Hami SPOTLIGHT

THE FIRST ENGLISH SCHOOL NEWSPAPER OF HERCEGHALMI ÁLTALANOS ISKOLA!

TEEN ZONE

TEEN ZONE

FUN FACTS

MEET YOUR NEW REPORTERS!

CREATIVE CORNER

DISCOVER. LEARN. EXPLORE!

WELCOME

Welcome to Our First School English Magazine!

Dear Students,

We are proud and excited to present the very first issue of our School English Magazine. This magazine was created especially for students from Grades 4 to 8 who are curious, creative, and ready to explore the world through English.

English is much more than just a school subject. It is a language that connects people all around the world. Through English, you can watch movies in their original version, understand your favorite songs, travel more confidently, make international friends, and discover new opportunities for your future. Learning English opens doors, and this magazine is one small step through those doors.

In this issue, you will find interesting articles, fun facts, exciting challenges, puzzles, and creative writing tasks. Some parts are lighter and fun, others will make you think, share your opinion, or imagine new possibilities. Whether you enjoy reading about amazing animals, discussing modern topics, solving riddles, or writing your own stories, there is something here for everyone.

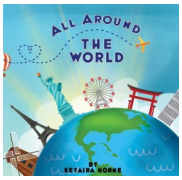
This magazine is not only about reading. It is also about participating. In future issues, we would love to publish your stories, drawings, interviews, quizzes, and ideas. Do not be afraid to use English and do not worry about making mistakes. Mistakes are a natural and important part of learning. What truly matters is your courage to try.

We hope this magazine inspires you, challenges you, and makes learning English more enjoyable and meaningful. Let this be the beginning of a new tradition in our school – a place where creativity and language meet.

Enjoy reading, keep learning, and most importantly, have fun with English!

DID YOU KNOW ?

- Did you know that the largest volcano on Earth is **Mauna Loa** in **Hawaii**? It is so big that it covers almost half of the island!
- Did you know elephants are the only animals that cannot jump?
- Did you know a rainbow has 7 colors? You can remember them with the name "ROYGBIV"!
- Did you know a giraffe's tongue can be about 50 cm long?
- Did you know an octopus has three hearts?
- Did you know penguins can't fly, but they are excellent swimmers?
- Did you know the first person to walk on the Moon was **Neil Armstrong** in 1969?
- Did you know **Saturn** has beautiful rings made of ice and rock?
- Did you know Earth is the only planet we know that has life?
- Did you know **Thomas Edison** invented the light bulb?
- Did you know the first airplane was invented by the **Wright brothers**?
- Did you know **Mickey Mouse** first appeared in 1928?



FUN FACTS ALL AROUND THE WORLD

Japan – An Island Full of Rabbits

Hundreds of friendly rabbits live there and walk freely everywhere. Visitors can feed them and take photos. Imagine stepping off a boat and being surrounded by fluffy bunnies!

United States – A Town With Almost No One in It

In the state of **Alaska**, there is a tiny town called **Whittier** where almost everyone lives in the same building! About 200 people share one large apartment building that also has a shop, post office, and even a church.

Thailand – A Market on a Train Track

In Thailand, there is a famous market called **Maeklong Railway Market**. The strange part? A real train passes right through the middle of it! When the train comes, sellers quickly move their umbrellas and goods, and then put everything back when it's gone.

Bolivia – The World's Biggest Mirror

There is a place called **Salar de Uyuni**, the largest salt flat on Earth.After it rains, a thin layer of water turns it into a giant natural mirror. The sky reflects on the ground so perfectly that it looks like people are walking on clouds!

Italy – A Fountain That Flows With Wine

In a small town in Italy, there is a fountain that sometimes flows with real red wine instead of water! It is connected to a local winery and works during special celebrations.

Australia – Pink Lakes

Australia has lakes that are bright pink! One famous example is **Lake Hillier**. The unusual color comes from tiny algae and bacteria in the water. It looks like strawberry milk from above!

