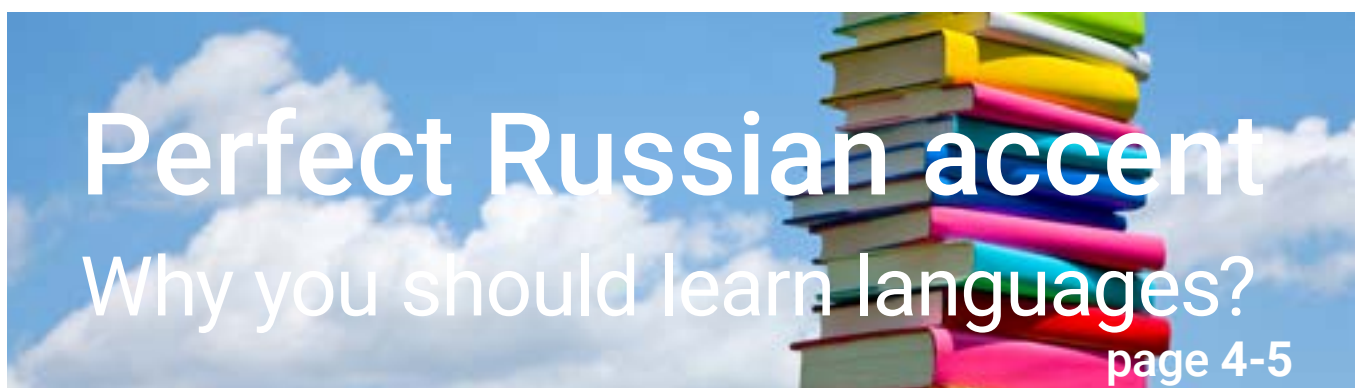
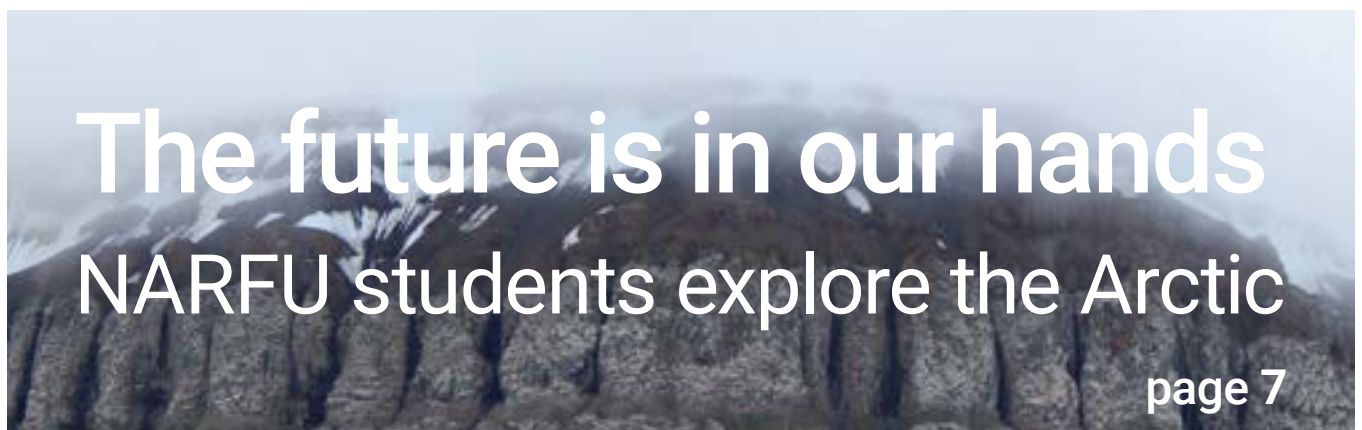


SCHOOL TIMES

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English language newspaper about school life, culture and international relationship made for Russian and American students



Northern Arctic Federal University – you choice?

Career choice has always been a really difficult decision for all school graduates. Nowadays lots of them prefer studying in big cities, like Moscow and Saint Petersburg or even abroad. Nevertheless, is it always a good idea to leave your native city, family, friends for something unknown?

