

# THE BREEZE

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No. 41

St. Michael's Association

March 2013

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## Letter from the Editor

When I attended St. Michael's, the world was a very different place. For starters, there was no mobile phone, no email, no facebook, no twitter. Music came in the form of records: there were the 45rpm records and 33rpm records, which contained more tracks. Camera used the silver technology, TV were heavy and bulky. And computers? They were nowhere to be seen at home. The jet age was here, but the low cost carriers weren't. Therefore international travel remained the domain of the privileged few.

Fast forward approximately 35 years, and I find my children playing with mom's iPad, listening to music via music downloads. My 2-year old knows how to open the DVD player to insert her favourite movie (we didn't even have video cassette player when I was 2!). My 6-year old has already experienced air travel many times, having been to faraway places such as UK, Denmark, and the US, a reflection of how affordable international travel has become in these years.

Yet when I visit St. Michael's today, I see the teachers and staff with the same level of dedication as the time that I attended the school. I see the students from different cultural background mixing effortlessly in classrooms and playgrounds. I see focus in high academic standards, and at the same time see the kids respecting and caring for each other. Why has this been possible? Why has the school been able to retain its identity over the years despite so much change in the world around it?

Arguably this is because The Core School Values of Endeavour, Respect, Integrity, Compassion, Responsibility, Honesty, and Tolerance are the values that transcend the ages. The values were important 50 years ago, as it will be 50 years from now. Perhaps instilling these Core Values in a changing world is the biggest gift that a school such as St. Michael's could endow on its staff, students and the community, and is the lasting legacy of the founders, Ms Lea and Bishop Yashiro.

Keyji Johnsen, *Editor*

## **New Staff (Part 2)**

In our previous edition of *The Breeze*, we introduced two new staff members. To continue with this introduction, this edition brings interviews with four of our other new staff members. Nicholas Foster and Pia Orum joined us in the English Language School (ELS) Section, while Jasmin Shallcross and Fusako Lang joined us in the International sections as Teaching Assistants.

### **Mr Foster**

“I’m from Canada and I grew up in Montreal, Paris and Vancouver city. I moved to Japan on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2009 and I’ve been living in Kobe with my family for nearly four years. I lived in France for 5 years during my elementary school years but spent most of my life in Montreal, Canada. I chose SMIS because my Japanese teacher mentioned that the school had a great working environment and a very good reputation and she strongly recommended it. I met many interesting people at SMIS and I’m enjoying a new challenge. SMIS is nothing like the average English language schools in Japan and makes for a very unique working experience.

I often go to an "okonomiyaki" restaurant called "Nampu". I love the Kansai specialties served on a hotplate and I find it's a very unique way to serve food because I had never seen that in Montreal. My favorite destination is Kyoto. I went to Kyoto several times and the city never ceases to surprise me. My dream holiday would be a week-long trip to Nagano, because I would love to ski the renowned Japanese slopes and make the first tracks in fresh powder snow.”

### **Ms Orum**

“Hi! My name is Pia Orum. Let me tell you a little about myself. I was born in Vancouver, but spent most of my childhood in Victoria. The past ten years I’ve called Kobe my home. Before coming to Japan had travelled quite a bit, but I hadn’t lived outside of Canada. The idea of working at St. Michael’s was given to me by a former parent and PTA member. She encouraged me to apply. What I like most about St. Michael’s is the history and the people. Compared to other place I have worked the camaraderie here at SMIS is unequaled.

I like to eat out but I don’t do it much anymore. My daughter is under 2 and I find a lot of places are too smoky to take her. Azzuri has fantastic pizza and pasta. Just down the road from St. Michael’s is Kurobei kushikatsu, we sometimes go there with a group of the night school students. It’s always good, cheap and a lot of fun.

Other than Japan, some of the best places I've been are Brasil, Thailand, New Zealand and Philippines. I guess my dream holiday would be to spend a few months in Europe. I would love to go to Spain, Italy and Greece."

