

SCHOOL TIMES

#1

April 2015

The first English
school newspaper
in Arkhangelsk



Thus, our visit to Maine followed in November, 2014. It was organized by Greater Portland — Archangel sister city committee and our school administration. After a long flight we were warmly hosted by Westbrook High School and all members of the sister — city committee. They told us a lot about the ties which connect us and compared 26 year old relations between our cities with long and happy marriage. These hospitable people used to say: “Here you are at home”.

And we really were! Every day we were surprised by lots of different moments and events. Our program included different activities: visit to Augusta — the state capital — and meeting with its secretary, visit to Westbrook City Hall, Colby College, Gulf of Maine Research Institute, My Place Teens Centre. We took

part in competition of school orchestras, cheered for students of WHS in football games and watched a hockey game of “Portland Pirates”. But the main wonder were people — open-hearted, hospitable and very friendly.

We would like to welcome them at our city in return! So we are getting ready for the first visit of our friends from WHS and wish they feel here at home too.

— *by Olga Pravilova,*
Deputy Head of school # 21



“School is a social institution”

Today we talk to Anna Gaiduk, who had an opportunity to take part in the exchange program between Sister Cities of Arkhangelsk and Greater Portland and Yevgeniy Lapin, who studied in Minnesota for an academic year through FLEX program. They share their impressions of their visit to the US and reflect on how their native school might change with time.



— **Anna, what do you think are the main features of American High school?**

Anna: In my opinion, the main feature of any American High school is flexibility. Despite the fact that there are mandatory courses that everyone has to take each year (for example, English, History, Maths and Science) there’s a wide choice of elective courses. Here, at school # 21 we are lucky to have some elective classes, but I wish that we could have a chance to decide ourselves what our schedule would look like. To my mind, it’s great to have all the same classes every day for only one year, instead of having it once a week for 4 or even 5 years.

— **But don’t you think that’s one of the downsides of the system – you get the credit for your class to meet the minimum requirement and don’t bother about learning more than that?**

Anna: Yes, I agree, that’s a topic of long and heated debate. After all, every system has some positive and negative sides.

— **Yevgeniy, do you think that there’s anything Americans should borrow from Russian School educational system?**

Yevgeniy: That’s a tough question. After I’ve spent my first semester at high school abroad, I was upset that I didn’t get a chance to talk much with some of my classmates. Even if we saw each other during breaks between classes in second semester, we were unable to come up to each other and have a decent conversation due to the lack of time.

Sometimes we forget that primarily school was meant to be a social institution. It gives us an opportunity to meet new people, build life-long friendship and make acquaintances that could possibly help us when we grow up. For that matter, I really value the way Russian schools work. From the very first grade you stick to a certain group of people and see them daily for a few hours, so by the graduation time most of them become your best friends.

It’s not like that in America: students might have some classes together, few of your classmates might even be on the same sports team, but what about those, who are not into sports or other extracurricular activities? They shouldn’t be left out. Teachers are the ones to make sure that communication between classmates goes well, because it’s one of the goals of education – to teach how to interact with people in real world.

— **Was it very easy for you to study at your American High schools?**

Anna: No, I wouldn’t say that. Classes that I took seemed slightly easier than the ones I had in Russia because they only touched the basics of the subject. But the language barrier came in place. I had to ask for a lot of help to get my work done.

Yevgeniy: Yeah, at times I felt hopeless because I couldn’t understand what they want me to do in their home assignment. But after some time I got used to many things and aced most of my exams.

— **What were some other small things you noticed to be different from Russia?**

Anna: Many things to mention: shorter breaks between classes, longer lunchtime,

much friendlier teacher-student relation. Even overall social and psychological atmosphere was different. Besides that, I was very surprised by how much time students usually spend in labs mastering their Natural Sciences skills.

Yevgeniy: I find it very convenient that High school students and Middle school students have separate buildings. That way you are 100% sure that there won’t be anyone who runs into you by accident rushing from one end of school to another to make it to class. Finally, I miss having pencil-sharpeners and tissue boxes in every room. Best thing was getting extra credit for bringing in more tissues.

— **Anyway, what do you think your school will look like in many years?**

Anna: Hopefully, it becomes more liberal and students get more active taking part in afterschool activities. That would be cool to have more sports teams, involve more people in student council’s work, start our own school orchestra, etc. One day WHS and School # 21 orchestras should partner up for a world tour. (laughing).

Yevgeniy: Nowadays our city is a very perspective place from the point of the development of the North. Local university now prepares future polar explorers and professionals in countless fields. This sphere requires a lot of skill. I am confident that in future our school will remain a launch pad for a large number of talented students. I also believe that international contacts that our school has today will improve and many more bright teenagers will get a chance to make ties with people from abroad.

