

Welcome to our School's celebration for the Greek Independence Day and the Annunciation of Theotokos. Our students and staff have worked so hard, therefore they wouldn't mind if you show them your enthusiasm and support through your applause.

Enjoy!

## Program

- Speech Mrs. Vasiliki Koutroumpi Principal
- National Anthem - Level 1 - Mrs. Theophany Eystathioy
- Introduction - Greek 15/25 Wednesday - Mrs. Nancy Koutselas
- March 25 (Poem) - Level 2 - Mrs. Eugene Pantouvaki
- The Flag (Poem) - Kindergarten - Ms. Vasiliki Karamolegkou
- The Swearing In (Skit) - Level 4 - Mrs. Eirini Psaropoulou
- Heroes of 1821 (Presentation) - Levels 4,5,6 Wed and Levels 5&6 Sat - Mrs. Martha Gnisiou
- Battle Hymn (Song) - All Students
- Freedom (Poem) - Level 3 - Mrs. Ana Mosiasvili
- The Secret School (Play) - Levels 15/25 Saturday - Mrs. Maria Brophy
- My Little Bright Moon (Song) - Preschool - Ms. Katerina Kounougeris and Ms. Victoria Lambrinoudis
- The Secret School (Play) - Continued
- Dances - Greek 35 - Mrs. Nancy Koutselas

Get your cameras ready! It's picture time!

## THANK YOU!

## Credits

- Greek 35 and Mrs. Nancy Koutselas for translating the celebration to English.
- Mrs. Eirini Psaropoulou and Nancy Koutselas for curating their level's performance.
- Eleftheria Klironomos for providing the costumes to the Greek 35 Students.

## Volunteers:

- Parent Council Members
- Kondilena Kaketsis
- Georgia Paschalis
- Helen Kounougeris
- Kathy Vlismas
- Eleni Braoudakis

## Flag Raising

The city of Calgary has approved the raising of the Flag of Greece for Independence Day. The flag will be flown on the north side of the Municipal Plaza at City Hall on March 25<sup>th</sup> approximately from 7 AM to 9 PM.

# GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY

## MARCH 25<sup>TH</sup>, 1821

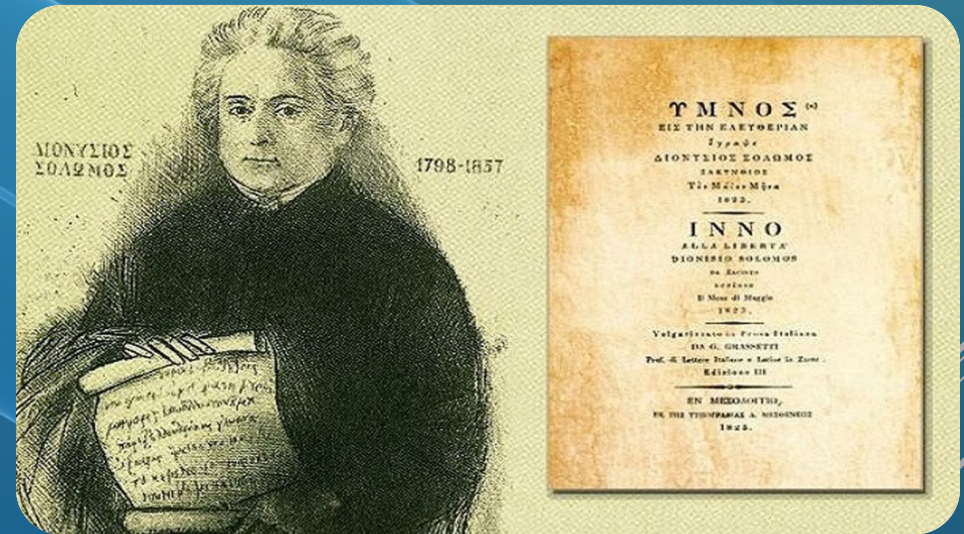
Greek Community School of Calgary



# LEVEL 1 - HYMN TO FREEDOM

I recognize you  
by the fearsome sharpness of your sword,  
I recognize you by your face  
that hastefully defines the land.

