



Nasushiobara & Linz

Countering COVID-19 with a Baby Elephant



The baby elephant in Linz
©LINZ AG/fotokerschi

Covid-19 is spreading in Austria, too. Although the number of infections had gone down after mid-April, over 600 new infections were

The Austrian people are not used to cute mascots like the ones that are often seen in Japan, and were surprised to see a serious politician present an idea like this. The opinions on it seem divided, but for that reason it stays in people's minds even more. I wonder what would be a good way to express social distancing in Japan.

There are other ideas on how to promote the measures against the corona virus in a fun way, e.g. the Hand Washing Song by the Austrian Red Cross.

confirmed every day at the end of September. As of September 30th, a total of 44,813 people have been infected with the virus (of which 35,644 – about 80% - have regained their health).

Like Japan, Austria has counter measures in place, such as washing your hands and wearing masks.

In Japan, the distance for social distancing is set at 2 m, but it differs from country to country, and in Austria the set distance is 1 m. To improve awareness for the distance, one Austrian politician came up with the idea of calling it “the distance of one baby elephant”.

To make the risk of infection easier to visualize, the “Corona Light” (like a traffic light, but for Corona) is used from



The Hand Washing Song by the Red Cross is introduced in “Time at Home with Florin”



September on. It shows the risk using a scale of green, yellow, orange and red. The updates for the “Corona Light” are published every Friday.

German Corner: Gestures that are easy to mix up



When communicating, gestures are even more important than finding the perfect words. Some Gestures are unique to the German language. First, let's take a look at the Japanese “maru” (○, correct/affirmation) and “batsu” (×, wrong/negation). The one-handed “maru” (or “OK”) gesture means “perfect” in Austria, so it will be understood. However, the two-handed version (looking similar to the 5th ballet position with both arms up) will

not be as successful. If you want to express agreement in German, you can just nod your head or use the good/thumb-up gesture. The “batsu” gesture (forming an x with your forearms or index finger) doesn't really have any meaning in Austria. If you want to express that something is forbidden, shake your head or shake your index finger at about the height of your neck. Mothers chiding their children use a similar gesture. The gestures for “come here” and “go away” also differ from the Japanese ones. When you are calling someone over, your palm faces up, if you tell someone to go away, it usually faces down. To call someone, you can also use only your index finger, but it makes the gesture somewhat more intimate.



☆ Time at Home with Florin ☆

We are introducing Austrian culture, small crafts and recipes on YouTube (in Japanese).

Please feel free to take a look!

<https://www.youtube.com/user/nasushiobaracity>



Nasushiobara Channel

Nasushiobara & Linz

People: Teachers of Europagymnasium Auhof

Through the “Nasushiobara and Europagymnasium Auhof International Exchange Program”, every year, there is an exchange between junior high school students from Nasushiobara and students from Linz. Unfortunately, the 2020 exchange can not take place due to COVID-19. Two teachers of our partner school Europagymnasium Auhof will tell us about their experiences with the exchange program and the situation in Linz.



Surname: Aumair
First Name: Evelyn
Born in: Haslach
(Living in Linz)
Occupation: Teacher
Motto: Give every day the chance to become the most beautiful day of your life.
(Mark Twain)

“We had an infinite amount of fun”

Past Exchange Activities and Memories :

Ms. Aumair: I joined the Japan exchange in 2017 by chance, because they were still looking for a host family for two exchange students. Without thinking too long, my family and I decided to host both of them. It was the best decision we could have made, because we had an infinite amount of fun. From that time on, I knew I wanted to be a part of the exchange program.

Ms. Jungbauer: In 2012 I started my teaching position at Europagymnasium Auhof, which made me very happy. Once I realized that the school has a student exchange program with the Japanese city of Nasushiobara, I was even happier. I immediately enrolled as voluntary staff. In the following year I was allowed to take on the leadership for the exchange program.

“We all do our best to facilitate worry-free, productive learning”

School Life (with Corona-Measures):

Ms. Aumair: Because of Corona Virus we were forced to change to home schooling on a day’s notice in the beginning of March. This was a big challenge not only for the teachers, but the students as well, since direct contacts and communication became impossible all of a sudden. So when we were able to return to schools in the middle of May, we appreciated it a lot, despite strict measures against Corona such as wearing masks, disinfecting our hands all the time and teaching in small groups.

