



Dear colleagues,
Dear parents and guardians,

On the occasion of the completion of the anniversary activities celebrating the 20-year operation of S.E.E.H., we would like to thank you all for your meaningful contribution and active participation in the successful organization and implementation of these events.

Through your availability, your inspirational initiatives, the active and voluntary participation of many of you, as well as your understanding and patience, the school was transformed into a place of joy and creativity. The school day became a premiere day of a long-standing and significant project for the city of Heraklion, our island, our country, and above all, our children.

In this way, we felt that all of us together, as a united educational community with a strong voice, succeeded in highlighting the unique identity of our school.

The mural impressed, the choir and musical performances enchanted, the theatrical performance took us on a journey through time, the audiovisual material connected us with the “truth” of the school, the dances from different countries moved and united us, the learning stations and student projects in art and beyond led us to paths of multisensory learning, and the efforts made by the teachers to include all students were deeply appreciated. Our distinguished guest, Mr. Beckmann, Secretary-General of the European Schools, was particularly pleased by the immediacy and the importance of the students’ dialogues during the morning events.

Colleagues, dear parents and guardians, despite the difficulties and daily challenges we face in educational practice, and despite the ongoing issues that complicate our daily lives, we proved that we endure, we breathe, we create, we celebrate, and we continue our intercultural journey because we are determined.

Allow me to convey the congratulations and special thanks of Mr. Beckmann and the other distinguished guests for the warm welcome, hospitality, and the excellent organization.

Finally, I would like to inform you that, on the occasion of the full-day events on Thursday, March 19, during an official meeting at the Regional Directorate—with the participation of the Regional Director Mr. Emm. Kartsonakis, the responsible Directors and Heads of Departments Mr. V. Andreadakis and Mr. Emm. Stavrakakis, the Deputy Director of **Directorate for Education of Greeks Abroad, Intercultural Education, European and Minority Schools** of the Ministry of Education Ms. V. Bernikou, the

National Inspectors Ms. V. Ioakeimidou and Mr. A. Koutroumpas, and the Director of S.E.E.H. Ms. A. Spatharakis—our documented request for more than doubling the school’s regular funding was presented, justified, and discussed thoroughly in a very positive climate. This request aims to ensure adequate financial resources following the reduction of European funding due to the limited number of subsidized students (children of employees of European organizations).

On Friday, March 20, scheduled meetings were held on the initiative of the school administration with the Regional Governor Mr. Stavros Arnaoutakis, the Deputy Regional Governor for Education Ms. Eleni Maraki-Beladaki, the Mayor Mr. Alexis Kalokairinos, and the Deputy Mayor for Education Mr. Antonis Perysinakis. These meetings were attended by the official guest, Secretary-General of the European Schools Mr. Andrea Beckmann, the Head of the Greek Delegation to the Board of European Schools Ms. Maria Giannakou, the Regional Director Mr. Emm. Kartsonakis, the National Inspectors Ms. V. Ioakeimidou and Mr. A. Koutroumpas, and the School Director Ms. A. Spatharakis.

During these meetings, Mr. Beckmann, Ms. Giannakou, and the other participants, after being informed about the progress and timeline of the construction of the new S.E.E.H. school building by the Regional Governor and the Deputy Regional Governor for Education, emphasized the role and work of our school and requested every possible support, expressing their willingness to assist in any way needed.

As a school administration, we are optimistic that through our joint efforts—and following the highly successful reminder of our school’s distinct identity and work during the recent anniversary events, as well as the continuous efforts of previous years—the relevant authorities will demonstrate their interest through concrete institutional initiatives. We will monitor developments, keep you informed, and remain persistent.

In any case, the fact that the Secretary-General of the European Schools openly and consistently expressed his support for our school, highlighting its role within the community of accredited schools and the high quality of its work—as reflected in continuous evaluation reports—clearly creates a form of commitment on the part of the State for the continuation and meaningful support of its operation.

We would like to assure you that, as the school administration and teaching staff, with your contribution and that of all involved stakeholders, we will continue to make every possible effort within our institutional role to ensure the high-quality operation of S.E.E.H. and the enhancement of the qualitative aspects of the educational work.

We thank our colleagues for their tireless work and you for your cooperation. It gives us strength to continue.

With appreciation,

The Director

Androniki Spatharakis

The Deputy Directors

Dimitrios Sfakakis – Evangelia Tiga