

# IN TANDEM

In Tandem is jointly published by The Fairfield Methodist Schools Alumni Association and the Fairfield Methodist Schools (Primary & Secondary)

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## The Alumni Association Committee (Class of)

Adrian Tan	1996
Kelvin Ong	1989
Cho Pei Lin	1994
Felicia Foo	1976
Tan Lay Kwan	2002
Zhan Yanxin	1997
Lo Wei Pin	1980
Chua Wei Wei	1990
Joseph Guo	1997
Diana Chee	1972
Low Guat Tin	1962
Eda Ho	1991
Winnie Chan	1995
Raymond Lim	1998
Chan Wei Da	2001
Joel Tan	2005





# Celebration and Thanksgiving

at Founder's Day Dinner 2016



Fairfield celebrated her 128th anniversary on 4 August 2016 with a sumptuous dinner at Orchard Hotel. The event saw Fairfield's generations of alumni and teachers coming together to celebrate God's faithfulness towards Fairfield.

In line with this year's Founder's Day Dinner theme 'Summer', a number of teachers and alumni were seen dressed in floral and tropical prints catching up with one another over drinks and snacks outside the ballroom. A photo booth and a souvenir booth were set up as well, prompting long queues with people excited to get their hands on a souvenir to commemorate this event.

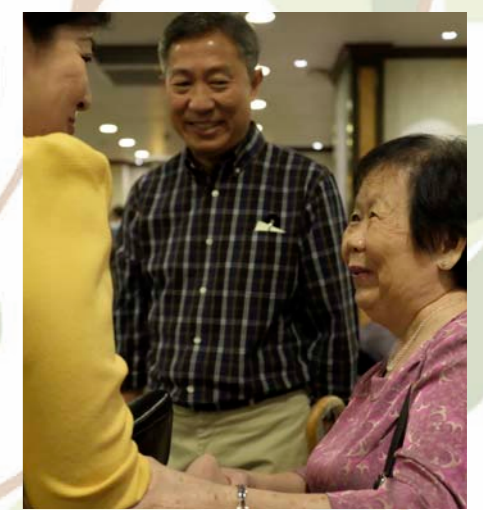
It was indeed a night of fun, food, friendship and fellowship, beginning with a rousing time of worship led by Mr Goh Sheow En, a current teacher at FMS(P). Everyone gave thanks to God for His guidance, steadfast love and continuous blessings bestowed on Fairfield for the past 128 years. Subsequently, Mrs Joni Ong, Mr Adrian Tan, Reverend Dr Lorna Khoo, Ms Audrey Chen and Mdm Law were invited on stage to join in with the singing of the birthday song and cutting of the cake to celebrate Fairfield's 128th birthday.

The sumptuous dinner was interspersed with exciting games and meaningful melodies. FMS(P) Principal Mdm Law as well as FMS(S) and FMS(P) Vice Principals Mr Koh How Thim and Mr James Chong showcased their melodic voices respectively to thrill the



audience. Staff and alumni cheered them on passionately. Our talented alumna Hannah Lee, a SEA Games medallist in discus, also wowed everyone with her mellifluous voice.

The large turnout by the alumni at the dinner goes to show how strong the Fairfield spirit is. The sense of unity and pride was indeed palpable as everyone present joined in to celebrate Fairfield's 128th Birthday!







# FAIRFIELD HOMECOMING

*Save the Date*

**20th May 2017 (Sat)!**



Follow our Facebook Page for registration details!

## **Fairfield Homecoming is on 20th May 2017!**

Save the date and come down for food and games! Take the opportunity to plan your reunion and hold it in school! :) Alumni Games (Soccer, Captain Ball, Volleyball, Badminton), Food, School Tour, Fairfield Merchandise and much more! Save the date!



## *Archives Revamp*

130th Founders' Day 2018

## *Fairfield is celebrating her 130th Anniversary in 2018,*

and we want to revamp the Fairfield Archives! If you know of any alumni who are Interior Designers, Contractors, Heritage Gurus, Sound Engineers.. and would like to help us... please email Joel at [joeltan.fmss@fairfieldsec.org](mailto:joeltan.fmss@fairfieldsec.org)! Please pass the message!

