

# amazon shake



prom  
edition  
a x b

# our crew

## **editorial**

Betty Ružičková

Ana Ceran (layout)

## **authors**

Sophia Stoltz

Matthew Adams

Iryna Melnyk

Valentina Lazzari

Alex Baráková

Iggy Ceran (covers)

Kristýna Chroustová

Adéla Šádková

# welcome to amazon shake prom edition

## contents

5 Dear readers

6- 15 Current events section

6 - 7 Shortly

8 - 9 Events in Prague

10 -11 Events at Amazon

12- 14 Berlin trip

15 Arsenal in trouble

16 - It's all about the Seniors:

16 -17 Collage

18 - 19 Interview:

A. Fojtíková

20 - 33 Meet the Seniors

34 - 35 Exclusive:  
Jackson vs. Ford

36 Interview with Miss  
Charvatova

37 Exclusive: The secret  
of our school's name

38 - 39 The big surprise

40 - 46 Creative writing



Also we would like to thank Mr. Schroedter, Mr. Weintraub and Mr. Jackson for correcting all the articles, all the students and teachers for the interviews, Vlada Muse and Adam Rohlík for the pictures from Christmas at Amazon. And a special thank you to our Director Eva Kudrnová and to Pavla Bajuszová for all their help.

ANGLICKO - ČESKÉ  
**GYMNÁZIUM**

**AMAZON**



Dear readers,

I am glad that you have decided to read  
(not only flick through) the Amazon Shake.

It is a pleasure to be able to work together with other people and  
to create something that has a great value. As always I invite you  
to join us, because there is never enough  
talent or imagination!

Let's start with a little flashback and then fly back to the present.  
It's 2012. The torch is on the move. The Seniors pass it on to the  
current Juniors. Time flies by and the Juniors become Seniors  
themselves. And after a year we are here, reunited at SASAZU to  
see the torch move on again.

Four years ago young children (no offence to anyone) have  
walked thru the doors at AMAZON, time flew, their knowledge  
grew, the school moved to a new address, trips took place and  
even some naughtiness went on. More new kids came in and  
some have left and now there is a group of 49 young adults (I  
don't think they are kids any more), who are facing decisions like  
never before. The tests of their life await them, graduation, univer-  
sities and leaving home. The life of adults is really upon them.

As promised, we focus on the 49. We bring you a profile of each  
and every one of them. Also, all the usual stuff is included. Where  
to go in Prague? What is happening out there in the big wide  
world? New talent can be found in the Creative Writing section  
and we look back at what happened at AMAZON in the past few  
months. We also bring you exclusive interviews with Mr. Jackson  
and Miss Charvátová! Find out more about the history of proms.  
And read a bit further on to find a little surprise that I managed to  
organise.

Before you start reading on, before you put the Shake down and  
you start dancing let me wish each and every Senior good luck in  
their life. Let us hope they reach their goals, that they overcome  
all obstacles, that they find true love and that they always carry  
hope in their hearts. Let us hope that they become the people  
they want to be and that they will be able to be proud of them-  
selves. Let's maintain the friendships that we have created, no  
matter how far apart we may be. And maybe let us also create  
new ones that might too last a life time.

Now it is time to dance, to enjoy the magical moments.

Just do not fail to remember that there is always hope and that  
you do not ever have to be alone.

dear  
readers

XOXO

Betty Růžičková  
The Editor in Chief

## movies

Movie-going in 2013 will once again be filled with prequels, sequels, remakes. In May, Robert Downey, Jr. will reprise his role as billionaire Tony Stark and a technologically advanced superhero in Iron Man 3. Besides the Marvel superhero, the summer season will lead off with a 12th feature-length Star Trek movie, The Hangover: Part III where boys would experience their third adventure, a Great Gatsby remake, and Fast and Furious 6 with Vin Diesel and Paul Walker. A second installment of the mythology-laced Thor, a Johnny Depp-led remake of The Lone Ranger, the second installment in The Hunger Games franchise, and Sam Raimi's Oz: The Great And Powerful, will likely be huge box office hits too.

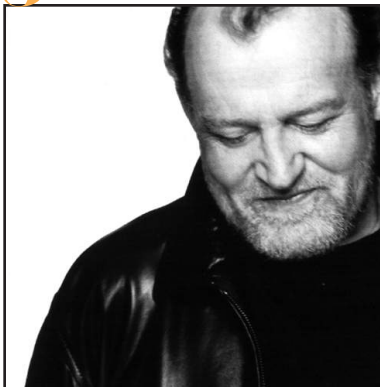
1



2



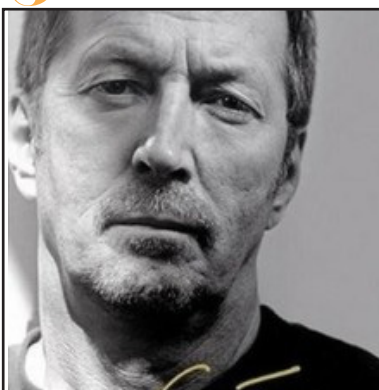
3



4



5



6



**1** British soul-pop singer Jessie Ware will visit Prague for the first time on March 21 at Prague's Palác Akropolis. Go and listen to a brilliant voice of new soul queen.

**2** Pink has been to Prague several times, but on May 10 she will return again. The planned concert will be arranged in the most popular concert venue in Prague, in the O2 Arena.

**3** Joe Cocker. English rock and blues singer, who came to popularity in the 1960s (Woodstock!). He is known for his husky voice and his cover versions of popular songs, for instance songs by The Beatles. He will be here on May 19.

**4** British dubstep-electronic band Modestep is going on tour Evolution Theory, during which they will also make a stop in Prague's renowned club Roxy – on February 27, 2013

**5** Celebrating 50 years as a professional musician, Eric Clapton announced a limited number of 2013 European concerts including a show in Prague! After signing with the Yardbirds in 1963, Clapton began a career as a professional musician that has seen numerous bands, an abundance of albums and countless worldwide sold out shows. Enjoy his talent on June 19.

**6** Depeche Mode Tour 2013 is an upcoming 2013 worldwide concert tour by English electronic band Depeche Mode in support of the group's 13th studio album, Delta Machine, due for release in March 2013. Their concert in Prague will be on July 23.

## Politics in the world

Elections in Italy, February 24-25. Italians will be going to the polls early, with voting taking place over two days. Berlusconi, who resigned in November 2011, hopes to become prime minister for the fourth time.

Elections in Kenya: March 4. General elections will be held in Kenya on 4 March 2013, electing the President, Senators, County Governors, Members of Parliament, Civic Wards and Women County Representatives. They will be the first elections held under the new constitution, which was passed during the 2010 referendum.

G20 Summit in St. Petersburg, Russia: September 5-6. Russia will host the summit of the Group of 20 leading economies in Sep. 5-6 2013. The hosting venue will be the Constantine Palace in Saint Petersburg, Russia. Russia wants to discuss on a growth: growth through quality jobs and investment;; growth through trust and transparency; growth through effective regulation.

## shortly

### Events to watch for in 2013

#### Curiosity

International day of happiness: March 20. This year we will have our first international day of happiness. In 2012, the United Nations (UN) declared March 20 to be observed as the International Day of Happiness. The day recognizes that happiness is a fundamental human goal, and calls upon countries to approach public policies in ways that improve the well being of all peoples. The initiative to declare a day of happiness came from Bhutan – a country whose citizens are considered to be some of the happiest people in the world. So... Don't worry, be happy! At least on the third Wednesday in March.

Iryna Melnyk

# events in prague

## VISIT OF NEW METRO!

**S**ome of us had this amazing opportunity to see how giant and huge machines are moving underneath us without us knowing. We went to see how the building of a new metro station of the A route was. It was a wonderful idea of the company "METROSTAV" to make this "world of underground" much closer to us. You had the chance to find out, how everything actually started to be built and how everything was so complicated because of having to make every tiny piece of centimetre in the ground calculated so that the trains could ride under the ground. This special 3 kilometres long walk through the future metro tunnel gave you also an opportunity of participating in a competition. If you found all the places, where there was a little kiosk and you collected all the stamps on your card you could win something. I never thought about how the Czechs are actually very competitive people (In other words; the lines of people in the tunnel were as long as if the people were waiting for Santa to come - Oh yes, he exists!) The interest was enormous, around 17 500 people made the 3 kilometres long walk! The mayor Bohuslav Svoboda was present the whole afternoon. The extension of the metro from Dejvicka is being built since 2010 and you can take your first train next year in November.

