

National holidays in Estonia

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Holidays selected and described
by the pupils of Pirita MG 3a
Tallinn, Estonia



Erasmus+

January 1 – New Year's Day



On New Year's Eve – December 31 - people light fireworks and lanterns. We think this is the most exciting holiday of the year. Friends and family come to visit. Cakes and all kinds of delicious dishes are served as New Year's Eve hosts the year's most festive and ceremonial dinner. You get to stay up all night. The whole family comes together to play. Hot melted tin is poured in cold water, forming different shapes that predict the pourer's fortunes for the New Year.

February 14 – Friendship Day

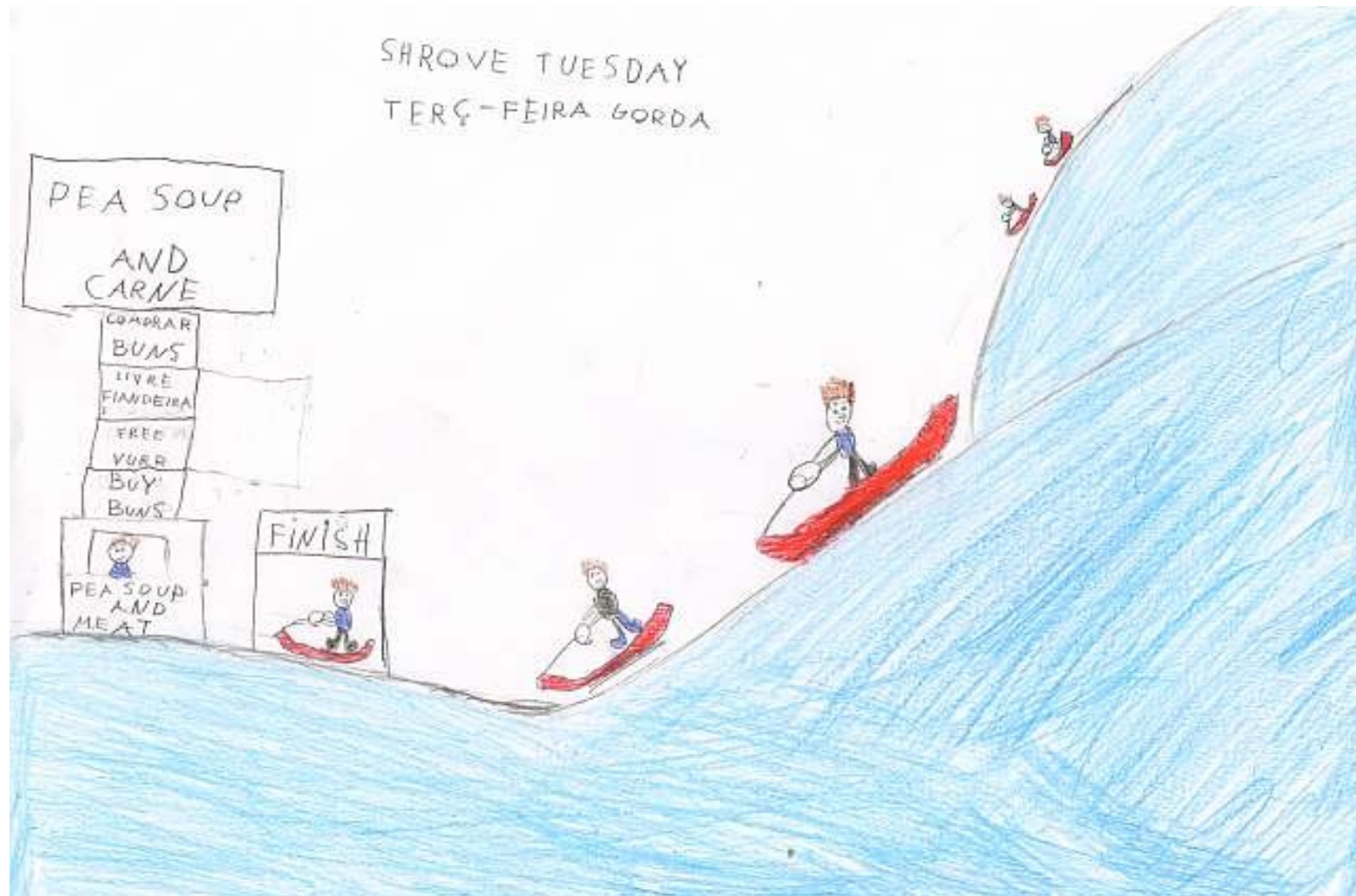


Gifts and celebration cards are given
and received on Friendship Day.

Friendship Day cards are put
in a special mailbox.

Friends get together to do fun stuff.