Join us in helping us write the next chapter of the Fairfield story...





# LEARNING IN HONG KONG

By Liu Lijia

Even at 6a.m, not one tired face could be seen. In late November 2016, thirty Primary Five students from Fairfield Methodist School (Primary) embarked on an inaugural trip to Hong Kong, China. The student leaders from various CCAs were specially selected by their CCA teachers to be on this trip. The students had undergone several training sessions and briefings over a period of two months in preparation for their visit to Ying Wa Primary School (YWPS) for a 2-day exchange programme.

As the students arrived at YWPS, they were immediately given a welcome address by the Headmistress, Mrs Lam. Her amiable demeanour was immediately felt by the students as they quickly warmed up to her. A tour of the school's archives, which followed the welcome address by Mrs Lam, allowed the students to learn about the history of the school. It was a major revelation to the students when they found out that the school was founded in Malacca, Malaysia!

After the tour, the Fairians were introduced to their buddies for the next two days. Then, the students were led to their classrooms for lessons. Apart from the English lessons, all the other subjects were



Learning to play the drums

taught in Cantonese! The students may have undergone basic Cantonese lessons during their training but putting what they had learnt into practice was still a tall order for them. It was helpful that their buddies were there to help. Ying Wa students, who could speak English fluently, made the effort to explain to the Fairians what the teach had taught. Also, the students noted that the YWPS students have their food for recess with their teachers in class instead of having them at a canteen. Our Fairfield students felt that it was a good way to foster a bond

between the teacher and the students. On the morning of the second day, the students were treated to Ying Wa's own version of 'Show and Tell'. Performances from both the Upper and the Lower Primary were entertaining. As a show of gratitude to the school for hosting FMSP, our students put up a song performance, 'Kids Prayer', for the whole school. The teachers from YWPS were greatly impressed by the Fairians.

At the end of the two days, our students were treated to an award-winning

performance put up by the Chinese Drums team from YWPS. "I have not seen a better performance!" gushed a student. The students were in awe by the display. After the musical treat, the students were given an opportunity to learn some of the basic drums skills with the Chinese Drums team. The players turned coaches patiently guiding both students and teachers from FMSP through some of the beats. It was a fun-filled and enriching experience for all. All good things had to come to an end. The immersion programme ended with a final session with Mrs Lam. On behalf of her school, she presented the students with many goodbye gifts and mementos. One of which was a drawing of Snoopy specially drawn and autographed by Mrs Lam. The experience had left the students with a bittersweet moment where they had to bid farewell to their buddies hoping that someday, God willing, their buddies will be able to visit them here in Singapore.



Learning at Ying Wa



Performing at Ying Wa



Science at Ying Wa



Student Ambassadors at work during Homecoming 2016



# BEING A BLESSING

and that is what the Fairfield Student Ambassadors are

Contributed By Sofia Parkash, FMSP, HOD/EL

The Student Ambassadors are an articulate group of Primary 4 - 6 students. They are part of the Fairfield Reporters & Ambassadors Programme. Over two years, the initial number of twenty children has since doubled in number.

The Student Ambassadors have blessed the school, starting with leading the public in the SG Trails for Singapore's 50th Jubilee celebrations. The Student Ambassadors have also hosted a myriad of people from various backgrounds. Last year, they hosted children and parents during Alumni Homecoming, took guests on a tour of our new FMSP school premises during Founder's Day and introduced the school to our new students during P1 Orientation.

In talking to guests about the school, the Student Ambassadors have displayed good communication skills. With enthusiasm, willingness and hard work, they explain the history of the school to visitors as well as talk about the interesting learning spaces within the school. They give of their time and effort to bless others with joy. It is for this very reason that they are a blessing to us. Through the Fairfield Reporters and Ambassadors Programme, students learn



Student Ambassadors conducting SG50 Trail

about commitment, responsibility and selflessness. It warms our heart to see that the Student Ambassadors use their talent in communicating to bless others.