Romania – A "Living" Forest

In Romania, there is a forest called **Hoia Forest**. Some trees grow in twisted spiral shapes, and many people say the forest feels mysterious. It's sometimes called one of the strangest forests in the world!

What is Easter?

Easter is a very important festival in the Christian religion, and many Christians go to church at this time. Easter also celebrates the arrival of spring, and we see lots of things that make us think of new life, for example eggs, chicks, flowers and rabbits.

When do people celebrate Easter?

The dates of Easter change from year to year, but it's usually sometime between the end of March and the end of April. In some countries, people have holidays from school and work, and they often spend time with family and friends.

Easter eggs

Eggs are a big part of Easter celebrations! Many people paint chicken eggs and decorate them with bright colours, and a lot of children receive chocolate eggs as presents. There are many different Easter egg traditions around the world.

In the UK, as well as many other countries, children have fun taking part in Easter egg hunts. They look for chocolate eggs in parks and gardens. The eggs are hidden by the Easter bunny!

In some places, people have egg-rolling competitions. People boil eggs to make them hard, then they paint them. You have to roll your egg down a hill and not break it!

In some parts of Mexico, people fill empty eggs with confetti. When you break the egg over someone's head, the colourful shower of confetti is supposed to bring them good luck.

Other Easter traditions

In Sweden and Finland, children dress up as 'Easter witches'. They put on costumes and go to their neighbours' houses and give them Easter greetings. The neighbours give them sweets or chocolate in return.

In the USA, the UK and Australia, many schoolchildren make special hats called 'Easter bonnets' at Easter time. They decorate a hat with flowers, eggs and other colourful things. They wear their hats and walk around, and there is often a prize for the best hat.

In Bermuda, two days before Easter Sunday, on Good Friday, children and adults fly kites. Some people buy their kites, and others make the kites themselves.

Sprinking poem

I'm waiting patiently in front of your door,
Painted eggs are what I'm asking for,
They better be big and they better be red,
Or I'm taking away your daughter instead!

Lily of the Valley

The lily of the valley is a small, delicate flower with tiny, bell-shaped blooms that hang like little white lanterns. It usually grows in spring and has a sweet, fresh scent that many people love.

Even though it looks gentle, this plant is full of surprises! All parts of the lily of the valley are actually poisonous, so it should never be eaten. Animals usually avoid it because they can sense it's not safe.

This flower has been loved for centuries. In some countries, people give lily of the valley on May 1st as a symbol of happiness and good luck. It is also a favorite in royal bouquets—some princesses have even carried it at their weddings!

Another fun fact: lily of the valley can spread quickly underground, forming a green carpet in forests and gardens. So while the flowers are small, the plant itself can take over a big area!

Pretty, fragrant, and a little mysterious—lily of the valley is truly a flower full of secrets.

Swallow

The swallow is a small, graceful bird known for its long, pointed wings and forked tail. It is often seen flying quickly through the sky, catching insects in mid-air with amazing skill.

One of the most incredible things about swallows is their long journey. Every year, many swallows travel thousands of kilometers between Europe and Africa. This is called migration, and they return to the same place each spring—sometimes even to the exact same nest!

Swallows like to build their nests close to people, often under roofs or in barns. They use mud and grass to create strong little homes for their chicks.

In many cultures, swallows are symbols of hope and safe return. Sailors used to believe that seeing a swallow meant land was near!

Fast, clever, and great travelers, swallows are truly one of nature's most fascinating birds.

SPORT ZONE

Unusual sports

Hobby horsing

Hobby horsing is an unusual sport, where people ride a stick horse and jump over obstacles. There's even hobby horse olympics!

Ostrich racing

This sport was originated in Africa. It's just like horse racing, But while horses' speed can only reach up to 71km/h, ostriches can run as fast as 97km/h.

