

IN TANDEM

JULY 2015



*Homecoming
Fairfield!*

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)

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)



Homecoming: Alumni Games - One School, One Spirit

“ The Fairfield Alumni members were reunited, as exhilarating games were lined-up to inculcate the Fairfield spirit ”

Ex-Fairfield students bonded over a game of football at Fairfield Methodist School (Secondary) on May 23 2015 as the school endeavoured to instil a sense of camaraderie and community spirit amongst them.

In the men’s football event, the class of 2013 emerged victorious, edging past the expected victors from the class of 1990s in a 3-2 victory on penalties after the match ended all square at 1-1.

The class of 2013 team captain, Saravanan Nadarajah, 18, who also scored four goals in the opening match, said that it was great to be back in time to compete in the Alumni Games.

While some might not have been satisfied with the results, many ex-Fairfield students

were still delighted to be back in their alma mater to reminisce the friendships forged and memories made.

Despite not clinching the football championship this year, Cher Wei Jie, 18, said that it was a great pleasure to play alongside his peers, whom he had not played with for a long time. Wei Jie also said, “Fairfield is a school I remember fondly for its moral education lessons had nurtured me to become a better leader.”

Similarly, David Chan, class of 1991 and former vice-principal of Fairfield Methodist School (Primary), said that the results were immaterial as compared to the bonding opportunity he was given. David was also glad that many alumni members had taken the time to convene as one as he reminisced the good old times of playing soccer in his youth at Fairfield.

The chairperson of the organizing committee, Joel Tan, was pleased that more than 120 ex-Fairsians across

different generations turned up for the event. Additionally, Mr Tan was particularly impressed by the chivalrous spirit displayed by the footballers as teams loaned their players to their opponents who were short of members, showing that having fun together is more important than winning.

Mr Tan also said that the Alumni Games managed to raise \$2,170 from the participation fee for the Fairfield Methodist School (Primary) Performing Arts Centre’s Building Fund. When asked why the Performing Arts Centre was built, Joel said that it was because “Fairfield’s niche area has always been her Choir and Band and the school wanted to continue cultivating young musicians in a conducive environment.”

*Contributed by
Mr. Darren Ho
Class of 2013*







Homecoming: Honouring our teachers at Alumni Teachers' Lunch

Each year, Fairfield Methodist Schools' Alumni Association organises a luncheon for our retired/long-serving teachers and staff of Fairfield to get together. It has always been a hit; to see the joy on their faces as they meet to catch up with one another, find out the progress of both schools as school leaders of both Primary and Secondary schools mingle and even serve lunch to our teachers.

This year's lunch was held as part of our Homecoming Weekend. Our teachers and staff came back for a special lunch held in the school hall. Beyond the usual thanksgiving and joy that our teachers and staff share, past students took this opportunity to meet their teachers. Some even came with their children and pointed out, "This is mummy's Chinese teacher!" Notably, the class of 2005 came back in full force to greet their teachers. Perhaps, this is the joy of being a teacher: to know your labour is not in vain as you take a walk down memory lane, to know how these young ones have grown to become useful members of society and to hear how they have been impacting their world in one way or another.

The lunch was also made special for some of our teachers who were presented with a special commemorative gift from the Ministry of Education to affirm and honour our Pioneer Teachers. Honour the work of our teachers and staff was

the key theme for this year's lunch. Led by our School Board of Management Chairperson, Mrs Joni Ong, the school leaders and Alumni Executive Committee members took a bow as a mark of respect to our teachers and staff. The many video tributes screened during the luncheon was also a testimony to this culture of honouring Fairfield. We will continue to pass it on to future generations.

"Bless these teachers, Lord we ask, may they find joy in their tasks" is a familiar line from our School Hymn. May these teachers continue to find joy in living and teaching beyond the four walls of Fairfield!

*Contributed by
Tan Lay Kwan Hannah
Class of 2002*





Homecoming: Chapelthon



Over 400 people gathered at the Chen Su Lan Hall on 22 May (Friday) for Fairfield Chapelthon 2015. A yearly event to draw students and alumni together for a time of praise and worship, Chapelthon desires to reinforce the Christian heritage of the school and offer prayers for Fairfield.