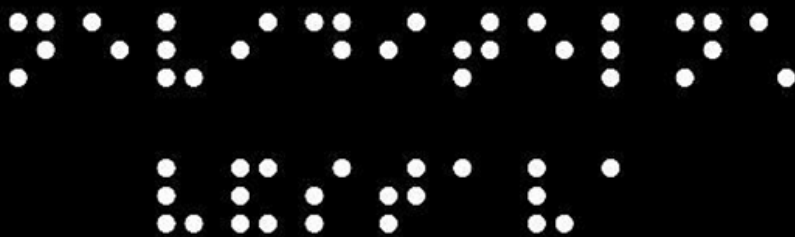


Imagine that all the lights go out...The invisible exhibition in Prague is a unique event –an interactive journey to an invisible world, where in total darkness you will find your way only by touch, sound and scent. At the exhibition the participants obtain information exclusively through touch, hearing, scent and their sense of balance. This way, in a new situation caused by the loss of sight, despite the difficulties, they can experience that the world can be still as beautiful as it is without this key sense.

The exhibition brings the world with and without sight much closer to each other and teaches through positive experiences how we can help the people without sight, even more- to understand them.

For more specific informations please visit: <http://neviditelna.cz/>

# NEVIDITELNÁ VÝSTAVA



## culture move

### TROILUS AND KRESSIDA – first time in a National Theatre!

Shakespeare's tragic-comedy about a world, where the human's emotions, feelings and gratitude are falling apart. Every piece of the human's existence that is very accepted, expected and accredited is falling into...well a damp. Like if no one knew what is going on, like if no one knew how to make the world stop being completely destroyed. In a Shakespeare's masterpiece is reaching today on enormous power by David Radok who was his most inspiring person. David Radok is a Czech-Slovak theatrical director, son of Alfred Radok. In the National Theater he already produced these operas : Otjcek, Kouzelná flétna, Giovanni. In the theatre archa he directed Havel's leaving. In the Turning theatre in Český Krumlov, he introduced Shakespeare's comedy: How do you like?

Alex B.

## events at amazon

### *Looking back at Christmas*

On December 20th we have gathered at Koprunká street to go and have a listen to Česká mše vánoční by Jakub Jan Ryba. At first, we were slightly shocked to see only small kids from various primary schools in the audience, but in the end I dare say that the performance of the students from Prague's conservatory was pleasant.

The whole concert was about an hour long, and at the end there was a surprise, or an early Christmas present if you like, waiting for us! Not many were happy to find out that it required them to sing along a couple of Christmas carols accompanied by the orchestra. After the singing, we left Casa Gelmi for lunch, and, after that, we all returned to school for our afternoon activities.

On our return, we found all the materials necessary to make a doll ready for us. Threads, cloths, cotton, etc... To the great surprise of all the teachers, all the students eagerly started to work on their own dolls.

Professor Hamříková was very willing and helpful to anyone who needed (or wanted to) learn how to use the sewing machine. And who else than our favourite Mr. Jackson became the most intrigued person of all. He and the sewing machine soon became best friends.

Each doll came out different. Some are reminiscent to babies in nappies, some have trendy jeans, and others look like gorgeous little princesses.

December 21st should have brought us the end of the world but it didn't occur, so our doll making could continue without any interruption.

The dolls were all finished and we were really pleased with the results! The good atmosphere at school was created by all the happy and hard-working people – student and teachers alike.

Cukroví weren't missing and some old and notorious Christmas carols playing from YouTube.

Now we hope that all the money raised is going to serve its cause, and that all our "babies" will get nice adoptive parents.

Betty R.

"It's about Europe, it's about you", that's the motto for the year 2013, the European Year of Citizens and especially about Youth.

100 students have been picked from one school in each Member State. Every school has three pupils, who are invited to Brussels to discuss political priorities for years 2013-2015 and suggest their view to the European Union.

Our school is one of the lucky schools that have been chosen to represent our state on this annual event. "Wohooow....": :)

Your Europe, Your Say

The interest in our school was great, but only the best "won".

We can congratulate to and support our 3 representatives, Betty Růžičková, Valentina Lazzari and Iggy Ceran, it is huge opportunity and it shall be an unforgettable experience.

We hope this will be a successful year full of good suggestions and views for our future.

If you want to participate and donate your ideas and you have been not selected, you can also follow this event on websites and social web pages.

Kristýna Chroustová





# christmas at amazon





# berlin twenty twelve

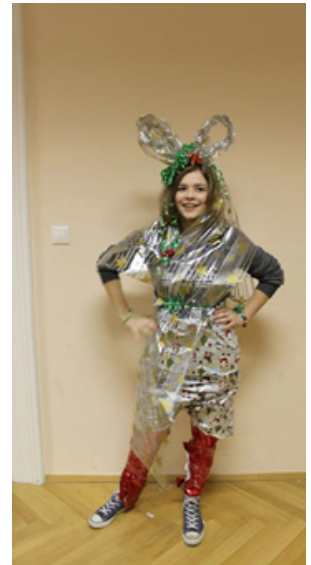


*The last six months were really difficult for us to handle, especially for the Freshmen. The majority of us was not used to having so much homework, exams to study for, projects to do and, basically, all the duties. That is the reason why we were so happy when the headmaster announced that we are going to spend one whole day in Berlin to examine this city with infinite Christmas fairs, interesting Pergamon and simply to get to know a completely different place with its own extensive history and to finally take a rest.*

Berlin is a really peculiar place but still nice and pleasant at the same time, I mean a plenty of people I talked to are convinced they would never live there... I must confess it is so much different than Prague is. Berlin is a huge, extensive, multi-cultural place with many historical monuments and old destroyed buildings too. Differences and disparities are decidedly a part of this culture. You can come across an old beautiful house with several tiny decorative components as well as it is possible to find an old completely dirty uninhabited places, that make your mind scream out What the hell is that? Nevertheless I am going to tell you how our trip was.

Before departure

On 19th December the Amazon students were supposed to arrive to school between 19:00pm and 20:00pm and bring Christmas sweets, candies, cookies or anything else to share with the others. Although it was said everyone needs to be there on time, the majority of us was arriving gradually without any hurry. Every person I told we were going to spend the night at school, to be able to easily gather up later, told me something like: "And how will you spend your time there?" It's very simple actually. Teachers told us we will play games, watch movies or discover our creative skills by spraying and such things in the school artroom.





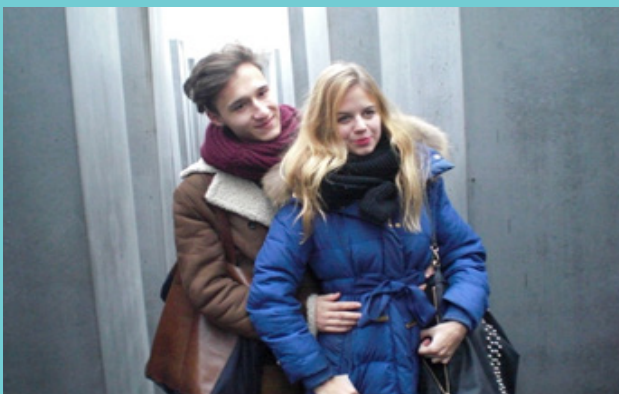


The rest was upstairs divided in several teams and every group was in a different classroom where there were already prepared many games to play. The first one was called Chair stealing and it was based on the player's reflexes. The player had to sit down on one of the chairs once the music stopped. The winner who sat down on the one chair left was considered as a Christmas present and the other members of his team had to wrap him up. They simply covered "the present" with wrapping paper, ribbons and labels. It was funny as long as the person didn't need to sneeze or yawn. It was definitely a hilarious, amusing, irreplaceable and an unforgettable experience, who could ever say "I was wrapped as a Christmas present" ? The answer is only Amazon students...



The second game was based on our knowledge of American Christmas, because Mr. Schroedter asked us several questions regarding that theme, for instance naming of at least three Santa's reindeers or filling in the lyrics of the song 'Rudolph the red nosed reindeer had a really shiny ...' what's the nose of an American snowman made of. We had a lot of fun and we've learnt something new. Meanwhile the rest of us got caught up in recreational activities such as making paper stencils, painting or spraying (practically everywhere) is. After that teachers called us up where there was prepared a dinner just for us including Pizza as a main course and then many kinds of sweets like muffins, gingerbread, cookies, and traditional Czech Christmas candies.

No need to say everything was super delicious and everyone appreciated it a lot. Later we were allowed to pick out what we wanted to do, some people went to watch the movie, some fell asleep and some were playing the piano and singing too, but we had to take a rest at least for a while because our getting up was barely at 2:00am and we had only fifteen minutes to dress up and prepare ourselves for the trip.





