

# THE CASTLE!

April 2024

EASTER FROM OUR

VIDEO

EYES

GAME

*Dancing*

CONSOLES

*and me*

Tips for Auditioning for

Acting School

You've got mail from the next school

*Book  
Review*

Helping the Earth

together!

*fine arts high school entrance exam*

Climate change

HIGH SCHOOL ENTRANCE TEST

Fun facts in History



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In this issue we've covered very interesting topics for you. Martin tells us about the history of the consoles and in Lukas's article you will find the most interesting fact about climate change. Stella shares her story about dancing with us, you will be amazed how much time she invests in dancing to be successful. Andrej and Emma have shared their experiences about entering fine arts high school and conservatory. Terka is giving us amazing details about recycling and helping the earth in this way. High school entrance test was a big issue and Matilda and Ondra gave us recommendations about the current system and how to prepare for the test. Anna, Nikca and Nela have different ideas and habits about the Easter time, read to find out if you have something similar. In the book review you will read the most unimaginable story of the book "It's the only superpower". Our tech writer Martin has told us about the legendary game tetris and the world record. In this issue Yaman compiled fun facts from history. It's worth reading. In the last page you have a letter from our former student Agata, she shared her views, some memories from her time here and gave you some advice about high school.

Happy reading to you all! Until June!

Hatice Güngör





# VIDEO GAME CONSOLES

## CONSOLES FROM THE EARLIEST TO THE LAST ONE

1ST GENERATION: THIS IS WHERE IT BEGINS

THE FIRST CONSOLE MADE IS MAGNAVOX ODYSSEY (1972)

AFTER IT, ATARI PONG CAME BUT THIS ONE WAS AN AUTOMAT THAT MEANS IT WAS MADE FOR COINS.

BUT THE BEST SELLING ONE WAS PONG AND IT WAS A TOTAL HIT. IN THAT TIME EVERYONE COULD PLAY THAT BECAUSE IT WAS THAT SIMPLE AND THERE WASN'T ANY CONTROLLER, ONLY JOYSTICKS. THIS WAS A PLASTIC STICK WHICH YOU COULD MOVE AND THERE WERE A COUPLE OF BUTTONS ON IT.



2ND GENERATION: IT ALL STARTED TO BE POPULAR

THE TOP SELLING ONE WAS THE LEGENDARY ATARI 2600. AT THE TIME IT WAS A TOTAL REVOLUTION AND IT WAS REALLY STRONG. IT HAD A SPACE FOR MORE NEW GAMES AND THE 8BIT GRAPHIC.

OF COURSE IT HAD MISTAKES LIKE IF YOUR CARTRIDGE (GAME CASSETTE) WAS DUSTY, YOU WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO PLAY THAT GAME AND YOU WOULD NEED TO PUT AWAY THE DUST FIRST.



3RD GENERATION: ONE OF THE MOST MEMORABLE CONSOLE  
NINTENDO ENTERTAINMENT SYSTEM OR NES - 1983. THIS  
COMPANY ALSO MADE SUPER MARIO WHICH IS A CLASSIC.  
ANOTHER LEGEND WAS MADE HERE: SEGA MASTER SYSTEM  
BUT IT WASN'T THE TOP-SELLING CONSOLE.



4TH GENERATION: 16 BIT GRAPHICS  
1990 WAS THE YEAR WHEN THE SUPER NINTENDO  
ENTERTAINMENT SYSTEM WAS MADE (SNES).  
SEGA CDS WERE MADE WITHIN THIS GENERATION AND OF  
COURSE SNES WAS THE MOST POPULAR ONE.



5TH GENERATION: ERA OF CLASSICS  
THE LEGENDARY CONSOLE WAS FINALLY MADE IN 1994:  
PLAYSTATION. THE ORIGINAL WAS STRONG, POPULAR AND  
COULD HOLD MANY GAMES' UPGRADED GRAPHICS. NINTENDO  
64 WAS ALSO MADE THE SAME YEAR. THERE'S ALSO A SEGA  
SATURN, BUT I NEVER ACTUALLY HEARD OF THIS ONE. AT  
THAT TIME, IF YOUR FRIEND HAD A PLAYSTATION HE WAS  
PROBABLY VERY FAMOUS AMONG OTHER KIDS BECAUSE  
EVERYONE WANTED TO HAVE A PLAYSTATION.

6TH GENERATION: NOT THE MOST MEMORABLE ONE  
PROBABLY THE MOST MEMORABLE ONE IS PLAYSTATION 2-  
2000 SO NOT MUCH TO TALK ABOUT HERE BUT THE GRAPHICS  
ARE GETTING BETTER AND BETTER WITH EACH GENERATION.



