

THE BREEZE

No. 59

St. Michael's Association

November 2021

Celebration of Miss Hirose's Life!



We had to say farewell to Miss Yoshiko Hirose, who passed away on 22nd July at the age of 102 at the Olympia Old People's Home. The wake and funeral were held at the same place attended by only the immediate family members due to Covid-19. From SMIS, Tazu Makino and the writer were the sole attendees.

Miss Hirose's 100th birthday was held at the hotel near her Home two years ago. She was delighted to see so many familiar faces come from far and wide. And we were hoping to host her 101st and 102nd birthday parties at the same venue; however, that could not happen due to the pandemic.

Miss Hirose was born on 20th May 1919 in Himeji. Her father was a Japanese Anglican pastor who had graduated from Keio University in Tokyo. It was extremely rare in those days for a Keio graduate to join the divinity world. His many sons followed their father's footsteps and became clergies. His eldest daughter Naomi became a missionary. The writer met her at a church in Okayama when he visited

Miss Dulcie Brown, a USPG missionary who had previously taught Bible and Sunday School at SMIS. Thanks to her tutelage, the writer became a Christian.

Miss Hirose attended Shoin Girls' School from year 7 to 12 and lived in the school dormitory. After Shoin, she continued her studies at a junior college and was asked by Miss Lea to teach in December 1945, when she opened her Kitanocho home to international students in the morning and to Japanese students in the afternoon.

When St. Michael's International School officially opened on 10th March 1946, all the students and teachers marched on the snow-covered road to the newly erected school building from Miss Lea's house. Among the group was Miss Hirose, who was to be the writer's home room teacher when he entered the School in 1949.

When Miss Hirose went to England to study in 1953, she was invited to attend Queen Elizabeth II's coronation ceremony. However, she felt her clothing was not adequate since her Sunday best had gone astray in the process of transportation and regrettably decided not to attend. At the ceremony, the Archbishop of Canterbury Geoffrey Fisher wore a cope which was a gift from the Japanese Anglican Church whose Primate then was Bishop Michael Yashiro who together with Miss Lea founded St. Michael's International School.

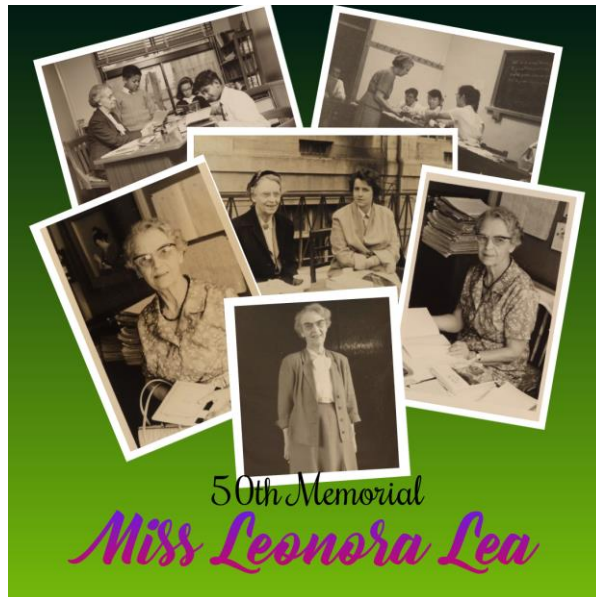
Students at SMIS went to see the film of the coronation and the writer vividly remembers when the Archbishop appeared on the scene wearing the Japanese gift. The same Archbishop visited Kobe in 1959 and dedicated St. Michael's Cathedral. A large picnic was held in the Shoin playground to share the joy of the Archbishop's visit to the Kansai area.

Upon returning to Japan, Miss Hirose resumed teaching at SMIS while assisting Miss Lea in various capacities. After Miss Lea passed away in October 1971, Miss Hirose became the Acting Principal till Miss Ruth Crawford Brown became Principal in 1972.

Miss Hirose dedicated most of her life to education at St. Michael's as the Deputy Head and will remain in the hearts of many students who had the privilege of meeting her.

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

The Year 2021 marks the 50th Memorial of Miss Lea!



Miss Lea was 75 when she passed away on 28 October 1971. This October was her 50th memorial year. Last year the alumni association was hoping to hold her remembrance service and then celebrate SMIS 75th foundation year. But regrettably both had to be cancelled due to Covid-19.

