

Festival Calendar



January





JANUARY 6TH – EPIPHANY (ŚWIĘTO TRZECH KRÓLI)

Epiphany is a national public holiday in Poland.

It is a Christian feast that commemorates both the three wise kings' - Kacper, Melchior and Baltazar visit to infant Jesus.

It is celebrated with huge street parades, caroling of songs, and reenactments of the Nativity scene. The street parades usually involve a procession of the 3 wise men who give people candy and small treats in some towns and cities.

On this day in Church pieces of chalk and myrrh are blessed by a priest. People can take pieces of the blessed chalk home. With that chalk they write on their front door the current year and the initials of three kings:

K(or C)+M+B which is also interpreted as Let Christ bless this house.



Citizens of Warsaw watching the Epiphany parade





Mihai Eminescu was the greatest Romanian . He was born on the 15 th of January 1850 in Botosani, our town, and he died on the 15 th of June 1889. Mihai Eminescu wrote many poems about nature, love, his country. His work was translated in many other languages.

Every year on 15 th of January we celebrate The National Culture Day in our country.



Spectacles dedicated to Mihai Eminescu are organized in every romanian schools on ocasion of Culture National Day.

15 Ianurie-Ziua Culturii Nationale

DROWSY BIRDS

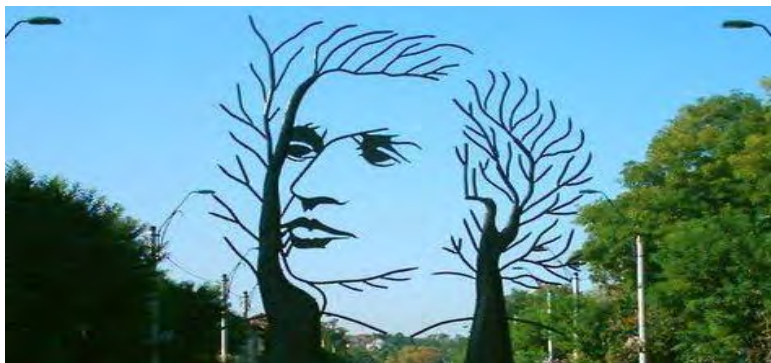
**Drowsy birds at even gliding,
Round about their nests alight,
In among the branches hiding . . .
Dear, good night!**

**Silence through the forest creeping,
Lullaby the river sighs;
In the garden flowers sleeping. . .
Shut your eyes!**

**Glides the swan among the rushes
To its rest where moonlight gleams,
And the angels' whisper hushes. . .
Peaceful dreams!**

**O'er the sky stars without number,
On the earth a silver light;
All is harmony and slumber . . .
Dear, good night!**

A large, elegant handwritten signature of Mihai Eminescu in black ink.





JANUARY 21ST – GRANDMOTHER'S DAY
JANUARY 22 ND – GRANDFATHER'S DAY
(DZIEŃ BABCI I DZIADKA)

We have two days holiday for grandparents: Grandmother's Day and Grandfather's Day. This is a great occasion for grandparents to show how they are important for us and how much we appreciate their help and presence. On this day we give greeting cards, especially handmade ones, flowers and presents to our grandparents.

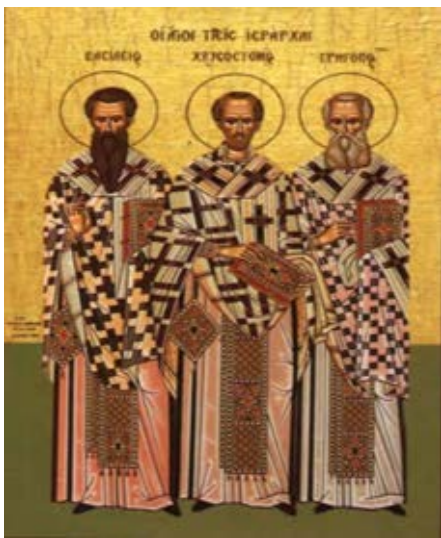
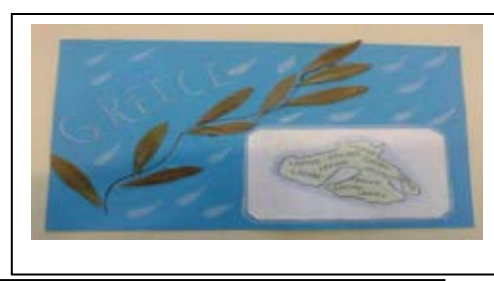


Schools and kindergartens honor grandparents with special celebrations. Families enjoy small, private gatherings.



GREECE-LESVOS

PAMFILA PRIMARY
SCHOOL



30TH JANUARY-THE 3 HIERARCHS ΟΙ ΤΡΕΙΣ ΙΕΡΑΡΧΕΣ

THE 3 HIERARCHS are considered **“THE SAINTS OF THE LETTERS”**.

On January 30th we celebrate the feast day of the three Holy Hierarchs. They are **the Patron Saints of the pupils and teachers** because they were among **the greatest teachers in the church in the 4th century**.

The Three Hierarchs were St. Basil the Great, St. Gregory the Theologian and St. John Chrysostom.

St. Basil the Great built monasteries and hospitals and took care of poor children. He brings the gifts to kids on New Year's Day.