## We are looking forward to Berlin

After our arriving to the meeting point where the bus has been already waiting we got on and most of us fell asleep. We spent a really long time on the bus, our driver stopped and dropped us off continuously therefore we had a chance to buy something or just limber our bodies up. When we crossed the borders no one was already sleeping so we could take a look at German suburban, periphery and subsequently at the city. Our first stop was close to Brandenburg gate, one of the main Berlin entrances, customs gates and victory symbols was built in 1734 as an early classicism gate. We took many pictures and admired it. I never imagined how extensive, giant and magnificent this construction would actually be. In a while we were allowed to do whatever we wanted for about fifteen minutes.



Some of us kept taking photos, some were just messing around and some of us simply went to the closest Starbucks to have a cup of tea or coffee. Then our guide showed us the Jewish memorial to commemorate holocaust's victims. That place was so sad and made you ponder about how anyone could do this without any remorse or punishment. After that we were on our way to visit the legendary rest of Berlin wall. Most of us paid attention on the sculptures exposed there painted with politically active people as Bashar Al - Assad, Kim Jong - Il or Omar Al-Bashir. On the other side was the simulation of the former real Berlin wall. I would call the place a timeline, it permits you to learn how things were happening. It shows you a lot of Khrushchev photographs, explanations and really extensive comments.

# what are we going to do now ?

Our last common stop was at Pergamon museum where we finally weren't stuck together but everyone could do things on his own. We stayed there for about one hour and looked over historical monuments e.g. the absolutely stunning and famous Ishtar gate. We didn't skip neither the ancient artifacts nor the decorative ones (time facilities).

We could utilize the rest of our time however we wanted to as long as we would follow the rules and meet each other at the meeting point and successfully return to Prague. There were many ways how to spend this free time, but in my opinion the majority of us went shopping or visit the Christmas fairs and just enjoyed the Berlin Christmas mood.


By Valentina Lazzari

# news of the world

## FINES AT ARSENAL FC

If you are an Arsenal player you should be careful, when it comes to offences at the training ground at any other facilities belonging to the club. Are you often late for school? Well than imagine being an Arsenal player. A late arrival to a training session would cost you between £250 and £500, depending on how late you'd come. Are you constantly hanging on your phone? (Texting is allowed.) But should you be one of those who keep chatting to their friends using the newest iPhone you'd better prepare another £500. And should you not participate in the club's Commercial Activities another £500 will be required!!! (Imagine refusing to go to Schola Pragensis). This list was photographed by a friend of the club's doctor. We just hope that Amazon doesn't take inspiration from it, because I think that many people's pocket money would soon be gone (you know, who you are, all the late comers).



  
2012 – 2013 AFC Player Fines

OFFENCE	FINE
Non attendance of unused players at Home matches without permission of Manager	£1,000
Late for training	<15 mins £250 > 15 mins £500
Late for treatment/massage	<15 mins £250 > 15 mins £500
Late for travel	£500
Late for match day meetings/meals	£250
Wrong kit on match days	£100
Inappropriate clothing outside of the Dressing Room	£100
Outdoor shoes in the dressing room	£100
Newspapers, laptops and phones in the Medical Room	£300
Newspapers in Dressing Rooms	£100
Non production of urine sample for 2 consecutive weeks	£200
Phone calls in the building (texting allowed)	£500
No participating in Commercial Activities (including Club Day)	£500

All fines will be posted on the information screen in the First Team Dressing Room at the end of the month.

All Fines to be paid in cash to Per Mertesacker within 7 days of being posted.  
If not paid within 7 days – all fines will be doubled

### OFFENCE

Non attendance of unused players at Home matches without permission of Manager £1000  
 Late for Training <15 mins £250 > 15 mins £500  
 Late for training <15 mins £250 > 15 mins £500  
 Late for travel £500  
 Late for match day meetings/meals £250  
 Wrong kit on match days £100  
 Inappropriate clothing outside of the Dressing Room £100  
 Outdoor shoes in the Dressing rooms £100  
 Newspapers or phones in the Medical rooms £300  
 Newspapers in the Dressing rooms £100  
 Phone calls in the building (texting allowed) £500  
 All fines will be posted on the information screen in the First Team Dressing Room at the end of the month.  
 All fines will be paid in cash to Per Mertesacker within 7 days of being posted. If not paid within 7 days all fines will double.

Betty R.





# the seniors







# An interview with Anička Fojtíková

## The lady in charge of the Prom

Why did you decide to become the “one in charge”?

Well there is an easy answer to this question. In the last few years I found out that my dream is to become a producer and when there was the possibility and the chance to be one of the leaders of the Prom I naturally become one.

When did you start planning the whole event?

Luckily we started really early. I think it was about a month after the last year Prom. We were so fascinated I wanted to have a prom as good as the previous seniors had it.

Was it easy to get the prom to SASAZU?

I think that getting the Prom to SaSaZu was the easiest thing on the whole Prom. Of course some people had problems with it and thought that it is quite expensive and a dark place but after considering other options SaSazu was definitely the winner.

What were the other key things that you had to arrange?

Well everything. As you know the director didn't help us at all. And it wasn't just about the decorations or the sashes but also the bends, flowers, catering, tickets, etc. basically everything.

Was everyone helpful in the process? I mean, if all your classmates helped out...

When I decided to be the leader of course I knew that's going to be hard work and because Bára Popelková (the leader of the last prom) told me how they fought and argued I was kind of prepared for it. But I have to say that my expectations didn't come true and most of my classmates tried to help me. Maybe they don't do their work on time but I have to accept that we are in the senior year and everyone is stressed because of the university exams, school, graduation etc.

It's almost a year now since we started the prom thing and I got really angry just once. I think that's a good score (smiling). What was the most difficult part of the whole process?

**Most difficult? Well for me it was finding the perfect prom dress (laughter) but overall I don't think there were many troubles. We had the best helper Mrs. Červinková (also our moderator) who made everything easier. I think that the biggest thank you goes to her!**

Who designed the poster? And what is the story behind it and why the cat???

There were many designers of the poster but the winner became Miki's (Mikuláš Hrubý) design. We had about 10 versions of the official poster but the director didn't like them. At first it was too "party style", second it was too sad, and third too colourful. We were kind of angry about it and how we were trying to find the best picture Miki sent me that cat as a joke and told me to show it to the director. Somehow she liked it and that's how it became the official one. (laughing)

Would you like to thank someone (e.g. for help...).

As I said, Mrs. Červinková did a huge amount of work for us. We are so grateful for everything she did. **THANK YOU!**

Should we all look forward to it?

**Of course! It's going to be your best prom that you ever seen! I promise!**

What would you recommend to the current Juniors who are soon going to start thinking about their own prom?

**Stay positive!**

**By Betty R.**

# Senior class

Introduction

You walk past them every single day. You see them by the lockers. You see talking to the professors in the corridors. You see them sleeping on the carpet in 3rd floor. Who are they? Our beloved Seniors of course!!! Are you still not sure who we are referring to? They are the ones throwing the very much expected Prom! Anyways we contacted them and asked them a couple of questions and to our great surprise they (or at least most of them) were happy to give us a few answers. So don't wait any longer and have a look at the profiles that we bring you. It is entirely up to you if you decide to believe everything you read. We tried to keep all the answers as they were written in the questioners that we gave to our oldest "compañeros" and we ask you, our reader, to not judge them to harshly when you read.





Hi! My name is Babeta Kučerová.

I am from Prague.

I am good at shopping and eating.

I hate mushrooms.

I love summer, chocolate, my friends and my family.

My favourite musician is Pink

My favourite film is Breakfast at Tiffany's.

My favourite subjects are Politics & International Relations and History.

Favourite AMAZON memory: Freshman year.

If I could live anywhere in the world I would live in London.

If I had 30 million crowns I would travel around the world.

My plans for the future are to be successful and to travel.

---

Hi! My name is: Michal Vokner.

I am from Poděbrady.

The adjective that describes me best is friendly.

I am good at free ride snowboarding.

I hate nerds.

I love music, my friends, tennis, softball, snowboarding.

My favourite musicians are Ice Cube and Cypress Hill.

My favourite film is How High and I really like books by Terry Pratchett.

Favourite subjects are IT and English.

If I could live anywhere in the world I'd choose Miami.

If I had 30 million crowns I would travel to the USA.





Hi! My name is Lucie Holcová.

I am from Mělník.

