

# St. Demetrios Pythagoras School Board News – Fall/Winter 2014

*Greetings to all the families of PCA, PGS and PSGS! Welcome to our first newsletter of the 2014-2015 school year. We trust everyone is settled in and into the regular school routine. We hope you find these updates informative and helpful. Contact us with any questions, comments or suggestions. Meetings take place on the first Tuesday of every month, at 6:30 pm. The meetings are open to you and we invite you to join us. We are always seeking ways to better our schools; your input and ideas are always welcome.*

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# PYTHAGORAS SCHOOLS

## Welcome Your 2014-2016 School Board

Over the summer, the Parish Council elected a new School Board to serve the 2014-2016 term. Please welcome your new school board: President Harry Fournier, Secretary Maria A. Karamitsos, Treasurer-PCA Elias Soupos, Treasurer-PGS/PSGS Chris Kontos, Koula Alevizos Fournier, Mihalis Bourtsos, Thomaie Hilaris, Angela I. Kapotas, and Maria Stavropoulos. The board has already spent many long hours working for our schools. We are excited and enthusiastic for the future of the Pythagoras schools!

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## Join a School Board Committee...Make a Difference!

The School Board has created several standing committees that are charged with specific areas of enhancement and growth in our schools. Each committee must be chaired by a School Board member, and we invite all members of our St. Demetrios Family to share their input and talents.

*Technology Committee* will address topics such as purchasing and implementing devices, infrastructure to operate devices, determine needs, evaluate current use of technology in the classroom, set a strategic plan for how we will use technology in the future, and outline what tasks are needed to get there. If questions like these interest you: "How will we use technology in the future?" "Will we go to a 1-to-1 model?" "How much instruction will be on computers and/or in the years to come?" Contact Chairperson Maria Stavropoulos at [nmstavropoulos@sbcglobal.net](mailto:nmstavropoulos@sbcglobal.net) to get involved.

*Curriculum Committee* will evaluate our current curriculum and determine if further training or additional tools are needed. They will also look to the future, and determine any necessary changes. This committee will predominantly focus on PCA curriculum; PGS/PSGS curriculum is set by the Archdiocese, though the committee will discuss ways to enhance or supplement that curriculum as well. Those interested in helping set future curriculum initiatives, contact Co-Chairpersons Thomaie Hilaris and Angela Kapotas. [Hilaris.thomaie@gmail.com](mailto:Hilaris.thomaie@gmail.com) or [aintounas@gmail.com](mailto:aintounas@gmail.com).

*Marketing/Communications Committee* will develop a plan to promote the schools, especially PCA. They will look at ways to assist with recruitment and retention. This committee will evaluate all available channels of communication, including but not limited to advertising, PR, brochures, social media, teacher websites, newsletters, brand ambassadors, and street teams. We'll create a marketing plan to create awareness and promote

brand Pythagoras. If promotions interest you, please contact Chairperson Maria Karamitsos at [m.karamitsos@hotmail.com](mailto:m.karamitsos@hotmail.com).

*Fundraising/Gala Committee* is charged with coordinated fundraising activities. To help with future fundraising activities, please contact Chairperson Koula Fournier at [koulafournier@gmail.com](mailto:koulafournier@gmail.com).

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## We are a Family

There's appears to be a misconception out there that the School Board is only interested in PCA and doesn't give any time to PGS/PSGS. We'd like to put that notion to rest here and now. On the contrary! All three schools are important to us, however, please keep in mind that PCA is a full-time parochial day school. School is in session 30+ hours per week, as opposed to 4 hours of Greek School. PCA has an operating budget of about \$500,000 per year. Greek School curriculum is already set by the Archdiocese. We seek to enhance that where we can. PCA's curriculum, however, must align with state standards. We have the responsibility to train teachers on all the curriculum and technologies. We have an obligation to all the families that pay more than \$4000/year in tuition to attend the school, to continually raise the standards of excellence, and prepare these students as they move on from PCA. It is also our goal, with the next few years to get the program accredited. This adds many extra steps to whatever we do for PCA, as we must be diligent in making sure what we do and how we spend our money follows state protocols. A wise and prudent use of resources saves much time and money in the end. We always have time to address the needs and issues of Greek School, but know that the reality of running a parochial day school entails many more resources, time, effort, and energy than an evening and Saturday program. *With that said, we wish to remind everyone that we are a Family; we are all working toward the same goal—the finest schools we can offer.* Educating our children is the top priority. Together, we can make our students' time, at any of the schools, a worthwhile educational, spiritual, and even social experience. *Remember, we are a family and we work together!*