7TH GENERATION: THE GOD OF THE CONSOLES: Wii- 2006  
IF THE SPORTS CONSOLE BORED YOU, AND IF YOU WANT TO MOVE AND FIGHT: THE MATT FROM THE Wii SPORT GAME (THE HARDEST AI TO BEAT IN THIS GAME) AND ALSO XBOX 360 IS FROM THIS GENERATION AND PLAYSTATIONS.



8TH GENERATION: NINTENDO IS BACK  
NINTENDO IS BACK WITH A BLAST NINTENDO SWITCH. THE LAST ONE YET THE GREATEST ONE FROM THE FAMILY HAS GOOD GRAPHICS AND IS MORE ADVANCED THAN THE OTHER PLAYSTATION 4.

9TH GENERATION  
WE ARE IN THE PRESENT DAY, PLAYSTATION 5 IS OUT, IT IS REVOLUTIONARY IN TERMS OF THE GRAPHICS. ALSO THE XBOX SERIES IS HERE.





# CLIMATE CHANGE

LUKÁŠ RAIS

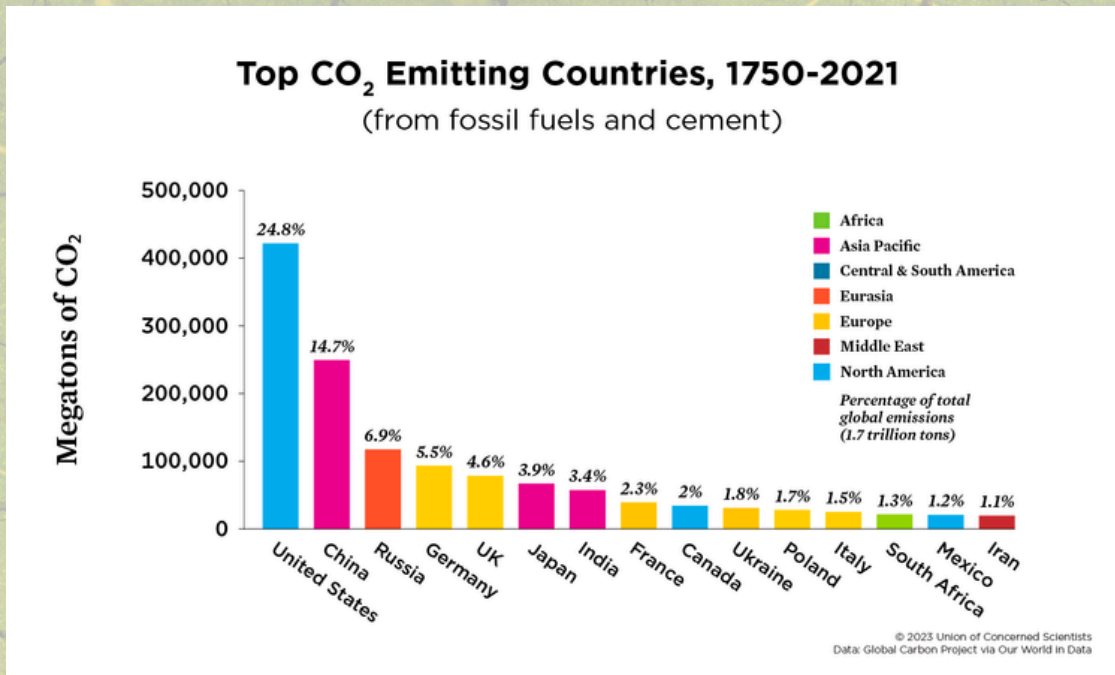
The climate is an extremely important part of our life and even influenced the evolution of animals on Earth. Although humanity hasn't really given much attention to climate before, we have precise equipment and we can throughroutly see the impact it has on everyone. Climate change basically means that the climate is changing because of human interference. The speed of the change is so fast that animals cannot get used to it and die. The rising temperature is called global warming. It melts icebergs and kills endangered species that live in cold areas. The temperature change is caused by gases released by human factories and cars. These are often poisonous to the atmosphere and nature. The most climate changing gas is CO<sub>2</sub>, which is released by burning fossil fuels and even by breathing.



Therefore, the easy fix would be to stop using fossil fuels, however there is a problem with that, the most used source of energy are fossil fuels. Cutting off these sources immediately would result in not having energy to power everything we need for our survival since renewable energy sources only account for 12.6%. Of course the advantage of fossil fuels is the easy access to them and thus getting large amounts of energy.



