

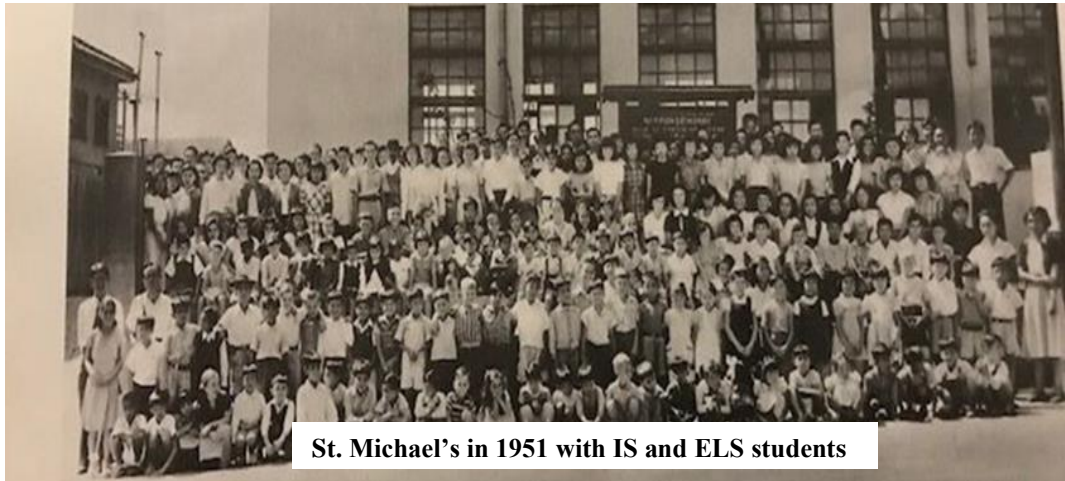
# THE BREEZE

No. 58

St. Michael's Association

June 2021

## Happy 75<sup>th</sup> Diamond Anniversary!



St. Michael's International School, named after the patron saint of Kobe diocese, officially opened on 10th March 1946, on the same site the English Mission School stood since circa 1890, but turned into rubble like two thirds of Kobe city from aerial bombardments. Miss Lea remained in Kobe during that time due to a mix-up in exchange boats which should have carried her back to England. Soon after the war ended, Bishop Yashiro and a group of church people built a church from recycled boards, wire and some nails. Then the rubble was cleared off and a carpenter built a wooden shack for a school with four classrooms. This was the first Christian structure to be rebuilt in Japan after the war.

To the newly erected school, the students of the International and Language Schools, who had been studying at Miss Lea's house in Yamamoto-dori since December 1945, marched on snow-covered roads with their teachers. One of them was Miss Hirose who turned 102 this year. It is most wonderful that the teacher who was at the official beginning of St. Michael's International School on 10th March, 1946, is with us today. Thus, our St. Michael's continues.

In ordinary years, there would have been joyous celebrations by all the School community to commemorate the Diamond Anniversary of the School. However, due to the coronavirus pandemic, almost everything was put on hold. If things return to normal, we shall be able to have a gathering to commemorate the 75th school birthday and remember Miss Lea on her 50th memorial year. She passed away on 28th October 1971.

Meanwhile, Miss Lea's scholarship fund campaign continues. Thank you to all those who have already given their support.

*Please keep safe and have a relaxing summer holiday!*

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

Here is a [link](#) to "A walk through memory lane" on YouTube.  
Please enjoy looking at the history of SMIS!

## St. Michael's Now!

### The IS



With accreditations awarded by the Council of International Schools (CIS), Western Academy of Schools and Colleges (WASC), Council of British International Schools (COBIS) and the International Curriculum Association (ICA) St. Michael's International School can count itself in the top echelon of international schools both in Japan and around the globe. Using a globally recognised curriculum, our young learners benefit from a balance of academic, personal and international learning opportunities designed to support their development into global citizens. Whilst our curriculum continues to maintain a strong emphasis on the fundamentals of reading, writing and mathematics, the tools available to our teaching team would, to our founders Miss Lea and Bishop Yashiro, be no doubt reminiscent of a science fiction novel or fantasy movie!

