



JANUARY-
FEBRUARY 2022

Welcome the Year of the Blue Tiger

The wheel of time has completed another circle, and Chinese New Year 2022, the year of the Blue Water Tiger, has arrived. This year's Spring Festival fell on February 1, and traditionally this time was full of festive events for the students of our gymnasium. On January 26 the students of Confucius Class together with the governor of the Grodno region V. Karanik took part in shooting video congratulations to Chinese people. The congratulations were shown on Chinese television on February 1 and the Chinese were favorably impressed by the warm words of our students.

<https://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/y7FuCtKETQmyQPeUqoHFxA>



Jianzhi is the traditional Chinese art of paper cutting. On January 31, on the eve of Chinese New Year, pupils of form III took part in the workshop where they cut out Chinese decorations - butterflies and dragons.

On February 1, a festive musical break was held in the gymnasium hall with the performance of the dance group "Podnebesnaya", the vocal group "Ulybka" and the music band "Rumlevskie zorochnki". The audience enjoyed the artistic and language skills of the participants. And later everyone had a chance to take part in a paper-cutting workshop.

The night before the Spring Festival is the time for the whole family to get together. A big 12-course family dinner is prepared, the main dish is the traditional dumplings. The workshop where students cook and taste dumplings is one of the favourite traditional events in our gymnasium. Once again the students of Confucius Class were shown on the Grodno+ TV channel on the news about the Chinese New Year celebration in the gymnasium:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Zts11M-Nhw>

An important part of Chinese theatre is masks. The colour of the mask traditionally denotes different character traits of a person wearing it. For example, red symbolizes bravery, white stands for an old age, blue - for villains and green - for robbers. On February 3 the second-formers took part in the workshop where they learnt to draw Chinese masks and the mask of the Tiger - the symbol of New Year 2022. On February 4, Vice Director N. Lukashenko and the teacher of Chinese V. Zdanovich took part in the talk show "Windows of the City" on the Grodno+ channel where they discussed the topic "Grodno - China: social, cul-



tural and economic relationships". During the live broadcast different issues were raised: the history of Confucius Class in our gymnasium, the difficulties and challenges caused by learning and teaching the Chinese language.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dKSZJmO7tg4>

The festive week ended on February 5 with a concert organized by Confucius Class students. The children prepared amazing performances and demonstrated their progress in learning Chinese: they sang songs, danced and recited poems. Not only students of the gymnasium but other educational establishments of our city also participated in the event.

At the end of the concert the children competed for being the best with chopsticks.

Then everyone took part in the calligraphy workshop and got a piece of paper with their name written in hieroglyphs.

The tradition of welcoming New Year with tangerines was born in China around 1000 BC. A guest of the party always presented the host with a couple of tangerines because "two tangerines" sounds like "gold" in Chinese. In this way the Chinese wish each other wealth. The New Year's Eve celebrations last for 15 days and end in the Lantern Festival. On this day you can have a wish and set off a red lantern into the sky.

Let the year of the Blue Water Tiger bring you happiness, health, prosperity and good luck!

Maria Belevich, Form 10 "Z"





The Public Speaking Contest

Why are we fully persuaded by the arguments of some people but doubt the ideas of others? Have you ever thought of it? I do believe that it is all about the art of



public speaking. The ability to speak correctly, structure thoughts clearly, convince people, present the ideas in an accessible way, attract the attention of the audience and win it over is something everyone is eager to possess. Right? Moreover, it is common knowledge that excellent speaking skills are an important component of being successful in life. They are the key to achieving our goals, as even history is changed by the power of great orators.

Are orators born or made? Some people feel that effective speaking is a natural talent: either you have it or you don't. But this is not true. You can learn different types of speaking and become capable of it. Public speaking is a science, the study of which allows you to hold a conversation in such a way that it will arouse people's trust and sympathy. Every word you say will be a tool on the way to achieving your goal. Conflicts, misunderstandings, inattention to your words – all this will re-

main in the past. I guess, everyone would like to try themselves in this field, and our high school students are no exception.

The public speaking contest was held in our gymnasium on 22 January and students from the seventh to ninth grades took part in it. Seven topics were offered to choose from. They touched various spheres of life, so that everyone could find something to their taste. The event was a great opportunity to share your opinion, as well as to listen to others. Some guys chose the same topics, but their thoughts, arguments, examples – everything was different and that was completely expected. We are different, everyone has their own worldviews and philosophies. We saw how differently the participants used their voice, body language, tools to draw the audience emotion-



ally. One fact was vivid: public speaking required practice.

To put it in a nutshell, the contest was both educational and enjoyable. It showed that our pupils are on the right way of being brilliant speakers and being successful.