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## Enhanced Safety Measures...Help Us Train Our Kids to Spot Intruders in the Building

You may have noticed any non-staff and non-students in the building wearing visitor badges, or you may have been asked to wear one. We aren't doing this to make you crazy! There have been instances in neighboring schools of

intruders entering their buildings. To ensure the safety of students during school hours (all schools), we ask everyone to sign in the office, obtain a visitors badge, wear it at all times, and then return it to the office before leaving. Not only does this identify you as having permission to be in the building, it also helps to train our children. They are seeing the badges every day, and they now know that if they see someone without a badge, they must inform their teacher immediately. Many of us have been around the community for a long time, but not everyone knows everyone. We have many new teachers and aides this year, and new students as well, and they may not recognize you as a parent or a member of the community. We know it can seem like a hassle, but help us keep our kids safe!



*During school hours, be sure to stop in the office, sign in and obtain a badge before entering the school building. Don't forget to sign out and return the badge when you leave.*

## New Policy Manuals Available

School Board has spent seemingly endless hours conferring with our education attorneys to create new policy manuals, and implement policies that ensure our compliance with Illinois law. For years, many have considered private schools exempt from these laws, but that's not true. After many review meetings that have lasted well past midnight, the final manuals were presented to Parish Council. Adopted by PC and SB with the blessings of Fr. Andrew, these new manuals will govern our operating procedures going forward. There's a policy manual for staff, as well as one for the School Board and one for students. All families have received a Student Policy Manual, and must sign to acknowledge their receipt and knowledge of new policies. The manual is also posted on the PCA website. Faculty and School Board manuals have already been distributed. There are many new things in there, but please note all of these policies help to streamline our processes, set a protocol, and keep us compliant with the law. If you have any questions, contact Harry Fournier.

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## Infrastructure Improvements

Our building was constructed in the days before Internet, so as with all older buildings, infrastructure improvements must take place to accommodate any new technology. We are currently in the process of making improvements to the existing infrastructure, to allow us to have the ability to properly utilize technology in the classroom. We've recently doubled the bandwidth, and installed a new router, which allows us to operate more devices on our network. This will help eliminate previous issues of slow connections and drop off. The Multipurpose Room was recently hard wired, to accommodate many devices, and as we go forward, may be the location for all computer-based assessments. Students should no longer experience any connectivity issues during testing. We'll continually monitor our technology use to determine if additional bandwidth is needed. Please note, this is a process. Unfortunately we can't just go shopping, open the box, plug in and go. Before we purchase, we need to be sure to conduct our due diligence to ensure these purchases are prudent. In addition to researching if the product is sufficient for our purposes, we need to check to see if the software we wish to implement is compatible. There are many network-related criteria that also must be checked off the list. Once all that happens, and we purchase, we have to manage the devices. They must be inventoried, with adequate secure storage. We need to install security/antivirus software, as well as any software programs we wish to use. Then there's testing! Can the required number of devices operate at the same time in

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## Parking Lot Safety

In other safety news, we ask everyone to **not park over the yellow lines in front of the school (south) entrance**. There have been many instances of children and guardians almost getting hit by cars zooming in to drop off, whether for convenience or because they are late. **This area MUST be left open!** We hope to install poles to block the area, but in the meantime, **we kindly ask you to keep this area open at all times**. We also remind you to drive into the parking lot slowly, especially near the school entrance, and take extra care when backing out of your parking spots. We also remind you that there is no pick-up line either. Anyone dropping off or picking up children from school must park and enter the building. When people stop in front of the door to drop off or pick up, even for a "quick" minute, not only does this present a safety issue, but it creates a back-up out to Church Road. Please remind all caregivers who pick up and drop off. We thank you in advance for your cooperation to keep our parking lot safe!

one classroom, while others in the building may be on the network? Is more bandwidth necessary to accommodate them? Are there any bugs in the software programs? Another critical piece of the puzzle is the teachers. Teachers need to have some professional development time to learn to operate the devices; to learn how to design, present and integrate the technology into the classroom; and to learn how to teach students to use them. There's even more that space won't allow us to illustrate. If we skip any of those steps, the devices basically gather dust, and we have wasted our precious resources. If you have any questions regarding technology or infrastructure improvements and implementation or other related questions, please contact Maria Stavropoulos, and consider joining our technology committee.