These are the biggest producers of CO<sub>2</sub>:



What could be the solution is to slowly stop using ineffective engines that use fossil fuels and replace them with electrical engines just like we are trying to do now. Stop factories that release CO<sub>2</sub> and replace them with nuclear, thermal or electrical factories.

Planting more trees would also help with getting rid of the CO<sub>2</sub> that we don't want.

In conclusion, we have the answer on how to fix climate change and global warming, however humanity would need a lot of time to slowly incorporate everything to fix the issues.

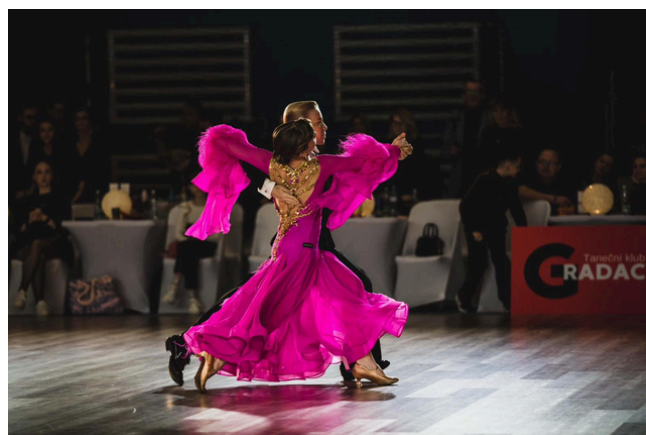




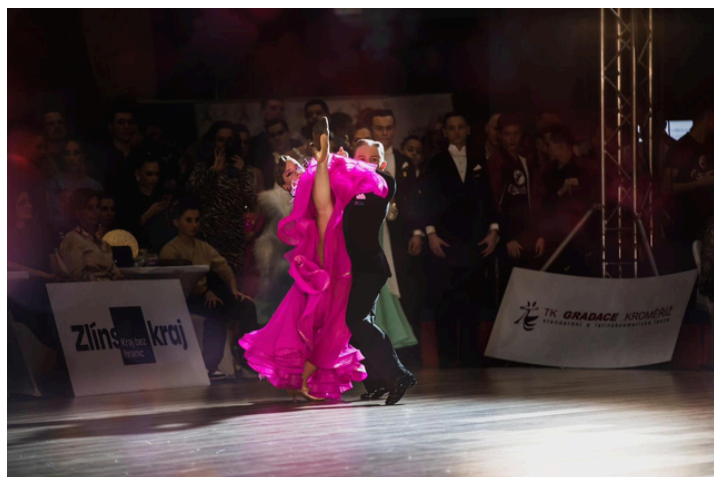
# Dancing and me

STELLA ZDÁNSKÁ

*I started dancing when I was about 4 years old. At that time my mom trained me. I've always wanted to be a dancer since I was little.*



*I used to train once a week in Bakov nad Jizerou with good trainers. Now I train every day with Marek Bureš in Liberec.*



*A year ago I got together with my dance partner and after two months of dancing together we won fourth place at the Czech championship. This year we went to the Czech championship again but in the older category, and we took a beautiful final place again. We often go to Czech and foreign competitions, and we regularly fill places in the finals. Now we are in the Czech national team.*





# Tips for Auditioning for Acting School

Andrej KOPČAN

How did you decide to enter the auditioning for conservatory high school?

Because I enjoy acting, I want it to be my job. Name of the school is Pražská konzervatoř.

Do you think it is a good job in the Czech Republic?

It depends on what you want from your job. I want to enjoy it but I should say that it is not so good a job with the family because it takes a lot of time as it is not a regular ordinary job.

How long does it take you to prepare for one play?

It depends on which theatre but it usually takes around two months.

What have you done until this year about acting?

I am still playing in three plays. Two are in Mladá Boleslav and one is in Prague. I attended a course. It was right in the conservatory (the school that I was accepted to). I am not sure how much the course helped me for the talent test, but we had one play and it was an unusual one. It wasn't a traditional one. I've learnt a lot at the course. The plays I've taken part are: MB: Donaha, Rok na vsi, Prague: První rána kapitána

What do you recommend to the students who plan to enter acting schools?

Don't be scared. You have to be in a good mood and sometimes people will try really too hard because it is the most important thing for them and yet they are not accepted because it affects their performance. I wasn't totally calm, but I guess it was OK.





**How was the test? What did they ask? What did you do?**

There are three rounds of the test. You have to go through the three parts. In the first one, You have monologues and poems. The examiners are like directors and they tell you what to do and they watch you how you apply these changes into your performance. In the second part, first you sing, and again similar things to the ones in the first part (monologues and poems) and also music theory and dancing or your moves, how you move on the stage. They want to see if you can dance, too. In the third part, you play in a scene with another person and it is improvised and they give you a text and you have to do all the scenes because there are some sentences and you don't know what they mean, they don't have a specific meaning. You have to think how you will use these sentences in your play. They give you the text on the day of the test so you have to remember everything. The sentences are both random and somehow connected.

