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## Thanksgiving Essay Contest and Thanksgiving Dinner with Ambassador Reeker

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Following the Thanksgiving Essay Contest, the American Corner Skopje organized a thanksgiving dinner for the winners of the contest with Ambassador Philip Reeker. The Essay contest included elementary and secondary schools in Skopje and the kids were invited to write about "Things I am thankful for this year and why". We received 70 essays, 7 of which were chosen as the best ones: 2 from the primary schools, 2 from the private schools category and 3 from the secondary schools category. The winning essays were selected by



a 5 member panel, including two Peace Corps Volunteers and an American teacher in Macedonia.

The winners as well the Peace Corps Volunteers were invited to a Thanksgiving dinner. All the food was authentic and cooked by the Peace Corps Volunteers. The dinning table was decorated accordingly and traditional turkey with cranberry sauce



was served, pumpkin and apple pies, gravy, vegetable casserole and corn bread.

The Ambassador congratulated all of the winners and then signed a book for the overall winner, Evgenija Stojcevska, after which she read her essay.





When this small ceremony was over, the Ambassador invited everyone to join him for dinner.

Guests at the Thanksgiving dinner were: Ambassador Reeker; Mrs. Reeker; Filip Petrovski, Library Director; Amy Storrow, APAO at the US Embassy; Mimoza Naumova, Program Assistant at the

US Embassy, Olivera Trajkova, American Corner Skopje Coordinator; Benjamin Long, PC Volunteer; Aryn Bloodworth, PC Volunteer, Erin Gibbs, PC Volunteer, Evgenija Stojcevska (essay contest winner); and the other students whose essays were selected: Bisera Dzundeva; Aleksandar Dimitriev ; Nikola Dzilvdziev, Osman Bajram, Natali Stojanovska, Sonja Grazdani and the AC Staff - Nevenka Stefanovska and Gordana Mircic.



Having dinner in a very relaxing atmosphere the guests discussed the competition, the essays the students had written as well as Thanksgiving. In the end, each of the participants had a chance to have his picture taken with the Ambassador who wished a Happy Thanksgiving to the Corner and left a note for the AC staff to keep.



