

THE BREEZE

No. 47

St. Michael's Association

January 2016

Letter from the Editor

A very happy new year from the St. Michael's Association. We hope 2015 was meaningful for you in many ways, and all of you are well-rested and well-prepared for the new year.

St. Michael's Association has decided to publish another edition of The Breeze this school year, as the last issue was devoted to introducing the 70th project: the extensive earthquake proofing and refurbishment that is currently ongoing, and the launch of the capital campaign. You will be glad to know that the capital campaign has started off very well, and from this issue, we are publishing the list of donors to the capital campaign in the form of Donor Recognition Club. We need to receive continued help from you, so look forward to receiving continued support.

A very big date in the school calendar this year is the 70th Anniversary Gala on Saturday, 5th November. We look forward to seeing as many of you at the Gala. This is in addition to our annual events such as SMA Party in March and the school bazaar in April.

A big thanks to all of you who has written to let us know of your updates. Please make this a forum to update each other on how all of us are doing. Afterall, The Breeze is the only thing that keeps us together. We continue to welcome the updates from the St. Michael's community around the world.

Keyji Johnsen, *Editor*

New Staff 2015-2016

The beginning of a new school year means change and a fresh start. This year we welcomed some new staff to our school family. Lauren Brownen in Early Years; Henry Camell in Year 2; Jonathan Bunch as ELS Coordinator; Kazuhiko Kaneyuki as Finance Manager; and Maki Ho as School Caretaker.

Avni Shah

Lauren Brownen
Early Years Class Teacher



I am from Dublin, Ireland where I did my teacher training with Trinity College. After one year working in a special needs pre-school I moved to South Korea to teach in an international school. There I taught Year 2 and EAL classes. I also ran the library and acted as the IPC 'Leader for Learning'. After two years in South Korea I relocated to Kazakhstan and taught Reception for 2 years in an independent British school.

I have always been interested in Japan and had visited Tokyo for New Year during my time in South Korea. I love the mix of tradition and modernity, the way nature and city life come together. I love the food and the fashion too, and always hoped I would be able to return some day to live and work in Japan. When I saw that St. Michael's was looking for a teacher I began researching Kobe straight away and was impressed by the multicultural aspect of the city, and its location near mountains and sea.

I was welcomed to St. Michael's with a warm reception, which has continued throughout my time here. It really is a warm, family school and I feel lucky to call so many of my co-workers friends. They have introduced me to many of the wonderful places in Kobe, including some fantastic restaurants! I love Japanese food and there's so much to choose from—sashimi and ramen are two favourites. I've been set up with a great Japanese teacher and I'm already picking up some of the basics - thank you Rachel! It's great to see that so many of the staff speak the local language. And a big thank you to Tazu who helped me to join the gym!

I am looking forward to visiting Kyoto with friends this October holiday, and hope to visit Sapporo and Okinawa too later on in the year. I love city breaks! I also enjoy places like Thailand and Bali, where the weather is warm, the plants and flowers are tropical, the food is spicy, the people are friendly and the atmosphere is relaxed. If I had a very long holiday, I would love to travel around South America - there's so much to see and do there. Of course, I enjoy visiting Dublin too every year, seeing my family, spending time with them and catching up on everything I missed during the year. I've spent many Christmases abroad but there's nothing quite like an

Irish Christmas with its home cooked food, thoughtful presents and age old traditions!

I love being able to call two places home, Kobe and Dublin, and I'm excited about discovering even more about both this year.

Henry Camell
Year 2 Class Teacher



I am originally from sunny Cornwall in England and have also lived in Manchester, Swindon and Canterbury where I did my undergraduate, masters and teaching qualifications. Since qualifying I spent two years working in Year 3 for an international school in Cairo, Egypt and have also worked for an International School in Beijing as a Year 3 teaching assistant.

