

President Toomas Hendrik Ilves presented Estonia's Beautiful School Award to the Laupa Basic School today in Järva County. President Toomas Hendrik Ilves presented Estonia's Beautiful School Award to the Laupa Basic School today in Järva County.

Today, there are 95 children and 19 teachers at the school in Laupa, where the first school was founded in 1787. Their winning project was entitled "The Beautiful, Modern Laupa Manor School". During the judging, it was considered especially important that the students who participated in the project paid great attention to nature conservation and environmental protection.

"In Estonia, it is necessary to continually work at making the country more active, more intelligent, more caring and more beautiful. We cannot expect someone else to do these things for us. We must do them ourselves – everyday and everywhere," President Ilves told the Laupa School family. "It has to begin right there, right now and automatically. After all, Estonia has the face that we give it. Be it an energetic, resourceful face, or an apathetic face that is waiting for instructions from afar."

The Head of State presented the Laupa Basic School with a tapestry entitled "School" by textile artist Anu Raud.

Tõnis Lukas, the Minister of Education and Research, confirmed that the government must make an effort to preserve rural schools with about 100 students, which seem small when viewed from afar, but are very large on the inside.

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