

# DIRECT ARCHDIOCESAN DISTRICT PAROCHIAL SCHOOLS ANNUAL SPELLING BEE COMPETITION FINALS

THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 2015



The **Spelling Bee Finals** for the students of the District's Greek American parochial day schools took place on Thursday, **January 8<sup>th</sup>**, at the Headquarters of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese with the blessings of His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America.

**Panagiotis Persianis**, an 8<sup>th</sup>-grade student of the *Holy Trinity Cathedral School* (319 East 74 Street, NYC) was our finalist, while **Anastasia Michialis**, a 6<sup>th</sup> grader at the *Greek American Institute* (3573 Bruckner Blvd., Bronx) was the runner-up. The winning word was "**patriarch.**"

Following are the names of the other contestants, their grade level, and schools:

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| 1. Hannah Erickson    | 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade – St. Spyridon School, New York City     |
| 2. James Ballas       | 7 <sup>th</sup> Grade – D.G.K. School of Holy Cross, Brooklyn  |
| 3. Theodora Athanitis | 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade – "A. Fantis" Parochial School, Brooklyn |
| 4. Steve Koullias     | 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade – "W. Spyropoulos" School, Flushing      |
| 5. Nicoletta Baltzis  | 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade – St. Demetrios School, Astoria          |

Following the competition, His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America presented each student with a "*Certificate of Award*" and a silver cross. In addition, students received gift cards on behalf of the Direct Archdiocesan District as well as the District's Office of Education.

Mr. Nick Katsoris, Esq., president of The Hellenic Times Scholarship Fund (HTSF) that sponsors the Archdiocesan Competition, and author of the *Loukoumi* Book Series for young children, offered each school bee one copy of *Loukoumi's* latest publication and \$100 and \$500 to the finalist.



The Spelling Bee competitions are sponsored by The E.W. Scripps Company, in conjunction with over 260 newspapers around the world. The competitions aim at improving spelling, increase vocabulary, learn concepts, and develop correct English usage. They are open to boys and girls, in grades 5 through 8. In New York City, competitions are sponsored by the newspaper DAILY NEWS for the public and nonpublic schools.

The Office of Education of the Direct Archdiocesan District coordinates the competitions among the New York City parochial Greek-American day schools.