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## Recent Expenditures

Prior to the start of school, PC approved the expenditure of \$10,000 from the PCA gala proceeds and an additional \$6,000 from Greek School for items needed in preparation for the start of the school year. These included a professional cleaning of the school, classroom floors were stripped and waxed, plus additional classroom and office furniture, laptops, and carpet were procured.

The school doors and office have recently been re-keyed. Also, per the Elmhurst Police Department and local ordinances, all classroom doors will be refitted with locks that are compliant with lockdown procedures. We are also looking into installing phones in each classroom.

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## Conflict Resolution

If you have an issue, there is a chain of command when trying to solve a problem. The protocol is as follows: see your teacher first. If that isn't bringing a satisfactory solution, see the program director. If the conflict persists, please contact either your program's School Board Liaison (PCA-Maria Karamitsos [m.karamitsos@hotmail.com](mailto:m.karamitsos@hotmail.com); PGS-Chris Kontos [cpkontos@gmail.com](mailto:cpkontos@gmail.com); PSGS-Mihalis Bourtsos [mihalis58@msn.com](mailto:mihalis58@msn.com)) or SB President Harry Fournier at [hjf.pythagoras@gmail.com](mailto:hjf.pythagoras@gmail.com). If the issue cannot be resolved, the final step is to meet with PC and Fr. Andrew. Remember, School Board meetings are open to everyone in the community. Join us on the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm.

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## Pythagoras Schools are Peanut and Nut Restricted, NOT Nut Free

All Pythagoras schools are peanut and nut restricted. We do not allow any peanut or nut products in the building during school hours AND the classrooms are to be nut free at all times. All ministries have been reminded that classrooms MUST remain nut free. Please note, this terminology is very important in identifying our schools' status. Since our building is a shared facility, other ministries may be cooking, baking and/or serving items containing nuts and nut products, so we cannot guarantee that there hasn't been any nuts in the Community Center or elsewhere in the building. For the safety of our students with allergies, we kindly ask for your continued cooperation in sending only peanut-free and nut-free lunches and/or snacks to school.

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## Metropolis Vasilopita Celebration at St. Demetrios = Pythagoras Students Performing

Our parish has been selected to host the Metropolis Vasilopita Celebration this coming year, on January 11, 2015. This is a great honor for our community. It also means that Pythagoras students will be performing that evening. Please mark your calendars for this important event. If you are available to assist in the preparations, setup and clean-up, please contact Mrs. Lena Angelos. We want to present our best to the Metropolis Community.

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## Faculty Outing

Faculty of all schools gathered with SB members for a night of fellowship – and bowling – on November 21. This was a great way to bring the staff of all three schools together, to get to know each other, and just for us to say thanks for all their hard work and dedication, and of course, have a great time! We're looking forward to celebrating our wonderful teachers again at the end of the school year.



*Congrats to PCA 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher Aleka Letsos, who won a Lettuce Entertain You gift card for highest bowling score.*

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## Read Meeting Minutes!

There's a lot going on in our schools. There's vital information in the School Board Meeting Minutes. We strongly encourage you to read the minutes we disseminate every month. Many of your questions and concerns will probably be addressed there. Direct any additional questions or thoughts to the School Board directly.

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## Pythagoras Children's Academy



### Certified Teachers for PCA

As you might be aware, with the opening of a new branch of Kensington School and the demand for early childhood education in the area, quality early education is big business around here. With this in mind, to keep PCA competitive and to ensure the finest education for our students, last year, PC adopted a policy that all teachers, with the exception of Greek and specials, must be Illinois State Certified or currently pursuing state certification, in a verified program. Our goal is to eventually have all classes taught by certified teachers.