Toe wrestling

It's a sport where people lock feet and attempt to pin each other's foot to the ground

Cheese rolling

During cheese rolling, a large cheese wheel is rolled down a steep hill. The competitors race after it. The first person to make it down the hill wins the cheese.

Ear pulling

Ear pull is a traditional inuit game that is entirely about pain endurance.

Competitors face each other, a string about two feet long is then looped around the ears (left to right or right to left) of both contestants. They pull until one contestant gives in to the pain and the string becomes separated from their ear.

Chess Boxing

In this sport brain and muscles are both used. Chess boxing is a sport where boxing and chess games are mixed. One round of chess and one round of boxing.

My hero

My hero is my grandma, her name is Páldiné Pál Ilona.
She was born in Jászfényszaru on October 21, 1954. In the beginning she was not allowed to do physical education until she was 14 years old, when she decided to join. Her teacher immediately noticed her because she was very good at the long jump. Because of this, she started athletics training.
When she was young, she competed in both high jump and long jump**,** but she soon decided that she wanted to become a sprinter. At the 1980 Moscow Olympics, she finished 5th place as a member of the 4×400-meter relay team in track running. Also in 1980**,** she broke the Hungarian national record in the 400 meters, and that record remains unbeaten to this day (51.50s)

Besides these achievements, she won many competitions and earned many medals**.** After her athletic career, she started working as a physical education teacher.

How did we get 1st place the world championship

This World Championship was held in a city in Croatia, Pula. The competition took place on a Sunday, May 22nd. This competition was supported by Word Dance Company. We started in the Fit Kid DUO Youth category, in which we achieved a good place.
We were very excited before our routine. Our number was 133.
This number had to be presented on stage. When we got into the starting pose, we started to get very nervous, but by the end of the routine, we performed quite well. There were only about 30 minutes left until the results were announced. When it started, we were anxiously waiting for the results. Since we were still in fourth grade at the time and had only been learning English for a year, we were not sure if we should go out because we thought we would be third. But when they announced our number, we were very happy and proud of ourselves…

The midnight signal

Location: Briar Hollow

A small, forest-surrounded town in the USA.

The main character: Kai Mendoza, a 15 year old boy

He is: Curious and observant, an overthinker, quiet but not shy, loyal once you earn his trust, slightly anxious but brave when it matters

The main problem

A mysterious midnight radio signal knows certain students' names, and activates at only 12:07 a.m. It turns out it's somehow connected to something hidden in the woods.

Why would teenagers watch it?

It's relatable and covers problems teenagers usually face with, and it also gives the excitement which is indispensable for all good series: it addresses topics such asfeeling different, not knowing where you belong, wanting to matter, and many mysteries uncovered.

Chapter 1 – The Weird Sound

Kai Mendoza could not sleep. Again. It was 12:07 a.m. He was sitting on his bed with his old radio. He liked turning the knob and listening to random sounds. It was kind of boring, but also kind of cool. Static filled his ears. Shhhhhh. Then suddenly— "Help." Kai froze. He looked around his room. No one. He slowly put the radio closer to his ear. "Help us…" The voice sounded like a kid. Kai almost dropped the radio. "This is not funny," he whispered. He turned the knob again. Static. Then again— "Please. We are near the woods." The signal cut off. Kai's heart was beating fast. Near the woods? There were woods outside town. He grabbed his phone and texted his friends.

Kai: GUYS. I just heard a kid on my radio.

Rowan: Bro it is midnight.

Lila: Is this about aliens again?

Kai: NO. It said help. It said near the woods.

Three dots.

Then Rowan replied.

Rowan: Okay that is not funny.

Kai typed fast.

Kai: I'm serious. It sounded scared.

After one minute, Lila called him. "Tell me everything," she said. Kai explained. Every word. The time. The voice. The woods. There was silence on the phone. Then Rowan joined the call. "So," Rowan said, "either you are crazy…" "Rude," Kai said. "…or something bad is happening." That made all of them quiet. Finally Lila said, "Tomorrow. After school. We check it out." Rowan sighed. "If we die, I am haunting both of you." Kai felt nervous. But also sure. Someone needed help. And maybe… they were the only ones who heard it.