Entertainment can be different

Videogames, Facebook, Twitter are outdated already. Intellectual games are getting more and more popular in our town. We asked the member of school intellectual team to tell us about brain games for schoolchildren in Arkhangelsk.

Our school has a long history taking part in intellectual games. And this year is no exception.

Games normally take place once a month on a Sunday afternoon and are hosted by different schools of Arkhangelsk. Every school is welcome to come and present its team. Participation in these games is a great chance to compete with teams from all over Russia and even some neighboring countries, because the set of questions is the same in every participating city.

Teams are not allowed to have more than 6 students playing at a time. Every team is supposed to answer 24 questions and there's only one minute to discuss. After time's up, teams write down their idea on a piece of paper and hand it in to the judges. The format of the game reminds of a popular Russian TV show, called "What? Where? When?". You don't necessarily have to know or read a lot to be able to crack those questions — you just should have good logic, ability to think extraordinary and work in a team.

Final results of the tournament are announced after all of the 7 games were played. This year was a huge success for our school. We had 3 teams playing — younger team that consists of 7-graders and two other teams that are formed by 11-graders, who are graduating this year. As a result the younger



Aftergame selfie by the winners of the final game of the season

team and the senior team have become winners in our city and have been given gift certificates to the local bookstore. It's been more than 5 years since we haven't hit such high results.

Some of the senior players have participated in the tournament for 5

years and plan on joining university teams. Luckily there's a great hope that younger team will go on with their success and in future we'll regain the informal status of most intelligent school of the region.

— **by Yevgeniy Lapin, 11 B**

Memory

He took the main attack himself

On the eve of 52nd birthday of Yuri Yakhmenev

The history of school # 21 is extremely rich — how many joyful and troublous pages it is full of! The history of school # 21 is not only a chain of events, whose witness the school was, but also the fate of its students, high school graduates, and teachers. I would like to tell you about a tragic page in the history of the school — the fate of its graduate Yuri Yakhmenev.

Yuri Yakhmenev was born on April 11, 1963 in Arkhangelsk. In 1978, he graduated from school # 21 and entered the Technical School # 40. On September 27, 1982, he was drafted into the army. Yuri served in the province of Herat, Afghanistan. He received numerous commendations from the command. He was

a caring and devoted friend. On September 22, 1984, Yuri Yakhmenev died and was posthumously awarded the Order of the Red Star.

The whole life of Yuri Yakhmenev is a true example of courage and patriotism. Each of us must always remember the exploits of such people.

— **by Alina Rybakova, 10 B**



Program for the delegation from WHS

Date	Time	Activities
12.04	10:10	Meeting in the airport, accommodation in a hotel, time with host families
	13.00	Stay in the tourist complex “Malye Karely”, visit to the outdoor museum of wooden architecture “Malye Korely”
13.04	11.00–12.30	Activities in the school # 21
	13.00–14.00	Excursion to the Art museum (icon painting)
	15.00–16.00	Workshop with Northern Folk Choir
	17.00	Time with host families
14.04	09.00–12.30	Activities in the school # 21
	13.00–14.30	A visit to Folk Crafts school, workshop
	15.00–16.30	Opening ceremony of the exhibition “One day from the life of the city”
	17.00–18.00	Excursion to the Maritime museum
	18.00	Time with host families
15.04	09.00–11.00	Activities in the school # 21
	11.00–13.30	Excursion to scientific library of the NARFU, virtual excursion to the Russian Museum (Saint Petersburg)
	14:00–15:30	Students song contest “Singing America” in NARFU
	16.00–17.00	Excursion to Art school # 1
	17.30–19.00	Personal exhibition of a local artist Sagadiev R. M., meeting with the artist
	19.00	Time with host families
16.04	09.00–12.00	Activities in the school # 21
	13:00–15:30	Excursion to the outdoor Museum of Wooden Architecture “Malye Korely”
	17.00–18.30	Lecture in the scientific library
	19.00–21.00	Farewell Party at school # 21
	21.00	Time with host families
17.04	09.00	Seeing off in the airport

The Blue Bird

Every school has its own history and traditions. Our school is not an exception. We have lots of holidays and performances during the school year, like New Year celebration, Women’s Day, April Fool’s Day. But in my opinion, the main festival is the ceremony “The Blue Bird”.

Actually, it is called after a fairy tale, written by a French writer Maurice Maeterlinck. This story tells us about the adventures of a brother and a sister, who travelled a long road and overcame lots of hardships, looking for a blue bird — a symbol of happiness. That is why we have chosen such an original name for this unforgettable, long-expected holiday.

