

THE BREEZE

No. 48

St. Michael's Association

June 2016

Letter from the Editor

It is the rainy season in Kobe. The flowers gracing the city of Kobe have steadily changed with the seasons: plum (ume) trees in February and March, cherry trees in April, azalea in April and May, and now the large clusters of hydrangea could be seen all over the town.

June is not just the season of the rain and hydrangea at St. Michael's. It is the season of departures, as new graduates will move to secondary education after the summer holiday. This year, we had 16 graduates, and St. Michael's Association would like to congratulate this year's graduates:

Amogh Atwe, Sanay Bennur, Marisa Biniwale, Salvatore Cuomo,
Raphael Kogata, Julian Lang, Erin Lin, Niki Moriya, Nodoka
Okada, Tsuyoshi Saito, Maahi Shah, Sneha Shah, Kirti Vaswani,
Lucas Weston, Aika Yamaguchi, Maher Zaveri

(in alphabetical order)

and wish you success in the future.

You are now part of a community with rich history that spans 70 years, and hope you would keep in touch with us. Keep us updated about where you are, and come and visit us when you have time available.

Thanks to the generosity of many of our readers, the 70th Project Funding is at ¥3,371,320. We still have a long way before hitting our ultimate target of ¥70,000,000. Please keep the donations flowing, and SMA will continue to do our best to support this initiative. I have written about my experience about getting some tax back as a result of my donation to the 70th Project in the article in p.4, in the hope that my experience could be a reference point to many of you.

Keyji Johnsen, *Editor*

Departures

Winnie the Pooh said, “How lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard”. We are all very lucky to have known and been friends with Marcel Penarroja and his wife Jasmine; and it is definitely difficult to say goodbye to their family. As they go on their next journey to Jordan, we welcome them to our St. Michael’s Alumni family and wish them all the very best.

Here are Marcel’s first words as Alumni.

“So, six years have passed. Friends and family back home knew I was embarking on an adventure as I left the United Kingdom in 2010. However, what this journey entailed was a mystery to both Jasmine and myself, as we set foot on the plane. What has followed has been a remarkable passage in my life, both professionally and personally.

I have been encouraged and supported by the brilliant and professional teaching staff at St. Michael’s, both past and present. The school has a wonderful community spirit and it has been a privilege to work somewhere where deep and meaningful relationships are fostered and enjoyed. Individually, I have grown as a professional educator; St. Michael’s has given me the opportunity to develop so that I can now go into the next phase of my career with confidence.

Personally, my life has been enriched primarily by living abroad and experiencing a culture as diverse as Japan’s. I have been fortunate to witness some amazing events and traditions as well as sample some of the best cuisine the world has to offer. As my son was born here, I feel that we will always have a connection here, especially in Kobe. So as I move on, it doesn’t feel like ‘sayonara’ but rather ‘mata ne’.”

-Marcel Penarroja

Along with Mr. Penarroja, we have to say goodbye to this year’s graduating class. Here is the Head Boy and Head Girl’s Reflection of SMIS, which they delivered during their Graduation.

St. Michael’s has been a great place for the past 8 years where we have learnt to grow, work and learn together. We have a lot of memories which we will keep when we go to our next school. We have had great teachers, each special and unique and as we reflect on our time at St. Michael’s we wanted to share some of our favourite memories.

This is a place where dreams are made and we will never forget all of the help and support from all the teachers here. St. Michael’s is like my second home. I would like to thank everybody who has made my time at St.

Michael's the best it could have ever been. More importantly, we would like to thank our wonderful families for supporting us in St. Michael's and for guiding us through everything. We have learned to be more responsible, be adaptable, show endeavour, be compassionate, be pro-active, be a problem solver and many other skills that we will continue to build upon in our next school. We have organised fun activities, donated to people in need, represented the school in different community events and of course, enhanced and developed our cooperation, collaboration, critical thinking and creative skills thanks to our amazing teachers!

