

Evelin Ilves met today with the school family of the Humanitarian Gymnasium of Tallinn, which uses Russian as its medium of instruction, and learned about the food provided in the school cafeteria and canteen.

The spouse of the President discussed different issues, including sports and nutrition, with the gymnasium students. After her visit to the school, Evelin Ilves said she was pleased to learn that, according to the children, learning the Estonian language is useful, natural and easy for them.

Evelin Ilves also met with the representatives of Tuleleek, a company that provides catering services and is responsible for the school lunch and choice available from the canteen. "It is nice that a large catering company such as Tuleleek, which caters to 14 schools in Tallinn, can offer diversified and healthy lunches and take an individual approach towards different schools," Evelin Ilves added.

The Humanitarian Gymnasium of Tallinn is one of the largest municipal schools in Estonia that pays special attention to teaching the official language to students. Intensive Estonian language classes have been held in the schools for the past 13 years, and learning takes place according to the programme and textbooks that are used in schools where Estonian is the medium of instruction. The school joined the late language immersion programme in 2004.

In December of last year, Evelin Ilves visited Vääna Manor School, where she told students about healthy eating habits and inspected the school diner and library. In January, Ms Ilves paid a visit to Johannes Waldorf School and Kindergarten in Rosma village, Põlva rural municipality, while in February she got acquainted with the students of Jüri Gymnasium in Rae Rural Municipality. In March, the First Lady visited Muhu Basic School and Valjala Basic School. Last month, she met with the Lauka school family in Hiiumaa and discussed the possibilities of local food reaching child care institutions with the developers of the Western Estonia LEADER co-operation project.

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