards where literally hundreds of applicants are painstakingly sorted through to find juniors and seniors who have excelled in not only language but in overall contributions to the community. As we are only allowed to nominate one child per school, our teachers made the unanimous decision to nominate KATERINA BAMPOS. Katerina has not only been an exceptional student in Greek, but is an elected member of the Bexley North Public School parliament and a wonderful asset to her community. Katerina's application was successful and received a "*highly commended*" award in the junior category. Mrs Miroula, Ms Elena and myself were beaming with pride as she received her award in the Greek national dress. On behalf of all the members of our community, I congratulate Katerina for this great result. This achievement reflects on Katerina's family, friends and school who have influenced and helped Katerina to be the person she is today. Congratulations also to Ms Elena Koliri who taught, researched and drafted the application.

On the 6th September, we celebrated our 40th year anniversary school dance. I'm proud to say that this was a resounding success. Firstly, congratulations to the Committee who did a wonderful job. This took many months of planning and a lot of precious time away from their families so all our children could continue to benefit from our proud culture and language. A big thanks to all our sponsors, the HON. John Hatzistergos MLC, and

Angelo Anestis (Rockdale council). Finally, our sincere thanks go to the parents and children of the Greek Schools who supported our dance on the night and helped our worthy cause.

On the 9th September, an article was published by Jim Gainsford in the St George & Sutherland Shire Leader. The article featured the history of our school and our contribution to the local community. Also photographed was teacher CHRISTA PAPALEONTIOU who is celebrating her 30th year at our school, surrounded by some of her past and present students.

Looking ahead, our next function is the 28th October "OXI DAY". Traditionally our students learn and recite poems and plays commemorating this important day in Greek history. Subject to hall availability, this will take place on the Tuesday 28th October after school hours. For Beverly Hills and Kingsgrove students, this will take place at Kingsgrove Public School and Bexley North students will be at Bexley North Public School. We will inform you if there are any changes after the school holidays.

Thank you again to all the parents who bought raffle tickets. Unfortunately our school fees, grants and investments do not cover the cost of running the school. There is a short fall of about \$11,000 per year and so inevitably, fees would have to rise. If any parent or guardian would like to discuss this issue or have any suggestions on overcoming the increase of fees please feel free to call me or better still attend our fortnightly meetings. Together we can build on the future of our schools.

George Spathis (0400 543 646)

CULTURE CORNER

This month, we are proud to dedicate Culture Corner to our annual Greek Dance which was held on Saturday the 6th September 2008.

The Hellenic Orthodox Community celebrated its 40 year Anniversary Dance. What a night! Our tables were decorated in white tablecloths with blue napkins. Balloons were on each and every table to create the perfect atmosphere and plenty of prizes to be won. People came to watch our children dance to traditional Greek music and at the same time support the Greek Schools. Parents and patrons alike sat and watched in amazement as the children were caught up in the moment of performing for everyone who was there. They completed the routines with smiles on their faces that reached from ear to ear. It was great to see our children sitting together as a group on their tables outside of school and having a really good time.

The DJ who was absolutely fantastic played Nisiotika, Kalamatiana, Zeimbekika and the best part of the evening was the playing of Zorba. Children of all ages joined parents on the dance floor and it was just an incredible sight to see. I'm sure a few tears were shed watching the whole scene. I know it made every parent proud to watch our children actually jump in and enjoy it. We ate and danced on tables literally and our children felt the pride of being part of the Greek Culture.

Finally, a special thanks to Mary Mastorakos and all of the committee members who devoted a lot of time and effort to make the dance a success including organising the dance, mystery baskets and auction items and lastly, but not to be forgotten our President George Spathis who has with his support and guidance proven to be an astute leader. Keep up the good work guys.

Greek Name Days

This month celebrates the raising of the true cross or in greek, "Υψωση του Τιμίου Σταυρού" in the year 326 by Saint Helena, the mother of Saint Constantine. This Name day is celebrated by all Greeks christened with the name Steven, Stavros and Stavroula on the 14th September.

