

# "School"



## Dear Reader!

We are delighted to welcome you to November-December issue of *School!* New Year time is almost upon us with its tangerines, Olivier salad and pine-tree smells filling the air. Since there is no place to hide from the unavoidable approach of New Year Eve we decided to devote this issue to the topic that is likely to occupy our mind in the last days of the calendar year – New Year.

Collecting material for this issue, we were trying to do our best to supply you with articles about events that students of our school took part in, essays on debatable issues, students' New Year's Resolutions and, of course, recipes of traditional Russian festive dishes that no New Year party in Russia can go without. We hope you will enjoy reading this issue.

In the coming New Year, which we can practically hear knocking at our doors, we wish all our readers, the teaching staff and students health, wealth, every bit of luck and success, and always take time to pause to look at the lucid shimmering stars.

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!**

On behalf of the Editorial Staff  
Yours, Yekaterina Kondakova,  
Teacher of English,  
Editor-in-Chief of "School"



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## Greetings from The Editorial staff

*Editor in Chief* – Yekaterina Kondakova, an English Teacher



*Correspondents:* Yelizaveta Podelshchikova (Form 10) and Kamila Mustafina (Form 10)



## The holiday that brings hope



There are a lot of holidays that make us happy, bring hope. But the most magical, fabulous and anticipated is a New Year. You don't believe, do you? Well then, let's just go outside on a New Year's Eve. What can you see? A lot of colorful lights, snowmen, snowdrifts convey the feeling of the New Year. Look at the sky! It is clean, there are numerous bright twinkling stars and the large beautiful moon. Now it

seems that Santa Claus will fly over the moon in his sleigh pulled by reindeer.

Brrrrrr! It's frosty. It's better to get back to a warm and cozy house, where there is a gorgeous New Year tree decorated with colorful balls, dolls, electric bulbs and sparkling tinsels. It's worth mentioning that dressing of a New Year tree is almost a mysterious ritual for both children and adults ( of course, with children this activity becomes more noisy and emotional) as you have to appease the Patron of the year. This year it is the Yellow Pig which is believed to be naïve but selfish and capricious at the same time. Besides, it easily changes moods and is very stubborn. So, the year will be difficult and unpredictable.

The highlight of a New Year party is a festive dinner when the whole family is sitting at the table set with dishes that no New Year in Russia can be imagined: Herring under "fur", Olivier salad, kholodets (meat jelly), salted or pickled mushrooms, pickled cucumbers and, of course, tangerines. Everyone is waiting for the clock on the Kremlin Tower to strike 12 to make a wish. Everyone hopes that the next year will be much better than the previous one. That's why, I'm sure, this celebration is one of the preferred all over the world and all people, regardless of age, love it. So do I.

For Russian families it is another good reason to come together and spend time as best as we can. So, why not?

## New Year's Resolutions

For many people, a New Year is full of hope and possibility, that is probably why so many of us feel desire to improve ourselves next year. *School* is giving you an opportunity to have a look at the some of our students' New Year's promises and plans.

### On the Eve of the New Year I promise myself:

- Prove to my classmates that I'm better than they are
- Learn «If» by Kipling by heart



- Go to Izrail as a pilgrim



- Become more responsible



- Learn how to milk a cow



Dear mum, on the Eve of the New Year I promise you:

- I promise to read more



- I promise to stop being lazy



- I want to learn to control my emotions



- This year I want to become more active



- This year I want to get in a good shape

- I promise to stop procrastinating



*Dear mother, I promise you...*

- Be kind to everyone



- Be punctual



- Cut down on junk food
- Stop eating sweets
- Stop being lazy and negative
- Worry less
- Spend less time online

- Watch less TV



- Learn English



## My New Year's Resolution

Dear Mom, I will behave well next year :

- 1 Help you every day about the house
2. Clean my room every day
3. Read more books
4. Spend less time on the internet

Love you!

Masha



## Water Park that really rocks!

Recently our class made a trip to Ulianovsk. The trip was organized by our parents and by our class teacher Yekaterina Dmitrievna Kondakova.

Ulianovsk is the capital of Ulianovsk Region. The city has a lot of amazing sites, but the place worth to go is surely the water park "Ulyot" which our class was lucky to enjoy.

The Water Park is a real water world. The inside design looks like a pirate ship. We were amazed to see magnificent palm trees and huge octopuses with enormous powerful tentacles wrapping the ship and pirates. Exotic snakes coiling between big stones also made us wow. Everyone was eager to take fantastic photos against these breathtaking views.

