

The WEEKLY

March 11, 2020

DATES TO REMEMBER

March 12	English Honors Seminar – 7 am
March 12	Scholastic Book Fair 9am to noon
March 12	Math Lab 2:30-3:15
March 16	7 th Grade ELA Prep 2:30-3:15
March 16	Writing Workshop, 2:30-3:15
March 17	St. Patrick's Dress Down Day – all collections go to GiGi Play House, flyer attached
March 17	7 th Grade Math Prep 2:30-3:15
March 17	Math Lab 2:30-3:15
March 17	Tennis Club 2:30-3:15
March 17	Afterschool Chorus, group B, 2:30-3:15
March 18	Writing Workshop 2:30-3:15
March 18	Knitting Club 2:30-3:15
March 18 - March 20	Terra Nova Exam for Grades K-2
TBD	Girls' Basketball Practice

FROM THE OFFICE

- ◆ **Please note!** The Bronx Borough President's Greek American Heritage Celebration that was scheduled for tonight, March 11, has been postponed.
- ◆ **We are working hard trying to keep our school clean and our children healthy.** Any donations of cleaning supply like wipes, disinfectant spray, paper towels, and facial tissues are always needed and appreciated!
- ◆ Volleyball Club has been cancelled
- ◆ Friday, March 20th - Second Trimester ends
- ◆ Wednesday, March 25th - Greek Independence Day Production
- ◆ Thursday, March 26th and Friday, March 27th -NYS ELA Exam, Grades 3 through 8
- ◆ Friday, March 27th - Dress Down Day
11:15 Dismissal
Bus Services
Parent/Teacher Conferences 12-2 & 5-7

- ◆ Sunday, March 29th - Greek Independence Day Parade.
- ◆ Mr. Thanos, our Afterschool Chorus Director, will continue meeting with Group B only (Grades 1, 2, & 3) for the whole month of March.
- ◆ The After School e-mail address gaiafterschool@gai-edu.org
- ◆ The Nurse's phone number is 347-810-7810

FROM THE PTO

- ◆ Congratulations to our Chocolate Sale Winners!
John Kolitsopoulos, 5th Grade – 1st Place
Dionisios Lourdas, 6th Grade – 2nd Place
Nikolaos Kolitsopoulos, 1st Grade – 3rd Place
- ◆ Book Fair – Wednesday, March 11 and Thursday, March 12. We always need and appreciate volunteers! Thank you to all who helped!
- ◆ **Save the Date:** Thursday, April 2nd – Fashion Show (see attached flyer). Grand raffle tickets are on sale now.
- ◆ Tickets for the Fashion Show could be purchased at school, as well as on Eventbrite.
- ◆ Due to Amazon policy changes the search by wish list name option is no longer available. In order to access the list please click on the link to our Amazon Wish list.
- ◆ With any questions concerning Fashion Show or anything else, please contact us at gai.pto1@gmail.com.
- ◆ Thursday, March 19th - Eighth Grade mandatory Prom Meeting.

March 11th, 2020

I have read this week's edition of "The WEEKLY"

Student's Name

Parent's signature

GREEK AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF NEW YORK

3573 BRUCKNER BOULEVARD
BRONX, NEW YORK 10461
TEL. (718) 823-2393



CYNTHIA DAFNIS
Assistant Principal

YIOTA PAPAGRIGORIOU
Director of Greek Dept.

JOHN ATTANAS
Principal

March 11, 2020

Dear Parents:

On Sunday, March 29, 2020, the Greek American Institute will again participate in the Greek Independence Day Parade. Since this counts as a full school day in the academic schedule, all students in grades 3-8 **must** participate, and attendance is required. In view of the fact that our school and community is relatively small in size, we would like to make a great appearance. Only excused medical absences supported by a doctor's note will be honored. All students who do not attend and do not provide a doctor's note will be marked absent and be given a graded Greek assignment to complete. Please note the following:

- Students should dress in full uniform, which does include the G.A.I. vest and cardigan. Berets and gloves will be given to the girls.
- Cheerleaders should come dressed in their outfits.
- Parents are encouraged to march in the parade with the Parent Teacher Organization. Parents: Please dress as for church -- no jeans.
- The school must be informed in writing if your son/daughter will not return back to the Bronx on the bus at the conclusion of the parade.
- If you pick your daughter/son at the end of the parade route (79th Street and 3rd Avenue), kindly inform the homeroom teacher, so that we know your son/daughter is safe.

