

# IN TANDEM

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The Fairfield Methodist Schools  
Alumni Association and the Fairfield  
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Secondary)

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The Alumni Association  
Committee (Class of)

Diana Chee (1972)  
Kelvin Ong (1989)  
Cho Pei Lin (1994)  
Low Guat Tin (1962)  
Felicia Foo (1976)  
Wong Soo Chih (1980)  
Lo Wei Pin (1980)  
Chua Wei Wei (1990)  
Adrian Tan (1996)  
Joseph Guo (1997)  
Zhan Yanxin (1997)  
Raymond Lim (1998)  
Goh Sheow En (1999)  
Tan Lay Kwan (2002)  
Joel Tan (2005)

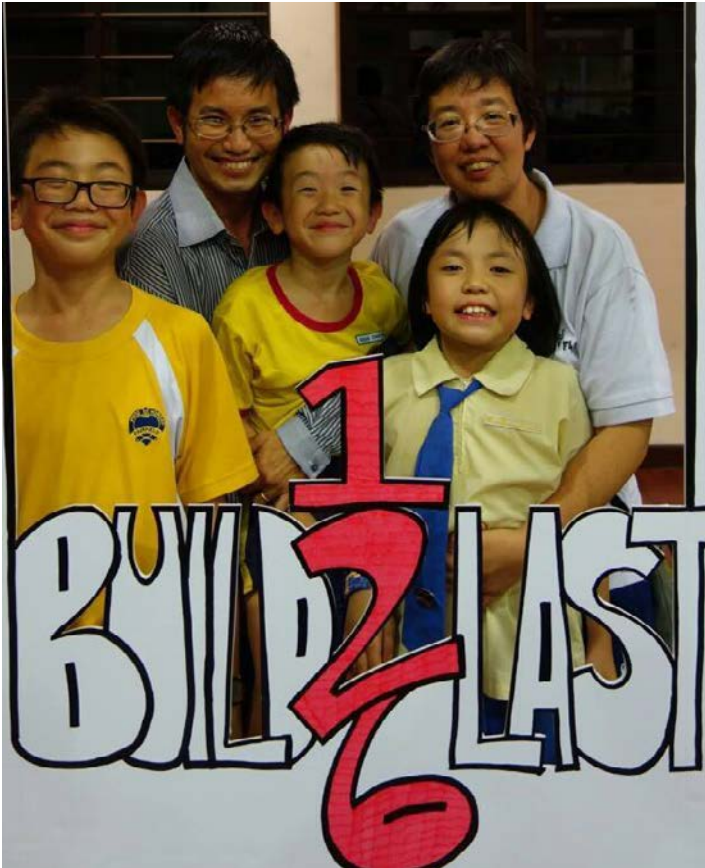
# MEMORIES FROM 127<sup>th</sup> Founder's Day Dinner: ALL THAT GLITTERS!

Last August 4<sup>th</sup>, the school gathered with alumni, parents, Board and other stakeholders of Fairfield to celebrate our 127<sup>th</sup> Founder's Day! Here are some awesome memories from the dinner that night at Orchard Hotel's ballroom:





## Planted for the Next Generation



David Chan, ex-Fairsian and former Vice-Principal of Fairfield Methodist School (Pri), tells us about his life's journey and gratitude to and for the Boys' Brigade.

Born in Penang, David suffered recurring epileptic fits at a very young age. Somehow his parents were led to believe that he had to be sent far away from home in order to live beyond 10 years of age because of the condition, David was thus forced to live with his godparents and to study in Singapore at the age of 10. His PSLE results landed him in Fairfield Methodist School (Secondary) and it was where he first encountered the Boys' Brigade (BB).

In desiring David to grow into Christian manliness, his godparents insisted that David join BB as his co-curricular activity. Never would he have imagined that BB would eventually become an integral part of his life, moulding him to be who he is today.

David's teenage years had not been easy for him. "There is a disparity in the upbringing between my real family and the adopted family," David recounted. "Back in Penang, I led a carefree life with my 2 older brothers and everything was just happy go lucky. My godparents, on the other hand, had high expectations of me and believed that learning to be disciplined and meticulous at a young age will secure a better future for me." Their strict upbringing caused David to struggle a lot with rebellion in those years and his quest for freedom to do what he liked. He found himself lying a lot to his godparents in order to get his ways, especially when hanging out and playing soccer with his BB friends after parades.