We live in Arkhangelsk, which isn't only the capital of the Russian North, but also a centre of education. There are only 10 federal universities in our country and one of them, Northern Arctic Federal University, is in our city.

What programmes can this university offer for school leavers? NARFU unites 16 institutes, each of them has several departments, so our school graduates can get a diploma in Mathematics, Law, Medicine, Journalism, Management, Oil industry, Philology, Advertising, Culture studies and many others. Everyone can choose his own career.

By the way, students' social life is really exciting, they have lots of festivals, projects, workshops and other activities during the year. You can select any supplementary studies, if you want. In NARFU there is a special contest called "The beauty of the Arctic" which results in choosing "Miss NARFU". It is usually a really bright and extraordinary event. The name of the competition is closely connected with the main direction of university's research – Arctic exploration. Arctic is a really huge region that should be studied and used carefully. The university has already organized several expeditions and the results are fascinating!



All in all, NARFU is a prestigious, modern, well - equipped educational centre. Actually, it attracts students from different cities all over Russia. Moreover, it has tight relationships with universities of the Barents region. The University prepares specialists that will be in great demand in the nearest future which is connected with the development of the Arctic region.

According to my observations, more and more graduates from Arkhangelsk schools prefer to study at home and choose NARFU. I suppose we are lucky to live in the city with such university which can become our Alma Mater.

— *Irina Bashkina*

Guests from the USA captured sights of wooden architecture



Last spring turned out to be full of events. In April our school welcomed guests from our sister - city - Greater Portland. Two American students Kaitlynn Hutchins and Isaiah-Jamal Gava from Westbrook High School were awarded a journey to Arkhangelsk as they had won a photo contest "One day in the city life". So we started thinking what can attract gifted photographers in our city and came to conclusion that there is nothing like an outdoor Museum of Wooden Architecture Malye Korely.

Undoubtedly, Malye Korely is a real pearl of our region. It is a large open-air exhibition, which gives a genuine picture of the most characteristic features of old rural architecture in different parts of the Arkhangelsk region. The museum was created on July 17, 1964. Traditional wooden architecture has been recognized at the time one of the most characteristic features of Russian North, and some of the buildings, churches, chapels, and peasant houses, scattered all over the Arkhangelsk Region, were put under state protection.

The goal of the creation of the museum was to save the most outstanding wooden monuments, placing them under protection on the premises of the museum. The first building, a windmill (1744) from the village of Bor of Kholmogorsky District, was moved to the museum in 1968. In 1972, the first exhibit item, an icon showing St. James, was transferred to the museum. In parallel with the building transfer, it was decided that the museum would be divided into a number of sectors, representing different historical areas. The first sector, representing Kargopol and the Onega, was completed in 1973, and

on June 1, 1973 the museum was open for public. In 1983, the museum became a member of the European Open-Air Museum Association. In 1986, the museum, which was previously subordinate to the Arkhangelsk Fine Art Museum, became an independent museum unit. In 1995, it was designated as a cultural monument of federal significance.

Malye Korely is the favorite place of Arkhangelsk citizens during the festivals when folk choirs in native dresses sing and dance in a ring, or in winter when a traditional Russian troika invites the visitors to have a ride to the merry chime of church bells. Besides, there is a chance to stay for the whole day in a wooden country house and feel the peaceful atmosphere of Russian rural lifestyle. It has become the best option to spend weekends and to bring guests of our city to this fantastic place.

I should admit that we were right to start our program with Malye Korely. They enjoyed the day and managed to catch all the beauty of the place in their photos.

— *Vladislav Kirov,*
photo by Olga Pravilova

“He, who knows no foreign language, does not know his own one”



Each fifth person of our up-to-date society knows at least one foreign language. Why learning of foreign languages is becoming more and more popular nowadays?

People in Europe started to learn languages in the 11th century. It is known that Yaroslav the Wise was a polyglot. But at those times it was a privilege of rich people.

Nearly 25 years ago such professions as interpreter or specialist in a sphere of international relationships were prestigious. In our days we can see absolutely another situation. It became necessary to learn foreign languages, and you should only look around to be convinced.

