

JAUNPIEBALGA

NEWBALGA

Immerse yourself
in a fairy tale!

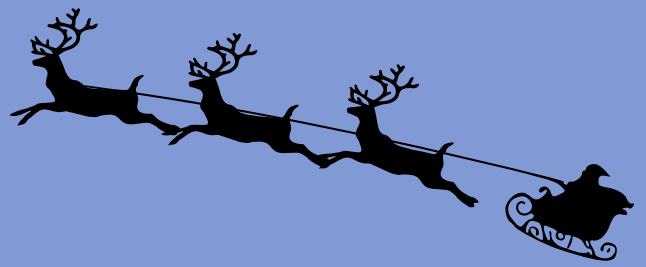
**THE TIME OF
WAITING**

**FOR
CHRISTMAS**

the result of a very
serious, independently
performed and
responsible work

ONE OF THE MOST WELL-KNOWN FAST
FOOD RESTAURANTS IN THE WORLD

Christmas



In Latvia Christmas is celebrated from December 24th to 26th. December 24th is Christmas Eve, December 25 is the First Christmas Day, and December 26 is the Second Christmas Day.

Advent is the time of waiting for Christmas, which starts a month before Christmas. This is the time when I get the Christmas feeling. My family makes the Advent Wreath at home.

Latvians have many traditions for Christmas. For example, there must be 9 different dishes on the table. Burning the Yule log cleanses of old and evil. Also stilt walking, where participants wearing masks go from home to home giving blessings.

One of the symbols of this holiday is the Christmas tree. Nowadays it is impossible to imagine Christmas without a Christmas tree. The tradition of its origin relates to different countries and one of them is Latvia. The first Christmas tree in Latvia was installed in 1510 near the House of Blackheads. In my family, we like to keep it at home till the 6th of January. This day is called Epiphany, it symbolizes the end of Christmas celebrations. My family celebrates it because it's my mom's birthday.

Various events take place to celebrate Christmas. In our town, there is a Christmas market, where we decorate the Christmas tree.

Written by Zanda Loginova



Classic Christmas dinner

Folk traditions say that there should be nine dishes on every Latvian dinner table at Christmas.

- Peas/beans so that you cry;
- pies, for surprises;
- beets/carrots to stay healthy;
- gingerbread, for love;
- round dough cookies, so it's sunny;
- stewed cabbage for strength;
- poultry for success;
- fish, so there's always money in your wallet;
- pork, so happiness does not end.



Grey peas are a classic Latvian dish. They can be eaten at any time of the year, but if left uneaten during Christmas, the coming year will be full of sorrow, misfortune, and tears. Start cooking the peas a day or a few hours before eating. Grey peas need to be soaked in water for a long time, so don't wait until the last minute to cook them!

- 1st step

Rinse the peas.

- 2nd step

Soak the peas in water, in a large pot or bowl for at least two hours, or overnight.

- 3rd step

Drain the water and rinse the peas again. Place the peas in a large pot with enough clean water to cover them.

- 4th step

Cook over high heat until the peas are tender (about 50 minutes). It is recommended to occasionally remove the foam that forms on the surface of the water.

- 5th step

When the peas are almost ready, add salt to the boiling water.

- 6th step

Drain the water and place the peas in a large bowl.

- 7th step

Bake chopped bacon and onions, with salt and pepper, to eat with the grey peas.

Eat with the bacon, onions, and sour cream.

Cheers!

You will need:

- 1kilogram of grey peas
- Bacon
- Onions
- Sour cream
- Salt and pepper

Written by Līga Kīne



Immerse yourself in a fairy tale

Gnome Ance along with gnome Nauris organized this year's Christmas event called "Iejūties pasakā" (Immerse yourself in a fairy tale). They went along the snowy paths to the gingerbread houses to see what the gnomes have prepared this school semester. We heard beautiful songs and instrumental performances, which brought the festive mood to our school.

There were beautiful songs and instrumental performances, and 5th and 12th grade students showed us a theatrical performance. The winners of our school's yearly competition "Kas notiek?" (What's happening?) were celebrated and the students who finished the 1st semester with good and excellent grades were honored.

Ances supervisor (Jolanta Glāzere) says that today's event is the result of very serious, independently performed and responsible work, which everyone was happy about because we enjoyed the beautiful musical performances that Ance had chosen and the praiseworthy lines of poetry that connected the performances.

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Written by Līga Kīne



Guess or Know



This year before Christmas break the student parliament decided to organize an erudition and fun time game “Zini vai Mini” (guess or know).

How does the game work?

The game has six rounds. Every round has a different theme, each with five questions. The question is shown on the screen and participants in teams of five, write down their answers. After each round the answers are collected and checked, then the answers are shown on the screen. The results were announced 15 minutes after the last round ended.

I was the initiator of this idea, so I had a lot of responsibilities. I had to make the presentation with all the quotes. Others helped me to come up with good and interesting questions. The themes were: Christmas, Latvian cities, celebrities, movies, music, and trivia questions from our teachers that we filmed in advance. My friend Ance and I lead the event. My two other friends Līga and Zanda checked the answers. Other students helped with the technical issues. This event was a challenge because we all had different responsibilities and we had to work as a team.

In the end, the event was a success and the students who participated seemed interested. It took a lot of preparation, but the result was worth it.

