



ARCHDIOCESAN COUNCIL MEETING April 23-24, 2004 - Chicago, Illinois

GREEK EDUCATION PROGRESS REPORT

The Department of Greek Education is pleased to report on the activities and projects that have taken place since September of 2003 as follows:

PUBLICATIONS

Our Catalog of Books and Resource Materials

A new Catalog, in full color, that lists all books and other resource material was published recently and mailed to community schools and teachers throughout the country. Books and other informative material included in the Catalog have been selected on the basis of appropriateness and suitability to the needs of the American-born parochial school students.

Two Books & CDs for Higher Grade Students (Grades 6-8th)

Two handbooks – one for the student and one for the teacher – were recently published by the Department to aid both teachers and students preparing for the *Comprehensive Examination in Modern Greek* – an intermediate level foreign language examination in Modern Greek.

The books contain actual tests, communication tasks for the oral examination of students, directions for administration of the examinations, student answer booklets, and an Appendix of the most commonly used Greek words, phrases and grammatical structures.

Made possible through a grant from the *Stavros S. Niarchos Foundation*, the books are being distributed gratis to schools and teachers throughout the country. A number of books, however, were also mailed to interested individuals abroad who learned about the books through the *Orthodox Observer* and the Archdiocese's Website. Over 1,200 copies have been sent out.

The Department has received positive comments about these publications and recommends their use for the teaching of Modern Greek as a foreign/second language to students in grades 6 through 8.

Audio CDs

In addition, the Department has produced six CDs containing the listening parts of the *Comprehensive Examinations in Modern Greek* to accompany the handbooks. The CDs are sold separately for the price of \$25 per set.

Curriculum for the Kindergarten

The *Curriculum for the Kindergarten* is in the process of being edited. Editing requires tedious work and ample time as well as specialized knowledge. It is anticipated that the work will be finishing by this summer. The Department promises to do its best to guarantee its quality and usefulness.

Teacher Training Program

Originally planned for November 2003, a two-week teacher-training program will commence tentatively in early September of 2004, at **St. Basil Academy**, Garrison, New York. The program aims at offering in-service training to teachers of Modern Greek who are currently serving in the Archdiocesan community schools throughout the United States.

The result of collaboration between the Department of Greek Education and the *Hellenic American Union*, Athens, Greece, this teacher-training program will introduce teachers on the *current methodologies on teaching Greek as a second language, computer education, classroom management, mixed ability teaching, etc.*

The cost for the two-week teacher-training program will be covered through donations made by generous sponsors. Participants and their community schools will be requested to defray the travel expenses. Priority will be given to the applicants with the least years of teaching experience and/or lack professional training.

Our Internet Web Page

Progress has been made in re-designing the Department's web page on the Archdiocese's Web Site. With the help of Jamil Samara of Internet Ministries, the Greek Education Department was able to give a new look to its web page and include new and up-to-date information.

Other Business

The Department of Greek Education handles numerous telephone calls and emails, on a daily basis, from individuals who seek information on various subjects, such as school operation, regulations, existing curricula, materials, teacher qualifications, and teacher salary scale and benefits. E-mail requests for assistance reach the Office even from abroad, especially Europe and Australia. Additionally, the Department ships out a large number of books and other materials, certificates, diplomas, and awards for which it issues invoices and collects payments.

THE DIRECT ARCHDIOCESAN DISTRICT PROJECTS

The Annual Teacher Seminar

The Department's annual *Staff-Development Seminar* was held under the auspices of His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios on November 4, 2003, at the "W. Spyropoulos" Parochial Day School of St. Nicholas Church in Flushing, New York and was attended by 282 teachers.

The Seminar included seven workshops and offered teachers of day and afternoon schools an insight into *Classroom Management*, *Writing Skills Across the Curriculum*, the *Environment*, *Teaching Greek for Communication*, and the *2004 Olympic Games in Athens*, Greece.

Dr. Cristal Chaney, professor of early childhood education and principal of the *Three Hierarchs Eastern Orthodox School* in Pittsburgh was the keynote speaker. Her presentation was on "*On Becoming A Teacher In An Orthodox School.*"

Teacher Workshops At The Metropolitan Museum of Art

With the help of the Greek Education Department, *The Metropolitan Museum of Art* was able to organize a number of workshops on the **EL GRECO Exhibit**. Sponsored by *Cycladic Art Foundation*, the workshops were held on the premises of the parochial day schools in New York, during the months of October and November 2003. Students and their families were offered free tickets for the Exhibit.

The *Cycladic Art Foundation* is sponsoring another workshop for the teachers that will take place on April 13, 2004, at *The Metropolitan Museum of Art*. The workshop is devoted on the Exhibition **Byzantium: Faith and Power**, which His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew inaugurated on March 15th.

The 2004 Comprehensive Examination in Modern Greek

The writers and editors of the *2004 Comprehensive Examination in Modern Greek* have completed their work, and the Examination has been sent to the *Hellenic American Union* in Athens for evaluation and further enhancement.

The Greek Letters Celebrations

The Department was instrumental in organizing the 2004 festivities honoring Greek Letters in the metropolitan New York area. Students, teachers, and administrators of the parochial day schools attended the Divine Liturgy, presided by His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, on the Feast Day of the Three Hierarchs, *January 30*, at the Holy Trinity Cathedral in Manhattan. Following the Liturgy, the Archbishop presented the students who excelled in Greek studies with the *Three Hierarchs Award for Excellence* along with an icon of the Three Hierarchs.

On January 31, the Archbishop cut the traditional Vasilopita for the principals and teachers at St. Demetrios Church in Jamaica. A student program honoring the Greek teachers followed.

The Spelling Bee Contest

The Department of Greek Education was again the coordinator of the annual *Spelling Bee Competition* among the students of the parochial day schools of New York City, which took place on February 24, 2004, at the Archdiocesan headquarters. John Nikolopoulos, an eighth-grade student of the *Greek-American Institute* of Zoodohos Peghe, Bronx, New York, won and was declared as the champion for the *Archdiocesan Spelling Bee Contest*.

The Spelling Bee Competition (in English) is a national event. The newspaper *Daily News* is the sponsor for the New York City public and nonpublic schools.

Conferences & Meetings

Meeting with the Principals

There were four meetings of the day school principals held since the beginning of the current school year. Held on September 17, December 3, January 9, and March 4, 2004, the meetings give the Department of Greek Education the opportunity to inform the principals on various projects that need their collaboration and gave the principals the opportunity to discuss matters of mutual concern.

Meeting with State Education Representatives

The Department's administrator met last October with officials of the *New York State Education Department* in Albany, in order to inform the authorities on the progress and the recent steps taken by the Department for the improvement and enhancement of the *Comprehensive Examination in Modern Greek*, which is administered annually to public and nonpublic school students for foreign language credit.

The SAE Conference

The Department's administrator represented the Office at the bi-annual SAE Conference that was held in Thessaloniki, Greece, in December of 2003.



Respectfully submitted by
MARIA MAKEDON