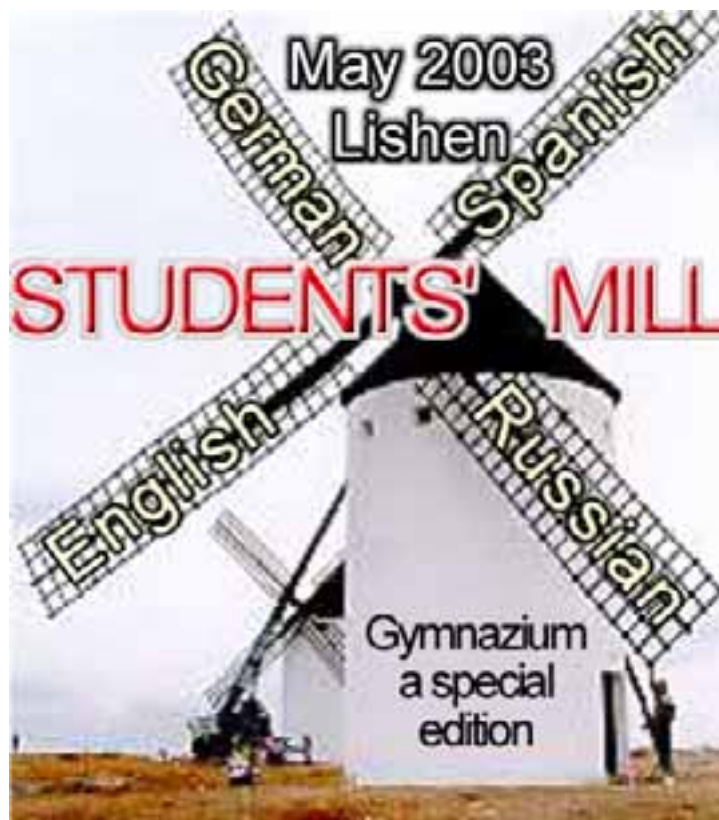


## THE ENGLISH MAGAZINE FOR STUDENTS



News -> plans -> nature -> ecology -> easy English -> class activity -  
> tests -> music -> sport -> business -> travel -> lifestyle -> health ->  
language -> fact file -> computer -> internet

**STUDENTS' MILL**  
**MAY 2003**

**CONTENTS - 2**

**EDITOR'S SPEECH: TEACHERS' OPENING ADDRESS - 3-4**

**NEWS: ECOLOGICAL CONFERENCE - 5**

**NEWS: POETRY COMPETITION - 5**

**NEWS: OUR FIRST EXPERIENCE - 6**

**NEWS: OPEN-AIR SCHOOL KRASENSKO - 7**

**NEWS: OUR VISIT TO ENGLAND - 8**

**NEWS: PLANNING OUR FUTURE ACTIVITIES - 9**

**SCHOOL ACTIVITIES: HAVE A WONDERFUL SUMMER - 10-11**

**STUDENTS: STUDENTS WHO HAVE SURPRISED US - 12**

**OTHER SCHOOLS: THE HONOR SYSTEM - 13**

**COMPUTERS & INTERNET: CHATTING - 14**

**ENGLISH: IDIOMS - 15**

**JOKES & RIDDLES - 16**



## TEACHERS' OPENING ADDRESS

The history of our school dates back to 1994. Our distinctive feature is qualitative and conscientious work. It began its activities with the enrollment of 66 students. Teaching methods, as well as its traditions and style, have been established already (at least we hope so!) and school is operating now in full swing. Since that time several attempts to create a school newspaper have been made. They were more or less successful. Recently the first edition of such newspaper for junior classes was issued. Classes and studying are just a part of life of our school. Right now you are getting the opportunity to use special talents, socialize or pursue particular interests. The students benefit from all conditions to develop their personality. The greatest pleasure you can enjoy is to take part in creating a new type of newspaper. Our team starts enlisting candidates to form the first editorial staff. The newspaper



will obtain some special features. For one thing we make it English-German. On the other hand it has to become a students' edition. That's why we expect your closest participation. Only under this condition it will represent a definite interest for our students and meet their needs, face their problems. We will be awfully glad if you express your wishes and write to us about your ideas on the subject.

### Items to be discussed:

- The name of our newspaper
- How will it look like?
- Rubrics (what do you expect to meet)
- Should any other languages be presented?
- Your opinion on censorship
- Others

### Why a newspaper?

- To make our life more interesting
- To enrich our general knowledge

- To learn more about your schoolmates
- To express your own views, ideas
- To master your language
- To establish closest relations with teachers and administration



I wonder if you know how to make a good impression on paper? Mainly by using an important advantage of writing – it's slow. Which means you have the time to get it right before you send it.