Written by Gerda Johansone



Volleyball competition



Sports have always been popular in our school, and when competitions are held, most students participate. In recent years, it's become a tradition for the 11th grade students to organize these sports activities and competitions between classes.

As the winter break approaches some sports activities are always wanted. This year it was a volleyball competition. The competition took place in 2 groups: 5th-7th grade and 8th-12th grade. The battles were particularly interesting and exciting.

Especially the game for the first place in the 8th-12th grade group. The 11th grade won with slightly higher score, defeating us the 12th grade.

The teams that won the 1st place got a unique wooden medal, while the 2nd and 3rd places received diplomas for their participation.

Written by Zanda Loginova



Ziediņš gatves galā

I've been a part of our local amateur theatre "Triksleri" (Tricksters) for about a year and a half. This year on the 10th of December we premiered our newest play "Ziediņš gatves galā" (Ziediņš at the end of the street). We have been working on this play for the last 5 - 6 months. It's a somewhat serious joke play in 3 acts. It's about a family (Ziediņi) whose estate is auctioned because they have mortgaged it to help their son's business. I play the role of the second buyer's wife who can only be described as a gold digger. My husband is an old but wealthy man with a serious drinking problem. I have big plans for the place. We will tear it all down and build a beautiful palace with little towers!



JAUNPIEBALGAS AMATIERTĒĀTRIS TRIKSTERI

9.decembrī plkst.19.00
Jaunpiebalgas Kultūras namā
leeja: 3 EUR

Ziediņš 'gatves galā

BAIBA JUKŅEVIČA
nedaudz nopietna
joku luga 3 cēlienos

Piedalās:
Valda Žukovska, Egils Johansons, Ineta Elksne, Gatis Brencis,
Jānis Ciekurznis, Velta Ciekurzne, Līga Kalniņa, Aina Millere,
Norberts Petrovskis, Inguna Āboliņa, Jolanta Glāzere,
Anna Mackeviča, Alvis Žukovskis, Līga Kīne, Ainārs Intenbergs

Režisore – Aina Damroze

Cik tad var bez sievišķa.
Daudz brīvu apkārt ganāt, un
man nevienas!
Iedomājies, visu mūžu te
nodzīvot un tad – nekā.
Kā man Ziediņi var
nepiederēt?

The play ends with the original owners buying back their property with the help of their 90 year old grandmother. The author of this play Baiba Jukņeviča was also at the premiere, and we got to speak to her afterwards. She told us her personal backstory of the play. Even though all of us were nervous before the premiere it went well, so we will be touring a few other nearby places. I think we all felt satisfied and fulfilled and we definitely had some good laughs along the way.



1st McDonald's in Latvia



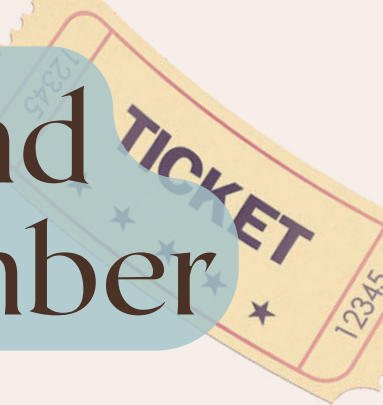
McDonald's is one of the most well-known fast food restaurants in the world, which serves around 50 million customers every day. It also has a lot of history in Latvia. The first McDonald's restaurant in Latvia and all of the Baltic countries opened on December 15th, 1994, marking its 30th anniversary this year. The opening was kind of scandalous because the Environmental Protection Club invited passerby's to think about pollution that the invasion of Western culture contributes to our land. The restaurant was opened in a building that used to be a library close to the Freedom Monument, so it was said "Foreigners feel like they are at home, we feel like we are abroad."

Organizers made people compare Western products to Eastern and encouraged them to not forget Soviet culture food - belaši (belyash), by giving them around. Organizers were deeply concerned about the Latvian environment. They didn't like that McDonald's ignores local farmer products. For example, milk was imported from Poland and apple pies were baked in Moscow. Despite the activism and protests on the opening day the McDonald's had a lot of customers. They admitted that there was a problem with disposable containers, but that didn't stop them from enjoying the offered food. This particular McDonald's is still the most visited one not only in Latvia but in all Baltic countries.

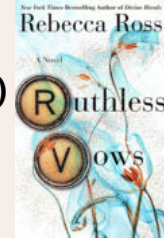
Written by Zanda Loginova



Top 5 books and movies of December 2023



Ruthless Vows(Letters of Enchantment,#2)
by Rebecca Ross



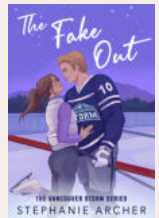
Heartstopper: Volume Five
by Alice Oseman



The Frozen River
by Ariel Lawhon



The Fake Out (Vancouver Storm, #2)
by Stephanie Archer



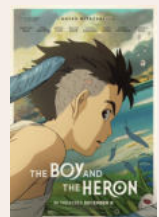
Same Time Next Year
by Tessa Bailey



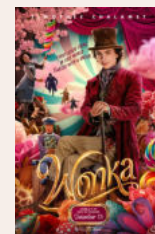
Godzilla Minus One



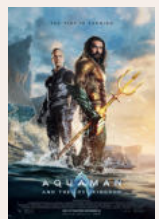
The Boy and the Heron



Wonka



Aquaman and the Lost Kingdom



Poor Things



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