## INTERVIEW WITH BRENDAN LOON

(Sec 4F 2013), a PSC Scholarship (Teaching) Recipient

As an ex-student of Fairfield Methodist School (Secondary), Brendan was a highly self-motivated and diligent student who was driven by a spirit of excellence to produce quality work each time. He was competent and creative in writing, and had an extensive range of vocabulary. A patient and considerate friend, he was exemplary in his conduct and speech, and was a positive influence among his peers.



As the Section leader of the Percussion Section in 2013, Brendan led and mentored his band members patiently and effectively. Having a passion for music, Brendan was able to hone his skills by taking part in different events and competitions. He was part of the team which helped the Band clinch the Certificate of Distinction at the Singapore Youth Festival (SYF) 2013 Arts Presentation for Concert Bands.

As the Head of the Connect Department in the Student Council in 2012, Brendan guided and led his team to spearhead the Students' Suggestion Scheme programme in Fairfield.

### What inspired you to take up the PSC Scholarship (Teaching)?

In the course of my years in school, I have had the pleasure and privilege to have been taught, mentored and influenced by some incredible teachers. I want to pay that forward, and I hope to be that teacher for my students.

### Tell me about some teachers from Fairfield who have made an impact on you.

There are many teachers from Fairfield who have made an impact on me.

Thank you, Ms Tan Sor Tin, for seeking us out! Though we took Literature as an extra subject and were metaphorical orphans with no class or teacher; you took us under your wing despite your already full nest of many Literature students!

Thank you, Mr Ganesan and Ms Shamsiah, for believing in me despite my aversion to Mathematics, and not giving up on me, a very mathematically uninclined student.

A very big thank you also to Ms Audrey Chen, Ms Clarissa Koh, Ms Daena Chng, Ms Felicia Kuo, Mr Francis Ng, Mr Glen Tan and Mrs Tan Ming Hui, Ms Ho Pei Qin, Mr James Quek, Ms Jocelyn Yeow, Mr Joseph Guo, Mr Keith Liew, Ms Lee Chee Peng, Mrs Li Xue Mei, Mr Malvin Chan, Ms Sheena Sutherson, Mdm Wang Qing Zhen, Mr Wee Guo Yuan, Mdm Xu Zhi Wei, Mr Yap Hock Heng and Mr Victor Owyong, for all the lessons (not just in the classroom, but also about life) that you have taught me over the years!

### Describe how Fairfield's learning experience and environment nurtured you to be an active thinker and influential leader.

The culture of care and openness in Fairfield really created a unique safe space, in which

we, Fairians, could grow as civic-minded individuals and gracious citizens grounded with a sound moral compass. It helped me to develop the conviction that it is our responsibility to envision and enact steps towards fulfilling our belief in a better collective future for all. This conducive environment facilitated engaged learning so that we could be nourished and nurtured intellectually as critical, concerned and informed thinkers and learners. We were also given many excellent developmental opportunities to stretch and grow our leadership potential. All this culminated in a firm foundation for us as learners and leaders and prepared us to forge our own paths in our way forward along life's journey.

### What advice would you give to the current students at Fairfield?

Study with full focus and due diligence, because you owe it to yourself to give yourself a chance to do well. Sleep early the night before the paper because you need to be in the best frame of mind to apply whatever you have learnt and studied, and to do justice to your efforts in preparing for the paper. Stay strong, all the best, and God bless!





## INTERVIEW WITH ARIEL TAN YI EN

(Sec 4E 2016), Winner of the Red Cross Youth President's Award

The Red Cross Youth (RCY) President's Award was introduced in 2012 to recognise outstanding cadets in the Red Cross Youth. Recipients of the award will receive a badge and a plaque as a token of their outstanding service in RCY and the community. As the Chairperson of Fairfield Methodist RCY, Ariel is extremely meticulous and careful in the management of the unit, working closely with her team to ensure that all CCA sessions are carried out very well. A natural leader, Ariel is well-liked by her peers, well-respected by her juniors and highly regarded by her teachers.

### How did you feel when you received the Red Cross Youth President's Award?

To be frank, I was a little surprised because only three cadets in Singapore were chosen for this extremely prestigious award. It was truly a great honour to be a recipient. Attaining this award definitely does not mark the end of my journey in Red Cross but motivates me to continue to serve in Red Cross to the best of my abilities. I also hope that I can inspire my juniors to be committed to our amazing CCA and strive for excellence.

