

CIR Mariko's

Global Café



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December Activities

3rd December Global Cooking Class



Fish Cake



Apple Crumble

Last month I participated in the "Global Cooking Class" hosted by the Global Communications Department (GC) of Doshisha University in collaboration with the Kyotanabe International Exchange Association. Five foreigners including myself were cooking instructors on the day, representing our home countries of the U.S., South Africa, Jamaica, China and the U.K. We each taught a small group how to prepare a recipe from our home country that featured potato as an ingredient. Once we had finished cooking, we ate together as one big group, and learnt more about the cultural background to each recipe.

I showed my group how to make fish cakes and apple crumble. I was quite nervous as since coming to Japan, people often tell me that they find British food "disappointing". The fishcakes (a mashed potato mixture coated in breadcrumbs) were popular however with people commenting that they were similar to croquette. Similarly the crumble was well received, with participants commenting on how nicely the cinnamon apple and crunchy crumble went together. Perhaps I managed to change a few people's minds that day!

The other dishes also received many compliments and it wasn't long before all the food was gone. I was impressed by how well each dish turned out, despite using only locally bought ingredients. Hopefully I will have more opportunities to prove how yummy British food can be!



4th December Winter Wonderland



CIRs from Seika town, Kizugawa City and Kyotanabe City came together to hold a Christmas party for children.

First there was a presentation on how Christmas is celebrated in the West. In Japan, Christmas is a time mainly celebrated by couples. In the West however, similar to New Year in Japan, Christmas is dedicated to spending time with family and friends and preparing lots of delicious food.

The children were surprised to learn from one of the CIRs that it's always hot during Christmas in his home country of Hawaii. Whilst countries in the northern hemisphere such as the U.K. and Japan often have a white Christmas, it is the complete opposite for countries in the southern hemisphere.

Following the presentation there were Christmas themed crafts and games with Christmas songs playing in the background. It was great to see everyone getting into the Christmas spirit, and reminded me a lot of celebrating Christmas in the U.K.

18th December KIA Christmas Party

There was also a Christmas Party for children and their parents hosted by the Kyotanabe International Exchange Association.

Whilst the adults made sandwiches and paella, the children and I made gingerbread, a biscuit that is popular during Christmas period in the U.K.

It is slightly different from your average biscuit as it contains cinnamon and ginger, giving it a slightly spicy taste.

First we rolled out the dough and used cutters to cut out star and gingerbread men shapes. After they were baked and had cooled, the children decorated them with icing and chocolate decoration pens, putting a lot of thought into their designs.

Following a feast for lunch of all the dishes that were prepared, it was time to play the games "Jingle Bells" and "Who is Santa?". Although for many it was their first time playing these games, they were quick to learn the rules and it wasn't long before everyone was laughing and having fun!