This year's theme was 'Growth', in line with FMSS's theme for the year of 'Growing in Grace, Growing in Wisdom'. The theme verse was Ephesians 4:15, "Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of Him who is the head, that is, Christ."

We had the honour of having Mr Joseph Chean, National Director of Youth with a Mission, sharing the evening's message. He encouraged Fairsians to grow into the likeness of Christ, loving God and loving our neighbour.

During the prayer segment, Fairsians gathered around prayer balloons to pray

for the school, their family and their own commitment to God. A moving scene was witnessed when the whole congregation rose to their feet, singing the school hymn with much gusto. The doors to the hall were intentionally opened, for the hymn to resonate to the four corners of the school, as a prayer for Fairfield, her staff and her students. Bless this school O Lord, bless this school indeed.

*Contributed by
Joel Tan
Class of 2005*





Parent Volunteers Take Lead in Mini-Carnival!

The Partners-in-Education (PiE) of both FMS(P) & FMS(S) were recently invited by the Fairfield Methodist Schools Alumni Association to join them in welcoming back our former Fairsians at the Homecoming Fairfield event.

This was the first time the PiEs of both schools jointly planned and organize a mini-carnival. A total of 75 parents and 30 students helped to run five stalls offering food, drinks, games, Fairfield merchandise and flea market goodies. It was a great opportunity for us to get to know one another while raising funds for the FMS(P) School Building Fund.

Everything at the food stall was sold out - a testament that the 'mommies' who run FMS(S) T-Zone are the best cooks in the area! Our very enthusiastic parent volunteers contributed delicious laksa, fried rice, spaghetti as well as finger food such as coney

Primary School Tour For Alumni with Children

During the Homecoming Fairfield festivities, the Alumni Association also organized a special school tour for members who have plans to possibly register their young children in our Primary school. The response was overwhelming and more than 50 alumni members and their young children attended this special school tour!

Our Primary school's Principal Mrs Chaillan Mui Tuan started the morning briefing with an introduction of the school's programmes and took time to answer many questions of our members. They were also given a sneak-peek into the new building and facilities that await the new P1 pupils next year. This was followed by a tour of the Primary School led by our school teachers.

Participants had the chance to visit the classrooms the P1 pupils will be studying in and admire the numerous artwork of current students displayed along the corridors. Many of them were especially impressed with facilities such as the media studio where pupils can craft their own videos and be a VJ. The school visit was especially an eye-opener for spouses of members who may not be familiar with the school.

dogs, chicken nuggets and fish balls. Yummy chocolate brownies with ice cream and pretty cupcakes rounded off the dessert options.

The event also marks the inaugural involvement of FMS(P) student volunteers in the annual Homecoming Fairfield. Our bunch of very excited young Fairsians peddled ice-cold drinks from mobile carts, roaming FMS(S) grounds to reach out to the athletes at various game venues. The charm of these little children definitely helped push the sales of drinks - all soft drinks were sold out by the end of the day.

Our volunteers at the Fairfield merchandise stall reported a great buzz and demand for popular items like vintage Fairfield bears, Fairfield Lego sets and the limited edition Fairfield T-shirts!

Our game stalls, organized by the FMS(S) Student Councillors, delighted many customers, from the young ones to the young-at-heart. The shooting and toss-a-ball games were really addictive as players tried to accumulate as many points as possible to qualify for a gift exchange.

The flea market stalls catered to those who were looking for charming knick-knacks and a good bargain. There were Dayspring items, hand-painted batik scarves, cupcake liners, ribbons and baskets, among many other treasures.

The PiEs of both schools are honoured to be part of Homecoming Fairfield 2015 and proud to be able to contribute our total proceeds of \$5,200 towards the FMS(P) School Building Fund.

*Contributed by Parent Volunteers:
Chan Hsuet Funn & Theresa Tay*



Mdm Alison Lin was particularly impressed. "I especially like how the school is grooming a well-rounded child rather than merely focusing on academics. It seems like a really fun and loving place to grow up in!" Many parents also had a great time reminiscing their favourite places and sharing their fond memories of the school with their children!