The adjectives that describe me best are friendly, honest and talkative.

I am good at drawing, eating and listening to others.

I hate cotton candy and Coca-Cola.

I love Svíčková, Kosina and holidays.

Favourite film is In Time.

Favourite subjects are English and German.

Favourite AMAZON memory: All four years at this school.

I will live at Malta.

If I had 30 million crowns I'd try to buy Arabela's ring.

My plans for the future are bad and a secret.

---

Hi! My name is Jan Klusoň.

A sentence that describes me best is: In omnia paratus.

I am good at being empathetic.

I hate hatred.

I love love.

Favourite book is The Unbearable Lightness of Being.

Favourite subjects are, well nothing especially. But I enjoy everything that is interesting in a way.

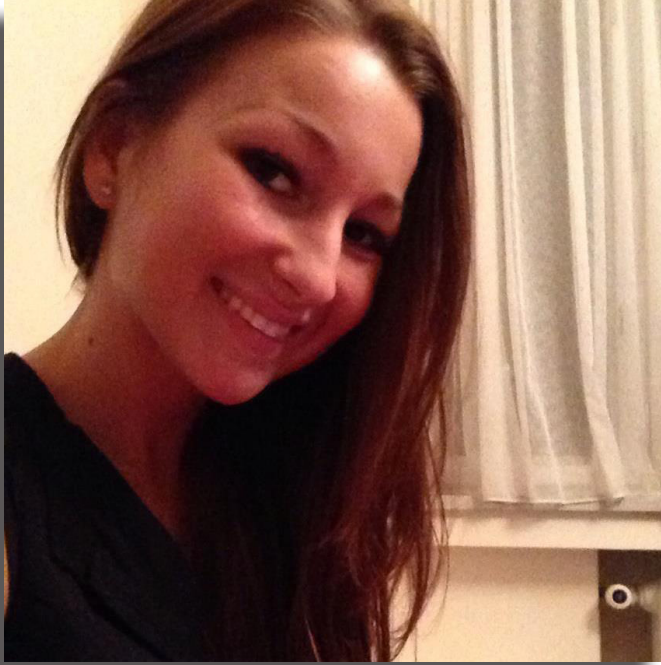
Favourite AMAZON memory: First day at school.

If I could live anywhere in the world I'd live on New Zealand.

What would I do if I had 30 million crowns? Who knows? Money poisons the character of people!

My plans for the future are to live and to love.





Hi! My name is Denisa Mirkovičová.

I am from Prague.

What describes me best? I am simply original and I am myself in all matters and situations.

I am good at everything. ☐

I hate fear.

I love a free day.

Favourite musician is Beyoncé. My favourite book is Jane Eyre and my favourite film is Batman.

Favourite subject is Czech.

Favourite AMAZON memory: Fresmen year.

If I could live anywhere in the world I'd live in Prague.

If I had 30 million crowns I would buy health for my family.

My plan for the future is to become an editor in a fashion magazine.

---

Hi! My name is Adam Rohlík.

I am from Prague.

The adjective that describes me best is cool.

I am good at tennis.

I hate fish.

I love money.

I like to listen to R&B.

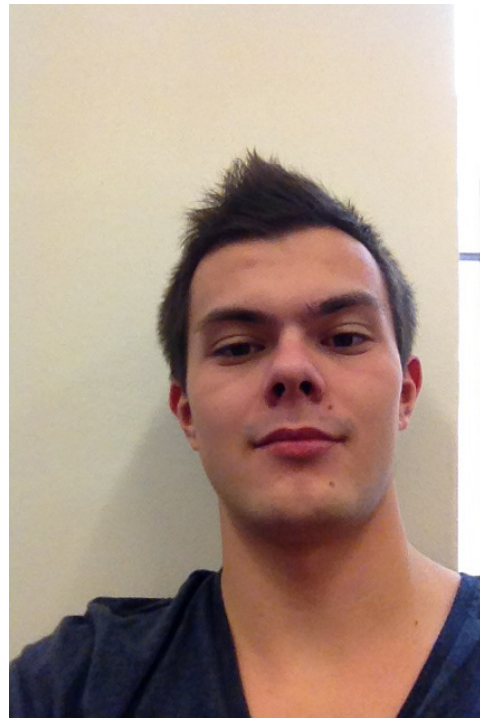
Favourite subject is Czech.

Favourite AMAZON memory: Fun with my mates.

If I could live anywhere in the world I'd live in New York.

If I had 30 million crowns I'd buy a flat and I'd rent it.

My plan for the future is to be a good man.







Hi! My name is Julie Srenišťová.

I am from Hostivice.

The adjectives that describe me best are smiley and ambitious.

I am a good student.

I hate lies.

I love travelling.

My favourite series are the Gilmore Girls.

My favourite subject is English.

Favourite AMAZON memory: First Thanksgiving (Freshman year).

If I could live anywhere in the world:

If I had 30 million crowns:

My plans for the future are to become a lawyer and to travel a lot.

---

Hi! My name is Jakub Cihla.

I am from Prague.

The adjectives that describe me best are friendly, lazy and funny.

I am good at sports.

I hate sushi.

I love good food and films.

My favourite musicians are Chidcky Band, MGMT and Wolfmother. As for films I like Star Wars, Lotr and Weddinf Crashers.

Favourite subjects are Film and Media and English.

Favourite AMAZON memory: Our trip to Orlické Hory.

If I could live anywhere in the world I'd live in California or in Prague.

If I had 30 million crowns I'd throw a sick party!!!

My plans for the future? I am not sure.





Hi! My name is Filip Vukanović.  
I am from Bosnia and Herzegovina.  
The adjective that describes me best is mysterious.  
I am good at history and playing PC games.  
I hate racism and discord.  
I love manga and the whole Japanese culture.  
My favourite books are by Jules Verne. My favourite film is Jurassic park.  
Favourite subjects are history, English, Film & Media and International Relations.  
Favourite AMAZON memory: AMAZON State Fair.  
If I could live anywhere in the world I'd live in Japan.  
If I had 30 million crowns I'd buy a cottage in the mountains with all the necessities to get by.  
My plan for the future is to finish college.

---

Hi! My name is Zdena Hofmannová.  
I am from the Czech Republic.  
The adjective that describes me best is weird.  
I am good at saying stupid jokes.  
I hate when somebody tattles.  
I love coffee.  
My favourite musicians are Nirvana and Smashing Pumpkins.  
My favourite book is the Catcher in the Rye,  
My favourite films are Donnie Darko and The Prestige.  
Favourite subject is English.  
Favourite AMAZON memory: First Thanksgiving (Freshman year).  
If I could live anywhere in the world I'd live in Denmark.  
If I had 30 million crowns I would be confused.  
My plans for the future are to study, study and study.





Hi! My name is Dominika Červinková.

I am from the Czech Republic.

The adjective that describes me best is original.

I am good at dancing.

I hate lies.

I love chocolate.

Favourite musician is Jessie J.

My favourite films are Les Misérables and The Notebook. And my favourite actor is Rayn Gosling.

Favourite subject is English.

Favourite AMAZON memory: The whole four years at this school.

If I could live anywhere in the world I'd live at New Zealand.

If I had 30 million crowns? I wouldn't want them! Because I'd have no idea what to do with that much money!

My plan for the future is to dance, act and to travel.

Hi! My name is Justýna Bačová.

I am from the Czech Republic.

The adjective that describes me best is friendly.

I am good at shooting.

I hate Superstar, the X-Factor and Talent.

I love movies.

Favourite book is All Quiet on the Western Front.

Favourite subject is Social Studies.

Favourite AMAZON memory: Independence Day in 2011.

If I could live anywhere in the world I'd live in Prague.

If I had 30 million crowns I wouldn't know what to do.

My plans for the future are to study and to travel.







Ota Martínek

---

Hi! My name is Mikuláš Hrubý.

I am from Prague.

The adjectives that describe me best are beautiful, clever, egocentric, empathic and friendly.

I am good at stalking, spending money, empathy, speeches... Shortly put. I am good at everything! I hate winter, waking up early, hospitals, dumb & stupid people.

I love Budapest, macaroons, myself, AMAZON, Miss Šulcová and travelling and skiing and my mum.

My favourite musicians are Maria Peszek and Charlie Straight.

My favourite book is Lolita by Nabokov.

Favourite subjects are International Relations and Czech with Miss Veronika.

Favourite AMAZON memory: Trip to Spain in 2009. And the secret sleepover in Schod.

If I could live anywhere in the world I'd live in my beloved Prague, Budapest, Tripoli, London, NYC and on Moscow.

