

# School № 40 Today

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## Christmas is coming !



There are a lot of holidays in Belarus but the most favourite are New Year and Christmas. New Year and Christmas are an amazing time no matter where you celebrate them. During the time that Belarus was a part of the Soviet Union, Christmas was not celebrated. New Year was made into the important celebration. But now Christmas celebrations are coming back and today we are going to speak about it.

Christmas is a public holiday in Belarus, celebrated by a lot of Christian Belarusians as one of the most important holidays of the year. It is celebrated on the 25<sup>th</sup> of December by Catholics and on the 7<sup>th</sup> of January by Orthodox.

Dinner is served on Christmas Eve.

Main dish is Kutia—a legendary ritual food that is an absolute essential on every Christmas Eve table.

Kutia mainly consists of wheat – the symbol of resurrection, honey – eternity, nuts – health, and poppy seeds that signify fertility. Sometimes straw is put under



the tablecloth to help people remember that Jesus was placed in a manger as a baby.

Kalyadavanne is one of the most popular Christmas traditions in Belarus. Groups of dressed-up people wander from house to house,



singing Kaliady songs – “Kaliadki”. The most characteristic personage of this performance is “Kaza” (goat), the person dressed and masked like a goat. The master of the house visited during Kalyadavanne is supposed to treat the group with snacks and sweets.

Kaliady are also used for telling fortunes, especially by young unmarried women. Here is one of them. On the first day of Kaliady in the evening a young girl goes to a crossroad, taking a piece of a pancake with her and listens from which directions dogs will be barking. Her future husband should take her away from home in the same direction.

Christmas Day is a public holiday. It is a day off for the general population, and schools and most businesses are closed. On Christmas Day, people first go to church then celebrate at home.

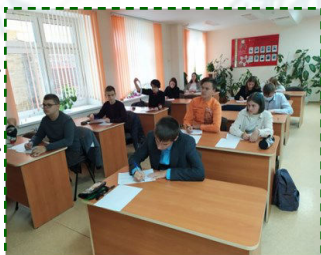
*Aleksandr Luksho, 10 “A”*



## Daily routines of our school

School is a place to acquire new knowledge and apply it in practice. School also helps schoolchildren to improve and develop their talents. Of course, teachers and school administrators guide students and help in difficult situations. School achievements are the merit of students, school administrators and teachers. Speaking about the students, of course, most of this is their merit, but it is also worth mentioning those who taught and helped them. Our school is full of talented students and teachers, many of whom have multiplied the awards and victories of the school. Moreover, in various fields of science and sports.

On October 15, the regional stage of the republican Olympiad in financial literacy among students of general secondary education institutions of the Oktyabrsky district of Grodno was held. The winners of



the regional stage were Alexander Luksho, 10 "A" class - diploma of the 3rd degree and Milyanenko Alexander, 9 "F" class - diploma of the 3rd degree. A student of our school Maxim Loiko created a prototype of an external combustion Stirling engine. It is



worth mentioning that the Grodno TV channel took an interview from Maxim, where he talked about how he fulfilled his dream.

The teachers of our school are also actively win prizes by participating in various events. The team of school teachers took the third place in mini-football in the sports

competitions of education workers of the city of Grodno. Also, the headmaster of the school, Rymko Alexander Vasilyevich, took first place in the regional sports contest for educational workers as part of the team in Grodno, which should not be ignored.

On December 13 the annual foreign language week started. It's aim was to increase motivation to learn English, to enrich pupils' vocabulary, to broaden their horizons, to develop creativity and to bring awareness to the importance of studying foreign languages.

Many exciting activities were held during that week: "Pen-friend project", "Advent Calendar", contest "Schoolvision", excursion "New Year's traditions in different countries of the world", game "Christmas fun", English Quiz and what not.



It was a really amazing week. Almost all activities were connected with topic "Christmas". That's why pupils got not only useful knowledge and skills but also a lot of fun. English teachers did their best to provide pupils with a holiday mood, create a magic atmosphere and inspire to dream.

*Daria Semenova, 10 "A"*



## Sport in our school

School and sport are two important parts of our life, and when they come together, it is cool. When school gives you the opportunity to play sports, it is wonderful. After a hard school day, you can relax, swim in the pool, play sports do exercises or work out in the gym. You can do all these things in physical education classes and sports sections.

