

# THE BREEZE

No. 52

St. Michael's Association

June 2018

## The SMA Party 2018!

The SMA Party 2018 was held on 3<sup>rd</sup> March in the School Cafeteria with 44 adults and 16 children joining.



It was a fun-filled evening with attendants from far and wide, young and old. There were plenty of mouth-watering dishes, vegetarian and non-vegetarian, with various drinks. We enjoyed seeing old friends, reminiscing about the good old days and enjoying bingo games with top prizes brought from Hawaii, Mahalo!

The farthest traveller attending this year's jolly event was Chris Toda from Hawaii. For three years between 1980 and 1982, Chris taught English in the ELS and reading and PE in the IS. One of his students was Jun Yamaguchi. Both were pleasantly surprised to see each other after a hiatus of some thirty years.

The most senior alumnus at the happy gathering was Michael Bhagwandas, who started his schooling at Miss Lea's house in 1945, when World War II ended, and then on to SMIS when it opened on a snowy morning of 10th March 1946. While Mike was teaching in the ELS, he took the initiative in establishing an alumni-backed

Tape Library for the Blind, the first of its kind in Japan, in 1977 as part of the 30th School foundation project. It was on the School premises serving nationwide readers of over 150 from Hokkaido to Okinawa and South Korea. And it moved to Mike's residence in 2005 and closed in 2011 due to the technological advancements, obviating the recording process on tapes. We alumni are happy that we could give a helping hand to the visually disadvantaged in their pursuit of English.

Have a happy summer holiday!

Satoru Hamada: President of St. Michael's Association

## **Congratulations to the Graduating Class of 2018!**

**Leon Bibby, Alex (Hui-Guang) Dai, Yoshihisa Gotoh, Somya Gupta, Aannya Javeri, Aryann Jhaveri, Hriday Jhaveri, Jiya Jhaveri, Kaj Johnsen, Kanon Kishi, Rena Lin, Yuhei Murata, Nico Ozaki, Juyu Sanada, Jai Shah, Shrinithi Suresh, Emily Wang, and Anna Yamashita**



**While some of our graduates will be in the local area, a few will be going to schools in Singapore and Korea. Wherever you go, we wish you all the very best for your future endeavours and we welcome you to the St. Michael's Alumni.**

**The Graduation ceremony was held on June 18th, 2018 at St. Michael's Cathedral. This is what the Head Boy and Head Girl had to say:**

As we stand here, we would like to talk to everyone about this small but big-hearted and friendly school. The majority of us have attended St. Michael's for a very long time, and we have enjoyed every moment.

There are many schools in Hyogo. Few are International, most are not. But I think our school stands out the most. Why? Although we, SMIS, are a small school we hold many activities and events. We have the best Bazaar where everyone always has a good time. We have an exchange with a local elementary school, Jyoto, every year. We enter the Fureai Festival, as well as Kids' International Day and the Kobe Global Charity Festival. There are so many wonderful things our beloved school does.

We have had many, and we mean MANY amazing memories here. And today, as we graduate, we will leave with them. Every single year, we learn, we enjoy and most importantly we have fun. Every day we learned something new. Through our lessons, we gained Knowledge, Skills and Understanding. Furthermore, we have embedded the seven values: Respect, Endeavour, Tolerance, Integrity, Compassion, Honesty, and Responsibility; also, the four personal skills: Critical thinking, Creativity, Collaboration and Communication. We know that these are important and that they will help guide us to the right path of learning. Not only learning, but also throughout our lives.

On behalf of our class, we would like to thank all the terrific teachers who have moulded us into what we are today. Every teacher has contributed something important to our lives. Even though some of them aren't here anymore, we know that the teachers that helped develop us are doing the same with other children wherever they are. Some may not be teaching anymore, but once an amazing teacher...always an amazing teacher!

We are happy to be here, and SMIS will always be in our hearts. Today is our graduation and we couldn't be more thankful to our SMIS family. It is because of our teachers, friends, parents and family that we are standing here. We don't know what the future holds for all of us, but when we are faced with a challenge we will be sure to overcome it using the values we have been taught at St. Michael's.

Thank you.

**Head Boy: Aryann Jhaveri**

**Head Girl: Emily Wang**



**Congratulations to Renri Fukushima and Satomi Katsuma** on completing the 'How to Teach English to Beginners' course! The **ELS** has been running the course since 1981!





## *Moving on!*

As the year comes to an end, we say goodbye to a few of our friends. This June, we will say farewell to Ama deGraft-Johnson, Rachael de-Bourne, and Peter Ho. We will miss them at SMIS, and would like to welcome them to our Alumni Family.

I have really enjoyed being a part of the St Michael's community. It really is a small school with a big heart. I felt welcomed by both staff and parents since my first day and I will be sad to leave a school where the commitment to creating such a positive and inspiring learning experience for all is paramount. The children here are a testament to the school and the great home school relationships. Thank you to everyone for their support.