### How did you manage your time to juggle both your studies and Red Cross Youth commitments?

I found it very difficult to manage my time when I was in Secondary 3 because of my heavier workload on top of the rigorous leadership training. As I felt that both my studies and Red Cross were just as important, I always tried to complete both but failed to do so occasionally. This caused me to be scolded by my instructors and some of my teachers. After my father saw my struggles, he advised me to write a detailed schedule to plan my entire day so that I could be more efficient in managing my time. With detailed planning, I knew exactly how much work I had to complete and how much time would be needed to complete everything within the respective



deadlines. I could also complete things faster because I was more disciplined to finish the work within the stipulated amount of time. On most occasions, I had almost no leisure time to spare and skipped recess on multiple occasions to do work. In this way, I managed to complete all my work most of the time. I also learnt how to prioritise my daily activities. I did not only set priorities for my studies and RCY commitments, but also for exercise and sleep. It is important to get adequate sleep and exercise as it helps me to manage my stress and persevere through my busiest days.

### How has Red Cross Youth developed you as a person?

It has certainly made me more disciplined and organised, taught me to take responsibility for my actions, understand the importance of teamwork and respect the needs and sensibilities of each individual in the team. The most important value I have learnt is definitely resilience. I was never an extremely positive person. Hence, when I faced difficulties, I tended to give up easily. However, my experiences in Red Cross have helped me to persevere in all that I do and to believe that anything is possible, if I try and try again despite the obstacles in my way. Also, one phrase that is emphasised in our training that will always stay in my mind is "Leave no man behind". This phrase and the experiences that came with it taught me to care more about others, treasure the people around me and value teamwork.

### Are there any key people from Fairfield Secondary whom you owe your success to?

I would definitely like to thank my RCY teachers, namely Mr Teo, Ms Shamsiah, Ms Fazilah and Mdm Tan Chia Chia, who provided much guidance and gave me many opportunities to lead the unit. They have also helped me to grow into who I am today and to improve myself. The next group of people is my seniors. They have taught me many values through their constant advice and concern which has in turn helped me to become a better person. Some seniors come back regularly to help me in running camps and leading my juniors better. The last group of people whom I really owe my success to is my RCY batch mates. Without these amazing people who constantly provide moral support, I would never have survived my entire leadership journey. I think the two people in Fairfield I owe most of my success to are Isaac Wong and Shirlyn Tan, the Vice-Chairpersons. They have sacrificed so much for our unit and yet they still offered their unstinting support. I am indeed blessed and thankful to have met and worked with all these wonderful people.



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

Actually, I have signed up for the Volunteer Instructor Programme and will come back to serve the Fairfield Red Cross Youth Unit for the next few years. I also hope that I can inspire my juniors to work hard and bring Fairfield Red Cross Youth unit to greater heights.



## BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING

by Agatha Putri Widjaya (Sec 3F)



On 5 August 2016, a group of 20 Fairfield Methodist School (Secondary) Community Service Leaders (CSLs) went on an outing with a group of senior citizens after two months of meticulous planning. With the help and guidance of our CSL teachers, we organised age-appropriate activities that were safe and not too physically demanding. The event went smoothly as planned. Not only did the elderly have fun, we did too!

Although this activity was carried out on E-Learning day, I was glad that many of us were willing to spend time with the elderly. In the morning, we gathered in school before heading to the Dover Residents' Committee to meet the elderly. Each of us was assigned to an elderly whom we looked after and spent time interacting with. Though I was paired with a Malay-speaking Indian lady named Mdm Kernai Kaur, I was able to communicate with her very well as I am fluent in the Malay language. I had much fun learning a lot about her life and chatting with her throughout the whole outing.

After meeting the elderly, we headed towards Henderson Wave Bridge. Many members of the elderly had their arms tightly wrapped around ours as we slowly walked up the slope that led us to the bridge. As Mdm Kernai experienced some

difficulty breathing while ascending the slope, we took frequent breaks for her to rest before continuing the walk.