This ceremony is held at the end of the school year, on the International Day of Family, 15th of May. The main goal is to sum up the results of the year and to reward the brightest students, teachers and parents. For this purpose there are 10 different nominations. “The Smile

Award” is for teachers, who encourage and support their students, possess good sense of humor and benevolent smile. “The Discovery of the Year Award” is received by students, who have done something magnificent and revealed themselves from unexpected side. “The Support Award” is created for those parents, who helped classes and the school to organize different activities. All the winners get the prize — the bird of happiness, made of wood (a blue bird, according to the story) and a diploma. Victory in any nomination is a great honour. But how to choose the best participant, when many of them are dignified victory? All the students vote and the results define the winner.

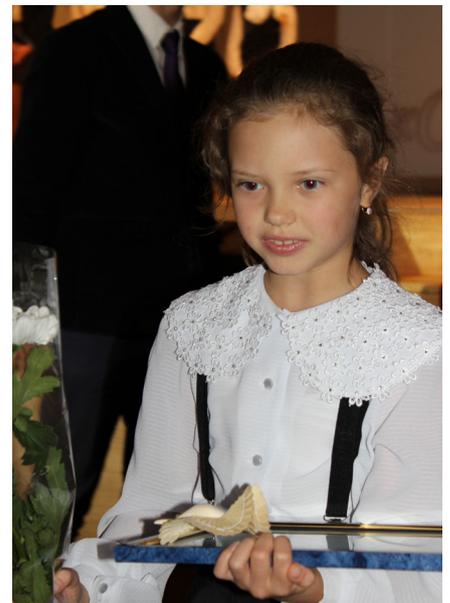
But “The Blue Bird” is not only the ceremony of awards, but also a performance of talents. In our school there are a lot of gifted students. And of course to make such a great show, all the items of the performance are carefully selected. It is a great chance to display your creativity and talents, and the best, the most professionally created items are included in the program.

Our school is just like a little country and has its own anthem. We sing it all together and it makes us feel united. All in all “The Blue Bird” ceremony is very important for everyone, who belongs to our school.

— by *Irina Bashkina, 9 B*



The State of school rewarding the best students of the year



Museums

Personal photoexhibition by Igor Fufaev

Historical and architectural complex "Arkhangelsk Guest house"

Photo exhibition was dedicated to the 60th anniversary of the master and is the result of his work. Igor Fufaev, a member of the Union of Photographers of Russia, almost all his life has not parted with the camera.

Jacob Leuzinger. The man with the camera

Historical and architectural complex "Archangel Guest house"

The exhibition is devoted to the outstanding personality of the city Jacob Leuzinger. He was elected in 1903 and served as head of the city chroniclers of the Northern Territory.

"Paragraphs"

Arkhangelsk Museum of Fine Arts

Exhibition of drawings from private collections of Pablo Picasso. There are works from different stages of the master.
250 ₺

Photo exhibition "Faces of Victory"

Arkhangelsk Museum of Fine Arts

The exhibition is dedicated to the 70th anniversary of the Victory. Here are the photos from the personal archives of the residents of our city.
100-180 ₺

"ProVoda 3803"

Art Museum of Arctic exploration of A. A. Borisov

The exhibition is the result of an art lab "ECO-ZVOZ." It was attended by artists from Arkhangelsk, Novodvinsk, Vologda, St. Petersburg and Moscow.
100-180 ₺

"Jazz Workshop"

Art Museum of Arctic exploration of the AA Borisov

Author's music ensemble Tim Dorofeeva. Music band performs jazz and blues.
300-400 ₺

Theatres

Piranhas. The diary of 12-year-old.

Arkhangelsk Youth Theatre

A play about the life of 12 year old boy. Heroes were classmates, teachers, parents, sister and friends from the camp.
April 17 and 18, 18:00
350 ₺

Richard III

Drama Theatre

The overthrow of King Richard II of England and the seizure of power by Henry Bolingbroke. One of the greatest work of Shakespeare

The brightest memory of my childhood

The memories of childhood have their own kind of nostalgia. With the passage of time, one feels the most exciting time is childhood. The charm of childhood cannot be forgotten.

My brightest memory is my first day at school. It was a sunny day on the 1st of September 2006. On that day I got up early to prepare my beautiful school uniform. When I was ready, I took a huge bouquet of flowers for my teacher. I came to school with my parents. I felt a little bit nervous because it was an important day of my life. It was an enjoyable time for me as I got to know my new classmates. The first bell for me rang. I think, that the most impressive memory was appearing of me first teacher – Ekaterina Aleksandrovna. She was a really nice woman and teacher whose eyes were always full of care and kindness...

The memory of my first day at school is very pleasant. I will never forget it.

— **Peredela Anna**



International Relations: Connecting People

The era of intercultural exchanges has started not so long ago – only in the beginning of last century. Though it is still a developing trend in Russia, we have developed a set of activities to improve the language through real life communication.



