



## BULGARIANS IN CYPRUS CELEBRATE ALPHABET DAY

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Pupils attending the ten weekend schools in Cyprus will on Wednesday, along with the rest of the Bulgarian community in Cyprus, celebrate the Glagolitic alphabet once used by Bulgaria on the national day dedicated to the script.

Events have been ongoing for the past month and will culminate **in a concert and art exhibition in Paphos on Wednesday** and a parade in Aglantzia Park in Nicosia on Sunday.

The ten schools operating around Cyprus welcome pupils every weekend to help children growing up here stay familiar with Bulgaria's language, history and culture. The pupils are either the children of Bulgarian nationals living in Cyprus or have one Cypriot and one Bulgarian parent.

The celebration of the Glagolitic alphabet also coincides with the children graduating from the school getting their leaving diplomas.

Two schools operate in Nicosia, one of which is named after the founders of the Glagolitic alphabet, Saints Cyril and Methodius. The Bulgarian Empire introduced the Glagolitic alphabet, devised by Saints Cyril and Methodius in the 850s.

The Glagolitic alphabet was gradually superseded in later centuries by the Cyrillic script, developed around the Preslav Literary School, Bulgaria at the beginning of the 10th century.

The second Nicosia school is named after Bulgarian revolutionary poet Nikola Vaptsarov who wrote about the stars above Famagusta in one of his best-loved works 'A Letter'.

A school named after revolutionary Vasil Levski who battled the Ottoman Empire, operates in Dhali.

Two schools operate in Limassol, one also named after Saints Cyril and Methodius and another named after Saint Clement of Ohrid, one of the most prominent disciples of Saints Cyril and Methodius and often associated with the creation of the Glagolitic and Cyrillic scripts.

One school in Larnaca is named after the esteemed Bulgarian educator Dr Petar Beron.

The remaining four are the 'Patriotiko Geiso' (Patriotic Fringe) also in Larnaca, 'Ethniki Egertes' (National Vigilance) in Paralimni, 'Alfavitariakia' in Polis Chrysochous, and an, as yet unnamed, school in Paphos.

The Bulgarian community in Cyprus, meanwhile, has also organised Bulgarian-language church services, community newspapers and magazines, and many cultural events.