Learning a foreign language takes time, patience and sometimes money and can take many months and even years of dedication. However, the venture is an investment for the future that can produce

many benefits whether it is for one's career, travel adventures or personal growth and will more than likely open the door to many opportunities. Therefore, there are many reasons why one should learn a foreign language.

To begin with, language study involves other learning skills, so foreign language study can raise one's abilities to function in other spheres of life. Adaptability increases as an outcome of foreign language study because one learns to understand unfamiliar ideas while learning a new language. In studying a foreign language, one faces totally new ideologies and thus learns to adapt to diversity.

There are also cultural reasons for learning a language of another country: it helps one understand its culture. It is a fundamental truth that cultures define themselves through languages, and language becomes a peephole to look at the nation's culture, its traditions and its history.

Maybe the most important nowadays is the economic reason of studying. After getting out of the university, it is the time to go for an employment or start a business. Both are benefited by knowledge of a foreign language. The 21st century trend in progress is globalization, and with improvement in technology that provides the ability to communicate with anyone,

anywhere, more and more companies are working internationally. Consequently, employers will be looking for a valuable employee, one that can communicate and correspond with an international partner, investor, customer, etc. So having better employment opportunities and greater chances of excelling in business suggest the importance of foreign language study.

The main advantage we shouldn't forget is that learning of foreign languages broaden your mind, exercises the memory. Through engaging in a foreign language, one is able to increase vocabulary, pushing the brain to its fullest capacity. Statistic shows, that learning a foreign at the earliest possible age opens up a whole new dimension for children: it greatly benefits their reading and writing in their own language and develop an individual intelligence.

Searching the information concerning learning foreign languages in childhood, we've found the unusual one. It's hard to believe, but we have underestimated our mental abilities of an early age.

At the conference, TED-profit foundation in 2010, Professor Patricia Kuhl called genius children in the study of language. Adults who have more powerful cognitive abilities eventually show lower results in language learning than children.

There are two very different systems of knowledge, each of which - your own neural machine: the thinking system that includes the knowledge that you can bring to the consciousness and to put into words, and a hidden reflexive system. Thinking system is ideal for learning and for the recognition of logical fallacies, for such activities in which adults are superior to children.

Nevertheless, it is more difficult for adults to perceive new information due to prior knowledge.



Paradoxically, the most complex information is often best left to the more intuitive reflexive system that is much better developed in childhood. This is probably due to the fact that complex information is difficult to reduce to some clear rules.

Of course, adults are more intellectually developed because of the habit to analyze everything.

However, it's better to start studying languages while being a naive young geniuses cognizing the world around them intuitively.

That's why in most of schools pupils begin to study foreign languages since the first form. Our gymnasias also keep to this principle since the beginning of its existence.

To find out what our students think about learning foreign languages, we conducted a survey among grades 9-11. They were asked 3 questions: 1. What is your purpose of learning foreign languages? 2. What is the most difficult aspect in learning foreign languages?

3. Are you going to take the exam in foreign languages?

As a result of the survey, it was found that about 40 per cent of students study foreign languages for travelling; 30 per cent said that they need languages for a future career, others think that due to the languages they can study the culture of countries. Because of these reasons, the majority of students want to take the exam in foreign languages. It also turned out that for pupils grammar is the most difficult aspect in the study of languages.

Learning foreign languages is becoming more and more popular in our country. It's not surprising because Russia is a part of Europe and the whole world. It goes without saying that English is the most popular foreign language now. There are many reasons for its popularity. It has become the standard language for all kinds of international communication. The English language has become the world's top tongue and we think it is going to become a global language.

However, we shouldn't forget the cultural value of our native language. It's a pity that many young people in order to make a fortune choose a foreign language for communication and leave their identity behind. That results in language extinction and this process takes place nearly everywhere in the world. According to various linguists, half of the world's languages will die out during the next century. On one hand, it's not bad as people's communication will become easier, but on the other hand, language extinction is a disaster because it reduces the diversity of our planet which is the key to our survival. We think that larger cultures should have a respect for minority languages, but first of all the younger generation must want to preserve their native language.