Please let us know whether or not you intend to send your daughter/son to the Greek Independence Day Parade by completing the form below. This form should be returned to your son's/daughter's homeroom teacher no later than Monday, March 16th. Remember **that student attendance is mandatory for grades 3-8**. Thanks for your support and cooperation, and we hope that you march with us up Fifth Avenue on March 29th.

Sincerely,
John Attanas

My son/daughter _____ of grade _____ will attend the Greek Independence Day Parade on Sunday, March 29th, 2020.

My child will:

- Return back to the Bronx on the bus
- Be picked up at the end of the parade route.
- I will also go on the bus to the parade
- Will meet in the City

Parent's signature

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March 11, 2020

Dear Parents,

We are living in troublesome times. Viruses abound. Stock markets tumble. Fear is everywhere.

The Coronavirus is a important matter, and I want you to know that everyone at GAI takes this illness seriously. Our school is professionally cleaned every Saturday. During the week, we are all involved in keeping the school as clean as possible. We do not live in a perfect world. We cannot guarantee that no one at GAI will come down with the Coronavirus, or the flu, or any other malady. That is why we ask you to keep your children home if they show signs of sickness – any sickness. This will keep our school a healthy place for learning and socialization. As of now we remain open. The situation may change if any one, student or teacher, is diagnosed with the virus, or if New York City decides to shut down its school. Please check your e-mail for any updates we may have.

To shift focus away from illness, as I write this letter, the Bronx Borough President is presenting a Greek Heritage Celebration tonight at GAI. The ceremony starts at 6 pm. Ms. Prokop is one of the award recipients. You are invited to attend. On Wednesday, March 25, our eighth grade will perform in our yearly Greek Independence Day Production. This production is, as always, written and directed by the brilliant Ms. Yiota. It is always great. You are invited to attend. Finally, the Greek Independence Day Parade will take place on Sunday, March 29. All students from grades 3 through 8 are required to participate. This is a school day. All parents are invited to take part as well. If there are any changes to these events, we will let you know.

To conclude, I know that we will pass through this fearful period and emerge stronger and wiser. Stay well and stay calm.

John Attanas

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March 11, 2020

Dear Parents:

A case of scarlet fever has been reported in our school.

Scarlet fever is caused by an infection with group A *streptococcus* bacteria. The bacteria make a toxin (poison) that can cause the scarlet-colored rash from which this illness gets its name.

Symptoms of Scarlet Fever

The rash is the most striking sign of scarlet fever. It usually begins looking like a bad sunburn with tiny bumps and it may itch. The rash usually appears first on the neck and face, often leaving a clear unaffected area around the mouth. It spreads to the chest and back, then to the rest of the body. In body creases, especially around the underarms and elbows, the rash forms classic red streaks. Areas of rash usually turn white when you press on them. By the sixth day of the infection the rash usually fades, but the affected skin may begin to peel.

Aside from the rash, there are usually other symptoms that help to confirm a diagnosis of scarlet fever, including a reddened sore throat, a fever above 101° Fahrenheit (38.3° Celsius), and swollen glands in the neck. The tonsils and back of the throat may be covered with a whitish coating, or appear red, swollen, and dotted with whitish or yellowish specks of pus. Early in the infection, the tongue may have a whitish or yellowish coating. A child with scarlet fever also may have chills, body aches, nausea, vomiting, and loss of appetite.

When scarlet fever occurs because of a throat infection, the fever typically stops within 3 to 5 days, and the sore throat passes soon afterward. The scarlet fever rash usually fades on the sixth day after sore throat symptoms began, but skin that was covered by rash may begin to peel. This peeling may last 10 days. With antibiotic treatment, the infection itself is usually cured with a 10-day course of antibiotics, but it may take a few weeks for tonsils and swollen glands to return to normal.