*Contributed by
Adrian Tan
Class of 1996*

ALL THAT GLITTERS!

With special guests,



Jon Chua
The Sam Willows
Class of 2006



Benjamin Kheng
The Sam Willows
Fly Entertainment Artiste

FAIRFIELD METHODIST SCHOOLS FOUNDER'S DAY DINNER 2015

Date: 4 August 2015

Venue: Orchard Hotel Ballroom

Time: 6:30pm Cocktail/ 7:30pm Dinner

Dresscode: Formal with Glitter

PRICE: \$110 PER PAX (Bef 15 Jul)/\$135 PER PAX

To register:



info@fairfieldalumni.org.sg



www.facebook.com/fairfieldalumni



An ICT lesson on how students solve Math problem using different strategies to find the volume of cube and cuboid.

National Institute of Education (Singapore)- National College for Teaching and Leadership (United Kingdom) Joint Leadership Programme

On 27 January 2015, Fairfield Methodist School (Primary) was privileged to host a group of 20 foreign and local school leaders, participants of the National Institute of Education (Singapore)-National College for Teaching and Leadership (United Kingdom) Joint Leadership Programme. The purpose of the school visit was to learn and gain deeper understanding about school leadership and innovations in teaching and learning.

The visit started off with Primary 5 and 6 Student Ambassadors sharing about school life in Fairfield as they strolled through the Artist Walkway, followed by a visit to our three newly-completed ethnic gardens – Chinese, Malay and Indian Gardens. Participants also had the opportunity to interact with school leaders to understand more about our school culture and the role of school leadership before ending with lesson sharing by teachers who had voluntarily opened their classrooms and a tour of the school facilities.



A Primary 5 Student Ambassador, Chrio, interviewed two principals to find out what was similar and different in our school compared to their schools.



Visitors observing how pupils access extended reading materials and create different pieces of writing using networked computers.

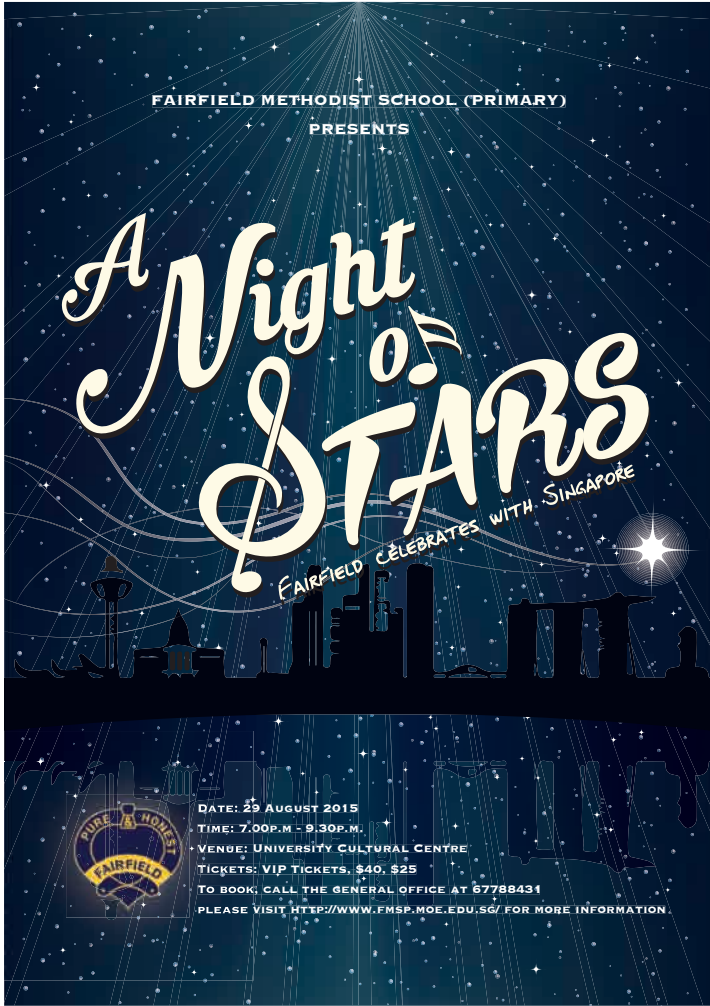
Participants expressed their appreciation for the warm hospitality and the many wonderful ideas gathered through this school experience. The positive feedback from the visitors affirmed the school of the good work she has been doing. This was evident through the pride and confidence the students had exuded which left a lasting impression on the participants. We thank God for the opportunity to share the good work He had done through the generations of Fairsians. We wish the participants of this visit a fruitful and enriching leadership journey ahead.

