

Foundation for the happy and worthy

In such a blizzard, all you want to do is to cover your head with a blanket and fall asleep until at least spring. But ten children of all ages – from elementary school students to high school students – were hurrying from Shchyokino to the Tula Region Art Museum on Saturday morning. Until this day, only one of them had been there. And his stories fueled the interest of the others in the excursion ...



Pupils of the Tolstoy, Topsoe and Sokol Charitable Foundation are always together – both on holiday and on excursions.

Such a rich cultural life

The PROJECT IDEA was born a few years ago in Tula. Since then, original toys made of pressed paper have been seen in different regions of the country. Literally the whole of Russia started making them, and each year the project culminates in a large family festival, which, this year, was held in the atrium of the Tula Kremlin.

THIS WASN'T like a school cultural excursion: children were not divided into small groups and did not break away from the team. It was rather a family day off at the museum. The older ones looked after the younger ones, the younger ones obeyed and were not capricious. And surprisingly, no one was distracted from the tour.

This impressive Saturday was given to the pupils of the charitable foundation created by the Tolstoy, Topsoe and Sokol families in support of gifted children in Shchekino District.

"Unfortunately, not all of our children have joined us here – some of them are busy today: competitions, creative contests are things that can neither be canceled nor postponed 'for later.' I am sure that otherwise they would gladly join us," explained **Natalya PILYUS, a deputy of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, and a member of the foundation's board of trustees.** "We often take children on excursions to various meetings and festive events. We visited Polenovo, and recently had an excursion to visit the Museum of the Machine in the 'Octave.' And of course, we visited Yasnaya Polyana. We are very close to the Tolstoy system of raising children – the free development of abilities and talents. This year we decided to get the children closer acquainted with the cultural pearls of our region. Nor should modern achievements be left without attention. And now in Tula everything is changing so quickly – first they made a wonderful embankment, then Tula became the New Year capital, the historic center of the city was transformed for the 500th anniversary of the Tula Kremlin, and new

cultural spaces were developed. This year Tula Art Museum celebrates its centenary. In recent years, it has been particularly noticeable that culture has indeed become a priority, as recorded in the Strategy for Social and Economic Development of the Region ...

The excursion was led by **Marina Kuzina, First Deputy Director General of the "Local History and Art Museum" association,** who devoted almost her entire life to forming a unique art museum collection. She easily found a common language with the students and knew exactly how to attract the attention of even the smallest, who were not yet accustomed to large volumes of information.

"Look how close this picture is to real life," Marina Nikolaevna pointed towards the "Boy with fruits" by an unknown Dutch painter of the 18th century.

"What can you see here? Take a closer look..." The children happily listed them. And only one girl, with surprise and even distrust in her voice, pointed to a dark point on the table:

"A fly? .."

"Right, a fly."

And then followed a narration by a qualified, experienced art historian, which was masterfully adapted for perception by a specific audience of different age groups.

It's nice when people are concerned about you

"In the PAST year we celebrated the fifth anniversary of the Tolstoy, Topsoe, Sokol Foundation. It was created to support gifted children from families in difficult life situations," said Natalia Pilyus. "It is well known that one of the main areas in the development of our state is to support talented children, promoting their creative growth. This is one of the priorities of the Decade of Childhood, announced last year by President Vladimir Putin. We know that the governor of the Tula Region, A. G. Dyumin, pays serious attention to this issue – only during the

significant results. Roman Ryakhovsky became the champion of Russia in throwing a projectile and confirmed his own last year's record. He is coached by dad, and sporting success is a tradition for the Ryakhov family. Varya Vnukova – a pupil of the dance theater "Elegy" of Natalia Mikhno – takes the first places at All-Russian and international competitions. A graduate of the Foundation, Vladimir Indus, is a member of the Russian national athletics team.

In five years under the tutelage of the foundation, **Vanya TIMOKHIN** grew both in the literal sense – he arrived here as a six-year old – and also professionally. A wonderful accordionist, and a laureate of the Beloborodov Competition, is preparing now for another performance.



Vanya is a creative person, and therefore a bit of an individualist. A year ago, during the performance of students of the charitable Foundation in front of guests – representatives of the Topsoe family and company – journalists observed the young artist with magnificent, long, well-groomed light-blond hair and argued over whether it was a boy or girl. Vanya was persuaded to get a haircut for a long time, but he stubbornly refused to give up his image. He himself recently made a decision and chose a male hairstyle, but not a short one, but a model one – even girls envy his hair. However, in this friendly team it is unacceptable to indulge in real envy.