From the sacred bones,  
of the Hellenes arisen,  
and valiant again as you once were,  
Hail, o hail, Liberty!



# GREEK 15/25 (WEDNESDAY)



With the awakening of the birds, with the morning breeze, the cue was given, from Agia Lavra

The chanting stopped, the cannon blasted, and Bishop Germanos, caused an uprising

Freedom or Death, to the Greeks he shouted, and to the unconquered souls, joy and faith he instills

Weapons rattle, swords shine in the wind, the 25<sup>th</sup> of March, a holy day

Countless years, she was in slavery, our beautiful Greece, that is being honored

One day like today, her loyal children, all together swore, for her freedom

They fought and they won, in oceans and on mountains, and freedom once again they gave, to the enslaved daughter

Immortal, brilliant heroes of this country, to the world you sent messages of hope, that yes, it's worth fighting

As long as they have the heart, the courage, the bravery, the will, the love for freedom

With pride I stand, deep in my heart, for my country's glorious history and inheritance that our ancestors left us

A new day is upon us, the earth and sky shine in glory, our Greece celebrates in honor and in glory

Long live brave Roumeli, long live 1821 that brought freedom!

# LEVEL 2 – MARCH 25<sup>TH</sup>

Today I hold  
great joy in my heart,  
as Greece celebrates  
as well as our beloved Panagia.



All the little children  
today we celebrate,  
poems and songs  
each of us will recite.

# KINDERGARTEN – THE FLAG

Blue and white flag

As you pass with pride

Which eyes don't shed tears?

Which hearts don't beat?

Always waving

Spreading joy

Always rising high

Towards glory



# LEVEL 4 – THE SWEARING IN

1814, Odissos. The Filiki Eteria (Φιλική Εταιρία), or the Society of Friends, as it was otherwise known, was founded on September 14, 1814 and played a crucial role in the uprising which led to the Greek War of Independence against the Ottoman Empire on March 25, 1821.

The three founders Xanthos, Skoufas and Tsakalov along with others promise with their minds and their souls to form a secret society with the purpose of initiating a Greek revolution to rid the country of the Ottomans.

“I swear to the one and only God, that I will fight my country’s enemies, and never act in hatred towards my brothers from now on.

“I swear to never ask my brethren who brought them here, and never to reveal who brought me.

“We shall never discuss about the enemy to anyone, for a free country we will be dedicated to our secret society.

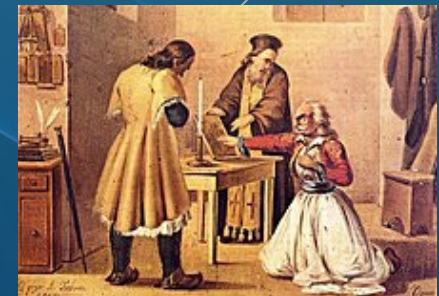
“I swear that you, my dear country, will be the beginning and end to all my thoughts for all reason and reward.

“I swear to the tears that have been stolen, I will give my life. It’s not a threat, it’s my decision!

“Our oath is in secret, our initiation is sacred. Merchants and soldiers for a free country. Faith and dedication to our secret society.”

Before God, I welcome (students’ names) into the Filiki Eteria.

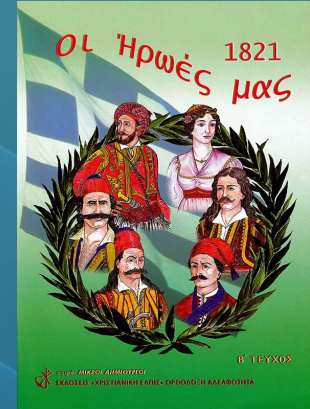
Freedom or Death



# LEVEL 4, 5 & 6 (WEDNESDAY) LEVEL 5&6 (SATURDAY)

## HEROES OF 1821

March of 1821, the Greeks under slavery began the long battle to freedom. They wanted, with all their hearts to get rid of the Turkish army. They raised the Freedom Flag with the brave and wise priest Palaion Patron Germano, in Patra.