*Contributed by
Mr Andrew Ng
Vice-Principal, Fairfield Methodist (Primary)*



FAIRFIELD METHODIST SCHOOL (PRIMARY)
PRESENTS

A Night of STARS


FAIRFIELD CELEBRATES WITH SINGAPORE




DATE: 29 AUGUST 2015
TIME: 7.00P.M - 9.30P.M.
VENUE: UNIVERSITY CULTURAL CENTRE
TICKETS: VIP TICKETS, \$40, \$25
TO BOOK, CALL THE GENERAL OFFICE AT 67788431
PLEASE VISIT [HTTP://WWW.FMSP.MOE.EDU.SG/](http://www.fmsp.moe.edu.sg/) FOR MORE INFORMATION

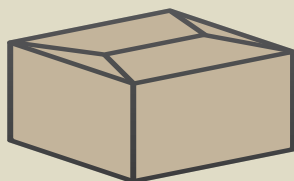
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&



A BOX



— A FAIRFIELD METHODIST SCHOOL (PRIMARY) DRAMA PRODUCTION —

DATE: 29 AUGUST 2015
TIME: 7.00P.M - 9.30P.M.
VENUE: UNIVERSITY CULTURAL CENTRE
TICKETS: VIP TICKETS, \$40, \$25
TO BOOK, CALL THE GENERAL OFFICE AT 67788431
PLEASE VISIT [HTTP://WWW.FMSP.MOE.EDU.SG/](http://www.fmsp.moe.edu.sg/) FOR MORE INFORMATION

