

*It's not every day that anniversaries come. The more so - that it is namely the hundredth anniversary - of our school, our gymnasium which is likely to be celebrated in November having summoned, brought together the former teachers, pupils, all the people who loved the school over the years and still love it. How long does a human being live? Doctors claim that all people are bound to live to be centenarians, alas... But institutions do survive to be centenarians and even more. Regardless of hardships they still stand the test of time. To be a cynosure in the path of those who have already become, became or will become its descendants.*

*School as it is, would not be as precious but for the people who stayed there, worked, contributed to its fame - be it teachers, doctors, presidents or workers. School will stay alive as long as it will host and house all people to give mutual benefit, thus becoming a spiritual cradle of both knowledge and humaneness.*

*Yours,  
Jolanta*



## **Interviews with some of our teachers interviewed by our students**

### ***Teacher Egidijus Karalius interviewed by his son Aistis***

1.How did the school sport stadium change?

“We are very happy about the little football stadium, but it’s not a stadium. It’s not a stadium, because we don’t have running tracks nor do we have long jumping grounds.”

2.Did you want to be someone else rather than a sports teacher?

“Of course. I wanted to be a lot , but the most I wanted to be a painter”

3.Do you think that there should be more sports classes per week, because people are not as fit as they used to be back in the day, or to teach the students the will and discipline and one day occasionally coach a future athlete?

“Lithuania is surrounded by countries which have 3-5 sports classes per week. And Vilnius is the only capital in Europe which doesn’t have a representative football stadium. The changes should be made starting with more sports classes per week”

4.Which alumni class was the most memorable?

“I had 3 alumni classes, the most memorable is the 96<sup>th</sup> alumni class of Salomėja Nėris gymnasium.”

5.Why did you choose to be a sports teacher?

„ Sport is something that I was always good at. I have a passion for sport and it was either sport or paint. The choice is obvious now. I like teaching and I love sports.

***Interview with an English teacher Jolanta Kažukauskienė***

1. What are you currently reading for enjoyment?

I am reading a book in German, which I really liked in my childhood "Die Zwillinge". I really enjoy it, because I am one of the twins myself.

2. What interests do you pursue out of school?

I read, I watch some kinds of interesting movies or TV shows, I listen to music (it depends on my mood), I write something if I am inspired. Also, I go for walks, do yoga. I like theatre, travelling.

3. What is your philosophy of education?

"Non scholae, sed vitae discimus". Beside knowledge, school should educate a mature, intellectual, emphatic personality. Relationships are very important because we are nothing without socializing. Whereas in school we learn communication culture as well.

4. To what teams and/or clubs did you belong to as a student?

In my childhood I learned to play the piano, I attended yoga (then it was called some sort of special gymnastics) club.

5. Which place is your favorite at our school?

Recreation room in the teachers' room.



### ***Interview with Kazimieras Kuprys***

1. How did you decide to work here?

At first, I was teaching in another school. I was looking for an additional job, because to work half-time was not enough for me. Soon, I was hired in Salomeja Neris gymnasium. After a little while, I got a full-time job and left the place, where I worked before.

2. What was the first impression of Salomeja students?

They were not physically strong, but seemed to be good people.

3. How do you describe relationship between a student and a teacher?

They are communicating with each other, cooperating to solve problems, discussing not only about school life. The relationship here is warm and liberal.

4. What is Your most unforgettable moment here?

There are many of them. But there is one, I remember really well. It happened 25 years ago, on Friday the 13th. The day began as usual, but at the afternoon the principal came and surprised me by telling I had done something and I needed to see him again. I thought my days were over working in here. After I had come to him, he smiled and offered to assist him from that day on. I felt happy and relieved, and of course, I could not decline the offer.

How do you manage to keep students satisfied during lesson?

-I try to organise everything, to make them happy and listen to their suggestions, opinion.

### ***Interview with Mabel Kairiene***

1. How did You choose to attend exactly this school?

My parents chose it to me. Our friends advised.

2. What is the best memory from those years when You studied here?

School atmosphere. The surroundings were different.

3. What is the best memory from those years when You taught here?

My pupils who I still can't forget. People, colleagues who surround me. They are very special persons; I'm learning from them.

4. Which subject in school was Your favourite?

I liked those things, which were taught by competent teachers.