Shrove Tuesday is a Tuesday of the new moon in February or March

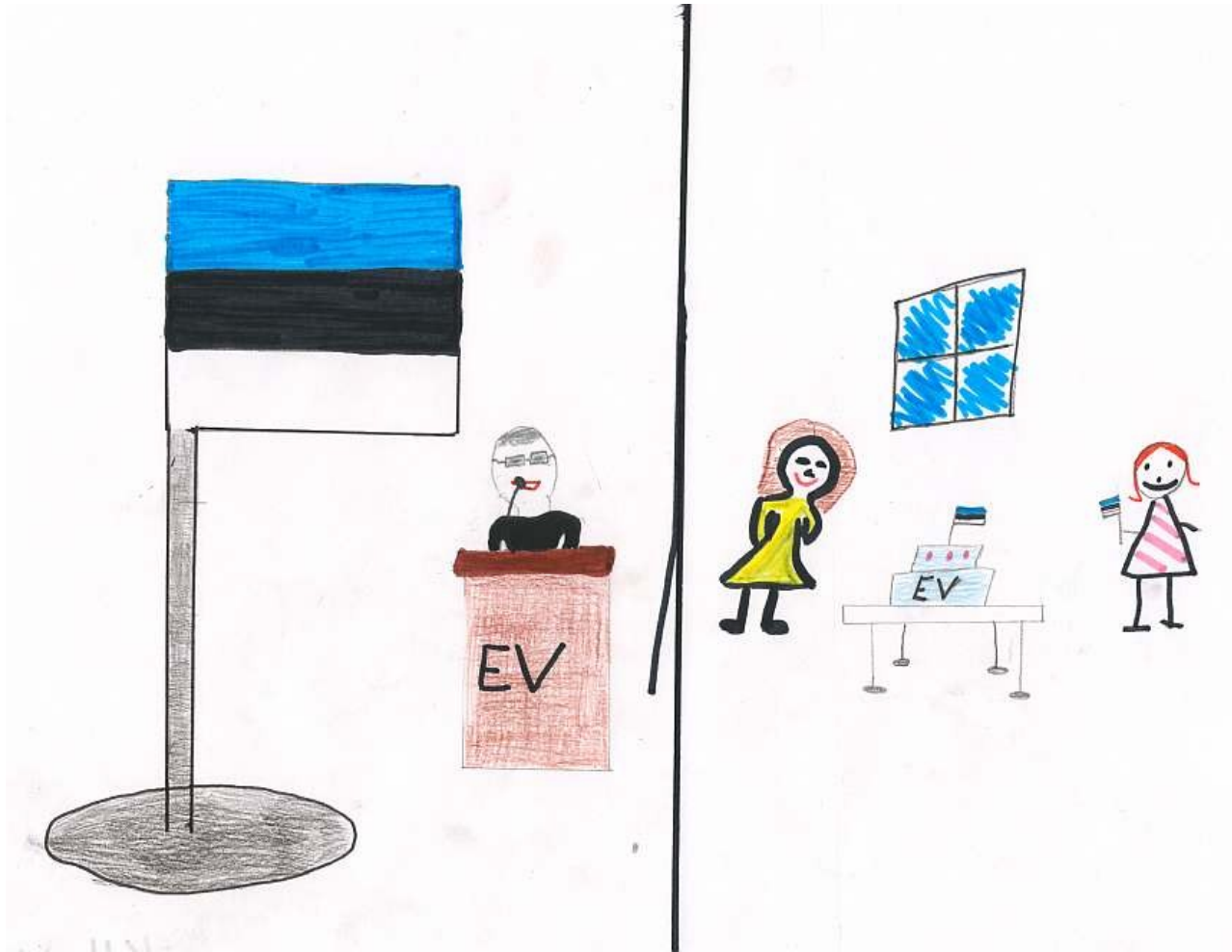


You must go sleigh riding on Shrove
Tuesday:

the one whose ride is the longest, will grow
the tallest flax.

Traditional whirligigs are made and spun.
People eat Shrovetide buns and pea soup.

February 24 – Independence Day of the Republic of Estonia



This is the birthday of the Republic of Estonia. The Republic of Estonia was proclaimed on February 24, 1918.

A parade is held, showcasing our soldiers and military equipment.

The president gives a speech and hosts an evening reception and an Independence Day concert.

At home, people make cake.

March 14 – Mother Language Day



The birthday of the first Estonian poet Kristjan
Jaak Peterson.

K. J. Peterson lived during 1801-1822.
On this day schools and kindergartens hold
parties and language competitions.
A dictation test is aired on the radio which
everyone can take online to check
how good their Estonian is.

April 23 – Saint George's Day



George's bonfires are lit in the evening of St.
George's Day.

People participate in St. George's Night
orienteering race.

Easter Holidays



Easter Holidays are celebrated in March or April, culminating on the first full moon Sunday following the March Equinox.

Eggs are colored to be used in an egg-knocking competition.

People eat candy and a boatload of eggs.

Greeting cards with chicks, eggs, and bunnies are made.

Mother's Day



Mother's Day is celebrated on the second
Sunday of May.

Gifts are made for mom at school and at home,
mothers receive flowers,
and people have cake.

June 1 – Child Protection Day



Entrance to the zoo is free of charge.
Kids' parties and other events are held all
over.

June 23 – **Victory Day** and June 24 – **Saint John's Day**



These are the longest days of the year with the sun almost not going down at all. Bonfires are kept all night long - people dance and sing, barbecue and roast marshmallows.