Newsflash by Ms. Dafnis

- This is an update on the efforts we are making to keep GAI free of the Corona virus. We are in constant communication with the Department of Education. We backpack any letters they provide. On Monday, DOE provided free sanitizing products. Our school is professionally cleaned on Saturdays. During the week we are involving teachers to clean classrooms, as well as our custodial staff to keep the building as germ-free as possible. Teachers on lunch duty provide hand sanitizer as students enter the cafeteria. Students are reminded daily, via intercom: to wash hands using soap and water for 20 seconds, cover mouths with inner elbow when coughing and sneezing, avoid touching banisters, handles and knobs, if possible. All homeroom teachers performed a lesson on hand washing. Students were shown different photos of germs on hands under UV light, when washed and not washed properly. We take this matter seriously and are trying our best to keep your children healthy.
- Volleyball Club is canceled. If a payment was sent in, you will be reimbursed.
- Congratulations to the Girls' Basketball Team for yesterday's win against DGK.
- Thank you to the Karounos Family (of 1st, 5th, 8th students) for donating balls and board games to the After School Program.
- If you have a child born in 2016 or 2017 or know anyone else interested in 3K/PKA, registration is now open on schools.nyc.gov
- Attached below are wish lists from homeroom teachers. They would greatly appreciate any donations.

Wish List

Kindergarten/Ms. Johansson:

- 1 more Lakeshore Low Storage Cubby Shelves

Second Grade/Ms. Siino:

- Muse/Faces Magazine
- Sports Illustrated Kids
- Crayola Pip Squeaks Kids' Marker Collection, Washable Mini Markers, 64 Count

(ALL OF THE ABOVE ITEMS ARE LISTED ON AMAZON)

Third Grade/Ms. Petre:

- 3 Bookshelves- Lakeshore #JJ676
- Manipulative Shelf- Lakeshore #JJ166
- Supply Shelf- Lakeshore #JJ156
- Teachers College Reading & Writing Units of Study for Grade 3 (Heinemann.com)

Sixth Grade/Ms. Katechis:

- Teacher's desk
- Greek children's books for grades-K, 1st, 2nd, & 3rd

Greek Lab/Ms. Yiota:

- Projector
- Small air condition

Math/ Ms. Collins:

- Large book bins – 30 count https://www.amazon.com/Storex-70110U06C-Assorted-Colors-Inches/dp/B07T4VTY7D/ref=sr_1_35?crid=3JUMEC903RXKY&keywords=sturdy%2Bmagazine%2Bholder&qid=1580678058&srefix=sturdy%2Bmaga%2Caps%2C159&sr=8-35&th=1
- Folding Geometric Shapes https://www.amazon.com/Learning-Resources-Folding-Geometric-Shapes/dp/B0006PKZ54/ref=sr_1_5?keywords=3D+geometric+shapes&qid=1580678409&smid=ATVPDKIKX0DER&sr=8-5

Recess:

- 2-Connect Four Game (2 feet tall)
- Soft footballs
- Ring Toss Game & Bean Bags

Technology:

- Classic Lego Building Bricks
- Magna Tiles
- 18 pairs of headphones for computers & hooks to hang up
- Small projector
- 2 Code & Go Robot Mouse Activity Set
- 2 Botley the Coding Robot Activity Set
- Snap Circuit's Beginner Exploration Kit
- 4 Sets of Learning Resources Answer Buzzers
- K/Nex Building Set
- Osmo Explorer Starter Kit & Genius Starter Kit
- Technology Themed Books

The GAI REVIEW by Maria Katechis

The Romanov Prophecy by Steve Berry

Anyone that knows me knows that my Kindle comes everywhere with me. I've probably been addicted to books ever since I learned to read. On occasion I find an author and go through every book they've written, as I have been doing with Steve Berry since last summer. His books mix truth and fiction with lots of action and sites around the world.

After reading through Berry's Cotton Malone series, I decided to read The Romanov Prophecy. Throughout my life I've read about the tzars and was even able to travel to St. Petersburg and Moscow back in 1992, so I figured that this would be a topic I'd enjoy. The characters were new, but the book was based on the idea that a Romanov heir actually exists today, and goes well past the old Anastasia story we're all familiar with.

The book begins with an Atlanta lawyer, Miles Lord, doing a background check on a candidate to be the new Tsar of Russia. The candidate is being backed by Russians who think they can control him and Western investors who don't want any surprises coming up with the selection committee. Within the first few minutes of reading there's a shooting spree and the pace doesn't let up from there.

Since I don't want to give away too much of the story, I'll just say that I found The Romanov Prophecy to be an interesting, fast-paced, what if type of book. It's one of those fun reads for those days when you don't want anything too deep but do want to be engaged through every page. I definitely recommend it.

TEACHER FEATURE - Ms. Tabussum

1-Where were you born?