Japan has always been a fascination of mine, since I was a teenager I have been interested in Japanese cinema and culture. Before joining St Michael's I had never visited Japan but upon seeing the position advertised, I started researching the school, Kobe and Japan fervently. Since coming here I am trying to explore as much of the local area as possible and have also been trying to pick up some Japanese. Eating in the vast array of restaurants Kobe has to offer is a guilty pleasure of mine although I try to not eat in the same place more than once!

Since joining St. Michael's I have loved the community spirit which the school has. The staff have been fantastic in helping me settle in and welcoming me to the city and I am frequently bumping into friendly parents and children when walking around Kobe. The small nature of St Michael's is something which really appeals to me as this is the type of school which I went to as well as trained at in England. My last schools were nearly 10 times the size of St. Michael's so coming here has been a welcome change!

Jonathan Bunch
ELS Coordinator



I originally come from the northwestern part of the United States, and before returning to Japan called Portland, Oregon home. In Oregon I attended Willamette University College of Law majoring in business law and dispute resolution, and after graduation worked for over five years as a business and real estate lawyer. While I loved the law, my heart was always in education, and I returned to Japan to resume a career in teaching seven years ago.

In Japan I have worked in a variety of schools and companies where I set up and taught English programmes for adult learners. Most recently I worked for a ship management company as an English teacher and contracts administrator for a little over six years.

I and my family were quite fortunate to be given the opportunity to join St. Michael's, and have been welcomed warmly by the St. Michael's family of teachers and students. We love living in Kobe and discovering and exploring new places together on weekends. There are so many fun and interesting places to see and things to do, and we are excited to see more of Kobe. I look forward to getting to know everyone at St. Michael's better and have the opportunity to grow, work and learn with the amazing people here!

Kazuhiko Kaneyuki
Finance Manager



I was born in Fukuoka-prefecture. The area where I grew up was famous for mining, but has been deserted after the mining business came to an end. When I was there, my image of Kobe was that it was a very big city just like Osaka, and as sophisticated as Yokohama. After I started to work at St Michael's, I found that good food and various foreign people are there like San Francisco.

When I left my previous company, I wanted to work with foreign people so that I could learn quite different viewpoints and ways of thinking. St Michael's gives me a good opportunity to experience all these.

My hobbies are currently wine parties and listening to music such as blues, jazz, vocal and rock. These are very good communication tools.

About playing sports, fitness is my current exercise. About watching sports, American Football (NFL) is my favourite one. I often watch it, not only for fun but also from the view point of business, such as risk management and decision making.

If I have a 2 month holiday, I would spend most of the time reading books about philosophy and psychology. I learned the idea "Kindness is never lost" through various experiences in my life. Reading should further influence my mind.

Maki Ho
School Caretaker



This is my first year working at St. Michael's, although I have been involved with the school past 10 years. I really enjoy watching all the students learn and grow every day. Outside of the school, I am busy studying for my Master program in TESOL at Temple University, as well as being a hockey mom for three children.

The School Photo Gallery

*A picture is worth a thousand words,
but the memories are priceless...*

-Anonymous

Looking at the boxes... and boxes... and boxes of photographs from the past, I truly felt that this quote made so much sense. It was that time of year when we did the "spring clean" at St. Michael's that we came across the many boxes filled with photographs from the past. While we were supposed to be cleaning up, we ended up looking at the pictures, reminiscing. Something had to be done with these photographs!

At our next committee meeting, we came to the conclusion that our best option would be to "digitalize" the photographs. We knew that the job would be time consuming and tedious, but it had to be done! The process began with Mrs. Makino and Miss Davies, who went through all the pictures and selected which ones will be digitalized, sorting them into decades. We were then fortunate to have found Hana Eastham who set herself up in a room to carefully take digital photos of the old pictures. She spent hours at it and we are really thankful for that!

That was just part one of our project, as we needed to consider what we were going to do with all these digital photos next. We agreed that we will upload them onto the website so that everyone else could view these pictures. After some thought and research, we finally uploaded the photos and created the Alumni Gallery.