Our school has a great and impressive history starting from 1938. During the Great Patriotic war of 1941–1945 one of the military hospitals was located in this building. A lot of people graduated from our school during that period of time and many of them went to the front. Since 1962 our school specializes in English and is considered to be one of the oldest educational institutions in the city with an emphasis on learning foreign language.

Today it's a modern school with about six hundred students who are interested in all aspects of school life. The core of the curriculum is made up of 8 hours of foreign language – English and French. There are few elective courses that students may choose to study if they wish to improve their knowledge in one particular sphere of life. Business English, Culture of the Russian North, Technical translation courses offer high schoolers hands-on practice and immersion to peculiarities

of different professions. All-rounded education with mandatory Maths, Sciences, Social Studies, P. E. and Art classes gives students an opportunity to discover as much as possible. As a result we have perfectly prepared graduates after 11 years of studies, who represent our school well beyond just the national level. Three of alumni entered New York University Shanghai, American University in Bulgaria and Finnish University of Applied sciences after they graduated from our school.

Students are offered to take part in a wide range of afterschool activities – Olympiads, scientific conferences, language competitions and performances. Moreover, we take part in a number of international programs and as a result maintain a long-term cooperation with our overseas friends and develop English-speaking skills that help us throughout our lives.

For more than 20 years our students have become participants of FLEX – US Department of State sponsored

exchange program that offers full-scholarships for a year abroad studies at one of the American High Schools. One of the mandatory conditions was regular participation in community service, so that's why many of the returnees decided to go on with this activity when they returned to Arkhangelsk.

Recently our school partnered with AIESEC Company. It's a worldwide organization for college students who wish to do short-term volunteering abroad and tell more about their native country. Representatives of many different countries came to our school to talk about importance of being a leader in the community and learning languages through this program.

But the most valuable connection for us now is developing friendship with Westbrook High School. We are very glad to welcome guests from Maine this week and hope for a warm and productive reception!

— **by Valentin Mitrofanov, 10 B**



FLEX alumni cleaning the beach after coming home



Volunteer of AIESEC in the English class

Where You Belong

Far away, so far away,
was it just a dream?
This is where you wanna stay –
- where you've never been!

Walk the street. Is it real,
the heaven of your soul?
Weekdays will rewrite your dream
Like a paperback novel.

Life can be very
commonplace,
but maybe the place's wrong?

Any serious
documents
can't tell you where you belong.

Lovesong Hero

This ain't real,
this is only make-believe.
You lovesong hero,
a comet in my grip!

You know I like it,
it's hard to get.
Just like the drum-beat
inside my head.

You got me speechless...
Does it matter?
There's an end to ever song...

Reality
is somehow better.
And the drum-beat carries on!
— *by Sophia Petrova*

Easter in Russia



Easter in Russia is one of the two most important Russian religious holidays. Just like Christmas, Easter in Russia is celebrated according to the Julian calendar. It usually occurs in April or May, about two weeks after it's celebrated by the Western Christians.

Easter in Russia is perhaps the only religious holiday that was somewhat celebrated even during the Soviet times. Thanks to the generation of great-grandparents and grandparents, many Soviet children, knew about such Easter traditions as coloring eggs, baking kulich (a special Easter yeast cake) and making paskha (a cottage cheese cake shaped as a pyramid). All this is still part of how we celebrate Easter in Russia today.

Easter in Russia is also marked by a forty-day Lent. On the night of Easter, Orthodox Christians attend the night service in churches and participate in the procession of

the Cross. On Easter morning the breakfast consists of colored eggs, kulichi and paskha. Then, people head to church if they didn't attend the night service.

Easter in Russia is called Paskha, which goes back to the Jewish holiday of Pesach. On Easter morning and throughout the day people congratulate each other by saying "Khristos Voskrese" — Christ is risen, and the reply is "Voistinu" or "Voistinu voskrese" — Indeed or Indeed He is risen. After saying that, don't forget to kiss the other person on the cheek, three times — the Russian way!

— *by Anastasia Domracheva, 10 A*

American Volunteers from Saint Petersburg

On March, 30 a group of 9 American students came to Arkhangelsk. They are currently studying Russian at SPSU (Saint Petersburg State University) and as a part of their break decided to take a journey to our town. The primary goal of their visit was not only to explore a new place, but to work on volunteer project that was set up by Irina Vasilieva — alumna of our school. She now takes a position of Students Services Coordinator at CIEE — Council for International Educational Exchange.

Few of the things that they did as a part of "Not a single day without an act of kindness" project included visiting children hospital, local greenhouses as well as schools.

By the way, some of our students took an active part hosting volunteers. This chance gave them to get closer ties with new American friends and better understanding of foreign cultures.

— *by Yevgeniy Lapin, 11 B*

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