

Hello from Austria,

We are the 4th grade at Hart Elementary School in Leonding, Upper Austria.

We are 20 students and have school every day from 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Some of us are at school in the afternoon, where we have an hour to do homework and then play until we go home. Others are in another house called Hort, where they stay all afternoon. Only three children go home to their parents at 12:30 p.m. Our teacher is Petra and she teaches all lessons except religion.

Here is a photo of our school:



This is a photo of us. It's from last year and two are missing.



Our parents come from different countries: Austria, Azerbaijan, Bosnia, Chechnya, Croatia, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Syria, Turkey and Ukraine. But the most of us are born in Austria.

Our Christmas holidays usually start on December 23rd, but this year the last day is December 20th and then we have two weeks off. Some of us celebrate Christmas with a Christmas tree and go to church for Christmas mass for children in the early afternoon. For others, December 24th and 25th is a normal day.

We sent you homemade straw stars that we decorated with the colors of the Austrian flag. We hope they arrived safely.

During Advent we meet every Monday in the auditorium of our school and sing a few songs, light the candles on the Advent wreath and each class performs a short play or dance. This year our class will perform a dance to Feliz Navidad. We are already practicing very hard for this.

We also have an Advent wreath in the class and one of the children is allowed to open a box every day. There is a small piece of candy inside. This year we will also open one of the letters we received from you every day. Of course, the child whose roots are in Croatia, Romania... is allowed to open the letter that is also from this country.

We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and would like to thank you very much for the beautiful Christmas decorations for our school Christmas tree!

