



ANNOUNCEMENT:

SchoolNova at Stony Brook is now exempt from Federal income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. School is qualified to receive tax-deductible bequests, devises, transfers or gifts.

Principal's Note

By Marina Polonskaia

The spring issue of *NovaHerald* is my favorite – there are numerous things to write about: competitions and clubs, parties and celebrations, successes and failures.

This year was a challenge for the school – after 10 years of gradual growth – from 65 students in 2004 to 265 in 2014, the number of students rapidly increased by more than 25% over the summer of 2014. To accommodate this growth we had to add almost 20 classes and hire more teachers. We were very lucky to find 6 new amazing educators.

Apart from opening additional classes for existing courses, we added a *Physics 0* overview course aimed at 6-graders (read more in the following pages of this issue). We have also continued the courses *Chemistry* and *Information Technology* that we started last year. Last but not the least, a new very interesting course *Introduction to Physiology and Disease* was added to the syllabus in January 2015. I greatly recommend this course to our 7 – 10 graders. There is a separate article about this course below.

Further, we have opened three *clubs* (free of charge!): *Physics* aimed at grades 9 and 10, *Linear Algebra* – for grades 8-10 and *Math Problem Solving* for grades 5-7. The clubs target enthusiasts who will be exposed to the extra material not covered in regular classes.

The tremendous growth of the program over the years and the fact that some of our students are commuting for more than one hour each way every Sunday is the best testimony to the success of the school. Our teachers and staff are committed to maintain the quality of education SchoolNova has always provided. We want to keep relatively small classes and efficiently place new students to the classes that are the best fit for them. Last year we instituted mandatory placement tests for classes in very high demand, like math. We will continue doing this in the upcoming years. (*Continued on Page 8*)

Advanced English Classes

By Kara DeClemente, English Teacher

This year the students in Advance English A & B learned about the art of writing. They practiced and demonstrated the structural skills necessary to create fictional, argumentative and persuasive essays. Some of the students were asked to submit an essay to the “Listen to a Life” contest, a contest that bridged the generational gap between young and old (er). The students were asked to interview a grandparent or “grand friend”, asking the question, “What is something that has changed your life forever?” The interviews were then transformed into thought provoking and evocative essays. Students were also asked to come up with a controversial topic and argue for or against it. To complete this essay they had to demonstrate the modes of pathos, logos, and ethos and be prepared to defend their claims. Some of the students argued for animal rights and some students *tried* to argue for cell phone use in school. Constructing these essays, students learned how to “hook” the reader and leave a lasting impression.

Students welcome to the following events hosting by Stony Brook University:

- Public lectures at the Simons Center for Geometry and Physics are given by leading scientists coming to the campus. The lectures are announced on the Center's web site <http://www.scgp.stonybrook.edu/> and also by posters. The next lecture in the Della Pietra lecture series will be given by the Nobel Prize winner David Gross: <http://scgp.stonybrook.edu/scientific/public-lectures/della-pietra-lecture-series>
- Lectures on Astronomy, Physics, Geosciences, Ecology and Evolution are given almost every Friday night during school year. These lectures are targeted to the general audience and are given by faculty of the University on topics related to their research. Schedules and information can be found at: <http://www.astro.sunysb.edu/openight/opennite.html> Links to these and other activities recommended by SchoolNova can be found on the SchoolNova web page: <http://schoolnova.org/nova/activities>

In the Modern World, It's Necessary to "Think Systems"

By Lillianne R. Mujica-Parodi

My brother-in-law used to write tax code for senators in Congress. We had many late night discussions about his worries regarding the implications of introducing small changes in tax code, which had the potential to produce dramatic and surprising impacts on not only the U.S., but also global, economies. At the time, I asked him what I thought was a reasonable question, given the remarkable power that he wielded: what kind of modeling does the Senator's office do, before you release your policy changes to the world? The answer was: none. None of the policy-makers had the slightest idea how to do this, because statistical models are able to track linear relationships between two variables, but they aren't able to capture feedback.