St. Gregory the Theologian understood God's words and tried to explain them to us.

St. John was a famous speaker and they called him **Chrysostom (“golden-mouthed”)**. He also wrote the Divine Liturgy that we celebrate most of the time.

On January 30th all pupils and teachers go to church and commemorate the 3 Hierarchs.

A teacher makes a speech in church after **the Holy Liturgy** (service) and we get pieces of **blessed bread (Artos)** after the end of the Liturgy.

At school we study the 3 Hierarchs, their lives and words. We also colour their pictures.



February





FEBRUARY 14TH – VALENTINE'S DAY (WALENTYŃKI)

Valentine's Day is celebrated in Poland since the beginning of the 90's.

People find it to be another occasion to celebrate, go out and have a good time.

It is a festival of romantic love and many people give cards, letters, flowers or presents to their partners, friends and family members.





Dragobetele

Dragobete is a traditional Romanian holiday celebrated on the 24 th of February.

Dragobete feast celebration is considered the equivalent of Valentine's Day when everybody celebrates love.



Photos can be inserted a round the text





February: De Metworst race

(Horse race De Metworst)

The History of "De Metworst"

A "metworst" is a type of sausage, but it is also the name of an event held every year in Boxmeer

The "Metworstrun" originated in the Middle Ages.

One day, a rich noble lady (lady of noble birth) was riding in her carriage near Boxmeer. Suddenly the axle of the carriage broke off. The driver fell from the carriage. The horses were very frightened, broke free and escaped. Fortunately, a few young man saw what happened. They saw the lady and rescued her. She rewarded them with almost five metres of sausage. That was the story of the "Metworst". The lady in the story is called Aleida. All this happened to her and that is why the people of Boxmeer celebrate DE METWORST HORSE RACE each year on the Monday of the Carnival festival.

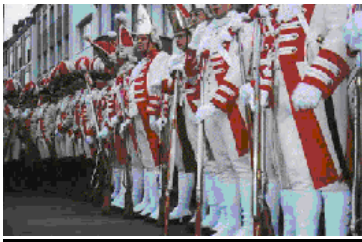
Winning the race is quite a difficult job! The person who manages to win the final, is the new "King of the Metworst". Important rules are that participants have to be unmarried and that they are at least twelve years old. You also have to be an inhabitant of Boxmeer. And of course you need a lot of courage. If you manage to win three years in a row, you can call yourself "keizer of the metworst" (emperor). This does not happen very often. If it happens, however, you will understand that this emperor is the hero of Boxmeer.

For the winner: a barrel beer, one meter sausage and the head of a pig.





Carnival in Cologne



Carnival in Boxmeer



Very famous in Bosmeer
is the „Light parade” on
Saturday evening



February: Carnaval

(carnival)

Carnival is a festival held on the eve of the Christian fast period. Important places: Venice, Nice, Cologne, Mainz. The Carnival festival in Rio de Janeiro in Brazil is also very famous. In the Netherlands Carnival is mainly celebrated in the southern provinces of Brabant and Limburg.

Originally, the festival is an Italian custom and it is probably a mixture of a Roman spring festival and a German sacrificial celebration. It is said that the word 'carnival' is derived from the Latin words 'carne' and 'vale', which means 'farewell meat'.

One of the most important characteristics of the Carnival festival is the fact that people are dressed up in strange costumes and are wearing masks or other disguises. In the past these masks were used to chase away evil spirits.

Usually the Carnival season begins 11 November at 11 minutes past 11, as it is the custom in the Rhineland, but also in the south of the Netherlands.

After the German example, a "Prince Carnival" is elected every year in most Dutch and Belgium Carnival cities and a "Carnival Council" is appointed. The festival is celebrated with the parade and the entry of "Prince Carnival".

Carnival in De Weijerhof





USUALLY IN FEBRUARY ΑΠΟΚΡΙΕΣ (apokries)-CARNIVAL

'Apokries' is usually in February. It is a festive period up till Lent. "**APO-KRIES**" means that we start to **ABSTAIN from MEAT**. We have to eat up all dairy food and meat before we begin fasting during Lent. So, there is one day called "**Smoked or Burnt Thursday**" (**Tsiknopempti**) when everybody eats grilled meat (steaks and souvlaki), even at schools there is a long break for eating 'souvlaki'. Then, the last week of the carnival period there are fancy dress parties. **The biggest Carnival parade** in Greece is in the city of **Patra**. At school on Friday before the last Sunday of Carnival, we have big parties. The children dress up in fancy costumes, eat snacks, dance, play games and have contests for the best costume. We also dance around the pole of "**GAITANAKI**". Gaitanaki is called an ancient custom from Pontus and Minor Asia. There are 13 people, one holds the pole and the other 12 dance around the pole holding 12 ribbons (gaitania). The dancers make 6 couples who dance facing each other, 'in and out' of the circle. In that way they twist the colourful ribbons in a nice complex pattern. It **symbolizes brotherhood** and concord. The 12 ribbons stand for the 12 months and the circular dance suggests "**the cycle of life**" from life to death, from sadness to happiness, from winter to spring... and vice versa. The first day of Lent we have no school and everybody goes to the countryside to fly a kite. We also have lunch with lenten food, like beans, sea food, pickles, lagana (unleavened bread) and halvah (a sweet made from sesame pulp). That week at school we make "**Mrs. Lent**" (**Mrs. Sarakosti**). She is a woman with 7 feet which stand for the 7 weeks till Easter. So, we cut off one foot every Saturday to count down the weeks till Easter Sunday. She has no mouth because she is fasting and she mustn't say bad words either.