5. How has the gymnasium changed since You started teaching here?

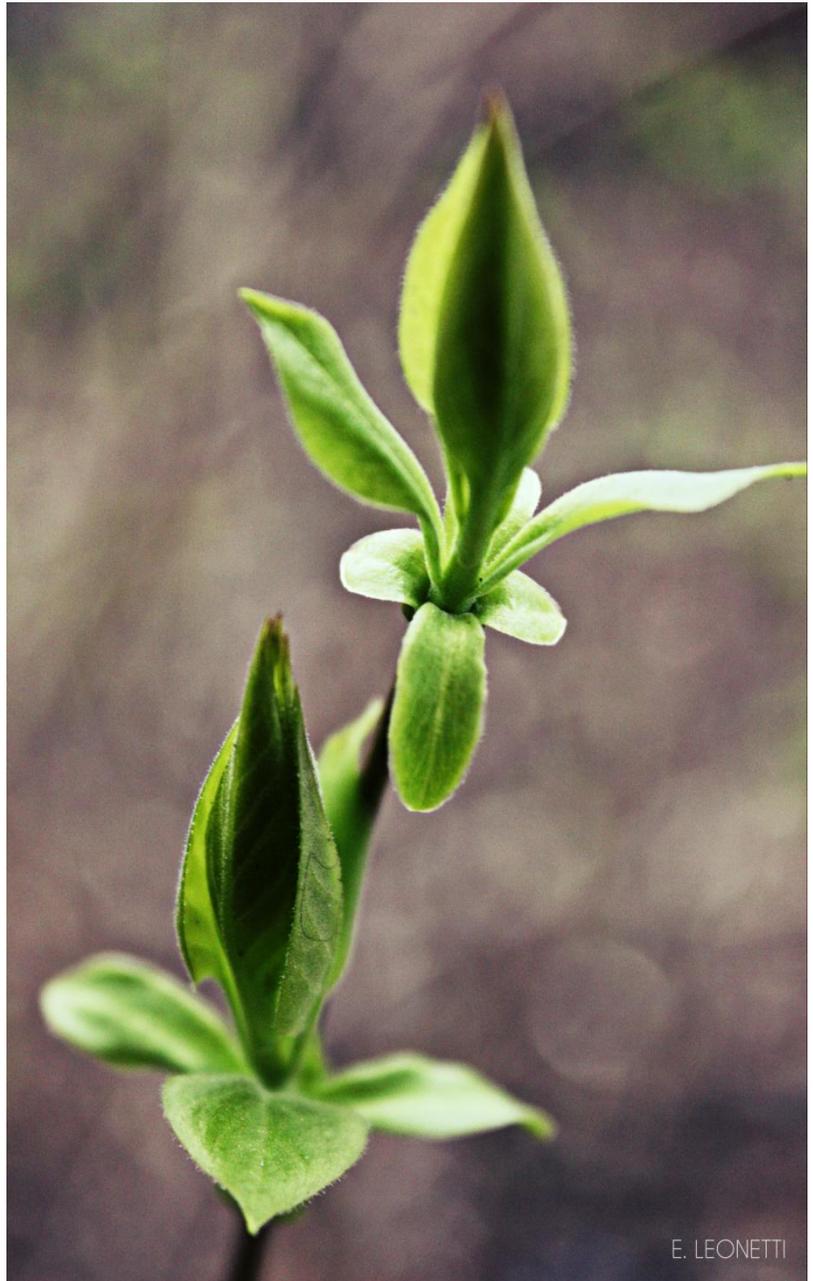
The gymnasium has changed a lot. New generation – new traditions.

6. How have generations changed since You started teaching to these days?

Former students were motivated, disciplined and polite.

7. Is Salomeja Neris Neris Gymnasium more special than other gymnasiums? How, if it is?

At this moment, this school is usual.



E. LEONETTI

## **Our students' ideas about their school**

I have a lot of memories about my school. There were a lot of happy moments with my best friends, a few sad moments and a lot of boredom in classes. I found my best friends in my school, so it is obvious that I like being in school because of them. I really like the classes, teachers, the atmosphere of school but sometimes I find it quite a boring place to be.

Danielius Bedulskis 3g

School has always been like a second home to us – whether we liked it or hated it. We have spent here 12 years – everyday walking along the same hallways, opening and closing the same class doors, drawing the same little nonsenses in the corners of our notebooks. These little things probably never meant to us anything special. But when the sudden feeling that we are leaving our second home for good strikes our heads and, most importantly, hearts – we will realise that these ordinary actions were never ordinary. They were always accompanied by sincerest laughter, lovable friends, caring teachers, passion for knowledge, grumpy morning faces, smell of fresh buns from the cafeteria and most importantly, an opportunity to be ourselves. School has shaped us the way we are today.

Agnė Taraskevičiūtė 4g

When I came to this school I was younger, I thought, that this school was amazing and when I was learning here for four years, my opinion didn't change about this school. I still think that this school is the most incredible place in Vilnius. I like the place where the school is located. Vilnius Old Town is a suitable place for our gymnasium. Studies, teachers and others in this school are very good. As well as relationship and the atmosphere. When I finish school I will remember my schooltime for a long time.

Deimantė Černecova 4g

In this school I have been studying for four years and now there are left only two months when I finish this school. In this school there has always been a good atmosphere, also in this school there are a lot of helpful students and teachers. I believe that when I leave this school I will have many colorful memories about this lovely place like events or celebrations. And I certainly know that I will miss this beautiful school!