"I am very grateful to the Foundation for its help (the purchase of even an educational musical instrument is now far from being easy for every family. – N. Z.), and for its support," Ivan acknowledges. "It is so nice when people are interested in your successes, they support you and are concerned about you."

Not instead, but together

"WE DON'T JUST help the children whom the Foundation cares for, we try to be together with them, to experience their successes and failures together. Perhaps they will bring glory to the country with records or will perform on the best stages of the world. I will be glad if one of the children decides to become a chemist, but these things are not obligatory. The main thing is for our children to become worthy and happy people." This is how the co-founder, **President of Shchekinozot, Boris SOKOL,** defined the main task of the Foundation at a meeting with the pupils.



In the Tula Region Art Museum: in front of Vladimir Makovsky's painting "In a Village School" (1883).



In the Tula Region Exotarium – the largest in Europe.

It is very difficult to be together, to empathize and worry about each other, to persuade and believe, not to agree, but still not to put pressure on people ... It's easier and simpler to bring a KamAZ with gifts several times a year in the bustle of our everyday lives, than to live with the kids' problems every day. But it is this feedback that produces a terrific effect.

The Foundation is proud of its graduates' achievements.

Graduates of the Foundation Sergey Viktorov and Alisa Levitina entered Moscow State Lomonosov University, and Sergey teaches Russian language and literature at the Association of Olympiad winners. Milena Kozlova studies at the Moscow State Evdokimov Medical and Dental University, and Vladimir Indus – at Tula State University. And students do not lose contact with their mentors and younger students.

But no one refuses gifts here either: kids are always kids. And the trustees make sure that childhood is full and, of course, joyful, full of impressions. Some pupils of the Foundation managed to go to "Artek", to "Sirius". Those who had the opportunity to for a holiday in Bunyrevo at the "New Generation" camp based at the Shakhter boarding house also don't lose out – with the fresh air, the pines, the river and ... not a spare minute – creativity, sport, and talking with their peers ... Even the most prosperous, beloved mama's sons and daughters don't have this!



"We in Bunyrevo had to prepare a musical performance," pianist **Volodya YEKATERININ** recalls the summer at the Oka camp. "And we created an ensemble. Previously we used to play together with a boy. We had to rehearse with another

boy. I think we pulled it off, everyone seemed to like it.

"I liked it – doesn't begin to describe it," adds Natalia Pilyus. "All the girl's half of the camp was crazy about them." The boys became real stars.

And now Volodya continues his studies. Including at music school. And playing percussion instruments as a hobby. With all due respect to classical music, he also pays tribute to modern trends and genres. Only if he likes all the classics, then at the mention of popular music, he involuntarily frowns. But in a conversation about the Foundation, the smile never leaves his face. However, Vladimir is not too verbose.

"What can I say," he nods. "For me, the Foundation is my second home!"

I get to know the world



Alina ZEYNALOVA does rhythmic gymnastics. Programs and kit, training camps and trips to tournaments – the Foundation takes care of it all. But it is not limited to them.

"I've been in the Foundation for about two years. I like that we often go somewhere. Most of all I remember the trips to "Octave", to Polenovo. We went to Moscow for the festivities of Haldor Topsoe Company. We see a lot of interesting things, we meet with many different people and so we learn about the world.

After visiting the lithographs exhibition of Salvador Dali, a friendly group led by Natalia Pilyus set off to explore the world at the new Tula Exotarium that opened just six months ago.

At the end of last year, the Foundation took five more children under its wing. They have already become part of the team, since the children who've been in the foundation a long time have helped them to join the team. And, as the founders of the Foundation hope, they will soon represent the Tula Region at competitions and creative competitions of the highest level.

Natalya ZELINSKA.

Photos by Alexander KOLESNIK.



The children looked at the inhabitants of the exotic zoo with real interest.

За заслуги перед будущим

Своё 88-летие отметил 30 января ведущий инженер АО «КБП» Лев Дмитриевич ПОНОМАРЁВ.

ОН РАБОТАЕТ в Конструкторском бюро приборостроения 67-й год. Несколько поколений его коллег и сотрудников других тульских предприятий хорошо знают и безмерно уважают его, потому что именно этот человек дал многим путевку в профессию.