-Ama deGraft-Johnson-

I can't quite believe that I have been the Year One teacher at SMIS for four years! It seems like only yesterday that I arrived in Kobe! I have had a truly wonderful experience in Japan and working at SMIS. It has been so good to be part of a school that has such a caring community and a family ethos. I have had the honour of teaching some absolutely delightful children and the privilege of working with some inspirational people. SMIS is a marvellous place.



As well as having a fantastic time professionally, I have had the most amazing experience living and travelling around Japan. I have also met people that have changed my life for the better and made friends for life. I leave now and head to South America where I will work at an international school in Brazil. I am happy to know that I am now entering the SMIS alumni and will forever be connected to the school.

-Rachael de-Bourne-

### *So long for now...*

Being at SMIS has been an amazing experience for me professionally and personally. As a teacher, I started as an Assistant Teacher in Reception and also the Music Teacher. In addition, I had a year of being a Year 2 Assistant Teacher as well. Eventually, becoming both the Music and PE Specialist Teacher has been where I



have done my most work. I have grown as a teacher, have had the honour of being a part of so many students' educational journey. I hope these students all go far in their endeavours. Personally, SMIS has been good to my family where all three of my children have attended classes and my wife has enjoyed employment in various roles of the school. I have made many memories and friendships that will last a lifetime. I am eternally grateful for the people with whom I worked who I can also call friends. Thank you for everything.

-Peter Ho-



## St. Michael's 2018 Bazaar

*We had another beautiful, sunny day for our annual St. Michael's Bazaar. As one of our alumni used to say, "It never rains on the SMIS Bazaar day." The sun made the ELS shaved ice booth and pub very popular. The Alumni pitched in to cook their famous takoyaki, home-baked goods and the famous cheesecake. Our Alumni were at the table to greet and welcome back our former students. We also sold two kinds of logo bags, mugs, pins and tshirts. It was a truly magnificent day!* ~ Karla Aljonaïd and Lynva Davies

*Photos by Ali-Kyle Aljonaïd ~*



### *Photo Gallery Inquiry!*

Your help is needed to complete the Photo Gallery on our webpage. Please let us know if you have any information about the following photos by emailing us.





## ***SMA Gatherings***

### ***Sannomiya Gathering in December 2017!***



### ***IZAKAYA Gathering in February with Junko Goto from Canada!***



***Gathering in April with Gail Thompson (Simpson), coming back to Kobe after about twenty years!***



***Kobe Gathering in May with Isao (Irwin) & Aki Tanaka from London!***



***Please send us a photo of your gathering, small or big, with St. Michael's family members! Let us know where it is and who you are! Wouldn't it be exciting to see SMIS global network getting larger and larger?***



*Upcoming Event!***London Gathering 2018!**

**Come and Join us!**  
**Saturday 28th July**

**Meet at Tavistock Hotel at 5 pm**  
**Tavistock Square, London**

**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.

**How to donate?**

- 1) Go to the school webpage and click 'Share Your Happiness' in the right-hand column.
- 2) Click on **the link** at the bottom of the page and follow the procedure! Please wait for another few seconds after making a donation. A page will appear to confirm your payment.
- 3) Stay on the same page and click **Return to Merchant** at the bottom of the page.
- 4) A ***Thank you for your donation!*** Please share your reason for your happiness ***if you wish!***

Your love and support for the school will help St. Michael's continue to provide an excellent education for many years to come, in a safer and better-equipped building!

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Diamond	¥5,000,000 +
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Suzanne Temple & Kazuya Hashiyama  
Andrew Nakamura  
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Amitabh & Ruchi Bothra

### DONATIONS 2016-2017

#### RUBY

Shekhar Shah  
70th Anniversary Gala Ball  
***Anonymous***

#### EMERALD

Pradip Jhaveri  
Smita Jitendra Jhaveri  
***St. Michael's Association (Alumni)***

#### SAPPHIRE

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Noro Eikichi  
Chih-We Mou  
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<p>Avani &amp; Maahi Shah  Sahil Doshi  Pearl Export Jewels  Winter Festival  Anglican churches  Mr &amp; Mrs Childers  Valentine's Dance  June Murata  Anonymous  Maher Zaveri  Amit Jhaveri  Leon &amp; Sean Bibby, in memory of their grandfather Fumio Suzuki  Chandni &amp; Sagar Jhaveri  Nikita, Natasha &amp; Dylan Javeri  Akash &amp; Yash Wadhwani</p>
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**DONATIONS 2015-2016**

<p><b>RUBY</b>  Vasant Shah</p>
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<p><b>EMERALD</b>  <b><i>St. Michael's Association (Alumni)</i></b>  <b><i>Anonymous</i></b></p>
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<p><b>SAPPHIRE</b>  Fritz Leonhardt, in memory of his wife, Ana Maria  Keyji Johnsen  70's Disco  <b><i>Anonymous</i></b>  Katsuyoshi Koide  Daimo Shitaka  Anonymous  Silent Auction  Tamanna &amp; Akash Zaveri  Satoru Hamada</p>
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***Bold and italicized = Repeat Donor***



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