

Newsletter



JANUARY 2015

PRINCIPAL: Christoforos Cartoudis
HEAD TEACHER: Panayiota Magou

Telephone: 0121 236 2546
Email: greekschoolofstandrews@yahoo.co.uk
Website: www.orthandrewgreeksch.co.uk

2014 – 2015 EVENTS CALENDER

Sun 1st February 2015
The Feast of the Three Hierarchs
Cake Sale in Church
(Great opportunity for those bakers out there).

Saturday 14th February 2015
 Parent's Breakfast in Church Hall at 10.15am

Sun 29th March 2015
Greek Independence Day
25th March 1821 - 1831 /
Greek Cypriot Independence Day
01st April 1955
 12.45pm in Christoforos Cartoudis School Hall

Sat 4th April 2015
School Closes for Easter
Pupils should come prepared to receive communion

Sat 18th April 2015
School re-opens

Monday 27th April 2015
Bags 2 School Collection

May / June
Annual School Trip

Sat 11th July 2015
Last day of the school year
School BBQ

PLEASE NOTE: THE SCHOOL BELL WILL NOW RING AT 10.30AM AND NOT 10.15AM AS BEFORE.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Welcome back to our School. We hope you all had a very Happy Christmas. It does feel like a distant memory now. The first week back at School was special for the children. Father Kosma and Father Akakios came and blessed our School and children. The younger children especially were excited to queue up and be blessed /splashed with the Holy water.



THE FEAST OF THE THREE HIERARCHS



The Feast of the Three Holy Fathers, Great Hierarchs and Ecumenical Teachers Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian, and John Chrysostom is an annual commemoration of our Holy Orthodox Church on which we honour the unwavering faith and spiritual brilliance of three Saints who offered the entirety of their lives and abilities in the service of God and humankind.

As selfless archbishops and pastors they led the faithful in worship and ministry. As loving teachers they offered guidance in the path of holiness. As divinely-inspired theologians they used their intellectual skills to confront error and defend truth. As holy men they lived in a manner that showed to all the grace and blessings of communion with God.

The life and work of the Three Hierarchs emphasized the essential relationship of each and every person to God through faith in Christ. They affirmed that this relationship was nurtured unto salvation and eternal life within the community of believers, the Church. The Church was first and foremost a spiritual home where the needs and yearnings of the soul could be met. It was also a place of renewal, where the people of God received a new covenant through the offering and victory of Christ. In addition, the Three Hierarchs each taught that life experienced in the Church was a means of completion, leading the faithful toward the perfection of their faith, and the fulfilment of all things in the heavenly kingdom of God.

The Feast of the Three Hierarchs is on Sunday 1st February, please come along to church.

Newsletter



PRINCIPAL: Christoforos Cartoudis
HEAD TEACHER: Panayiota Magou

Telephone: 0121 236 2546
Email: greekschoolofstandrews@yahoo.co.uk
Website: www.orthandrewgreeksch.co.uk

THE SCHOOL, FEES & FUNDRAISING

In a recent meeting we were discussing the running costs of the School, our annual budget for maintenance and also for things we would like to update and improve in our school. One of our new committee members was surprised at the School's annual overheads and suggested that we should be more transparent with parents and the community so that they can see what is involved and why fundraising is so important. So here we go;

The School was always self funded by tuition fees alone, but in recent years these fees have not been enough to cover the running costs of the School, so the School has been assisted by the Church and Philoptoxos of Apostolos Andreas.

The majority of our teachers were funded by KEA (The Cypriot Mission of Education), but over the last 2-3 years due to the economic crisis in Greece and Cyprus, the number of teachers paid by KEA has been reduced. We need all our teachers so the School has had to make up the shortfall. Last year the running costs of the school were approx. £23,000.00. Whilst our numbers continue to grow every year, so do our overheads. Our current pricing structure does not cover the school's overheads (please see table below as a guide).

	CURRENT	wkly fee	TO COVER OVER HEADS	wkly fee
One Child	£250.00	£5.95	£230.00	£5.48
Two Children	£350.00	£8.33	£460.00	£10.95
Three Children	£400.00	£9.52	£690.00	£16.43
Four Children	£400.00	£9.52	£920.00	£21.90

The School opens 42 weeks a year (excluding holidays).

As you can see our current fees are much less than most families pay for after school clubs which run for maybe an hour or so.

We understand that charging the correct fees would impact the number of families that are able to send their children to school, so we constantly look for other ways to make up the difference. Currently we have our annual cake sale in Church, the raffle in March / April, the Bags 2 School collection and the Easy Fundraising website. We also have a tray collection in church whenever we have a Yiorti and we are also given the money the Philoptoxos collect from the little flag donations that are given out in October.

We are also looking into opportunities to obtain grants / lottery funding so that we can continue to purchase laptops / interactive whiteboards so that the children can get the very best from each and every lesson.

As our committee is made up of teachers and parents, our time is limited to what we can fully achieve and are always looking for people who have a bit of time that they can help us achieve the best for our school and future generations to come.

So on that note, **our annual raffle** will be at the end of our Yiorti on Sunday 29th March. If any business would like to donate a prize for the raffle, please see one of the committee members on the gate in the morning. We will send home 4 books per family mid February. We do have a licence for the raffle so tickets can be sold to work colleagues as well as family and friends. A letter with all the information will be sent with the raffle tickets.