### **Ms Shallcross**

Hello, my name is Jasmine Shallcross and I come from mid-west Wales where I grew up in a small village in the middle of the beautiful welsh countryside. At the age of seventeen I moved to London to attend university where I studied a BA (Hons) degree in Photography. I continued to live and work in the capital for another seven years until I moved to Kobe, Japan in 2010.

This is my first time living outside the U.K. Moving to Japan has been an exciting adventure and continues to be three years on! I have loved traveling in and around Japan as well as exploring the many countries in South East Asia. My best experience in Japan was going to the Sumo Basho in Osaka, where the atmosphere was amazing! I have also enjoyed visiting some of the other islands such as Shikoku and Awaji Shima, where the countryside is stunning. The restaurant I enjoy going to most...? This is a very difficult question to answer as I love eating out and Kobe in particular has a huge variety of great restaurants!

If I could have a dream holiday I would probably choose a round-the-world trip; there are so many places I have yet to visit and I really enjoy experiencing the many different cultures around the world.

Previous to working at SMIS I worked at a small international pre-school just outside Osaka. It was a very small school, with intimate classes. This was a great time and I enjoyed the great relationships I was able to build with my students. I do not, however, miss the commute and love being able to walk to work in the mornings!

I have been living in the Kobe area since I moved to Japan and was able to get to know the school and its community. This is what made me decide that St. Michaels International School was a place I would very much like to work. The staff, students and parents of St. Michaels have made becoming a new member of the school a very welcoming and exciting experience. Since joining SMIS in August it has been, and continues to be, a pleasure to be part of such a great teaching and learning team.

### **Ms Lang**

Fusako Lang had grown up in Osaka and moved to Florida, USA when she was 26. She lived there with her husband and two boys until she moved back to Japan last summer. When asked why she chose St. Michael's she replied that the location of the school being in the center of Kobe, and the

size of the school had appealed to her. The school gives her a “family-like atmosphere”. For this same reason, she has been enjoying teaching at SMIS.

In response to the question “How is SMIS different from your previous workplace?” Fusako replied, “It is different in many positive ways. First, the administrators are much more supportive and approachable. Second, it is easy to see the whole picture due to the size of school. Third, the students are from families who value education highly so I do not need much discipline and can actually teach, which is a pleasure. Overall I enjoy teaching at SMIS and am much happier than my previous workplace.”

She has relished the “masala dosa” at the Indian restaurant Chalte Chalte. Visiting the Venus Bridge also gives her pleasure since she feels “like I am walking in the air when I am crossing the bridge.”

Her dream vacation did “not matter where I go but I do not want to take care of anybody I only want to be taken care of...or at least where nobody bothers me....”

Avni Shah

### **Bazaar 2013 (Volunteers Needed!)**

In preparation of the School Bazaar to be held on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2013, St. Michael’s Association is looking for volunteers who could help us in our booths. We will be present through our takoyaki, bake sale, and craft booths. If you are able to volunteer, kindly get in touch with us at the following e-mail address:

[alumni@smis-mail.org](mailto:alumni@smis-mail.org)

We will be very grateful for donations of baked goods and craft.

### **St. Michael's T-shirts**

In a new initiative, St. Michael's Association will be producing school T-shirts, and will be making these available to the school community. These will be available in a 9 colours, and will come in 7 adult sizes: men's S, M, L, XL and women's S, M, L. Orders will be accepted through March 2013, and the T-shirts will be available for pick-up at the bazaar on 27<sup>th</sup> April, or could be sent to you (subject to postage and packaging fee). We shall endeavour to make limited quantities available at the London Gathering in July. Each T-shirt will cost 2,000 yen.

The order sheet is found at the back of this issue, we look forward to receiving your orders.

### **Ms Brown Memorial Service**

There will be a short prayer service remembering Ms Ruth Crawford Brown at the St. Michael's Cathedral after the regular Sunday Service at or about 11:30am on Sunday, 16<sup>th</sup> June 2013. Ms Brown succeeded Ms Lea as Head of School for eight years and then briefly for a year in 1997. Ms Brown passed away on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2008, and this year marks the 5<sup>th</sup> year of her passing.

