



Folgarida is a small village in Trentino (North of Italy), inhabited by 3175 people and located at 1168 m asl. In winter we have a lot of snow in our region and tourists visit us because here in the ski area Alpe Cimbra they can practise a lot of sports like cross-country-skiing, alpine skiing, snowboarding or sleddog where you can sit on a sled or try out driving it, together with an instructor. Pulled by a pack of dogs you can enjoy the beauty of snow and nature around you.

January

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February

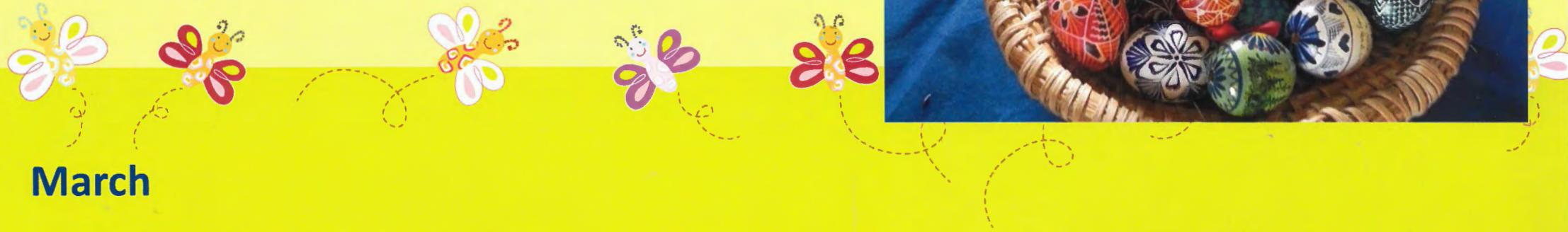
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Estonia is a parliamentary republic. Its population is 1,3 million, its area is 45,339 km². Tallinn is the capital and also the largest city of Estonia. Estonia joined the European Union on May 1st 2004. The Estonian flag is blue, black and white, the President of Estonia is Kersti Kaljulaid.

February 24th is the National Day or Estonian Independence Day. It is a holiday and there is a military parade by the Estonia Defence Forces.

War of Independence Victory Column in Haapsalu

Easter is generally regarded as the most important holiday of the Christian year, celebrated in March or April each year to remember the Resurrection of Jesus from the dead after his death by crucifixion. On Easter Monday boys and men go caroling and symbolically whip girls and women with plaited osier sticks. According to folk traditions, the whipping is supposed to bring women beauty and freshness throughout the year.



March

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A very old tradition which still takes place in some regions of Tyrol on the Sundays after Easter is the „Grasausläuten“. With loud-sounding bells in their hands or bells tied around the body, young men try to encourage the grass in the meadows and fields to a faster growth. At some farms and houses they make a stop to ring their bells as loud as possible. For this "service" the householders thank the young men with special food and a donation.

Nira Kolednik, NMS Haiming

April

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On May 8th, Victory Day, people in the Czech Republic remember the end of the World War II. It is the day of liberation from the fascist, who had ruled over this country for 6 years. It's a day off from school and work.

Mother's Day is celebrated all around the world. The Czech Republic started celebrating that day in 1923. It always takes place on the second Sunday of May. It is a time for children to appreciate their mothers and celebrate motherhood in many ways.



May

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June

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Jaanipäev (St John's Day for Christians) and Jaaniõhtu, also Jaanilaupäev (St John's Eve) are the most important days in the Estonian calendar, apart from Christmas.

Estonians celebrate Jaaniõhtu on the eve of the Summer Solstice (on the night between June 23rd and 24th) with bonfires. On Jaaniõhtu, Estonians all around the country will gather with their families, or at larger events to celebrate this important day with singing and dancing, as Estonians have done for centuries. It is also linked with the ideals of independence and freedom.

Midsummer Day bonfire in Lihula, western Estonia

Lavarone is a small village in Trentino (Italy), inhabited by 1100 people and located at 1185 m asl. It is famous for its lake, a deep blue body of water surrounded by forests. Here you can swim, sunbathe or rent a boat. The lake offers two beaches complete with facilities or meadows where you can relax and discover the beauty of nature.



July

August 15th has been one of the highest holidays of the year in Tyrol for many generations celebrating the Assumption of Mary into Heaven with processions through the villages.

