

The English board glows with Christmas lights next to a big paper Christmas tree with ornaments made by students. A giant advent calendar has Christmas traditions from all over the world hidden behind each door. There may not be snow, but the students are excited for special lessons with their ALT.

The first years and special education classes made Christmas cards with English messages for teachers and classmates. First and second year classes learned about some of Christmas' history and about how Christmas is celebrated in the ALT's home country. The students also asked good questions about traditions in Germany and the U.K. The Christmas lessons ended with a Christmas quiz game that used grammar from their textbook. Third year classes enjoyed a famous Christmas film. They watched "A Charlie Brown Christmas" which showed many American Christmas traditions. For many students it was the first time for them to see a Snoopy animation.

Two Shiroyama second-year students made preparations to go to Michigan in January. With their ALT they met at Koka City Hall to practice speeches, self-introductions and how to go through U.S. immigration. This year Michigan will have a lot of snow in January, Shiroyama's ALT hopes that the students will be able to enjoy some fun snow activities and make many friends during their visit.

This December's classes with the ALT were cut a little short. For the first time in over a year she went back to her home in Michigan for a visit. She spent almost two weeks with her family, taking pictures of her hometown, Christmas decorations and the world's largest Christmas store. She is excited to share about her hometown at Christmas time with her students when she returns to Japan in January.