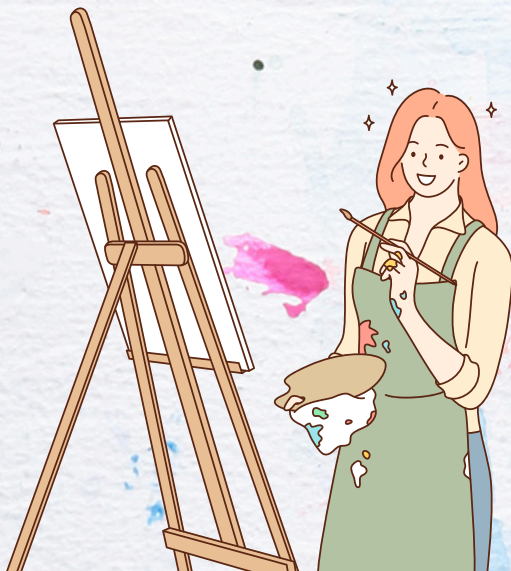
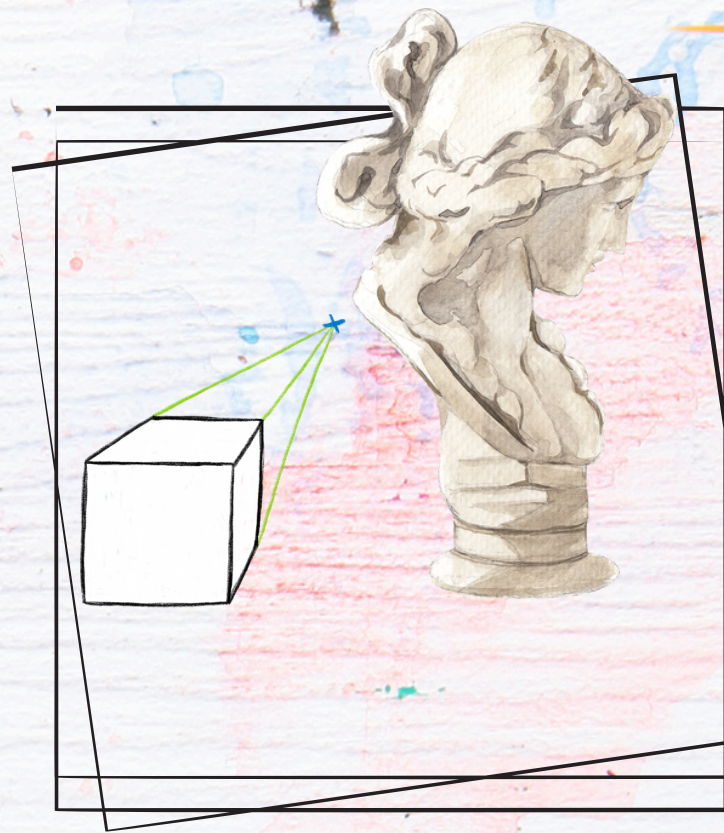
You need at least 5 points from each part. In total you need 15 points to pass. The results were out one week later. You can see the results on the internet on the website of the school.



# fine arts high school entrance exam

Emma Filipi

If you want to go to art high school it's good to start preparing for the talent exam. I started preparing like two years before the exams. I went to a preparation course every week and of course I prepared at home every day. Most of the time I drew something in perspective, for example boxes, chairs, etc. It's good to train perspective because some object it's on perspective at the exam (probably a chair). I also drew a lot of busts and portraits. My preparation obviously changed my daily and social life. I didn't have that much time for my friends and my other hobbies. But there was a good reason for it.



If you want to go to art high school it's good to  
Next thing that wasn't very easy was my balance between my schoolwork and preparation. After school I often went to draw so I didn't study that much like before. On the day of the exam I was so stressed because I really wanted to go to that school. But after some time it was gone (luckily). I don't say you won't be stressed, I think everyone will be and it's normal because it's very important for you to get into high school. In my case I got over it like, I said to myself that I will do it and I'll go into that school and I did it ★  
So my advice is start preparing if you really want to enter the school you want.