This year, we're launching a new course, titled *Introduction to Physiology and Disease*. The course introduces students to complex systems analysis, using a hands-on approach to mathematical modeling of nested feedback loops in the body, degenerative disease processes associated with the degradation of those feedback loops, and the unique power of simulations to predict the trajectory of disease (i.e., prognosis). These are remarkably versatile techniques, and give students more than a taste of the future of individualized medicine, an intuitive feel for chaos theory, and allow them to see the same dynamics across many different scales and across many different subject matters. All the while, these students gain an intuitive understanding of differential equations and nonlinear systems.

How do we accomplish this for kids in high school? STELLA software meets the challenge of teaching young people to 'think systems' far before they have the mathematical skills to describe them quantitatively. Specifically designed for K-12, STELLA uses easy-to-manipulate graphics (stocks, flows, connectors, and converters) in order to graphically represent relationships and run simulations. As a teacher and interdisciplinary researcher, I believe that 'thinking systems' not only involves a mastery of specific techniques, but also represents a broad cognitive skill: literally a different way of thinking about the inter-related dynamics of the phenomena that surround us. As such, there are benefits in starting to teach systems at a relatively young age, because they inform innovative thinking about other subjects. Many of the most interesting features of the world *are* systems, maintained by negative feedback loops, and the societal implications for breakdown of these systems can be catastrophic. Systems-based phenomena are, for example, as varied as species collapse caused by predator-prey-food imbalance following deforestation, global warming, the rise and fall of terrorist networks, and the 2008 U.S. housing market collapse. *(Continued on Page 5)*

Math Problem Solving Club

By Corina Mata, Math Teacher

The math club for middle school was started to give the opportunity to our students to meet and work together on problems given at different math competitions like AMC 8 and Math Kangaroo. Usually, in math classes we concentrate on interesting new topics, and we learn about proofs. In math club, there is more time to go over competition problems, methods to solve them and reviewing different topics. There is an energy going around bouncing from student to student, the wish to be the first to solve the problem, or to see a shortcut or to find another solution. This excitement about math is what ultimately makes one a better problem solver, be it from math class or math club.

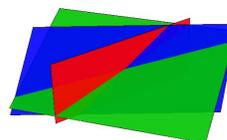
I very much appreciate the effort these kids are making when they come to this club after they are done with their classes and I hope that next year we will be able to reach more students that couldn't make it because of conflicts in their schedule.

Linear Algebra Club

By Alexander Frenkel

Linear Algebra is one of the pillars of higher mathematics, of equal importance to even calculus. This club was started in spring of 2011 in an effort to expose students to interesting concepts from linear algebra that serve to expose them to the fundamental philosophy of this pillar. The club begins with talking about the origin of matrices and matrix algebra from systems of linear equations, and samples topics ranging from properties of Cartesian geometry (particularly linear and affine transformations) to quaternions to properties of matrices. Applications are also emphasized.

The club is digestible for anyone with a background in some algebra and geometry, and all interested students, particularly those interested in STEM fields, are encouraged to attend. It meets every day when the organizer is present at school nova. Although the original organizer is leaving for college next semester, he is searching for a replacement so that the club will be available for future students.



Seven years journey

By Olga Kosobokova,

Earth Science and Science teacher

This year SchoolNova continues to offer classes in Earth Science and Science, a 2-year lecture course intended to precede our new 5-year Physics curriculum.

Both ES and S courses have been considerably revised to include the most interesting and engaging material that encourages children to actively participate in class. The best part – to reinforce and check our knowledge, we play games (come join)!

Earth Science (4-6 grade) embraces astronomy, geography, geophysics, and climate related topics; time permitting, we will also explore the biosphere and history of life on Earth. During the course, children are guided to develop a general consolidated picture of “how the Earth goes”.