Carnival – from epiphany to lent

Carnival in Hungary

Traditional food

We eat doughnut. This is delicious. We usually eat it with apricot jam.

“Busójárás”

This festival is part of the world heritage. It takes place in Mohács, a town in the south of Hungary.

The people put on scary masks and costumes. They cross the river Danube in boats and have a parade in the main street. They celebrate for three days.

They want to chase the winter. They make noise with their “kereplő”. They burn a “kiszebáb” which is a puppet made of straw. People think they will get rid of all their sorrow by burning it.

On the last day of the celebration they make a bonfire again and burn the ‘coffin of winter’.



March





MARCH 8TH – WOMEN'S DAY (DZIEŃ KOBIEI)

- Official celebration of Women's Day in Poland started in 1924.
- After 2nd War World, Women's Day was a public holiday in Poland.
- In 1993 Women's Day was canceled from official public holiday due to fact that this day has been associated with communism period in Poland.



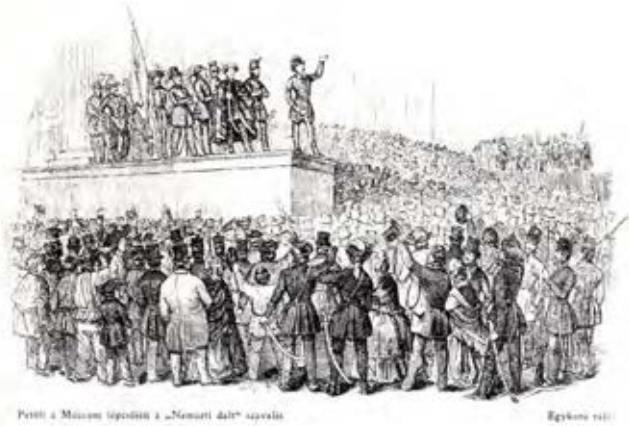
- This day is still a great day for women. They get flowers and sweets.
- Men during this special day wish women all the best.

Cafe Pilvax



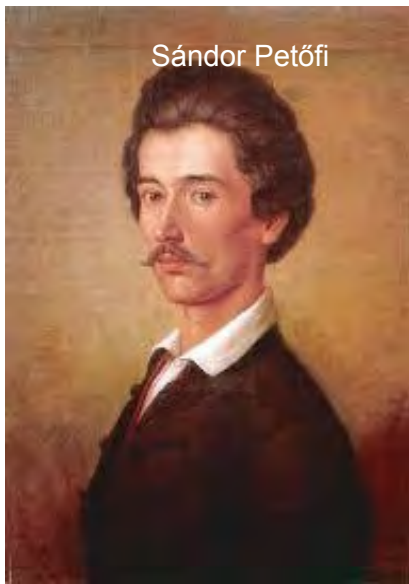
Revolution-15 March

15 March in 1848 was an important day, because there was a revolution. Young men gathered in cafe Pilvax and they wrote 12 points. They wanted to change life in Hungary. Petőfi the famous poet wrote the National song (Nemzeti dal) and he read his poem in front of the National Museum in Budapest. There was a big crowd and they cheered. Later there was a war of independence. On this day we remember the heroes.



Petőfi a Nemzeti dalt a „Nemzeti dal” szavainak

Egykoros ról



Sándor Petőfi

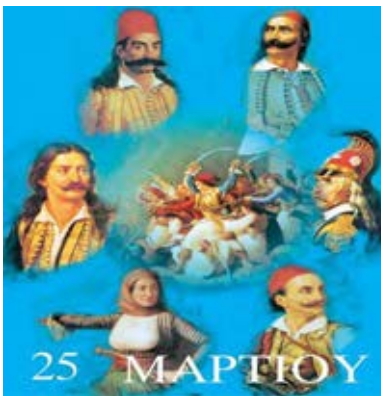
We wear a cockade like this



Lajos Kossuth – one of the most important heroes of the revolution



"FREEDOM OR DEATH"



25TH MARCH 1821-

REVOLUTION AGAINST THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE

On 25th March every year we celebrate the beginning of the Greek Revolution against the Ottoman Empire. The Greeks were occupied by the Ottomans for 400 years beginning in 1453 with the conquest of Constantinople. We remember and honour the heroes of the liberation of our country with plays, songs, speeches and parades all over the country. We also lay wreaths onto war monuments.

March 25th is a double holiday because we also go to church to celebrate the Annunciation of Virgin Mary by the Angel Gabriel. It is the celebration of the announcement by the angel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary that she would become the mother of Jesus, the Son of God.



APRÍL





Koningsdag (Kingsday)

(April 27th)

On August 31st 1885 we celebrated our first so called „Princess day”, the anniversary of princess Wilhelmina. In 1990 „Princess day’ was changed into „Queensday” on the anniversary of the queen. In 1948 Juliana became queen , her anniversary was on April 30st, so that was the new date. Her daughter Beatrix, queen from 1980 until 2013 did not change the date. But her son, Willem-Alexander, who is our king now, celebrates his birthday, and so also „Kingsday” on April 27th.

