

THE BREEZE

No. 45

St. Michael's Association

June 2015

Letter from the Editor

As the school starts the preparations for the 70th anniversary celebrations, perhaps it is worth remembering the other important milestone that we do not forget. 2015 is the 20th anniversary of the Great Hanshin Earthquake, an event that only lasted a minute or two, but had a dramatic effect on all our lives.

A friend phoned me at 7am UK time, alerting me of the earthquake that hit Kobe. Sleepy-eyed, my initial reaction was, "Yeah, thanks. This is Japan, right? There's earthquake all the time". The next thing that my friend said alerted me that this was no ordinary earthquake: "But Keyji, there's purple smoke towers rising from the direction of Sannomiya".

That day, I spent the whole day on the internet scouring for information about what exactly happened. And then on the BBC 6 o'clock news, the headline news broadcasted non-stop images of devastation from all over Kobe.

As I participated in the 20th anniversary event at 5:46am on 17th January this year, I was reminded on how far the school and the city has come on the path of post-earthquake restoration, and how much work still needs to be done.

20 years on, the city center of Kobe has regained its attractive city center, some would say that it is even better than the pre-earthquake days. Conversely, the Kobe Port, which once was the third largest port in the world (by volume) continues its long-term decline, and ranks No. 52 in the world (2012 statistics). Turning our attention to the school, while the international school student numbers have returned to the pre-earthquake levels, much work remains to be done to secure the school infrastructure going forward.

In my humble opinion, the earthquake was one moment in our almost 70 year history when the existence of our school was in jeopardy, and it is a testament of the decisions that were taken at the time and the goodwill that was shown by the stakeholders of the school that the school is in a good shape today.

What is your memory of the Great Hanshin Earthquake? The Breeze would be interested in hearing from you to share your memories with the fellow readers of The Breeze.

Keyji Johnsen, *Editor*

SMA Party 2015

Almost 50 people from several generations gathered at the St. Michael's cafeteria on 8th March. It was so nice to see adults and children being back at school, eating, drinking and chatting; some reminiscing about the good old days. It was drizzling that evening but the children were so keen to play Four Square on the roof to start with, and then on the playground, despite the rain.

The highlight of that evening was the 'Bingo Game', led by Cindy, Ayame and Maahi. The winners could not have been happier as you can imagine!

This Alumni party is held every year on the first Saturday of March, so please mark your calendar for next year. You will be amazed to see how the school has evolved if you have not been back for some time.



Tazu Makino

SMIS Bazaar - A Day of Community Spirit

“It brings back memories, I get to see old teachers and friends and help out.” We’re sure Anjali Daswani meant to say “former teachers” rather than “old” but her sentiments were shared by many of the Alumni and friends in the larger community we spoke with that day.

SMIS Bazaar is well known as the place to go to catch up with friends, make new friends, eat amazing food and pick up a great bargain or two.

The day ran as you all remember; with bright skies, a queue at the gate and music played by the Chindonya from Kobe University, the delicious smell of food cooking; excited children in costumes and face-paint, people carrying huge paper bags of books, clothing and white elephant bargains; tots with toys and pleased parents who just found the baby gym they’d been looking for. All were waiting for the grand finale; clutching their tickets, waiting for their number to be pulled from the Tombola!



L-R Judging , sharing leaflets, gathering contacts, takoyaki crew, selling memorabilia

This year we wore our Alumni T-shirts, plunged into the flurry of events and greeted former students, colleagues and fans of SMIS. As participating Alumni, we manned the Alumni table, judged the children’s competitions (Fancy Dress and Lip Sync contests) and cleared up afterwards to support the hardworking and tired staff. Our planned involvement was hugely rewarding and enjoyable; we felt that we were continuing to contribute to the special and unique atmosphere of St. Michael’s. Working as Alumni, we were able to have a front row seat to witness all the spirit of this special event and broaden our relationships with members of the St. Michael’s family.

We definitely intend to participate again and encourage you to join us. See you there!



Written by Karla Aljonaid, Lynva Davies and Helen McPherson Photos: Carol Yasuda

Class of 2015

As the school year comes to an end, we say goodbye to the Graduates and wish them all the best at their new school. We bid them farewell with the hope that they will take with them, the values and skills they have learnt at SMIS. I asked some of them to tell us about their journey at SMIS and what it is that they will take with them as they go to their new school.

