

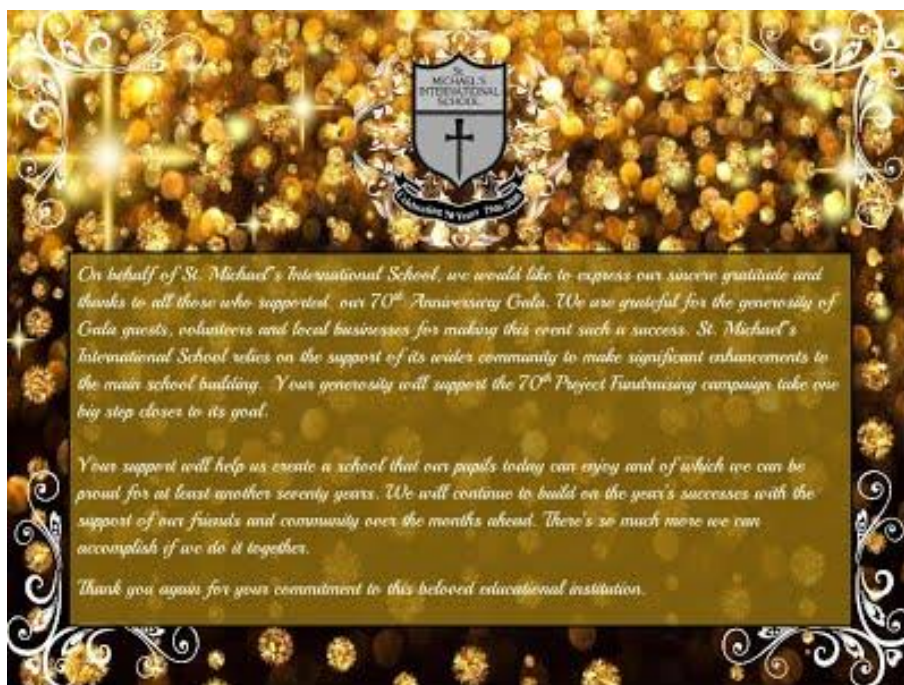
THE BREEZE

No. 49

St. Michael's Association

November 2016

St. Michael's International School 70th Anniversary Gala Ball



The 70th Anniversary Gala Ball of St. Michael's International School was held at the Kobe Club on 5th November, with as many as 139 people from different parts of Japan as well as overseas in attendance. It was wonderful to see such a large crowd gather to celebrate the 70 years of the School's history, reminiscing about the good old days and meeting members of St. Michael's family from different generations. Live music from the 1940s, plenty of laughter and the joy of reunion made the celebration very special and memorable.

The Gala: Julie Redpath

The room echoed to the words—"O hisashiburi de su." I was back at the Kobe Club- it was thirty years since I had last stepped foot in there. I was back in Kobe for the 70th Anniversary of St. Michael's School. At the 40th Anniversary Ball I was a fresh faced young teacher with the world in front of me. On my return I was older, somewhat wiser and not so fresh faced!

I had managed to get the only taxi driver in Kobe who did not know the way to the Kobe Club so after a detour to the Kitano Club and some conversations with his manager I at last arrived at the venue. I felt rather under dressed-but I could not fit a ball gown in my case!

It was so wonderful to see familiar faces and all the new faces. I was lucky enough to be sat at a table with some of my ex-students. Shekhar Shah had flown back especially from a business trip to Tahiti and Amitabh Bothra-who had come to the Ball to see me! They were both there with their beautiful wives and Shekhar's mother was also in attendance. It was lovely to exchange stories of the last thirty years. Another of my students – Hiroko Tabuchi had sent her father in her place as she now lives in New York – what a wonderful gesture! I also met up with Avani Doshi Shah who was another student of mine and is now a member of staff.