Chalkboards have been updated to whiteboards and Smart Boards. Exercise books and textbooks have been replaced with laptops and iPads. In this modern age, scientific and technological innovations have become increasingly important and to succeed in an information-based and highly technological society, our young learners need to develop their capabilities in science, technology and mathematics to levels much beyond what was considered acceptable in the past. SMIS has been responsive to this expectation; the introduction of a 1-1 Chromebook programme in early 2019 has enhanced access to information for all primary children and offers a

myriad of ways for our young learners to demonstrate their knowledge, skills and understanding. Additionally, in the same year, a very generous alumni donation enabled SMIS to develop the much loved and much used '*Creativity Zone*' which, in addition to providing a range of modern science resources for all ages, offers learners and teachers the opportunity to develop their knowledge and understanding of robotics, coding, 3D printing and engineering. I am sure you can imagine the excitement that comes with such learning and how quickly our young learners' skills have developed through access to such high quality resources.

What has not changed is the school's well-established mission to maintain a student-centred approach to teaching and learning that encourages positive, supportive relationships between students, staff and parents. Whilst the academics are important, SMIS has always recognised and prioritised the importance of nurturing personal skills and values that will allow our graduates to participate as contributing members of their communities in the future. Aspiring to instill the values of honesty, integrity, respect, responsibility, compassion, tolerance and endeavour, St. Michael's supports and encourages young learners to become better communicators, collaborators and creative thinkers who are ready to embrace the opportunities and challenges of an increasingly global society. More than seventy-five years after they founded St. Michael's International School, I believe the vision of our founders, Miss Lea and Bishop Yashiro, remains in safe hands!

~Gill Tyrer: Head of School~

## The ELS



The ELS had another amazing, if challenging, year. Face masks, physical distancing and no coffee in class (which was particularly challenging for 9.00 classes) have not hampered the enthusiasm and passion the teachers have for giving amazing lessons and the students have for growing, working and learning together. If anything the pandemic has shown how strong the spirit of St. Michael's ELS is and how much the ELS is a family.

Like all families the ELS grows and welcomes new members, and this year saw new faces join and bring new ways of learning and new and different ways of challenging each other to be our best. The ELS also said 'see you later', but definitely not 'good-

bye' to Miki Kikuchi, who graduated and will use what she learned in the ELS to seek new and exciting challenges, and to Ms Davies, who has been a foundation of the ELS for many years. The ELS wishes them both Godspeed in their new adventures.

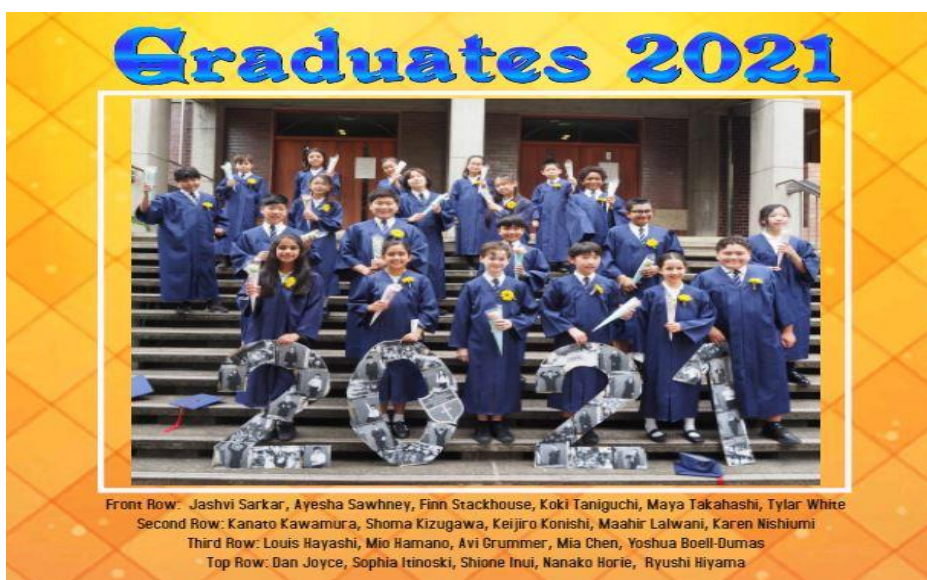
Also, like all strong families, the ELS continues to grow, and this year saw the expansion of the Mommy & Baby class, with twelve bright and cheerful 1-3 year old faces who bring laughter and cheer to the ELS on Monday and Wednesday mornings, and the addition of a joint JHS Saturday School programme with Shoin Girls' Junior High School. The Saturday school also saw its first graduating class of students from its original class entering in 2014. It is hard to believe that after only six years the Saturday School family has grown from 16 students and four teachers to over 130 students and 23 teachers and assistants. As is true of the entire ELS, the Saturday School has grown and changed but its core of student centered, family friendly education remains the same.

