

MHG NEWS

DECEMBER 14

MIINA HÄRMA GÜMNAASIUM
NEWSLETTER

NR.14
SCHOOL YEAR 2021/2022



WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

- Härmatis was the most represented, most cheerful, and beautiful folk dance collective with its seven groups participating in the winter folk dance party in Town Hall Square. Thank you, Anita Kreen!
- Andri Türkson, Riin Värton and Erik Julius Lindgren from 9b won the international IT contest "Ventspils IT Challenge" in their age group. In addition to fame and glory, they also received a 1000€ prize. The students were inspired and supervised by Kristi Kreutzberg.
- Liisi Haljasorg (12b), the head of Tartu Youth Council, published an article in Tartu Postimees [about practicing democracy in the Youth Council](#).

BIRTHDAYS

- 17.12 Kätlin Liimets**
- 17.12 Liis Somelar**
- 19.12 Eleriin Käo-Zirk**
- 19.12 Kari Kalk**
- 19.12 Madleen Vapper**





WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

- International English Best in English took place on November 26, 2021 (17 223 participants from 595 schools of 32 countries). Laur Saks from 10 achieved 4th place in the world!
- Results among the world's top 100: Sofia Semevsky (11c), Uku Andreas Reigo (12DP), Eliise Põder (11b), Saamuel Sasi (11b), Anton Laidmets (12c).
- Results among the world's top 1000: Ats Piirsalu (11a), Joosep Toom (11DP), Linda Maria Pool (8b), Pärt Kõrgesaar (11a), Liis Siigur (12DP), Maret Merits (10c), Ats Johannes Kaup (10a), Riin Värton (9b), Matthias Loona (11DP), Johanna Sõber (8b), Liisi Brett (11a), Anabel Zopp (12b), Maare Karmen Oras (12a), Miia Helen Merilo (9b), Mari Helen Aader (11DP), Mattheus Dvinjaninov (12c), Lene Tiinas (11b), Sander Metsis (11a), Helga Kadi Leedo (9b), Mark Trubatšov (12b), Raili Randmäe (12b), Maribel Klais (10a), Laura Maria Pella (12a), Ekke Pärtel Tiirmaa (11a), Aade-Maria Kalson (11b), Roman Vahi (11c), Triin Virve (11DP), Mia Karolina Altküla (10a), Tuule Pihlap (12b), Kristjan Sarapuu (9a), Kärt Rentel (10a), Teele Piibemann (8b).
- Altogether 113 students from MHG participated in the contest. We thank the teachers of English Anne Aluvee, Erika Puusemp, Heiki Puusep and the Head of IT Jüri Raudmaa for organizing the event!

BEST IN ENGLISH 2021

GENERAL INFORMATION	2021 STATISTICS	DATE AND TIME
A fully online English language competition	17 223 students	November 26th, 2021
For high schools of any type	595 schools	9-14 am
For Students aged 14-19	32 countries	60 minutes
Already a 9th season		
COVID Free !		

[STATISTICS 2019](#) [REGISTRATION 2021](#) [RESULTS 2019](#)



- The winners of the Christmas card contest of 2021 are revealed. The authors of the winning cards are **Herman Vinni (3a)**, **Mia Pakkanen (12b)**, and **Adeele Kams (5a)**. Congratulations! The contest was organized by our Arts teacher **Ivika Hiis**.



Pafu õnne!





- On December 8, grades 1–8 had their annual anti-bullying day where the lessons were given by grade 8 students and days were filled with fun activities and workshops. KiVa anti-bullying day was organized by Eleriin Käo-Zirk, Maili Tirel and Liis Somelar.





- Traditional graduate students' drama night took place last Friday with our teacher **Ivika Hein** as the leader of the event. Drama night brought together people who had caught the drama bug while studying at MHG and are still carrying it along.





Christmas Party

Grades 9-12

December 21st

21. detsembril algusega kell 18.00 toimub Miina Härma gümnaasiumi aulas 9.-12. klasside jõulupidu. Ootame igalt klassislt maksimaalselt 4-minutilist vabas vormis jõuluteemalist etteastet (näidend, laul, tants, luuletus, video). Teretulnud on ka mitme klassi ühised numbrid.