Of course, we enjoyed lots of Water Park rides and attractions such as Giant Slide, Splash Out and Twist 'N' Spin. We were also given luncheon in the Water Park but sadly it wasn't tasty at all.

I'd like to go to the "Ulyot" Water Park again.

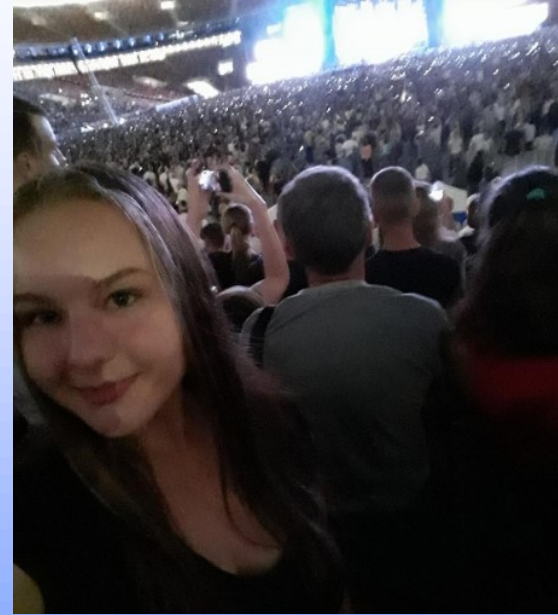




## Imagine Dragons in Moscow

Music is undoubtedly a good medicine for the soul of a man. Each of us has their own tastes, likes and dislikes. Each of us has their own music preferences and dreams of attending a concert of their favorite singer or group. For about 4 years already I've been a fan of the American indie rock band Imagine Dragons. It was formed in 2008 in Las Vegas. In total, the group has received 73 nominations, 23 of which were victorious. The group's List of Awards includes such prestigious Awards as Grammy Awards, American Music Awards, Billboard Music Awards and others. Currently, the band members are: Dan Reynolds, Ben McKee, Wen Sermon and Dan Platzman. In 2017, the guys released the third album called "Evolve". It consists of 11 tracks.

For many years I really dreamed of attending their concert and at last my dream has come true! In 2018, Imagine Dragons came to Moscow to perform at Grand Sports Arena of the Luzhniki Olympic Complex as part of a massive tour in support of the album Evolve (2017).



I told my mom about it and we decided to buy a ticket (6 months before the concert!!!), in fact, it was a present for my birthday.

So, imagine the cherished day of August 29th, Luzhniki Olympic Arena. 75 thousand people have gathered on the stadium. There is one thing that unites all these people and this thing is Music. Numerous fans take their place in the Radioactive zone from 7 am! I have a place in the sitting zone. My heart pounds wildly: music, a crowd of people. British indie rock band The Vaccines take part in the show as guests and play in the warm up.

And here is the long-awaited moment: my favorite band enters the scene. I can't believe that it's really happening to me. It's almost impossible to hear any sound from the stage because of fans' shouting.



Imagine Dragons are performing their breathtaking hit

It was difficult to imagine that the hysteria could get bigger, until Dan started to sing the famous song Radioactive which was followed by their hits one after another "Believe", "Thunder", "I Don't Know Why" ... I sang along each of them.

Then everyone stood up and began to dance. As Dan said in his speech: We are here to relax and enjoy the music"

Two hours passed like 5 minutes. It was hard for the musicians to leave the stage and some members stayed for a long time and thanked the audience for the warm welcome.

I got extraordinary emotions from this concert. It was really worth getting up at 5a.m. and go to the "Olympic", to wait for 15 hours before the concert, sitting in the car. I will remember this day for a long time. Once again, I realized that the guys from Imagine Dragons are extraordinarily talented. I am really grateful to them for the music that arouses so many positive emotions and to my mom for making my dreams come true.

## Dance Competition

November 24<sup>th</sup> our Dance Group “Yula” took part in the Regional Round of All Russia Dance Competition “Magic of Art” which was held in the town of Kuznets, Penza Region.

Our group presented two dances: “Chickens” and “The Birch”. The competition was very serious and all contestants were very motivated and well prepared. We were very worried. Yelena Petrovna, our choreographer, tried to calm us down and encouraged us to do our best on the stage. And we did it! The audience enjoyed our dance and applauded us a lot. Our group won the second place. We were really happy! Now our Dance Club is rehearsing for Christmas Dance Concert. I hope many dwellers will visit the concert and enjoy it.



## There are is a popular opinion that school-leavers should abandon their hobbies due to preparation to exams. What do our school- graduates think of that?

