

Exchange Newspaper

Visit to Oldenburg

Nov 30th – Dec 5th, 2017



Exchange 2017/18

"All About Christmas"

Celebrating Christmas

Christmas Time! The most beautiful time of the year. In Finland and in Germany there are differences as well as common things:

In the morning most Finnish people go to the sauna. For breakfast most Finnish people eat porridge and they put one almond in there. The person who finds the almond gets a little present. Often families go to church and after that some families go to a cemetery and put a candle or some flowers on the grave of a family member. Before noon Finnish people watch some Christmas programmes on TV. In the afternoon the whole family and some relatives get together for Christmas dinner. If there are any children in the family, Santa Claus usually comes to the house and gives some presents to everyone. When he is gone, it is time to open the presents and just spend time with family and relatives for rest of the day.

In Germany it is usual to decorate the Christmas tree first. Because everyone needs to work until lunch the Christmas day starts after 1 o'clock. At first the whole family attends church and watches a Christmas play. After church it is family time. Some watch a movie together, read Christmas stories or just talk to each other. Then Santa Claus comes or, unlike in Finland, in some German families the Christ child brings the presents. Now dinner is ready and everyone eats together. When dinner is finished it is time to open the presents. After everyone has received and given their presents the family just sits together and spends some time with each other.

So the biggest differences are probably the Christ child, the differences in Christmas food such as the Christmas ham in Finland, and also that the Germans have an advent wreath. As you can see there are some differences but for both countries it is a day to spend with the family.

Tale, Pia-Carlotta, Marie, Xenia, Martha, Oona, Aada, Kaisa, Anni, Maiju

Christmas food

	Germany	Finland
Main courses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • goose with dumplings/potatoes, sauce and red cabbage • sausages with potato salad • fish 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • casserole with ham, potatoes and vegetables • Christmas roast • salmon • porridge (in the morning)
Dessert	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • baked apple • spiced biscuit parfait 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • puff pastry stars with plum jam • gingerbread
Drinks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • punch • mulled wine • water 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • glögi

Want to give it a try yourself? Here are two recipes...

Germany: Vanillekipferl (vanilla biscuits)

14 tablespoons unsalted butter

2 egg yolks

2 cups flour

1 ¼ teaspoons vanilla extract

1 cup walnuts

1 tablespoon milk

2/3 cups powdered sugar

pinch of salt

Finland: Joulutorttu (puff pastry stars with prune jam)

18 ounces unsalted butter

18 ounces ricotta

4 cups plain flour

10 ounces pitted prunes

4 tablespoons sugar

Frederieke, Lisa, Liliane, Emma, Reetta, Lili



Christmas songs

Suomalainen kansansävelmä

1. Jou - lu - puu on ra - ken - net - tu, jou - lu
on jo o - vel - la. Na - mu - si - a
ri - pus - tet - tu om - pi kuu - sen ok - sil - la.

Joulupuu on rakennettu is a Finnish song which deals with the Christmas tree and Jesus. The song was written by O. Schöneman. It is a folk song. It is so popular because every child learns it in their childhood. We always sing it when Santa Claus comes.

1. O du fröh - li - che, O du se - li - ge,
gna - den - brin - gen - de Weih - nachts - zeit!
Welt ging ver - lo - ren, Christ ward ge - bo - ren:
Freu - e, freu - e dich, O Chri - sten - heit!

“Oh du fröhliche” is a German Christmas song and tells us about the Christmas time and the appearance of Jesus. It was written by Johannes Daniel Falk (1816) and Heinrich Holzschuher (1829). It is a very popular Christmas song because it is a tradition to sing this song in church every Christmas or at home with your family.

Belana, Amelie, Mikael, Lotta, Silja, Nikolas, David



Playing and singing the Christmas songs together.

Decorating Christmas Cookies

It is a Finnish tradition to decorate gingerbread cookies with sugar frosting. We also gave it try.



Making Straw Stars

Straw stars are a genuine part of a German Christmas decoration. If you want to make a star yourself you need straws, thread, scissors and a bowl with warm water.

- 1) You water the straws to make them soft.
- 2) Cut them to size.
- 3) Arrange them into a star.
- 4) Put the thread around each straw twice (pattern: _-_-_) and tie a knot when you are done.