Through his time in the BB, he learnt the importance of honouring the authority God placed in one's life. He also realised that he was leading a double life which he eventually grew tired of and decided to run away from his godparents and pursue his own freedom at the age of 17.

A few days after leaving home, David was found by his Fairfield BB teacher who brought him to the realisation that he needed to live a life of honesty and integrity. There and then, David resolved in his heart that he will not speak another lie and will not hesitate to speak the truth in any situation.

Not wanting to go back to his godparents because David believed he needed to live with the consequences of running away from home, David started giving tuition to some BB boys in the Company where he was serving to support his monthly expenses. Living on his own was not easy as David found himself renting one place after another, lugging his basket of clothes out to the laundry here and there, scrimping and saving every cent to make ends meet.



*“BB has expanded my community; those around me are all ex-BB Boys! We remain close friends all these years, seeing one another through our marriages and spending time together with our families. It’s amazing how the BB brings us together; most of the connections are birthed from the BB.”*



*David Chan with his 3BJ BB boys, Brendan Lee, Luke Ng and Timothy Goh in 2010 (above) and 2014 (below). All 3 boys are currently serving as Primers in the 33<sup>rd</sup> Singapore Company (Fairfield Secondary).*

Giving tuition to the Boys was more than a source of income to David; it was a means to mentor them in life. David’s love in helping people to find their purpose in life led him to become a teacher in Fairfield Pri and an Officer in BB. He emphasised, “It is the growth that you see and the impact that you make through teaching that gives you that sense of satisfaction.”

*Article was first published in the BB News (2<sup>nd</sup> Issue 2015), reproduced with permission.*

Despite the many mistakes made as a teenager, David is thankful for his BB Officers and peers who had spent time mentoring him and investing in his life. Indeed, BB has sown the seeds of obedience, reverence, discipline and self-respect in David. BB has connected David to the school, the church and the opportunity to lead and serve. It is with a heart of gratitude and a desire to pay it forward that David has been actively involved in the work of BB in Singapore since 1993.

Through it all, David has gained much; he reconciled with his godparents in 2000, found his passion in teaching and started his teaching career in 2001 before becoming a Vice-Principal from 2008 to 2012. Married to Jessie and a father of Isaac, Joy and Isaiah, David and family are currently in East Timor where he intends to set up a Methodist School to nurture the next generation.



## A farewell note from the Alumni to Mrs Chaillan



God has been so good to Fairfield - we have been led by heads who answered the call to lead, who served humbly with a servant heart, and who pointed the Fairfield family to our loving Father. Indeed, we have been blessed. Mrs Chaillan came to Fairfield straight after her studies in the National Institute of Education in Sept 2008. She started as the Vice-Principal and in December 2008, she was appointed Principal.

She considered it a privilege to serve in a Christian school and in fact in May 2008, she said she had a dream in which she saw a school building with the word Fairfield (Primary) School! It is indeed such an honour and privilege to have such a clear vision from above! She was called to lead Fairfield (Primary) at a difficult time because of the huge amounts of funds that required raising. She worked tirelessly with the Ministry of Education, the architects, contractors and also with the Board, Alumni, the parents support group and of course with her staff and students. Together with the Fairfield stakeholders, and the Board Chairperson, Mrs Joni Ong, the school finally raised almost \$5 million for the school building fund!

When asked what legacy she is leaving behind in Fairfield, she asked that it not be called a legacy but that she has created an environment especially for the staff to find their voice and also opportunities for professional development. Some of her teachers have even 'opened' their classrooms to the world as many overseas as well as local educators visited Fairfield in the last few years. Teachers have created 'innovative classrooms' and are also open to colleagues sitting in on lessons to learn from one another. Hence, a culture of sharing and learning is nurtured. This has attracted educators who want to learn from us and this in turn has helped our teachers to be more confident in sharing their teaching pedagogy and their innovative strategies. Indeed, when we share/give we

will be doubly blessed! Mrs Chaillan shared that all these were possible because she has a team of very dedicated staff, who have a heart for the students and who are passionate about their calling. In the words of Khalil Gibran, our Fairfield staff including Mrs Chaillan showed that "work is love made visible."