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### Goodbyes

At the end of last school year, we said goodbye to former director and 1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher Patty Konstantopoulos. Patty had planned to remain as a teacher at PCA following the placement of a full-time director, but sadly, due to personal issues, was unable to finish the year. Pre-K teacher Georgia Kokkalias decided to move on after 10+ years of service. Katie Sietsema, a pre-K teacher, accepted a position at another school. Cris Christopoulos, a PE teacher and aide, also moved on, with plans to finish his degree. During the summer, we received word that Marita Urban, who was teaching 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> grade, had accepted a

position at another school, helping students with special needs. With these departures, it was on to a new school year, and a chance to begin anew. Anna Nikolopoulos, who had begun this year as a Pre-K teacher, recently resigned due to family reasons. We thank all of these individuals, for their service to PCA, and wish them well.

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### Our PCA Family is Growing!

This year, PCA welcomed a new full-time director (first in our history!), Mrs. Vicky Frigelis, many new teachers, and many new families. Enrollment at PCA stands at 106 students, a 24% increase over last year! Please join us in welcoming our new teachers: M/W/F Preschool: Peggy Zervas, Pre-K: Staci Tagaris, Kindergarten: Nicole Kalantzis, 1st Grade: Julie Coffey, 2nd Grade: Eleni Keramidas, and 3<sup>rd</sup>/4th Grade: Aleka Letsos. We welcome back Kindergarten teacher Dina Jason, now in her 16<sup>th</sup> year at PCA; Pam Kostopoulos, who is teaching Pre-K this year; our Greek teachers, Greek Director Christina Brales, 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> Greek teacher, now in her 10<sup>th</sup> year at PCA!) and Ioanna Pappadaki (PreS, Pre-K and K Greek), and specials teacher Rachel Maimonis, who is teaching art, music and PE this year, as well as T/TH preschool this year. We also want to give a shout out to our parish's Youth Director, Mr. Alex Magdalinos, who joined us last year upon the departure of Father George Lamberis. We're delighted to have Mr. Alex working with the students this year, teaching them Liturgical Music and on occasion, religion. As always, we thank our faithful leaders Father Andrew and Father Panagiotis for their loving service to PCA. *Welcome also to our 4<sup>th</sup> graders! This is our first-ever, and we're look to adding 5<sup>th</sup> grade in the 2015-2016 school year.*

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### Tuesday/Thursday Preschool Update

Our youngest students got off to a bumpy start this year, when the T/TH Preschool teacher resigned after the first day. A new teacher was quickly sourced, but after one day in the classroom, she accepted another position. We couldn't find a long-term sub to commit to an indefinite time frame. School Board and Director Vicky Frigelis conducted a vigorous search for a teacher not only certified in early childhood development, but one who was available to start right away, and would be a good fit for our school. Rachel Maimonis stepped in to substitute, under the direction of certified and retired teacher and current Preschool aide, Kathy Vranas. The kids loved Mrs. Rachel and began to finally settle in. Upon the School Board's recommendation to PC, Rachel was approved to be the long-term sub for Preschool while we exhausted our search for a permanent placement. Interviews proved fruitless. In order to avoid further disruption to our youngest and most vulnerable

class, and not subject them to another teacher change, Director Vicky Frigelis approached the School Board with the request that Rachel be allowed to remain in the position for the remainder of the year. Rachel is actively pursuing her certification and a Masters in Education. With the program verified, she fit under the criteria established under the new certification policy, and School Board and Parish Council approved the change in status from “long term sub” to “classroom teacher” for the remainder of the this school year. Thank you, Rachel, for your enthusiasm for our school and for stepping up for our students.

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## School Rush

In September, the School Board approved the purchase of a new app designed to enhance, organize and streamline communications between the school and parents. At a minimal cost to the school, the app is offered free to parents. It includes a daily planner for students, an all school calendar, staff/family directory and more. Parents could receive reminders via push notifications, emails and text message. The app has been released to parents. Some parents and teachers are experiencing technical issues that we are actively working to rectify. Thanks for completing the recent survey that was circulated. We’re working closely with the founder to iron out these issues, and will keep you updated.

