

THE BREEZE

No. 54

St. Michael's Association

June 2019

Miss Hirose's 100th Birthday Celebration!



Thirty people gathered to celebrate Miss Hirose's 100th birthday on Sunday, 19th May. The farthest attendees in Japan were Komei Kure and Unryu Haku from Tokyo, and Seiichiro Kaku from Hiroshima. The farthest global attendee was Elizabeth Dolby Ho from the U.K. All the attendees far and wide can be seen in the photo.

The gala celebration began by everyone singing the happy birthday song and Miss Hirose blowing out the candles in a few puffs. The joyous event was held at the Mamenohatake Restaurant near Shin Kobe bullet train station, not far from the old people's home, Olympia, where Miss Hirose currently resides.

Everyone was tickled pink to see our beloved teacher healthy and mentally alert. She could recognize most of the attendees. The last birthday party held in her honour was 5 years ago when she turned 95.

Miss Hirose personally asked the writer to tell everyone how much she enjoyed the party and to thank all those who attended and also those who just couldn't make it for various reasons.

Miss Hirose is the second teacher of St. Michael's School to celebrate a centennial birthday. Miss Shepherd, who wrote the current school song, was the first to reach

the age of 100 in 1983 while residing at Morden College, England. It is our fervent hope that more teachers will be joining the centennial league.

We are delighted to share our happiness by contributing the remaining balance to our 'Share Your Happiness Campaign.'

Satoru Hamada: President of St. Michael's Association

SMA Party 2019!



It was so nice to see such a lot of St. Michael's family members gathering on 4th March. Former IS and ELS students, parents as well as teachers, had a wonderful time, chatting, eating, drinking and playing, out in the newly refurbished colourful playground. A variety of new play equipment thrilled the children so much that it was quite difficult to call them in for the Bingo games. As a result, the party had a new feature of dual activities happening at the same time. We are living in the world of evolving every day and every moment and St. Michael's annual alumni gathering has proved that we are evolving as well!

Please mark your calendar for the next SMA party, which is to be held on the first Saturday in March 2020! You will have lots of fun!



Front Row (left to right): Shohei Lin, Xavier Stackhouse, Kate Brown, Amritha Kamath, Ema Takeuchi, Sakura Kurata, Mohan Zaveri
Middle Row: Sean Bibby, Hiyan Sarkar, Arisa Hochwald-Jones, Jaanya Jhaveri, Shuhan Lyu, Kareena Sarkar, Chihiro Miura
Back Row: Luke Aidan Kondo, Rushi Shah, Leoni Sakamoto, Diyan Sarkar



In Japan, there are only two British schools. We are one of those two, which is very special. SMIS is small, but has a loving and caring community! We are lucky to be in **such** an amazing family. It is like our second home!



SMIS has shown us how to acquire knowledge, develop skills and deepen our understanding. In this way, we are able to maintain the school motto, “Growing, working, learning together.”

I remember a time when I was in Year 2. We went hiking in the mountains and caterpillars starting dangling down from the leaves around us - like Spiderman! It was scary but very cool. I remember counting how many steps it would take from

the top of the mountain to the bus at the bottom... I counted to 164 but I kept losing track.

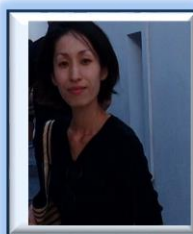
I remember a time when I was in Year 1. We were celebrating Pancake Day at the start of **Lent**. Everyone got to eat their own pancake and from that day on I could make pancakes by myself and that makes me **very** proud!

St. Michaels is special because we have super teachers both past and present, the splendid 7 values, the perfect personal skills, and fabulous friends! We have always been happy to be in this huge, loving family!

We are going to graduate, but we will always remember SMIS. We are very thankful to all our teachers and parents who have always been by our side. As we leave SMIS, we will take away all the happy memories we made here.

~Head boy- Diyan Sarkar, Head girl- Leoni Sakamoto~

ELS Graduates!



Congratulations to Chikako Awata and Marie Yamamoto on graduating from the ELS in December 2018. They worked very hard to meet all the requirements for graduation. Marie now works as a flight attendant for Emirates Airline!