Newsletter



PRINCIPAL: Christoforos Cartoudis
HEAD TEACHER: Panayiota Magou

Telephone: 0121 236 2546
Email: greekschoolofstandrews@yahoo.co.uk
Website: www.orthandrewgreesch.co.uk

EASY FUNDRAISING

Don't forget to register and use Easy Fund Raising. It's so simple. Shop online with your favourite stores and raise money for your school at the same time. Donations vary but on average, 2-3% of what you spend is donated i.e. if the donation shown is 2.5%, the school will receive 2.5 pence for every £1 you spend. Every penny counts. Please tell your friends and family and get them to join up too.

The website address is: -
<http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/orthandrewgreesch>

BAGS 2 SCHOOL

The **Bags to School Collections** for 2015 have been booked for Monday 27th April & Monday 9th November. We would once again put our faith in you to help us raise money to put towards our School.

I'm sure you know the drill by now but just for those who are not aware. We are looking for any unused clothes, bedding and paired shoes. Please put them in black bags and bring them to the school or Church. I'm 100% sure there are plenty of you that could have a good clean out and find some unwanted items. The heavier the bags the more money our school will raise.
PLEASE DO NOT SEND IN ELECTRICAL ITEMS AND TOYS

CAKE SALE SUNDAY 1st FEBRUARY 2015

The Cake Sale is upon us on Sunday. Please bring in any cakes made either to School on Saturday or directly to the Church Library (the room to the right of the entrance in to church). If there are any parents able to help sell the cakes, please go the library where your assistance will be greatly appreciated.

PARENTS BREAKFAST SATURDAY 14th FEBRUARY 2015

We will be holding our annual breakfast morning for all the parents on Saturday 14th February 2015. There is no charge; it is our way of giving back and getting together.

Once you have dropped the children off to school please come in to the church hall and indulge in a hot sandwich of your choice (bacon, sausage and egg) and a cup of tea or coffee. As it is Valentine's Day, we have challenged our resident Chef Lagy to make us Valentine shaped eggs.

WELCOME TO NEW FACES & THANK YOU

We would like to welcome three new volunteer teaching assistants to our School; Eleni, Emi and Vangelis. They have been with us since October and their help is invaluable to the teachers. We also have two new committee members, Stella Constantinou and Dassos Morby

NEWSLETTER

Many of you will know that Nicki has been creating our Newsletter for the past few years. Her family has grown recently and she has also started a new business venture which has left her unable to continue with the newsletter and committee. We would like to thank Nicki for all her hard work and commitment to the School and will be roping her into helping us whenever we can, just for fun. We are very pleased that a former pupil Nik Stylianou has kindly offered to take up the post of resident newsletter writer and will be creating our future newsletters.

Newsletter



PRINCIPAL: Christoforos Cartoudis
HEAD TEACHER: Panayiota Magou

Telephone: 0121 236 2546
Email: griekschoolofstandrews@yahoo.co.uk
Website: www.orthandrewgrieksch.co.uk

GREEK / ENGLISH COOKERY BOOKS from the Alkionides Charity



£6.00 (available from the office)

For every book sold Alkionides give the school £1.00

The Alkionides Charity

Alkionides UK was registered in 2008 (No. 1125976) to support low-income families from Cyprus undergoing medical treatment in UK hospitals. Alkionides UK is a non-profit, charitable organisation. It consists of dedicated volunteers who give their time and effort in order to help Cypriot families who travel to the UK for essential medical care that is not available in Cyprus. These families face enormous expenses and trying times. In March 2010 we founded the 'Alkionides nest', a shelter for disadvantaged Cypriot patients in central London. The 'nest' is close to the most widely used hospitals and provides a homely environment, including Internet and Cypriot television; in this way it has become a home-from-home. The Charity covers the cost of the rented accommodation. Our members visit regularly to provide emotional support and often help with transport and translation services.

In 2014 **Alkionides UK Birmingham & Midlands** was launched in order to support Cypriot patients undergoing treatment for 'amyloidosis' at Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham. "Our dynamic Team and our Midland Greek Communities provide moral support, transport and translation services and raise funds for future assistance with accommodation and other essential requirements".

GIFT AID FORMS

The church is registered for Gift Aid. Over the last year or so they have been able to claim back gift aid on donations that the community makes when they attend church via the tray collections. We have been given gift aid forms to ask parents, families and friends to fill out, if you attend Church at Apostolos Andreas. A form should be filled in per person over the age of 18 and a UK tax payer and not as a family. The money the church collects is used to help maintain our beautiful Church and also help a lot of people within the Midlands communities and other Greek communities both in the UK and outside. One of our committee members will have gift aid forms on the gate in the mornings if you would like one, alternatively please email Nicola or Petros at griekschoolofstandrews@yahoo.co.uk who will email you a copy. We will need them printed off and handed in as it must be an original signature on the forms and not a photocopy.

MIDWEEK LESSONS

- Monday 5pm - 6.15pm (years 3 and 4)
- Monday 6.30pm - 8pm (years 5 and 6)
- Wednesday 5pm - 6.45pm (GCSE, A/S & A Level)
- Wednesday 7pm - 8.30pm (Adults)

Please Note: *There is NO cost for these lessons for children who are already enrolled in Saturday School*

We look forward to seeing as many children as possible attend the midweek classes as well. Parents whose children attend these extra lessons have commented that they are very beneficial.