

The History of Paralimni and Agia Napa

Paralimni and Agia Napa are the two small towns where students of our school come from. The two towns are located on the South East area of Cyprus.

Paralimni

Paralimni took its name from the small lake next to it. The shallow lake is partially filled only during the winter. Historically, the town of Paralimni was first built in the area of Saint Demetrios and moved where it is located now at the beginning of the 15th century. Paralimnites (inhabitants of Paralimni) moved from St Demetrios area in order to avoid detection by sea pirates. Just a few old buildings were saved and renovated as museums. Nowadays, Paralimni is considering being the largest town of the free Famagusta district with a population of 21.000.

Just few kilometers away of Paralimni town but within the Paralimni municipality is the area of Protaras. Protaras, is a well known tourist resort with golden sandy beaches and crystal clear waters. The most famous is Fig Tree Bay which attracts thousands of tourists every year. Many hotels have been built due to the tourist demand.

Other attractions are the old church of Saint George, and Saint Anna. In addition, areas such as Nissia, Akefalou, Agioi Saranta, and Konnos are worth visiting since footprints of ancient civilizations can be located.

Agia Napa

Agia Napa took its name from the words Agia which means Saint and “Nape” which means “wooden area”. The myth says that a hunter discovered a secret cave with the icon of Holy Mary in the middle of the wooden valley. As a result it was considered as the Saint Wooden valley and in short the today’s name Agia Napa. Around the cave the famous monastery was built with few houses. Agia Napa was mainly a fishing village with just few inhabitants. After mid 70s Agia Napa has become one of the biggest tourist resorts in Cyprus. Like any other tourist resort, there are many hotels, restaurants, pubs, and tourist shops.

Other attractions are the sea-life museum and the sycamore tree which is about 600 years old. Furthermore, “Limanaki” (small harbor) where the small fishing boats add a final touch to the geographical uniqueness of the area, is a must for every visitor. The most popular place in Agia Napa is Nissi Beach which is visited mainly by younger people in the summer.



Cyclops Cave



Konnos Area



Windmills



Lovely Beaches



Saint George Church



Area of Paralimni and Agia Napa



Unique Picture Spot



Sea Life Museum



Limanaki



Sycamore Tree



Monastery Area

The History of Our School



Paralimni Gymnasium was first introduced in September 1969, as a three-classes high school. The foundation of Paralimni Gymnasium pioneered Mr. Tassos Kefalas, the community leader of Paralimni for many years, who maintained excellent interpersonal relationships with government officials. He was the person who convinced them that the most appropriate place of school developing was Paralimni. It could served

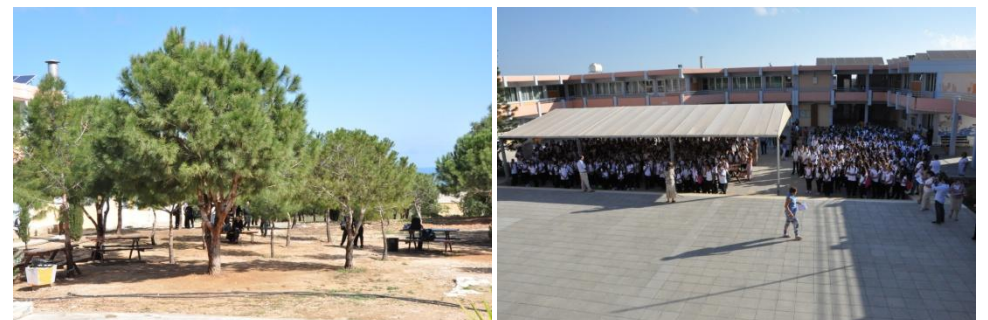
the surrounding communities of Agia Napa, Sotera, Derynia and Liopetri. The initial idea was to decongest the schools of Famagusta. However, for Mr. Kefalas, Paralimni Gymnasium was a “dream come true”.

The first headmaster was Mr. Andreas Kallis and first president of the School Financial Board Mr. Tasos Kefalas. Key supporters was Mr. Adamos Farkonis, Mr. Costakis Tsisios, Mr. Andreas Papandreou, Mr. Dimitris Mouzouros, Mr Antonis Artymatas and Mr. Avraam Farkonas. First Secretary of the School was Mr Dimitris Mouzouris. The first students registration was under the eucalyptus trees of first elementary school in September 1969 because Paralimni Gymnasium was not completed yet.

The increase of educational needs lead the Ministry of Education and Culture to the developing of another school. The new school serves as a Gymnasium and the old school as Lyceum.

Paralimni Gymnasium serves the communities of Paralimni and Agia Napa. It is now one of the biggest gymnasiums in Cyprus with 82 teachers and 650 students. The students (12-15 years old) come from different social backgrounds. There are some students with special needs and also immigrants. They all attend the inclusion educational system and they participate in the whole school life the way they can. There also a few pupils at risk of social exclusion, who are helped by specially trained teachers. They all speak Greek, but they are also taught English and French as foreign languages.

A Normal School Day



School Subjects

The school offer different subjects in three levels. The subjects are: Modern Greek, Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Religious Studies, History, Computer Science, English, French, Physical Education, Music, Technology, Ancient Greek, Geography, Home Economics, Guidance and Career Counseling.

Activities

The school takes part in different type of activities such as sports and theater competitions. Paralimni Gymnasium has a basketball and a volleyball team. Also many students compete in Track and Field sports. In addition, students represent the school in swimming and athletics. Students of our school also participate in National Olympiads in Maths, Computing and Physics.

School Celebrations

School celebrates almost all the national and international holidays. The main celebrations are:

Cyprus Independence Day – October 1st

October 28th

Christmas and Easter Holidays

March 25th and April 1st

Language Day

European Day – May

Green Monday

Religious Bank Holiday

Our Comenius Project Team

Teachers

Panayiotis Pittakis

Socratis Mylonas

Christiana Pelagia

Foteini Fotiou

Chionoulla Xenophontos

Christiana Megalemou

Demetris PapaEvelthontos

Alexia Paphiti

Nikoletta Loizou

Students

Emili Metaxa

Zlatka Alekova

Constantinou Evita

Constantinos Tsiolakis

Maria Pasie

Marianna Kombou

Andri Hambou

George Pittakis

Fani Siantani

Emili Christofi

Andreas Zorbas