Evening entertainment includes an array of amusing competitions such as throwing of the rubber boot and jumping over the bonfire.

August 20 – Anniversary of the Restoration of Estonian Independence



Spectators gather for a grand concert.
On this day in 1991 Estonia regained its
independence after a long period of
occupation by the Soviet Union (1940-1991).

September 1– **First day of school**



A festive day both at school and at home.
Family comes to visit a pupil.

November 2 – All Souls' Day



Candles are lit, food and drink are brought
for the souls of the departed.

Father's Day



Father's Day is celebrated on the second Sunday
of November.

Exciting ventures are undertaken with fathers for a
fun time.

Cake is made.

November 10 – **Saint Martin's Day/Martinmas**



On this day children disguise as funny-looking men and go from door to door, performing for sweets. The minstrel-beggars wear dark colors and embark on an evening of knocking on doors. They sing behind doors or gates to be let in. If they are invited in, the masked minstrel-beggars throw grain on the floor, wishing the household good fortunes and health. The minstrel-beggars are given sweets, apples, and other treats.

November 25 – Saint Catherine's Day



On this day children disguise as funny-looking women and go from door to door, performing for sweets. The minstrel-beggars, dressed in white, knock on doors and sing special Catherine's Day songs. Welcoming households receive good wishes of luck and health. The traditions of St. Catherine's Day are similar to those followed on St. Martin's Day with a major difference in the costumes worn – on Martinmas, kids dress as men while on Catherine's Day they are disguised as women.

December 24 – Christmas Eve
December 25 – Christmas Day



On Christmas Eve, Santa visits people's
homes.

Every family holds a great celebration.

People go to church.

Our school hosts a church concert.

Christmas break starts.