Science class is open to young students entering 5-6 grade (10-12 years old). Children at this age transition from the simple “why” to more mature “by what means” as they observe and learn more and more facts about Nature. My goal is to initiate linking the solitary facts together and to their underlying causes. We begin with defining the scientific method, then dive into several important basic concepts like matter, atom, light, and energy. At the end of the school year, I hope to emerge holding it all in one (left) hand, interconnected effortlessly... The course also includes selected topics from biology.

Both classes include analysis of real-life observations, a bit of history, and a lot of visual support to cultivate interest and ability to put up questions. Simultaneously taking Math classes, children acquire initial gear needed to begin formal Physics study.



Better Early Than Never

By Alexei Tkachenko, Physics Teacher

If you ask people around, ‘What is the toughest subject in school?’- Physics is a common answer. Perhaps, that is why US students don’t normally study Physics until 11th or 12th grade. Ironically, that late start is exactly the reason why Physics has got its reputation of being hard. There are simply too many new concepts and all those scary looking formulas. It is simply impossible to master the art of solving physics problems without getting comfortable with those concepts and laws, and yes, you have to use math.

In SchoolNova we strongly believe that kids should start learning Physics early, and do it gradually. Above all, this should be fun rather than torture. After all, this is a class that has more demonstrations and experiments than all others combined. How early can and should one start. In the past we recommended 7th grade as an optimal level for initiation in Physics. Our standard Physics 1 curriculum is almost exclusively devoted to Mechanics, and it is not unlike a regular High School class, yet taught at slower pace. This year, for the first time, we offer Physics 0 classes. They fill the gap between our Earth Science/ Science courses and a more challenging Physics 1.

The class is intended for 6-7 graders. And it is basically a preview of all Physics at once. We start with simple motion and Newton Laws, continue with various forms of Energy, and conclude the course with elements of electricity and optics. We play a lot with demonstrations (kindly provided by Stony Brook Physics Department). We learn what Force, Energy, Power and Work actually mean. We try to figure out how things work, from atoms to the Universe.

Physics Club

The other experimental endeavor that we run this year is Physics Club intended for advanced students. In this club, we closely follow the classical online course taught by a former MIT professor Walter Lewin. The students watch online lectures independently, and then meet for discussions and practice in problem solving. The lectures themselves are both highly entertaining and insightful, making them a great introduction to the world of online University-level education.

Lets Talk in Russian

By Mila Samoylova, Speech Pathologist

For the past few years I have consulted many Russian-speaking families, helping their children with overcoming speech difficulties. Many parents are on a mission to maintain fluency of the Russian language for their children.

Living in a country where a different language is spoken, it may often become difficult for children to retain the Russian language. As we would say here in America "If you don't use it you lose it". This is why SchoolNova is here to help!

I have consulted many families with all types of living situations. Some families are learning English as a second language and want to make sure that their children continue to speak their native language. Some families already have multiple languages spoken at home and need help with basic language skills. Others whose children were born in the U.S and want Russian as a second language. Whatever the case, I want to emphasize the importance of lessons on a regular basis.

During this time I have worked with children from three years old to fifteen years old. Sometimes the issue is only the pronunciation of sounds, and other times it is the lack of grammar and vocabulary for verbal communication in a family setting.

Our school offers excellent Russian Language lessons with several levels of difficulty. However, if the child does not start classes in the very young age, he or she may experience language delays within the class. I strongly recommend not getting discouraged. I suggest that your child would take individual lessons with a Speech Pathologist or lessons in small groups with no more then two or three children at once until a child will be ready to join the regular classes. SchoolNova only operates on Sundays and this may not be enough for some children. It is very important to dedicate time at home.

If you feel that your child is experiencing speech challenges and you would like to consult with a Speech Pathologist please feel free to contact me at (631) 741-5577 or via email at Milacalogero@gmail.com. Please be advised that for all School Nova students, the first consultation/evaluation is FREE.



