



VASYL STUS SCHOOL OF UKRAINIAN STUDIES

MARCH

The end of February marked the completion of our second trimester for the 2025-26 school year. We are so proud of our students' accomplishments. We also want to remind our families that our teachers only have four hours per week to nurture our future Ukrainian patriots. With that mind, we encourage families to incorporate language, traditions, and religiosity in various manners throughout the week. For instance, encouraging your children to share what they learned during their Saturday classes by practicing their Ukrainian language skills; working on Ukrainian school homework throughout the week; attending marches and rallies such as the acknowledge the 4th anniversary of the full-scale invasion; and participating in Sunday Ukrainian language liturgies. We understand that being a member of the diaspora is no small feat, and we commend you for making the effort to help maintain and shape our Ukrainian culture.

Panaxyda for Roman Shuxevych



At 12:30pm on March 7, our students will participate in the memorial wake to honor the memory of the Chief Commander of the Ukrainian Insurgent Army (UPA), Roman Shukhevych at St. Nicholas Ukrainian Cathedral. Please join us in prayer.

Sviato Shevchenka

We invite families to join our students in honoring the hero of Ukrainian literature, Taras Shevchenko. The program will begin at 11:30am in the school gym.



Calendar Reminders





Museum Exhibit

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At the beginning of February, our students visited the exhibition “DOROHA DOROHA” at the Ukrainian National Museum, presented by the Lviv gallery ZENYK Art. A highlight of the visit was an interactive art quest that encouraged careful observation, analysis, and creative thinking.

During the excursion, students explored painting, sculpture, and graphic art, learned to recognize genres, and discovered the meaning of color. Such experiences help develop aesthetic appreciation and strengthen a spiritual connection to Ukraine.

We sincerely thank the organizers and ZENYK Art gallery for this inspiring event.





Open House Wraps Up

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On the last Saturday of the February, we held our traditional Open House. Parents had the opportunity to register their children for the upcoming school year, meet with teachers, and learn about our programs.

A highlight was a presentation on Ukrainian language learning prepared by School Director Nataliia Ponomarova and USL teacher Oleksandr Korol. The event was held under the motto "Read in Ukrainian — Save Ukraine!", emphasizing the importance of language and culture. We thank our teachers, the Parents Board, and everyone who helped organize this special day.



TRAFFIC SAFETY

We would like to again remind our families of road safety when dropping off and picking up students. Please do not double park, park in illegal spots (e.g., at fire hydrants or in the cross walk), or wait in the alleys while awaiting your child.

Слідкуйте за нами!





Lesia Ukrainka's Birthday

On February 25, our school honored the birthday of Lesia Ukrainka with open lessons dedicated to her life and literary works. Preschool students took a magical journey into the world of The Forest Song, reciting poetry, singing, dancing, and even meeting Mavka. First grade students prepared short presentations about the writer and confidently shared their knowledge with parents.

We sincerely thank our teachers for their professionalism and inspiration. We remember you. We honor you. We are inspired by you!



MARCH

Amazon Wish List

Thank you to those parents and organizations who have made generous donations to support the running of our non-profit school. If interested in making a donation, consider purchasing items and materials for the school via our Amazon wish list that can be found here:

AMAZON WISH LIST

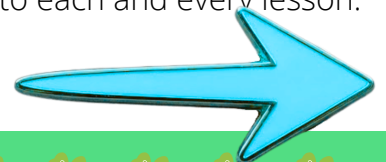
Parents Board Annual Elections

We will be holding our Parents Board annual elections on May 16th at 11am. We invite and highly encourage all parents to attend to hear about the state of our school, the year's events, and to identify the new board. Mark your calendars!



Spotlight on a Teacher

Continuing on with our second issue of the "Spotlight on a Teacher," please learn more about our USL teacher, Mr. Oleksandr Korol, who brings his creativity and passion for education to each and every lesson.





SPOTLIGHT ON A TEACHER

Alexander Korol

1. What do you teach at the Vasyl Stus School?

I teach in the USL class (Ukrainian as a Second Language) at the Vasyl Stus Ridna Shkola. I work with students for whom Ukrainian is a second language and help them not only develop their language skills but also gain a deeper understanding of Ukrainian culture, traditions and identity.

2. What professional and personal experience has helped you in your role as a teacher at our school?

I have been working as a teacher for over 11 years. During this time, I have taught Ukrainian and English, working with children and adults of different ages and varying levels of proficiency. This experience has taught me flexibility, patience and the ability to adapt material to meet the needs of each student.

In addition to my professional experience, my personal interests also help me in my work. I have a wide range of interests, from sports to science. If a student is passionate about soccer, I can carry on that conversation; if they are interested in astrophysics, I can find common ground in that area as well. The ability to connect with people who have different interests helps build trust and create an engaging, dynamic atmosphere in the classroom.

3. What is your teaching philosophy?

My teaching philosophy is based on an individual approach. I am convinced that every child is a unique individual with their own character, learning pace and way of processing information. A teacher's task is to recognize this uniqueness and structure the learning process in a way that helps unlock each student's potential.

4. What is your favorite Ukrainian book and why?

My favorite Ukrainian book is the novella *I (Romance)* by Mykola Khvylovy. This work deeply impresses with its psychological depth and inner drama. It raises complex moral questions and compels the reader to reflect on a person's responsibility for their own choices.

5. What is your favorite Ukrainian city and why?

My favorite Ukrainian city is Ivano-Frankivsk. I am drawn to its atmosphere and its proximity to the Carpathian Mountains. I truly love the mountains, and the opportunity to be close to them fills me with inspiration and inner peace.

6. What excites you most about teaching at the Ukrainian School?

What inspires me most is the opportunity to contribute to preserving the Ukrainian language, culture and community beyond the borders of Ukraine. The awareness that we are helping children maintain a connection to their roots and shape their Ukrainian identity gives my work special meaning.

