

Dates & Events

**No classes on Wed. & Thur.
Dec. 25 & 26 and Wed.
Jan.1.** Classes resume on
Thurs. Jan 2

Saturday, Jan 4, 5-9pm:
New Year's Party & Vasilopita

**Saturday, February 8,
6pm:** Apokriatiko Dinner
Dance

25 March Parade: TBD
Stay tuned for the date.



In Touch

Your quarterly guide to the school News and informations and Events

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Hello GGT Parents!

Congratulations to all of our students, teachers and families on a successful first semester for our third year of GGT! This fall, we welcomed seven new families and twelve new students to our GGT family! We also welcomed the return of four GGT graduates to our newly developed THELO program (Teen Hellenic Educational and Language Organization for ages 12-15)! And of course, we welcomed our two new teachers, K. Eleni Vastis (grade 5) and K. Marilena Tsigarida (grade 6) to GGT who join our faculty members, K. Popi Moustakas, K. Eleni Kosmidis, K. Marika Groussis and K. Dimitra Grompou! We kicked off our new school year off by developing "Classroom Rules and Expectations" where our students worked with their teachers to brainstorm ideas and thoughts on important values including kindness, respect, responsibility, and thoughtfulness in Greek and English.

Back Again

Lending Library: Our Lending Library continues this year with over 100 books in Greek available to all of our students. The purpose of the library is to provide alternative and additional avenues for our students to be exposed to the Greek language while doing so in a preferred and relaxed manner! Students may check out up to two books each for a two week period. If you would like to join the lending library committee,

please email Angie Saratsopoulou agla-iasaratsopoulou@yahoo.com

Kalanta: Over sixty members of our GGT family and teachers sang the Kalanta as we traveled by bus to visit homes and establishments in the surrounding areas. It was a great way to teach our children this Greek tradition while reinforcing friendships and spreading Christmas cheer!



Apokriatiko Glendi

Saturday, February 8, 6pm – 11pm at the Crowne Plaza, 15 Middlesex Canal Park, Woburn . Please spread the word about our second Apokreatiko family glendi as we celebrate together as a GGT community. Enjoy an evening of dinner, raffles, and dancing to the music of **Dj Kostas Blathras**. Reserve your tickets by the end of this week at <https://www.ggtutoring.com/apokriatiko> or call **Christina** at 671 797-7283 or **Sally** 617 7334342.

New This Year

GGT Greek Dance Program!

Our **Greek Dance Program** is in full swing and being taught by **Kyria Dimitra Grompou**, who also teaches K and grade 4. Classes are held from **4-4:30 on Wednesdays and Thursdays**.

Guest Teachers and Activities!

Several new interactive learning opportunities were explored this fall in order to encourage active learning, including hands-on and movement activities to include best practices of addressing a variety of learning abilities.

Students in grade 3-6 and THELO

participated in a presentation in **Hellenism by Dr. Manos Chaniotakis, CEO of Ergopedia and retired professor at MIT**. He spoke on the importance of learning Greek, and knowing who we are while incorporating the four elements of learning a second language: listening, speaking, reading and writing. Dr. Chaniotakis encouraged the children to question and share their ideas in order to make a difference in the world.

Students in Kindergarten, K1, and 1st & 2nd grade participated in a cooking lesson by **Despina Makredes**, a retired teacher of culinary arts from Everett High School. Mrs. Makredes led a class on making koulourakia and taught baking terms and ingredients to the children in Greek during this hands-on activity.

Students in grade 3-6 and THELO traveled to the Museum of Fine Arts and toured several Greek galleries with Museum Educator, Thomaida Mele, a native Greek speaker with degrees in the study of oral and written language and classical Greek Art. Following the tour, students participated in an art lesson and created their own clay sculptures.

All students were treated to a **Greek dance lesson by Cindi Trent Triantos, educator of theater and dance at The American College of Greece/Deree College in Agia Paraskevi, Athens, Greece**. Our students learned about the origin and role of dance in ancient Greece. A discussion about the meaning of dancing in a circle was followed by a lesson where students performed a circular movement sequence representative of ancient Greek dance. They explored the rhythmic structure of the traditional Kalamatiano which also has its roots in ancient Greek music and dance. Following the student lessons, a special session of Cindi's Kefi Workout, a fitness program that is accompanied by Greek traditional and popular music and familiar Greek dance steps was offered to all parents!

Holiday Cheers

Wishing all of our students, teachers, and families, a Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year filled with good health and love! **Θα θέλαμε να ευχηθούμε στους μαθητές και μαθήτριές μας Χαρούμενα Χριστούγεννα και ο Νέος Χρόνος να είναι γεμάτος με υγεία και αγάπη! Καλά Χριστούγεννα! Καλή Χρονιά! Elaine**



New Year's Party & Vasilopita!

Let's celebrate the New Year together on **Saturday, January 4, 2020 from 5 - 9 pm at the Knights of Columbus, 15 Winslow Street, Arlington, MA!** We'll party with music and dance, and a potluck dinner as our children sing carols, and enjoy crafts and games! The traditional cutting of a Vasilopita for our school and GGT families will be shared with all! **Please reply here, <http://evite.me/Xmq1CYTBhD>**



A Family's Ties to GGT

Spreading GGT's Love of Teaching Our Children About our Greek Heritage

By Maria Elena Biskini-Lourotou

My family and I shared our best learning experiences and friendships during the past two years at Greek Group Tutoring (GGT: <https://www.ggtutoring.com/>) in Lexington, Massachusetts. We are so happy to know that GGT continues to grow and thrive. I really enjoyed being on the school's board and feel so blessed to have met such a lovely group of teachers, parents and volunteers. My oldest son enjoyed coming to class, taking part in all the fun activities GGT in Lexington had to offer, and making dear friends. It really felt like an extended family which is why we were all very sad to move away, and leave our dear school behind.

When I first visited The Woodlands, in Texas, I noticed that the two closest churches with Greek schools were approximately forty miles away in Houston, and close to an hour driving on a good day without traffic. There were no other options for learning Greek besides private tutoring. Coming from Boston, it truly amazed me how few Greek churches and Greek schools are in Houston and the Greater Houston area. No one knows how many Greeks live in the area but there are quite a lot. I run into them all the time and they tend to not take their children to Greek school at all simply because it is too far. This was going to be a big problem for our family. Greek school has always been extremely important to us as a family. I started thinking, what if we can open a GGT in or near The Woodlands using the same concept? Will others be interested? Will others share our desire to instill Hellenic ideals, language, and culture in their children? I started asking around, meeting Greek parents, and everyone seemed very positive and excited about the possibility of a Greek school in the area. I spoke with the board, advisors and teachers at GGT in Massachusetts and they all were excited, very supportive, and helpful from the get-go. Additionally, creating GGT TX is also a perfect way for my family to stay in touch, work together, and hopefully hold joint educational activities and trips together with our GGT family in Massachusetts.

Thus, GG Tutoring of Texas was created for the 2019-2020 school year! We have started out small and hope to grow. We are appreciative of all the encouragement and how grateful the parents who have registered their children have been. I am so thankful to have found a wonderful group of teachers and parents to be on the board here in Texas, as well as the families who have entrusted us with their children and share the GGT vision. After all, it does take a village!