Advocates for Gifted Education in Three Village

By Tanya Adams, Co-President of 3VSAGE

An acronym for Three Village Schools-Advocates for Gifted Education, 3VSAGE seeks to bring parents, teachers, and administrators together to meet the educational needs of our talented learners within our district and the Three Village vicinity. 3VSAGE is a local chapter of AGATE NYS, Advocacy for Gifted And Talented Education in New York State.

As a parent of a gifted child, you may have noticed that your child not only asks many questions, but also has the drive to find answers. Perhaps your child can't read enough about a certain topic, and you find her correcting adults about her favorite subject. Or maybe your child seems to prefer the conversations of older kids and adults to those of his peers. Many parents think that their gifted child is "just a regular kid," and fail to recognize that their child's abilities are not being adequately challenged, and their curiosity is at risk of fading.

We at 3VSAGE recognize the need to advocate for those children that have high learning potential. We, as an educational community, have an obligation to help every child meet his or her individual potential.

Unfortunately, gifted children often go unrecognized, or their needs not met for many reasons. We are fortunate that Three Village has many resources for our gifted students. We at 3VSAGE wish to provide a forum of support for meeting the needs of talented learners at all levels of education for our children. From kindergarten screening, elementary classroom differentiation, and gifted education placement, to honors and AP classes in the junior and high school levels, gifted children need to be identified and challenged. Ideas for extra curricular and enrichment opportunities are also discussed. Like-minded parents are welcome to attend our monthly meetings which include open discussions and formal lectures, depending on the agenda. You can find our meetings by checking the main calendar on the Three Village Central School District web site at <http://www.threevillagecsd.org/Calendar/Default.aspx>

If you would like to join our cause, or need information on how you can identify and support the learning needs of your child, please contact us at info@3vsage.org. Together, our voices are strong.

Theater – Studio "Dragonfly" presents a new production based on stories by V. Dragunsky

“When I Will Grow Little”

Sunday, March 29 @ 2 PM, room S240

A Hidden Life

By Carolyn Liu, 5th Grade

My grandma was only 12 and working hard at home, sewing, cooking and washing clothes when Japan invaded and sent her whole life tumbling.

In 1938, my grandmother fled from Wuhan, a Chinese city, with only the clothes on her back, the money in her pocket, her little sister who was only 6 years old, and her aunt. Fleeing to Hunan, a Chinese province, they took trains, boats, and buses. Sometimes, they had to walk, and were dreadfully tired after the ordeal. Then, as if that wasn't enough, they had to get to Hunan before Japan found them, which made it doubly hard.

Arriving in Hunan, they were quite poor and needed money. There was only one way to do that; they had to work. This wouldn't give her any time to go to school, so she couldn't learn. Even if she had time, they only made enough money for one person to go to school, so that person had to be her sister. My grandmother would work hard every day, doing things like washing clothes and passing out newspapers to people.

Staying at Hunan for 8 years, the ordeal took several years out of her life. Years that could have been spent at school learning about the world. She could have been making friends instead of hiding in Hunan and worrying every day.

My grandma was 20 when she finally left Hunan. A young adult, she had no education in Hunan. But she learned, and taught me to "Cherish all you have. For what you take granted, others might covet." She says that with a certain remembrance in her eyes, one of both pain and understanding.

From Page 2 – By Lillian R. Mujica-Parodi

In the first few classes, students mastered basic dynamics: modeling and simulating simple linear vs. nonlinear relationships, overshoot and collapse dynamics in dysregulated systems, and the correction of those systems to oscillations characteristic of stable homeostatic regulation. We also learned important techniques, such as tuning our models within upper and lower boundaries (like making sure a drug is strong enough to work, without becoming toxic) and doing optimization using sensitivity analyses. Now we start applying those techniques to model different systems in the body: first metabolic regulation (Type 1, 2 diabetes), and then other systems (neural, autonomic, endocrine, etc.) in the body as well.

Teaching students to think in a systems-based way not only prepares students to approach the direction towards which science and medicine are moving, but also teaches students to think more holistically and analytically about the wider world around them. Who knows? Maybe Congress will be giving them a call.