# Helping the Earth together!

**The planet Earth is really important for us humans. That's why we should take care of it as much as we can. On Earth there are about 8.1 Billion people. How amazing would it be if at least half of them helped the Earth so we can still enjoy nature and animals? The problem is that most people don't care about the planet. We should do something about it so we can live without all the mess that people throw on the ground.**

**This project can help other people understand how important Earth is for us. For example: A simple plastic bottle takes around 450 years to just decompose. Plastic is made from materials like cellulose, coal, crude oil and natural gas. Plastic made things easier but worse for earth. We can still use plastic if we want to help the Earth but after using it I recommend putting it in your local recycling bin. That is also what you're going to do with used items made from glass. Find a recycling bin for glass and just put it there.**

**If you don't know what bins are made for your used item just look on the sticker that is on the bin. You can learn from those stickers really helpful things for another moment when you'll go outside to recycle more items. But be careful because there are only a few things that you can recycle like plastic, paper, glass, used cooking oil, cardboard and even electronics.**

**If you want to learn more about helping the Earth, look at some documents about this topic.**





# HIGH SCHOOL ENTRANCE TEST

Matilda KOLOUŠKOVÁ

How did you feel before the test and after the test?

Before the test I think I was scared but not that scared like everyone. Everyone was stressed. I was calm. So I think that it really helped me that I was that calm. I think it is not a big deal. Everyone says it is so important and it is important but I think when you stress about it it is going to be more difficult.



How was the support from your family? Were your studies at school and on your own enough to pass the test?

About my family I think they supported me. I think that my mum was more stressed than me. And I am glad that she paid so much money because the teacher was supporting me psychologically, too. It wasn't only teaching. I was worried more about Maths because I liked Czech more. Because there are long texts in Czech but you must pay attention but I could read and answer the questions. It was easy for me.

Is it possible to study on your own or should you take some courses?

I was at two courses. One was a one-to-one lesson, the other was one at the grammar school. For Czech I was at grammar school, for maths I had a teacher. It was better with the teacher because she can focus on you. And she always told me that I must be calm and I will do it and it really helped me because when they say it will be difficult it is not good of course.



Can you criticise yourself about the process of preparing for the test, did you really do your best, what could have been different or what could you have done differently?

I think I could have done more to prepare. of course I could have but I think it wasn't that bad.



## Ondřej VONDRLÍK

**How did you feel before the test and after the test?**

I feel the same. I was a bit scared at the beginning. It wasn't even that hard. It was like the previous years' tests.



**The support from your family, how was it?**

My parents supported me a lot. They were studying with me and they printed me the tests. I didn't do it online for the tests to be more realistic. It is better like that because you feel more comfortable and more familiar with the test. If you do it only online, it will be different than the actual test.



**Were your studies at school and on your own enough to pass the test?**

I think my studies were enough from what I know. I think I will get enough points for the high school that I want. The test was just as I expected.

**Was it how you expected? What kind of things were within the range of your expectations and what things weren't?**

One thing that I wasn't expecting was that when I went to Karmel for the entrance test, I thought that they would put me in a normal class, but the class that I was in looked like a church. There were statues and the teacher also looked like a priest.

The other thing was that they put me in a special class because I have a document for individual education and there was a kid with Tourette's syndrome and it was a little bit distracting so I guess they should put the kids with similar special needs into the same class.



**Can you criticise yourself about the process of preparing for the test, did you really do your best, what could have been different or what could you have done differently?**

I think I could have done more to prepare. of course I could have but I think it wasn't that bad.



# EASTER FROM OUR EYES

ANNA MARKÉTA SOPKOVÁ  
NIKOLA KONČINSKÁ  
NELA PALAŠTUKOVÁ

## Marketa

We celebrate Easter. My father is very enthusiastic about it. He comes home at 6 a.m. He showers us all because it is a family tradition as he is from Slovakia, they do it differently than the Czech Republic. After splashing water or giving a shower to us, he brings his perfume and sprays us with it. He also brings the Easter sticks with him and he beats me and my mum with the stick. The thing is he does this every year at six a.m. and he does it every year in a different way so you can not prepare for it. One year he pours the water down on us and the next year, out of the blue he splashes water on us in the kitchen. He takes all the sweets from us. He really likes taking the candies for himself. We have one bucket of candies for my dad and another one for the visitors. Everyone we know comes to our house and we celebrate it like that.



Although we normally bake a lamb shaped cake, we didn't do much this year. My mum wasn't into it, but I said I wanted to celebrate it and one night before Easter I started colouring eggs and decorating the bags for sweets so all the preparation was from me. This year was not that bad, because four years ago I remember that I had to change my clothes many times because everyone was pouring water on me.

I was at the Easter market in our school for only half an hour. We had PE and after the market I had training so I could stay there for 30 minutes. I only bought food from our class' stall and a pack of sweets at the stall of 6A. Even if I am not that much interested in it I think it is still a good tradition.



