

Τα κάλαντα στη Σχολή ΣΑΧΕΤΙ

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The tradition of Greek carols or “κάλαντα” started from the Byzantine times. The word κάλαντα is taken from the Latin word “calenda”, which means the “start of the month”. Κάλαντα are comprised of the singing of carols which are very important to the religious and traditional celebrations of Χριστούγεννα, Πρωτοχρονιά and Θεοφάνια.

Despite the fact that κάλαντα are deeply embedded in the traditions of Christianity, they have carried a large influence from the times of Ancient Greece. During these ancient times, children would carry small boats and sing songs to honour the god Διόνυσος, who was the god of wine and merrymaking. The children would also offer an olive branch as a gift to the household, because the olive branch symbolised of wealth.

Throughout the last two hundred years, children on Christmas Eve would go in groups to sing the κάλαντα in the village or town. The children would dress up in Christmas clothing, where they would carry musical triangles and sometimes even boats. They would visit households and shops, where they would spread their messages of



cheer, peace and love. In return for this, the children would receive traditional sweet treats such as κουραμπιέδες, μελομακάρονα, κουλούρια and even money.

The music and the words of the κάλαντα vary according to the regions of the Greek world. For example, the Christmas carols of Crete, Cyprus and the islands are more jolly and the κάλαντα from the Peloponnese and Epirus are a little more sombre. The κάλαντα of the Pontos region are more loaded and the κάλαντα from Thrace are more enchanting. All of the κάλαντα are also accompanied by the musical instruments of the region.

Many traditional Greek carols are sung, but over the years many carols have also been translated into Greek from the original Latin and English and they have grown in popularity.

This year, SAHETI School once again proudly presented its Κάλαντα Evening where the support on the evening was immense. The pupils sang carols in Greek, English, Afrikaans and isiZulu. Not only did the pupils sing traditional carols, they also sang modern contemporary Christmas songs. The efforts of the staff and pupils paid off at the end of the evening, as it proved to be the most successful Κάλαντα event to date. As the school winds down for a well-deserved festive holiday, it wishes all **Καλές γιορτές με υγεία και χαρά!**