I thought the project was over, but the committee did not stop there. The next part of the project is to add anecdotes to each picture, and that is where you all come in. We plan to have these pictures printed at upcoming events so that if you have a memory to share about the picture we can note it down, and gradually add them to the actual gallery.

I have had a chance to go back and treasure my memories. If you would like to do the same, please visit the Alumni Gallery at:

<http://smis.org/index.php/community/alumni/alumnigallery/>

Enjoy the pictures!
Avani Doshi Shah



London Gathering 2015



The regular London gathering took place on 8th August at the usual venues—the lobby of The Tavistock Hotel, Russell Square, and a nearby Indian restaurant. There were 3 children, including Mrs Makino's 2 grandsons, Taichi and Shunpei, and Hugo, Tim and Tami's lovely young son. Amongst the 10 adults were Tami's mother, on a visit from Japan, and a surprise visitor, Mary Carew, who left St Michael's about 27 years ago. She told us that she had recently taken early retirement from teaching. It was great catching up with everybody's news.

An enjoyable time was had by all; eating, drinking, laughing and reminiscing! Time certainly has wings and, in the twinkling of an eye, another happy reunion came to an end.

Lynva Davies

SMA (Alumni) Annual Party (Saturday 5th March)

Mark your calendar and come & join us for the SMA Alumni Party, which will be held on Saturday, 5th of March at the school cafeteria. We will be shortly circulating a poster for more details.

Venue: St. Michael's International School Cafeteria

Time: 5pm – 7pm (Playground opens at 4pm)

School Bazaar (Saturday 23rd April)

The annual bazaar is always a uniting moment of the school community, and usually blessed with great weather. We look forward to seeing you at the school on Saturday, 23rd April.

Venue: St. Michael's International School
Time: 10am – 3pm (to be confirmed)

Where Are They Now?

From Janet Bouey

I am Janet Bouey former teacher at St. Michael's (Music and Band 1989-1995). I have been living in Comox BC on Vancouver Island since returning to Canada after the Kobe earthquake. I am teaching Music and Band at a K-7 school and I enjoy spending time with my 15 year old daughter and making art and jewellery out of polymer clay.

From Hideko (Wendy) Tsune (nee Chujo)

Hi. This is Hideko (Wendy) Tsune (nee Chujo). I graduated from St. Michael's ELS in 1988(?) and worked at St. Michael's as a Reception assistant from June 1991 until July 1997 before the birth of my daughter Alisa. She is now 17. My son Junnosuke is 13. We live in Nishinomiya, and I have been teaching English at home since 2000.

From Angela Takahashi

I moved from Spain to St Michael's in 1989 and taught there until June 1992 just before the birth of our first son, Makoto. He is now 22, a post grad student at Cambridge and very bemused by photos of him and the St. M's Brownies. Koji is 18, sitting A2s this summer and Akira is a very laid back 13-year old. We have visited the school many times over the years, amazed by the changes but always thrilled to catch up with old friends.

I too celebrated my 30th birthday with St. Michael's staff and still have the silver brooch which was my present.

We live in Finchley, North London but plan to return to Japan to continue the family shrine once the boys have flown the nest.

From Gail Simpson (nee Thompson)

Hi, This is Gail Simpson (nee Thompson) I was teaching at St. Michael's from August 1991 until June 1995. I then moved to Bangkok where I met my Scottish husband (as you do!!) at a party. In December 1998 we

returned to the UK for a while and then in August moved to Peru. I taught Grade 4 in Colegio San Silvestre in Lima. In April 2003 we returned to the UK and bought our very first house in Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire. I did some supply teaching and then our first son Fraser was born. (He is now 11) Two years and a bit later in 2006, Finn was born! (He is now 9) In March 2008 we moved to San Jose, Costa Rica and I taught in The Country Day School in Escazu. In 2013 we returned to the UK and have settled once again in Aylesbury in Buckinghamshire.

