

## **The history of Ruila School**

Ruila manor was first mentioned in 1417, when the manor belonged to the German Order and it was occasionally used as a residence for the commander of the fortress of Tallinn. The manor was built on a prehistoric cult place, the rough idea of which is given by the cult stone situated alongside the school building.

The medieval manor was destroyed in the 16th century during the Livonian War by Russian troops. In 1624 Gustav II Adolf gave the manor to Johann Ulrich, and the manor remained property of the Ulrich's family for several generations. In the 17th century several other manors separated from Ruila manor, among those were Haiba manor and Laitse manor. When Johann von Ulrich's fourth daughter Katharina Friederike married to Magnus Adolph Theodor von Bremen, the manor became property of the Bremen's family in 1815 and until 1939 the manor belonged to the Bremen's family.

The schoolhouse was completed in 1871. The first heads of the school were Hans Tennijas, Juhan Tasmut, and Karl Karell.

The school acted as nursery and primary school. If one wanted to go to school they had to take exams. The school's regulations said that every 8-year-old child had to show to the teacher what they had learned at home. The teachers checked pupils' reading skills. 10-year-old children had to go to township school. The ones who had not mastered sufficient knowledge to the required level, were sent home for another year.

Occasionally pupils' absences and behavior were assessed and the parents of those who behaved badly were invited to the school. The school was controlled by someone called "vöormünder", who checked pupils' presence, and assessed the pupils on their learning success. He also monitored the learning process. Sometimes pupils' health was also checked.

On the 19th of January 1899 the inspector issued an order to learn more of the Russian language, arithmetic and handwriting.

The present manor building can be considered as an example of the classicist style. The first floor, built in the 17th century, is made of limestone and the second floor, built in the 19th century, is made of wood. On each floor are preserved 19th century stoves, baroque panel doors and parquet floors. The building has 11 manor-style stoves, which are still in working condition.

The Ruila manor complex includes the main building, the barn, the stable, the forge, and the park. The

Ruila stables offer horse riding as well as horse excursions. The Ruila local history museum has unique materials about the history of school and its surroundings.

Definitely worth a visit is the “Ukukivi” at the Kääbaste hill, which is also known as the *Ruila castle Stone, Virgin Stone, Linda Stone* and *Kalevipoja Oil Shale*. It's Estonian biggest sacrificial stone, with the victim pothole's diameter of about 40 cm.

During events organized by the “Forgotten estates” association, Ruila Manor Visitor Days take place and in the summer horse races are held by the Ruila stables.

### **School introduction in English**

In Ruila Basic school there are 124 students, and it employs 19 teachers. The school has a modern newly built gym and art and craft building, in the same building there is a library.

One can choose extra curricular activities like dancing and horse riding. A particular attention is paid to cross curricular subjects such as school's history, culture and nature. The most talented pupils represent the school in different contests and competitions. Small classes provide an opportunity to reach every pupil and make sure every child is able to find their strongest side and put it to glow.

The school aims at providing its pupils with different afterschool activities. The school offers the following: athletics, ball games, dancing, arts and crafts, carpentry, horse riding, drama club, and chess. The school operates a music studio; school song contests are held every year, and the pupils have also attended township and county singing competitions.

In addition to academic subjects, one of the most unique opportunities is horse riding. In the fifth grade students learn the basics and continue in the sixth grade. The horse riding classes are taught by teacher Ülle. Ülle also teaches art and craft classes, which take place in a modern building built in the year 2009. The classes give students an opportunity for self-expression, be it simple paintings or works made in different techniques.

Teachers Aire Ansen and Raili Kann teach acting classes, which are mainly taken by primary school kids. Much attention is paid to music lessons, which are taught by teacher Margit Aava. Not a single event is held without the girls choir, children's choir, and soloists from the music studio. Every spring the traditional singing contest “Ruila laululaps (The singing children of Ruila)” is held.

We participate in the Manor School project, organized by the “Forgotten Manors” association, which introduces Ruila Mansion and the local history museum to tourists. The school runs a non-profit

organization “Ruila Manor”, whose members are many parents and others in the region - the activists, whose activities support the school, and who sing in the mixed chorus, play sports and participate in the art and crafts classes.

The school has been successfully taking part in the TV 10 Olympic Starts as well as in many other county and country sporting events. Every spring, Harju County Schools are welcome to take part in the famous sporting event “Välek”.