Лев Дмитриевич хорошо известен в Туле и за ее пределами как один из организаторов первого в стране клуба детского научно-технического творчества «Электрон». Мальчишки и девчонки, приходившие на занятия к Пономарёву младшими школьниками, начинали с простейших заданий, знакомства с азами, постепенно открывали для себя удивительный мир науки и техники, стремились к большему. Так на глазах учителя и наставника рождались первые изобретения, делались порой наивные открытия, а у обычных школьников появлялся живой интерес к профессии инженера, выявлялись конструкторские таланты.

Л. Д. Пономарёв – пример для многих. Он грамотный специалист, талантливый педагог, остается верен предприятию и выбранному делу. Лев Дмитриевич, несмотря на возраст, по-прежнему бодр и активен – сказывается постоянное общение с молодежью, умение жить проблемами учеников, стремление находить общий язык с подрастающим поколением. Его бывшие ученики с удовольствием приводят в клуб детского научно-технического творчества своих детей и внуков.

Руководитель «Электрона» отмечает, что ребята, имеющие некоторые технические знания и наработки, записываются в клуб

целенаправленно, и в этом большая заслуга семьи, взрослых, которые находятся рядом и поддерживают их стремления, способствуют открытию и развитию таланта.

– Я очень рад, что занятия в клубе помогают школьникам и студентам не только полезно провести досуг, но и окончательно определиться в выборе профессии, – говорит Л. Д. Пономарёв. – Приятно видеть результат своего труда. Каждые пять лет в «Электроне» проходят встречи выпускников, на которые съезжаются бывшие воспитанники из разных уголков страны. С каждым годом их становится больше.

Лев Дмитриевич – частый гость в тульских школах. После его увлекательных рассказов и демонстрации работ ребят из «Электрона» их сверстники тоже приходят на занятия. Летом активисты «Электрона» под руководством самого Пономарёва «гастролируют» по оздоровительным лагерям, где их принимают с большим интересом. Естественно, после таких выездов клуб также пополняется новыми членами.

Л. Д. Пономарёв награжден медалями «За доблестный труд», «Ветеран труда», медалью ордена «За заслуги перед Отечеством», медалью А.П. Гайдара; знаками «Отличник просвещения РСФСР» и «Отличник просвещения СССР», а также почетным знаком г. Тулы «За заслуги перед городом I степени». А в 2010 году Льву Дмитриевичу Пономарёву было присвоено звание «Почетный гражданин города-героя Тулы». Бесспорно, за заслуги перед будущим города мастеров-оружейников.



Лев Дмитриевич ПОНОМАРЁВ и воспитанники клуба «Электрон».

Здесь будут готовить лидеров

В День российского студенчества в Туле был открыт Центр развития молодежного самоуправления (ул. Оборонная, 7а). В этот же день стартовал проект «Школа управленческого резерва».

НА ОТКРЫТИИ присутствовали студенты пяти высших и семи средних специальных учебных заведений областной столицы. Они же стали первыми участниками проекта. Молодых людей угостили необычным тортом в виде зачетной книжки и чаем. Глава администрации города Евгений Авилов оставил запись в книге пожеланий, а затем в неформальной обстановке пообщался с ребятами и ответил на их вопросы. Евгений Васильевич предложил студентам направлять свои идеи по развитию мест отдыха для молодежи в администрацию и выразил надежду, что после учебы они останутся работать в родном городе.

Центр развития молодежного самоуправления будет помогать в реализации молодежных инициатив, заниматься подготовкой потенциального кадрового резерва для органов власти, лидеров некоммерческих организаций и топ-менеджеров корпо-

раций, повышением навыков и компетенции молодых специалистов. Он должен стать коммуникационной площадкой для обмена опытом, содействовать развитию и распространению лучших практик.

«Школа управленческого резерва» призвана способствовать интеграции молодежи в общественно-политическую жизнь Тулы. Она будет практиковать нестандартный подход к воспитанию лидеров и включению молодежи в управленческий процесс, даст возможность повысить навыки и компетенции в этой сфере, обменяться опытом с другими участниками и пройти практику в органах местного самоуправления. Предполагается, что по окончании учебы в «Школе управленческого резерва» будут выдаваться сертификаты о ее прохождении.