**What are some of our teachers' responses to news of her moving on to another school? Of course most were very sad and a few have written Mrs Chaillan personal notes. We thank them for allowing us to use what they have written.**

**One wrote:** "Thank you for...being an inspirational leader. I am honoured to be working with you, one who walks the talk. Thank you for recognising my talents and capabilities. I have learnt a lot through the many tasks and opportunities given to me. I felt so much better knowing that my biggest boss cares so much for my welfare.

**Yet another quote:** These are the reasons why I feel you have been so dear to not just me, but the entire school as well: 1) You always echo the spirit of excellence in everything you do. In this aspect, you lead by example. No task is too small or insignificant for you to treat with care and respect. Your actions make us feel valued and that we matter. It is on this foundation that we accept the high standards that you have for us and the school--the standard of excellence. 2) You have a mentor's heart. I feel that you have a heart for the teachers and are concerned with who they are as people, people with families, spouses, children, teachers feel loved and are more ready to accept correction and rebuke. The way you correct us is always done with gracious words and seasoned with salt.

I have learnt so much from the way you love the teachers under you! 3) You are attuned to God's voice in your life. I recall vividly how He brought you to FMS(P) and how He time and again blessed Fairfield through you.

**And a third quote:** Mrs Chaillan coined "Every class a great class; every teacher a great teacher"...she looks beyond what is immediate to see the future. She is full of grace and mercy and chooses to see the greatness in every teacher, and how great each teacher can be. She focuses on individual strengths and this is what makes a school great!

Reading the quotes collected from students, school attendants, beginning teachers as well as senior teachers, all we can say is that "Mrs Chaillan you are much respected and loved!" They say you are approachable, confident, well organised, focused and a lady with a vision! You have time for everyone! The school attendant says you are kind and understanding. "She helps when I have difficulty and even when she is busy, she will sit down with me, hear me out and help me solve my problem. She never fails to show her appreciation for the work I do in school."

Fairfield is indeed blessed to have you for the last 7 years. You have done much for us, both in terms of the physical structures and the many lives you have touched. Many are better off because of your influence in their lives. And even now as we bid farewell to you, we know your work with Christian schools is not done for He has sent you to yet another Methodist school! Our loss is their gain! We wish you God's richest blessings as you head your new school and as you continue to be a channel of His blessings!



The staff bidding farewell to our dear Principal at the newly minted Performing Arts Studio.



Teachers who had left Fairfield came back to join the school in thanking Mrs Chaïllan for all that she has done for the school, staff and students.



Students bidding their farewells to Mrs Chaïllan.



The leaders of the Prefectorial Board presenting the gift thoughtfully put together by all the students of P1 – P6.



A night of good food, friendship and laughter.



Farewell dinner for our beloved Principal.

# The Blaze Award

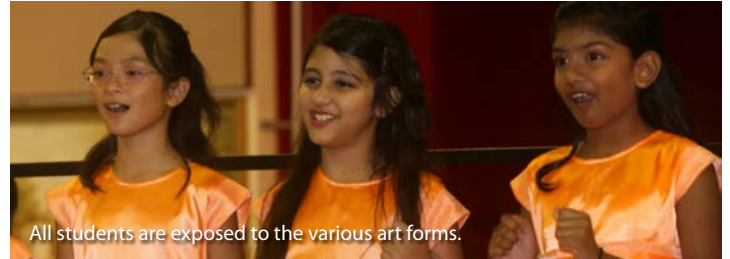
Fairfield Methodist School Primary has clinched the prestigious BLAZE award in the National Arts Education Award (NAEA) 2015. This award is conferred to schools with a comprehensive programme to develop aesthetics appreciation amongst its whole school population, while providing additional opportunities to develop the abilities of those aesthetically-inclined via Aesthetics CCA activities and other enrichment activities.



Every child has an opportunity to perform.