If I had 30 million crowns I'd travel all around the world. I'd buy some apartments in big cities and some near the sea.

My plans for the future are big! First of all travelling, University, learn Hungarian, have a wedding, have children and a successful career.





Hi! My name is Anasassiya Prokofyeva.

I am from Armaty, Kazakhstan.

The adjectives that describe me best are friendly, funny and helpful.

I am good at making people laugh.

I hate dishonesty.

I love my family and friends.

My favourite film is The Perks of Being a Wallflower.

My favourite subject? That depends on my mood. So it changes every day.

Favourite AMAZON memory: The whole high school experience at AMAZON is one huge memory.

If I could live anywhere in the world I'd try it everywhere for a bit.

If I had 30 million crowns what would I do with all the money? Well, I'll figure that out when I have it!

My plans for the future are to be a successful interior designer, to own a company and to travel around the world!

---

Hi! My name is Julie Karabinová.

I am from Prague.

The adjective that describes me best is sportive.

I am good at skiing + Gangnam Style:D.

I hate stupid people.

I love chocolate and politics.

My favourite film is La piel que habito by Almodóvar.

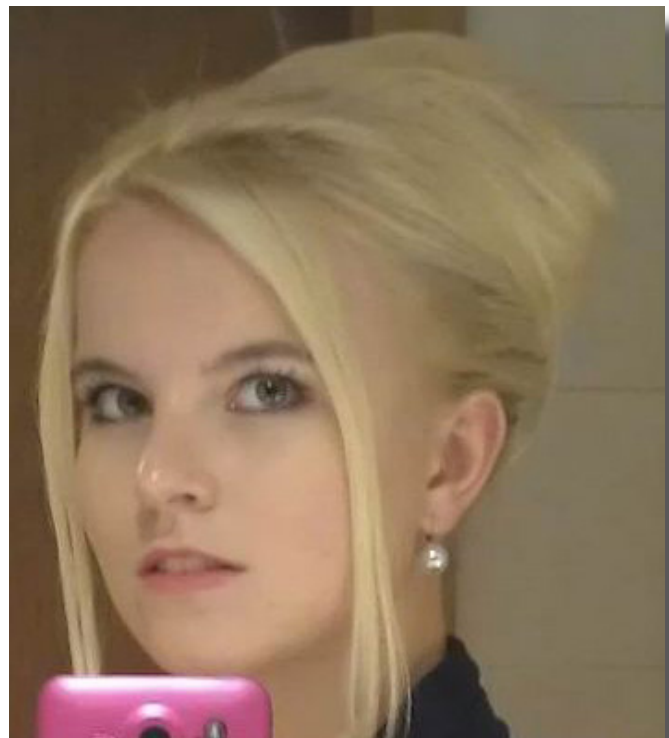
My favourite subjects are Spanish and Social Studies.

Favourite AMAZON memory: The team building trip at Pařez.

If I could live anywhere in the world I'd live in Uzbekistan.

If I had 30 million crowns? I have them already!

My plan for the future is to study Politology at Charles' University.







Hi! My name is Anna Fojtíková.

I am from Prague.

The adjectives that describe me best are responsible, helpful and crazy.

I am good at sleeping, eating and watching TV.

I hate lies, injustice and arguments.

I love my family, friends, food and my bed.

My favourite musicians are Kanye West, Miiike Snow and M83.

My favourite film is The Perks of Being a Wallflower and One Day.

Favourite subjects are International Relations and English.

Favourite AMAZON memory: The last prom, our first party at Lucerna, trip to Orlické hory... everything!

If I could live anywhere in the world I'd live at New Zealand.

If I had 30 million crowns? Still not enough for me...

My plan for the future is to be happy no matter what!

Hi! My name is Kuba Uhlík.

I am from the Czech Republic.

The adjectives that describe me best are lazy, evil and ruthless.

I am good at everything theoretical.

I hate Justin Bieber and stupid people.

I love women and videogames.

My favourite musician is TheFatRat.

I like Terry Pratchett's books.

My favourite film is Grandma's Boy.

Favourite subjects are Maths, Physics and Chemistry.

Favourite AMAZON memory: The one day that we got to save the universe.

If I could live anywhere in the world I'd live in Switzerland or in the Netherlands.

If I had 30 million crowns I'd buy AMAZON and I'd make everyone be my slaves.

My plans for the future are not really clear.

□





Hi! My name is Natálie Šebková.

I am from the Czech Republic.

The adjective that describes me best is friendly.

I am good at advising other people and listening to other people's problems.

I hate lies.

I love my family and my friends.

My favourite book is Kafka on the Shore by Maruki Muurakami.

My favourite film is The Untouchables.

Favourite subjects are English, Spanish and Philosophy.

Favourite AMAZON memory: All four years at the school are going to remain as my favourite memory.

If I could live anywhere in the world I would live anywhere, but with the people I love.

If I had 30 million crowns I would travel around the world.

My plan for the future is to be successful, to have a family and a house by the sea.

Hi! My name is Valentina Pšeničková.

I am from Prague.

I am good at Gangnam Style and pole dance.

I hate injustice.

I love food, sex and Rock-n-Roll.

My favourite film is Deep Throat.

My favourite subject is French.

Favourite AMAZON memory: The 1st day at school.

If I could live anywhere in the world I'd live in North Korea.

If I had 30 million crowns? I have them already!

My plan for the future is... I want to marry Kim Jong-Un!





Hi! My name is Michal Duzik.

I am from Karviná.

The adjectives that describe me best are trustful, responsible and empathetic.

I am good at memorising names and numbers.

I hate lies and betrayal.

I love my friends and laughing with them.

My favourite films are the three Lord of the Rings films.

My favourite subjects are Czech, English, French and History.

Favourite AMAZON memory: A trip to Provence in June 2011. Every day with my beloved classmates... Well all four years.

If I could live anywhere in the world I'd choose Miami.

If I had 30 million crowns I'd travel all over the world.

My plan for the future is to become successful and at the same time to help others.

---

Hi! My name is Alena Kompérová.

I am from the Czech Republic.

The adjective that describes me best is funny.

I am good at sports and listening to people.

I hate lies and gossip.

I love my family, people and travelling.

My favourite band is Orishas.

My favourite film is One Day.

My favourite subjects are English, French and Philosophy.

Favourite AMAZON memory: The trip in June 2012 with all the Junior classes.

If I could live anywhere in the world I could simply live everywhere. But I'd like to try Cuba, Australia, the Netherlands, Italy, Serbia, South Africa or Jordan.

If I had 30 million crowns I'd help many people around the world and I'd buy a cottage by the sea for my parents.

My plans for the future are to travel a lot, to meet many people, to be happy, to believe to find love, to have a family. And to find out what the meaning of life is.







Hi! My name is Karolína Polívková.

I am from Prague.

The adjective that describes me best is cat lover.

I am good at listening to music.

I hate hobos, spiders and when someone touches my toenails.

I love music, concerts, my friends and cats.

My favourite musicians are Placebo, Soja, The Acacia Strain, Katatonia, Converge...

My favourite book is The Pet Cemetery by Stephen King.

My favourite film is The Single White Female.

Favourite subjects are History of Art and English.

Favourite AMAZON memory: When Miss Šulcová started to teach us.

If I could live anywhere in the world I'd live in Kingston, Jamaica.

If I had 30 million crowns I'd buy a sloth as a pet.

My plans for the future are to go to University and then be a music promoter and to own an art gallery.

---

Hi! My name is Nozomi Kiribuchi.

I am from Otsh, Japan.

The adjective that describes me best is inquisitive.

I am good at ice hockey.

I hate injuries and stress.

I love sport, food, music and sleeping.

My favourite book is The Diary of Anne Frank.

My favourite films are Mamma Mia and Harry Potter.

My favourite subject is Art.

Favourite AMAZON memory: Making dolls for UNICEF.

If I could live anywhere in the world I'd live in Toronto.

If I had 30 million crowns I would buy a house for my family and I would travel a lot.

My plans for the future are to become a professional hockey coach and a team trainer.





Hi! My name is Ludmila Hrdinová.  
I am from Venus.

The adjectives that describe me best are  
friendly, lazy and extrovert.

I am good at partying, horse riding and  
singing.

I hate rules.

I love to love, my friends, horses, my  
family.

My favourite musicians are Red Hot Chilli  
Peppers and Lara Fabian.

My favourite book is Exodus – Leon Uris.

My favourite films are Misfits and Pulp  
Fiction.

My favourite subjects are History and  
Grammar.

Favourite AMAZON memory: Every single  
year with my superb classmates.