**ATHANASIOS DIAKOS:** I fought in Alamana on the mainland Greece, and I gave my life for Greece. I was not afraid of the mighty Omer Vrioni. I never hesitated but I when I was captured it was boldness and valor I sacrificed myself. Athanasios Diakos is my name. Eternal it will forever be to remind all that a brave Greek knows how to fight and die in bravery.

**ODISSEAS ANDROUTSOS:** I am Odisseas Androutsos, the one who repulsed an Ottoman army numbering 8,000 to 9,000 men and artillery under the command of Omer Vrioni. The battle ended with heavy losses for the Ottomans and minimal casualties on the Greek side.

LEVEL 4, 5 & 6 (WEDNESDAY) LEVEL 5&6 (SATURDAY)

## HEROES OF 1821

**LASKARINA BOUBOULINA:** I am proud and imperious, a noble woman and naval commander. Laskarina Bouboulina is my name, known for my bravery. With my courageous men, the seas we fought for our country's freedom. I take the lead and stand my ground, and I allow no one to get in my way.

**KONSTANTINOS KANARIS:** A well-known captain, feared by all enemies. When an enemy warship dares to get in my way, it is a direct hit burning it down.

# LEVEL 4, 5 & 6 (WEDNESDAY) – LEVEL 5&6 (SATURDAY)

## HEROES OF 1821

**THEODOROS KOLOKOTRONIS:** Do you think it is by coincidence they named me the hero of Moria? I am Theodoros Kolokotronis, a great hero who bravely fought for freedom. Commander-in-chief of the battle in Valtetsi of Dervenakia and in Tripolitsa. I ride my horse all day, boldly fighting and never forgetting my dream for freedom.

**GEORGIOS KARAISSAKIS:** The General of mainland Greece, I am Georgios Karaiskakis. I fought Kiutachi with my soldiers. I was in the front lines for every battle without hesitation, not letting sickness or fever stop me. When a bullet found my heart, with my last breath I urged them all to keep on fighting for their freedom with love and unity.

**PAPAFLESSAS:** Priest and fighter for the Peloponnese. I am Papaflessas, who heroically fought in every battle without fear and hesitation. I dared to lead the way to many battles know full well that defeat was inevitable.

# LEVEL 4, 5 & 6 (WEDNESDAY) – LEVEL 5&6 (SATURDAY)

## HEROES OF 1821

**FILIKI ETAIREIA:** An organization of high importance for our freedom that I am sure you are all aware of. The three founders, Ksantho, Skoufa, and Tsakalof, gave on oath promising freedom. For our country's revolution they fought as one. From three they became thousands and then some.

**RIGAS FERAIOS:** We cannot forget Riga Velestinli, our hero and teacher of the revolution of 1821. With his work he encouraged all Greeks to keep fighting.

'Thourios' is a battle hymn which was sung by Rigas Feraios at gatherings with the purpose of inspiring the Greeks.

*Thourios* is an ancient Greek word meaning intense and warlike.

# BATTLE HYMN – ALL STUDENTS

Until when, young lads, will we live on the streets  
Alone like the lions on the edge of mountains?  
An hour of life with freedom  
Is better than a life of slavery.

Shall we dwell in caves, staring at the branches  
Leaving the world for bitter slavery?  
An hour of life with freedom  
Is better than a life of slavery.

Do we abandon our brothers, our country and our parents  
Our friends, our children, and all our relatives?  
An hour of life with freedom  
Is better than a life of slavery.



# LEVEL 3 - FREEDOM

They say I have a scent like a beautiful flower  
and they made for me, the most beautiful song.

They say I am all-white, like a white cloud  
throughout the world I travel with the soft wind

I give value to life, to all happiness  
you all recognize me, I am freedom.



# GREEK 15/25 (SATURDAY) – THE SECRET SCHOOL

It takes place in a secret school, in the basement of a church during the rule of the Turkish empire. The guard and the Greek kids arrive at the entrance of the secret school.

Student 1: Shhh, we have arrived!

Priest: Welcome, my children. I do not think any Turkish people saw you, did they?

