

INTANDEM

122nd Founder's Day Dinner...



Cake cutting

Our 122nd Founder's Day Dinner was held at the Marriott Hotel. The room was decorated with beautiful blue and white balloons as the theme for the dinner was **Something Blue!**



Alumni Committee

After a simple pre-dinner reception and catching up with retired teachers and old friends, everyone gathered together for a good time of sing-along and yummy food.



Graduands singing Bless this school

...122nd Founder's Day Dinner



The best dressed contest had teachers and alumni joining in in the usual Fairfield sporting spirit and drew loud applause and cheers. *A group of young male teachers even took the stage with a rendition of old songs that brought back good memories!* All in all, it was a memorable night of celebrations! ■



2011 AGM

The details of the coming *AGM & Alumni Teachers' Lunch* are as follows:-

Date : 26th FEBRUARY 2011
Time : 11am - AGM
12noon - Alumni Teachers Lunch
Venue : Straits Kitchen @ Hyatt Hotel

All Alumni Members are cordially invited to attend the AGM. For those who wish to join in the Alumni Teachers Lunch, kindly RSVP by 12th February 2011 to Ms Wong Soo Chih @9780 1636 or Ms Cho Pei Lin @ 9684 2563 for Alumni Teachers Lunch. ■

Fairfield Choir and Fairfield Symphonic Band Ensemble on Cultural Exchange...

In December 2010, the Fairfield Choir visited Bratislava, Slovakia, while the Fairfield Symphonic Band headed for Osaka, Japan, for their cultural exchange programme.

Here are their stories.

Fairfield Choir

The highlight of Fairfield Choir's trip to Bratislava, Slovakia, was the 5th International Festival of Advent and Christmas Music Competition at the Primate's Palace. We were nervous and tense but we sang as one and at the end of our three songs, an air of relief and satisfaction was palpable.

...Fairfield Choir and Fairfield Symphonic Band Ensemble on Cultural Exchange...



Fairfield Choir's performance at the Jesuit church in Bratislava, Slovakia.

Fairfield Choir felt humbled at the opportunity to take part in the competition even as we received a Silver-band award. However, the experience we gained performing overseas was invaluable, as we learnt various vocal techniques to improve our choral standards in preparation for 2011's Singapore Youth Festival.

During the trip, we also toured various landmarks in Vienna such as the Mozarthaus Vienna and the Haus Der Musik. Through the exposure, we gained a deeper understanding of European history, culture and people.

This journey was indeed memorable and beneficial for the Fairfield Choir, as *we learnt to work together as a disciplined and cohesive team, and sought to improve our musical standards and develop mental strength to overcome future challenges.*



Fairfield Choir competing at the 5th International Festival of Advent and Christmas Music Competition 2010.

...Fairfield Choir and Fairfield Symphonic Band Ensemble on Cultural Exchange

Fairfield Symphonic Band

Educational sightseeing tours to Osaka Castle, the iconic Floating Garden Observatory, the Osaka Music College, the Panasonic Centre and Universal Studios, Japan were organised

for the Fairfield Symphonic Band, which broadened our knowledge of Japan's culture and history. We also enjoyed a short Kendo lesson at the Osaka University of Health and Sport Sciences. Kendo is a traditional Japanese martial art that combines strong martial art values with sports-like physical elements and the experience provided a chance for both the teachers and students to let their hair down.

During the trip, Fairfield Band was privileged to observe one of the practice sessions and a few master classes conducted by Kinki University Band. We were amazed by their awesome innate sense of rhythm and beat, especially during the Kinki University Band's 50th Anniversary Concert.

We also had the opportunity to provide our Japanese counterparts with a taste of Singapore culture – literally, in the form of curry, bak kwa, and a short presentation on the four main races in Singapore.