Diana Vinarskaja 4g

When we were little, we thought that how it would be great to leave school, because the school atmosphere sometimes was boring, sometimes it made us feel unhappy. But what would we do without school? Without school we would be nothing, we wouldn't have friends, we wouldn't be educated. Many people start their relationship in school. In school we all have the most memorable moments – new friends, going on holidays with our class, sharing our own opinion and moments with others. It seems strange, when we were younger, we wanted to leave school, but now we want to stay longer in the school. Even students or people who now have jobs want to come back to school, because they can say – life there was a lot easier.

Kornelija Vasilevska 4a

When I came to Salomėja Nėris gymnasium I felt very nervous. This year I am a school-leaver. In my school there is a very good atmosphere because our students are very helpful, the teachers as well. My school has very nice surroundings: there are many churches and wonderful buildings around it. I have got many unforgettable memories about my school, especially about the events I can't forget. One of them is „Mūza“ and a 100 days celebration. During the latter event the school-leavers showed their maturity and ability to make others get interested. I believe that my school is one of the best and in the future I hope I will miss it.

Agnė Marija Marcinkevičiūtė 4g



Vilnius Salomėja Nėris gymnasium is located in Vilnius street. It's the place where amazing things happened. This school gave me so much, that I can't even imagine how much I gained. Here I found my way, here I understood what I want to do with me and with my life. Of course, I have to say thanks to the teachers which were with me all the time in this school. I remember how much I fell, but they kept believing in me and helped me to stand up. I have changed 5 schools, because there were a lot of minuses. In SALAMA – I see only pluses.

Laurynas Juodzevičius 4g

The atmosphere in our school since I came to it was very different from my previous one. In the previous school the atmosphere wasn't friendly (and I'm not speaking about the students). When I came to this gymnasium everybody was treating me like a grown up person. Nobody was like a small child in a kindergarten. Everybody now is looking forward to their future. So I believe this school has been my best choice in this life since I was born.

Monika Kazlauskaitė 3g

Salama is the best school for me. All people here are very friendly and funny. There are a lot of things that allow you to express yourself and it is one of the best things that this school can offer to anyone. The teachers are good, other students are wonderful, but the most important thing in this school is that here are studying a lot of pretty girls and we love it!

Simonas Gylys 4g

I first met my class and teachers four years ago. I was very nervous to change my school, but I am glad I came here. I was really surprised that the atmosphere in the school was very friendly and the teachers were very understanding. Here I found the subject I love the most and that is biology. Coming here changed me a lot to a good way and despite the fact that our school does not have uniforms I think every student who graduates from this school has a special aura and uniform for life.

Eglė Žymantaitė 4g

When I came to our school for the first time, honestly, I was afraid, my heart was beating fast and all those ideas in my head about new people, teachers, friends even the new building were like a bad dream. Now that I am a school-leaver, I am really happy because I know that I will take a lot of beautiful memories with me. The best side of this school is very creative, very friendly and very kind people, I think that these beautiful relationships between students and

teachers create that special aura and atmosphere. I know that some of the teachers I will always remember as those people who helped me to become a person, find my dream and go for it. The students of the school in my memories will always be those people who always were together and were the best friends in this hard way. All in all, I could say just a big thank you to our school, I will always remember it as a school of amazing people, as a perfect place to grow as a person. I will never forget my school because it is the part of my life, part of my story.

Greta Stankevičiūtė 4g

What I honestly find enjoyable about school is that teachers are really friendly and are always willing to help if you ask. A student, who wants to study and prepare for upcoming examinations, will never be left behind. If you don't want to learn, you won't learn anything no matter how good the place is but if you show the need of knowledge, most of the teachers are always open. What is more, a teacher teaches not only the subject itself but also gives advice on life. I am proud of my school and made definitely the best memories here.

Kamilė Nanartonytė 3g

My school is one of a kind, a place that couldn't be found anywhere else on Earth. So many memories, so many feelings, so many things have been felt and done here. I know this for sure that I'll never be able to forget the experience had here. Whether it's a difficult unexpected test that I had to take last Friday or a project about nature that must be made in pair work.

Sometimes it's hard to wake up early in the morning knowing that you'll have to ditch a warm bed to go to school and do some brain work but as many teachers say – it's all worth it in the long run!

Last but not least – our school has great teachers who are highly qualified and know how to do their job so well. I know that when I finish this school I'll definitely miss them all!

My school is what makes me get up from bed and get better, my school is what let's me call myself intelligent and educated person, my school is what makes me ME!

And I'm proud to say that I attend Salomeja Neris gymnasium!

Ieva Janušytė 3g

Now I am a school leaver. For some reasons I am happy about it and for some I am not. I am afraid that I will miss my school's atmosphere, teachers and etc. I am so glad that I chose to

study in this school for the last years. The atmosphere here is great. Everyone is friendly, always is ready to help and I appreciate it. First of all, I was attracted by the school environment and location. Who would not want to study in the centre of Vilnius? When I started to study here I loved Salama even more. Maybe motivation to study here isn't the best but I like here to learn and study. So, I want to finish school as fast as I can but I will never forget Salama.

Inga Petuchova 4g

***Drawing by Kamilė Nenartonytė***

***Photos by Edita Leonetti***



E. LEONETTI