Why English-German?

First of all you will get an opportunity to use your language skills. "Dead" English which is studied at school is being gradually transformed into a working instrument of expressing your own ideas.

As far as language is



concerned, there's no need to use the old-fashioned phrases that used to be part of business or science writing. At the same time we do our best to avoid obscene word-combinations. So there's no place for the slang of speech we use with our friends. Of course, all required assistance at your disposal!

We are looking forward to further cooperation! Good luck!

How to contact us:

E - m a i l a d d r e s s : irak@centrum.cz

Mail Box: on the wall



## ECOLOGICAL CONFERENCE

In this section we get you know the latest news, inform you about the most interesting activities held at our school. You will have a possibility to express your own views, exchange opinions, share the impressions and so on.

Our special report from Ecological Conference. The problems connected with ecology, as it proved to be, don't lie beyond the boundaries of our

students' interests. We all are anxious about our future and would like to preserve our natural environment. More than 30 reports were made and presented at the conference. A wide range of different problems was discussed. Then 3 best reports were proclaimed. Another 3 reports were prepared in English (J. Škrla, R. Herynek, R. Hos). Our special thanks to those who made it interesting and useful.

## POETRY

Frankly speaking there are so many interesting occupations nowadays. I couldn't say that poetry, especially foreign, is popular among young people. But the number of participants was surprisingly high. That must have been the mysterious wonder of poetry that had led our students here and made them participate in the contest of recitation. Masterpieces by English, German and Russian poets were performed and even acted in front

of strict judges. Here are the names of the best:

### **I category:**

1. Chimijová I.
2. Lagronová D.
3. Dostál P., Necidová J.

### **II category:**

1. Podlipný V.
2. Rotrekl J.
3. Kalousová J., Hořavová B.
4. Chmelařová S.

On behalf of the teachers' staff special thanks to all participants.

## OUR FIRST EXPERIENCE

On April, 4 we faced the first exam in our favourite Czech language. We had spent a lot of time trying to do our best to get prepared for it, but of course not all of us...

All needed instructions on the subject were given beforehand. So we knew what we had to expect. In the beginning some of us were confused and even frightened. Only a few days

before we tried to guess the future topics, speculating about it among ourselves. But what finally came we couldn't have expected. It was like a thunder. When the first two topics were announced – blood in our veins froze. The last topic was like a rain in the desert. We had 15 minutes at our disposal to make the choice. Four hours passed like a winter storm but most of us left the class

### JANA KALOUSOVA & DANA BRHELOVA

We are awfully glad to inform you that one of our students **Jana Kalousova** was given the first prize in the Russian song regional contest, held in April 2003. The song she presented was full of charm and love. She was accompanied by Aleš Vosáhlo and Michal Pospíšil who played the guitars. She has been invited to participate in the final which is going to be held in May in Prague. Good luck Jana!

**Dana Brhelová**, another student from 3.AK (the first was Jana Kalousová) participated in a written English contest and was through for the second leg, qualifying with a splendid and charming story, which we are going to publish on the pages of our newspaper.



## OPEN-AIR SCHOOL "KRÁSENSKO"

Our junior students got a spring present of spending a week far away from their parents, home and our town. They had a possibility to go to the open-air school "Krásensko" and live through the first May day with their schoolmates in the nature.

22 students took advantage of the opportunity. The open-air school lasted from the 28th of April to the 2nd of May.

You can only imagine how everybody enjoyed it because Krásensko is situated in the Drahan Highlands in the Moravian Karst. The countryside itself with its meadows, ponds, lakes, caves and streams is very beautiful. You can find the most protected and endangered species of plants and animals here. That's why this region is so interesting from the geomorphological point of view.

Our students lived in a reconstructed, rebuilt farmhouse with a garden, meadows and a wood not far from it.

Everything was perfect including food and meals (by the way, they had 5 meals a day – isn't it great?)

Students had nice time and enjoyed themselves there. Mgr

Victor Černý tried to do his best to organize their activities as well as it was possible. They didn't have any spare time. Students had to work on a biological

practical class. It means they had to catch invertebrates, for example beetles, butterflies and other various species. Students were expected to do a kind of research and make a presentation.

Besides, they went in for sports, played games (the most favourite was football), burnt "witches" and visited the Macocha Abyss, which was really interesting and useful.

As you see, we can only envy them and feel sorry for not being there.



## OUR VISIT TO ENGLAND

Our school group left Brno on 22 April at nine o'clock. An hour later we stopped in Třebíč so that some more students could join us. There were about 30 students from four different schools in the



bus what meant new meetings and, of course, new friends. Our first stop was in Cologne (Kolín nad Rýnem) where we visited the magnificent cathedral and felt like in China because there were a lot of cyclists everywhere. Then we reached a lovely spa town – Aachen.