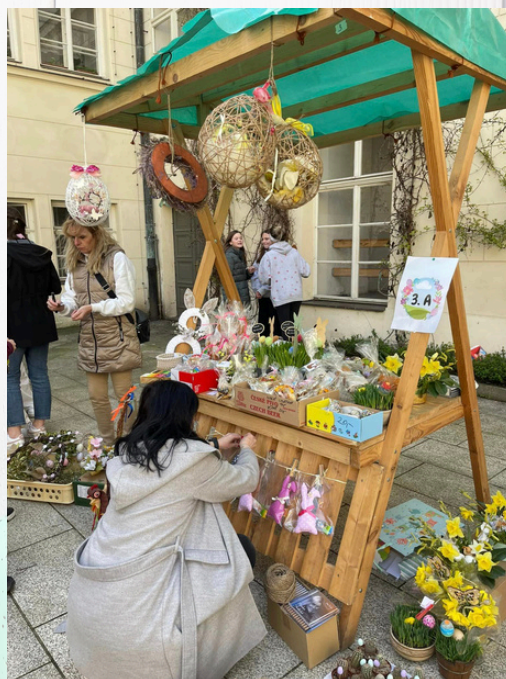
## Nikča

I think this year's Easter market at our school wasn't as big as last year. I always buy a bunch of things about Easter from the market. This year I bought only one pack of candies because I didn't find anything interesting.

I wasn't at our stall. We had Štěpán Kulich. I think we didn't make a lot of money. I like the Christmas Market more than the Easter market. We celebrated Easter at home. I walked through Kosmonosy and collected candies from the neighbourhood. I think for free candies and chocolate it is worth saying that poem from door to door. Because you get: free chocolate and candies! We didn't bake any lamb shaped cake but we had a lot of decorations. We had bunny decorations for flower pots, we had those sticks and we decorated them with ribbons and eggs. We used to decorate eggs, too but now we don't because we always walk around the neighbourhood and people come to our house. I normally live in Mladá Boleslav but not a lot of people celebrate it there and I have my aunt and grandma here in Kosmonosy and every year I come to Kosmonosy to celebrate it.

## Nela

I don't like Easter. I only welcome the kids and give them chocolate, that's all. My family prepares the sticks and everything and my dad goes out to collect chocolate, eggs and candies with my little sister but I don't. My mum only puts some decorations. I like the Easter market in our school. I bought only food. I bought salty things rather than sweets. I was at home and I don't like Easter that much.