Chapter 2 – The Plan (Kind Of)

After school, they met at the park. Kai brought the radio. Rowan brought snacks. Lila brought a notebook. "Okay," Lila said, serious voice on. "We think first." Rowan raised a hand. "I think we should not die." "Good start," Kai said. Kai turned on the radio again. Static. Then— "… please…"All three of them looked at each other. It was real. Rowan swallowed. "Okay. That is creepy." The voice was very soft. Hard to hear. Kai turned the knob slowly. The sound got a little clearer when he faced the woods. Lila noticed. "Wait," she said. "Turn around." Kai turned left. Worse. He turned right. Better. Rowan gasped. "You are a human antenna!" "I am not a human anything," Kai said. But they tested it again. Every time he faced one part of the woods, the signal got stronger. Lila drew a quick map in her notebook. "It is coming from deep in there," she said. Rowan looked at the dark trees. "I hate trees now." Kai felt scared. "But what if a kid is really there?" he said. That changed everything. Rowan sighed. "Fine. We go. But we stay together." Lila nodded. "And if something feels wrong, we leave." They all agreed. They were nervous. But they were also determined. Also Rowan still had chips. So that helped.

Chapter 3 – The House in the Woods

The woods were quiet. Too quiet. Rowan jumped at every sound. "That was a squirrel," Lila said for the fifth time. "I do not trust squirrels," Rowan replied. Kai held the radio. The voice was louder now. "…old house…" They walked deeper. Then they saw it. A small old house. Broken windows. Lights on inside. Kai whispered, "That has to be it." They moved closer and hid behind a tree. They heard something. Voices. Adult voices. One man said, "Keep them quiet." Kai's stomach dropped. Rowan's face turned pale. Lila looked serious. Very serious. "This is bad," she whispered. Suddenly—

CRACK. Rowan stepped on a stick. The front door flew open. Two men came outside. "Hey! Who's there?" Before they could run, someone grabbed them from behind. Everything happened fast. Kai dropped the radio. Rowan yelled, "I KNEW I HATED TREES!" They were pulled inside the house. The door slammed shut. They were put in a small room and the door was locked. It was dark. Rowan whispered, "Okay. Bad news. We are kidnapped." Kai took a deep breath. "Good news," Lila said quietly.

"What good news?!" Rowan whispered loudly. Lila held up something shiny. The small screwdriver from Kai's pocket. "When they grabbed him," she said, "I took it." Kai stared at her. "You are amazing."

"I know," she said. From the other side of the wall, they heard soft voices. Kids. Kai's chest felt tight. "We have to get out," he said. Lila knelt by the door. She started working on the lock. Rowan paced.

"I cannot believe this is happening. My mom is going to ground me forever." "Focus," Lila whispered. Click. The lock opened. They looked at each other. "Ready?" Kai asked. Rowan nodded. "No. But yes."

They opened the door slowly. The hallway was empty. They moved quietly. They found another locked door. Inside were three scared kids. "It's okay," Kai whispered. "We're here to help."

One little boy said, "Are you superheroes?" Rowan smiled. "Yes. Very unpaid superheroes." Lila opened the lock. "Let's go," she said. They moved fast. One of the men saw them. "HEY!"

Rowan threw a bag of chips at his face. "Snack attack!" Rowan yelled. The man slipped. They ran outside. They did not stop running. Not until they reached the road. Kai pulled out his phone with shaking hands. He called the police.

Chapter 4 – Heroes (Kind Of)

The police came fast. Very fast. Kai showed them the house. The police went in. They arrested the men. The kids were safe. One officer looked at Kai and his friends. "You three are very brave," she said.