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## New Curriculum and Books

In anticipation of the start of the school year, and in the spirit of our pledge to be aligned with state standards, new curriculum has been acquired. New curriculum and a class library were obtained for the 4<sup>th</sup> grade class. We’ve also added Daily 5 and Café, “sister” programs with strategies for reading and writing. A new phonics program was added for the younger grades, and the math curriculum has been enhanced. The teachers received training on the new curriculum and were ready for the start of school.

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## Liturgical Music

Another aspect of PCA’s curriculum often overlooked, but one that sets us apart, is Liturgical Music. This program began last year, under the tutelage of Father George. Mr. Alex is working with the students this year, teaching them Liturgical Music as a supplement to their music and religion courses. The children have been seen chanting during weekly church services, and all have been enriched by this program.

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## Library Partnership

Recently, PCA entered into a special partnership with the Elmhurst Public Library. PCA will be able to utilize resources for teachers and students to help supplement and enrich lessons. Students recently took a field trip to the library, where they were able to explore the Kids’ Library, do a craft project, and participate in a fun and interactive storytime.

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## Administrative Tech News

As part of our ramp up in terms of technology, School Board Members Maria Stavropoulos and Mihalis Bourtsos have been working on administrative issues pertaining to the website and emails accounts. All teachers were assigned Google-based emails, with the domain @pythagoraschildrensacademy.org. Google Apps has approved us for Google Apps for Education, which means no charge for emails. Maria Stavropoulos will be working with Director Vicky Frigelis and teachers to get class websites up and running throughout the year.

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## Tech Updates

For the start of the new year, all K-4 teachers were assigned a laptop for use in their classroom, to replace desktop computers. As the property of PCA, teachers must lock up these devices at the end of the school day. Desktop computers remain in the classrooms for use by PGS/PSGS students.

We’d like to take this opportunity to thank PPO for their donations from the proceeds of their 2014-2015 efforts. These include: three new interactive white boards (installed in both K rooms, and the 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> class), plus software and teacher training; new area rugs for some of the rooms, and more.

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*Mrs. Dina’s Kindergarten class participated in MAP® testing.*

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## Chromebook Pilot

With a portion of the proceeds from last year's Gala, we have purchased 10 new Dell Chromebooks. These were recently used for MAP® testing and were then integrated into the 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> grade class as part of a pilot program, utilizing a one-to-one at school system (one device per child). This program will be monitored to help us to continuously improve our use and integration of technology in the classroom to augment lessons. This pilot will also help in determining future technology purchases. All students have an individual Google Drive log-in, which allows our Google Administrator to monitor these accounts. The Chromebook settings, along with appropriate security controls are locked in place, and students cannot alter them. The students are very excited about the pilot and helping to shape the use of technology in the classroom at PCA.

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## 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Fun Run a Big Success!

On October 10, all PCA students participated in the Fun Run to raise money for the school. The kids sought sponsors and donors, and brought in \$8500, before expenses! The kids, led by Father Andrew, ran with several teacher and parents, while parents, grandparents and friends cheered them on. Proceeds will be split 50-50 between PPO, and School Board, for the general school fund. It was a great day for all! *Και του χρόνου!*



*Preschool and PreK students participated in the Fun Run with Father Andrew, Mrs. Rachel and Mrs. Peggy, while on the sidelines, Mrs. Pam counted the number of laps each student completed.*

## Join us for the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual PCA Gala

The 2<sup>nd</sup> annual PCA Gala will take place on January 31, 2015 at Café La Cave in Des Plaines. This year's theme is, "Embracing Our Past, While Educating Our Future." You've probably received an invitation already!

With last year's Gala proceeds, we were able to purchase many vital items for PCA, including, curriculum enhancements, new student desks and chairs, locking cabinets and laptops for our teachers and Chromebooks for our upper grades-- just to name a few. Your support will help PCA continue to thrive, and to offer the very best to our students. Note, this is not a PPO event. 100% of net proceeds benefit PCA directly.



We hope you'll join us an elegant, fun, adults-only evening in support of our beloved PCA! Everyone is welcome for this adults-only evening! We'd love to see our alumni families! If you missed it last year, don't miss it again! A great time was had by all!