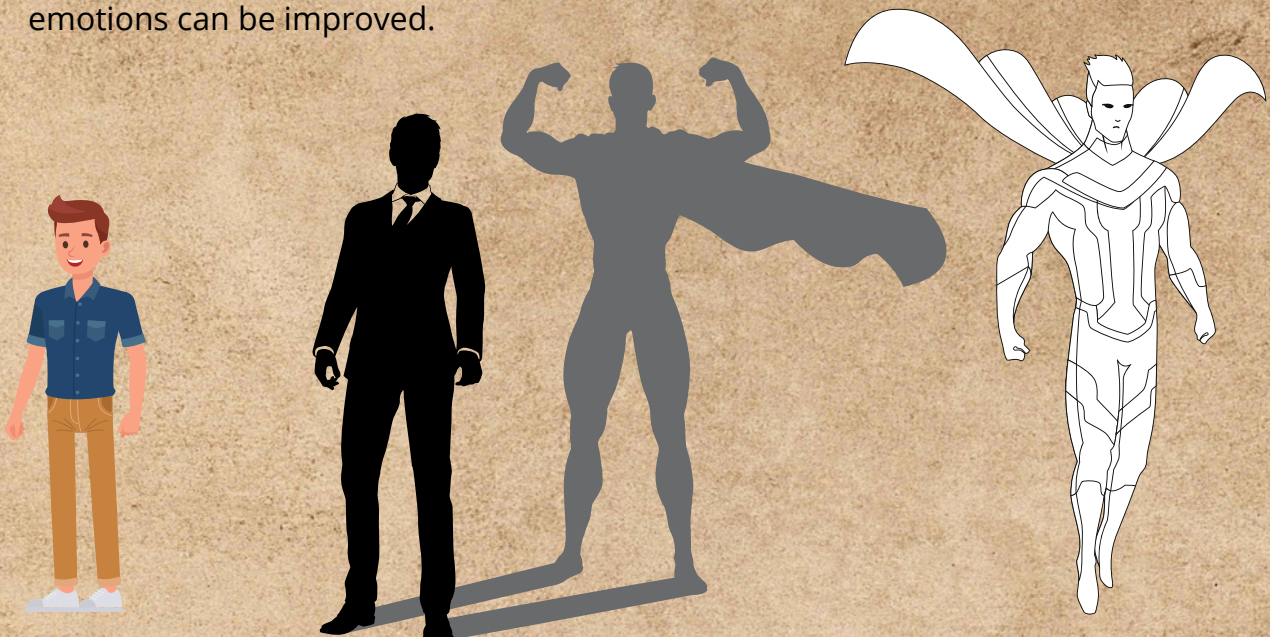




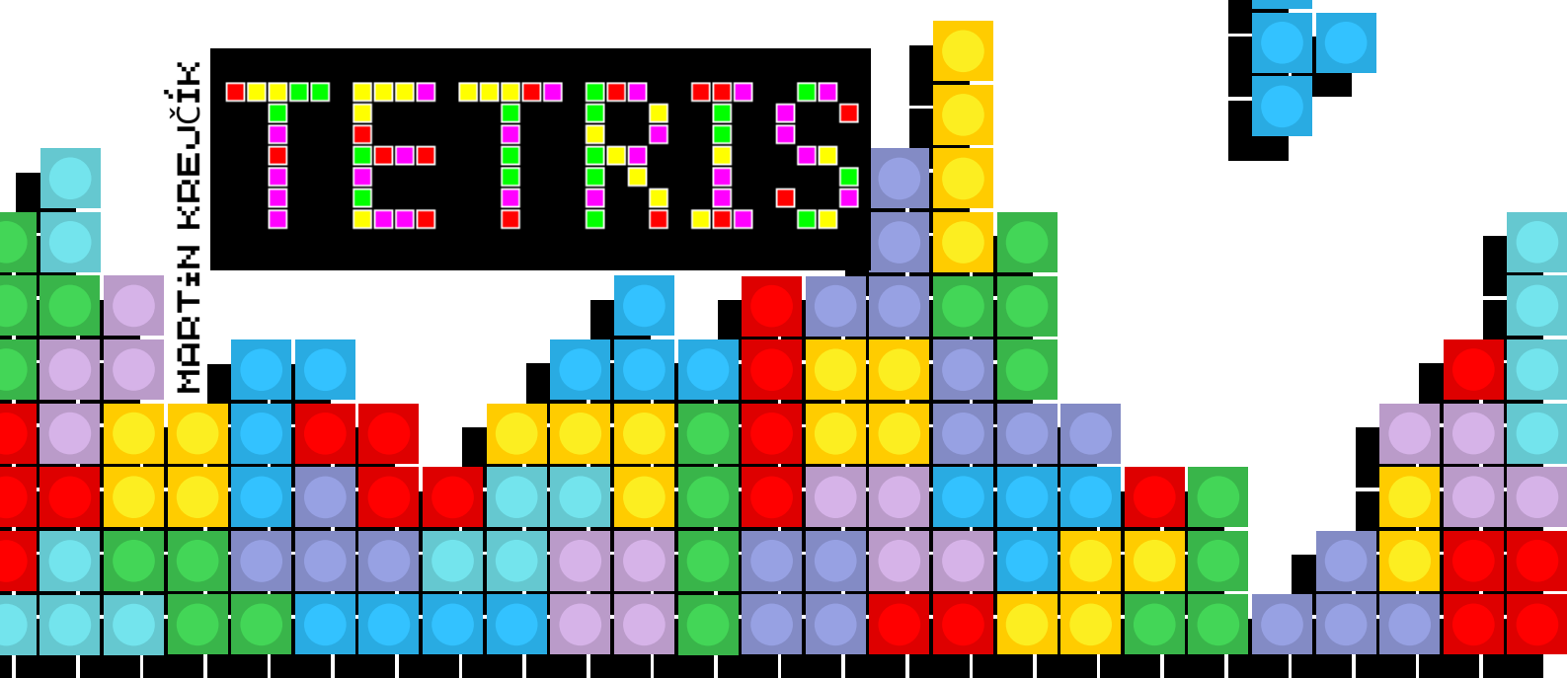
# Book Review I, the only superpower

LUKÁŠ RAIS

Marley is your ordinary guy in an ordinary world. He has glasses and goes to highschool, there is nothing that would catch your eye when you see him. However, one day he felt a little weird. He felt a little more energetic and could see clearer. 10 days later he didn't have to wear glasses anymore. He could run faster than he ever could. Every day he could feel slightly stronger than the day before, wondering what was happening he recorded his overall improvement. After another few days he found out that he improved by 1% in everything compared to yesterday. 1% everyday sounds little, however after accumulating for 3 years, he had the ability to lift trucks, walk on water or even see bacteria with his naked eyes. Few years later, he finally found out that he was invincible on earth. Over the years he figured out that his ability isn't confined to only something physical, his control over his strength, speed, reaction time and even emotions can be improved.

