



*Dear friends in India, dear Nandhini, dear Fr David, dear Fr Backia Regis!  
Best wishes to all of you from Arivu-Team Nienburg, Germany!*

We hope you are all in good health and in a good mood. Now this special year is coming to an end and we want to send our latest newsletter with recent activities and impressions of our life here in Germany. We hope you enjoy reading. Please also share the newsletter with others who may be interested.

In the month of December it is usually very dark in Germany. The sun rises late and goes down early. Furthermore there are usually a lot of clouds. So the celebration of light is a very important fact. And we all are looking forward to celebrate Christmas.

### Advent and Xmas time in Nienburg



Little huts around the church St. Martin were erected and about two weeks the advent market has taken place. Due to stricter corona-rules the market ended, but the decoration is still part of the city to shine in the darkness and to warm the hearts of the people.



This year, everyone is happy that there's no lockdown so far during the holidays. So, all of us plan to meet at least a few members of their families although we are forced to be careful and undergo a voluntary test before in order to protect ourselves and others.

School holidays start on thursday, 23rd of december and after these demanding weeks pupils, teachers and staff are really longing for a break till we shall retakes courses on Monday, 10th of january.



## Advent at Albert-Schweitzer school

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It is already a long tradition that members of the pupils club decorate a tree in both of our buildings. So from beginning of december the illuminated trees in the entrance hall make the start of the day friendlier. The warm lights give a nice welcome in the dark mornings.

In Germany, we have now winter time and sun rise is not before 8.15 a.m.

Some classes cut out an folded paper in order to create advent atmosphere in their classrooms.



Another tradition is going on in most of the classes: they like to organize "Secret Santa". It means the all the names are written on a piece of paper, everybody takes one hidden name and has to bring a little gift for this person without saying from whom it comes.

## Winter time

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It is slowly getting colder here and in the morning there is a fine layer of frost over the landscape.



For our wild animals now begins a difficult time. I (Edda) feed them and help them to get through the winter better.



Christmas baking has also started, a popular German tradition, because Christmas will be soon!

## Christmas preparations in german families



The days before Christmas are a very special time in german families with a lot of traditions, especially when there are children. On these picture you can see Inga's family baking cookies – with their grandmother.

They also decorate candles. You take a white candle and dip it in melted coloured wax. You can even repeat several times with different colours and get a very nice effect.

Inga's family also has an unique "Christmas tree" in the garden. It is decorated with a lot of lights and looks very nicely when you gather there in the dark.

Every familie has a "calender for Christmas". It presents a nice gift or task for every of the 24 days before Christmas. Here they add a house to built a street and read a poem every day.

All windows are very nicely decorated by the children.



## Christmas activities of the India Club

There are currently seven students in India Club at the ASS.

In the weeks before Christmas the group baked cookies and roasted almonds twice and sold them in the schoolyard and in the teachers' room to collect donations for the St. John's home. In addition the group collected old candles and made beautiful new candles from them, which are now also sold in the teacher's room and on the market



## Sale of Advent wreaths and knitwear at the market in Nienburg

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As in previous years, we decorated Advent wreaths again this year and sold them at the market and at the ASS. Edda also knitted many socks, sweaters and scarves that were also sold. Many teachers at the ASS are already waiting for this sale and ask in mid-November, whether we will be selling Advent wreaths and knitted things again this year. This is also always a good opportunity to talk to people about the situation in India. In this way many people are mentally with you in India.

## Christmas service at the ASS

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On the last day of school before the Christmas holidays, there is usually a Christmas service at the ASS. Unfortunately, this year this can only take place online due to the Covid-19 pandemic. For this purpose, the different parts of the service are filmed beforehand and then cut into a film that is shown in all classes on the last day of school. Unfortunately the film isn't finished yet. But there are already recordings of the musical contributions. On the photo you can see the Bell-plates-Club in the church when shooting for the film.

*Dear Nandhini, dear Fr David, dear Fr Backia Regis,  
we send our season's greetings to you and all our Indian friends!*

*May the new born child fill your hearts with joy  
and shower you with his blessings!*

*May the upcoming year 2022 bring a lot of hope and confidence!*

*Please convey our wishes to all children in St John's home, to all teachers, students  
and staff of Arulappa Higher Secondary School and all members of WE-Group!*

*Hilde, Andrea, Edda, Inga and Kathrin for Arivu team*