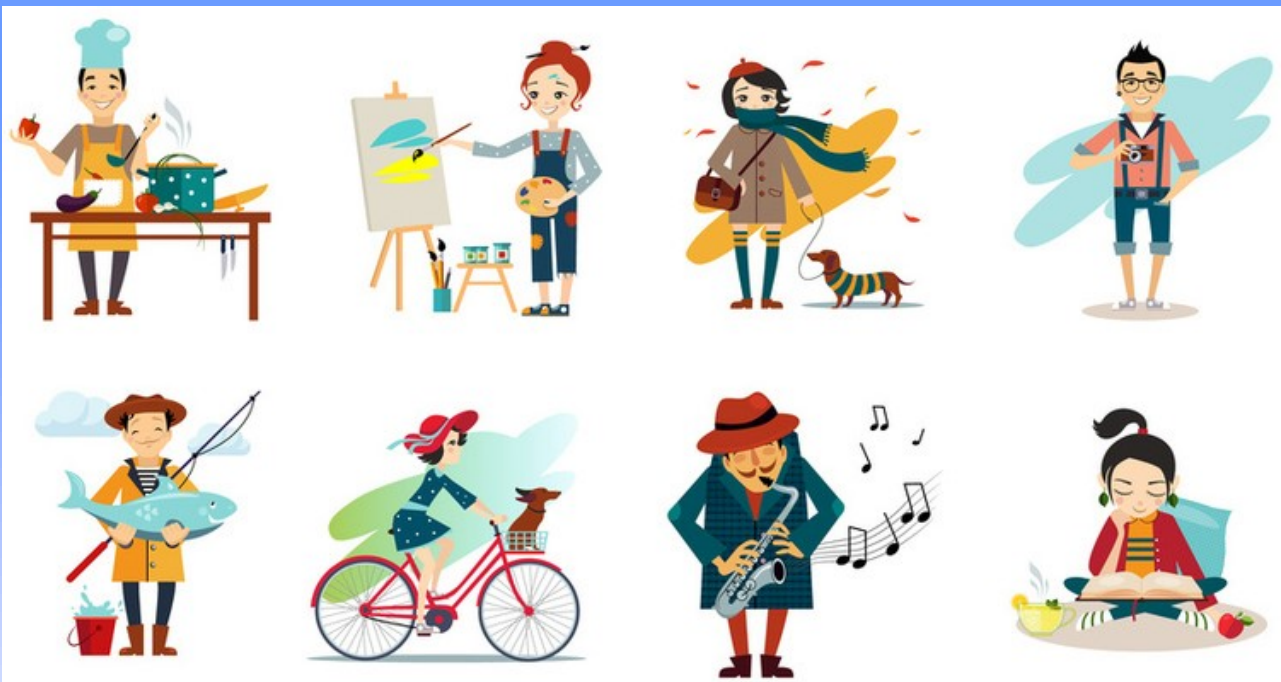
The question whether it is necessary to have a hobby in the 11th grade is rather debatable. Many people suggest that out of class activities are not necessary in the 11<sup>th</sup> form, others are sure it is essential for a happy life.

In my opinion it is important to have a hobby even though there is not enough time. Firstly, a hobby helps to relax from school routine and to forget the problems. Secondly, additional classes are needed for 11th grades so as to be comprehensively developed.

Despite many advantages of a hobby, many believe that students should abandon their passion on hobbies in the 11th grade. They explain their position by the fact that students should spend all their time doing homework and for exams preparation.

I do not share this opinion is correct, because I know a lot of people who did not abandon their pastimes in the final school year and passed their exams with flying colors thanks to being well organized and motivated.

In conclusion, I believe that in the 11th grade students should continue to do their favorite activities because a hobby is not an obstacle for students' performance. On the contrary it helps to enlarge their cultural, educational intrapersonal horizons and get better prepared for future life.



It's Grade 11. It is last year at school. Soon we will graduate from school, but this year you need to pass exams. No wonder, some people believe that in Grade 11 you need to abandon your hobbies. However, not everyone is so categorical about pastimes.

I believe students in grade 11 should not quit their hobbies. Firstly, when a person is busy with his favorite activity, he can rest and relax. Secondly, hobbies help self-realization, reveal a person's inner world and talents. In addition, hobbies help to make friends who can really benefit from sharing the same activity or similar interests.

But there are those who believe that hobbies take a lot of time and distract from studying which can result in being unable to meet deadlines in many subjects or/and tiredness.

I do not agree with this point of view. If a student really wants to study well, nothing will defer him from studying. The main thing is to properly divide time. Then the hobby and study will go hand in hand and young people will benefit from this tandem.