Aesthetics CCA students training for excellence.



All students are exposed to the various art forms.



Students are exposed to professional Artwork through their learning journeys.



Arts collaboration with the Mother Tongue Department to provide a platform for students to perform speech and drama in Mandarin.



Students are exposed to other ethnic music in their curriculum as part of cultural infusion...



Each student masters an instrument through their music curriculum.



Students try making art using various mediums.



A robust arts culture in the school through the Arts@Recess Programme.





## Interview with Ho Yi Shian (Sec 4E 2013), Fairfield's Boys' Brigade President's Award Winner



Yi Shian served as the Head Primer of the Boys' Brigade (BB) where he mentored the leaders of the Company. He was instrumental in organising a two-day planning retreat for these leaders, and in facilitating each session to help them learn how to run weekly parades. Besides conducting weekly parade debriefs, he planned and facilitated development camps, and even provided supplementary lessons for Company Boys taking the GCE O-Level examinations. He aspires to be an ambassador for the Boys' Brigade.

### **How did you feel when you collected your Boys' Brigade (BB) President's Award?**

I am proud of this achievement because this award is testament to the people who have worked so hard to develop me as well as the effort I had put in. At the same time, I am extremely grateful to the people who have journeyed alongside me as they have helped me to attain the President's Award.

### **Are there any key people whom you owe your success to?**

Most importantly, I would like to thank God for being there for me in every step of the way, and for providing me with mentors and friends who were by my side throughout this whole journey. I would also like to thank my officers like Mr Eric Chiok, Mr Alvin Chua and Mr Joel Li for guiding me, encouraging me when I made the gravest of mistakes, and celebrating my achievements throughout my six years in the Boys' Brigade. Last but not least, I would like to thank my parents for always giving me invaluable advice. Without them, I don't think that I can ever be the person I am today.

### **How did you manage your time to juggle both your studies and BB commitments?**

Honestly, I always saw my BB commitments as a way to relieve my stress. I thoroughly enjoy and continue to take pleasure in interacting with the boys,

planning camps and participating in parades. I would spend most of the week preparing for tests, doing homework and completing school assignments but Fridays were always set aside for BB activities as well as Bible Studies after parades.

### **How do you think you can contribute back to the Fairfield Family?**

My teachers in Fairfield have greatly inspired me. Thus I hope to be a mentor and an influential leader to the Fairfield Family. I intend to become an educator because I firmly believe that I can do for others what the Fairfield family has done for me. I also want to serve as a BB officer in the next few years to inspire future generations of BB Boys to achieve their greatest dreams and to live Godly lives.

## Interview with Wayne Lim (Sec 4F 2013), Fairfield's Boys' Brigade President's Award Winner



In Fairfield Methodist School (Secondary), Wayne served in the Student Council, and was the Treasurer of the Ultimate Frisbee Co-Curricular Activity. In junior college, he took on the role of Orientation Group Leader and successfully executed the six-day orientation programme for incoming students, where he facilitated group activities, guided and mentored the new students.

Wayne also served the community as a student volunteer in the Choa Chu Kang Group Representation Constituency Meet-the-People Sessions. There, he helped the MP, Mr Alvin Yeo, interview residents and referred them to government agencies that could address their concerns.

Wayne exemplifies the qualities of an influential leader who consistently impacts the lives of the people around him.

### **How did you feel when you collected your Boys' Brigade (BB) President's Award?**

I felt really honoured to stand in front of the BB Executive Committee Members and distinguished partners, parents, principals and most importantly the President himself to receive the prestigious BB President's Award. Together with my batch mates and fellow awardees, we were

thrilled to be representing the BB and realised that we dedicated time and effort not only to the CCA but the larger community beyond our family and friends.

### **Are there any key people whom you owe your success to?**

First and foremost, I owe my success to God. Since my graduation from Fairfield in 2013, distance had been a constant obstacle that limited my presence in the CCA. For good reasons, my Junior College also discouraged me from helping out in Uniformed Groups in secondary schools, as that external involvement could lead to complications in our school testimonials. Despite all these, God helped me not only to overcome these hurdles, but miraculously come out with a schedule to fulfil a promise I made as a graduating member of the Boys' Brigade. Moreover, I would like to thank my teachers-in-charge and officers of the 33rd Company for their continuous support and understanding. Without them, I would not be able to make the necessary arrangements to spend time understanding and developing my juniors. Finally, I thank the Boys that I have worked with and played with, for giving their best despite having to meet at odd hours.

