

MHG NEWS

DECEMBER 21

MIINA HÄRMA GÜMNAASIUM
NEWSLETTER

NR.15
SCHOOL YEAR 2021/2022



WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

- On Friday, December 17, the Humanities strand students of grades 11 showed their fellow students what has been learnt in Drama classes. Thank you for an inspiring performance! Thank you, Ivika Hein, for supervising!
- Tiina-Erika Friedenthal received a special award from the President of the Estonian Academy of Sciences for "The most elegant student work" with her work „Võitlus ja väitlus teatri üle Eesti- ja Liivimaal 18. sajandi lõpus ja 19. sajandi alguses“
- Or Science teacher Martin Pent published an article "Arstid said solidaarsuse, nüüd on õpetajate kord" in Õpetajate Leht on December 17

BIRTHDAYS

- 22.12** Paul Martin Kull
31.12 Marje Kuus
01.01 Lilia Ilves
01.01 Ave Hussar
02.01 Ita Ilves
08.01 Jana Kübar





ANNOUNCEMENTS

- December 21–22 – the whole school on home e-learning
- December 23 – January 9 – School holidays
- January 10 – WE COME BACK TO SCHOOL AND HAVE ALL THE PARTIES THAT WERE CANCELLED!



The author of this year's MHG Christmas card is Herman Vinni from 3a



MHG HIGHLIGHTS OF 2021

Celebrating MHG 115, intensive English teaching 60, and IB programmes 10 with different events throughout the calendar year. See more from <https://miinaharma.ee/mhg-115/> (in Estonian).

VALUES

- The **Curriculum of Values** was developed in collaboration with the Student Council.
- **Clothes with MHG symbolics** became more popular at school.
- Began the **course of Meaningful Learning** for grades 10.
- **Virtual Open House events** took place for grades 1 and 10, students conducted virtual informational meetings in other schools, promotional videos were made to introduce MHG.
- Altogether **6 gold medals** (incl. one IBO gold medal) and **8 silver medals** (incl. four IBO silver medals) were awarded to graduates of secondary school.
- **MHG student camps** were organized in Valgemetsa in August: a 3-day camp for secondary school students with 120 participants and a 3-day choir camp for basic school students with also 120 participants.
- National recognition was received by our teacher **Jana Kübar** (Secondary School Teacher of the Year), Head of Studies **Terje Hallik** (School Leader of the Year), and parent **Sten Weidebaum** (Friend of the Education of the Year).

STUDIES

- MHG was the best school in the international competition Best in English for the second time in a row (among 595 schools from 32 countries and 17 223 participants). Laur Saks from 10a became 4th in the world. Altogether 38 students from MHG reached the top 1000. MHG had 113 participants in the contest.
- **12 medals from International Olympiads** including 8 medals in Geography and Earth Sciences.
- We are in the **top 10** in the national ranking of the Schools in Estonia.



MHG HIGHLIGHTS OF 2021

- MHG students were invited to the **national rounds of the Olympiads 61 times** (22 in basic schools, 39 in secondary school), our students reached the top three on 12 occasions. With this achievement, we are among the best three schools in Estonia.
- Three of our students were **1st in the national ranking of Math Kangaroo (Känguru)** in their age group.
- The most successful students in the Olympiad of Tartu city were **Meena Rooden** and **Liis Siigur** who belonged to the top three in **five subject areas**. Altogether 40 students from MHG reached the top three in regional Olympiads (21 in basic school, 19 in secondary school).
- The **most successful supervisor of Tartu city** was our Geography teacher **Maiu Kaljuorg**.
- MHG entered into a cooperation agreement with **TalTech**.

