



GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA
DIRECT ARCHDIOCESAN DISTRICT OFFICE OF EDUCATION

October 21, 2009

The Reverend Priests, Parish Council Presidents
School Board Chairmen, Administrators, and Teachers of
The Parochial Greek Orthodox Day Schools of the Direct Archdiocesan District

RE: THE DISTRICT'S ANNUAL TEACHER SEMINAR

We are pleased to announce that this year's annual *Staff-Development Seminar* of the *Direct Archdiocesan District* will be held under the auspices of **His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America** on Tuesday, **November 3, 2009** (*Election Day*), at St. Demetrios High School in Astoria.

Organized by the *Direct Archdiocesan District Office of Education*, the Seminar will include a great number of workshops covering the English and Greek curricula, from pre-K to high school grades, offering in-service training to the teachers serving in the community day and the afternoon schools of the Direct Archdiocesan District. The keynote speaker will be Mr. Nick Katsoris, author and publisher of the *Loukoumi Books and Materials* for young children.

The Greek language and culture teachers will have the opportunity to listen to two lecture presentations by distinguished university professors from Greece. Specifically, Prof. Georgios Papanastasiou, director of the Institute of Modern Greek Studies and professor of Linguistics at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki will speak on "*The relation of the Greek language and its script form throughout the centuries.*" And Prof. Eleni Skourtou of the Department of Elementary Education/ University of the Aegean, Rhodes will speak on "*The basic principles of language teaching from the aspect of bilingualism.*"

Since professional development is essential for making teachers competent and in alignment with education standards, the Board of the Greek Orthodox Parochial Day School Principals of New York has designated "Election Day" for professional development, and all schools will be closed. The principals of the District's afternoon Greek schools are advised to do similarly and encourage their teachers to attend.

The *Seminar* will start with registration at 8:00 a.m. and end at 2:00 p.m. To confirm your attendance, please complete the enclosed "*Registration Form*" and fax it to **212-774-0248** as soon as possible. For further assistance, please call the *Direct Archdiocesan District Office of Education* at (212) 570-3552 or visit its web page at <http://www.education.goarch.org>.

Sincerely,

Maria Makedon
Director