On our journey in St. Michael's, we have learned the 7 values which are honesty, integrity, tolerance, respect, responsibility, endeavour and compassion. In addition, we have also learned to grow, work and learn together with everyone we come into contact with.

Today is a special day for us because we are graduating and taking all the knowledge we learned here to become better people! Thank you everybody.

Head Boy - Maher Zaveri

Head Girl - Maahi Shah



Once again, Congratulations to the Class of 2016. Best of luck in all your future endeavours!

-Avani Doshi Shah

Tax Benefit from Donation to 70th Project -A Case Study-

For some time, I have been writing about the *tokuzo* status that the school has obtained, and how this would lead to tax benefits to the donors to the school. What I could not do, was to let you know the scale of the tax benefits that could be reaped from this scheme.

In the last year, I have made a small donation to the school, and followed that donation to see the magnitude of the tax benefit, so now able to share my experience with you.

Upon making a donation to the school, the school issued a statement summarizing that the donation was made to an institution with the *tokuzo* status. I kept this statement, and submitted this in the *kakuteishinkoku*, the annual ritual to confirm previous year's income and taxes. What I learned, was that I got back 40% of my donation as a tax return, and considering my current financial situation, this was very welcome. Now I don't think I would have been writing this article if the tax return was 5% or 10%. But 40% is quite substantial, and felt that this experience may persuade some of you who are sitting at the fence pondering on whether to donate or not.

But I need to be clear to you that everybody has different tax situations (individual, corporate, etc.), so what I cannot do is to tell you that all the readers can expect the same level of tax return. Please check with your accountant if you are interested in learning more.

However, the message that I wanted to convey, is that the tax benefit from the *tokuzo* status is real, and by adequately filing the tax returns, you too many be able to claim some tax refund, something I am sure is very welcome.

-Keyji Johnsen

Alumni Party, March 15th 2016

The Alumni got together on a mellow day in March. As usual, some people worked very hard:



The Alumni T-shirts were available from our lovely team:



Our younger Alumni enjoyed the playground:



The party is a great occasion to enjoy some fine food and the company of old friends. We have been pleased to see a broad range of ages from IS starting to attend as well as enjoying the friendliness and energy of our ELS Alumni.

Some attendees had travelled a great distance and been able to attend this year and others were reconnecting from within Japan after a length of time. Others were enjoying being in a space that was familiar together again after a far shorter time.



After mingling and chatting, and of course munching, it was time for Bingo. This was a highlight of the night with winners racing up to claim prizes.



There were decades of photos on show with Alumni adding memories and feeling nostalgic, discussing people in the pictures and the fine memories that go along with stepping inside St. Michael's.

Please try and come along next year if you are around. There's a place where someone always knows your name.

SMIS Bazaar 2016 -A Momentous Occasion in the year of the 70th Anniversary

Wherever I roam in the world, I will always remember St. Michael's Bazaar with fondness. This is a sentiment we hear over and over every year.

As usual we had beautiful weather for our popular annual event; the rain held off until the tents were down and everything packed away.

Many familiar faces return year after year and the festive atmosphere prevails! Starting off as usual, with the Chindonya Band from Kobe University leading the colourful Fancy Dress parade around the block, we drew lots of attention from the local community. And if that was not enough incentive to bring people around, the wonderful aroma drifting from the playground definitely got their attention. The Alumni pitched in to cook their famous takoyaki and baked goods and the cheesecake was a quick sell-out item. In addition to the Alumni food booths, we had the delectable American, Chinese, Indian, Japanese, Korean, Mexican and other ethnic foods available. When the sun came out, the ELS shaved ice booth renewed its popularity.



The Hall was a child's wonderland with toys, games, face and nail painting. For the adults a visit to the used clothes, white elephant and book stall was a magnetic force. Eventually, everyone made their way to the roof playground where the entertainment was provided by our talented, lip-syncing SMIS students.

At the gate, we had front row seats to meet and greet our returning staff, students, and neighbours. A new addition to the Alumni stall was the photo gallery on view for people to annotate and reminisce about their childhood at SMIS. The Alumni bags and the new 70th Anniversary T-shirts sold like hot cakes.

