

Teacher's thoughts

**What are the key elements of
everyday work that promote
students' progress?**

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9 classes, 140 students, 20 teachers



General knowledge

- Education is deeply rooted in Estonian culture –
“If we do not get big in terms of population, we need to become great in spirit.” (Jakob Hurt, 1870-s)
- Equal opportunities to students of all backgrounds.
- Inclusiveness - various ways of supporting weaker students.
- Services to students with special needs - speech therapy, psychological assistance and social pedagogical counselling.
- Considerable autonomy of schools.

A teacher's everyday question: How to make active learning happen in my class and in our school?



Diversity

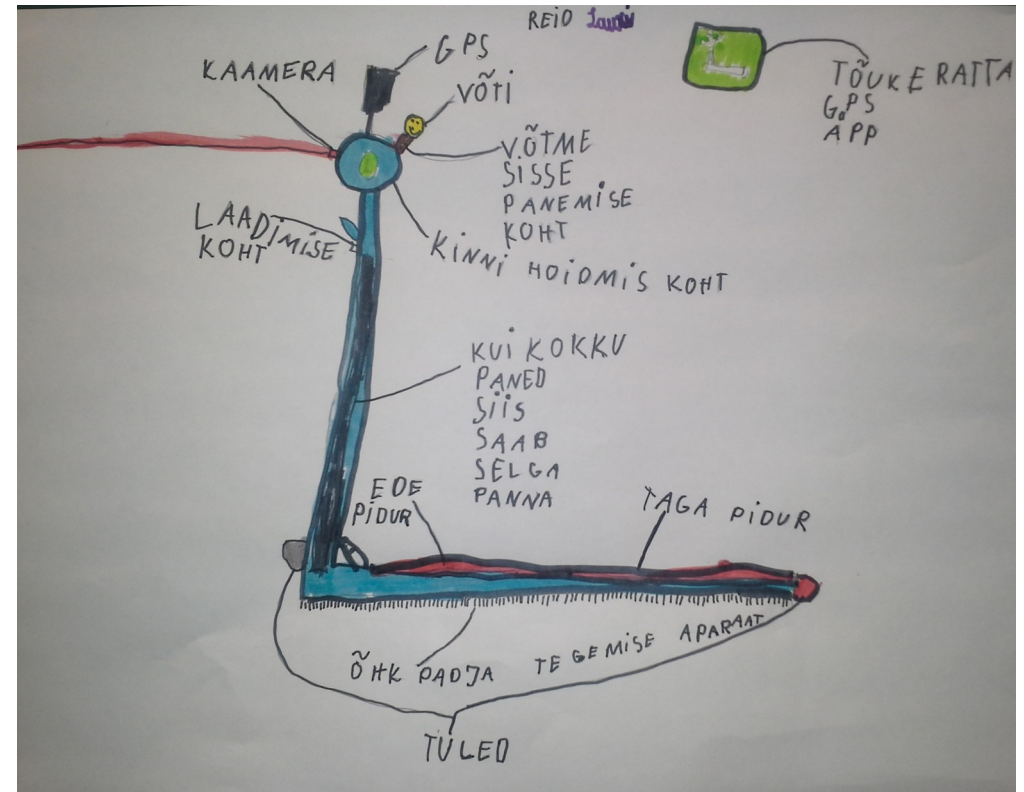
- Mixed-ability classes-
mixed strategies and
methods of teaching
- Looking for motivation
- Support, individualization
- Out-of-school learning
- More hobby clubs at school
- Contests, olympiades
- Partner schools, project work



GLOBE

Tradition

- Curriculum - outcomes of learning
- Systematic learning
- Notebooks+writing by hand
- Stand up at the beginning of the lesson
- Homework
- Clear rules and values
- Standardized tests



Traditional or not? Invented by Lauri (year3)

Change and balance

- Postmodern world -
changing students and teachers
- Digitalization
- Shorter attention span
- 21st century skills, competencies
- Learning to learn
- Self-control and self-regulation
- Keeping balance between traditional and modern



The important thing is not to stop questioning.

A. Einstein

- Is focusing on the average student and bringing up low-achievers comes at the expense of gifted ones?
- How to teach all the 21st century skills and prepare our children for the unknown future?
- How to teach critical thinking and make informed decisions if we teach less content knowledge?
- How to find more time for focusing and thinking?

“Learning without thinking is labour lost; thinking without learning is perilous.” Confucius

Thank You for listening!



The mind is not a vessel to be filled
but a fire to be kindled. — Plutarch