



Nasushiobara & Linz

School exchange

Nasu-Takuyo High School ✕ Elmberg High School ✕ Happoen

The dishes developed by Nasu-Takuyo High School in collaboration with Elmberg High School in Linz have finally been completed. On November 15th, a chef and a pâtissier from Happoen visited Takuyo HS, where they worked with the students by giving them advice and feedback to finalize their Austrian-inspired creations. All of the eight dishes were made with many local ingredients as well as specialties from Tochigi Prefecture, and their final results received outstanding praise from Happoen.



Knödel variations

Austrian potato-based dumplings filled with heartful keema curry-flavored minced meat and juicy gyoza filling.



Kasnudeln

Cream filling with spinach and trout wrapped in thin dumpling skin and served in light tomato cream sauce.



Buchteln

Sweet buns filled with strawberry jam and cream cheese or minced meat with spinach and tomatoes.



Japanese Bonito and Miso flavored Knödel

Austrian potato-based little dumplings filled with miso-flavored minced meat and boiled in Bonito broth that are served with Japanese style sauce.



Japanese Mochi-Punschkrapfen

Fluffy sponge cake with strawberry jam wrapped in pink-colored mochi.



Moist Chocolate Cake

Rich cake filled with nuts, chocolate and strawberries and served with soft whipped cream and chocolate sauce.



Palatschinken

Austrian crepes filled with sakura-flavored white bean paste and fresh strawberries and topped with golden apple sauce.



Full with Tochigi - Linzeraugen variations

Inspired by the colors of the Austrian flag, one can find the variations of milk jam, strawberry jam and a combination of both as well as one savory option which is cheese cream.



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Higashi-Nasuno Junior High School ✕ Andreas Onea

On December 2nd, Para-swimmer Andreas Onea and the first-year students of Higashi-Nasuno JHS did an online exchange! The students introduced places to go in Nasushiobara and famous Japanese celebrities they like. Furthermore, they prepared a gesture game for Onea which he enjoyed a lot as well as a Christmas song!



Cultural Lectures and Activities with CIR Yukari

Mottainai-event of Community Center Kururu

At the Mottainai-event and Halloween Party on October 27th, some Junior High School students helped me out at my Austrian booth by selling and advertising the Linzer cookies and Linzertorte throughout the event, people could also try out traditional Austrian clothes and as you can see, it suits them very well!



Kuroiso-Kita Junior High School – DIY Advent Calendar making

On November 11th, the first-year students of Kuroiso-Kita JHS made advent calendars with their mums and dads together. Among many types of advent calendars, we made one with little messages for each day until Christmas that gives you the energy kick for the day. We folded 24 little envelopes, glued them onto the paper and put the message cards into them. Each calendar was uniquely decorated, and it was wonderful to see everyone's artwork!



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Takabayashi Community Center:

Cookie house making (12/1)

Perfect for Christmas time, we made little cookie houses together! After gluing the cookies together with glaze, each one decorated their own house with many different candies.



Global Culture Nasu (12/3)

We talked a lot about Linz and Austria, as well as different cultures. What a fun time it was!



Higashi-Nasuno Community Center:

Meringue cake (12/4)

Together, we made Austrian meringue berry cake. This sponge cake filled with berries and topped with meringue is easy to make and very popular in Austria.



Nishi-Nasuno Community Center:

Kaiserschmarren (12/14)

The kids helped each other and made Austrian pancakes called Kaiserschmarren all on their own. All thanks to their good teamwork!



Edelweiss: Kaiserschmarren (12/17)

With the members of the German-study group Edelweiss, we also made Kaiserschmarren and a lot of open sandwiches (Belegte Brote). For the latter, we put some cream cheese on slices of brown bread and decorated them with fresh vegetables. Perfect for a bigger party!



How Austrians celebrate Valentine's Day

In Japan, you might think of girls giving chocolate to the person they romantically like or girls confessing to someone, as it is depicted in many Animes or Mangas. In contrast to that, most people in Europe think of men gifting their partners red roses and a box of chocolate on Valentine's Day. One might also say it's not only for couples to celebrate but also for all the loved ones, especially women, meaning people also get flowers for mothers for example. Nevertheless, on February 14th, you can see many men walking around with flowers in their hands that are waiting to be handed to the loved one. It is truly a magical feeling, as if the city was surrounded by love.



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Tell us, Yukari!

How to celebrate the coming of age in Austria

In Austria, coming of age is celebrated at a ball when turning 18, similar to *seijinshiki*, Japan's Coming-of-Age Day. If you imagine the kind of balls depicted in Disney movies, you'll get the idea. Every year from January to February, hundreds of balls are held across Austria, especially in Vienna.

In the past, only the nobility could participate in these balls, but during the Habsburg Empire, the emperor loosened the restrictions and hosted balls open to everyone. These events also served as an introduction to society for young women known as "debutantes", and thanks to the preservation of this tradition, even now modern young women continue to celebrate adulthood at balls.

Just as young adults in Japan wear *furisode*, a kimono with long sleeves worn for the celebration for coming of age, debutantes in Austria wear white dresses. When you think of a white dress, you might associate it with weddings, but at these balls, only debutantes wear white dresses. They are the highlight of the event, performing the opening ceremony dance with their dance partners to mark the start of the ball.

After the opening ceremony, the words "Alles Walzer!" ("Everyone waltz!") signal the beginning of a grand waltz where all attendees join in dancing with their partners. Some debutantes change into colorful dresses later in the evening, while others spend the entire night in their white gowns.



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Quiz

How is the game "red lights, green lights" called in German?

A : The fox in disguise

C : The rabbit runs through the field

B : The marmot* is coming out of the hole

D : The day Edelweiss* bloomed



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***Marmot** (representative animal of Austria)



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***Edelweiss** (representative flower of Austria)

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Answer: C. The game "red lights, green lights" is called "Der Hase läuft über das Feld" in German, meaning "The rabbit runs through the field". The name of the game probably originates from brown hares that can be seen in the open country in Austria. Rabbits of any kind are shy animals and once they notice they are being observed, they immediately stop their movement before running away with full speed.