The people of Tyrol knew that the forces of men do not suffice to protect themselves from catastrophes. Faith therefore remained deeply rooted.

On August 15th we also remember the Battle of Bergisel near Innsbruck in 1809. At that time the Tyrolean people rose against the French and Bavarian occupation. They could win against an overwhelming enemy with their belief in God and Holy Mary.



August

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September

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Mushroom picking is an old but still fascinating activity you can enjoy at the end of summer all over Trentino (North of Italy). The fertile grounds of our forests offer a wide range of mushrooms, the most well-known are the porcini and the finferli. Recipes with mushrooms are plentiful in this area.



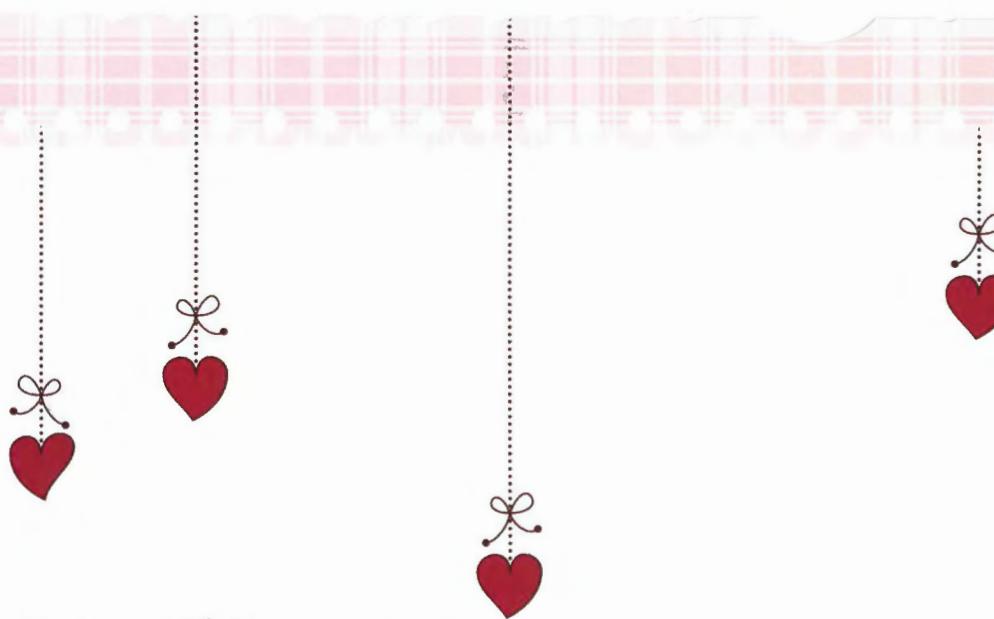
October

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In October we spend a lot of time in the nature, because we admire the beauty of change. Children collect chestnuts to create different figures and animals. If the weather is nice, flying kites is also very popular.

28th of October - Day of the Independent Czechoslovakia

In 1918 at the end of WW I. after the breakup of the Austrian-Hungarian monarchy, Czechoslovakia was created. That day is still honoured with the president's address and stately celebrations in Prague and around the country.



Saint Catherine's Day, 25th November (in Estonian – kadripäev)

Beggar impersonation is very important on Saint Catherine's Day in addition to Martinmas. While Martin's beggars are black, furry and ugly, Catherine's beggars are white and beautiful. These were women and girls, usually going as Catherine the Mother and her children, who embellished themselves with veils, stockings, false plaits of hair and other pretty little things.

On Saint Catherine's Eve (24th November) Catherine's beggars brought luck for cattle, especially sheep, which is why they checked how good girls in the families were at handicraft. They also played riddles, sang and danced just like Martin's beggars did. If a Catherine's beggar 'peed' in the corner of the room (i.e. sprinkled water there), this was also believed to bring good luck.



November



December

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Around the celebration of St. Nicholas on December 5th there have always been stories of devils, called the „Krampus“ in Tyrol, accompanying the Saint.

Krampus is a horned figure described as "half-goat, half-demon", who punishes children that have misbehaved, in contrast to Saint Nicholas, who rewards the well-behaved with gifts. In Haiming, where our school is located, there have been Krampus runs for more than thirty years with lots of spectators watching the show with fire and noise.

Their big success mainly stems from their discipline and their consistent appearance with their costumes made of sheep hide, their red Leggings and their skilfully carved wooden masks made by a local artist.