Kingsday is an official holiday in The Netherlands. All over the country we have performances, parties, free markets for children, concerts etc. And everything and everybody is coloured orange, our national colour.

In our primary schools we organise „Kings games” for all the pupils. Our king is very sports minded.

The king and his family celebrate kingsday every year in another city.





Pasen (Easter)

(most in April, sometimes in March)



Easter egg
(Paasei)



Easter bunny
(Paashaas)



Easter flowers
(Paasbloemen)

Easter is popular in The Netherlands because of:

- Two days holiday (Sunday-Monday)
- It feels like beginning of Spring
- A lot of activities in schools, cities and villages

It is not so important or popular as a religious celebration. Only about 10% of the Dutch population is active Christian. For instance in our town Boxmeer we had two catholic churches until a few years ago. Nowadays we just have one catholic church. And this church is big enough.....

On Maundy Thursday and Good Friday we have our lessons as usual but we also celebrate Easter and Spring in school. We have an Easter breakfast in school and an Easter celebration in a chapel with music, songs, stories about Easter and Spring.

How we celebrate Easter in The Netherlands?

- Some people (about 10%) go to a catholic church.
- In school we have a celebration for all pupils and parents.
- We paint easter eggs.
- We hide these eggs in our gardens.
- Young children is told that the easter bunny did hide the eggs.
- The youngest children go outside to search for the eggs.
- We enjoy the easter flowers as a sign of beginning of Spring season.
- We eat easter bread (the same as for Christmas....)
- And.....A lot of Dutch people visit the big shopping centres and furniture boulevards, just for fun, not for buying things....



Easter bread
(Paasbrood)



„Zöld erdőben jártam,
Kék ibolyát láttam.
El akart hervadni
Szabad-e locsolni?”

I went to a green forest,
I saw a blue violet,
It was about to wilt
Can I sprinkle you?



Easter in Hungary

Easter is a Christian tradition that celebrates Jesus rising from the death.

We celebrate it on Sunday and Monday. Children collect grass in the garden and prepare a nest for the Easter Bunny who puts chocolate eggs, chocolate bunnies and presents in it.

*Girls decorate eggs with different patterns.
Our traditional dish at Easter is boiled ham with boiled eggs which we eat with homebaked sweet bread. Grated horseradish is also on the Easter table.*

"Locsolkodás" - Sprinkling

On Easter Monday, this tradition called "locsolkodás" involves boys and men reciting a poem to women and girls and then "sprinkling" them with perfume. In extreme cases this can also be achieved with a bucket of cold water!

While it doesn't quite seem like a fair trade, in return for each "sprinkling" the ladies give the men chocolate Easter eggs, specially decorated painted eggs, home made cakes and/or a shot of pálinka.



Sprinkling girls on Easter Monday



THE EPITAPH IN OUR CHURCH



ΠΑΣΧΑ-

EASTER IN GREECE

At school before the easter holidays we make easter crafts, cards, baskets and the teachers fill them with chocolate and sweets.

- ❖ On Palm Sunday we go to church, the priest gives us laurel branches and we touch each other on the shoulder and wish them "Happy Resurrection".
- ❖ On Holy Thursday we dye the eggs red in memory of Christ's Crucifixion and we bake easter buns.
- ❖ On Good Friday early in the morning the women decorate Christ's Epitaph with flowers and at night the people from the church take it around the village chanting sad hymns. During that day all people fast because of Christ's death.
- ❖ On Holy Saturday at midnight the priest chants: '**Christ Has Risen**' and then we rejoice and throw firecrackers. After that we go home and have a special soup ('mageiritsa') and we 'crack' eggs.
- ❖ On Easter Sunday the whole congregation take the icon of the Resurrection of Christ around the village. For lunch we have stuffed lamb or lamb on the spit with relatives and friends.





EASTER ACTIVITIES



Painted eggs



The children can hardly wait for the Easter holiday because it is an opportunity of joy for the whole family. Everybody gets ready for Christ's Ressurrection: they clean tehir houses and gardens, they cook specific meals and go to church. They help their mothers cooking traditional cakes: cozonac and pasca. For this holiday they prepare boiled eggs, which are offered to the guests after they are painted in red. In the first Easter day, after they come home from church, the children wash their faces with red eggs and basil in order to be healthy the entire year. In the water there are also coins which are taken by the last member of the family who washes his face.



MAY





ΠΡΩΤΟΜΑΓΙΑ (protomayia)

1st MAY-MAYDAY



'**Protomayia**' is the first day of May and the celebration of Spring. May was named after „Mayia”, the mother of Hermes (the god of commerce).

On that day we have no school and it is a bank holiday. We usually go for a picnic in the countryside to pick up flowers to make a wreath. It is a custom to hang outside on our doors **a flower wreath** with a thorn to keep away the enemies and a garlic for the bad eye. The wreaths decorate the doors till 24th June (the birthday of St. John) and then we burn them on an open fire over which the people jump three times.

It is also a custom to eat something sweet first thing in the morning on May 1st, so you will have good luck.



