



Spring Is The Season Of Changes



Spring is the time when nature awakens from its winter sleep. It's time of renovation, inspiration and blossoming. It's the season when we wish to change something for the better in our souls and actions. A spring breeze, a warm sun, a babbling stream, returning home birds, bright fragrant flowers – everything seems to tell us that it's high time we became better. It's natural for everybody not to wish anything bad to themselves. But so many people are full of hesitations, fears and concerns. They are constantly thinking about something

unpleasant. As a result, many of them don't understand, accept and love themselves. Such people just don't know what to think and how to act to become happier. It's inadequate simply not to expect bad news and events and just live hoping for the best. It's time for you to change your life for the better, to become more energetic and active, arranging those changes which are really desired and necessary. I'd like to give you some tips how to transform and change for the better in spring. **To open your soul for spring and changes** I advise you to:

1. Realize your current state of affairs and take everything for granted like nature which expects the beginning of spring calmly without fuss.



2. Do spring cleaning of your life. You should get rid of everything which is unnecessary, old, waste, odd and unfamiliar to you like melting snow carries it away in spring.

3. Pay more attention to your health. It's advisable to eat healthy food, do exercise, sleep enough.

4. Transform outwardly. Don't forget about your appearance: change your hair-do, clothes, make up. Spring is a nice season for it. All these changes will help you to feel and look better.

5. Transform inwardly. Taking care of your appearance, it's important to care for your psychological health. Delete all negative aspects from your life. All problems exist only in our consciousness. They depend on the way we watch our surroundings and themselves. So think positively.



6. Realize and set your new personal aims. You should analyze your real desires, your own strengths and weaknesses, it will help you to achieve your aims. It's not good to compare yourself to other people, because every person is unique. Developing yourself helps you to blossom like a fruit tree, unshling your inner potential. Being realized means getting and enjoying the fruits of your development.

While moving, developing, renovating, it's important to enjoy life and be happy now and here. Rejoice at beauty, kindness, love and spring in your soul!

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XXIII Open International Research Scientific “Novye Filomaty”

*The important thing is not to stop questioning.
Never lose a holy curiosity.
Albert Einstein*



There is a tradition in our school to organize and hold scientific conferences. On the 27th of February, 2020 we welcomed the participants of the XXIIIrd Open International Scientific Conference “Novye Filomaty”.

Entering the gymnasium, our guests enjoyed wonderful melodies performed by our violinists. After the registration which was held in the hall all the participants were invited to the Assembly hall. Olga Budenis, a Master of Philology, a senior teacher of Grodno State University named after Yanka Kupala, greeted the participants and declared the conference open. There were 22 sections this year.



The smartest students from Grodno and Grodno region, Pskov (Russia), Vilnius and Druskininkai (Lithuania) presented 200 reports. The participants put forward various hypotheses and tried to prove them. They compared different phenomena of foreign and native languages, analyzed unusual historic events, explored different facts of social life. Most works were of practical value. They were highly appreciated by the competent jury. The best papers were awarded the diplomas.

I hope that all the participants have gained valuable experience and in the future we'll see their names among the names of the famous scientists.

Polina Povaibo, 7 “V”



Quiz Show “Friendship is Gorgeous”



What makes school life memorable and exciting? School events! They add colour to everyday life, brighten any season, let school take a breath of fresh air. So, it's not surprising at all that the pupils of our school always look forward to such events.

On the 29th of February the Quiz show “Friendship is Gorgeous” gathered the 7-formers. It was a holiday of talent, intelligence, resourcefulness and, of course, the English language. The Quiz show was a wonderful chance for our students to enjoy the company of peers, share thoughts on friendship and find the wisest ever solutions. Everybody could make sure “The harder the struggle, the sweeter the victory”.

But let us start from the very beginning. The members of 5 teams put their heads together to prove that they are real experts on friendship. The Quiz show had a magic number: 2. It was not difficult for our participants to guess why Friendship is created by two people, if it's one person who wants friendship to grow, it won't work.