### **How did you manage your time to juggle both your studies and BB commitments?**

I honestly had a tough time at the beginning of the year, as time management was an issue since I had to manage both my internal and external CCAs on top of my studies. Even up to my Mid-Year examinations, I was still struggling to cope with both my studies and BB commitments. By the grace of God, I was able to overcome these problems by allocating Mondays, Wednesdays and weekends to studying, and dedicating every other weekday to CCAs.

### **How do you think you can contribute back to the Fairfield Family?**

As I have forged strong bonds with the Fairfield family, I will definitely do my best to mentor and develop my juniors in the Boys' Brigade.



Wayne joined the Boys' Brigade at the tender age of 10, and took on the position of Company Sergeant Major in Secondary 3. He also served on the Primers' Council where he planned weekly parades and camps such as the Leadership Development Camp, NCO Council Planning Retreat Portfolio for Boys, recruitment and BB CARES.



# Fairfield English Drama Awarded the Certificate of Distinction the Singapore Youth Festival Arts Presentation 2015



Over the years, Fairfield English Drama had put up many successful performances such as 'The Dancers', 'Radio Silence', 'Revolution' and 'How the First Letter was Written', and had always been doing well in past competitions. Spurred on by a determination to match the previous performing standards, Fairfield English Drama members worked very hard for this year's Singapore Youth Festival (SYF) performance titled 'Book Riot', which is a story about a post-apocalyptic world where revolution is imminent.

The young actors and actresses displayed diligence and perseverance in the weeks leading up to the performance, putting in long hours of intense training each week with their directors. Those working backstage also worked hard to ensure that everything

from costumes and props to light and sound management went without a hitch. Even in the midst of Common Test preparation, Fairfield English Drama members demonstrated much tenacity and resilience during their rigorous trainings and rehearsals to conscientiously hone their skills. Through the preparation for this event, the Drama members bonded very well as a family and improved their acting skills.

Though much time and effort were spent, it was all worth it as Fairfield English Drama members exceeded all expectations by clinching the Certificate of Distinction at this year's edition of the Arts Presentation. This unprecedented sterling result was a culmination of the sheer hard work and sacrifice put in by all Drama members and teachers throughout the year.

It was indeed a memorable experience, and Fairfield English Drama will definitely continue to put up such great work and scale even greater heights.

*Contributed by Sarah Long, Sec 1A*



## Fairfield Celebrates National Day 2015 with the Pioneer Generation

On 6 August 2015, students and teachers of Fairfield Methodist School (Secondary) were decked in red and white to celebrate Singapore's Golden Jubilee. In line with the SG 50 celebrations, Fairfield also took the opportunity to honour the pioneer generation who had helped shape Singapore's education and grassroots landscapes. Elderly residents from the neighbouring blocks were invited to the school to celebrate National Day together.

The Boys' Brigade, Girls' Brigade, National Cadet Corps (Land), National Cadet Corps (Sea), and Red Cross Youth were dressed smartly in their respective uniforms and marched with amazing coordination to the beat of live music played by the Fairfield Symphonic Band. The brilliant effort and precision of the march delighted the spectators who gave a deafening applause to the uniformed groups and band. Indeed it was a National Day Parade to remember.

As a tribute to the Pioneer Generation, Fairfield invited Miss Lau Woon Yoke, a well-loved teacher who taught in Fairfield Methodist School (Secondary) for 42 years, to grace the parade as the Guest-of-Honour. Miss Lau represents a generation of teachers who gave their all in nurturing and educating students with great dedication and selflessness. Significantly, she was also the founder of the Fairfield Symphonic Band, growing the Band from 20 members to 100 over 25 years.

