

THE BREEZE

No. 57

St. Michael's Association

November 2020

Hand-in-Hand: Miss Lea Scholarship Fund!



The year 2020 would have been the year of the Tokyo Olympics; however, due to the COVID-19 pandemic the Games have been postponed till next year. The Olympic flames remain in Tokyo as a beacon of hope to the whole world.

It was a great relief that our alma mater could open its new academic year in late August with in-person classes while taking rigid safety precautions for health and hygiene. An annual late-fall sports day, attended by primary children and staff only, illustrates a collective responsibility by the School and parents to maintain a low risk environment. The collaboration shown here permeates the whole School community. It is our fervent hope that together we shall weather the current challenges for a better future.

During this trying time, many are confronted with previously unthought of problems; one of which is financial. There are now some needy students at SMIS, and the School is helping them with scholarships.

Members of SMA feel that we should join the School in extending a helping hand to them. There is Miss Leonora E. Lea Memorial Scholarship Fund, which was established in 1969 by Miss Lea herself with the funds received by her from many on the occasion of her receiving the International Cultural Award of Hyogo Prefecture and the Fourth Order of the Sacred Treasure (Zuiho-sho) by the Japanese Government in 1967. Over the years scholarships were awarded to needy students in conjunction with the School. Won't you join us in helping the needy students? The season of giving is just around the corner.

*Wishing you and your loved ones a meaningful holiday season,
Happy Christmas!*

~ Satoru Hamada: President of St. Michael's Association~

New Staff 2020

This summer, we were not sure whether our newly hired Year 3 teacher would be able to come into Japan or not! Fortunately, Thomas Greene got into Kobe and was ready to begin the new school year with us. Alina Grishko, who is our new ELL Teacher, was already in Japan, therefore, was able to make a smooth transition to Kobe. We welcome both the new teachers into our SMIS Family.



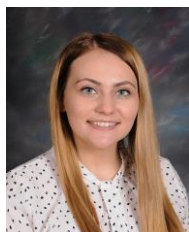
I am delighted to have joined St. Michael's International School as the Year 3 teacher. Despite an interesting few months leading up to my arrival in Kobe, the transition has been very smooth and I have thoroughly enjoyed my first three months living in Japan.

My teaching career all began six years ago when I left university and travelled to Tanzania in East Africa to take up a voluntary teaching position in a primary school. I loved experiencing a new culture, meeting new people and, quite importantly, the teaching. Upon arriving back in the UK, I took on a learning support role working with children with special educational needs in Early Years and Year 1. During this time, I successfully enrolled on a postgraduate teaching course.

After qualifying as a primary teacher, I worked for three years in South London as a Year 3 teacher but I was always aware of my desire to live and work internationally again. I was drawn to St. Michael's because I quickly saw the importance of their school and wider community and I have already experienced this in abundance. Everyone has been very welcoming and supportive as I have settled in in Kobe. I am

looking forward to all of the experiences that St. Michael's, Kobe and Japan have to offer!
~ Thomas Greene~

Hello, my name is Alina Grishko, and I started working at SMIS as an ELL Teacher this August. I am thrilled to be part of such a warm and welcoming international community in Kobe. I was born and raised in Spokane, Washington, USA; however, my parents are originally from Ukraine. I grew up speaking English, Ukrainian, and Russian, which inspired me to study language acquisition at University.



I graduated from Northwest University with a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education and English Language Learning (ELL). During my time at Northwest University, I had the privilege of teaching in a first-grade classroom for one year. Then, I taught English in Costa Rica for a month to complete my ELL certification. My experiences taught me how to scaffold for beginner English students effectively.

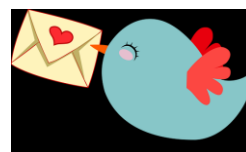
In July of 2019, I moved to a beautiful rice farming town called Taka-Cho in Hyogo to teach as an Assistant Language Teacher at two prefectural high schools. This position has helped me develop a better understanding of the challenges English learners encounter in Japan. Also, I learned the impact that culture has on education. My goal as an educator is to help ELL students master English so that they will feel empowered to pursue their dreams. I am so delighted to be here at St. Michael's International School to advocate for ELL students and prepare them for success in a global society.

~ Alina Grishko~

Where are you? How are you doing?

Hope you are all safe and well! We know that, with the COVID-19 persisting, it is not easy for you to get together. But! But! If you ever have a chance to meet somebody from St. Michael's family, please share with us your information!

We are always delighted to hear from you!



Here is a variety of SMA Goods!




Small Tote Bags
@ 2000 yen each

Available Colours: Grey, Red and Black

SMA Goods

NOW ON SALE...

Limited numbers available so please come and get yours QUICK!



White Tote Bag
@ 1800 yen each



Clear Water Bottle
(500ml)
@ 1000 yen

SMA Original Badges
(Set of 3)



For only 500 yen

SMA Goods

Exclusive Deal!



For only 2000 yen



Denim Tote Bag
@ 1800 yen



Tote Bag
@ 2200 yen

SMIS T-Shirts are now available from the SMA!!!

For the first time... with a coloured logo!



2000 yen each

Lots of sizes and colours to choose from...

Samples available at the school office

Still available...

Photo Gallery Inquiry No.6!

Please have a good look at the following photos. You might find you as a child or your friend. Please let us know if you have any information about the photos by emailing us.



SUPPORTING ST. MICHAEL'S



Why not Share your Happiness and Support St. Michael's!

Births, marriages, graduation, new jobs and other special occasions all fill us full of joy and happiness. Sharing your good news multiplies its benefits for your happiness and longer-term life satisfaction, so the next time something good happens to you, don't keep it to yourself! Whenever you feel like sharing your happiness, you might want to share it with St. Michael's by making a donation.

After the donation of ***one million yen*** to the school's 70th Capital Campaign, our focus now is ***Miss Lea scholarship*** to support students in need. Your ever-lasting love and support for the school will help St. Michael's continue to provide an excellent education for many years to come!

How to donate is easy! Please go to the school webpage, click '***Community***' at the top of the page, and then '***Alumni***'. You will see '***Share Your Happiness Campaign***' at the bottom on the right-hand side. Click it and follow the instructions.

Here are happy messages shared with donations!

*Being grateful to the
education I received
at St. Michael's!*

~Satoru Hamada~

*Happy Birthday to
Mr. & Mrs. Taru!*

~Cindy Taru~

We are safe and well!

~Tazu Makino~

Hello from the SMA (Alumni) Committee!



SMA Committee Members



We meet five times a year to discuss events, the production of SMA goods and how to support school. We represent former students of the IS and the ELS, as well as teachers and office staff members. We are a small happy group and thoroughly enjoy working together for St. Michael's.

Join us on our SMA Facebook!



Upcoming Events! Please mark your calendar!

**SMA Annual Party ➡ 6th March 2021 ➡ Postponed
until 16th October 2021 (Provisional)**

School Annual Bazaar ➡ 24th April 2021 (Provisional)

London Gathering ➡ 31st July 2021 (Provisional)

St. Michael's Association

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