Rowan raised a hand. "We prefer awesome." Kai's parents arrived. His mom hugged him so tight he could not breathe. "You are grounded," she said. Then she hugged him again. The next week at school, everyone knew. Not all the details. But enough. People looked at them differently. In a good way. At lunch, they sat together. Rowan grinned. "So… we saved people." Lila nodded. "And survived."

Kai smiled. He thought about that first night. 12:07 a.m. If he had ignored the signal… Those kids might still be there. His phone buzzed. The three of them froze. Slowly, Kai looked at it. It was just a weather alert. They all laughed. Rowan stood up dramatically. "If any more radios talk to us, I am moving to the desert." Kai smiled. Maybe he was not special. Maybe he just listened. But sometimes… Listening is enough. And this time— It saved lives.

MOVIE & BOOK CORNER

Up is a heartwarming and adventurous animated movie created by **Pixar Animation Studios**. It tells the story of Carl Fredricksen, an elderly man who dreams of traveling to South America to keep a promise he once made to his wife. Instead of leaving his home behind, Carl attaches thousands of colorful balloons to his house and lifts off into the sky on an unforgettable journey.

Things get even more interesting when a cheerful and talkative boy scout named Russell accidentally joins him. As they travel together, they land in a wild jungle full of surprises. They meet a rare, giant colorful bird and some very funny dogs who can actually talk thanks to special collars. Along the way, Carl and Russell learn to trust each other and become true friends.

This movie is full of exciting adventures, funny moments, and touching scenes. It teaches important lessons about friendship, courage, love, and how it is never too late to start a new adventure. *Up* shows that sometimes the greatest journeys are not just about the places we visit, but about the people we meet and the friendships we build.If you enjoy stories about adventure, teamwork, and following your dreams, *Up* is a wonderful movie choice for you.

SZENT JOHANNA GIMI

If you enjoy stories about friendship, school life, and growing up, *Szent Johanna gimi* is a fantastic book series to read. Written by Hungarian author **Leiner Laura**, this popular series follows the everyday life of a teenage girl named Reni at an elite secondary school. The story takes place at the prestigious Szent Johanna High School, where Reni starts her first year. She is smart and kind but also shy and sometimes unsure of herself — just like many students starting a new school. Throughout the series, readers follow her friendships, funny classroom moments, school trips, challenges, and of course, her secret crush.

What makes this series special is how realistic and relatable it feels. The characters talk and behave like real teenagers, and the books include messages, emails, and diary-style writing, which makes the story fun and easy to read.

Decorated Jar of Love Notes — perfect for Mother's Day!

These jars are filled with sweet handwritten notes, little hearts or colorful messages that kids can write and decorate for their mom. You can decorate the jar with ribbons, labels, stickers, or flowers to make it special and heartfelt.

Easy Mother's Day Flower Cupcakes
Ingredients (makes about 12 cupcakes)

- 12 cupcakes (store-bought or homemade)
- Buttercream frosting (white or vanilla)
- Food coloring (pastel pink, yellow, green)
- Candies or sweets for decoration (M&Ms, jelly beans, candy melts)

Sprinkles (optional)

Steps

1. **Prepare Cupcakes**

Bake cupcakes or use ready-made ones. Let them cool completely.

Make Buttercream

Spread white frosting into a few small bowls. Add a little food coloring to make pastel colors like **pink, yellow and green**.

Spread the Frosting

Use a knife or spoon to spread the colored frosting on each cupcake.

Decorate Like Flowers

- Place a candy melt or sweet in the center.

Around the center, add candies or jelly beans to make **petals** like a flower.

Add Sprinkles

Sprinkle colorful sprinkles or edible pearls on top for extra fun!

Dear Readers,

As we close the pages of our very first issue, we want to thank everyone who helped make this possible.

Your ideas, stories, and support brought our words to life.

We hope reading it made you smile, think, and imagine new possibilities.

Remember, your voice matters, and you can inspire others with your own stories.

The next issue promises even more fun, surprises, and adventures.

Stay curious, keep writing, and share your ideas with us.

We can’t wait for you to read the next issue!