When all of us finally reached the summit of Henderson Wave Bridge, a sense of relief and accomplishment washed over us as we savoured the panoramic view of our surroundings. It was really heart-warming to see everyone laughing and chatting heartily while admiring the picturesque scenery. We took a few photographs there and enjoyed a time of bonding with the elderly. Soon after, we returned to the drop off point and waited for our bus.

As it took quite a long time for the bus to arrive, we decided to put up a little performance that we had prepared beforehand to keep the elderly engaged. We gamely sang the song 'You are my Sunshine' along with a few other Chinese songs that they requested for.

After lunch, we moved on to the next part of our programme which consisted of games and songs. The game that we played was called 'Memory Cup'. The elderly members were given a cup that contained strips of papers with questions for them to answer. Through this game, we learnt more about the elderly and what

Singapore was like as they eagerly shared their life experiences. Everyone burst out in laughter when an elderly Dover resident proclaimed to everyone that her dream as a child was to find a rich husband. From this experience, we realised that the dreams of young people in the past were perhaps completely different to our dreams now. More importantly, we were glad to hear that they are delighted with how Singapore has transformed herself from a small fishing village to a modern metropolis.

We also managed to sing 'On Top of the World', 'Peng You', 'Chan Mali Chan' and even Hindi songs like 'Kuch Kuch Hota Hai' with the elderly and even danced spontaneously together. The smiles painted on the faces of the elderly reminded me about why I wanted to become a CSL in the first place, which is to bless others richly with our time and talents.

This event helped us to realise the huge impact we could make through simple gestures of kindness and love. I am really thankful to Fairfield for giving all of us this special opportunity to be a blessing to our community!



# 8 QUESTIONS with ADRIAN TAN

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

Adrian TAN Kay Hee, 4E/1996

## 02 What were your CCA in school?

I was in the School Band since the primary school and during lower secondary years. I later joined 'Christian Fellowship'.

## 03 Best memories of Fairfield?

I had fond memories with the primary School Band. We travelled and performed a lot as a band under Mr Roland Chan. I remember going overseas when I was 8 or 9 and we did that every year. I had the opportunity to perform in Malaysia, Thailand, Australia, Hong Kong. Looking back, I'm sure many of my bandmates would agree that the experience shaped our worldview and cultural adaptability. Personally, it really inspired me to travel more and gave me the foundation in the work that I currently do.

## 04 Most memorable teacher?

There were so many teachers that impacted me during my time in Fairfield as I was there for 10 years! Mrs Seet probably stood out for me as she was the first teacher who entrusted me to be the class monitor in Sec 1. That was perhaps the first time ever, I had the thought that I can be a leader.

## 05 Tell us more about your work now. What does it involve?

I am the Program Director of a technology accelerator in Vietnam. It is a US\$6m fund that is investing in more than 100 early stage startups in Vietnam over 5 years. Most of my work involves mentoring entrepreneurs, connecting investors and building the community for an innovation ecosystem. I am based now in Ho Chi Minh City with my family.

## 06 What can we expect from your term as President of Alumni Association?

I am honoured and privileged for the opportunity to be the first male president in 128 years of Fairfield history. Quite naturally, it meant that our Fairfield boys are now grown men and we want to give back! I am encouraged that many of them are stepping forward to contribute, as Godly husbands, fathers, brothers and sons.

We want to involve our Fairfield Alumni that is not based in Singapore. We have many Fairsians living and working abroad. My committee will be working hard in connect our Fairfield community to them via social media or new technology platforms.

## 07 What is it like now that your children are attending school at Fairfield?

My firstborn, Michaela has the opportunity to be the first second generation Fairsian of our family. She attended Primary 1H in 2016. She enjoyed school and her classmates. At the end of 2016, she has to move to Vietnam due to my job but has remained close to her classmates. She was video-calling them through her mom during the December holidays! Thanks also to our country's leave of absence program, Michaela can return to her class in Singapore whenever we are there for the holidays!

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

Treasure your years in Fairfield, it is indeed a God-gifted environment. Find every opportunity to challenge yourself because it is a forgiving place to grow.

I miss chapel service the most, even though I wasn't the most attentive student back then. I guess, it the presence of God was so tangible during those moments. Embrace them!