Doing the first task of the quiz the pupils showed their awareness of true and toxic friends, their characteristics. They came to the following conclusion. People who think how to take advantage of you, who hold your mistakes against you, spread rumors about you and don't let you be yourself are toxic friends. They are not friends we all search for. Looking for a true friend we should pay attention to a person's inner world.



Why is character more important than appearance when it comes to choosing friends? In the second task the participants expressed their thoughts, answering this question. As the proverb goes “Don't judge the book by its cover”.

It's not a secret that the British adore using idioms and they use them very often. That's why it is very important to know them. Otherwise you can misunderstand people, be confused or look ridiculous. The third task showed how skillful our pupils were

at using idioms, describing their friends.

Are there any examples of true friendship in films and cartoons? The boys and girls were given the task to describe a film character using the plan. It was cool!

A man who has friends must himself be friendly. Treat your friends the way you'd like to be treated. The last task was called «True friendship». The participants were asked to give some pieces of advice what we should do to be true friends.

To add brightness to the event the pupils showed their talent playing the piano. A lot of fans came to support their teams.

The Quiz show was both challenging and exciting. All teams were great and had their strengths. They showed a good command of English. But the winner of the Quiz show was announced form 7”Z”. Our congratulations! The quiz was unforgettable! It's cool that our 7-formers know which things matter in real friendship and why friendship is the greatest treasure!



Natalia Sheibak, a teacher of English



Maslenitsa



Background

According to the archeological evidence from 2nd century A.D. Maslenitsa may be the oldest surviving Slavic holiday. Maslenitsa has its origins in the pagan tradition. In Slavic mythology Maslenitsa is a sun-festival in honour of the ancient god Volos. It's a celebration of the end of winter. In the Christian tradition, Maslenitsa is the last week before

the beginning of Great Lent.

During the week of Maslenitsa, meat is already forbidden to Orthodox Christians, and it is the last week during which eggs, milk, cheese and other dairy products are allowed to eat. This week is also called "Cheese-fare week" or "Crepe week".

The main dish of Maslenitsa is *bliny* - thin pancakes or crepes, made from butter, eggs and milk. Since Lent bans parties, music, dancing and other entertainments, Maslenitsa gives us the last chance to take part in social activities that are not appropriate during the Lenten season.



In some regions, each day of Maslenitsa used to have its traditional activity. Monday might be the welcoming "Lady Maslenitsa". People built Maslenitsa effigy out of straw. They decorated it with pieces of rags, and fixed "the lady" to a pole known as Kostroma. It used to be paraded around. The first pancakes may be made and offered to the poor. On Tuesday, young men might search for a fiancée to marry after Lent. On Wednesday sons-in-law may visit their mothers-in-law who had prepared pancakes and invited other guests for a party. Thursday used to be devoted to outdoor activities. People were off work and spent the day sledging, ice skating. They played snowballs and made sleigh rides. On Friday sons-in-law may invite their mothers-in-law for dinner. Saturday used to gather young wives with their sisters-in-law so as to get to know each other better, to become closer to each other.

Sunday of Forgiveness



The last day of Cheese-fare Week is called "Forgiveness Sunday". Relatives and friends ask each other for forgiveness and might offer them small presents. As the culmination of the celebration people gather to "strip Lady Maslenitsa of her finery" and burn her on a bonfire. Left-over pancakes may also be thrown into the fire and Lady Maslenitsa's ashes are buried in the snow to "fertilize the crops".

At Vespers on Sunday evening, people may make a *poklon* (bow) before one another and ask forgiveness. Another name for Forgiveness Sunday is "Cheese-fare Sunday", because it is the last day for Orthodox Christians to taste dairy products. They are not allowed until Easter. Fish, wine and oil are also forbidden on most days of Great Lent. The day following Cheese-fare Sunday is called Clean Monday, because people have confessed their sins and asked for forgiveness. They begin Great Lent with a clean slate. Maslenitsa is still one of the favourite holidays in Belarus. People have a lot of fun on this day.

Maria Yankovskaya, 9 "V"



St Patrick's Day



Have you ever taken part in St Patrick's Day celebrations? If not, welcome to Ireland. St Patrick's Day is celebrated on March 17. It became an official holiday in Ireland in 1903 and its first parade took place in Waterford in the same year.



