



INTRODUCTION

The Republic of Estonia - Eesti Vabariik



Surju parish - Surju vald



Surju Basic School - Surju Põhikool



EESTI VABARIIK

The Republic of Estonia

/Gerli Ojaste, form 8/

Estonia is a small country, which is to the south of Finland, north of Latvia and west of Russia.

The president of Estonia is
Toomas Hendrik Ilves.



The population of Estonia is about 1.4 million. People in Estonia speak Estonian. The territory of Estonia covers about 45.227 km².

The national symbols of Estonia are:

- The flag – blue, black and white
- The coat of arms
- The national anthem – “Mu Isamaa, mu õnn ja rõõm”
 - The national bird – a barn swallow
 - The national stone – limestone
 - The national flower – a cornflower
- The national tree – an oak tree
- The national fish – Baltic herring



There are beautiful rivers and lakes in Estonia. We have a lot of forests with pines, spruces and birches.

Our wild animals are squirrels, rabbits, foxes, wolves, bears, elks, lynx and so on.

There are no high mountains but many hills.

The highest peak is Suur Munamägi in South-Estonia, it's 318 m high.



The Song Festival

The Estonian Song Festival (Estonian: *laulupidu*) is an event which takes place in Tallinn, the capital of Estonia, every five years in the month of July. The last song festival was in 2004, the next festival will be in 2009 2.-5. July, it's the XXV and it's called "To Breathe as One". Nowadays those festivals are held on The Tallinn Song Festival Grounds.



The tradition of the song festival was born along with Estonian national awakening. The first national song festival was held in Tartu in the summer of 1869. Starting with the sixth festival in 1896, the festival tradition moved to Tallinn.



The festival starts with a procession through the city. Most of the people wear national costumes on that event.



The Song Festival is usually held at the same weekend with the Dance Celebration. The Dance Celebration is a complete performance with a certain scenario. The dancers in their bright national costumes form several colourful patterns on the ground.



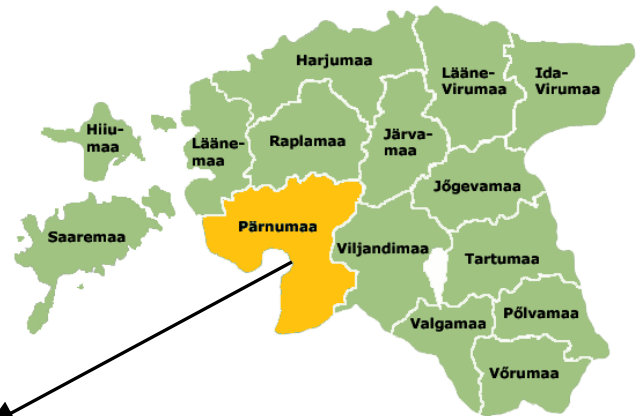
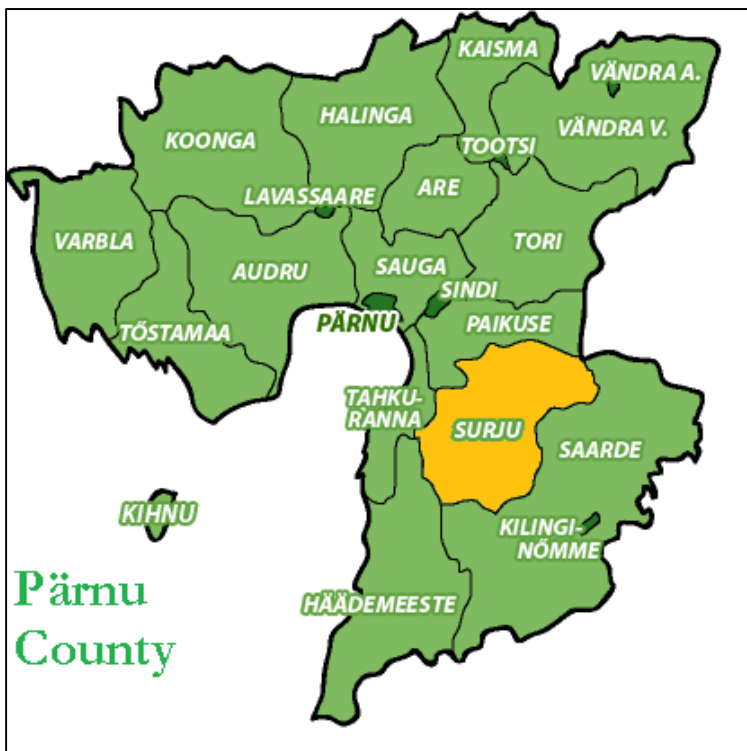
Our Home Place