Let's stop cutting down too many trees!

By Neal Carpino, 5th Grade

Have you ever wondered what Earth would be like with no life? That could happen if we cut down most of the trees in the world. I believe that cutting down lots of trees would be terrible. It hurts the environment, the planet, humans, and animals. It destroys the homes of animals that live in trees, it contributes to global warming, it causes floods, it increases CO2 levels in the atmosphere, and it causes droughts.

Cutting down trees contributes to global warming because trees reduce greenhouse gases. Global warming is when the planet heats up because greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide and methane trap heat from the sun. Most animal species would not survive this excess heat. In the past 100 years the average temperature has raised 1.6 degrees Fahrenheit. Scientists estimate the average temperature in 2100 will rise 10 degrees more! Scientists think that more forest fires will be caused by this heat, resulting in more destruction of forests. The koala bear, many types of birds, insects, and the giant panda have been affected because of global warming. Cutting down trees contributes to global warming by increasing carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. The levels of carbon dioxide have risen drastically in the last 100 years and more trees are necessary to reduce greenhouse gases.

Cutting down trees also destroys the homes of birds and animals that live in trees. Many birds were killed after their homes were destroyed because of deforestation in the Amazon rainforest before scientists were able to study them. In this way, rare species that we may not know about may be extinct because of deforestation.

Cutting down trees also leads to floods. Roots of trees make gaps in the soil so water can seep into the ground. When trees are uprooted, the gaps close and the soil is pushed down. Rainwater builds up overtime, which causes floods and droughts. Cutting down trees also causes droughts because forests help cause rainfall. If forests disappear, the damage is severe and soil will become hard and dry which makes it unavailable for plant life and farming.

Clearly, you can see from these reasons and evidence that cutting too many trees is terrible. We should stop deforestation once and for all. This may save the environment and planet Earth.

Do you know that SchoolNova has a Facebook page?

Like us on Facebook!

<https://www.facebook.com/schoolnova>

Bump in the Road

By Catherine Jiang, 8th Grade

After a long and difficult day, my uncle headed back to his old dingy home. This was during the Chinese Revolution, and his parents were put in labor camps. They were part of their cities newspaper, and they were part of a very powerful family. This left his little sister and his older brother alone in the world. They worked for money on the farms in the rural areas of Hunan. He hoped for a chance to get his old life back and go back to school.

There was nothing else my uncle could do other than work and hope that his parents return safely. He could not go back to school because of his parents' "arrest." So, he and his brother worked tirelessly to support themselves, while his little sister cooked and cleaned, playing the motherly role in their relationship. They were only pre-teens at the time.

A few years later, their life was back together. Over time, my uncle and his siblings were able to go back to school and his parents were released from the labor camps. He said, "I remember in the beginning of this journey I saw my little sister standing at the window of a school classroom; she was trying to learn from outside of the classroom. Watching that killed me, as a brother I worked my butt off to get her back in that classroom." This was his main motivation, to give his little sister the life she deserved.

My uncle's life slowly fell back into place. He graduated high school and studied journalism. He now works for his family's newspaper. My uncle said to me, "I'd like to consider that time in my life just a bump. My advice for anybody is to always have hope, because hope can get you through anything." I have never met anybody so motivated.

10 Years with International Math Kangaroo

SchoolNova became an official center for Math Kangaroo in 2006. Back then only 800 students around the country participated in the contest. Last year there were almost 17,000 participants from USA.

Math Kangaroo competition originated in Australia and became very popular in France in the 1990s. Today it is held in 52 countries and more than 6 million students participate.

SchoolNova will host 2015 Math Kangaroo on Thursday, March 19, 2015.

