

Yusuhara a Home from Home: 15. A Tale of Two ALTs

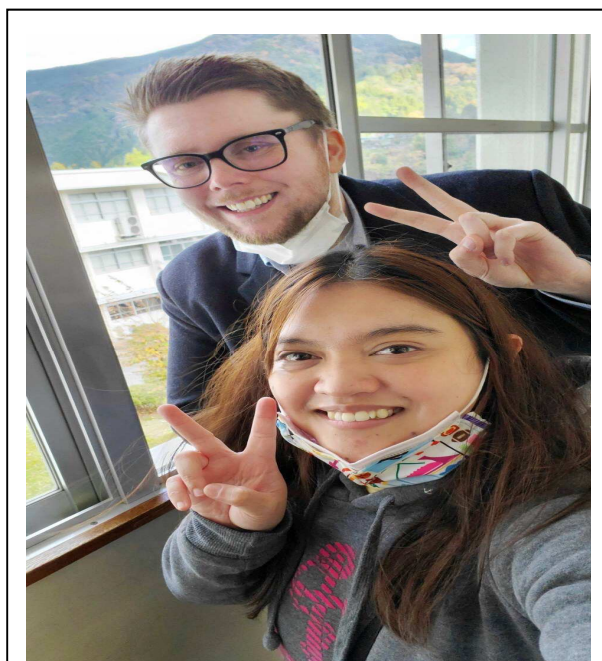
Stephen Woodard

November 2021 saw the arrival of a new high school ALT here in Yusuhara breaking the run of nearly two years without one. I have asked the new ALT to give a brief self introduction for those who have not yet met her:

My name is Maree Angeline Reyes, but you can call me Maree, or better yet—Yen, my nickname since childhood. I like to try new things, take photos and write about ordinary life, eat with friends, walk a lot, and watch TV shows and movies from different countries. Before coming to Japan, I lived in downtown Toronto, Canada but I was born and raised in the Philippines.

And now I have come to Japan, as an Assistant Language Teacher (ALT) for Yusuhara Senior High School. Since coming to Yusuhara, I've had such a lovely time with students, teachers, and the community. I've tried dried persimmon and nabeyaki, and attended an okyaku and school cultural festival for the first time. Yusuhara can get very cold in the winter, but everyone remains kind and warm. For this, I am truly grateful.

- Maree a.k.a. Yen



Stephen and Maree: Junior high school and senior high school ALTs. Together we'll help children in Yusuhara learn English!

As it is the holiday season, a time for celebration and new beginnings, I wish to extend my thanks to everyone in Yusuhara for making my time here so wonderful. I would like to wish all a wonderful holiday period and a very Happy New Year!