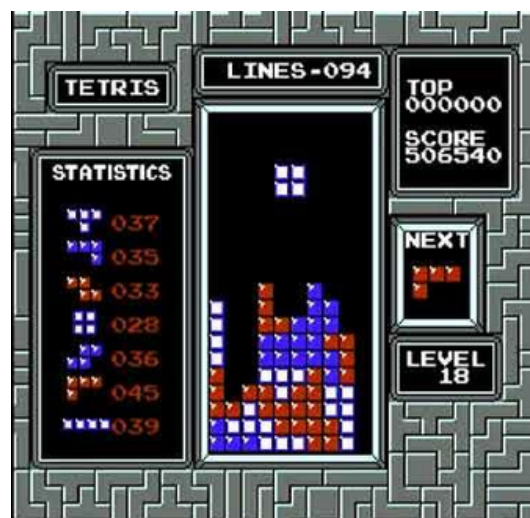






Tetris is an old game and it could be infinite but it's not. Back then players thought that after 100 levels the game either stopped working or it would continue.

There was a problem though, almost no one could beat level 29 and it was because the game gets so fast so it was almost impossible to pass level 29. The numbers even glitched a little and later on it got normal and it stayed like that until level 100.



The best part was on camera and just because of that he is in the Guinness world record with the title "the first man who has beaten Tetris". After this, a lot of people joined him in beating Tetris but others wanted to be faster than him.

If you had a weak game console, the game would crash but the real problem came around level 119 and 143. At level 120, all colors were blue or cyan. The worst level is 143 the colours glitch again this time they are black. After this we are going into the unknown, but then after 34 years the game was finally beaten by Willis Gibson after the level 157 the game froze on the screen. It showed a level 157 score 999 999.



# Fun facts in History

## The Great Emu War:

In 1932, Australia faced an unusual problem when a large population of emus started damaging crops in Western Australia. The government deployed soldiers resulting in what became known as the "Great Emu War." However the military campaign was largely ineffective.



## Napoleon Bonaparte was once attacked by rabbits:

During Napoleon's campaign his troops stumbled upon a field of rabbits. Startled, the rabbits stampeded towards Napoleon's forces, causing chaos and leading some to report that Napoleon had been attacked by rabbits

## The shortest war in history:

The Anglo-Zanzibar War of 1896 holds the record for being the shortest war in history, lasting only about 38 minutes. It occurred when the Sultan of Zanzibar died and his successor refused to step down, defying British orders. British warships bombarded the sultan's palace, quickly ending the conflict.



## The dancing plague of 1518:

In July 1518, a strange phenomenon occurred in the city of Strasbourg, Alsace (which is now part of France), where residents began dancing uncontrollably in the streets. The dancing epidemic lasted for about a month, with some participants reportedly dancing themselves to death. The exact cause of the event remains a mystery, with theories ranging from mass hysteria to ergot poisoning or an infectious disease.



# You've got mail from the next school



Dear current students,

I used to be a student at your school and I believe that you can benefit from what I am about to say.

Many of you might be wondering about how to spend your time. I advise you to spend a lot of time with your friends before you go to high school. One day you will miss your current friends and if you do not go to the same high school you will see them less and less often.

Another important thing is to focus on your studies because a good education is a great advantage in your further studies. But do not worry and do not stress yourself before you start going to your selected high school. I can assure you that everything will be fine once you get there. It might take some time to get used to the new schedule and all your new classmates but every little thing takes time. You will surely make new friends at high school, because it will be easy to become friends after spending most of your time with them at school.

I can tell you that there are many differences between high school and elementary school. If I could go back in time, I would enjoy all the free time more. All your studies in high school will be leading to the GCSE (maturita) exam which is very stressful and time consuming. So please, enjoy the sweet times of coming home and having no GCSE studying to do.

I used to miss our elementary school greatly but over time I fell in love with the grammar school I am attending now. Here in Mnichovo Hradiště, we have understanding and easygoing teachers as well as high quality education and lots of fun with my classmates. It just all feels so homely in this school and I love it. I can greatly recommend this grammar school to you.





Of course, I miss some of our teachers. It is a shame that some of the teachers I had known are not teaching in Kosmonosy anymore. I must say that our Christmas fair was always something I was looking forward to and until this day I make sure to visit when I have the time.

The Kosmonosy school taught me how to study and plan my time. If you know how, when and what to study it will be an advantage for you in high school. I make monthly planners for myself and that helps me get everything done on time.

Kind regards,

Agi Koutná.