Ms. Jungbauer: A lot has changed due to Corona. Keeping your distance and wearing masks takes some getting used to, for teachers and students alike. Especially social distancing is a challenge for the kids. Many lesson plans had to be adapted or dismissed completely. Group work, which promotes the ability to work as a team and social skills, can not be done at the moment. Still, we all do our best to facilitate worry-free, productive learning.



Surname Jungbauer
First Name: Julia
Born in: Steyr
(Living in Linz)
Occupation: Teacher
Motto: Enjoy life to the fullest

Nasushiobara & Linz

Ideas for future activities, hopes, wishes :

Ms. Aumair: I hope or rather I am optimistic that a vaccine will make our exchange possible again some time soon. Fortunately, social media makes it possible for us to keep in touch in these extraordinary times.

Ms. Jungbauer: I hope we will be able to return to a relatively normal life soon, so we can return to a worry-free life, in which this valuable exchange can continue.



Trip to Nikko with Students from Nasushiobara



Courtesy Visit of Students from Europagymnasium Auhof to the Mayor of Nasushiobara

Lively Sister City Relations



Students of Higashi-Nasuno Junior High School are moderating in English

August 25th 2020:

Online Exchange with an Austrian Paralympian

The 2020 Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics have been postponed, but Nasushiobara City is working actively on its host town projects. Since in-person meetings are not possible at the moment, Nasushiobara City's sports promotion section has planned an online exchange of Austrian parathletes with



From the top: Minister Hashimoto, Andreas Onea, Mayor Watanabe

elementary and junior high school students in Nasushiobara via Zoom, in order to cheer on the athletes. A total of 8 parathletes, para-cyclists and a para-swimmer, will participate.

The first exchange-meeting took place on August 25th in Higashi Nasuno Junior High School. Apart from the para-swimmer Andreas Onea, minister Hashimoto and mayor Watanabe also took part as special guests. The students gave their best communicating in English and had a lot of fun during the wonderful exchange. We hope to have more online exchange-meetings in the future, so our friendship can grow even deeper.



Q:

Which wild animal's meat can you not eat in Austria?

A: Deer

B: Hare

C: Wild boar

D: Bear

Answer page 4

Nasushiobara & Linz

Handmade ☆ “Schultüte”

On their first day of school, in the beginning of September, Austrian elementary school first grade students get a “Schultüte” from their parents. It contains stationery for school or sweets.

Materials: 1 sheet of thick colored paper (B4), wrapping tissue, a ribbon, glue, ruler (or compass), stickers, filling (sweets, etc.)

Instructions: Draw a 2-3 cm wide margin along the short end of the paper. With the ruler or compass measure and mark the length of the short side on the long side, and draw a circular line. Cut along the circular line. Turn the paper around and decorate with stickers. Put glue along the 2 cm margin and glue the paper together in the shape of an ice cream cone. Wait for the glue to dry. Glue wrapping tissue along the upper rim of the cone. Fill the cone with stationary or sweets and close it with a ribbon.



Regional News

The Green State Styria



The state of Styria (Steiermark) is located in the center of Austria. The state capital is Graz, the second most populous city in Austria. The city has a beautiful historical center. Styria has a lot of forest, and for that reason is also referred to as “green state” or “green heart of Austria”. Agriculture is flourishing in Styria. One of the regional specialities is the so-called “green gold”. It is dark green pumpkin seed oil. In Austria, important and exquisite things are often referred to as “gold”, since

they are thought of as a treasure. Since Styria is a production area for pumpkins, there are many recipes with pumpkin or pumpkin seeds, such as soups, salads or cake. Styria is also known for its apples. Austrian apples tend to be a little more sour and small than Japanese apples. Therefore, people often take a whole apple for their school lunch and eat it as is. Due to apples keeping good for a long time, they often used to be eaten in winter. Deserts using apples, such as “Apfelstrudel” are especially delicious. On the 25 km long “Apple Road” you can visit apple orchards or try foods made from apples!



State: Styria (Steiermark) ♥ **State Capital:** Graz ♥
Population: ca. 1,246,395 ♥ **Area:** ca. 16,399 km² ♥

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Nasushiobara Sister City Newsletter



Quiz-answer: D. There aren't many wild bears in Austria, so we don't eat them. Although it's not an every-day meal, hares are eaten in Austria.