We gratefully acknowledge the support of the Department of Physics and Astronomy at Stony Brook University and Simons Center for Geometry and Physics

An Exhausting Journey

By Lara Caraiani, 5th Grade

In the late 20th century, Romania was a communist country. The country and the people were very poor. During this time of sorrow a woman was born. Her name was Marilena. Marilena became a strong woman who learned a lot in school.

She was a very bright girl and in tenth grade she decided that she wanted to become a physician. She thought that being a physician was both challenging and skillful. She knew that she would become a very skilled physician.

When she finished medical school she started working as a physician in a village. This was because there was a lack of physicians in the village and she was forced to go there. In the village where she lived there was no electricity, hot water, or food. She didn't have any patients to practice her medicine on, and she also didn't have any medicine!

Back in Romania, under the communist regime you couldn't open your own medical office. The government would send you to work where they needed you. This made her want to move to America with her husband where she would have better opportunities.

Despite the better conditions here, it was very complicated for her. She had to learn English from scratch and redo medical school in English. She also had to pass the medical boards and exams in English, when she didn't fully understand English yet.

She came to America because she thought it was the best country in the world. She passed her boards and became a successful physician. She opened her own practice on Long Island. She raised a beautiful daughter named Madalina.

Right now she is living in a wonderful house with her daughter, husband, and her mom. In her spare time she feeds and takes care of stray cats without homes.

Knowing what hardships Marilena had to endure makes me feel ready to face any challenge!



Problem of the Month – Season 2014-15

By Igor Zaliznyak, Chair of PoM Committee

The 2014-2015 Problem of the Month (POM) season came to an end. Solutions to the last problem set for the month of February, 2015, have been posted, submissions are closed, and we are in the process of grading the February submissions and identifying the winners. We expect that the finals scores and the winners will be announced on the first day of April. We hope that our POM participants had great time solving POM problems that we have offered in 2014 and 2015, and will be anxiously waiting for the next year's season.

This is the third time that POM contest has been held. It is a competition that is open to students in 10th grade or younger, regardless of what state/country they live in. The goal of the POM contest is to stimulate inquisitive minds and cultivate student's interest in science and math. Each month, POM Organizers offered a set of 10 problems in Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, and Computer Science. Following a long-standing tradition, many of our problems are original, and have been devised by Sigma POM staffs who are practicing scientists, specifically for the POM competition. We hope that solving our problems students learnt something new, entertained their intellect and curiosity, and finally experienced satisfaction of a little discovery while putting together pieces of these little scientific puzzles. Some of our best problems and best student's solutions can be found at <http://sigmacamp.org/problem-of-the-month/best>.

Not only POM presented an opportunity for students to compete with their peers, but also to get accepted to SigmaCamp 2015, and to win well deserved prizes. We sincerely congratulate our POM top performers on an early admission to the Sigma Camp! And for all participants who worked hard and succeeded in solving many of our POM sets, there will be a number of exciting prizes for the winners in different categories.

Finally, POM Organizers are always looking for interested and qualified volunteers among SchoolNova alumni and staff, who would like to contribute problems and ideas, or participate in grading student's submission. Please feel free to write us to pom@sigmacamp.org if you would like to volunteer and participate in one or more of POM subjects, or with any other feedback you might have.

SigmaCamp 2015

By Daniil Lukin

SigmaCamp is a math and science sleepaway summer program for 12-16 year olds. Sigma brings together students from a number of states and countries, as well as leading research scientists and college students from top universities, and gives us a week to explore science in a wonderful atmosphere of scientific curiosity and down-to-earth friendship -- we call that atmosphere the SigmaSpirit.

Some of our campers say that things they learned at SigmaCamp they could not have learned anywhere else. We think it is a bit of an exaggeration, but it is certainly true that some of the topics you may encounter at semilabs (what we call a lab class) you would otherwise learn only if you knew where to look. For example, did you know that chocolate could crystallize in different ways, depending on how it is cooled? Did you know that the way it crystallizes affects its taste? Perform the experiment yourself by leaving a chocolate bar in your car on a hot day! You can see the variety of semilabs and workshops that we offered last year here: sigmacamp.org/2014/semilabs

What else do we do at SigmaCamp? As it turns out, anything we put our mind to. Sensor-monitored mafia? Check. Ballroom dance classes? Check. Soccer? Musical performances? Ping-pong? Settlers of Catan? Check. All of the above happens impromptu and unscheduled, and although what we do best is science, as it turns out, we're pretty good at a variety of things.