If I could live anywhere in the world I'd live  
in Tel Aviv, Haifa or in New York.

If I had 30 million crowns I would buy a  
ranch in Montana, like the one in Horse  
Whisper.

---

Hi! My name is Honza Spurný.

I am from Plzeň, Czech Republic.

The adjectives that describe me best are  
dreamy, out of reality, distinctive.

I am good at: philosophy, esoterism.

I hate untrue values.

I love warmth, love, honour, idealism, Mother  
Mary, Heavens, my family.

My favourite musicians are Elvis Presley,  
Pavarotti, and Michael Jackson.

My favourite books are The Power and the  
Bible.

My favourite films are Peter Pan and Super-  
man Returns.

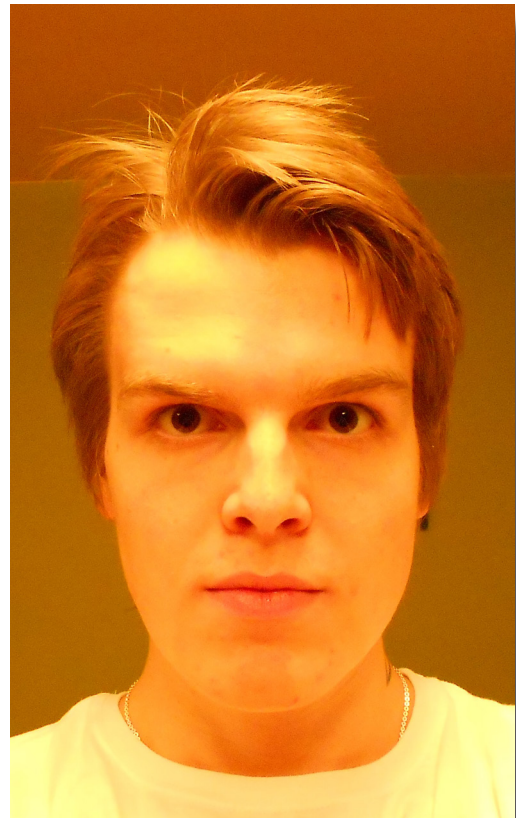
My favourite subjects are English and Phi-  
losophy.

Favourite AMAZON memory: All October  
with the amazing JU3B.

If I could live anywhere in the world I'd live in  
the Alps.

If I had 30 million crowns I would ensure my  
life basics and then I'd fund independent  
journalists or activists.

My plan for the future is to bring the light.



Mr. Jackson imagines being Mr. Ford and answers these questions.

I am from Washington D.C. The planet of farmer Ford and from I spill everythingville (like Jacksonville if you know what I mean).  
My accent is profoundly deep, drawn out.  
I have a pet swan.  
My favourite word is Ummmmmm.

Mr. Ford imagines he's Mr. Jackson and answers with these.

I am from the land of Ballerinas, candy canes and rogue unicorns.

My accent is offensive.

I have a pet- Mr. Weintraub.

My favourite word is Bowie.

I teach IR, literature, hooligans, effectively.  
My favourite writer is Vonnegut.  
I love music by Punks...  
I am really intrigued by politics, literature, Mr. Jackson, Mr. Jackson and Mr. Jackson.

I teach kids to unleash their interpretive dance potential.  
My favourite artist is the guy who made Ktreček.  
I love music by Bowie, Bowie, Bowie.  
I am really intrigued by shiny things.

My favourite colour is jumba lumba.  
My vice yoghurt-covered raisins and seeing Mr. Jackson.  
I am really good at writing,

My favourite colour is macaroni and cheese.  
My vice is dancing in Wenceslas to Bowie jams for cash.  
I am really good at being pretty.

We all know how well Mr. Ford and Mr. Jackson get on. Either of them doesn't miss a chance to make fun (in the most honest, but respectful way possible) of each other. And we bring you an exclusive inside to how well they actually know each other and if they could replace each other. We test their knowledge, wit and their delicate sense of humour.

And finally **Mr. Jackson** reveals his best move to make fun of Mr. Ford. "Uh huh, uh huh..."

And because this issue is especially for the Senior Class we asked Mr. Jackson to reveal his favourite, magical and unforgettable moment from the time that he spent teaching them.

"I think that they are extremely diverse. "Unruly" yet intriguing. Fun, yet too cool... (haha not!!! ☐ - only kidding). In one word **SPLENDID!**"

And because Mr. Jackson at first had trouble with understanding the directions to fill in this "worksheet" we include his answers to one more question. (See if you can see what mistake he made whilst reading, in our humble opinion we think that he is slightly too obsessed with Mr. Ford).

And because this issue is especially about Mr. Ford we asked Mr. Jackson to reveal his favourite, magical and unforgettable moment from the time that he spent teaching them. (Teaching?!? When? What? –our questions as we read thru his answers.)

Favourite – My former Ford dress-up... (Current Juniors should remember...)

Magical – Watching Mr. Ford spill his water everywhere.

Unforgettable – Student's asking if I am staying next year. (We are not sure to which question is this answer.)

# HEAD TO HEAD

## MR. JACKSON VS. MR. FORD

And finally **Mr. Ford** reveals his best move to make fun of Mr. Jackson. "Giving shampoo advice while doing a pirouette."

And because this issue is especially for the Senior Class we asked Mr. Ford to reveal his favourite, magical and unforgettable moment from the time that he spent teaching them.

My first class, substitute teaching them their freshman year; finding out that Honza was thankful for his hair and wonderful years I've had teaching them ever since.



## An Interview with Professor Charvátová

When was the first time that you met your class, SRCD4?  
It was when I did my pedagogical practice at this very school that I had the pleasure to see them all for the very first time.

How long did it take you to create a bond between you and your students?

I didn't take long at all! They all seemed very sympathetic and intelligent, and we got on well. And now, after two years of being the head of their class, I can hardly complain about them.

From your point of view, is it hard to teach in their class?  
How are they as students?

From the beginning, I knew that it wouldn't be an easy task. They are a very lively class and they tend to express their ideas and opinions in various ways. That is what they really like to do.

Is there an experience that you shall never forget?  
Certainly the Spotrovně-zdravotnický Kurz. It was three great days!

Which subjects do you teach them?

Chemistry and Health 21 – they all have an individual approach to studying, but overall they are all hardworking people, and their results are superb!

Have they changed a lot since you first met them?

I believe that each and every one of them has changed. They've made huge leaps forward. Now they are all grown up, and they are smarter and wiser. Finally, I'd like to wish them all the best in their futures.

Adéla Šádková, JU3A





Ever had trouble explaining the meaning of our school's name to someone?

Ever looked dumb not knowing why your school is called what it's called?

WANT TO KNOW THE SECRET OF IT?

Well, you've made it to the right page!

We've asked the director personally, and this

Why AMAZON?

We frequently face the question: why is Anglicko-české gymnázium AMAZON called AMAZON. Where does this name come from?

There are quite a few reasons why this wonderful, well understandable and unforgettable name came into existence. We will state at least three of them.

The first reason has something to do with marketing. A-A (Anglicko-Amazon) is the first letter in the alphabet, which means you can be placed as the first one on every list.

The second reason is that it is also the name of a huge, wide river in the Amazon that can remind one of a great river of knowledge flowing in one's direction and making one's life successful.

The last reason why is connected with the educational process in a way that books are those little or big objects that bring you valuable information.

Nowadays, it is also the Internet, which is not far from the idea as well. As AMAZON is an Internet bookstore that can send you any item you dream about and pay for, this idea is also closely connected. The more books read, the closer you are to the desired diploma or certificate.

Lots of success wished by the management of the school!

What school do  
you go to?  
AMAZON?  
Why is it called  
that?!