Again, like all families, the front door light is always on and the key is under the mat. Those who have moved on to new things are always welcome to visit and say hello, catch up and see the changes, but feel the familiar warm welcome. Families are forever, and the pandemic has shown that more than ever the ELS continues to be a warm, welcoming family to all.

~ Jonathan Bunch: ELS Coordinator~

## Graduation!

### The International School





*A Message from the Head Boy:*

The last year and a half have been a life changing experience, not only because of the pandemic but also because we were elected as the head Boy and Girl of St Michael's international school.. Throughout our time here, we had many happy times and we want to tell you all about them.



This small, friendly and cheerful school will always have a place in our hearts. St Michael's is more than a school - it is a family where diversity and uniqueness are celebrated. We are very lucky to have grown-up in this special environment and we want to thank all the teachers and family members who have helped us graduate and joined us on this special day.

We also have countless memories we want to share with you. It was a great pleasure to represent the school as the head boy but at the same time, we knew that the job wouldn't be easy and that we would have a lot of responsibilities. We showed endeavour and did the best that we could to pull through for the school and all the children..

~Tylar White~

*A Message from the Head Girl:*

We all had memorable years at Saint Michael's and, looking back, we have a lot to be thankful for. We recognize the support by all people who make up the school: teachers and administrators. We thank our families for their choice to invest in our education.

I began my time at Saint Michael's 8 years ago. These years went by fast, but they had the biggest impact on me. Saint Michael's played a crucial part in shaping me into who I am today. I am very grateful to have attended a school that has been bringing out the very best in me. Saint Michael's taught me to be creative, communicate freely, and discover the world.



Saint Michaels' makes sure to instill values important for life. At Saint Michael's, we are from everywhere, but we do not think that we are different because we are from a different place. We are all a community that emphasizes the importance of tolerance, compassion, respect, and diversity.

St. Michael's is a school that encourages students to truly express themselves freely. One day, Miss Offer gave us homework about women in science. I made a poster to raise awareness of the contribution of girls to society, as inventors, mathematicians, chemists, and biologists. This was a great opportunity to express what I really care about, and to show my activist spirit.

Having stayed here for eight years I have made thousands of memories that I will cherish and remember for the rest of my life! These memories are too many to count. For example: in Year 3 we solved the mystery of the D by going on field trips and solving riddles. In Year 4 we visited Joto school and pounded the best mochi I've ever tasted. In Year 6 we tried our best to play Shakespeare's Macbeth.

What I learned at Saint Michael's will stay with me forever!

Today I am going to be saying farewell to Saint Michael's. After staying here for such a long time it is very sad to be leaving. But we'll never truly leave!

~Maya Takahashi~

## The ELS

### ELS Graduate



Miki Kikuchi

Miki came to St. Michael's with her mother's recommendation. Her mother was also an ELS student at three different times, the first time being 30 years ago. She came back after the Hanshin earthquake, then as a Night School student. She finally sent her daughter to the ELS. Miki, after graduation, is going to pursue her career as a Registered Customs specialist.

## Saturday School

### Saturday School Graduates



Hiyori Kaneko, Yukinori Zenkyo, and Miyu Shimomura

## *Moving on!*

While we celebrate and send off our Graduating Class, we often end up having to say goodbye to some teachers at the end of the year. This year, leaving us at SMIS, will be Lauren Brownen and Jane Stackhouse. Lauren was the Early Years Coordinator and Teacher. Jane was the Music and PE Teacher. We wish them great success in their future endeavours and welcome them to the Alumni.

Here is what they have to say as they leave SMIS...

After six years at SMIS the time has come for me to return to Ireland, to the family and friends I have missed during my time in Japan. And while I have missed Ireland very much during the last six years, I know I will miss Japan, my second home, very



much too. Why? It is often said that the people make a place. I have been fortunate to work alongside some of the most dedicated and passionate teachers and staff I have ever met during my time at SMIS. So many of these wonderful people have become great friends as well, and we have travelled all over Japan together, from Hokkaido to Okinawa, from country to city, and from beaches to mountainsides. I

will treasure the memories that we have created together. I have enjoyed my time in Kobe and beyond, enjoying the beauty of the Japanese landscape and nature, trying new foods, discovering new art and more. Japan and the people I have met here will always have a place in my heart. A huge thank you to everyone at SMIS who has helped me to develop and grow as an educator and as a person. To Gill for giving me the opportunity to gain so much in such a short time. Wishing everyone who has touched my life here health and happiness today and every day. You never know...maybe we will meet again some day... ~Lauren Brownen~

Our time in Japan has been an amazing adventure and I will be forever grateful to SMIS for the opportunity they gave to our family when they employed me as the Music and P.E. teacher.



