

Lantern procession on Saint Martin's Day

Written by AG

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The Multinational Corps Northeast Allied Ladies Club sponsored a candle lit children's celebration of Saint Martin's Day at Baltic Barracks.

It all began after school on Tuesday last week when more than 25 children met at Baltic Barracks to build their very own paper lanterns. The children spent about two hours with parents and friends cutting, gluing and decorating paper lanterns of many different patterns such as Jack o'Lanterns, lady bugs, space craft with aliens, and much more. While they were building their lanterns, the children also enjoyed homemade snacks and drinks, all the while wondering with great anticipation what to expect on Saint Martin's Day.

On Friday more than 60 children and adults gathered at Baltic Barracks to celebrate Saint Martin's Day or Martinstag as it is referred to in German. The celebration is a tribute to a former Roman soldier who became a monk and obtained sainthood for being a kind man. He cut his cloak into two parts to share with a beggar during a snowstorm. Marie and Anna Birnstiel began the celebration with a re-enactment of Saint Martin's act of kindness towards the beggar.

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Afterwards, following Germany tradition, all of the children and adults walked together along a candle lit path carrying their lanterns lit by special lights on the end of sticks.

It was a remarkably warm evening that even allowed for Multinational Corps Northeast's newest members, newborn babies Matias Allik and Kvetka Deverova to join in the lantern procession.



Following the procession, all participants met for refreshments. The children enjoyed hot dogs and warm drinks while the adults ate Polish soup and drank tea, coffee and hot chocolate.

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