The first Sunday in May - Mother's day



On mother's day children give a little present to their mum. The children give a bunch of flower to their grandmas, too. In this flower bunch usually there are tulips or other spring flowers. In the nursery and lower primary classes children learn poems and invite their mothers to listen to their performance.





MAY 3RD – 3RD MAY CONSTITUTION DAY (ŚWIĘTO KONSTYTUCJI 3 MAJA)

The Constitution of 3rd May is considered one of the most important achievements in the history of Poland.

The holiday celebrates the declaration of the Constitution of 3rd May 1791. It was passed by Stanisław August Poniatowski, the king of Poland. It was the first written constitution adopted in Europe and the second in the world.



This day there are many parades, exhibitions, concerts and public figure speeches.





Dodenherdenking

Remembrance of the Death (May 4th)

Remembrance of the Dead is held annually on 4 May in the Netherlands. It commemorates all civilians and members of the armed forces of the Kingdom of the Netherlands who have died in wars or peacekeeping missions since the outbreak of World War II. The number of Dutch Second Worldwar victims is almost 200.000. Among these are a bit more then 100.000 Jewish persons.



**National monumet in
Amsterdam**



**American cemetery in
Margraten, over 8.000 graves**



**German war cemetery in
Ijsselsteijn. Over 32.000
graves for German soldiers**



Second world war monument in Boxmeer



Bevrijdingsdag (Liberation day)

(May 5th)

In the Netherlands, Liberation Day is celebrated each year on May the 5th to mark the end of the occupation from The Netherlands by Nazi Germany during World War II.



Rotterdam
„The destroyed city”
by Zadkine



National war and resistance museum
in Overloon (Community Boxmeer



Parade



Festivals everywhere



Liberation of the Netherlands by the allied forces

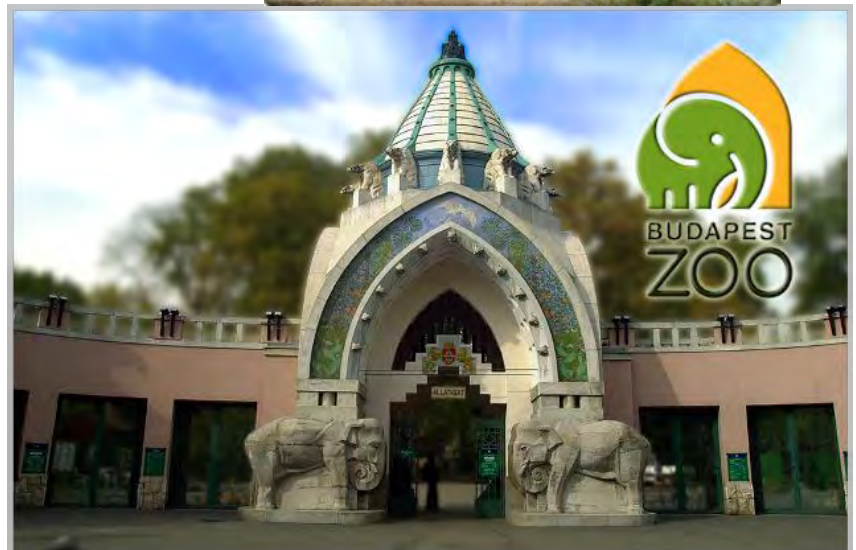


Children's Day-The last Sunday in May

Children's day is on the last

Sunday of May. The children get a little present and chocolate. They go to the amusement park, the zoo or a cinema. Sometimes they throw a party. They open a bottle of champagne if they're happy.

A lot of families go on a trip.



June



<http://www.klomek.hu>



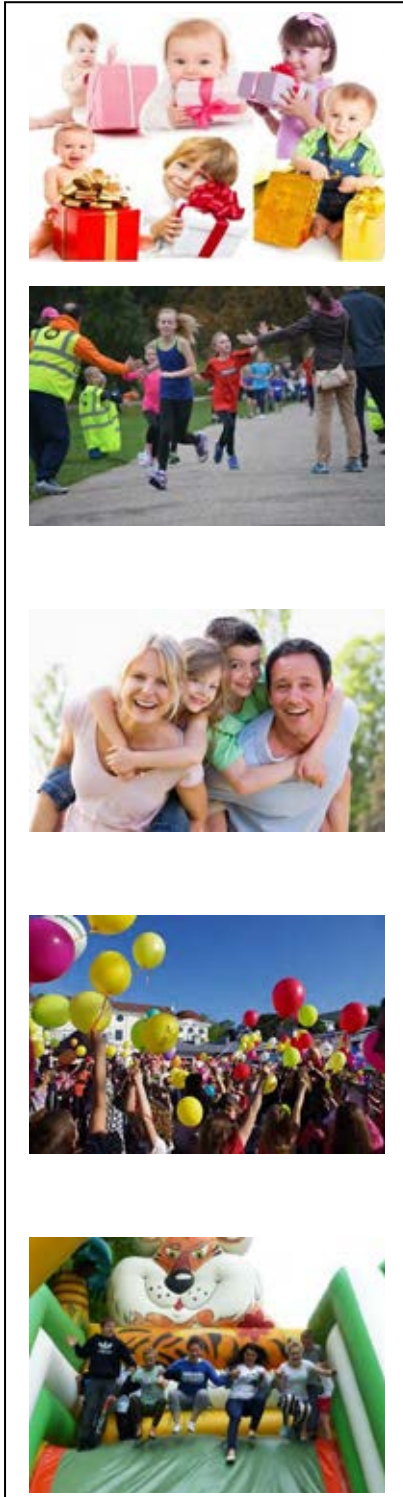
JUNE 1ST – CHILDREN'S DAY (DZIEŃ DZIECKA)

On this day children get presents from their parents and they celebrate it in many different ways. Some parents take their children to the cinema, to the amusement park, to the circus or on a trip.

