

COMMUNITY

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Russian children say goodbye to winter in Luxembourg



Winter delivers a tickly chill to the children

Children at Luxembourg's Russian school, Kalinka, waved goodbye to winter with dancing, songs and blinis as part of a traditional festival.

“Maslennitsa”, roughly translated as “Butter holiday”, is an ancestral tradition whereby people cook up pancakes or blinis and serve them with things like cream and caviar.

“With kids it's always nutella, jam or butter and sugar,” Kalinka director Anna Radishevskaja told wort.lu, adding: “Normally, the festival lasts a week. We have blinis and we organise a lot of parties with the children.”

During Saturday's celebrations, the youngsters dressed in traditional costume and took part in a Russian performance for which they have been learning songs and dances since the beginning of January.

They skied, danced and sang with the Winter (a teacher dressed in silver) and had to fight to make her go away. Afterwards, among other things, the youngsters each played a percussion instrument to welcome Spring and danced around a carousel. Later during the day, the older pupils from the school set fire to a straw scarecrow, similar to the “Stréihmännchen” in Remich, to burn the Winter away.

Anna said: “What's most important is we try to show them (the children) and remind them of their identities: everything that's tradition and folklore and popular tradition from our ancestors. We can't exist without our past.”

The next celebration for the school will be on May 1, which will be marked with a celebration of the Russian community at Kockelscheuer. school.ruski.lu