We decided to move to Japan to give our children the experience of living in another culture. Shane and I had lived in Matsumoto before we had children, and we wanted to pass on our love of travel and Japanese culture to our children. We thought the best way to do this was to spend a few years working and living in Japan. Even though it was a big move, it wasn't a hard decision for us. We were all keen for an adventure and our children were still young enough to think that their parents were full of good

ideas. We knew we had to get to Japan before there were any teenagers to question the move!

We have had the most wonderful experiences in Japan. We have travelled to places we never thought we would get to, had the experience of trying to learn another language and adapt to a very different culture, and made friends from all over the world. Our boys have learned about many different religions, beliefs, and cultures whilst being educated at SMIS, and this will benefit their mindsets for the rest of their lives. The teachers and staff at SMIS have nurtured them for the past three years and they have had fun comparing Australian school culture to SMIS culture. I remember the Japanese children being shocked when my children would throw off their school shoes at the end of the day to play in the playground. It was their first lesson in cultural norms.

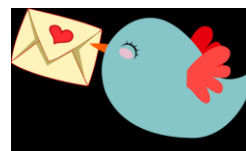
As we make our move back to Australia there have been quite a few tears, but we are also looking forward to spending time with our extended family and friends. We will move back to our hometown of Wollongong in NSW, and our youngest two children will return to their old schools. Shane and I are looking forward to again working in our local schools with refugees and migrants from all over the world. I know we will always treasure the memories we have made in Japan as a family and hold the friendships we have made close to our hearts. Thank you SMIS for teaching us all so much about ourselves, about life, and about other people's cultures. We are truly grateful.

~ Jane Stackhouse~

***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!***





## *Bazaar!*



## Bazaar Memories



Made with PosterMyWall.com



## ***SMA Party!***



## Lynva Davies never leaves St. Michael's!

Lynva is relocating to Wales, where her family members are waiting. We will not be able to see her in person as Wales is so far away from Kobe, but thanks to the Internet, we can still be in touch with her as much as we want to.

**People say nobody is irreplaceable, but this is not the case with Lynva:**



**Who** taught as many sections at St. Michael's as Lynva did? She taught the IS, the ELS, the Night School and the Afternoon Children's classes.

**Who** has as many contacts with former students, teachers, and parents as Lynva does?

**Who** receives as many 'Happy Birthday' messages as Lynva? She received more than 120 messages this year!

**Who** has helped as many children with their reading as Lynva has?

**Who** can name as many students, friends, family members as Lynva can?

**Who** can recite as many poems as Lynva can?

**Who** loves dancing as much as Lynva? She once volunteered to dance on a dining table at a restaurant in Harbourland, where the Staff party was held!