### **London Gathering 2013**

We have been informed that the London Gathering this year will be held on Saturday, 6<sup>th</sup> July. Details will follow, however kindly keep this date open for this yearly event.

### **Updating the mailing list**

We continue with our drive to minimize the cost of publishing *The Breeze* by asking you to send us your e-mail address. Kindly help us keep in touch with you in a manner that is most cost effective to St. Michael's Association by letting us know your current email address. I thank you for your continued understanding.

[alumni@smis-mail.org](mailto:alumni@smis-mail.org)

**Scheduled Events of St. Michael's Association (2013)**

20 <sup>th</sup> February 2013 (Wed)	11 <sup>th</sup> meeting of SMA
2 <sup>nd</sup> March 2013 (Sat)	SMA Annual General Meeting
17 <sup>th</sup> April 2013 (Wed)	12 <sup>th</sup> meeting of SMA
27 <sup>th</sup> April 2013 (Sat)	School Bazaar
19 <sup>th</sup> May 2013 (Sun)	Ms Hirose's 94 <sup>th</sup> birthday
12 <sup>th</sup> June 2013 (Wed)	13 <sup>th</sup> meeting of SMA

Meetings of St. Michael's Association are open to anyone who has been involved in St. Michael's in any way – International School students, English Language School students, or teachers. We publish *The Breeze*, organize alumni events, and generally keep in regular touch with past students and teachers of St. Michael's.

**ST.MICHAEL'S INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL**

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# ST. MICHAEL'S INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL T-Shirts

ORDER NOW AND PICK-UP AT THE BAZAAR (APR. 27)!

EACH T-SHIRT 2,000 YEN

ORDERS ACCEPTED THROUGHOUT MARCH 2013

ONLY LIMITED COLOURS AND QUANTITIES AVAILABLE AT THE BAZAAR!

IF YOU CANNOT MAKE IT TO THE BAZAAR, WE ARE VERY HAPPY TO SEND YOU THE T-SHIRTS (SUBJECT TO POSTAGE & PACKING FEE OF 500 YEN (domestic) OR 1,000 YEN (overseas))

ORDERS WITHOUT PAYMENTS WILL NOT BE PROCESSED

PLEASE MAKE PAYMENTS AT THE SCHOOL OFFICE OR TO THE FOLLOWING ACCOUNT BY END-MARCH 2013:

Bank:	Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation
Branch:	Kobe Eigyou Bu (Branch No.500)
Account Name:	Sei MikaeruKokusaiGakko Dousoukai
Account No.:	8579576
Swift Code:	SMBCJPT



## ORDER FORM

Please fill the required quantity in the boxes and let us have the order form via school office / email ([alumni@smis-mail.org](mailto:alumni@smis-mail.org)) / FAX (+81-78-231-8899) by end-March 2013

	MEN				WOMEN		
	S	M	L	XL	S	M	L
Dark Blue							
Green							
Purple							
Red							
Yellow							
Light blue							
Pink							
"Oat meal"							
Grey							

All sizes are adult sizes. The T-shirts are not available in children sizes.

SURNAME:

FIRST NAME:

Name:

\_\_\_\_\_

Pick-up at  
the Bazaar?

Circle one

YES

NO

Postal  
Address:  
(if NO above)

Address 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Address 2: \_\_\_\_\_

City, Country: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Email:

\_\_\_\_\_@\_\_\_\_\_

T-shirts  
Quantity:

\_\_\_\_\_ (Qty) × 2,000 yen = \_\_\_\_\_ yen

Postage &  
Packing:

Circle one

Not applicable

Domestic

500yen

International

1,000yen

Total Due:

\_\_\_\_\_ yen

Please make payments at the school office or to the account overleaf by end-March 2013. Orders without payments will not be processed.