Schools also organize some attractions for pupils like outdoor plays or the field trips.



Every year there are special festivals which take place in the city centre and the whole families can attend them.



15 June-Farewell to school

This is the last day of the school year, 15 June.

8th graders say goodbye to school on that day, because students spend eight years at primary school in Hungary.

7th graders decorate the school with beautiful flowers and green plants. Everybody wears neat clothes, students put on white and black.

Before the ceremony the classes walk around the school. They hold a flower and have a small bag which contains a photo of the school, a scone for the 'journey' and a farewell quotation.

At the ceremony the students and the headteacher makes a short speech to remember the past years. Other members of the family give flowers, presents and organise a dinner party for the kids.



July



August



SEPTEMBER





Festivals in september-Hungary

In Hungary, in September we have some important festivals.



11. September- The day of the „Hungarian song”

21. September- The day of the Hungarian Drama

30. September- The day of Folk Tale

szeptember 21.
*Magyar
Dráma
Napja*





SEPTEMBER 15TH – POLISH ARMY DAY (ŚWIĘTO WOJSKA POLSKIEGO)

We celebrate Polish Army Day on the 15 th of August to commemorate the victorious Battle of Warsaw in 1920, fought during the Polish-Soviet War.



Poland celebrates Polish Armed Forces Day with parades and ceremonies.



Every year to celebrate the day churches in Poland hold ceremonial Holy Mass for the intention of the fallen in the fields of glory.

October



SPAIN.



CEIP Antonio González de Lama.



Sunday before 5th October – LAS CANTADERAS



The "sotadera" with the young ladies who were led to Córdoba (in the south of Spain) where the Moslem caliphs lived.

The festival takes place in front of the Gothic Cathedral and it's one of our most ancient traditions in our town.



To understand this festival, you have to take into account the history of Spain. Around the IX th century, the Moslems invaded the Iberian Peninsula. Then, the Christians who lived there took shelter in the northern mountains. These Christians founded different kingdoms in the north. One of these medieval Kingdoms was León Kingdom.

According to a folk tradition Las Cantaderas" commemorates the Christian victory at the Battle of Clavijo and the liberation from the legendary tribute of the "hundred maidens" that the kings of León "had payed" annually to the Moslem caliphs for decades. This tribute came from a previous defeat of the Christians.

This festival takes place the Sunday before the 5th October, St Froilán's Day (a very important celebration in our town).

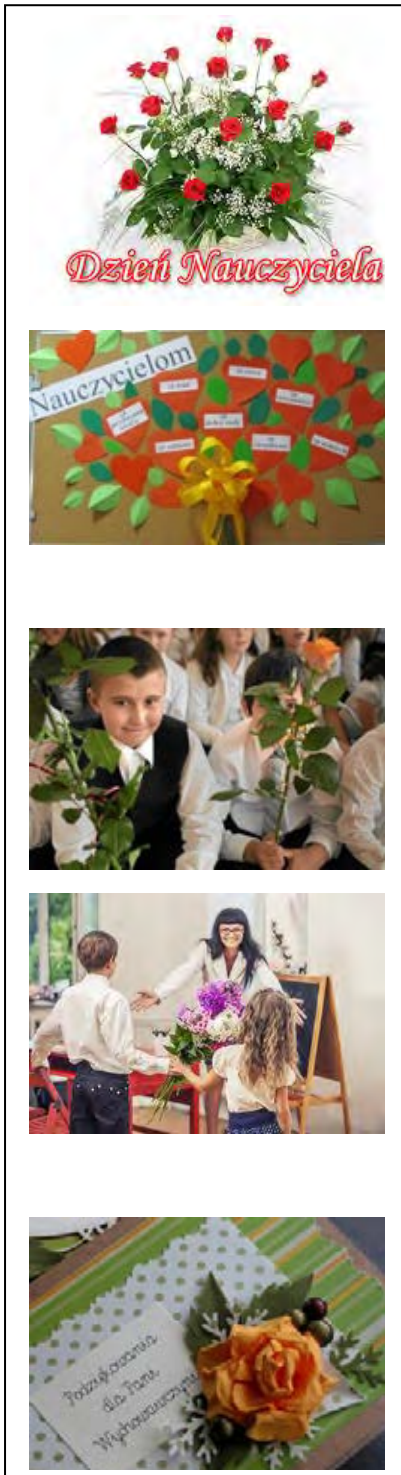
That day, young women in Medieval dress dance to the rhythm of the sotadera, a Moorish woman whose job it was to instruct them in Moslem customs, and proceed from the square in front of the old City Hall to the Cathedral behind the members of the Municipal Corporation, who make an offering to the Virgin.