Student 2: No, Father. We came here very carefully from the path you told us to.

Priest: Good job, children. But, what do I see? Who's missing?

Student 1: Didn't you hear the news? The Turks came into our village and took many children. And two of those children were Pandelis and Elias.

Priest: How awful! Another Christian child? Four hundred years now, they have troubled our race, the infidels!

All Together: Oh Father, we escaped at the last possible moment. Thankfully, we were notified in time by the father of the captain, Michael, that the Turks were coming. My mother hid me in the well. Look! Basili and Nicoli's father hid them in the mountains.

Priest: What a desperate nation! Come so we can say our prayer and start our lesson.

Priest: Sit, now. Open your book to the page we left off on, and how about Yiannis read?

Student 2: ...oh my moon so bright...



# GREEK 15/25 (SATURDAY) – THE SECRET SCHOOL

Priest: What's going on? What happened? Why are you crying?

Student 3: I can't bear anymore to think about how my homeland is enslaved and how we are not free. When will I grow up so I can take a gun and fight Turkey myself?

Student 1: You're not thinking straight. Were here to learn, to read and write. You are still too young to pick up a gun and fight. That's not the only way you can show that you love your country. You have to follow everything Father tells us.

Priest: Good job, my children. Both of you are correct.

Student 3: Eh, and if that miracle would only happen! For us to win. Let the Turks deal with our troops. Wow! What do we have to do? I'll take a sword myself and attack them! Take.. this.. And take... that!

Student 2: Quiet down! I think I hear a horse approaching.

Priest: Be quiet and sit down. Yianni, blow out the candle.

Student 3, blowing out the candle: I'm going to the door to see if I can hear. At this hour, it could only be the Turks outside. (He goes to the door, staying quiet) They must have left. I don't hear anything. They were probably just passing by. The Virgin Mary helped us.

Priest: I know that tonight is going to be a difficult one, my children. You are better off just going to your homes and we will wait for Sunday night to try again. We have already done our lesson. Dimitri, return the children safely to their homes.

All Together: Goodnight, Despota

Priest: Goodnight, my children. May God be with you.

# PRESCHOOL - MY LITTLE BRIGHT MOON

My little bright moon  
Shine for me to walk  
To go to school  
To get educated  
Letters - education  
Things of God



# GREEK 35 - TSAMIKO

- ▶ The dance follows a strict and slow tempo not emphasizing on the steps, but more on the "attitude, style and grace" of the dancer.
- ▶ The dancers hold each other from each other's hands, bent 90 degrees upwards at the elbows. It takes a sturdy hand, especially if you are supporting the first person of the circle who will lean on you to perform high acrobatic leaps.
- ▶ The steps are relatively easy but have to be precise and strictly on beat. The dancer might even stomp his foot in response to a strong beat.
- ▶ There is some improvisation involved and many variations of the steps, depending on which area the dancers come from.
- ▶ Over time the dance has taken on many variations. In the past, it was danced exclusively by men, but in modern times both men and women take part.
- ▶ Danced almost exclusively by men, this dance is strongly reminiscent of the 1821 era in Greek history.
- ▶ Today Tsamiko is a popular dance in festivals and weddings, especially in the rural areas of Central Greece and Peloponnese, as well as Epirus periphery where a slower version is performed.
- ▶ This dance is usually performed to celebrate national events (i.e. anniversary of the declaration of the start of Greek War of Independence in 1821).



# GREEK 35 - HASAPIKO



- ▶ The Hasapiko (Greek: χασάπικο, meaning “the butcher's [dance]” from Turkish: kasap “butcher”) is a Greek folk dance from Constantinople or present day Istanbul.
- ▶ The dance originated in the Middle Ages as a battle mime with swords performed by the Greek butchers guild, which adopted it from the military of Byzantine era in Constantinople during the Byzantine times.
- ▶ After later years the dance was shaped into the group dance which we now have as hasapiko.
- ▶ Hasapiko is a traditional Greek folk dance that is performed at many Greek occasions and gatherings. It is a dance of team work and bonds. The dance is performed in groups of two or more.
- ▶ This dance is usually not danced in costume.