After these visits in Germany we continued through Belgium to France where we spent our second night in the hotel Formule 1. In the morning we crossed the English Channel.

After a long customs clearance we could



admire an old castle and other beauties of a seaside town Dover. Before reaching London we stopped in Canterbury to see another monumental cathedral. Till the last day of our stay in



London we didn't stop sightseeing – The Hampton Court, St. Paul's Cathedral, The Tower, Madame Tausaud's Museum, Greenwich, Westminster Abbey, The Houses of Parliament, Buckingham Palace, The British Museum,



Trafalgar Square, Piccadilly Circus and it all finished with fantastic view from London Eye (the millennium construction).

## PLANNING OUR FUTURE ACTIVITIES

In this section we are planning to inform you about our future activities. Attention! Our future depends not only on our administration and teachers! We can make it interesting and full of fun!

The end of the school year is approaching with an enormous speed. Students from 8.AK will take their school – leaving examinations in different subjects.

At the beginning of May students from 8.AK demonstrated their knowledge, facing their first



test-“mala maturita”. The results were horrible. Was the judges' verdict too strict or are we so lazy? Or maybe were such results due to our confusion? Now some



of our students have really little time to revise (and some to learn!) all the material. Good luck! But remember, that only real knowledge is

reliable and can help you. We are keeping our fingers crossed for those who are finishing school this year and are going to take a school-leaving exam, University entrance exams or are going to get a job.



## HAVE A WONDERFUL SUMMER

The very school year is boring for most of our students. But there are some events which make it more interesting and exciting. Students usually look forward to them and remember them all their life.



Without a doubt, the expedition "Kamenjak" belongs to such events. And I'm absolutely certain everybody who was there last year would agree with me.

This year the expedition will last one week and we are going to set out on it on the 13<sup>th</sup> of June.

Students are going by bus. The journey will be long, but I think it will be full of fun because on the bus you can talk, sing, tell jokes, enjoy the countryside and so on.

We are going to live in tents in the campsite "Stupice" in Prematura, it's only 14 km far from Puly. For students it's not bad. In fact, maybe, we will complain about the lack of

comfort, but on the other side living in tents is more romantic and exciting and if it's only a four-minute walk to the sea, you can really enjoy it.

You won't have to be afraid of food and meals.

The cook is a Czech and will make Czech dishes. You are going to have breakfast, lunch soup and dinner. I'm sure it's enough to survive.

Kamenjak is a national park. It's the hottest place in Croatia with a lot of stone beaches. The water is very clean and there are marvellous coast caves there. So you see, it's worth going and seeing.

To make our staying there, more interesting we are going to make trips and to do sightseeing in Puly, to get to know the water world, to row to the beaches of the islands, to play games, to make a boat trip along the coasts and the islands. Those who can't swim have an opportunity to learn.

Y o u  
c a n  
d e c i d e



But the most exciting thing is that every year at that time seaweeds called "rozsivky" in Czech are in bloom and

yourselves what the program of our staying will be and what leisure time activities will take place.

For example, last year the whole program was based on the ancient motifs. Every day was devoted to another God. Students came to know a lot of information and facts. They developed their creativity.

One day students built sand castles on the beach, which was wonderful because all castles seemed to be enchanting and mysterious.

Students also had to find their way to the top of the hill, but some of them got lost and had to spend much time looking for the rest of their schoolmates.

when there is a movement they light up. So it was a great experience to move and swim in the sea at night because of all these lights around you, it was marvellous.

So if you want to have a good time, enjoy yourselves, get new experience, take advantage of an opportunity and join us. And if you have hesitated so far, now, I think, it's clear, you must go with us. Enjoy the faraway blue sea a n d



## THE HONOR SYSTEM

In this article we made an attempt to give you an idea of how the examinations are held in the USA. Their customs and traditions.



"I will not give or receive help on this examination." This is a sentence you will find at the beginning of many examinations in American schools. You will find the same attitude at high schools and universities all over the United States: honesty is a vital part of the American schools system. It is expected from every student, and the punishment for dishonesty can be very severe.

There are two main types of dishonest action, the first of which is plagiarism. This means copying another person's ideas or writing as if they were your own. Copying part of your composition from a book or copying another student's homework are both examples of plagiarism. The second category

of dishonesty is more general: cheating. Cheating takes many forms, such as talking during an exam, using a "cheat sheet" or looking at other students' exam papers.