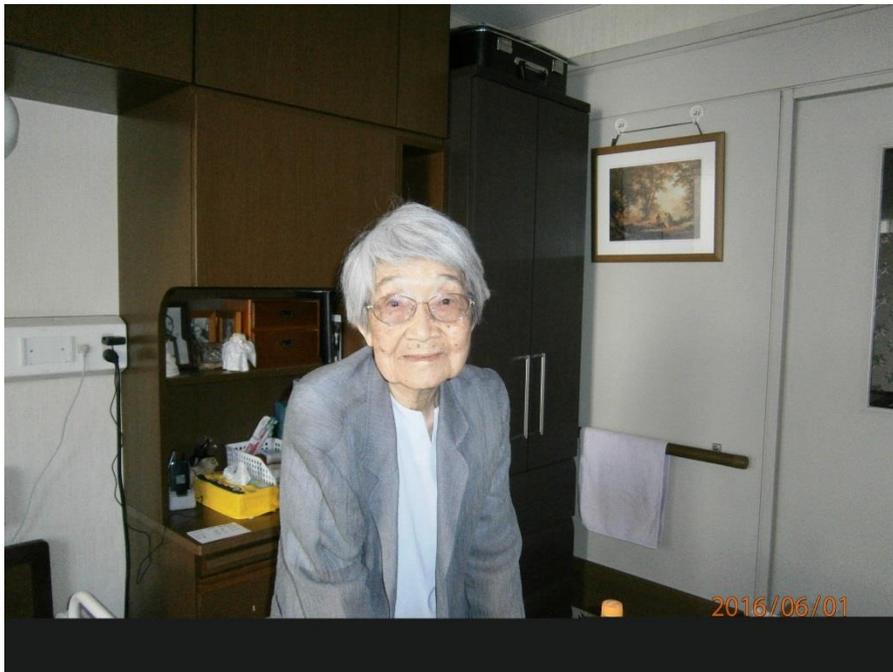


All of us at SMIS look forward to the Bazaar with great anticipation, and even though it is extremely hard work, I think we all feel a little let down when it finishes. However, there will always be next year!

-Karla Aljonaid & Lynva Davies

Brief Updates

Ms. Yoshiko Hirose



This remarkable lady, Ms. Yoshiko Hirose was 97 on the 20th May this year. She is now enjoying being back in Kobe and residing at the church-sponsored old people's home called Olympia, south of Shin-Kobe Station. It also serves as a Day Service Centre!

She certainly doesn't look her age and manages to get about the home with the aid of a walker. Her mind is still somewhat active and she is always pleased to greet visitors with a friendly word and a smile. If you know her and are in the vicinity, please spare the time to visit her!

-Lynva Davies

Shweta Aggarwal

Born in India, raised in Japan, and now living with my family in the UK since 2000, my upbringing has been that of a global citizen. My time in Japan particularly has shaped my individuality because of the eclectic mix of Japanese and Indian cultural experiences. After moving to the UK in 2000, obtaining a master's degree in Computer Science, and working for UBS for 3 years, I never thought I'd find my true passion in writing for children.



In recent years, I found myself naturally inclined towards my cultural heritage and wanted to help spread cultural knowledge in the next generation. So I launched the Dev and Ollie children's book series in March 2015, taking children on magical adventures to unique festivals in India (and around the world eventually) as I believe festivals evoke the best of any culture. Laughter, noise, music, food, colourful attire - all make perfect ingredients for children's books with a universal appeal.

The book series has been very well received with fantastic feedback from parents and great exposure in media. Recently, I was honoured with a huge accolade - the Arts & Culture award by Asian Women of Achievement 2016. And I take great pride in sharing this award with St Michael's International School, a school where I began my journey in Japan and will always stay close to my heart.

Jamahl Warren Cross

Hi everyone. This is me and my son Makoto. He swings his body when I play him a song on the piano and he enjoys it. Hope I can show you him dancing some day.