Subsequently, the students and teachers gathered at the Chen Su Lan Hall to watch the eagerly-awaited performances lined up for them. An entertaining video introduced this year's National Day theme - 'Celebrate as One People'. Students were given an insight into Singapore's 50 years of achievements. An amazing display of flexibility, acrobatics and control followed as the Fairfield Dance showcased perfect splits, incredible flips and gymnastic feats in a graceful and well-choreographed dance. Next up was the National Cadet Corps (Land) which gave an amazing precision drill that captivated Fairsians, as they twirled, threw and manoeuvred their rifles in a spectacular display of skill and synchronisation. The Secondary 1 and 3 students then entertained the audience with a series of humorous and entertaining skits and dances in accordance with this year's National Day Parade theme.

Everyone had fun during the National Day Celebrations. It was a time also to remember the contributions of the generations before us who had brought Singapore to where it is today. As one people, let us celebrate and continue to build this nation into an even better place.



*Contributed by Dilsha (Sec 2B) and Zuriel Khoo (Sec 2A)*



## 8 QUESTIONS for Peter Ho



When Peter was attending school in Fairfield, he already acquired a reputation for being “brainy” and was very much the geek of the class. He went on to the National University of Singapore (NUS) to study mechanical engineering, where he and his team mates built the first ever sports car in NUS’ history as part of their final-year project. At age 25, Peter became the youngest ever Chief Engineer for Team Petronas’ Touring Cars. In 2006, he started Hope Technik with three other NUS friends (Michael Leong, Ng Kiang Loong and Jeff Tang), a company that provided engineering solutions. The company now employs 102 people and has been involved in projects like designing the Red Rhino (the fire-fighting vehicle for the Singapore Civil Defence Force) and other unmanned systems for the likes of the Ministry of Defence. In 2013, they signed a deal with French aerospace giant Airbus Defence and Space to design, build and launch a space plane prototype.

Today, Hope Technik’s clients include Fortune 500 companies from a broad range of industries, from defence to aerospace. We forced Peter to take time off his hectic 18-hour days to answer 8 questions from In Tandem:

### **Your full name, year of graduation and class.**

Peter Ho Yew Chi, Class of 1994, Sec 4A

### **What were your CCA in school?**

Design and Technology Club. Class Monitor (3A, 4A)

### **Best memories of Fairfield?**

Friends. We were all teenagers, and had a lot of fun doing stupid and silly stuff together. My friends taught me alot. I was part of great classes where everyone watched each other’s back. No single memories stood out because all four years were so precious. I entered the gates of Fairfield as one person, and came out another person because of my friends. Many of them remain my best buddies now. I brought away many happy memories from Fairfield.

### **Most memorable teacher?**

Ms Elaine Lim. She was V demanding. She had the ability to teach and educate. She made no qualms about being good at what she demanded. She did not pull any punches. She hit very hard. After being so pampered in my life, it was a breath of fresh air. It was a very good experience for me. In fact, I would say that it set a new datum in my life.

### **When did you first become interested in engineering?**

I was 5 years old. I built a sewing machine out of Lego toys. I was very frustrated because it could not sew and actually stitch cloth together (obviously). I asked my dad why. He told me I must be a mechanical engineer to make the toy become a real sewing machine. Since then, I always wanted to be a mechanical engineer.

### **Tell us more about your work now.**

#### **What does it involve?**

I am one of the founders of Hope Technik, where I continue to work now. It is an engineering company that does the wackiest stuff from concept development through to production, all under one roof. We build cool stuff. The most exciting piece of my work so far, is having a team now that surpass the abilities of the four founders. One of the most memorable projects is making a controller for an UAV. We tried to outsource the work to a subcontractor but ended up having to really chase them to deliver. We resorted to driving to their place, sitting next to them and forcing them to work to deliver the product to us. We try very hard not to outsource our work anymore.

### **Engineers are no longer the most happening profession now. What would you say to that?**

I would say that is ‘utter rubbish’. We are value creators. It is not just about the sum of the constituents we put in. We do not add. We multiply. When we put together circuit boards, titanium, carbon fiber etc, the final product is something so spectacular it wows the human mind.

### **Any words of wisdom for your junior Fairsians?**

Dream big. Dream real.