Daria Tihonovich, Form 9 "Z"



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Candlemas

Candlemas is one of the twelve great Christian holidays . It commemorates the



Presentation of Jesus at the Temple. In Belarus this holiday is called the Meeting of the Lord (Sretsenie Haspodnie)

or the Day of Thunder (Hramnitsy). Catholics celebrate this feast on 2 February , Ordox believers do it on 15 February. The obligatory attribute of the holiday is a Hramnitsy candle which is blessed in the church and kept in the house for a year. These blessed candles serve as a symbol of Jesus Christ who referred to himself as the Light of the World. In the past Belarussians had many beliefs connected with this day. They were sure that winter met spring that day. If the day was sunny, people were sure that spring would arrive soon; if it was a cloudy day, they knew there would be a long winter with snowstorms. . A frosty

day meant that the snow would melt soon but the spring and summer would be cold and rainy. Our ancestors believed that it was the only winter day with thunder and lightning. On that day they lit candles because they were afraid that lightning would burn their houses. People also made bonfires and blew clay or wooden bird whistles because they hoped that spring would come sooner. Domestic birds were fed on grain on that day so as they would lay a lot of eggs in the summer. People also shook the snow off the trees in their gardens as they believed it would help them to have a large fruit harvest



in summer. Belarusians thought that a strong wind would bring them a good flax harvest. The melting snow gave them hope of having a rich wheat harvest in the summer. As you see ,this religious holiday also helped our ancestors to predict weather and harvest.

Yekaterina Kuzmich, Form 9 “Z”





Different Countries - Different Traditions

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Happy Valentine's Day

With you around sweetheart,
My life's a Song!
A big warm hug
To wish you Happy Valentine's Day!

Day and night you are in my thoughts!
Please be my Valentine!

Valentine's Day is celebrated by millions of people all over the world. The celebration falls on the 14th of February. On this day people celebrate and show their love to each other by giving gifts and cards and perhaps, by having a romantic dinner.

The history of Valentine's Day – and its patron saint – has a lot of mysteries. But we do know that February has long been a month of romance. Customs which have a link with St Valentine's Day started with the popular belief held by people in Great Britain and France during the 14th and 15th century that birds begin to mate on 14 February. Lovers, therefore, found St. Valentine's Day the right time to send love letters and gifts to beloved.. Now, people take opportunity of the day to wish "Happy Valentine's Day" to anyone they love – their father, mother, teachers, siblings, friends, coworkers or anyone special to them. The idea is to give love and spread happiness around us.

But, who was Saint Valentine? One legend says that Valentine was a priest who served during the third century in Rome. When Emperor Claudius II decided that single men made better soldiers than those with wives and families, he outlawed marriage for young men – his soldiers. Valentine thought it was unfair and continued to marry young lovers in secret. When Valentine's actions were discovered, Claudius ordered that he be put to death. It's no surprise that by the Middle Ages, Valentine had become one of the most popular saints in England and France.



In

Great Britain, Valentine's Day began to be popularly celebrated around the seventeenth century. By the middle of the eighteenth century, it had become common for friends and lovers in all social classes to exchange small gifts or handwritten notes. By the end of the century, printed cards had begun to replace written letters. Ready-made cards were an easy way for people to express their emotions in a time when direct expression of one's feelings was discouraged.

Nowadays according to the Greeting Card Association, one billion Valentine cards are sent each year, making Valentine's Day the second largest card-sending holiday of the year.

Veronika Patsenko, Form 10 "Z"



To Know When to Go Away and to Come Closer is the Key to Any Lasting Relationships



The greatest treasure for everyone is a close lasting relationship. What should we do to keep it? They say, to know when to go away and when to come closer is the key to any lasting relationships. So when is it good to leave your beloved alone and when is it time to bring them out of their isolation? Let's find the answer to this question.

According to psychologists there are 4 zones of our "personal space": an intimate zone, a personal, a social and public zones. And every zone has its own distance. The intimate zone is considered to be our personal property. That's why only close people are allowed to enter it.

While discussing relationships, we can say that our partner is allowed a lot, but not everything. We trust him or her, but this person should appreciate our own space. Lasting relationship also means trust, understanding and support. When we find a person who is dear to us, we should understand that we influence each other. Certainly, we realize how much we have passed together, we know there have been some quarrels, misunderstandings and offences. But, nevertheless, we appreciate this relation and don't want to lose it. If we want to keep it, we should find a compromise and no doubt, communication will



help us to do it. If we talk to each other, if we share our joys and sorrows, we understand each other better and feel when it's high time to leave our dear alone and when it's good to calm him down.

But I'm sure we shouldn't forget about our personality too. Being independent, not forgetting about things which bring us joys and happiness are very important. Remember, starting a relationship we can still do everything we wish, but we shouldn't invade our partner's personal space without permission. It raises our self-esteem and saves our relations from routine and boredom.

So you see that it is hard work to be happy in relationships. That's why I advise both people to work at their relations as nobody will succeed while passing this way alone.

Alexandra Fialko, Form "M"





TALENTED and CREATIVE

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If You Want to be Happy for Life, Love What You Do

Everyone has favourite activities which they adore doing, and there are also things which they have to do, but don't always want to. I believe that it is very important to find a reasonable balance between these things. Try living in harmony with yourself and make yourself happy.



