

# MHG NEWS

MAY 24

MIINA HÄRMA GÜMNAASIUM  
NEWSLETTER

NR.33  
SCHOOL YEAR 2021/2022



## WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

- On May 23, our 9th-grade students celebrated baby day (titepäev), followed by a festive ceremony of the last school bell on May 24. During the ceremony, Terje Hallik held a speech where she talked about the importance of being happy and how it helps to become successful. Henri Jürgens represented the students. He brought out memorable events from field trips and school life in his speech. Kristi Kreutzberg held a speech in the name of the homeroom teachers and shared tips to support oneself during the exam session. Dear 9th-graders - we wish you a successful exam session.

## BIRTHDAYS

**03.06. Tiina Aidnik**





## WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS



- Elisabeth Yenma Virnas (2a) and her mother Janeli Virnas published a fun children's book "Elli lapsesuu".



- Lily Marie Sõõrd (3a) represented grades 3 of MHG in the whole-town English competition and achieved 2nd place. Her supervisor was Egle-Diana Keldt.
- Our German teacher, Maigi Varusk, published an article in Õpetajate Leht (May 20) where she discusses the issues with teachers' salaries.
- MHG supports the event of national defence "Siil" and its participants. Our History teachers, Kaarel Viljaste and Ilmar Tammisto are currently participating in the event. We are proud! The list of all companies supporting "Siil" is HERE.
- The guest of the podcast Roosa Raadio is our French teacher Triin Arjus.







## WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

The project "Edu ja õnnelikkus" between three schools of Tartu (Miina Härma Gümnaasiumi, Tartu Kesklinna School and Tartu Tamme School) came to an end on May 18. Altogether 180 students from grades 9 participated in the project.

### Three virtual project days took place:

in October, the day of Miina Härma Gümnaasium – presenters were Roland Tokko "12 asja, mida koolis ei õpetatud", Annika Paas, Matilda Mägi "Õnnelikkus"; in November, the day of Kesklinna School – presenters were Harald Lepisk "Tulevikukindel – õpi elus õnnestuma", Klarika Variku joogatund "Kuidas tõsta enesekindlust läbi enese hoolimise – väärtustamise ja armastuse", kooli psühholoog Tambet Anja "Tervislik toitumine";

in January, the day of Tamme School – the stories were shared by Kaisa Holsting, Mihkel Lees, Viivika Keskküla and Katrin Saali-Saul "Edu ja õnn suhetes".

The project's final event took place at **Erinevate Tubade Klubi in Apraaditehas**.

**The organizing team:** Liis Somelar (MHG), Anne Kulamaa, Kristi Paju, Riina Pauklin (TKK), Moonika Väärt (TTK).

**The support personnel of the project:** are psychologist Tambet Anja (TKK), psychologist Maili Tirel (MHG) and Social Pedagogue Regita Saksing (MHG).

**Special thanks to the Heads of Schools:** Ene Tannberg (MHG), Kersti Vilson (TKK), Vallo Reimaa (TTK), and all others that contributed to the project one way or the other. The project was financed by the Educational Department of the City Government of Tartu.





## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- May 24 – 1ab visiting a theatre in Tallinn; **grade 9 ceremony of the final school bell**; 7b visiting UT Museum of Natural Science.
- May 25 – **DSD A1 exam in German for grades 5**; grade 11 career counselling sessions; Badminton championships of the schools of Tartu; 10c visiting UT Museum of Natural Science.
- May 26 – **at 10–18 grade 4 Exhibition day**; 11abc career planning course workshop about studying abroad.
- May 27 – Day of Colours; 10c Math lesson visited by the lecturer from the Estonian Aviation Academy; **grade 8–9 Personal Project seminar; deadline for the summative grades of 9ab.**
- May 28–29 – groups of Härmatis participating in the dance festival of South-East Estonia.
- May 30–June 3 – 12a visiting Montenegro.
- May 30 – **final exam in Estonian for the basic school.**
- May 31 – 6a and 7a visiting Valma Adventure Park; 10c visiting ERM; concert "Helimaalingud" for grade 8 students.
- May 31–June 2 – National Defence course camp in Nursipalu for grades 10.







## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**LOOVTÖÖDE  
ESITLUSPÄEV**

**EXHIBITION  
DAY**

**Grades 4  
invite you!**

**4. klassid  
kutsuvad!**

**THURSDAY, 26.05 IN AULA**

**AT 12.00-14.00**

**PRESENTATIONS FOR  
FELLOW STUDENTS  
AND TEACHERS**

**AT 16.30-18.00**

**PRESENTATIONS FOR  
PARENTS, FAMILIES  
AND OTHER GUESTS**



# COLOR DAY

**FRIDAY  
MAY 27**

## COLORS:



1 CLASS

NEON



2 CLASS

DOTS



3 CLASS

RED



4 CLASS

ORANGE



5 CLASS

YELLOW



6 CLASS

GREEN



7 CLASS

BLUE



8 CLASS

PURPLE



9 CLASS

PINK



10 CLASS

NEON



11 CLASS

SQUARES



12 CLASS

BLACK



TEACHERS

FLOWERS







## HISTORY CORNER

### In memoriam Hillar Palamets

On September 10, 1995, **Hillar Palamets** became the Head of School at MHG and remained in the position for exactly three years (in September 10, 1958, he began his studies of teaching methodology of History at the University of Tartu). In 1954, our school had become coeducational. With the addition of boys, new topics were brought to the table of the Head of School. Hillar Palamets has written in his memoirs about the first year of being a Head of School at MHG (Sajandi kool. Sada aastat Härma Gümnaasiumi. Koost. E. Tannberg. Tartu 2006. lk 214–226.).

Some extracts of his memories:

*Leading a collective of about a thousand members – when accounting for all students, teachers and other personnel – was something I was not used to, intense but interesting, offering a lot of experience. Something happened every day that required the attention of the Head of School. And mostly, they were not pleasant events. Being called on a phone meant new urgent orders, reminders, and complaints. But there were also enjoyable meet-ups with the whole school family.*

*From a distance, the schoolhouse looked fairly representative. With a well-thought-out layout. A spacious grass field with cobblestone pavement lay in front of the house. The schoolhouse was separated from Viljandi street (current J. Tõnissoni street) by a decomposing wooden fence aligned with a row of deciduous trees and fir trees.*

*During warm times, the grass field was suitable for conducting PE lessons and spending recess. In winter, an ice ring was established on the field.*



## **HISTORY CORNER**

*The school building was completely overwhelmed with school work. From 8 am until 11 pm. At first, there was an older and younger shift in our school. Then followed by the evening shift of the working youth's school. Often, there was a struggle to find free rooms for extra-curricular activities or parent meetings.*

*Teaching and learning were a priority. The school got often castigated in public because of the low academic scores and that brought down the mood and the motivation of the teachers. At the beginning of the term of office, more experienced Heads of Schools gave me good advice. Let the academic scores fall to the bottom. To a young and novice Head of School – at least at the beginning – it is forgiven. And then things will begin to improve.*

*Non-advancing students will be helped along by the teachers by doing extra work with them.*

*The breakthrough had to be achieved in the students' attitudes. There were newcomers among middle school students that were led by the principle: there are no bad students, only bad teachers. But how to avoid twos when students obligated to attend school were absent and missed lessons, exams and tests. Thereat, demanding satisfactory grades to be awarded at the end of the term by being convinced that "they won't let the whole class repeat a year". The same way as they had been doing in the previous school years.*

*At the end of the first year of employment, H. Palamets was able to award our graduate students with 4 golden and 6 silver medals. At the same time, all other schools in Tartu awarded 8 medals in total. Back then, the written exams of the medal candidates were reviewed in the Ministry and acknowledged (or declined) only after that. The school's academic scores were also somewhat improved.*





## **HISTORY CORNER**

Hillar Palamets continued working at our school as a History teacher with a smaller workload from ending his career as a Head of School until the year 1965. During that time, he was also the leader of the pedagogical practice of the university students and conducted didactic experiments about teaching History. Based on the results of the experiments, he published a recognized student book of History for grades 4 (Jutustusi kodumaa ajaloost). Palaments remained working as a UT lecturer until 1996 and was also the teacher of History teachers and well an advocator of History as a subject.

Hillar Palamets passed away on May 20, 2022, a few months before his 95th birthday.