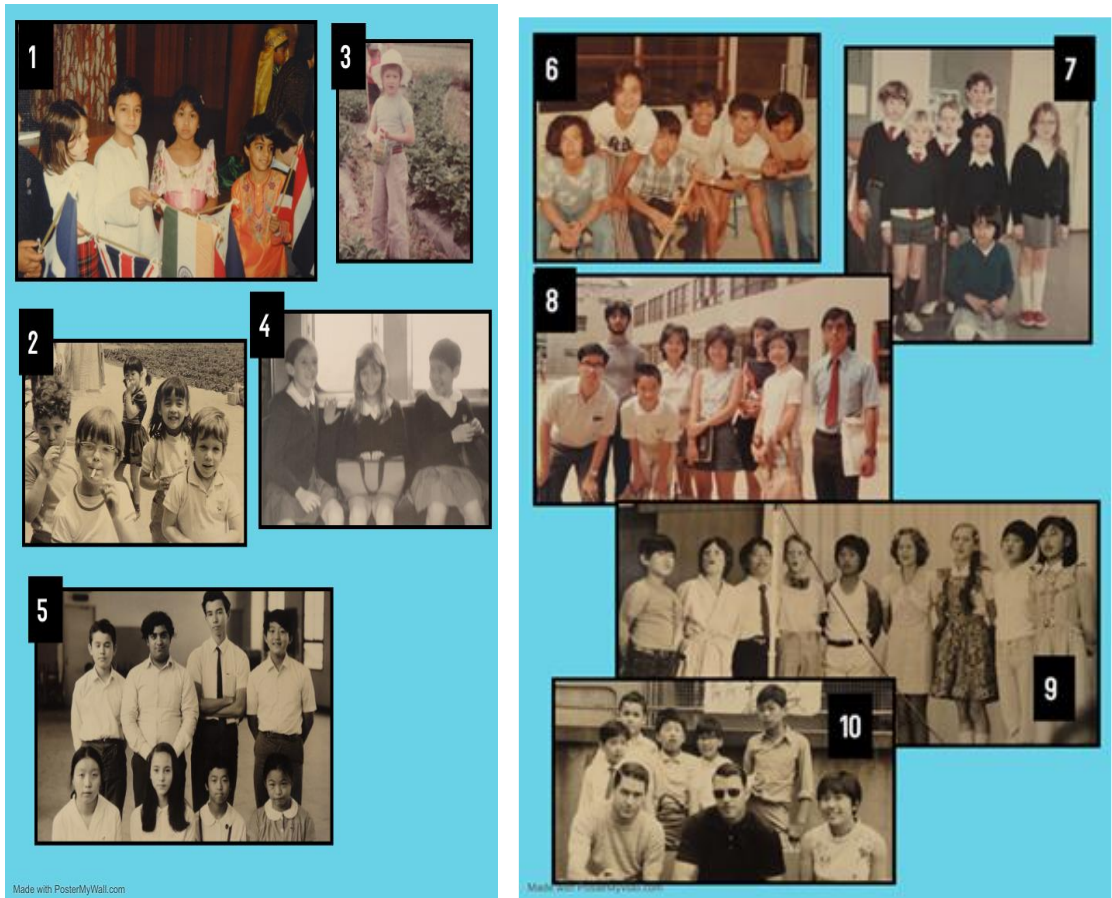
"Lynva is an invaluable asset to St. Michael's as she is the hub of St. Michael's community," says our President, Satoru Hamada. He is always amazed at how charming, friendly, and innocent Lynva is.

Lynva is moving back to Wales, where she will continue serving on our SMA Committee as a satellite member. She will let us know how she is doing back home. We are sure she will form another hub of St. Michael's there!



## *Photo Gallery Inquiry No.7!*

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.



**Join us on our SMA Facebook!**



## 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 70<sup>th</sup> 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: There are three options!*

**PayPal:** 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.

**Bank transfer:** Please use the following Alumni bank account to send your donation.

Bank/Branch: Mitsui Sumitomo Bank  
(Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation)  
Kobe Main Office (Branch code:500)  
Account: Saving Account 8579576  
Account name: Sei Mikaeru Kokusai Gakko  
From overseas Swift code: SMBCJPJT Branch code: 500

**By cash:** Please bring your donation to the school office and tell them that the donation is for the Alumni.



# Messages from our Donors

I am happy to know that Miss Lea Memorial Scholarship is still continuing and energetically campaigning to raise the fund.

My wish is that several pupils in need will be partially supported every year. It will be great if many old boys and girls and friends of St. Michael's International School and Language School would kindly donate for the scholarship fund.

Komei Kure

I am lucky and my parents have always donated or assisted charities for my birthdays. I don't really like parties. So, I want to use part of my birthday money, allowance and earnings to help organizations I support. I also support World Wildlife Fund because I love animals and I want to protect our world. I hope everyone else will also help others in small ways or large.

Oskar Ong (Class of 2020)

Miss Hirose, my first teacher at St.  
Michael's,  
Happy 102nd Birthday  
Satoru Hamada

Reminiscing about the good old days at St.  
Michael's!

Noriko Tomoda

Special Thanxs to Our Parents !  
Cindy Taru

In memory of my long time at St.  
Michael's.  
Lynva Davies

We are happy we can work together  
for St. Michael's!  
SMA Committee on behalf of Lynva Davies

***London Gathering 2021 is cancelled  
due to COVID-19!***

***BUT***

***We will meet in July 2022!***

**London Gathering, with IS and ELS joined together, started in 2011**



**Come and Join us!**



**Saturday 30th July 2022  
Meet at Tavistock Hotel at 1 pm  
Tavistock Square, London**



## *Here is a variety of SMA Goods!*



### **SMA Goods**

### **NOW ON SALE...**

*Limited numbers available so please come and get yours QUICK!*



**Small Tote Bags**  
**@ 2000 yen each**

Available Colours: Grey, Red and Black



**White Tote Bag**  
**@ 1800 yen each**



**Clear Water Bottle**  
(500ml)  
**@ 1000 yen**

### **St. Michael's Association**

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