

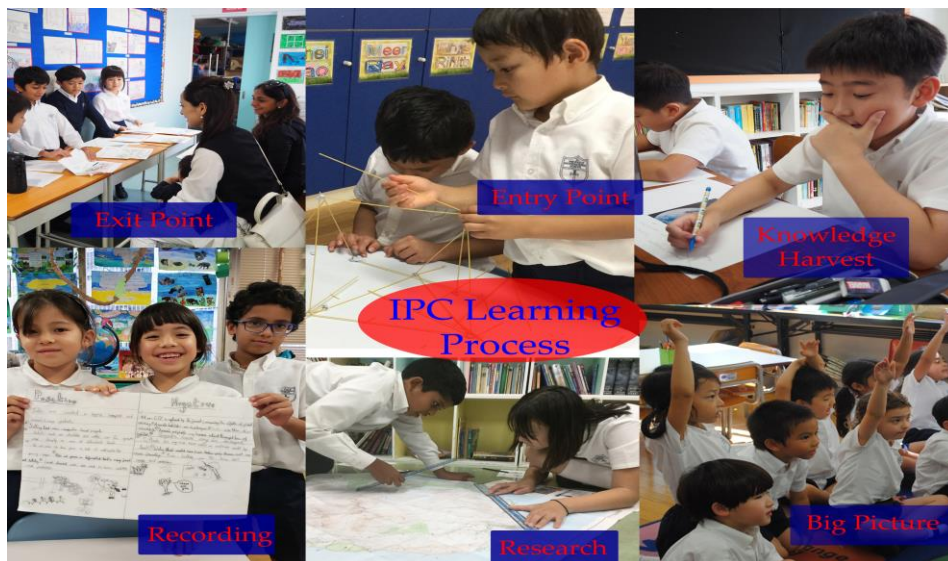
# THE BREEZE

No. 55

St. Michael's Association

November 2019

## St. Michael's – The very first IPC School in Japan!



In July we received the wonderful news that St. Michael's International School has achieved accreditation with the International Primary Curriculum (IPC.) Following a rigorous review of the school's self-review and the accreditation visit conducted in June 2019, the visiting team identified five areas of excellent practice:

- *A clear focus on improving learning*
- *A shared vision about the kinds of children we are helping to develop*
- *International mindedness*
- *The significance and development of Knowledge, Skills and Understanding*
- *The IPC Learning Process*

Accreditation with the IPC demonstrates that our curriculum is both rigorous and developmental and sets St. Michael's International School apart as a truly learning-focused school. The award of accreditation is a wonderful tribute to the hard work, dedication and focus of the entire school community and makes St. Michael's the *first school in Japan* with this prestigious mark of excellence and one of only thirty-three schools worldwide to achieve this coveted award. Once again, St. Michael's is leading the way with its innovative and internationally minded curriculum.

**Gill Tyrer: Head of School**

## ***Bravo, St. Michael's School for IPC Accreditation!***

It's most wonderful that our beloved St. Michael's International School has acquired accreditation with the prestigious International Primary Curriculum (IPC) in July. It's a mark of excellence in international education. It's truly gratifying to note that St. Michael's is the first in Japan to be so recognised, and that there are only thirty-three such schools in the entire world. It's a feather in the cap for all those working at St. Michael's and the joy it provides is infectious to all the SMIS community. May St. Michael's International School continue to grow in offering quality education.

**Satoru Hamada: President of St. Michael's Association**

## ***Golden Anniversary of The Breeze!***



It seems only yesterday when The Breeze was launched in April 1969 by the **KISS** group (namely, **K**omei Go, **I**rene Goto (deceased), **S**atoru Hamada, **S**eiichiro Kaku and **S**horan Yang) meeting at Irene's house in Nishinomiya. It did not seem at that time The Breeze would last this long. We had our fingers crossed. But this is St. Michael's.

We have experienced many downs like the aftermath of the Great Hanshin Earthquake. Yet each time St. Michael's has met its challenges to rise again like a phoenix. In the year 2006, there was a commemorative issue of The Breeze when the School celebrated its 60th anniversary, The Breeze says: Let us hope that St. Michael's will remain a friendly and lively school and at the same time continue to thrive to be an excellent educational institution. This fervent hope continues to be realised as exemplified in the above case of SMIS accreditation by the IPC.

~Satoru Hamada~

## **New Staff 2019**

This year we welcomed two new members of staff. Joanne Offer has become a part of SMIS as the Year Six teacher and Sarah Curtis joined us in Year Three as the Teaching Assistant. We welcome them to our St. Michael's Family.