OCTOBER 14TH – TEACHERS' DAY (DZIEŃ NAUCZYCIELA)

Teachers' Day is observed in Poland on 14 th October. It is also called The day of Education.

There are solemn assemblies at schools. Teachers receive flowers and wishes from students.



November





NOVEMBER 11TH – NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE DAY (ŚWIĘTO NIEPODLEGŁOŚCI)

ŚWIĘTO
NIEPODLEGŁOŚCI

This civil festival is celebrated on 11 November. It commemorates the anniversary of the restoration of Poland's sovereignty in 1918, after 123 years of partition by the Russian Empire, the Kingdom of Prussia and the Habsburg Empire. The Regency Government appointed Józef Pilsudski as commander in chief over the Polish forces and he was given complete civil control. He formed a new government.



On this day people post flags. Celebrations across the country will include firework displays, concerts and parades.





11 November Sint Maarten

(Saint Martin)

First we have a project about:

- * cooperation among pupils
- * helping each other
- * Sharing things with those who have less things

Then

we make Chinese lanterns. We work in groups with different ages, in every group there are pupils from 4-12 years old. The older ones help the young ones.

We also

Learn and sing Saint Martin songs.

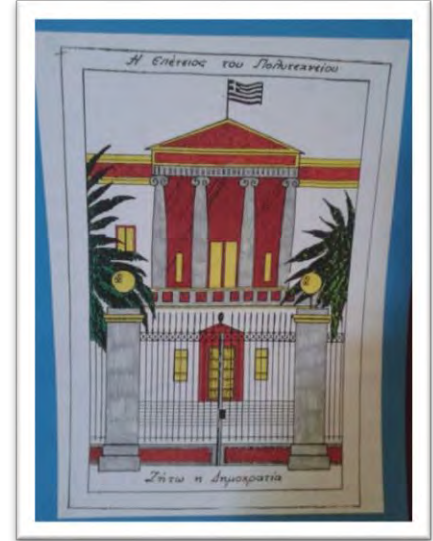
And finally we....

Have a parade, often in the dark. We are sitting around a little campfire and we sing the songs we learned. At the end of the ceremony there is bread for everyone.



THE SIT-IN IN THE POLYTECHNIC

- In **November 1973** students of the **Polytechnic School** in Athens and other people started a sit-in in the Polytechnic to protest against the dictators that governed the country since 1967.
- They also made a radio station and called all the people to join them.
- They asked for **“Bread, Education, Freedom”**
- **«ΨΩΜΙ, ΠΑΙΔΕΙΑ, ΕΛΕΥΘΕΡΙΑ»**



THE INVASION OF THE TANK

On 17th November the **dictators** (who were army officers) ordered **a tank** to go into the Polytechnic and the soldiers to shoot at the students. On that day a lot of people were killed but that was the beginning of the end of dictatorship in Greece.

CELEBRATION OF 17TH NOVEMBER

So, every November 17th **Schools** have celebrations with **poems, songs and short plays** to **remember those students who gave their lives for the Freedom** of our country and the freedom of speech in Education.

We also go to monuments and lay a flower in memory of these students.



December



6 December - Mikulás

In the evening before 6 December Hungarian children clean their boots and put one in the window before they go to bed.

Santa Claus comes at night and fills it with chocolate, sweets, nuts.

Naughty children get a '*virgács*' - gold coloured sticks with red ribbon.

At our school there's a Santa party. There's a competition among classes for the 'Most Creatively Dressed and Performed Santa Imitation'. Then we have fun together.

Santa also meets children in shopping centres, nursery schools, or in the street, sharing '*szaloncukor*' among children.



szaloncukor





Saint Nicholas and
Black Peter

December 6th Sinterklaas

(Saint Nicholas)



Saint Nicholas visits the pupils
in their classrooms



There are little performances
for Saint Nicholas



A personal talk to all the
pupils: sweets or
„punishment“?

We celebrate Saint Nicholas especially for the younger pupils, let's say from 1-4 (4 – 8 years), because they are the ones who still believe in Saint Nicholas.

Around November Saint Nicholas arrives in the Netherlands, coming from Spain in a steamer, together with his servant „black Peter“. In the Netherlands we have the discussion about the colour of „black Peter“, because some people think that „servant and black“ are symbols for discrimination. So some people changed „black Peter“ into „white Peter“ (or even other colours!).

Around December 4th or 5th, he visits the school and there are little performances by all the classes. Then all the pupils become little presents and, very important, sweets for those who were honest during the year, and „punishment for the bad ones“.

The oldest pupils have a surprise party in. They write a little poem for a classmate and make a surprise. In this surprise there should be a present.

At home in the evening children put their shoe with a carrot in it (for the horse of Saint Nicholas). In the night Saint Nicholas takes the carrot and puts a present in the shoe.



The oldest pupils and their surprise party



1-24 December - Advent

Wreath

There are 4 candles, 3 purple and 1 pink. The first candle is purple. It is the symbol of hope. The second candle is purple. It is the symbol of love. The third candle is pink. It is the symbol of joy. The fourth candle is purple. It symbol of peace. We light one more candle on each advent Sunday evening.



Gingerbread

People bake gingerbread. It is delicious.