/Merilin Lehismets, form 7/



We live in a small village called Surju. It's near Pärnu. Pärnu is the “Summer Capital” of Estonia because of its long beach and seaside.

Surju is very small but a nice place. There lives about 1105 people. We have a beautiful school, a kindergarten in a block of flats (a new one is being built next to the school), a health centre, a nursing home, one shop, a culture house and a library in our village.



Surju municipality was founded in 1991. It measure 357.9 km² and is situated on Pärnu lowland. It's mainly plains covered with forests. The center of the municipality is 24 km from Pärnu. The municipality has created many possibilities for cultural activities.

Residents can participate in acting, sewing and sports classes, sing in the choir, dance etc.



There is beautiful nature all around: a lot of forest, a park, a lake, rivers, bogs etc. 78% of the municipality is covered with forests, thus having many areas untouched by man. The Reiu River with beautiful banks runs through the village. Impounded lake in the centre of Surju offers possibilities for swimming, fishing and boating.



Surju Basic School

/Merily Tähemaa, form 9/



There are 112 students and 19 teachers in our school. There are 9 classes in our school, it's a basic school. In our school we have 4 terms; the 3rd term is the longest. We get reports 4 times a year. The first holiday is in October. It lasts for one week. The second holiday starts in December and it lasts for two weeks. It's a Christmas holiday. The third holiday is in March and this is one week long. The longest holiday is in summer and it starts in the end of June.



We don't have a school uniform and most students wouldn't like it. I don't like it either. I think it's cool when we are all different, we all have our own clothes.

We can eat in school twice if we want. We have a nice canteen and a very good cook! We don't have to pay for our lunch.

In our school we have a lot of extra activities after classes. Sometimes we have parties too. Every term we have one disco, sometimes more than one.

I like to study in our school, because it's a small school and we have very friendly students. All the pupils in our school are polite and helpful and teachers are helpful too.



I think we have a nice and a very special school!

School Activities

/Ants Vaher, form 9/



In our school we have our own “Republic” called “Oma Riik” in Estonian. It has been created to engage larger amount of students, school personnel and local community in organizing local life. Surju School’s Republic has its own Parliament and Government which

tries to make school life friendlier for students. The goal is to form a person who can manage to get along with others, him/herself, work and studying. We have our own P.M. and other ministers. Ministers are pupils who have been chosen by all students. Our “president” is our headmaster Mait Käbin.

We have many different activities at school. Some can take extra lessons in Maths or in English, the others can do handicraft, learn acting or singing. Also we have some training in volleyball and basketball. I like the basketball training the most.

In our school we celebrate Christmas, the Independence Day of Estonia, Mardipäev (Saint Martin’s Day), Father’s Day, International Women’s Day, Mother’s Day etc. We also have Beauty Competitions.

I like the life in our school. We have cool activities. My favourite subject is mathematics, because it is the easiest for me.



Comenius Project

We joined a project “We are in the same Team” in February 2008.

In August 2008 we found out that we were supported together with schools from Turkey, Spain and Italy.

First we (2 teachers: Krista Rammo and Valter Tominga) went to an information meeting which was held together with Baltic EXPRO 2008 which introduced different projects already carried out in Baltic countries.



Soon there was an article about our project in a local newspaper “Surju Sõnumid” and also in a paper of our county “Pärnu Postimees”.

We had a meeting with our parish head and an accountant to discuss the issues concerning carrying out the project.



Many children in our school have been busy with finding different materials about our partner schools in Turkey, Italy and Spain. They have found out many new things about these countries but they also realise there is much more to learn.





There's also a stand in a hall of the school for everybody to see and learn about our partners.



Girls made it look nice with colourful flags from each country.