There is no doubt that physical education is a very important lesson. Physical education helps to take a break from mental activity, also helps you keep our body and health in good condition. This is why we have a special guest today, who can help us find some more information about our school's sport life. He is one of our teachers of physical education – Siarhei Zaiko.

- *What is the most popular sport at our school?*
- At the moment, the most popular sport at our school is volleyball. Everyone loves volleyball: teachers, students, administration, and headmaster. We sometimes even organize school competitions in this sport. Competitions are held during the holidays in autumn, winter and spring. Our school has clubs in athletics, basketball, football, swimming and handball.

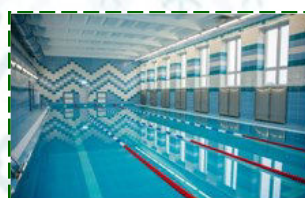


- *What is our school's biggest victory in a competition?*

- The biggest victory of our school was at the complex competition between schools in 2021, we won the first place!
- *What facilities connected with sport do we have?*



- We have 4 sports classes at our school. Our school also has two gyms for playing sport games: a large one and a small one, one gym for physical exercises and weightlifting, a swimming pool and a fitness room.
- *What competitions does our school participate in?*



- Every year our school takes part in competitions in athletics, basketball, football and volleyball and many others.
- *How does the school encourage the students to go in for sports?*
- If you want to do sports additionally, this is welcome. Teachers and administration give you the opportunity to play sports and work out in the gyms, and it is not difficult to sign up for a sports club. In general, I am glad that there is such an opportunity to play sports at my favourite school and I am happy to do it.

Stepan Myshko, 11 "D"



## We like travelling!

Travelling is the most exciting thing in the world. It helps to enrich our knowledge about life in general and particularly about ourselves. Travelling broadens mind, brings new impressions and makes our life brighter. As English people say: "A picture is worth a thousand words".

And when you travel with your co-workers it's much more interesting and amusing. When was the last time you talked not about work? Corporate travel is a unique opportunity to get to know each other better, and studying the history, traditions and culture of your country is an undoubted bonus, valuable experience and wonderful memories.

Our staff of the Secondary School №40 have visited marvelous places, each the unique pearl of the history and culture of Belarus.



Nesvizh Palace is considered the most beautiful palace in Belarus and attracts thousands of visitors every year. Its richly diverse architecture and attractive gardens make it one of the most popular tourist attractions. In 1994 the estate was designated the national historical and cultural reserve and in 2006 it was added to the UNESCO World Heritage List.



While visiting Nesvizh don't forget to visit Nesvizh Benedictine Monastery, Farny Polish Roman Catholic Church (16th century Baroque) and Nesvizh town square. They are worth seeing.



Mir Castle in Grodno region is one of the most important tourist attractions in Belarus, an outstanding 16th-century fortification and a UNESCO World Heritage site. The successful blend of Gothic, Baroque and Renaissance architecture makes Mir Castle one of the most impressive castles in Europe.

A unique monument of neo-gothic architecture of the 19th century is situated in the town of Kossovo. The Palace of the Puslovskys, or Kossovo Castle, has been nicknamed "knights' dream" for its fairy-tale-like appearance and splendor. The palace was surrounded by a magnificent park with over 150 species of exotic plants. Nowadays it has turned into a social, cultural and tourism center. A museum, a mini-hotel and a restaurant will be opened here.

The palace complex in Ruzhany is one of the unique places in Belarus. For its magnificent architectural ensemble, it was nicknamed the Belarusian Versailles.

Other sights of our country are waiting for us to be visited! Remember, "the world is a book, and those who do not travel read only a page", St. Augustine.

*Natalia Birchenko, a teacher of English*



## Christmas traditions in the USA and the UK



Christmas is the time for celebrations, gifts, fun, family, food, prayers and wishes. It is celebrated in every part of the world. Today we are going to speak about Christmas in the USA and in the UK. While the two countries share many holiday spirited traditions such as decorating the house with a Christmas tree, family gatherings on Christmas Day, singing Christmas carols and gift giving, there ARE some important differences. Let's take a look at the main different traditions in the USA and the UK.