I am currently teaching Year 3 in Wendover Junior School and have a lovely but slightly 'mad' class!

In this March this year, I celebrated my 50th birthday!! It doesn't seem possible that it was 20 years ago I celebrated my 30th birthday in a log cabin in Japan!! (How quickly the years have flown by.....)

I have many happy memories of my 4 years in Kobe and will certainly never forget the morning of the Great Hanshin Earthquake! Sending love to all my old St Michael's friends and colleagues. Gail x

From Randy Bollig



Here I am with a rucksack full of books purchased at the SM Bazaar for distribution in some schools in Nepal, where I have been going for the last 5-6 years as part of the project I started in 2011, Family & Friends Project, sponsoring Nepali children in schools, supporting children's homes, Extensive Reading and teacher development programs, as well as holding annual study tours. If you or any friends are interested, please have a look at my FB page or contact me directly at ranbochan2@gmail.com, just to see what we are doing.

Since leaving St. Michael's, near the turn of the century, I have been teaching at Kwansai University, Konan Women's University, and Konan University, but am always happy to return to St. Michael's on occasion and see many of the students and teachers I have known since my original 2 year contract in 1982. Take care, have fun, stay healthy, and keep smiling."

From Maiko Tsutsumishita Zennick

Back when I was in St. Michael's I was known as Jennifer Tuazon, my Filipino name. I now go by my Japanese name, Maiko Tsutsumishita, and

married name Zemnick. I graduated in 1985. You can find me on the year book. I now live in Glendale, Arizona with my photographer husband Mark, and our three children, Mariko (18), Markus (17), and Marzia (4 months). I am a stay-at-home mom, but I also help my husband with his business www.markzemnick.com

From Amy Strachan

Hi, This is Amy Strachan. I am so jealous not to be at the St Michael's Bazaar. I have lovely memories helping with the lip-synch competition which used to be held on the roof (does this still happen?) (editor note: yes!). Anyway, after my wonderful two years at St. Michael's (2005-2007), I worked in the Gambia for a year during which time Darleen Grimsby and St. Michael's sent over boxes of wonderful resources that were distributed around the schools and children across the Gambia. Thank-you! I now work as a senior lecturer in Primary Science education in a university just outside of London. I got married in January to my lovely husband Tom....to whom I have promised to take him to Japan to meet the super St. Michael's community. Amy x

From Barbara, Guillaume and Maximin Fieschi



Maximin (L) Guillaume (R)

Old Fieschis are in Doha at grand Hyatt and AWIS international. I am KS2 teacher and loving it. Maxi doing Drama and Acting...going into third BA year in September. He is a part time Lifeguard in a holiday park on the West Coast of Scotland at weekends. Has a lovely Scottish girlfriend. Gui on Gap year and presently in a hut near Lapland with Finish girlfriend!! He will start Electrical Engineering course in September. We still miss Okonomiyaki....and have lovely memories of our Japan times.

From Bridget Emery

Since leaving Kobe in 1995 I have taught in Thailand, Turkey and now Finland, where I have been for 15 years. In Finland I have found myself doing things I had never thought of doing before, like morris dancing, taking singing lessons and having an allotment for gardening. I am also lucky enough to live close to the sea. All the places I have lived in have been lovely in different ways. However, Japan will always have a big place in my heart. There are the terrible memories like the earthquake of 1995, but many wonderful times which will never leave me. St Michael's was the happiest school I have ever worked in, with lovely children and parents, and kind, caring colleagues. Best wishes to all colleagues and students, past and present!

From Anisha Jhaveri

My name is **Anisha Jhaveri** and I attended St. Michael's from Nursery to Infant 3 in the early '90s. After about ten years of studying and working in the U.S, I now live with my husband in Singapore as a film journalist (any fellow film buffs in Singapore, do get in touch!). My parents continue to live in Kobe, so it is very much still home. I look forward to my annual visits back to Japan during Christmas and the New Year, where I pass by St. Michael's regularly, and always with very fond memories!

