

# Carnival in Frosinone



**Istituto Comprensivo I – Frosinone, Italy**  
**Aldo Moro Secondary School**

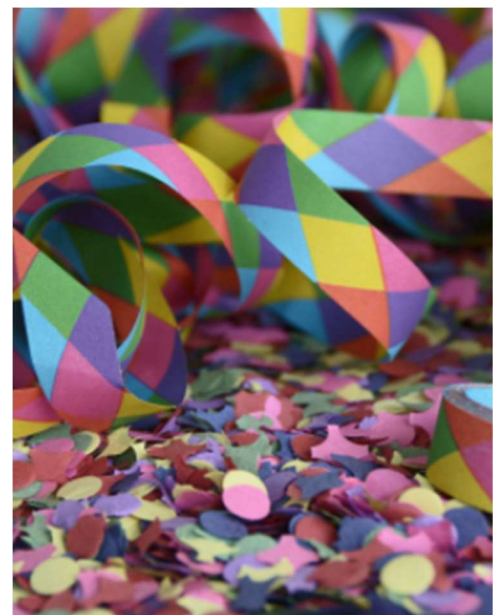




## OUR TRADITIONS

**Frosinone** is the biggest town in an area called “**Ciociaria**”. The Carnival of Frosinone is one of the most important events of the year. It’s a special festival based on **local traditions**.

Every year we celebrate our Carnival in February or March. This year it was celebrated on 16th February.



## **THE ORIGINS OF THE “FESTA DELLA RADECA”**

According to our folklore on the last Tuesday of Carnival - “Martedì Grasso” - the “**Festa della Radeca**” is celebrated. The origins of this festival are very ancient, since they are connected to the rites of fertility and fecundity of the pagan era, which were celebrated in February (the month of purification). The “**Radeca**” is the leaf of the agave, symbol of fertility.



Over the centuries the celebration of the “Radeca” became the most representative moment of the Carnival in Frosinone, which ended when in the evening a puppet called “**Re Carnevale**” was burned. That was intended to be the end of a cycle and the beginning of a new one. Since 1800 this puppet has been representing **the French general Championnet**.





## HISTORY AND LEGEND

In the 1798 the inhabitants of Frosinone (“Frusinati”) rose up against the French troops, that were located in the town. Unfortunately the French army sacked the town and killed a lot of people. According to a legend, the following year the Frusinati were celebrating the “**Festa della Radeca**” to exorcise fear and hunger and invoke purification and rebirth after that massacre. That night **the general Championnet** took part in the celebrations, drinking red wine and **eating “fini-fini” pasta**, becoming the **symbol of our Carnival**.





In modern times the most canonical part of the Carnival has been enriched with the **parade of allegorical floats**

(of which the most relevant is the one dedicated to the general Championnet),





the presence of coloured **costumes and masks** (e.g. the typical “Ciociara’s dress”, Arlecchino, Colombina, etc.),





the eating of **typical meals and food.**

**“Frappe”**



**“Struffoli”**



**“Fini-fini al pomodoro”**

**(Before and..... After!)**



## CARNIVAL AT SCHOOL

According to our tradition, on Carnival day, all the students go to school wearing a costume and a mask. This year they have **decorated their own mask at home**. Here is a round up of colors, imagination, gaiety.

