

Tomorrow, 27 January, Evelin Ilves and biathlete Allar Levandi will visit Carl Robert Jakobson Gymnasium in Viljandi, where Rebeca Lotta Aasmäe, who won the Young Athlete's Prize of the First Lady's Foundation of the President of the Republic's Cultural Foundation, studies.

At 12 pm, Evelin Ilves will open the school skating competition in Viljandi Skating Rink. She will then inspect the school cafeteria. At 1 pm, Evelin Ilves and Allar Levandi will meet the students of the school.

It is tradition for Evelin Ilves to visit the schools of recipients of the Young Athlete's prize with some of Estonia's top athletes, thereby paying homage to the recipient of the prize and his/her school.

Background information:

The Young Athlete's Prize is presented by the First Lady's Foundation of the President of the Republic's Cultural Foundation. The prize is intended to acknowledge young, under-21-year-olds with very good academic achievements. The prize is earmarked for covering training and competition costs. The prize is financed by Nordea Bank and is awarded twice a year. The amount of the Young Athlete's Prize is up to 3,195 Euros per recipient. To date, the prize has been divided between three athletes.

Rebeca Lotta (born in 2000) is involved in judo with Taifu Sports Club, Viljandi. Rebeca is a highly versatile young athlete, who has been successful in judo, skiing and track and field. Despite her intense training schedule, she has also achieved excellent academic results. She started with judo at the age of seven and achieved 2nd place in her very first competition. In 2010, Rebeca was elected as the first young athlete of Taifu Sports Club, and in May 2011 she won the title of Estonian Champion of athletes up to 40 kg. She has been skiing since she was a young child and started to attend competitions in 2010, at which she quickly achieved good results. Rebeca is studying in the 5th class of Carl Robert Jakobson Gymnasium, Viljandi; music is also one of her hobbies – she is learning to play violin and flute, and she sings in a

choir. Rebeca will use her Young Athlete's Prize to cover some of her competition expenses and to buy the necessary sports supplies.

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