

Evelin Ilves and former decathlete Erki Nool today visited Jõhvi Gymnasium to acknowledge the young track-and-field athlete Reena Koll, who last year won the Young Athlete's Prize of the Sub-fund of the Spouse of the President of the Republic's Cultural Foundation.

"It was nice to hear from Reena's father, who is also her coach, that Jõhvi has a great foundation for sports – both good training conditions and good food. This is much more than some of the sports schools in the capital have," told Evelin Ilves. She invited the parents of other young athletes to consider Ida-Virumaa when choosing the best conditions for their children's successful development.

Erki Nool, who told the students of the highs and lows of an athlete's journey, confirmed that only lots of hard work and self-confidence will take you to the top.

"Reena Koll is an inspiring girl, and she also inspires many around her to get involved in sports," acknowledged Erki Nool.

At the meeting with the students of Jõhvi Gymnasium, Evelin Ilves and Erki Nool were asked a lot of questions about the life of a top athlete, sports as a hobby and balanced nutrition.

Evelin Ilves traditionally pays a visit with some of Estonia's top athletes to the schools attended by the recipients of the Young Athlete Prize to acknowledge both the recipient and his/her school.

Reena Koll was born in 1996 and acquired her basic education in Jõgeva Gymnasium; she started her studies in 10th class of Jõhvi Gymnasium last autumn.

Reena started with pole vault training at the age of 12; in 2011, she set an Estonian record in B class pole vault with a height of 4.12, and became absolute champion in Estonia in this field. She has Estonian A class, junior and youth records (4.15) to her name. Yesterday, at Martin Kutman Memorial Championship in Tartu, Reena set a new Estonian record in women's pole

vault of 4.24.

Reena is a highly diversified track-and-field athlete; apart from pole vault, she is also a youth champion in javelin, long jump, high jump and heptathlon. In addition to track-and-field, Reena has also been successful in volleyball.

The Young Athlete Prize of the First Lady's Foundation of the Cultural Foundation of the President of the Republic is a prize intended to acknowledge under-21-year-olds with very good academic achievements. The prize is earmarked for the recipients' training and competition costs. The Young Athlete prize can be up to 3,200 euros per recipient. To date, the prize has been divided between several recipients.

This year's application round for the Young Athlete's price will be announced at the beginning of March.

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