This enriching trip and partnership with Kinki University Band has spurred us to aim for musical excellence as we prepare for the 2011 Singapore Youth Festival. ■



Fairfield Symphonic Band in one of their few Master Classes with the Kinki University Band

One of our members, Toby, giving a Cultural Exchange Programme presentation



FMS(S) Year-end Staff Retreat 2010

Following a year in the service of bringing up Fairsians, it was time for the staff to retreat for a time of reflection and planning for the new school year.

Over two days, 18-19 November 2010, the staff worked hard, tuning into FMS(S)'s strategic plans for 2011. The school continued to emphasise the provision of holistic education, paying particular attention to the quality of teaching and learning and professional development.

They also played hard, bonding over conversation at high tea and enjoying a concert put up by Fairfield Choir and Fairfield Symphonic Band. They laughed as they shared anecdotes with one another and their happy countenances revealed their appreciation of the pupils' efforts.

They did not forget to serve either, showing care to the elderly at the Bethany Methodist Nursing Home. Their singing brought cheer to the residents at the home, as did the gifts they had thoughtfully prepared.

We had taken a step back so that we could go further, we had spent quality time with one another and we had given of ourselves in service to others. We thank our school leaders for the thought that went into planning the programme, one another for your camaraderie and God for making us grow. ■



Charity Sale (18 and 19 Nov 2010)



“Okay, I have the materials now. Let’s begin!” Mr Poh, our form teacher, announced. Immediately, the leaders of each group handed out the materials to the members who were already waiting impatiently.

It was the remaining weeks of the final school term and the Primary 5 were the fortunate level to run the Charity Sale. Our class had decided to make and sell “stress balls”. We thought that it would be easy - insert flour into balloons and tie them. We soon realised that it was so much more difficult. We learned it the hard and messy way - the flour was all over our uniforms, chairs, desk and floor.

“This is so fun...I wish we could do it everyday!” my friends exclaimed excitedly. After two days of intensive production, we decided to make our marketing posters. We went around the school to put up the posters at strategic locations - staircases, lift, and even some toilets! We went to all classes to promote our products too.

On the first sale day, the response to our stress balls were beyond words! As we started to set up our store, students swarmed around us to buy our stress balls. 200 stress balls were sold out within 2 hours!

“I will never forget this amazing experience! I’m sure everyone had a great time, and we would certainly use the ‘advertising’ knowledge we learned in future,” I said to myself as I packed up the store. ■

*By Ashley Tham
(Primary 5D)*

(Footnote: more than \$7000 was collected for the Batam orphanages and Red Cross Singapore)



PSLE Result 2010...



Fairfield has another good set of PSLE results this year! The mean aggregate score has increased and almost all subjects' passing rates surpassed the national average.

A* - C

A* - A

| | FMSP | National | FMSP | National |
|---------|-------|----------|-------|----------|
| English | 99.6% | 97.6% | 67.8% | 44.3% |
| Maths | 92.5% | 84.1% | 53.4% | 43.3% |
| Science | 98.4% | 91.5% | 62.7% | 43.2% |
| Chinese | 96.8% | 97.4% | 76.5% | 81.2% |
| Malay | 100% | 97.9% | 71.4% | 72.6% |
| Tamil | 100% | 98.3% | 85.7% | 78.1% |

We managed to catch hold of a few of our top scorers for a short interview.

Question : Any study tips for next year's batch of P6 pupils?

W : To improve English vocabulary, you definitely need to read widely. The genre does not matter. This has certainly worked well for me.

B : To score well for Chinese, revising the textbooks is crucial. I constantly refer to the word lists from the textbooks.

T : I did 6 revision papers per subject. These are past year papers from other top schools.

...PSLE Result 2010

Question : What was your revision routine like?

W : 1 month before PSLE, I did many revision exam papers. I also prepared my own revision notes from textbooks and teachers' notes.

B : I did many test papers 1 month before PSLE...almost non-stop practice.

T : 2 weeks before PSLE, I went through all my errors and ensure I understood all the answers and solutions.

Question : Who do you wish to thank for your excellent results?

W : I want to thank my parents and teachers. Despite our misbehaviour at times, the teachers still loved us and prepared us well for the exams.