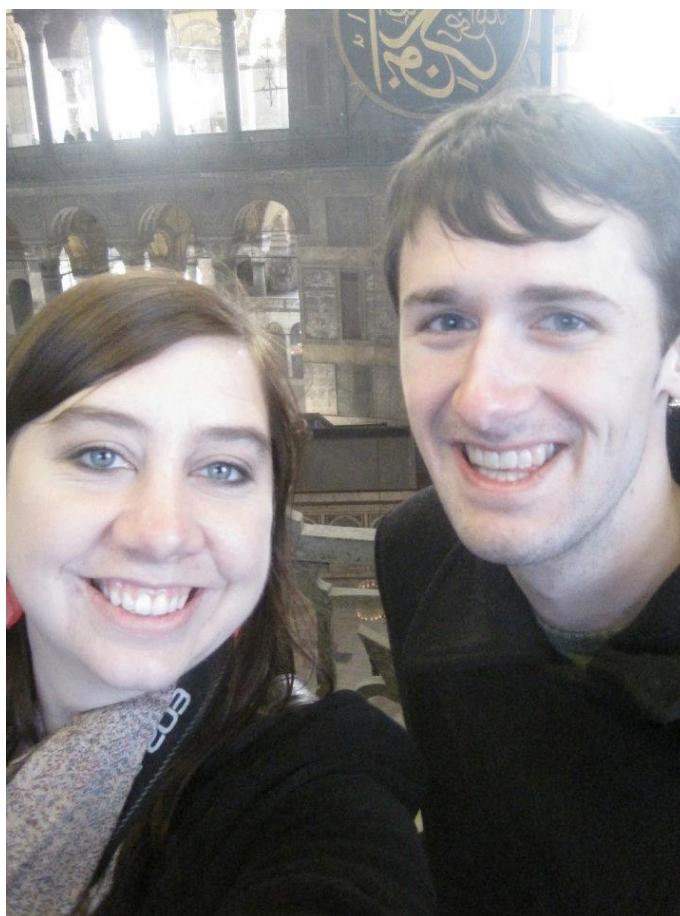
It is difficult for me to express exactly how I feel about this year's graduating class. It's also amusing to think about since I know that most of the class of 2013 has never had a problem putting things into words!

I have spent three years teaching most of you and I can honestly say that I am astounded and delighted by the amount of growth I have seen over this time. You have never ceased to amaze me in so many ways! With the innumerable unique personalities among you, it's no wonder that you have permanently affected my life. (In good ways of course!) So my advice for the future is to work hard towards whatever it is that fulfils you and completely dedicate yourself. Also, never limit yourselves and know that each one of you has something distinctive to offer. Other than that you should appreciate each day, don't be afraid to take a few risks, laugh at yourself whenever you can, learn from your mistakes and of course keep on smiling!

Miss Tope

Finally, I would like to quote a country song (Don't forget...I'm from Texas), which was played and sung by the parents at my high school graduation. The song is by Lee Ann Womak and is entitled I Hope You Dance. I think this song reminds you that this is a momentous time in your life, but it is only the beginning!

"...I hope you still feel small when you stand beside the ocean,  
Whenever one door closes I hope one more opens,  
Promise me that you'll give faith a fighting chance,  
And when you get the choice to sit it out or dance...I hope you dance!" J  
Congratulations Class of 2013!



Dear Senior Class,  
I can't believe it's already time for another Prom! I've been having a great time in Washington, but I still miss Prague and Amazon very much. This is an exciting time for all of you, and I hope you are enjoying every minute of it. Please take lots of pictures and videos for me. It's also hard for me to believe that you are only a few months away from graduating. However, I have no doubt that I will be hearing about your impressive results on your English exams in May. I know that the next few months will be stressful for you, but I hope that you can take a few breaks and make the most of the end of your time at Amazon. It will all be over before you know it! I wish you the best of luck on your exams and your university applications. Please stay in touch and let me know what you all decide to do after graduation. I hope our paths cross again soon. Most importantly, have fun tonight and know that I'm thinking about all of you.

# dear seniors

Best Wishes,  
Mr. Coulson



# creative writing



## THE IMPERIAL BALL

Promenade. Shortly prom. You've probably heard about this formal meeting of high school people. But have you ever thought about roots of this fancy and marvelous event? Let's go in the history, concretely at Franz Joseph's ball. Are you ready?

Let yourself be hypnotized by the splendor and incomparable atmosphere of the legendary imperial court ball. Every year Emperor Franz Joseph invited his court to the splendid halls of Schönbrunn Palace to his celebration, the absolute pinnacle of the season.

We stage your prestigious congress opening, your special company event or your exclusive gala dinner in the style of the legendary imperial court ball where you and your guests are the focal point of a very special celebration. Our "royal couple" resplendent in historically accurate costumes, Emperor Franz Joseph in his red and white full dress and Sisi in her famous white gown, are your personal hosts. In the presence of the emperor and empress, who have taken their places on stage upon two red and gold thrones, the ladies offer an approximately 25 minutes program with musical highlights by the waltz king Johann Strauss jr. as well as the master composers W. A. Mozart, Franz Schubert, Johannes Brahms and Jacques Offenbach.

The highlight of our program follows the main course. During the original waltz show by Dance Formation Viennese Waltz, you will experience the Viennese lifestyle in most of the time to the sound of the Blue Danube Waltz. Then the royal couple will personally open the Imperial Ball and put their dancing abilities to the test to the strains of the Emperor Waltz.

You and your guests will be personally invited to waltz by the dancers of Dance Formation. Just breathe and enjoy! This special evening comes to a close with the Radetzky March by Johann Strauss.

The splendid costumes, excellent performances and delicious food guarantee you an unforgettable evening. Just imagine it.

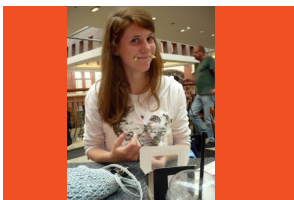
Iryna M.

# nunda

Matěj Adamek

To start with, not many of you know what a nunda actually is. You may think it is a word used to describe something exotic, funny or rude. If your first guess was the third named, you were almost right. It is not rude, but the person who has this title does not usually like it. Nunda is a denomination of a type of human being, usually women who have common aspects of behaviour; and especially common likes.

Firstly, it is important to show a visual example of a nunda (picture below) and briefly describe their clothing habits. Nundas are normally quite good looking teenage girls who tend to act a little bit more stupid than they actually are, but are never really quite so stupid. They like being childish but on the other hand they have certain level of adulthood in their behaviour. No matter where a nunda is, she wears colourful clothes and often also very expensive or well designed shoes. Despite the fact that they usually are kind people, they have problems with selfishness, which sometimes is a side-effect of nundiness

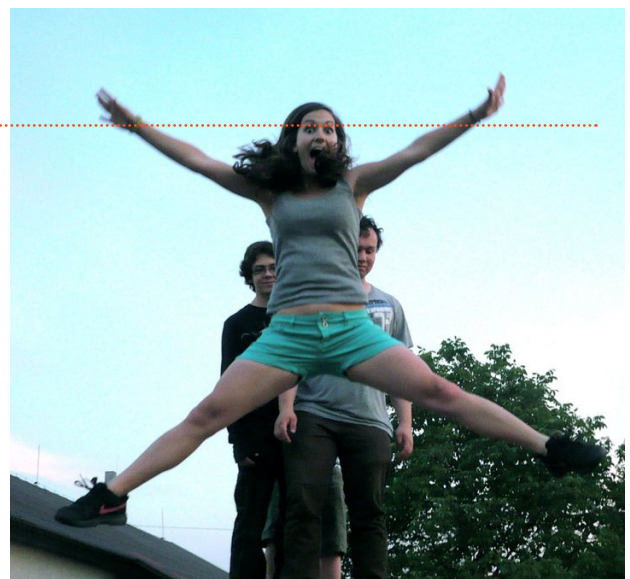


Apart from art, they can be good at anything like programming, sports or whatever comes to your mind. To set it simple for you, each person titled as a nunda has a special skill and demonstrates it very well. Believe it or not, the person in the picture in the middle of this page is also a nunda.

In terms of the etymology of the term itself, it is quite unknown how or why it originated, but its first known use was recorded in 2006, when Anežka Svobodová, a former schoolmate of the author used it to describe someone from her acquaintances. However, the term started to be more widely used in 2010, when it was coined as a daily used word in a subcommunity in one of the high-schools in Central Bohemia. It is not supposed to offend anybody even though it is word used mostly in a rather negative context, even though the word itself can also show the positive side of the titled person.

Another very important difference between a teenager and a nunda is the way they behave through a communication with an individual of the other gender. A female nunda is much more comfortable when it comes to conversation with a boy. She is usually the dominant one and says much more than the partner and also tends to set the speed of conversation. Also, a nunda prefers to tell her personal problems to her male BFF(Best Friends Forever) rather than to a girl.