We all became successful, academically and mindfully; including helping children younger than us and donating to people in need, all around the world, in our journey at St. Michael's. Even though, we will play sports in our next school, we will always remember the sportsmanship and teamwork we experience in SMIS. Also, we would like to take our knowledge of the seven important values of SMIS (Integrity, Compassion, Honesty, Responsibility, Respect, Tolerance and Endeavour) to our next school; and also our academic studies. This incredible journey has been the most memorable of our lives so far! We will always follow our teacher's example of Growing, Working, Learning Together! We have also learnt how to collaborate and be adaptable. So, as we are growing, we will always remember, and never forget our amazing years at this community-based, friendly school. Once again, THANK YOU STAFF AND STUDENTS OF ST. MICHAELS FOR BEING FRIENDLY AND SUPPORTING US CONTINUOUSLY!

Written By: Head Girl: Piya Sarkar, Head boy: Kyle Doman, Year 6 SLC representative: Abhay Kamath, Khushi Sarkar, Isha Sarkar and Krisha Sarkar.

Once again, Congratulations to the Class of 2015! We would also like to welcome them to the St. Michael's Association.

Avani Shah

Brief Updates From Rosie Baker

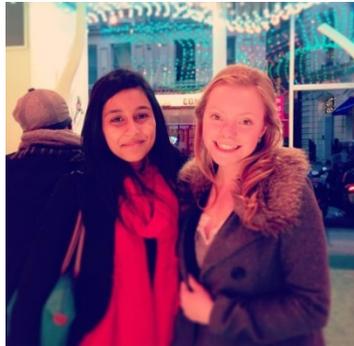
It's been 10 years since I left SMIS in 2005 but it could have been just a few weeks ago...

I have so many happy memories of my time in year 4 with Mrs Aljonaid, Year 5 with Miss Allen and Year 6 with Mrs Hunter. From closely fought Lip Sync competitions on the school roof (singing Hilary Duff on the roof with Kinjal) to helping lead Yashiro to Sports Day triumphs with my co-captain, Wataro, even to the bus journeys to and from home and school with my best friend Verity. Many teachers and friends at SMIS helped shape the

person I am today - especially Miss MacKay who patiently tutored me after school, and I'm sure played a big part in my admission to secondary school.

After SMIS, I went on to school in the UK, and am just about to (hopefully!) graduate from the University of Cambridge reading Geography. Along the way, I've found a passion for expeditions; my favourite trip was to Svalbard in Arctic Norway, and this summer I'm travelling down a stretch of Danube River in Europe. And after that, who knows what next - the plan is to have no plan but work it out as I go along.

I may be far from Kobe but I will always carry happy SMIS memories with me and not forget the friendships and guidance that continues to influence me today.



The photo was taken when meeting up with Kinjal Jhaveri (also 2005 SMIS graduate) in London last year.

Rosie Baker, class of 2005

From Risa Shibata

I am a junior at Osaka University but currently on a one year exchange program at the University of California, Berkeley where I major in Sociology. I love the new and different college life experience from Japan, but the workload is highly demanding, requiring constant diligence.

At Berkeley, I am part of the intercultural leadership program and volunteer with the Fruitful Minds, a NGO working to fight against obesity through childhood education. As a Fruitful Minds ambassador, I teach once a week at a local elementary school about nutrition and healthy dietary habits and enjoy it so much!



Risa Shibata, class of 2005

London Gathering 2015

London Gathering 2015 will be held on Saturday, 8th August at Tavistock Hotel, 48-55 Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9EU from 17:00. Come and join us if you are in the area.

Tazu Makino

Getting in touch with St. Michael's Association

If you find the need to get in touch with St. Michael's Association, the best way to do this is through this email address. You are also very welcome to leave a message at the School office.

alumni@smis-mail.org

SMA Diary (& Key Dates from the School Calendar) (2015-2016)

26 th August 2015	22 nd meeting of SMA
2 nd October 2015	St. Michael's Day
25 th November 2015	23 rd meeting of SMA
24 th February 2016	24 th meeting of SMA
4 th March 2016	Founder's Day
30 th March 2016	25 th meeting of SMA
23 rd April 2016	School Bazaar
25 th May 2016	26 th meeting of SMA

SMA meetings typically take place at 6:00pm on Wednesday evenings. Please get in touch with the school for the details of the St. Michael's Day and Founder's Day services.

SMA Meetings 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.

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