



# The Bamboo Shoots

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We do hope The Bamboo Shoots born out of the soil of Yamato-Takada will grow up and act as a go-between for the citizens in Lismore and in Yamato-Takada

## The Bamboo Shoots reissued!

We, members of editorial Board of 'the Bamboo Shoots', had to ceased issuing it for about one year and a half, because of the prevention of the expansion of 'COVID-19'.

## Bamboo English Restarted !

Good news : 'Bamboo English class' restarted on April 6, which is supported by the Yamato Takada • Lismore Sister City Association. The class had to be cancelled to prevent the expansion of 'COVID-19' in Nara Prefecture. Ms. Kristina, ALT in Nara, helps the kids from five years to twelve years old to learn living English. They feel very happy together with her, who is very kind and friendly.

### ~Activities of Bamboo English~



Hello, everyone. I am Maria Kristina Flores Okamoto. I am a Filipino and I have been living here in Japan for more than ten years. I met my amazing Japanese husband here and I gave birth to two wonderful children. As my children grow older, I noticed their interest in the English language. I was a full-time housewife back then so I thought, why not try and teach my own children. As time passed by, I noticed how much they improved and it made me so happy.



Bamboo English Teaching Staff

**Maria Kristina Flores Okamoto**

When my children grew up, I was passing by the street when I saw this advertisement regarding part-time teaching as an ALT. I told myself why not give it a try. I started teaching and I really enjoyed spending time with the students. I am always excited to get up the next day to see the students. That is when I realized that teaching is my passion. So I continued working as a full-time ALT. Because of this, I met more students and I realized that every child is unique. Some of them are very confident, yet most of them are very shy. They are scared to speak English because they don't want to make mistakes. So I had to find ways to make it enjoyable for them. While doing this, I am also learning to be a better teacher at the same time. I attended various classes and seminars to learn more techniques on how to be a better teacher and so I can do more for my students.

That is why I am very thankful to Yamato Takada Lismore Sister City Association Bamboo English program to include me in their Team. Together with the Japanese teachers, we help the children here in Yamato Takada to interact in English in a fun way, by using creative ways like games, singing and others while learning English. I have observed that play has a very important role in learning for children. The variety will keep them engaged to make learning more fun. And here in Bamboo English, we practice that method of learning and playing at the same time. It is an excellent program to help children experience English in a different environment together with other children who wants to experience the English language.

## **New Government Office Building Now Completed!**

Yamato Takada City Hall is newly completed and the whole building is to be available on and after July 12, 2021. With a lot of expectations for local citizens to fully utilize it as their 'amazing' new facility, its construction work began in September, 2019. They believe that it will support them emotionally so that they can be proud of it.

The new office building is surely to be a much more citizen-friendly, comfortable and affectionate place for them.



## **This Year's Exchange Student Project Cancelled:**

The Exchange Student Project organized by the Yamato Takada Sister City Association to send some students to the City of Lismore, Australia, was cancelled this year, too, just like the case of last year, partly because the COVID-19 pandemic is growing more dangerous and partly because the number of the infected persons throughout the world is not on a downward trend.

When the circumstances are improved, it goes without saying that project is to be put into practice in the following year.



Students from Yamato Takada in 2019



Students from Lismore in 2019