The good news, however, is that the drive to raise donations for the Miss Lea Scholarship has accumulated ¥724,786 and ¥500,000, in commemoration of Miss Lea's 50th Memorial, has been duly handed to the School to help the needy students. The drive continues. And the season of giving is at hand.

The writer wishes all the readers a Happy Christmas and much happiness in the new year!

~ Satoru Hamada~

Miss Lea Scholarship Update!

We are delighted to report to you that we have made a 500,000 yen donation to the Miss Lea Scholarship fund. We could not have done this without your generous support. This donation will be a part of the fund the school's Scholarship committee manages. The committee awarded six scholarships last year and have just awarded three scholarships this year. The SMA donation ensures that all families who have applied so far have been supported financially thanks to the Miss Lea Scholarship Fund.

A New Look of St. Michael's!



Sports Roof Project 2021: Whilst managing the pandemic continues to take up much time and energy, St. Michael's has also maintained its commitment to improving and developing facilities for teaching and learning. The School was delighted to have completed the planned Sports Roof Project during summer 2021. The project included a significant investment in new fence panels and safety enhancements, as well as repainting the sports roof walls and columns and new larger storage for equipment. Partnering with Shimizu Kensetsu, the work was completed to a high standard in time for the start of the 2021-2022 academic year and both the International School and ELS Saturday School are enjoying the benefits of these enhanced facilities

~Gill Tyrer: Head of School~

New Staff 2021!

This year, we have welcomed four new members to our SMIS Family. Fiona Rizzo as an Early Years Teacher, Jasmin O'Donovan as the Music and PE teacher, Tomoko Sushida-Bunch as an Early Years Teaching Assistant, and Chris Wong as IT support. Here is a little introduction to them.

I am delighted to be joining St Michael's and to have been given the opportunity to teach all your wonderful children in Early Years. I am a UK qualified Early Years



teacher. For the past 12 years I have been working in a primary school in Kew, Surrey, England where I was a class teacher and the senior lead for my department. I am extremely excited to be returning to Japan and embarking on my new teaching journey. I have previously lived and worked in Japan before leaving to marry and have children of my own. I am so looking forward to reimmersing myself into the rich culture, cuisine and language that surrounds this beautiful country. ~ Fiona Rizzo~

I am delighted to have joined Michael's International School in August 2021 as the Music and PE specialist teacher. I'm passionate about nurturing your child's creativity and giving them the opportunity to discover their strengths and interests while exploring their place in the world.



An Australian qualified teacher, I moved to Japan from the tropical city of Townsville in Queensland, Australia in 2019 to teach English on the JET programme. Prior to arriving in Japan, I taught at a school in Townsville for 4 years, where I also competed in two triathlons and obtained my advanced open water scuba diving licence.

Since arriving in Japan, I have had the pleasure of scuba diving in Okinawa, Mie and Wakayama prefectures. I pursue hobbies such as hiking and cycling. This year I admired the cherry blossoms as I cycled around Lake Biwa spanning two splendid days. During my leisure time, I like to read and drink coffee in cafes around Kobe.

I enjoy learning about Japanese language, history and culture during my travels around this amazing country. I'm thankful for the warm welcome St. Michael's has offered me and I look forward to seeing what the rest of the year will bring. .

~ Jasmin O'Donovan~



Hi! I am the new Early Years assistant teacher, Tomoko Sushida-Bunch. I just started in the Early Years but have been a part of the St. Michael's community for a while- both of my children attend SMIS and I taught in the ELS Saturday School and Mommy & Baby class. I love teaching young children and am excited to have the chance to be a part of the SMIS Early Years team and watch the caterpillars turn into butterflies and see the butterflies fly away!

~ Tomoko Sushida-Bunch~



I'm a second generation Canadian born Chinese raised in Vancouver, Canada for most of my life, with a mother from Vancouver and father from Macau, China. Having grown up and travelled extensively in Asia to visit relatives, it's hard to say where home is, but I always consider home wherever my family is currently located.

When I was 17, I fixed my science teacher's computer. On the side he gave me a crisp \$50 bill for my services. I wasn't expecting anything but was happy to receive it. My dream was to become a video game developer, and there was a possibility to work for Nintendo at 19. However things have made a turn for the better. I always had opportunities to be involved with computers, networks and the internet and haven't looked back. I've been in technology for over 24 years and counting.

I love technology and think things should be simple. Sometimes it isn't, but I'm here to make it easy for everyone.
~ Chris Wong~

SMA Gathering!