Volunteers are needed to help solicit sponsorships and to assist with the event. Contact Koula Fournier, at [koulafournier@gmail.com](mailto:koulafournier@gmail.com) to help make the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual gala, even better than the first!

Sponsorships are available at varying levels. Contact Koula for sponsorship info.

## Chapel Time



Twice a week, PCA students attend Chapel Time, typically led by Father Andrew. Recently, Mr. Alex gave a session on the significance and symbolism of the censer.

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## OXI Day Celebration



On October 19 after Divine Liturgy, PCA students in 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> grade, recited poems in honor of OXI Day.

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## Support PPO!

A shout out to our wonderful PPO! PPO helps PCA whenever needed. PPO works hard all year, raising funds to purchase items to enhance the educational experience at PCA. Find them making lunch every Monday, hosting class parties and fundraisers, and so much more. The PPO board is: Co-Presidents Toni Milak and Erika Vlahos, Vice President Vicki Dray, Treasurer Theo Alexandrakis, Secretary Maria Karamitsos, and Hot Lunch Committee Roula Papamihail, Norma Gagliano, Chris Kontos, Karen Kavalas, and Kimberley Stamatopoulos. Meetings take place on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of every month. Your assistance is always welcomed and appreciated. Support PPO! [pythagoras.parents.organization@gmail.com](mailto:pythagoras.parents.organization@gmail.com)

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## Greek School

### Ελληνικό Σχολείο



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## Continuity with PCA

You may have noticed color-coded homework sheets in your child's folder. These are being used across the three schools, and are part of an effort to streamline Greek education at Pythagoras, so that all schools are receiving the same curriculum, instruction and homework across the three schools. This means, for example, that your first grader who attends PGS is receiving the same Greek curriculum and homework as a 1<sup>st</sup> grader in PCA and in PSGS. Let us know how that's going. Our Greek Director Christina Brales has been working diligently to not only secure the most capable, enthusiastic teachers in the area, but to work with them to enhance the Archdiocese-created Greek curriculum.

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## "Old School" Teachers

We've heard some talk about Greek School teachers that are "Old School," or "Why are they all from Greece?" First, we want to assure you that Director Christina Brales and Assistant Director Demetra Neofotistos work diligently to source the best teachers in the area. Also, it is true that teachers from Greece are preferable, for several reasons. We want our students to learn with the proper accent, and without American Greek-lish slang. Proper use of the language is imperative. We also would like you to know that the teachers are selected based not only on their resume, but also on their ability to inspire students, how they interact, their enthusiasm for teaching, and other related skills.

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## Tuition and Stewardship Payments

Thank you to all the families who have paid stewardship and tuition payments in a timely manner. We really appreciate it! It

helps us to have a steady cash flow to meet payroll and other obligations of the school. We are on track for our best level of collection this year. Keep it up!

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## Technology

With our increased bandwidth, we are looking at more ways to integrate computers into the Greek School classroom. Teachers are utilizing the PCA projectors to support their lessons, and that's working out well. Teachers are using some Internet-based tools to supplement their lessons, and the kids are very excited. It is our hope to source additional means of utilizing technology in the classrooms.

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## Laptops for Directors

School Board has recently approved the purchase of new laptops for Director Christina Brales and Assistant Director Demetra Neofotistos.

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## Greek Dance

Students 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and up began Greek dance during the course of their Greek School time. In the past few weeks, we have added Greek dance to the 1<sup>st</sup> grade curriculum. They are certainly capable, and their doing a great job! Welcome back Mrs. Jenny Sellis, our Greek dance teacher. ΟΠΑ!!



*PGS students learn Greek dance.*

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## PYTHAGORAMA – ΠΥΘΑΓΟΡΑΜΑ

Look for ΠΥΘΑΓΟΡΑΜΑ, the all-new e-zine, bringing all the latest news and happenings at PGS and PSGS. Predominantly written in the Greek language (that's why we're here, right?), with some English to accommodate the non-Greek speaking parents, this e-zine will be completed with color photos and more. Thanks to Ioannis Angelopoulos for creating ΠΥΘΑΓΟΡΑΜΑ!