CELEBRATING EDUCATION IN SINGAPORE

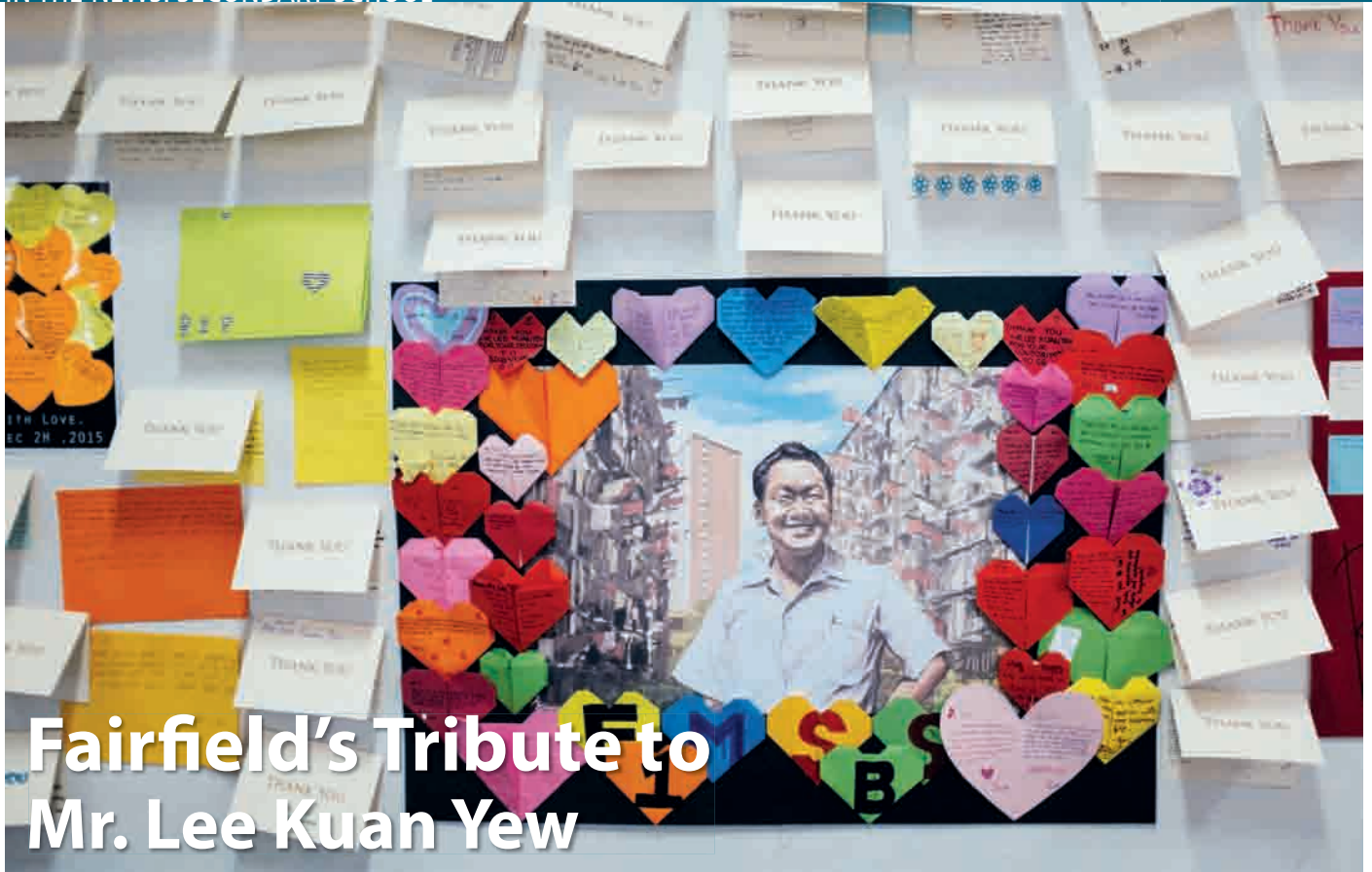


Together with the nation, Fairfield Methodist School (Primary) celebrates SG50. We have a specially-designed trail to provide participants with an overview of the educational landscape in Singapore and the development of education since the founding of Singapore.

Come and join us for a fun-filled trail on the following dates:
25th July (Sat) - Self-Guided
1st August (Sat) - Student-Guided

Time: 9am to 11am
Venue: FMSS CCE Room (Level 1)

Places are limited. Do sign up early to avoid disappointment!
Register at: <http://tinyurl.com/fmस्पmysg>



Fairfield's Tribute to Mr. Lee Kuan Yew



On 23 March 2015, Singapore lost her founding father, Mr. Lee Kuan Yew, the visionary leader who transformed Singapore from a colonial port city to a bustling cosmopolitan city state. His emphasis on shaping and developing the education system of the schools in Singapore, including Fairfield, enabled every Singaporean to have an equal opportunity to carve out a brighter future.

As Singapore entered a week of national mourning to signal the passing of a truly great leader, FMS(S) also paid tribute to Mr Lee Kuan Yew to remember his legacy. A short observance ceremony was conducted during morning assembly, and lessons were specially prepared for students to reflect on Mr Lee's achievements and contributions to Singapore as well as the attitudes and values that guided him in his work towards nation-building. This truly helped our students to be inspired by Mr Lee's commitment to serve Singapore, and to gain a deeper understanding and conviction of what everyone can do to ensure our nation's advancement.

Fairsians also showed their immense appreciation for Mr Lee by writing and designing 'Thank You' cards for his contributions to Singapore's development, with many expressing their heartfelt feelings authentically on the cards. Besides sticking their cards on the Remembering Lee Kuan Yew corner in the stage area of the school canteen, a few Fairsians even placed mementos as a sign of respect and admiration for Mr Lee's determination and passion to improve the welfare of Singaporeans. Many Fairsians also seized the opportunity to read what other Fairsians had written to better comprehend how they deeply felt about Mr Lee's immense love for Singapore and his accomplishments.

Furthermore, selected staff and Fairsians also represented FMS(S) to join the public

in paying their respects to Mr Lee Kuan Yew at Tanjong Pagar Community Centre tribute site, with Fairsians truly immersed in the occasion, penning their messages for Mr Lee, and returning to school to reflect on and present many meaningful learning points from this enlightening experiential journey.