**It was great to see Rachael de-Bourne visit from
Yokohama this Summer!**

Made with PosterMyWall.com

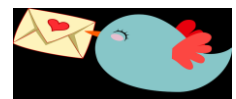
Photo Gallery Inquiry No.8!

Please have a good look at the following photos. You might find you as a child or your friend. Please let us know if you have any information about the photos by emailing us.



Where are you? How are you doing?

We hope you are all safe and well! We know that, with the COVID-19 persisting, it is not easy for you to get together. But! But! If you ever have a chance to meet somebody from the St. Michael's family, please share with us your information! We are always delighted to hear from you!



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.

After the donation of *one million yen* to the school's 70th Capital Campaign, our focus now is *Miss Lea scholarship* to support students in need and we have donated *500,000 yen* to the scholarship fund this year. 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!

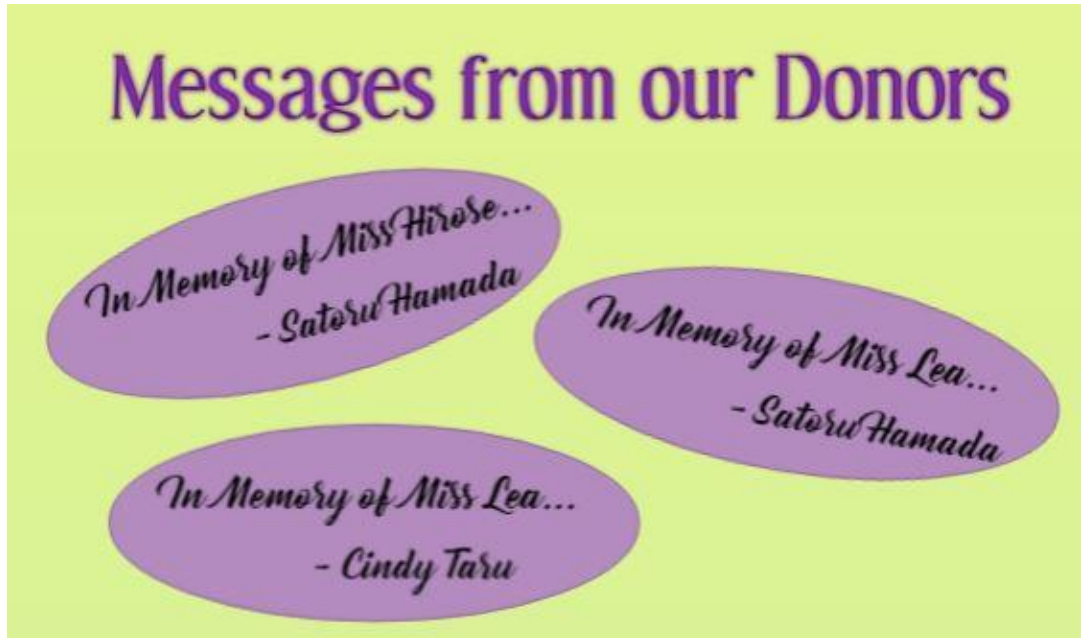
How to donate: There are three options!

PayPal: Please go to the school webpage, click '*Community*' at the top of the page, and then '*Alumni*'. You will see '*Share Your Happiness Campaign*' at the bottom on the right-hand side. Click it and follow the instructions.

Bank transfer: Please use the following Alumni bank account to send your donation.

Bank/Branch: Mitsui Sumitomo Bank
 (Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation)
 Kobe Main Office (Branch code:500)
 Account: Saving Account 8579576
 Account name: Sei Mikaeru Kokusai Gakko
 From overseas Swift code: SMBCJPJT Branch code: 500

By cash: Please bring your donation to the school office and tell them that the donation is for the Alumni.



Upcoming Events!

March SMA Annual Party postponed!

➡ **New date to be confirmed!**

London Gathering ➡ 30th July 2022 (Provisional)



Join us on our SMA Facebook!



Here is a variety of SMA Goods!



SMA Goods
NOW ON SALE...

Limited numbers available so please come and get yours QUICK!

Small Tote Bags
@ 2000 yen each

Available Colours: Grey, Red and Black

White Tote Bag
@ 1800 yen each

Clear Water Bottle
(500ml)
@ 1000 yen

Dimensions for Small Tote Bags: 56 cm (height), 30 cm (width), 35 cm (width), 24 cm (width).

Dimensions for White Tote Bag: 93 cm (height), 30 cm (width), 40 cm (width), 36 cm (width), 8 cm (width).

St. Michael's Association

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