B : Besides parents and teachers, I want to thank my classmates who offered strong moral support when I was feeling down. There were times I felt really lousy because of my poor scores. I don't think I can survive the revision period without them.

T : My parents and teachers helped me understand my mistakes so that I can learn from them and not repeat them anymore.

Question : What is your immediate plan?

W, B and T: Hang loose and enjoy the holidays!!! ■

W : Ng Wei Shen (score 269)

T : Tharun Suresh (score 269)

B : Beatrice Chua (score 267)



Dongzhou Primary's visit to Fairfield (6-8 July 2010)...



Our buddies from Dongzhou Primary (China), who took really good care of us last year, finally visited us in Singapore.

After the specially prepared

...Dongzhou Primary's visit to Fairfield (6-8 July 2010)



welcome-ceremony and mass photo-taking, our guest teachers and pupils entered our classrooms for a taste of the learning experience in Singapore. The pupils eagerly answered questions asked by our local teachers and participated enthusiastically in the fun-packed activities.



The following day, after an exciting day in school, we went with our buddies to several iconic Singapore attractions, like the Singapore Flyer and Merlion Park. Some of us brought them to our homes for home-cooked meals and to experience the Singapore-style family-bonding time.



We were glad to have the opportunity to play host to our Chinese buddies for the few days, and hope for another chance to meet again. Whether Singaporean or Chinese, we definitely enjoyed one another's company in all the activities. It was surely a memorable event. ■

by Ryan Tan (Primary 6B)



Cultural Immersion Tour to Taiwan (14 -19 Nov2010)



As part of the Chinese enrichment programme, 38 specially selected Primary 5 pupils and 4 teachers travelled to Taiwan from 14 to 19 Nov.



The pupils thoroughly enjoyed the fun-filled activities like farm-stay where they enjoyed hands-on activities such as animal feeding and vegetable picking. They also experimented with clay bowl making under the guidance of professional potters. *The trip was completed with visits to many cultural and historical sites in Taipei such as the National Palace Museum, Chiang Kai Shek Memorial Hall, Martyrs' Shrine and Taipei 101 Tower.*



Delywnn Lee (5D) liked the Clay Museum the most as the vast display of 500-year-old clay figurines was an eye-opener. He was also impressed with the computer remote controls that the Taiwanese teachers used so that they could walk freely in the classrooms. Chiam Chuen (5F) also found the Taipei Ying Qiao Elementary School interesting as pupils could learn to play Chinese Drum and grow their own vegetables. Bernadette Chue (5F) enjoyed her trip very much and will certainly visit Taiwan again when the opportunity arises. ■



Allied Educators (AED) in Fairfield

Jack Zheng Xin Gui :

In a classroom, we have students with different learning abilities. Managing a class of 40 has always been a challenge for many teachers. Not only do teachers need to meet the lesson objectives, they have to meet expectations set by parents as well. As an AED, I lighten teachers' load by conducting small group teaching for students with special educational needs. This allows less disruption in lesson flow and more teachers' attention to other students.

I focus on each individual student and redesign my lesson to cater to their needs. Since these small groups usually consist of 10 students, there is closer interaction between teacher and pupils. I can readily provide assistance to students. An AED serves the purpose of enhancing the teaching process and also works at building a better learning environment for students.



Elfan Abdul Hadi :

I saw the AED role as a suitable stepping stone for me to become a full-fledged teacher. For the past 2 years, I was in FMSP as a Media Specialist. I contributed in the areas of media and content development for the school such as producing our own customised in-house videos for classroom teaching. Last year, when the AED scheme was announced, I was offered the chance of teaching a core subject. It was perfect for me as I wanted to gain more teaching experience while at the same time still be able to develop media content for the school. The challenges are there but I am taking it all in my stride. I have been receiving a lot of support and guidance from fellow teachers and this has certainly helped me to carry out my roles efficiently. I certainly look forward to becoming a full-fledged teacher soon. ■