I'm from a large city in the north east of England called Sunderland, which unfortunately doesn't live up to its name - think more sea mist than sunshine! Thankfully, we are hardy types and we still get down to the beautiful beaches whatever the weather.



For the past nine years, I taught in a big primary school there, mainly years 5 and 6. My first love is English and I am always delighted to share a new book with my class. The more you read, the more your imagination grows and a whole new world of ideas opens up to you.

Prior to teaching, I trained as a journalist and worked in the City of London. Luckily, work took me overseas and I helped to create a human rights radio programme in Nigeria for a few years. A large part of my job was training interns, something that continued as I moved around the world supporting international charities with their media/communications work.

I've been lucky enough to work in Indonesia, Pakistan, Kenya, Uganda, Sudan, Ethiopia, Chad and Vietnam - sometimes for a few years, sometimes for a few months and sometimes just for a few weeks.

As you can tell, I love to travel. Now I'm looking forward to exploring Japan and am delighted at the warm reception from everyone at St Michael's. Any top tips for places to explore?

~ Joanne Offer~



I am originally from New York in the United States. In the USA, I studied philosophy and Japanese at a small liberal arts school in the state of Maine. Before graduating, I had experience working for the police as a park ranger and working for an environmental nonprofit organisation. These experiences taught me a lot about life and led me to where I am today.

I came to Japan in July 2018 and taught English for the JET Programme in Kochi Prefecture. I have also lived in Aichi Prefecture where I studied Japanese for 6 months.

I am delighted to have joined St. Michael's and look forward to the rest of the school year. As a recipient of the IB diploma, I appreciate and identify with the values and the importance of an international education. In my free time, I enjoy hiking, singing and reading philosophy.

~Sarah Curtis~

***Join us on our SMA Facebook!***



### Welcome home!

# RECENT VISITORS at SMIS



Lili Hansen  
and  
Eriko Mathiasen



Tobin Miles



Minhyun Beak

### SMA Goods for sale!

## SMA Original Badges (Set of 3)



For only 500 yen

## SMA Goods

### Exclusive Deal!



For only 2000 yen



Denim Tote Bag @ 1800 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...

Still available...

## *SMA Gatherings*



### London Gathering 2019



As many as nineteen people gathered in London this year. Among them were four people coming all the way from Japan, including myself. Hugo and Teo have grown tall and Juyu is now a teenager. Time flies! All of us enjoyed chatting, eating, drinking and reminiscing about the good old days and moments at St. Michael's. The good news is that we have decided to meet here at Tavistock hotel in London on the fourth Saturday of July at 1:00 pm every year. So, our next Gathering will be on **25<sup>th</sup> July, 2020!** Please mark your calendar right now and let's have fun!

~Tazu Makino~

*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?*

*A mini reunion of 1950s graduates at the Kobe Club  
on 26 September 2019*



From left to right: Shomei Han, Ryoka Yo, Satoru Hamada, Shinyoku Sai, Eikichi Noro, Koichi Ohara

*Gathering with Brent Taylor on 2 October*



Brent came back to Kobe to enjoy watching Rugby World cup games. Some ELS students and teachers were thrilled to get together with him. He is currently living in Russia with his wife Wendy, who is heading an international school there. We met at a Yakiniku restaurant in Sannomiya and enjoyed eating delicious food as well as catching up with our respective updates.

### Photo Gallery Inquiry No.4!

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



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

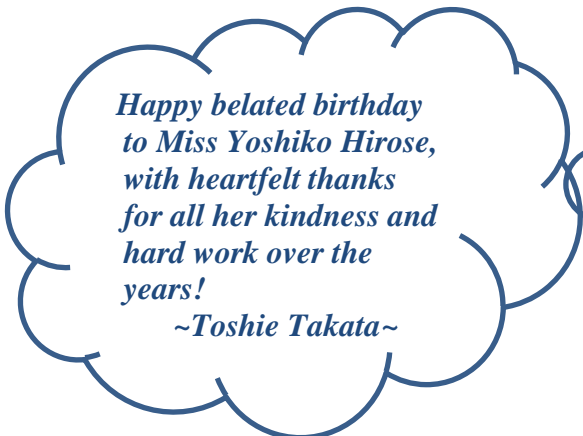
OR

*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 70<sup>th</sup> 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!*





## **St. Michael's Association**

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