The evening rushed by in a whirl of chatting, eating beautiful food, speeches, singing, music and the sound of happy laughter as people reminisced about the school. All too soon it was over, the tables were being packed away and the displays taken down. As I had flown a long way for the occasion I was determine to extend the evening. I attached myself to a group of young teachers and spent a few hours in a bar down town! Oh, how wonderful it was to be back in Kobe! The years seemed to fall away and I was 25 again!

Kobe has a very special place in my heart and St. Michael's school is the reason why! I have travelled and worked all over the world but somehow the bond with St. Michael's stays strong. Happy Anniversary St. Michael's! I will see you all at the 80th.

A haiku for St Michael's

*The lights shine out bright
You sit between hill and sea
Calling me to home.*

Julie Redpath (member of staff 1985- 1988)
Written on a beach in Zamami Island , Okinawa, Japan.

70th Gala Photo Gallery!















New Staff 2016-2017

At the beginning of this academic year we welcomed two new staff members. Natalia Langtree joined us as the Year Five teacher and Lydia Wells joined us as the Year Three Teaching Assistant. While only a few months have passed since they have joined the “team”, they have made a quick and smooth transition. Here is what they have to say about themselves.



Hello, I am Miss Langtree, from Blackburn, which is in the North West of England. Before I came to SMIS, I was teaching at a small primary school called St Mary's in England. Moving to Japan from England, was a little bit daunting at first, but I am very glad I came. SMIS is a fantastic place to teach. The children are so enthusiastic about their learning and work really hard to collaborate together and do their best. In Kobe, I particularly like going to the herb garden or into the mountains. I think that is what I like most about Kobe; that you can be in the city one minute and close to nature the next. In my spare time, I like to discover new places, snowboard, swim and read books. If I had some time off I would definitely be travelling; either somewhere in Asia or Japan.



I grew up in a small town on the border between England and Wales. The weather in Ludlow is always terrible and there is nothing to do there, but it is still my favourite place in the world. I took a Japanese class at university and after I graduated I decided I wanted to study the language more, so I came to Japan in December 2014. Since I came to Japan I have been living in Takarazuka. It's a beautiful town and I love going to the theatre, so it's perfect for me! Before I came to St. Michael's I worked at a small English language school for adults in Umeda. When I heard that there was a place at SMIS I was excited because I've always been interested in international schools. I have really enjoyed my time here so far and I have loved getting to know each of the children. I think the highlight so far has been working with the children on the poetry festival performance. I was so proud and happy that Year three did their very best and gave an amazing performance! When I'm not at school I spend my time going to the theatre and practising Japanese. I love to visit new cafes and restaurants with my friends. Since I have mainly stayed in Kansai since I came to Japan, next summer I'd like to spend some time travelling around Japan. I'd like to try the best food in every prefecture!

We welcome them once again and wish them both all the very best at SMIS!

Avani Doshi Shah

THANK YOU, KEYJI!



We would like to send our heart-felt gratitude to Keyji Johnson for his remarkable contribution to the SMA (St. Michael's Association) as the first-appointed President.

During his tenure, he has shown hard-to-be-beaten passion towards St. Michael's International School and the members of the community. Keyji's enthusiasm and dedication has resulted in the present state of the SMA, well-established and widely-recognised as a group, which unites St. Michael's family members who are spread all over the world. We wish him all the best and hope to see him back as the President when circumstances allow.

Upcoming Events

SMA (Alumni) Annual Party (Saturday 4th March 2017)

Mark your calendar and come & join us for the SMA Alumni Party, which will be held on Saturday, 4th of March at the school cafeteria. We will be circulating a poster for more details.

Venue: St. Michael's International School Cafeteria
Time: 5pm – 7pm (Playground opens at 4pm)

Bazaar! Save the date: Saturday 22nd April 2017

Thank you for your generous support!

St. Michael's International School appreciates the support offered by our families and we are very grateful to those who give generously. The Jewel Donor Recognition Club recognises the outstanding support of its most generous donors. Members of our Jewel Donor Recognition Club include donors who contribute ¥100,000 or more in monetary gifts.

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The wishes of those donors who asked to remain anonymous have been respected.

Donating to the capital campaign

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:

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