CONTRIBUTION TO THE SOCIETY

- Effective implementation of distance and hybrid learning with introductory seminars for the wider public.
- A collaborative project "Edu ja õnnelikkus" (Success and Happiness) was initiated between three schools of Tartu - MHG, Tartu Tamme School and Tartu Kesklinna School. During this project, grade 9 students develop their collaboration skills through advocating healthy lifestyle choices.
- All students from grades 5–8 began with their **Action as Service**.
- Our 12DP student **Peeter Kipp** belonged to the team SOLARIDE that is developing the first Estonian solar car. As a member of the mechanical team, he is responsible for the electrical system.
- With the lead of **Maigi Varusk**, her podcast series **Roosa Raadio** addressed relevant educational topics.
- Our Head of School **Ene Tannberg** was chosen as the **chairperson of the School Leaders Association of Tartu** for the fourth time in a row.



MHG HIGHLIGHTS OF 2021

CARING FOR THE HEALTH

- 99% of our employees and over 95% of students above the age of 12 are vaccinated against Covid-19 .
- A campaign "1000 hours outdoors" for primary students took place in April and November.
- During the Heart Week, every member of the school family was challenged to gather 115 000 steps in 15 days. The most dedicated participants were our graduate students and teachers. The total number of steps gathered was 15,147,472.
- The whole-school hike "115 minutes with Härma Spirit" took place around the River Emajõgi.
- Tamme Relay Run took place for the 40th time. T
- A low activity track was built in the school yard.





HISTORY CORNER

The school under epidemic Ene Tannberg

During the first decades of the 20th century, the outbreak of scarlet fever influenced school life in several years so that the Christmas parties were to be cancelled and holidays began earlier. Scarlet fever is a severe infectious disease that breaks out in the form of a red rash that spreads out over the body, a sore throat, and a high fever. The high season of the illness is from October to March. Children between the age of 5–15 are the most vulnerable to being infected.

On December 8, 1910, cancelling the Christmas parties due to the outbreak of scarlet fever was under discussion during the meeting of the Teacher's Council. It was decided to have the party because there were not very many students infected with the disease at the time. It was admitted that the decision would be reviewed in case the outbreak should escalate at school. The students were allowed to invite guests but needed to provide their home addresses. These addresses were compared to the information shared in newspapers about the locations of the scarlet fever outbreaks in town. The spread of the disease was believed to be kept under control with these measures. (RA, EA. 3460.1.264, l. 13)

A year later, the outbreak of scarlet fever had taken the scale of an epidemic and therefore, it was decided to cancel the Christmas parties in 1911. (RA, EA. 3460.1.264, l. 26p)

The next biggest outbreak of scarlet fever took place in December 1919. On December 13, the Teacher's Council was discussing the measures to be taken to limit the spread of the disease. According to the Head of School, Mr Varik, some students had already died from scarlet fever and the school had a lot of absentees that impacted conducting comprehensive school lessons. Several teachers were afraid to send their children to school for fear of the disease.



HISTORY CORNER

According to Hans Valk, the teacher of Music and Mathematics a triple threat was ambushing our students: rooms for school work were rented from the Hugo Treffner school and two schools were working in the same overcrowded building. In addition, the schoolhouse was often rented out for parties that gathered a number of various people which, in turn, posed a higher threat for the spread of the infections. Mr Valk proposed that the school should immediately be sent to the Christmas holidays. The proposal to begin the holidays earlier was also supported by teacher Hermann (Miina Härma) who thought that when children would go back to their homes in the countrysides then the chances to get infected with the disease would be minimized. Back then, a huge number of the students at our schools lived outside of Tartu city. The counterargument was posed by Leo Virres, the Mathematics teacher claiming that the doctors have not considered the situation as threatening and therefore the school should not overstate the severity of the situation. By doing this, an opinion could spread that the teachers do not wish to do their jobs. Ms Valk argued that the doctors have also closed the schools down with fewer cases of infections. He emphasized that closing the schools is already justified when it would save at least one child. With the decision of the Teachers' Council, the learning was finished and the school was closed for Christmas holidays on December 15. (RA, EA. 3460.1.265, I. 78)