Below are the name days celebrated for the month of September:

September 1 - Simeon
September 3 - Anthimos
September 4 - Moisi, Ermionis
September 5 - Zaxarios, Zacharias
September 8 - Gennisi tis Theotokos
September 9 - Ioakeim & Annis
September 11 - Evathia (Eve)

September 13 - Kornilios, Aristeidos, Kornilia
September 14 - Ypsosios Timios Stauros, Stavros (Steven)
September 15 - Nikita
September 16 - Eyfimias
September 17 - Sofias, Pisteos, Agapis, Elpidas, Sofia, Agapi, Elpida
September 18 - Eumenios, Ariadnis (Ariadne)
September 20 - Eustathios, Stathis
September 22 - Fokas
September 23 - Sullipsi Prodromos
September 24 - Theklas, Thekla
September 25 - Eyfrosinis
September 26 - Metastasi Ioannos Euaggelistos
September 27 - Kallistratos
September 29 - Kuriakos, Kiriakos

History of the Olympic Games

The Olympic Games were first held in ancient Greece. They began in 776 BC in Olympia, Greece, and were celebrated until 393 AD. The prizes were olive wreaths, palm branches and woollen ribbons.

These ancient games lasted for nearly 1,000 years but stopped when Greece was invaded and conquered and became part of the Roman Empire.

The games as we know it today began again in the late 1800's, when Baron Pierre de Coubertin of France, decided to start them up again. The first of the modern games was held in Athens, Greece in 1896. Amazing facts about the games:

- In ancient times only free males were allowed to participate in the games.
- Females were forbidden to even see the games, the penalty for watching was death!
- Milo, a 6th century B.C. wrestler won the wrestling crown six times.
- The **Hoplitodrome** was a footrace where the participants ran in armour.
- In A.D. 394 the then Roman emperor Theodosius 1 ordered that the games be stopped.



The Olympic Motto is ***Citius, Altius, Fortius*** which means ***"Swifter, Higher, stronger."*** This motto is used with the Olympic Symbol the five coloured rings. The rings are interlocked to represent the sporting friendship of people from all over the world.

The five colors of the rings (black, blue, yellow, green, and red) were chosen because at least one of these colours appears in the flags of every nation of the world.

The Olympic flame symbolizes the link between the ancient and modern games. By tradition the flame is carried by torch overland from Greece (except when it needs to travel over water) by a relay of athletes/people from participating countries. The games begin when the torch is used to light the flame signaling the beginning of competition.

At every Olympic Games opening ceremony an athlete from the host country takes the oath,

"In the name of all the competitors I promise that we shall take part in these Olympic Games, respecting and abiding by the rules which govern them, in the true spirit of sportsmanship, for the glory of sport and the honor of our teams"

SPONSOR OF THE MONTH

This month has been dedicated to all of our proud sponsors for this year's Greek Dance. Remember if you know of a business that would like to support our Greek Schools then let us know and we will include them in our growing list of sponsors.

- St George Graphics & Printing Pty Ltd;
- Loumbos Pty Ltd;
- Friendship Tours;
- Mortgage Wisdom (Mr Norbert Lajoie);
- Wizard Home Loans (Mr Jim Kiaris);
- Bexley North Public School (Mrs Karen Shehata);
- Zeus Plumbing (Gavin Munro);
- Adams Appliances;
- Bing Lee Burwood;
- Good Guys Caringbah;
- Giorgio's Café & Bar;
- Kingsway West Pharmacy;
- Jim the Rabbit Framing;

- Soccer City;
- Mode Access;
- D & C Styles Kingsgrove;
- Salvatore Continental Delicatessen Kingsgrove;
- Archie & Nick's Big Bite Charcoal Chickens Kingsgrove;
- Sydney Best Quality Meats (Zac Andrews);
- J.V. Quality Meats Earlwood;
- The Grove Hotel Kingsgrove

Kids Corner

This is the latest addition to our newsletter. Every month kids can now look forward to some colouring in fun. See if you can find and colour in all of the apples and leaves on the tree correctly.