So, remember, if you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his language, that goes to his heart.

— by Anna Peredela,
Polina Drannikova

Four reasons to burn anything and go living abroad

Our reporter Valentin Mitrofanov has not decided already where to live, but he has some reasons to quit Russia. We gave given him an opportunity to speak out. If you' don't agree with him, send us your own text to schooltimes@shagi29.ru.



Medicine

Pediatrician which prescribes homeopathic drugs to all children without exception. The Ministry of Health that promotes drugs, effectiveness of which has not been confirmed by any studies. Finally, numerous multidisciplinary clinics across the country. Find a good specialist - it is not just difficult, sometimes almost inaccessible. Moreover, most of the medical services are paid and these services cost a lot of money.

Education

It's not a secret that education level is falling. Parents try to send their children to study in foreign universities. Our universities stopped prepare well-qualified specialists. As a result, we have entered an era of unprofessionalism, and that's impossible in such a big country like ours.

Real Estate

The inability to buy a home in your city. Unreasonably high prices for apartments. One man has calculated that if he sells his miserable apartments on the outskirts of Moscow, which

is in almost emergency house, he could buy a castle in the Czech Republic. At the same time, even with housing, you aren't immune to the fact that tomorrow the building of the next Olympics (or whatever) won't start, and your house will be left to be demolished.