*Coming your way soon!*

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## Support PTO

A shout out to our awesome PTO! They need our support, so please join them for a meeting, and lend a helping hand. PTO raises funds for activities to supplement the students' experience here at PGS and PSGS. This year's PTO board consists of: Co-Presidents Athena Kalaras and Valery Kapadoukakis, Vice President Valentina Eb, Corresponding/Recording Secretary Demetra Bolis, Treasurer Angie Thanopoulos, and Cultural Committee Chair Vicky Callas. PTO is planning to host one event each month, but they can't do it without your help. Dinner nights, mixers, dinner dance and more are on deck! Come out and lend a hand! Meetings are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of every month at 4:45 pm. Support PTO. Contact [akalaras@gmail.com](mailto:akalaras@gmail.com) or [vkapadoukakis@yahoo.com](mailto:vkapadoukakis@yahoo.com) for more information.

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## Pythagoras Greek School

*Welcome to the 91 students of our PGS!* This represents an increase of 7 students from last year. The 2014-2015 school year began on August 25.

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## 2014-2015 Team

Welcome to all of our teachers and aides for the 2014-2015 school year. What a team we have at PGS! PreK: Ioanna Papadaki; Kindergarten: Maro Lachana; 1<sup>st</sup> grade: Demetra Neofotistos; 2<sup>nd</sup> grade: Myrta Papaioannou; 3<sup>rd</sup> grade: Efi Nikols; 4<sup>th</sup> grade: (2 classes) Myrta Papaioannou and Kathy Vranas; 5<sup>th</sup> grade: Ioannis Aggelopoulos; and 6<sup>th</sup> grade: Christina Brales. Καλή Αρχή!



3<sup>rd</sup> graders PGS and PSGS students, with teachers Myrta Papaioannou (L) and Efi Nikols (R), prepare for the OXI Day presentation.

## Pythagoras Saturday Greek School

Welcome 133 students to the 2014-2015 school year! This is also a slight increase over last year. Classes began September 6.

### 2014-2015 team

Welcome teachers and aides! We'd like to introduce this great team! Preschool/PreK: Angeliki Psychogios; Kindergarten: Lina Anastasovitou; 1st grade (2 classes): Demetra Neofotistos and Maro Lachana; 2nd: Christina Samarinioti; 3<sup>rd</sup> grade: Myrta Papaioannou; 4<sup>th</sup> grade: Kathy Vranas; 5<sup>th</sup> grade: Antonia Antonopoulos; 6<sup>th</sup> grade: Ioannis Aggelopoulos; and Teen Track: Christina Brales. Καλή Αρχή!



1<sup>st</sup> graders at PSGS learn to dance the tsamiko.

## ALUMNI

We are seeking volunteers to engage our alumni. They will always be a part of our Pythagoras Family! Please contact us if you are interested. [Schoolboard.pythagoras@gmail.com](mailto:Schoolboard.pythagoras@gmail.com)

## PYTHAGORAS SCHOOLS CALENDAR:

- December 22-January 4: PCA Christmas Break
- December 27: PSGS Christmas Break
- January 17: PTO Roller Skating Party at Coachlite Skate Center
- January 24: Hellenic Letters Πανσχολική Εορτή at SS Peter & Paul in Glenview
- January 25: All Schools - Hellenic Letters/Three Hierarchs Program after Divine Liturgy
- January 25: Hellenic Letters Luncheon at Chateau Ritz in Niles
- January 31: PCA 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Gala
- February 7: PTO Apokreatiko Dinner Dance
- February 20: PCA Open House/early dismissal at 12:00 pm

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR:

- December 30: Family Ice Skating Party
- January 3: Coffee with Sister Vassa Live!
- January 11: Metropolis Vasilopita Celebration in our Fellowship Hall. Plan to be here! This is a huge honor for us!
- January 18: Godparent Sunday
- February 6: Philoptochos Fashion Show
- February 23: Clean Monday/Koulouma Dinner

## HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

We wish you a very Merry Christmas and a healthy and happy 2015!

Please contact us with any questions, comments or suggestions. [pythagoras.school.boa rd@gmail.com](mailto:pythagoras.school.boa rd@gmail.com)



*We wish you and your family*

*Merry Christmas*

*and a*

*Happy, Healthy 2015!*

*St. Demetrios*

*Pythagoras School Board*