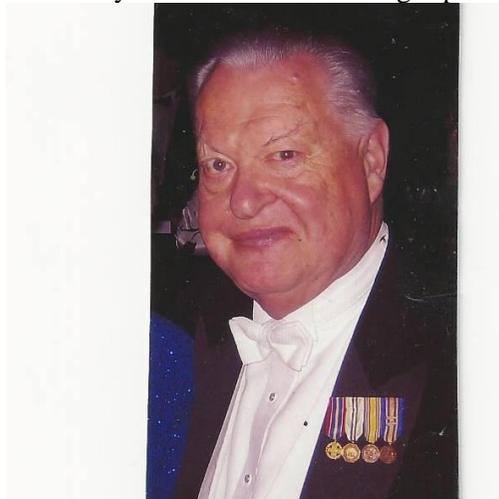
From Sara Shibata

"It seems like yesterday I graduated from SMIS and entered Marist Brothers International School, but here I am, already graduated from MBIS and moving onto university now. I have had the honour to graduate MBIS as valedictorian, and now I am about to lead another new life!"



From George Barantseff

George attended St. Michael's from right after the end of WWII and transferred to Marist Brothers in 1951. He is a Russian/ English Interpreter-Translator at NAJIT Senior Member at World Affairs Council. He is a 3rd dan black belt at World Kyokushin-Kai Karate Org Japan.



London Gathering 2016

We are gathering on the 30th July this year! Please mark your calendar and we hope to see many of you who are nearby to celebrate the London version of the 70th Anniversary of St. Michael’s International School.

Date and Time:	30 th July 2016 17:00-
Place:	Tavistock Hotel 48-55 Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9E +44 20 7636 8383

The 70th anniversary T-shirts will be available at the London Gathering at a price of 12.00 GBP or 2,000 yen. Pre-orders need to be received by 20th July. Please get in touch with alumni@smis-mail.org for availability.

St. Michael's Alumni T-shirts

Limited colours and sizes available

 Black	M size x 2	 Navy Blue	M size x 1	 Heather Grey	M size x 2 L size x 3 XL size x 1
 Red	M size x 2 L size x 3 XL size x 2	 Orange	S size X 1 M size x 3 L size x 4 XL size x 1	 Pink	M size x 3 L size x 4
 Turquoise	M size x 3 L size x 4 XL size x 2	 Purple	M size x 6 L size x 5	 Hot Pink	L size x 3
 Burgundy	S size X 1 M size x 2 L size x 4 XL size x 1	 Lime Green	S size X 2 M size x 4 L size x 4 XL size x 1	 Light Yellow	S size X 1 M size x 4 L size x 4 XL size x 2
 Light Blue	M size x 3 L size x 4 XL size x 2	 Army Green	M size x 2 L size x 3 XL size x 2	Special FREE delivery to anyone attending the London Gathering on July 30th 2016!!! DO NOT miss your chance!	

70th Anniversary Gala Update -5th November 2016-

The online reservation for the 70th Anniversary Gala is now available at the SMIS website. The tickets are going fast, so we would suggest that you secure your tickets early for this unforgettable event celebrating the past, present, and the future of St. Michael's International School. Please explore the school website, www.smis.org for more information.

Errata

In the obituary section of the The Breeze #47, there was an error in the spelling of Mrs Leonhardt, which should have been Ana Maria. We would like to express our sincerest apologies to Mr Leonhardt and his beloved family.

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.

 Jewel Donor Recognition Club 	
Diamond	
Ruby	Vasant Shah
Emerald	St. Michael's Association (alumni)
Sapphire	Silent Auction Keikou Dai Katsuyoshi Koide Keyji Johnsen Fritz Leonhardt, in memory of his wife Ana-Maria

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:

St. Michael's International School
3-17-2 Nakayamate-dori Chuo-ku
Kobe 650-0004
Japan

ST.MICHAEL'S INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
17-2 NAKAYAMATE-DORI 3-CHOME CHUO-KU
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