

THE BREEZE

No. 53

St. Michael's Association

November 2018

Completion of the 70th Project!



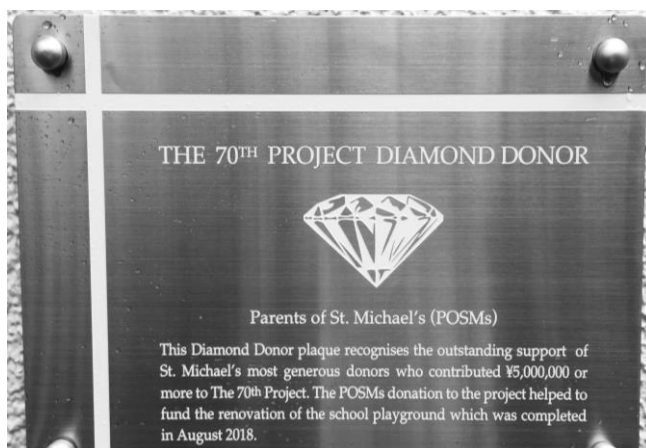
In August 2018 the installation of the new playground surface and play equipment marked the successful completion of the St. Michael's International School **70th Project**. This ambitious project was launched in 2014 with the joint goals of addressing the essential renovation and anti-seismic work needed to secure the future of the main building, as well as marking the significant achievement of our 70th anniversary which we celebrated in March 2016.



It has been four years of relentless planning, preparation, fundraising and community engagement in order to deliver on our promise of creating future-ready school facilities to match the quality of our academic programmes. With the essential safety and electrical work completed in 2015 and the School hall renovation completed in 2017, this final playground project, costing a little over ¥19.5 million, completes all of the planned work associated with the **70th Project**.

At a total cost of ¥200 million, the **70th Project** has been a significant investment for St. Michael's and it could not have been achieved without the generous support of our [Jewel Donors](#). The Jewel Donor Recognition Club recognises the outstanding support of our most generous donors and includes a great many **Sapphire Donors** who each donated a minimum of ¥100,000 to our fundraising effort. We are particularly grateful to our **Ruby Donors**: Vasant Shah, Shekhar Shah, St. Michael's Alumni, the 70th Anniversary Gala Ball and Xin Hu & Lidong Mao for their very generous individual contributions of ¥1 million +.

A very special mention and thank you is extended to the Parents of St. Michael's (POSMs) for their recent **Diamond Donation** without which we would not have been able to move forward with the exciting playground project.



¥22,530,719

For the last four years POSMs have been setting aside funds to ensure that we could create a playground all children will enjoy. Without this **Diamond Donation** we would not have achieved the completion of the project in August this year. A significant part of POSM fundraising is generated through the annual Bazaar, which this school year will be held on Saturday 20th April 2019. Anyone who has ever bought a piece of POSM merchandise or attended the St. Michael's Bazaar has contributed to the success of the project. It really is a team effort!

The POSM donation brings our 70th Project fundraising efforts to a tremendous close! A HUGE thank you to everyone who has supported us - we would not have been able to achieve all that we have without your contributions! One look at the photographs from the first day of school shows you just how well received this final phase has been by our students.

Gill Tyrer: Head of School

Greetings from the President of SMA!

Season's greetings to all the readers of The Breeze. Time flies. It was two years ago that St. Michael's School celebrated its 70th birthday with a gala ball at the Kobe Club. The School in the meanwhile has completed its 70th projects, the latest as described by Gill Tyrer in the earlier pages.

The School is now all set to move forward to its 100th year which will come in some 30 years. Thirty years seems long looking into the future, but short when looked back. The writer vividly remembers when the School held its first ball celebrating its 30th anniversary at the same venue some 40 years ago. Ruth Brown was principal and Yoshiko Hirose was vice principal then.

It's Miss Hirose's 100th birthday next May. She started teaching at St. Michael's predecessor, Miss Lea's house, in December 1945 and then on to SMIS which officially opened on a snowy morning of 10th March 1946. She was the writer's first teacher when he enrolled in the School in 1949 and to everyone's delight she is still mentally alert and physically well.



George Gibbons, a former headmaster, and the writer visited Miss Hirose at her retirement home near Shin Kobe station in October.

When we told her that we'd like to celebrate her 100th birthday together next year, her eyes twinkled and with a broad smile said thank you.

So one of the highlights of SMA next year will be the celebration of Miss Hirose's 100th Birthday in May. It will be nice to see as many of you as possible then. Congratulatory messages will be received from the Prime Minister, Governor of Hyogo and Mayor of Kobe as is the custom in Japan.

Wishing you all a Happy Christmas and a wonderful new year!

Satoru Hamada: President of St. Michael's Association

New Staff 2018

We began this school year with two new members of staff. Miss Rebecca Price joined us in the Year One, while, Mrs. Stackhouse arrived as the Music and PE teacher. The SMIS family welcome them and hope they create many great memories here.



I am originally from a village called Churchdown in England. I had always known I wanted to be a teacher so I began volunteering as an English Language assistant at a local primary school while studying for my degree in philosophy. It was during this time that I also began Japanese lessons and assisting university students from Tottori, Tokyo and Hokkaido, during their homestays in England. After finishing my degree, I worked as a special needs assistant in Year 6 before completing my PGCE in Exeter. Eager for a challenge, I moved to the east end of London, where I taught Year 1 for two years at a school in Tower Hamlets.

I have always enjoyed travelling and learning about different cultures, so in 2014 I moved to a large International school in Madrid where I taught Year 5, before moving on to teaching Year 6 at a Scandinavian school. Whilst there I taught Spanish children through the British curriculum, but using Swedish and Finnish educational philosophies.