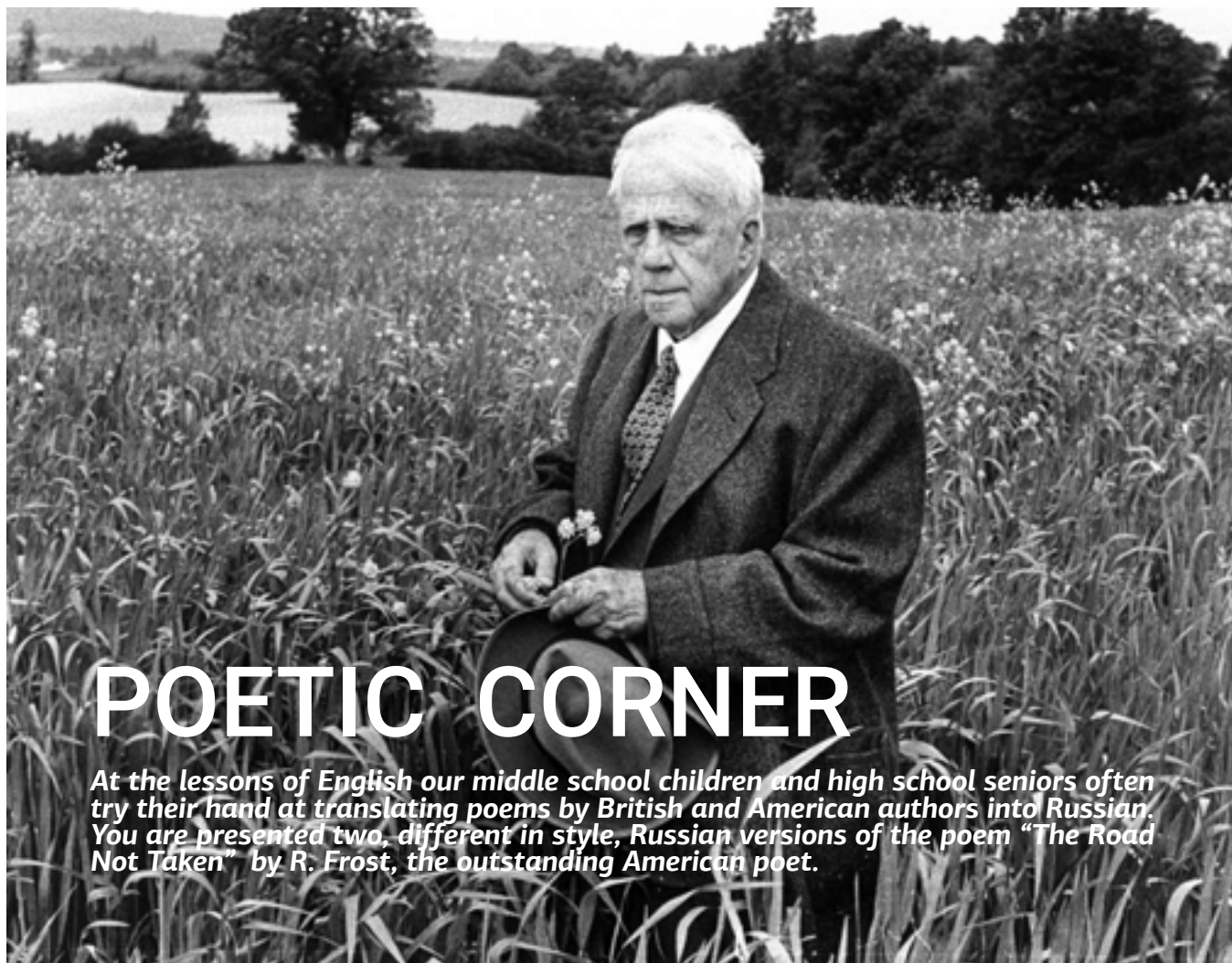
Low quality of all products

Exactly all, especially imported. For example, we have two identical shampoos, but one was delivered to Russia from Europe and the second was bought in Europe. As different as day and night. In the first case we got the liquid water. In the second the real shampoo which make the hair «silky and shiny».

Safety

No one is safe from the attack of bandits on the street. You aren't protected from any violence and the police will do nothing before you will be attacked. And after all the extreme level of corruption will be hinder any investigation.

— **by Valentin Mitrofanov**



POETIC CORNER

At the lessons of English our middle school children and high school seniors often try their hand at translating poems by British and American authors into Russian. You are presented two, different in style, Russian versions of the poem "The Road Not Taken" by R. Frost, the outstanding American poet.

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
And sorry I could not travel both
And be one traveller, long I stood
And looked down one as could far as I
To where it bent in the undergrowth;

Then took the other, as just as fair,
And having perhaps the better claim,
Because it was grassy and wanted wear;
Though as for that the passing there
Had worn them really about the same,

And both that morning equally lay
In leaves no step had trodden black.
So, I kept the first for another day!
Yet knowing how way leads on to way,
I doubted if I should ever come back.

I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverted in a wood, and I —
I took the one less travelled by,
And that has made all the difference.

Расходились две тропки в пожелтевшем лесу,
Жаль, что я не могу выбрать обе!
И я долго стоял, выбирая тропу,
И глянул на ту,
Что змеёй извивалась в подлеске.

Но пошёл по другой, простой и открытой,
И была она лучше, наверно.
Зеленела трава, так ярка и чиста,
И в лесу разноцветном листва так густа,
Словно пледом, тропинки укрыты.

Утром ранним, тропинки, как сёстры лежат,
В чёрных листьях, где давно никто не ступал.
И на следующий день выбрал первую я,
Зная, что тропка ведёт меня не туда,
Сомневаясь, что можно вернуться.

Я сейчас говорю о тропинках со вздохом.
Выбор сложен был, очень тяжёл.
Расходились две тропки.
Выбрал я ту, где шагал мало кто, да и редко.
Так свой путь я нашёл.

В лесу глухом две разошлись дороги,
Из них я должен выбрать лишь одну.
Мой взгляд прошёл по той, чей склон
пологий
Вдаль уходил под листьев пелену.

Затем другую выбрать я решился,
И вдоль неё прошёл мой трудный
путь;
Покров травы росую серебрился,
Зовя тропой нехоженой шагнуть.

Мне сделать выбор утром было
сложно,
И выбор мой был сделан наугад;
Дорогой первой захочу пойти, возможно,
Хотя, конечно, не вернусь назад.

По истеченье лет десятков многих
Я вспомню, как я сделал выбор свой:
На перепутье разошлись дороги,
И я пошёл нехоженой тропой.

— Anna Gaiduk, high school senior

— Vlad Telitsyn, high school senior