In our life there has always been and will be something that we need to do. For example, teenagers are not very fond of doing homework, as well as their parents dislike doing their household duties. Few people like to stand in long queues at supermarkets or do important paperwork, but we all have to do it because it is necessary.

It's good to find some positive moments in these things. For example, while doing our homework we become more disciplined and intelligent. It develops our sense of logic and makes us ready for future working duties.

Almost every person works. At least, in order to eat, dress, and live somewhere. But unfortunately, very few people can say that they really love their jobs. Many people work just for money and it's really terrible. That's why we see so many angry, irritated, unhappy people around us. But remember that our productivity increases, if we are interested in what we are doing. If you hate



what you are doing, you are always in a bad mood. You simply have no time for pleasant things. You are more and more absorbed in routine.

When you start doing what you have a passion for, life changes. You stop hating Mondays, looking forward to Fridays. Absolutely every day brings you pleasure. But the most important thing is that you love what you dedicate your life to, it means that you love yourself.

We are teenagers and it is high time for us to identify our talents and find activities which are close to our heart. As for me, I am keen on Math. I enjoy solving problems and doing sums. Math is PE for my head. It makes me more organized and teaches me to analyze and make conclusions. I hope that my future job will be connected with this subject.

Confucius said "Choose a job you love and you'll never have to work a day in your life". And I absolutely agree with it. In this case your job will bring you a lot of satisfaction and you will be a happy person. I hope that I will be able to do this.

Veronika Strelkovskaya, Form 9thM



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You Live and Learn

“You Live and Learn”- what does it mean? I think throughout our life we need to acquire a lot of knowledge and various skills.

When we go to school, we get more opportunities to learn some basic things. But I'm sure that the most important experience and knowledge we receive while solving some problems and overcoming some difficulties.

“You live and learn”- this proverb is used to say when someone has learnt something from experience. Sometimes these lessons are surprising and even unpleasant, but this experience gives us a lot. Sometimes it makes us stronger, sometimes it makes us wiser, sometimes it makes us more careful and attentive.

Unfortunately, many teenagers are not interested in studying and they don't realize the importance of education. So in the future they will have problems with finding a good job and also with social life. No doubt, learning broadens our horizons, helps to interact with people, explains almost everything in our life.

"It's never too late to learn something." I completely agree with this saying. We have been studying all our lives, from birth to death. For example, in the first year babies come through some milestones. They learn to focus their vision, to explore things around them, start recognizing their parents and their nearest

relatives. They learn to walk, to speak, to play.

When we go to school we learn to read and write, to do sums and solve problems. At different lesson we get some specific skills. But school also develops us emotionally and socially. Here we make our true friends, we fell in love, we learn and realize what people we can trust and who can betray us at any moment.

When I was about 10 I had a friend and I believed that she was my real friend, that I could trust her and that she was the shoulder to cry on. But one day I found out that she was talking behind my back. I understood that she was a false friend. I realized that I should be more careful while choosing friends.

We can't be more intelligent and smarter only because we have become older. We must learn and develop ourselves throughout our life. Nowadays we live in the era of technologies. Science and technology are widely used in every sphere of our life and affect us every day from the alarm clock in the morning to various gadgets we use for studying, working and entertainment. So if you want not to lag behind the times we have to learn.

Most teenagers have learnt how to use gadgets. But sometimes these gadgets can be not only a blessing, but also a curse, because they can distract us from our studies and doing household duties. They can make us forget about real people and dive us into the virtual world.

In conclusion, I'd like to say that nowadays life gives us a lot of wonderful opportunities to become well-educated people and we shouldn't miss them.

Nadezhda Matusevich, Form 9 “M”



FUNNY COLUMN

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A teacher asks her class:
- Who is smart here? Put up your hand.
Then all the boys and girls except Peter raise their hand.

Teacher:

- Peter, why aren't you raising your hand?

Peter:

- Because if I raise my hand then you'll be all alone.

A teacher asks his pupil:

- Why are you late, Bob?

Bob answers:

- Because of the sign.

Teacher:

- What sign?

Bob:

- The one that says, «School Ahead, Go Slow.»



A math teacher is going to ask a complicated question, so he says to her pupils: whoever answers my next question, can go home.

After her words sly Brian throws his backpack out the window.

Teacher asks: who just threw that?!

Brian: Me! It was your question. May I go home now?

Simon didn't do his homework.

At the lesson his teacher Miss Clark asks him, «Where's your homework?»

Simon: I couldn't do it. There was too much noise at home.

Miss Clark: Noise? All evening? What kind of noise?

Simon: It was the TV. It was too loud. I couldn't do my homework.

Miss Clark: Surely you could have asked them to turn the sound down?

Simon: No, Miss. There was no else in the room.

At the first lesson after summer vacations a teacher welcomes her pupils: «Hello boys and girls. Remember!!! Nothing is impossible.»

The wittiest boy says: «Ok Miss, You ,please , try to take out all the toothpastes and put back it into the tube again.»

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