The Christmas party for grades 9-12 will take place in the assembly hall on December 21 at 18.00. A Christmas-themed performance that lasts a maximum of 4 minutes is expected from each class. (play, song, dance, poems, video). Joint performances of several classes are also welcome.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

- December 13–17 – preliminary exams week of secondary school
- December 14–15 – pre-defence of grade 12 UPT
- December 14 – school round of the Physics Olympiad (basic school); 3b skating in Town Hall Square
- December 15 – at 8.30–12.00 school round of the Chemistry Olympiad; at 13.50–14.50 rehearsal of the Children's Choir Pauluse Church
- December 16 – at 11–12.30 Christmas party for grades 3–4; at 13–14.30 Christmas party for grades 1–2;
- December 16–17 – 6b visiting Taevaskoja
- December 17 – 1ab visiting Rakvere Theatre and watching "Lepatriinude jõulud"; at 12–15.30 choir rehearsals at Pauluse Church
- December 20 – Christmas party for grades 5–8; at 9.30–11.00 English Olympiad for the secondary school
- December 21 – Christmas party for grades 9–12; 7a Christmas lunch at Pierre's
- December 22 – at 14.00 Christmas service in Pauluse Church
- December 23 – January 9 – school holidays



THE DAY WE HAVE ALL BEEN WAITING FOR



CHRISTMAS SWEATER DAY

On December 17, wear the most beautiful/awful Christmas sweater
you have to help create the Christmas spirit.

Take out your best Christmas sweater and show it to the world!



DECEMBER 17TH

Take a photo and share @MHGTARTU



HISTORY CORNER

Setting the school's vision.

by Ene Tannberg

Learning foreign languages has always played a significant role at our school. Foreign languages were already taught during the first year after the establishment of the school. During the meeting of the Teachers' Committee on November 2, 1906, the decision was made to buy literature in Estonian, Russian and German to the school's library for both students and teachers. (RA, EA 3460.1.264, I 2.)

Back in 1911, the discussion between the pedagogical teams mainly revolved around setting the school's vision: was it to prepare students for the final exams of the gymnasium or the aim was to settle with less. According to the regulations of the Russian Czar country, all graduation exams needed to be conducted in Russian which was then followed by discussions about how to ensure the best possible preparation for those exams. A proposal was made to open an extra class (grade VIII) where the learning would only take place in Russian, or even during the last two years (grades VII and VIII). The last version was not supported by teachers. Peeter Põld emphasized that the graduation exams are hard not because of their language but the material covered that had already been studied in the previous grades.

The teachers supported the decision of opening grade VIII to prepare students for exams. But what to teach in that grade? It was thought that one should read contemporary literature in Russian and study the theory of Russian literature. In the lessons of German and French, literary knowledge should also be improved. The students should revise their computing skills and for obtaining more theoretical vocabulary, students should study geometry and algebra in Russian. Mathematics was not thought to be a problem as the language of the subject area was relatively simple and comprehension would be more important. The difficulties were thought to be arising in preparations for the exams in History, Sciences, Chemistry and Physics that were also taken in Russian. A proposal was made to introduce Latin in the school's curriculum. As a counterargument, it was emphasized that the school's main vision was to raise educated individuals and that would be achieved best in the mother tongue.

The Latin lessons were thought to provide excess burden in the heavy schedule and would force to shift to a 34-lesson weekly schedule. The language itself was not thought to be that difficult as understanding phenomena and laws as when those are clear then there should be no difficulties with the extra lessons provided. Attention was drawn to the fact that the whole school should not be sacrificed in the name of the final exams.

The decision of the Teachers' Committee was reviewed by the school's Curatorial that sis not agree with the school's decision. Teaching History in the mother tongue was thought to be extremely important. As a result of several discussions, a compromise was reached that only some of the subjects would be in Russian in grade VIII. Additional foreign languages that were taught included German and French in addition or Russian. Most of the teaching and learning remained in Estonian.

Russian was still difficult for students. The teachers were discontented with the low marks in Russian. The assessment principles were discussed and found that the knowledge of individual students must be compared and to assess the class on the overall level of the students when the child is weaker, then the demands should be lowered and emphasize put on more significant concepts discarding the less relevant questions during an assessment. Grades would not be for motivating students but rather for informing parents. The goal of interviewing students was not putting out a number but giving feedback to learning. The term grade would be composed of the fact of whether the teacher was taking the student forward or not. The mark was not an arithmetical average summarizing individual responses or pieces of writing. Designing the school's curriculum to meet the requirements of the final exams taken in Russian would also continue in 1912. The first graduates received graduation certificates in 1913. (RA,EA. 3460.1.264, l. 16 - 19.)