### 1) Father Christmas or Santa

The world knows Santa Claus, but In England, young children know him as Father Christmas. In fact, you might be surprised to know that during the last century, Santa Claus and Father Christmas were not even synonymous; but now they have almost become the same thing in both the cultures. Actually, Father Christmas before the Victorian times was associated with merry-making and adult feasting and basically, there was nothing that connected him to giving gifts to the children. Even the color of the suit was green and not red. .



### 2) How children send letters to Santa?

In America, the wish lists of kids are sent by the mail service to Santa, but in England, the young ones create their wish lists and place the paper in the fireplace to set it on fire. And that according to us, this makes the day even more magical for them, because they receive their gifts even after the paper has been burnt.



### 3) Placement of the Christmas gift

Instead of placing presents under Christmas tree, in England presents are placed at the foot of your bed in a big stocking.



### 4) The big Christmas dinner

There are some yummy differences in Christmas dinner. In England there is always a roasted turkey, but in America, people tend to replace it with ham or a goose. Christmas in England include bread sauce, which isn't a sauce for bread, but a sauce thickened with bread, and bacon wrapped sausages.



### 5) Decorations

Americans are known of doing everything big and rich, it's also the case with Christmas lights, while in England they do not spend too much for it, they settle with less.



### 6) How kids treat Santa?

Children in America often leave some cookies and milk for Santa Claus, maybe even some carrots for the reindeer. Kids in England leave him some cookies and mince pie.



### 7) Merry Chrimbo

There is an English slang word for Merry Christmas. They say "Merry Chrimbo!" It is used when speaking in regards to the holiday's more secular and commercial elements.



Victoria Zhylynskaya, a teacher of English





## Chistmas Pudding



No British Christmas is complete without a Christmas pudding. Unlike American puddings, a Christmas pudding is a dark, sticky, and dense sponge, more like a fruitcake, made of mixed dried fruit, candied fruit peel, apple, and citrus zests. Spices provide a deep, complex flavor and signature dark color.

### Ingredients

- 1 pound/450 grams mixed dried fruit
- 25grams mixed candied fruit peel, finely chopped
- 1 small cooking apple, peeled, cored, and finely chopped
- 1 tablespoon orange zest
- 1/2 tablespoon lemon zest
- 2 tablespoons fresh orange juice
- 1 tablespoon fresh lemon juice
- 55 grams self-rising flour, sifted
- 1 teaspoon ground mixed spice
- 1 1/2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
- 110 grams beef or vegetarian suet, shredded
- 110 grams (scant 2/3 cup) dark brown sugar, packed
- 110 grams fresh breadcrumbs
- 25 grams whole almonds, coarsely chopped
- 2 large eggs

### Steps to Make It



1. Gather the ingredients.



2. Place the dried fruit, candied peel, apple, and orange and lemon zests and juices into a large mixing bowl. Add the brandy and stir well. Cover the bowl with a clean tea towel and leave to marinate for a couple of hours, preferably overnight.



3. Lightly butter a 2 1/2 pint pudding basin.



4. In a very large mixing bowl, stir the flour, mixed spice, and cinnamon together. Add the suet, sugar, breadcrumbs, and almonds, and stir again until all the ingredients are well mixed. Add the marinated dried fruits and stir again.



5. In a small bowl, beat the eggs lightly, then stir quickly into the dry ingredients. The mixture should have a fairly soft consistency.



6. Spoon the mixture into the greased pudding basin, gently pressing the mixture down with the back of a spoon. Cover with a double layer of greaseproof paper or baking parchment, then a layer of aluminum foil. Tie securely with string, wrapping the string around the basin, then loop over the top and then around the bowl again. This will form a handle, which will be useful when removing the pudding from the steamer.



7. Set a steamer over a saucepan of simmering water, place the pudding in the steamer, and steam the pudding for 7 hours. Make sure you check the water level frequently, so it never boils dry. The pudding should be a dark brown color when cooked.



8. Remove the pudding from the steamer and cool completely. Remove the paper.



9. Cover with fresh greaseproof paper and retie with string.



10. Store for at least 4 to 5 weeks in a cool, dry place until Christmas Day. On Christmas Day, reheat the pudding by steaming again for about an hour. Enjoy!

*Daria Semionova, 10 "A"*