On the whole, I would like to point out that students in Grade 11 should not give up their favorite activities.

**Gadgets play an important role in modern world. They have become an essential part of our lives, and we don't imagine us without them. This year Samsung has announced the release of their new smartphone that unfolds into a tablet. Not everyone has reacted with glee to this news.**

**What do our students think of it?**

A new Samsung's smartphone has sparked a lot of heated debates in society. Many people believe that this advanced gadget will make everyone's life more convenient and, therefore, more pleasant. Not everyone, however, welcomes this idea.

To my mind, this hi-tech gadget has a lot of advantages. Firstly, it combines the functions of a phone and a portable computer better than anything else. For example, if a businessman is on a business trip and he needs to work urgently with documents on the Internet, he can use this convenient gadget and then fold it back into a smartphone and put it into his pocket. Secondly, this gadget is less harmful for eyes. Actually, reading a book or watching a movie on such a screen, a person does not screw up one's eyes which helps keep eyesight safe. Thus, a folding smartphone really makes life more pleasant and convenient.

However, there are many people who do not have any positive opinions about Samsung's smartphone. These people think that money should be directed to socially valued projects like developing remedies against cancer, diabetes, TB rather than wasting it on entertainment gadgets which are in abundance. So, developing a folding gadget is irresponsible on behalf of the big and rich company.

Despite the fact that I respect opposite opinions, I can not find the above-given argument very convincing because without the developing of such technologies or gadgets we can not fully help people. For instance, during medical operations doctors will be able to contact with colleagues from other countries via these gadgets and give advice.

All in all, I am absolutely sure that hi-tech companies should not hesitate to spend money on advanced gadgets because people can benefit from them in many ways.

Recently a new model of the smartphone has come under scrutiny. Many people are avid supporters of new Samsung smartphone and they encourage it and wait for the new gadget to be launched onto the market, while others are strongly against.

In my opinion, phones which transform into a tablet are very convenient and useful. To start with, these new models are pocket-size and very comfortable to move. For example, people can use tablet to watch films and various programs on a big screen, wherever they are. It is much better, than usual mobile phones. Furthermore, these models make people more advanced in the IT-sphere. They can become part of the communicative world. Thus, high tech gadgets have a lot of advantages.

However, there exist another point of view that this model is very expensive and not everyone has enough money to buy it and that's why people feel disappointment. As a result, these gadgets make people unhappy. Besides, my opponents do not allow this invention and they think that it is not necessary and important. In their opinion, the best way to spend money is a finding drugs against cancer and other diseases. So, it is irrational to waste money to create new useless gadgets.

To tell the truth, I do not quite agree with my opponents, because developing new technologies is very productive and without it people cannot for instance, find ways to fight cancer.

In conclusion, I would like to emphasize that new Samsung's progressive model of smartphone is very useful and it has a lot of benefits for people.

## New Year Eve Olivier Salad recipe

If you ask a Russian what he associates a New Year celebration with, he will definitely mention the Olivier salad. Indeed, the so called "Russian Olivier" salad crowns any New Year and Christmas festive table. It is also widely served at most parties and family get-togethers in the Russian culture.

Many believe that the popularity of the salad is explained by the fact that all necessary ingredients are common and quite cheap. Olivier Salad usually has peas, potatoes, carrots, onions, meat, pickles, and eggs all mixed with mayo. The meat used is sausage, chicken or ham. Besides, different cooks may use slightly different ingredients in the salad, but the taste, though a bit different, will be invariably mouthwatering.

### **Ingredients:**

Cooked sausage - 0,5 kg

2 Carrots

3-4 medium size pickled cucumbers

2-3 medium size potatoes

5-6 eggs

1 Onion

1 can of green peas (400 grams)

Mayonnaise - 400 grams

Salt - to taste

Black pepper

Parsley and dill



### **How to make**

- Get ready the vegetables. Wash the carrots and potatoes in cold water and boil them for 20-25 minutes depending on size of vegetables until they become tender. Cool, peel and dice into cubes. Cook hard boiled eggs (boil them for 10 min), let them cool down and then cut into cubes too. Pickled cucumbers and sausage should be cut into cubes the same size as all other ingredients of the salad. Instead of sausages you can take a boiled chicken breast.
- Mix all ingredients in a deep bowl. Add canned peas, with liquid removed. Add salt and pepper to your to taste. Chop green onions and dill, and to the bowl. Mix everything and add mayonnaise. Put salad to the bowl you want to serve it in.

Your Russian Olivier salad is ready to be served and enjoyed by everyone.