The first time a student is found cheating or plagiarizing, he is usually given a warning and a grade of "F" on his work. The second time, a number of things

can happen. The student may fail that



subject and have to repeat it the following year. And in some universities, such as Brown University and the University of Virginia, the student can be expelled: sent away from the university and never allowed to return.

As you can see, the price American students pay for dishonesty is very high. Most of them think twice before writing the answers on their arms.

## STUDENTS WHO HAVE SURPRISED US

In nearly every class we can find different students. Some of them enjoy being at school, studying and helping their friends. Others, otherwise, go to school only to make fun of somebody, to have a chat with their schoolmates or to read a newspaper. But people especially at this age can change and be better than we expected them to be. In this article I want you to learn how some of our students surprised their teachers and fellow students.

So, I hope you know who they are and you will understand why they have surprised us. Why did it happen? In our opinion it happened due to:

**1.A** Marek Celer –his poetic talent and gifts

**2.A** Adam Špavor – his knowledge of some scientific and natural (biological) facts and due to his artistic talent

Leona Peroutková – being a thoughtful, frank and outspoken person

**3.A** Jana Necedová – can help

her friends whenever they are in need

The whole class – by running away from an English lesson

**4.A** Veronika Hosová - often demonstrating perfect knowledge

**5.AK** Saša Kusáková – being a charming, kind and helpful friend

**6.AK** Michal Obořil - often late to school

**7.AK** Kamil Klečka – fulfilling perfectly his duty (he is responsible for the classregister

**3.K** Adam Kutnohorský – not giving up in spite of the problems and bad marks (results) and deciding to finish the school year with excellent marks

Iveta Mojžíšová – studying well

**8.AK** Standa Běčák – patiently attending school for more than a week

## CHATTING, CHATTING AND CHATTING ALL THE TIME

Have you ever visited the very popular chat? Don't say you haven't yet. The magic of talking to people being anonymous is a well-known way of spending time. Everybody says he doesn't have a lot of time but wastes 5 hours a day at xchat.cz. But to be honest – he won't say this, he's not addicted. He just likes to chat with other people who like it too.

To the topic – a lot of chatters use a lot of English abbreviations and just a few of them really know what they mean. The same problem is with smileys. So if you'd like to know them, simply write down these symbols on a piece of paper to use them :- ) lol.

Robert Hos

O:) Angel  
 :- ) Smile  
 :-O Shout  
 }:-> Devil  
 :-( Unhappy  
 ;- ) Wink  
 L( Sleepy  
 :-D Laugh  
 :-b.. Drook  
 :-P Sticking out tongue  
 :x kiss  
 >:) Little devil

BBL = Be Back Later  
 IMHO = In My Humble Opinion  
 TTFN = Ta-Ta For Now  
 FCOL = For Crying Out Loud  
 J/K = Just Kidding  
 BRB = Be Right Back  
 GMTA = Great Minds Think Alike  
 OTOH = On The Other Hand  
 LOL = Loughing Out Loud  
 GTG = Got To Go  
 ROTFL = Rolling On The Floor Laughing  
 BL = Belly Laugh

## IN OTHER WORDS: IDIOMS

Idioms are phrases that mean that their words put together. If you take them word by word, they might make much sense! Idioms are a little like puzzle: try imagining a picture or a situation that the phrase suggests, and guess the meaning from there.



Hattrick – „scoring three times in a game.“ Used in hockey and soccer, this term came from the English game of cricket. In cricket, a bowler (sort of like a pitcher) tries to knock over three wooden stakes, or wickets, that are guarded by a player with a flat bat. Knocking down three wickets on three straight “pitches” was called a “hat trick.” A long time ago, players who did it won a hat.



Raining cats and dogs – “raining very heavily.” Centuries

ago, people thought certain animals had magical powers. Sailors believed cats had something to do with rainstorms. Dogs and wolves were symbols of winds in Norse mythology.



---

## JOKES & RIDDLES

Why is  $2 + 2 = 5$  like your left foot?

*It's not right.*

Why was 6 afraid of 7?

*Because 789.*

When is a door not a door?

*When it's ajar.*

What starts with "t," ends with "t," and is full of "t"?

*A teapot.*

Which side of the chicken has the most feathers?

*The outside.*

How do you make a hot dog stand?

*Take away its chair.*

I'm beginning of the end

Twice in a week

But not in a day

Once in a year

But twice in a decade

*(letter "e")*



Editor in chief:: Robert hos

Deputy: Marek Vrba

Reporters: John Škrla, Jarka Pilová, Hanka Jedličková, Dana Brhelová, Otakar Líbal

Our address: mailbox on the wall

E-mail: irak@centrum.cz, R.Hos@centrum.cz