Luca day - 13 December

There are lots of traditions. For example people plant wheat. On that day they start making Luca chairs. They finish it on 23 December. If you stand on it in the church at midnight mass on 24 December you will see who is a witch among the women.



Christmas in Hungary



Christmas is the most important festival for families. This is the time for buying presents and charity. All the buildings are decorated and there's a fair in each city.

At school we have a concert and a class party. We also have a Christmas fair where we can sell things we prepare at home.

Families buy their Christmas tree before Christmas and decorate it on 24 December. We hang baubles, lights and szaloncukor on it.

We eat dinner, mostly fish soup and beigli (cake filled with poppy seed or walnut). After dinner we find our presents under the Christmas tree and open them. Small children believe Jesus brings the presents. A lot of people go to a midnight mass that night.

On the two days of Christmas we relax, visit relatives, give and get presents, children play with their new toys and we eat a lot.

Our special Christmas dish is stuffed cabbage. In the last years a lot of families fry turkey.



SPAIN.



CEIP Antonio González de Lama.



Around Christmas – THE LEÓN CHRISTMAS BOUQUET.



El ramo leonés.



A very old tradition during Christmas in our city and in our region consists of placing in front of buildings, shops and houses a bouquet. But it's a very special kind of bouquet!

this bouquet is made of a wooden triangular shaped frame. Along the frame, there are twelve candles. These candles symbolize the months of the year. There are also different kinds of offerings hanging on this frame such as fruits, cakes, donuts, bows and so on... The frame is usually based on a wooden stick. People sometimes put a basket full of offerings (mainly nuts and chestnuts) next to this frame. In the centre of the frame, you can distinguish a branch of an evergreen tree: holly, yew, and so on....

In León, some people place this bouquet inside their homes instead of the well-known Christmas Trees (a very extended tradition in many countries)



Christmas and New Year in Greece Χριστούγεννα & Πρωτοχρονιά στην Ελλάδα

- Christmas in Greece is very nice and Greek people usually celebrate the birth of Christ with their family and relatives. At the beginning of December people start decorating their house. Nowadays most people decorate a Christmas tree, but in the past most people preferred to **decorate large or small wooden boats**.
- As Christmas approach women start making traditional Christmas sweets such as **melomakarona (honeyed cookies)**, **kourabiedes** (Christmas **cookies with icing sugar**) and **diples**.
- On Christmas and New Year's Eve, children all over Greece visit houses in their neighborhood and sing **carols**. People give them treats or some money.
- On New Year's Eve children go to bed early because **Saint Basil** is coming that night to leave presents under the Christmas tree.
- Families after the church mass have Christmas and New Year's dinner together, while they also share a very nice custom on New Year's Day: they make a special cake called "**Vassilopita**" – "**Saint Basil's pie**" and they hide a **coin** in it. Then they cut Vassilopita in pieces and the person who finds the coin is lucky throughout the next year. People also break a **pomegranate** at their front door **for good luck**, and they get into their house using their right foot.
- During **Epiphany**, which is celebrated on January 6th, the priest throws a **cross in the sea**, lake, or river. Young people dive in the waters and the person who finds the cross is blessed by God and everyone thinks that he is very brave and lucky!!!





December 25th Kerstmis

(Christmas)

Christmas is a very important celebration in our school.

First we start with the preparation of our christmas musical. All pupils of the school participate and when we have our performance all parents and grandparents are invited.



The christmas diner



All the classrooms are decorated with a christmas tree and other decorations.

And finally we have our famous christmas diner in all the classrooms. Parents (and older pupils) prepare a lot of delicious recipes. During the diner some children play music, christmas songs of course. And we all are wearing our party dress.



The musical

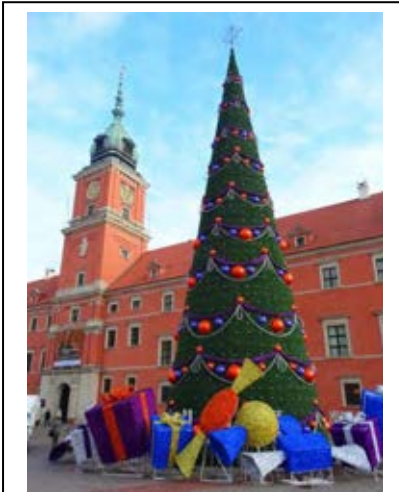




DECEMBER- CHRISTMAS (BOŻE NARODZENIE)

Christmas is a very important celebration for Polish people. We decorate our Christmas tree and send Christmas cards to friends and family. We also prepare special Christmas food.

For Polish people the most important is Christmas Eve. We have Christmas supper then. We share a holly wafer with the whole family then. Family members wish each other happy Christmas and a lot of joy in the coming year. In Poland, an additional seat is kept for somebody unknown at the supper table. This is a day of lent so there is no meat (except for fish) on the table. There should be 12 dishes served during the dinner, which stand for 12 apostles. We go to Midnight Mass and we open our Christmas presents on Christmas Eve.



During Christmas period we make **Nativity plays** at schools and in Churches and we sing Christmas carols.



Created by

Pamfila Primary School

Greece

Primary School "de Weijerhof"

the Netherlands

Scoala Gimnaziala Nr 1 Vladeni Romania

PTE Gyakorló Általános Iskola

Hungary

CEIP

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