According to the legend Patrick was a 5th-century Romano-British Christian missionary and bishop in Ireland. It is believed that he was born in a wealthy Romano-British family in Roman Britain in the 4th century. His father was a deacon and his grandfather was a priest in the Christian church. At the age of sixteen, he was kidnapped by Irish raiders and taken to Gaelic Ireland as a slave. He spent six years there working as a shepherd. During that time he "found God". God told Patrick to return home and become a priest.

Patrick returned to Ireland to convert the pagan Irish to Christianity. He spent many years on evangelizing in the northern part of Ireland and converted "thousands". Patrick's efforts against the druids were eventually turned into an allegory in which he drove "snakes" out of Ireland, despite the fact that snakes were not known to inhabit the region.

The symbol of Ireland and St Patrick's day is the shamrock. People put it on their clothes and believe that it brings luck. Green is the colour of the day and the leprechaun is another symbol of it. The leprechaun is a small Irish red-haired man with a red beard and pointed ears. He is dressed in green like a shoemaker with pointed shoes and a hat. Leprechauns live in forests, make shoes and guard their treasures – pots of gold.



Most people, Irish or not, wear green on this day – from T-shirts to sunglasses. One of the Irish traditions is to pinch anyone who is not wearing green on St Patrick's Day. Many people wear red wigs and fake red beards. In a way, it's a redhead holiday because the Irish are often associated with red hair. Many people believe that touching red hair is good luck because it's so rare. Most natural redheads have brown or green eyes. Blue-eyed redheads are super rare. On this day there are lots of festivities, parades and parties across the world. You can listen to Irish music and learn to dance traditional Irish dances. River dancing is the most famous kind of Irish dancing. You will definitely have a lot of fun.

Who doesn't want to eat green foods on St. Patrick's Day?



Put on the aprons and make green popcorn, biscuits, cakes, jelly and other desserts. Salted meat and cabbage is a traditional St Patrick's Day dish. It is delicious!



In the evening while having a bath, don't forget to dye the water green. You can buy non-toxic bath dyes which stain the water, not your body. You won't look like the Green Giant when you get out of the tub!

St Patrick's Day has become a holiday all around the world and for one day out of the year anyone can be Irish and join in the celebration.

Anastasia Tarazevich , 8 "Z"



The Person I Admire !

The person I admire is my art teacher. Her name is Yelena Kuznetsova. She was born in Russia, but she has spent all her life in Grodno.

She is a very attractive woman. I like that Yelena Vladimirovna is concerned about her appearance, tries to be in good shape, elegant and dressed in the latest fashion.



Besides, she is a very patient and knowledgeable teacher. I have never seen her lose her temper or cry at her pupils. Yelena Vladimirovna explains everything to us in a quiet voice. She teaches us to understand and value beauty, create wonderful pictures by ourselves. My teacher is very creative and full of new ideas and plans. Yelena Vladimirovna is always glad to share these ideas with us, her pupils. What's more, our teacher is very sensitive and feels deeply. She tries to understand our feelings and needs. If it happens that someone is in low spirits and has no inspiration for work, Yelena Vladimirovna always finds proper words to encourage and comfort them.

I think my art teacher is a very intelligent woman. I can talk to her on different topics: from art to politics. I should say that Yelena Vladimirovna herself is a good artist. Charming cats and graceful horses look at you from her pictures. She adores these animals that's why they often appear



in her works. I enjoy her painting technique and the way she combines colours. Her works are exhibited and sold not only in Belarus but also abroad.

In conclusion, I'd like to say that I'm happy to be taught by such a professional. I'm grateful that Yelena Kuznetsova has introduced the world of beauty to me.



Yulia Gomanchuck, 9 "Z"



A Plasticine Land



Emilia Kravchun, 2 “Z”



Maria Grigorchick, 2 “Y”



Daria Greschick, 2 “Z”



Aleksandra Liah, 3 “W”



Sofia Yanushko, 1 “Z”



Violetta Yushkevich, 2 “Z”



What is the Weather Like Today?