Obituary

Mrs. Anna-Marie Leonhardt

Anna-Marie passed away in Kobe on 21st April 2015. Anna-Marie taught in both the IS and ELS. She served as the school librarian. She is survived by her husband and 2 children.

Mr. Dennis Buckland

Dennis Buckland passed away in England on 22nd October 2015. Mr. Buckland taught in the IS. He is survived by his wife and 2 children.

May their souls rest in peace.

Coming Soon: —70th Anniversary T-shirts—

As part of the 70th anniversary celebrations, the St. Michael's Association is planning the 70th Anniversary T-shirts to be made available to you soon. As you may have guessed, this is a one-off project and will only be available once. So if you miss it, you will have missed the opportunity to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the school forever!

Details will emerge about this soon, but advance intelligence is already indicating that the pre-orders will be available in a variety of colours and a variety of sizes. So do look forward to pre-ordering your own 70th Anniversary T-shirts to guarantee that you have the colour and the size that is ideal to you!

Save the Date: —70th Anniversary Gala— Saturday, 5th November 2016

The 70th anniversary gala of St. Michael's will be held at the Kobe Club on Saturday, 5th November 2016. This will be an event to remember—especially because we only have this type of event once every 10 years! We wish to welcome as many who have helped make St. Michael's the great institution that it is today as possible.

The proceeds of this event will of course go towards the 70th project, and therefore your support would be invaluable.

This will be an ideal time to come back to Kobe and see how the city has changed over the years, and also to reflect on what has not changed in an ever-changing world.

So plan your next trip to Japan around the 70th Anniversary Gala—the organising committee looks forward to welcoming you.

Donating to the capital campaign

Starting from this issue, we are publishing the list of people/organizations who have donated to the capital campaign. The Donor Recognition Club has 4 categories: Diamond, Ruby, Emerald, and Sapphire.

You can see that the capital campaign has already attracted donations from multiple parties. However, we have set ourselves an ambitious goal for ourselves, and need help from all of you. With your help, we will be able to

grow the list of the Donor Recognition Club and hit our target. We are grateful to anybody considering a donation to the capital campaign.

 Jewel Donor Recognition Club 	
Diamond	
Ruby	
Emerald	Takahiro Fukushima St. Michael's Association (alumni)
Sapphire	Keyji Johnsen Fritz Leonhardt, in memory of his wife Anna-Marie

Thanks to some recent donations our 70th Project Fundraising total now stands at ¥1,660,620



Can you help us towards our goal?

The easiest way to donate is by bank transfer, however donations can be made in cash or by cheque. St. Michael's has special tax dispensation status (*tokuzo*) that allows us to issue tax receipts for gifts over ¥5,000. Gifts over ¥5,000 are now eligible for tax deductibility under the special designated tax status (*tokuzo*) that St. Michael's has received.

Download The 70th Project Gift Form and return electronically to 70thproject@smis-mail.org or direct to the school using the address below.

By Bank Transfer

The following is the details of the bank transfer

Account name: Gaku Sei Mikaeru Kokusai Gakko
 Bank Name and Branch: Mizuho Bank, Kobe Branch 490
 Current Account: Futsu Koza
 Account number: 1609993

By Cheque

Cheques should be made in yen and payable to Gaku Sei Mikaeru Kokusai Gakko and sent by post to the following address:

St. Michael's International School
3-17-2 Nakayamate-dori Chuo-ku
Kobe 650-0004
Japan

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

24 th February 2016	24 th meeting of SMA
4 th March 2016	Founder's Day
5 th March 2016	SMA Alumni Party
30 th March 2016	25 th meeting of SMA
23 rd April 2016	School Bazaar
25 th May 2016	26 th meeting of SMA
5 th November 2016	70 th Anniversary Gala

SMA meetings typically take place at 6:00pm on Wednesday evenings. Please get in touch with the school for the details of the 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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