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.

Moving on!

As summer approaches, we have to say goodbye to two members of staff. Miss Sarah Reynolds, who joined us as a Year 4 teacher and then moved on to be the Deputy Head and Librarian, will be leaving us to go to Thailand. She will be the Head of Primary at her new school. Mrs Grainne Lyttle, joined us as a Teaching Assistant for Years 4 and 5, then moved on to being an Assistant in Year 3 and the Early Years. She will be moving back to her hometown in Ireland. The SMA wishes them all the very best in all their future endeavours and welcome them to the Alumni Family.
~Avani Doshi Shah~



I can't believe 7 years have passed since I came to St. Michael's in 2012. I have loved every single second working alongside such a hard-working, dedicated group of internationally minded educators where teaching and learning drives forward school improvement and change. I have got to know each and every child currently enrolled and managed to even get to know a few parents by their first name. St. Michael's school motto 'Growing, Working, Learning together' resonates with me. I have grown professionally and personally, worked alongside the whole school, and learnt so much in the time that I have spent here. St. Michael's is a wonderful place, one that I have been very happy and honoured to be part of. If I could put it in my pocket and travel with it, I certainly would. Leaving is so hard but I know the time is right to go out and put into practice everything I have learnt here. Thank you to everyone who has made my time here so amazing. You truly are the heart and soul of the school with a big heart. I am never going to forget all the wonderful memories and relationships that I have established here and look forward to hearing about everything as I join the alumni. On a personal level, I want to say thank you to Ms. Tyrer for everything, challenging me to be more and do more. It is thanks to her support and guidance that I successfully obtained my Masters in Educational Leadership and if I am half the inspirational leader she is, then I will be a very happy Head of Primary in my next school. ~Sarah Reynolds~



It is hard to believe that 5 years have passed since I joined St. Michaels International School and it saddens me deeply to say goodbye to the curious children, hard-working staff and supportive community. St. Michael's will always hold a very special place in my heart as the place that allowed me to find and develop my passion for working with young children. I will continue to pursue my career in Early Childhood Education in Ireland. I look forward to keeping in touch with the school and community through the Alumni and hope to visit SMIS again in the future. ~Grainne Lyttle~

The Bazaar 2019 was blessed with great weather!



SMA Gatherings

Gathering at Kobe Portopia Hotel in December 2018!



With Mr. Gibbons and Miss Davies are Bela Gupta D'Souza, Nishant D'Souza, their 2 lovely children and Nishant's parents. Bela and Nishant currently live in Manila in the Philippines, his parents live in Perth, Australia.

Gathering at Himeji Central Park in April!



Class of 2016 had a
SMIS reunion at
Himeji Central Park

Annual Kobe Gathering in April 2019 with Isao & 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?

Gathering at the Kobe Club in April with Toshio Sai from the States!

Graduates of 1950s got together to welcome back Toshio from the States.

The attendees photographed clockwise are:

Shomei Han
Toshio Sai
Koichi Ohara
Eikichi Noro
Satoru Hamada
Masashi Saito
Ryoka Yo



The Alumni from the 1950s met at the Kobe Club

Gathering at St. Michael's in June to say good-bye to Ms Reynolds!



Upcoming Event!

London Gathering 2019!



Come and Join us!

Saturday 27th July

Meet at Tavistock Hotel at 1 pm

Tavistock Square, London

SMA Goods for sale!

SMA Original Badges (Set of 3)



For only 500 yen

SMA Goods

Exclusive Deal!



For only 2000 yen



**Tote Bag
@ 2200 yen**

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

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



Examples available at the school office

2000 yen each

Lots of sizes and colours to choose from...

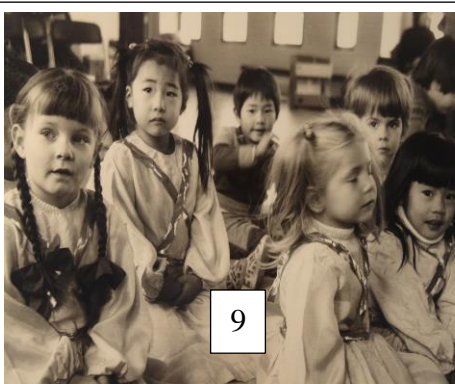


**Denim Tote Bag
@ 1800 yen**

**Still
available...**

Photo Gallery Inquiry No.3!