The 2015 season will be Sigma's 4th birthday. If you'd like to be there for the party (which starts on the first day of camp, and ends on the last, like every year), make sure to apply soon – we ask applicants to solve challenging problems (the Qualification Quiz), request two letters of recommendation, and write a short essay. You can apply here: sigmacamp.org/2015/apply



A Few Words about Reading

By Tanya Tcherevick, Russian Language Teacher

Mark Twain once said: “The man who does not read good books has no advantage over the man who can't read”.

I can't agree more with these words. Although in the modern world there are numerous ways of collecting information, books and magazines remain a leading source of education. As a matter of fact, reading has been having a profound effect on the human civilization. Scientists are certain that in the course of evolution the reading activity rewired the human brain. And besides, reading is simply entertaining.

Reading also helps to learn foreign languages. At SchoolNova, our students have a great opportunity to study French, Russian, and Spanish. Unfortunately, having a lesson just once per week is not enough for effective language acquisition. That is why everyday reading becomes an important tool for successful education. As a teacher I attest that students, who read Russian books regularly, together with their parents or independently, have a more extensive vocabulary and better memory skills.

My students often ask for suggestions on choosing a book. For those, who want to read but do not know where to start, here is a collection of Russian books or books translated to Russian for kids between the ages 5 and 7. I hope other SchoolNova teachers will be able to join in by sharing their collections of recommended books.



Without further ado, here is the list:

1. “Bada and zocks” by Irina and Leonid Tuhtiaevs (Бада и зоки – Ирина и Леонид Тухтяевы). It is a story of unlikely friendship between big, furry, order loving Bada and yellow, round, and absolutely empty inside zocks.
2. «Pencil and Samodelkin travel to the Moon» by Valentin Postnikov («Карандаш и Самodelкин на Луне» Валентин Постников). My students who already read the book highly recommend it.

From Page 1 – by Marina Polonskaia

Having a large number of students leads to space and scheduling limitations. There is no more classroom space to expand to, and we are trying to provide the convenient schedule for the families with several children making sure that they are able to bring siblings of different age to the school at the same time. Therefore, for the time being we made a tough decision not to grow further in 2015 – 2016 academic year. Consequently we'll ask for more responsibility with respect to attendance from all enrolled students.

There will be some changes next year, such as providing parents an option of paying tuition online and collecting all important information in the application package. We plan to announce all these changes shortly through the SchoolNova's webpage and the email distribution lists.

To handle the increasing volume of questions to School Nova management, I encourage parents and students to use email info@schoolnova.org to contact us.

3. «About smart puppy Sonia» by Andrei Usachev («Умная собачка Соня» Андрей Усачев). Sonia is a polite dog of unknown breed. Yet her life is not a stroll in the park. Sometimes life learning lesson is not about eating a can of mustard!

4. Birthday cake and other stories by Sven Noordkvist («Именинный пирог» и другие истории - Свен Нурдквист) In few words, baking can become a very, very risky, complicated business.

5. «Baron Munchausen's narrative of his marvelous travels... » by Rudolf E. Raspe (translation by K.I. Chukovsky) («Рассказы барона Мюнхгаузена о его изумительных путешествиях» - Рудольф Распе (в переводе Чуковского)) Baron's stories in translation by Korney Chukovskiy is a delightful reading. Not to be missed!

How Can I Help SchoolNova?

- Donations to SchoolNova are tax deductible now. Contributions from individuals, foundations and corporations are welcome.
- Volunteers are always needed to help teachers and staff.
- If you are interested write to info@schoolnova.org