I was born in Bangladesh.

2-Where did you go to school?

I went to school in Queens (Elementary school) , The Bronx (Middle school) , and Manhattan (High school and College.)

3-When did you decide you wanted to be a teacher?

From a very young age I knew I wanted to be either a teacher or a writer. I think I really made up my mind when I was about seven or eight years old.

4-What are your hobbies?

I love to write! That is my greatest hobby. Someday I want to publish children's picture books or young adult books. I also love going on spontaneous adventures and trying new food and having new experiences.

5-What is your favorite book?

I have way too many books that are very dear to me. So to pick a favorite book is an impossible task.

6-What is your favorite movie or T.V. show?

I really like superhero movies and political T.V shows. For example, I love all the Marvel movies and recently I just watched The Crown on Netflix.

7-What is your favorite type of music?

I guess pop music or anything that plays a lot on the radio and gets stuck in your head.

8-What is your favorite vacation spot?

Farms! I love visiting farms, apple orchards, or any place with lots of trees and grass.

9-If you could live in any other time period, what period would it be?

I would love to go back to my childhood. I think that was a fun period in my life I would like to relive.

10-What is one weird fact most people don't know about you?

I have never visited an aquarium because I have an unrealistic fear that the glass will break and I will drown. As you may have guessed, I am terrified of large bodies of water.



Down Syndrome Achievement Centers
educate. inspire. believe.

Westchester, NY

GiGi's Playhouse is on a mission to change the way the world views Down syndrome and to send a global message of acceptance for all.

Our vision is to see a world where individuals with Down syndrome are accepted and embraced in their families, schools and communities.

We change lives through our consistent delivery of free educational, therapeutic-based and career development programs for individuals with Down syndrome, their families and the community.

GiGi's Playhouse Westchester:

- Opened in 2015
- Is a 501© (3) tax-exempt organization
- Serves over 290 families and individuals with Down syndrome in the tri-state area
- Is funded 100% through donations
- Is 98% volunteer led
- Offers educational programs for parents and caregivers
- Offers volunteer opportunities for ages 13 and up
- Provides a critical network of support for families receiving a new diagnosis of Down syndrome
- Spreads awareness about Down syndrome and the message of acceptance and inclusivity.

Programs Include:

- 1:1 Literacy Tutoring 3+
- 1:1 Math Tutoring 3+
- GiGiFIT Teen 13-18
- 3 and Under
- Music and Movement (all ages)
- Destination Discovery (all ages)
- Playhouse Pals (Summer/Fall)
- Kids Club (Summer/Fall)
- LMNOP (Fall)
- Teen Tastic 13-18
- Fantastic Friends 18+
- GiGi's Kitchen 12-18
- Yoga (Spring)
- Dance (Spring) 7-12
- Art Explosion Kids (March)
- Art Explosion 15+
- EPIC 18+ – Empowerment, Participation, Independence and Community.

<https://gigisplayhouse.org/westchester>

<https://www.facebook.com/gigisplayhousewestchester>

westchester@gigisplayhouse.org

(914) 479-5566 - 720 Saw Mill River Road, Ardsley, NY 10502

THE GREEK AMERICAN INSTITUTE
PRESENTS
THE ROARING 20TH ANNUAL FASHION SHOW & AUCTION



PLEASE JOIN US FOR A NIGHT OF FUN, FASHION, DINNER, AND PRIZES!

APRIL 2ND, 2020
7:00 P.M. - DOORS OPEN AT 6:45 P.M.
GREEN TREE COUNTRY CLUB
538 DAVENPORT AVENUE, NEW ROCHELLE, NY 10805

PREPAID SEATING \$70 PER PERSON
PAYMENT AT DOOR \$75 PER PERSON
TABLE RESERVATIONS ALSO AVAILABLE

RSVP TO
GAIPTOFASHIONSHOW@GMAIL.COM
OR CALL 718-823-2393

MODELS: CLASS OF 2020
HOSTED BY THE GAI PTO

GUESTS MUST BE 12 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER UNLESS SIBLINGS
OF A MEMBER OF THE 8TH GRADE GRADUATING CLASS

GREEK AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF NEW YORK

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CYNTHIA DAFNIS
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Principal

February 7, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

_____ is a member of the Parent-Teacher Organization at the Greek American Institute. She/He is actively recruiting donations to aid in the success of this year's 20th annual Fashion Show. The Greek American Institute is a small, private school that provides children of all backgrounds with a strong academic and social-emotional foundation, while celebrating the Greek language and culture.