Thanks to your help, captions of our Photo Gallery have increased. However, your input is still needed. Please let us know if you have any information about the following photos by emailing us.



Where are you now?

Reflecting on my experience working at UNESCO's Asia Pacific Bureau of Education in Bangkok, Thailand

After graduating from Columbia University with a master's degree in international affairs, I started working at UNESCO in Bangkok, Thailand. I was part of the Inclusive Quality Education Department, and my research responsibilities were on early childhood education and multilingual education in the Asia-Pacific. One of the highlights during my time there was publishing an article in the local newspaper on a multilingual education program in Thailand. The link to this is as follows: <http://www.nationmultimedia.com/detail/opinion/30364482>

Currently I work at the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), which is Japan's bilateral organization for ODA, functioning under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. I am in charge of basic education for children in Africa and will soon start working in Ethiopia.



Photo explanation:

This is a photo of me and my classmate, Rosie Baker from last year in New York. We were able to reunite over a decade after graduating from SMIS in 2005!

Best regards,
Risa Shibata

Reflecting on my experience studying at the University of California, San Diego
~Sara Shibata Class of 2009~

I currently am a full-time student at Osaka University. For my third year, I was given the opportunity to study abroad, and I chose the University of California, San Diego as my destination to study at. Here, I study social sciences which include sociology, and East Asian relations. Aside from social sciences, I also study media and film-making. Here, I have been actively trying to spread the Japanese culture; for example, volunteering to teach Japanese to students who are learning to speak Japanese or volunteering at a Japanese festival held on campus. During my stay in San Diego, I am also working at the United Nations Association, San Diego office as a social media intern. I write posts for Facebook,



Instagram, and Twitter to spread global issues to the audience as well as with integrating how “San Diego” as a local community could contribute to mitigating these global issues.

Helen McPherson SMIS 1992-94, 2000 – 2004



This is really a two year update on where I am now. In 2017, after 7 years in Osaka, I took up a Grade 1 position in KIS International School in Bangkok. It was a big move and personal events affected life deeply. However, KIS is a really happy school, bigger than I have been used to, with much the same community feel as St. Michael's. Bangkok is a city that many friends have transited through so I have plenty of visitors staying and to meet up with. I have just completed 2 years in Grade One and am moving to EY next year. I currently do lots of yoga and access a larger range of theatrical and music events which enrich my life. So, though making the move was not as easy as it was in my younger years it has benefitted me hugely.

Outgoing G1 team at KIS:
John, Nong, me, Lindsay,
Ploy and Danny



SUPPORTING ST. MICHAEL'S



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

PayPal

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!* page will appear. Please share your reason for your happiness *if you wish!*

OR

You could donate in cash at the school office.

Please mention: This is for 'Share Your Happiness'.

Thanks to many of you, we have so far donated a total of ***one million yen*** to the school's 70th Capital Campaign. 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, in a safer and better-equipped building!

Here are happy messages shared with donations!

*I wish to share my happiness
at my daughter's
engagement to be married.
~Malcolm Cross ~*

We were so happy to celebrate Miss Hirose's 100th Birthday!

*George Gibbons, Grace Masako Gibbons, Satoru Hamada, Eikichi Noro,
Shoran Yang, Chiyoko Nutaba, Lynva Davies, Cindy Taru, Ayama Makino
Hiromi Kishi (Akasaki), Naomi Hikasa, Unryu Haku, Randy Bellig,
Mike Bhagwandas, Michiko Bhagwandas, Mariko Suezawa, Tenka Sai,
Marlen Cho, Noriyoshi Cho, Tami Cho, Seiichiro Kaku, Koichi Ohara
Keisuke Cho, Komei Kure, Liz Hoo (Dolby), Mika Kubota,
Kuniko Shiba, Masashi Saito, Ryoka Yo, Tazu Makino,*

St. Michael's Association

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