When it comes to the intelligence of the nunda tribe members, it is usually slightly higher than the intelligence of their friends, if we are talking about the IQ value. Nundas usually have exceptional skills in any subject area depending on their personal likes and preferred activities. In practice, nundas can be very good at artificial activities such as singing, as you can see here: <http://youtu.be/gOO47ubcfUU>.



nunda

# Time lost in

... She walked in and all the talking suddenly stopped. They knew her. They'd seen her so many times. Many had talked with her. Still, they were amazed by her over and over again. Her beauty struck them. Those who knew her saw her wit and humour, too. For this night she chose a long black lace dress. Her high heels could not be seen as the dress covered them. Her long red hair was lying on her back. The only pieces of jewellery she wore were a simple silver necklace that sparkled when the light touched its surface. No make-up only mascara and perfume which smelled of coconut. She smiled at every single person in the room and kissed hello with a couple of the closest. The volume in the room was slowly rising again. Men started chatting about the latest football results. The younger lads chatted about their latest love experiences and new cars. Women talked clothes, said how pretty each of them looked and what should they buy to be fashionable this summer. Younger girls or better young ladies chatted about their boyfriends, celebrities, music and of course fashion. As Elizabeth made her way across the room to get a drink, a young boy about 10 years old came and asked for a hug. "How sweet," Elizabeth thought, "at least someone is honest and spontaneous." She asked for a glass of cider. "Hmmm, sweet but not too sweet, very nice," was her thought as she took a sip.

And then she noticed him. He was standing on the far side of the room, alone and holding a glass of wine. He had dark brown hair, nice clothes and as far as Elizabeth could tell a nice body. He looked rich but not in a snobby way. He turned his head and looked her straight in the eye. He looked like a Spaniard but she wasn't sure if he was one. They exchanged a long look and smiled. Then they raised their glasses and mouthed cheers to each other, then he turned away.

The lights in the room grew darker. He walked across the room. Old classical music began to play, and suddenly the people began to speak in a very educated way, their topics changing. No more football but now the races, vacations in Venice, weekends in Paris, carriages, maids. A song was playing in the background, telling a story about a young couple.



*Look, look away. Turn your head, smile. There is now no chance of forgetting the broad smile that spreads across your face. His eyes so deep and full of understanding, they look like chocolate. His hair is brown. It frames his face. Cute! So nice! What's hidden in his head? What do his thoughts tell? He looks my way. He walks this way. He asks me, how's your day? I blush; I blink as I search for a reply. My mind goes mad, and before I can stop myself I say so tenderly, "My day is now so good, complete as far as I can say. Just to stand with you. To see your face and hear you speak, it's like an ancient dream finally revealed. I speak too much, so tell me, who are you? A living dream? Speak your name and put me at ease!" He nods, shakes his head. "My lady, your voice is so sweet. It's a pleasure for my ears to hear. Call me your man, your admirer as I have no other name. My day is so great. I see you smile. I hear your words that touch your lips and then my ears. Now shall we dance?"...*

As the music stopped time twisted back. It was magical! Elizabeth was standing close to the man. They danced. But what happened? It seemed like a dream, yet she still had his warm hands on her waist. They looked into each other's eyes, so deep was their gaze. "May I get you something to drink?" asked the mysterious man. "Yes please." The night was still young. There was time for questions, explanations. But now live for the moment. Give it a go. Let yourself fall into the mysteries of love. And don't be scared!

...

(What is there to lose?)

Betty Růžicková, JU3A

# The prom

Once upon a time there was a nineteen year old girl named Rebecca who had been dreaming about her prom since childhood... She had always wanted to wear wonderful pumps, a breathtaking dress, and a brilliant tiara. She dreamt about embellishing herself with upscale jewelry, a ring or a bracelet with gems. She desired to be accompanied by a handsome noble young man. She simply wanted to be different for this special night – different than she usually was. She wanted to feel special. She was not considered to be an ugly or a nasty girl, but she never stood out in any particular way among other girls. That was the reason why she was determined to prove that she was special. Because of her great organizational skills and responsibility she was selected as a member of the organizational committee, which was compounded by plenty of students and their supervisors. This committee had to arrange everything. Starting with the guests list, the performers, the program, they consequently came up with new and inventive ideas. They solved all the problems and they handled everything within five months.

As time went by, Rebecca grew more and more tired of leading all the people and of infinite quarrels with them to vindicate her proposals, ideas, and reach her objectives. But she still liked it and got more and more caught up in it. During one rainy Saturday evening, her father interrupted her while she was negotiating with the florists about the flower decorations (she was also ordering catering and arranging facilities in case some guest would want to take a rest or get a second wind after a devastating dance). "Your granny was knocked unconscious today and her situation is critical. Thank God, she got better then, but her recovery process will last a really long time and we are not sure if she is not paralyzed for the rest of her life. But calm down her condition is under doctor's control and she is getting on fine. I am going to visit her at the hospital. Will you accompany me?" asked her father. "Dad, I would love to, but I am so busy, and I can barely finish all my duties..." replied Rebecca. After her father left their apartment she felt remorse and doubted her previous behaviour. It's still my granny, she spent so much time with me and cared about my happiness, education and great attitude towards life, she deserves the visit. So, immediately Rebecca put her coat and shoes on and went to the nearest bus station. After she arrived at the cardiovascular department of the hospital, she went to her poor, ill granny and stayed with her all night long.

After some months, prom preparations were in full swing, and everybody from the organizational committee was stressed-out and tense and almost fell apart when something wasn't happening according to their plans. Mainly, Rebecca completely changed her attitude. Things that had been unusual for her before became a-matter-of-fact now. She never took a rest, and she was always very tense because of school results. Her granny finally got better and was unexpectedly much more active and full of life, she just kept explaining Rebecca that she is exaggerating and should let the others to arrange some stuff too. Finally that long awaited day appeared and everyone started to better their look. Rebecca was stressed and worried that something could fail all day. But hopefully everything from the catering to the decoration seemed to be set up right and ready for the big party. Rebecca was really happy because she reached one of her big goals. She looked absolutely amazing so everyone started paying attention to her. Parents, grandparents, cousins, aunts, uncles, and friends (basically all the guests invited) were surprised and impressed of Rebecca's team's job. Everything was perfect, entertaining and moving too. Rebecca was adored for her effort that caused this fantastic event. The person who went to watch how exciting this is, was of course her granny, who unfortunately did not feel really well that day and she was trying to resist and participate, to show her granddaughter how proud she is of her. After the ceremony everyone went crazy and started to dance, sing, shout and just behave all crazy, obviously just for fun. The granny didn't realise she is still a 83 years old lady, overestimated her possibilities and joined the bunch of young dancing and drunk students. Suddenly her head started to spin, she moved indistinctly, her heartbeat slowed down, her face got pale and she passed out. "Granny no! I need an ambulance, somebody call the ambulance. Granny you can't die, you gotta' make it, where are your pills? You must fight! The ambulance is almost here," Rebecca was sobbing. "The only thing I wished to see before I die is to see you happily living your dream." Those were the last words that Rebecca's granny ever spoke. And so the old granny has passed away. Rebecca has regretted for a long time that she didn't spend more time with her granny and cared only about prom preparations instead. Her only consolation was that her granny died when having fun surrounded by friends and being by Rebecca's side with a smile on her face. This means, we have to find balance between everything we do and enjoy it, because it could be our last chance to do it.



Oh my god! It's totally here! I mean....the time...of the future exam of your "adulthood" is coming and there's definitely someone who wants to look absolutely perfect! Who cares about birthdays or weddings... This is it! Excitement is drifting through the wind. The make up, dresses and stockings are all around. It's nerve wracking and the phone doesn't stop ringing!!! It feels like someone just realized that you exist and you're alive! Great timing when you're preparing for this event. Can't there just be a little bit more respect to your nerves? But then you realize that those calls are all actually from your grandma, who wanted you to come over for lunch. "Don't have any time grandma, see you at the ball!" -"Oh is the ball today?" -"Yes, grandma it's today, how come that you don't remember?" - "I guess I just forgot to take my morning pills. Silly me!" Wicked! I wonder what is Anna going to wear...what kind of dress, hope mine is much better. The spirit of the graduation is actually more than just the looks and the feelings after you receive the congratulations from your professors. It is a huge memorial act, your life is actually flowing in front of your eyes and you just realize that you're a complete grown up and now it's the time to improve it and show that you're perfectly prepared on a harsh, strong, beating-you terrain. I am talking about the future. Are you going to the university? Or are you going to work after you finish your high school? And did you actually fill in the application correctly? I hope so.... The real life is just waiting for you, waiting to open it's arms and it depends on you if it's going to hug you, or beat you with those arms. It is only your one and only chance to choose what you are up to. If it was the right choice, you'll find out when your old asking yourself: Was I actually happy? Have I made someone happy? It depends on you... Anyway you should definitely accept the fact, that someone is expecting you to be happy and this is the responsibility that you should take and realize that you're in a golden generation of your age and you can start building something up.

Alex B.