I feel extremely lucky to have been given the opportunity to work at St Michael's, where I am able to continue my passion for teaching in an International school that has a strong community ethos.

My experiences of St Michael's and Kobe so far have gone beyond all my expectations and, having wanted to live in Japan for so long, they were very high! All the staff have made me feel extremely welcome and, despite only having been here for a few months, I already feel very much part of St. Michael's and the wider community.

Rebecca Price



My connection with Japan started a long time ago when my mum decided to enrol me in violin lessons. I started Suzuki violin lessons at age 3, and all through my childhood I met Japanese teachers and students through Suzuki workshops and concerts. As soon as I finished my Primary School Teaching Degree at the University of Wollongong, Australia, I headed straight for Matsumoto so I could study Suzuki violin teaching at the Talent Education Institute. I taught English in a

private language school for 18 months before returning to Australia to work as a Primary School Teacher and Violin Teacher.

15 years later, after having our 3 children, Shane and I decided we would like to share the experience of living in another culture with them. When I saw the position advertised for St Michael's we researched the school as well as the Kansai region. We decided we had found a brilliant school for our children to attend, in an area which had everything we needed. The beach, lots of mountains, and food from all around the world at our fingertips. We feel extremely blessed to have been given the opportunity to join the St Michael's community. We have been warmly welcomed and have had more offers of help than we can remember. We love meeting people from all over the world and are already starting to feel at home in Kobe. On the weekends we like to explore local mountains and try out our Japanese language skills on patient shopkeepers and restaurant owners.

Jane Stackhouse

SMA Gatherings

London Gathering 2018!



To have lived in Kobe Japan I feel blessed and it was an honour and a privilege to have worked in St Michael's School. When I reflect upon the times there, I only remember the many positive experiences, and people; it was a total pleasure to have



worked with AMAZING BRILLIANT CREATIVE Children- I feel so proud when I hear of their many phenomenal achievements.

It is nearly 12 years since I left Sannomiya. I have continued to work in education in Chiba Japan, Lisbon, Portugal and I am currently working as a leader in a school in London. When I found out about the annual reunion dinner and the fact my diary date was free I was so excited. It was a chance to see Mrs Makino, the lady who collected me from Kansai airport all those years ago and Lynva Davies - my karaoke queen partner. Two ladies whom I hold in very high regard. They are true friends of the St Michael's family.

Upon arrival to see them both - I was emotional- they looked amazing. It was also fantastic to meet past students and teachers, people whom I had never met and people who I'd heard of and was fortunate to meet at the dinner for the very first time. By the end of the evening we were all friends. We shared a common bond that distance and time can never erase The drinks flowed freely , the food was delicious and straight away the conversation was fun as well as informative, of past friends and associates - I had a ball!

The connection to St Michaels was as strong as ever - the people I met and worked with will always hold a special place in my heart- God bless you all and I hope our paths cross again soon x.

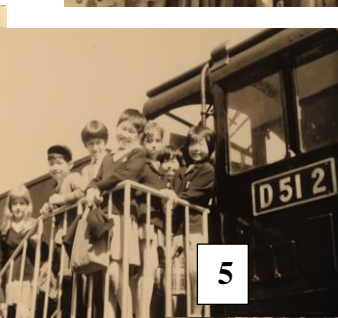
Anthony Walsh: Y1 teacher 2004-2006

The class of 1992 met in Kitano after some twenty years!



Photo Gallery Inquiry No.2!

Your help is still 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.



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?

OBITUARY

Rekha Pillai, mother of former St. Michael's student Hayden Pillai, passed away this June. The Family have shared the link below to a memorial website in Rekha's name.

<https://www.forevermissed.com/rekha-pillai/#about>

May her soul rest in peace!

Join us on our SMA Facebook!

This is the QR code which will take you to the official St. Michael's Association Facebook group. Please scan and join us there. If you are not a member of our group yet, send a request to join when you get to the group page. One of our administrators will be happy to respond as soon as possible.

Upcoming Events!

2nd March 2019	SMA Annual Party
20th April 2019	Bazaar
May 2019	Miss Hirose's 100th Birthday Celebration
Summer 2019	London Gathering

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!

Here are happy messages shared with donations!



A COMMUNITY OF DONORS!

DONATIONS 2018-2019

DIAMOND

The Parents of St. Michael's (POSMS)

RUBY

Xin Hu & Lidong Mao

DONATIONS 2017-2018

SAPPHIRE

Suzanne Temple & Kazuya Hashiyama

Andrew Nakamura

The Childers Family

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

Norimoto & Sumiko Gotoh

Francis Lin

Noro Eikichi

Chih-We Mou

Anonymous

Eamon Lynch

Piya Sarkar

Tamanna, Akash, Hiren Zaveri

He Yexiang

Avani & Maahi Shah

Sahil Doshi

Pearl Export Jewels

Winter Festival

Anglican churches

Mr & Mrs Childers

Valentine's Dance

June Murata

Anonymous

Maher Zaveri
Amit Jhaveri
Leon & Sean Bibby, in memory of their grandfather Fumio Suzuki
Chandni & Sagar Jhaveri
Nikita, Natasha & Dylan Javeri
Akash & Yash Wadhwani

DONATIONS 2015-2016

RUBY
Vasant Shah

EMERALD
St. Michael's Association (Alumni)
Anonymous

SAPPHIRE
Fritz Leonhardt, in memory of his wife, Ana Maria
Keyji Johnsen
70's Disco
Anonymous
Katsuyoshi Koide
Daimo Shitaka
Anonymous
Silent Auction
Tamanna & Akash Zaveri
Satoru Hamada

Bold and italicized = Repeat Donor

St. Michael's Association

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