Each year, the Greek American Institute hosts a Fashion Show and Silent Auction, featuring our eighth grade graduates. It is our school's major fundraiser, providing needed funding for our school community and programs. Over the years, the generosity and willingness of donors from the school and larger community has made this event a tremendous success. Members of our Parent-Teacher Organization have been able to gain donations from a wide variety of businesses and individuals.

This year, our event takes place on April 2, 2020. The Parent-Teacher Organization actively encourages patronage of participating donors. If you have any flyers, business cards, or other materials, please feel free to include them with your donation. All contributions, whether they be great or small, make a difference. We know that there are many demands on your generosity, but we hope that you will consider making a donation to a worthy cause.

If you have any questions or need further information, please contact us at gaiptofashionshow@gmail.com or gai.pto1@gmail.com. On behalf of the students, parents, and faculty of The Greek American Institute, thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

John Attanas, Principal

Yours truly,

Kathy Argyros, PTO President

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JOHN ATTANAS

Principal

VS St. Nicks

GIRLS' BASKETBALL HOME GAME

Date of Game: Monday, March 16th

Time of Game: 4⁰⁰ - 5⁰⁰

Supervising Teachers: Ms. Collins, Ms. Vlahopoulos

Grades Attending: 4th - 8th

Please return form by: ASAP

Please complete below, detach and submit to teacher.

I, the parent of _____ in grade _____ request that the school allows my child to participate in the _____ on _____ (date).

I hereby release and save harmless the Greek American Institute and any and all of its employees from any and all liability for any and all harm arising to my child as a result of this game.

I give our consent medical care and accept financial responsibility for such are.

I will pick up my child by 5 p.m. I am aware that my child will be sent to the After School Program and I will be charged the daily rate if not picked up promptly.

Parent's Signature Date

Emergency Contact: _____

Emergency Phone Number: _____



DOMINICAN ACADEMY
Catholic College Preparatory School for Girls

February 6, 2020

Mr. John Attanas, Principal
Greek American Institute
3573 Bruckner Blvd.
Bronx, NY 10461

Dear Mr. Attanas:

It gives me great pleasure to inform you that one of your graduates achieved academic honors for the First Semester at Dominican Academy in Manhattan.

The President's List designation represents a student who has received an average of 93% or higher in every subject. The Principal's Honor Roll status is given to a student who has a 90% average with no grade below 85%.

President's List: Elisa Sicilia


Dominican Academy is a Catholic, all honors, college prep school for girls, founded in 1897 and operated by the Dominican Sisters of Peace. It is accredited by Middle States and has been designated a Blue Ribbon School of Excellence by the U.S. Department of Education. D.A. is honored to have been named as the #3 Catholic girls' high school in New York State for 2019-2020 by Niche school rankings.

We know much of her success here is the result of the quality education and preparation she received at your school. We are proud of her, and want you to share in that pride. Thank you for your support and please keep us in mind for your future students!

With much gratitude,



Margaret Ormond, O.P.
PRESIDENT



Leslie Poole Petit, Ed.D.
PRINCIPAL



ACCREDITED BY THE MIDDLE STATES COMMISSION ON SECONDARY SCHOOLS



DOMINICAN ACADEMY

Where Smart Girls Become Intelligent Women

JOIN US FOR OUR *Sneak Peek Open House*

FOR 7TH GRADERS

APRIL 29, 2020 ~ 4:30-6:30 PM

44 EAST 68TH STREET IN MANHATTAN

*Learn what makes D.A. the **only** All-Honors high school for girls in New York State, and one of the Top 50 Catholic high schools in the U.S.A.!*

*35+ Clubs ~ 7 Varsity Teams ~ 25+ Electives
18 A.P.s offered ~ 8:1 Student Teacher Ratio*

JOIN US FOR SUMMER CAMP & TACHS PREP!

CONTACT BELOW FOR MORE INFORMATION

R.S.V.P. on our website, or contact Ms. Madeleine Metzler, '07,
Director of Admissions, at mmetzler@dominicanacademy.org or by
calling 212-744-0195, ext. 131.

www.DominicanAcademy.org ~ IG: @DominicanAcademy