Through this experience, Fairsians had indeed enhanced their understanding of Mr Lee's unwavering devotion to Singapore, and his lifelong sacrificial love to sustain Singapore's progress. Let us all strive to build on Mr Lee's legacy to secure our nation's future!

*Contributed by
Zuriel Khoo, Sec 2A*



Ivan Lock - A Resilient Achiever



Ivan is a conscientious and disciplined student who owes his academic achievements to his determination and perseverance. Ivan did very well in the Normal (Academic) stream, topping the cohort in 2011 and being laterally transferred to the Secondary 2 Express course at the beginning of 2012. For his achievements, he was awarded the Edusave Merit Bursary in 2011 and 2012. His strong aptitude in Mathematics and Science, together with a strong showing in his overall results, enabled Ivan to qualify for the Triple Science stream and earned him the Edusave Scholarship in 2013. In addition, Ivan was a member of the team that attained the Bronze Award in the 2014 Geography Challenge organised by the National University of Singapore. A dedicated member of the National Cadet Corps (Land) from 2011 to 2014, he attained the rank of First Sergeant and was appointed as the Administrative Head, where he discharged his duties efficiently, from maintaining the cadets' attendance records to planning annual camps and taking on the role of Assistant Platoon Sergeant to guide the secondary 1 cadets. Ivan also served in the Student Council with great commitment, carrying out all duties with integrity and pride. Despite his heavy commitments in his co-curricular activities, Ivan has been successful in striking a balance between both his academic and non-academic pursuits.

How did you feel when you collected your results?

I was quite elated that I improved tremendously in some subjects like physics and combined humanities.

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

Firstly, I would like to thank my family, especially my parents who have been very supportive of me, encouraging me when I was very stressed and comforting me whenever I did not achieve my desired results. I would also like to thank my sister for supporting me despite encountering her own set of challenges in university.

Secondly, I would like to thank my friends as they were my pillars of strength during the stressful year. They were there to help me whenever I was struggling to understand a concept or school work.

Thirdly, my teachers were instrumental to my success. They were always there to answer my questions and clarify my doubts throughout my four years in Fairfield Methodist School (Secondary).

Most importantly, I want to thank God for being with me through thick and thin. I encountered many challenges along the way, but God gave me strength to persevere and make it through the year.

How did you manage your time to make such significant academic improvement in FMS(S) while juggling with other commitments like your CCA?

Prioritisation was really important. At first, I did not really know how to properly prioritise my time because I devoted most

of my time and effort to my studies during my first two years in Fairfield Secondary. When I was in Secondary 3, I became more involved in National Cadet Corps (Land), as I was part of the executive committee and thus had more duties and responsibilities. That was when I felt a lot more stressed as I could not properly juggle my time between my studies and CCA. This forced me to learn to manage my time wisely by creating my own timetable which I would follow religiously. I made sure I completed all my assignments and had adequate sleep. During the examination period, I had to sacrifice my hobbies like watching anime, using my phone, and playing online games.

Do you have any advice for the 2015 batch of secondary 4/5 students?

You need to work hard and play hard to get through your O-Level year. It is important that you study and revise your work. However, intensive studying without resting will cause you to be too tired such that it will affect your psychological well-being. Do remember to take regular breaks by playing some games, talking to your loved ones or exercising to alleviate your stress. Though you will face challenges during this stressful year, you should never lose hope and have faith and confidence in your abilities. Press on, as the O-Level examinations will be over in a blink of an eye. Always remember to believe in yourself. Do your very best and good luck!

*Contributed by
Ivan Lock, Sec 4E
Class of 2014*

Fairfield Dance Awarded the Certificate of Distinction at the Singapore Youth Festival Arts Presentation 2015



On 16 April 2015, Fairfield Dance performed in the Singapore Youth Festival (SYF) Arts Presentation at the University Cultural Centre. Fairfield Dance had always been doing well in past performances and

competitions, but the dancers exceeded all expectations by clinching the Certificate of Distinction at this year's edition of the Arts Presentation.

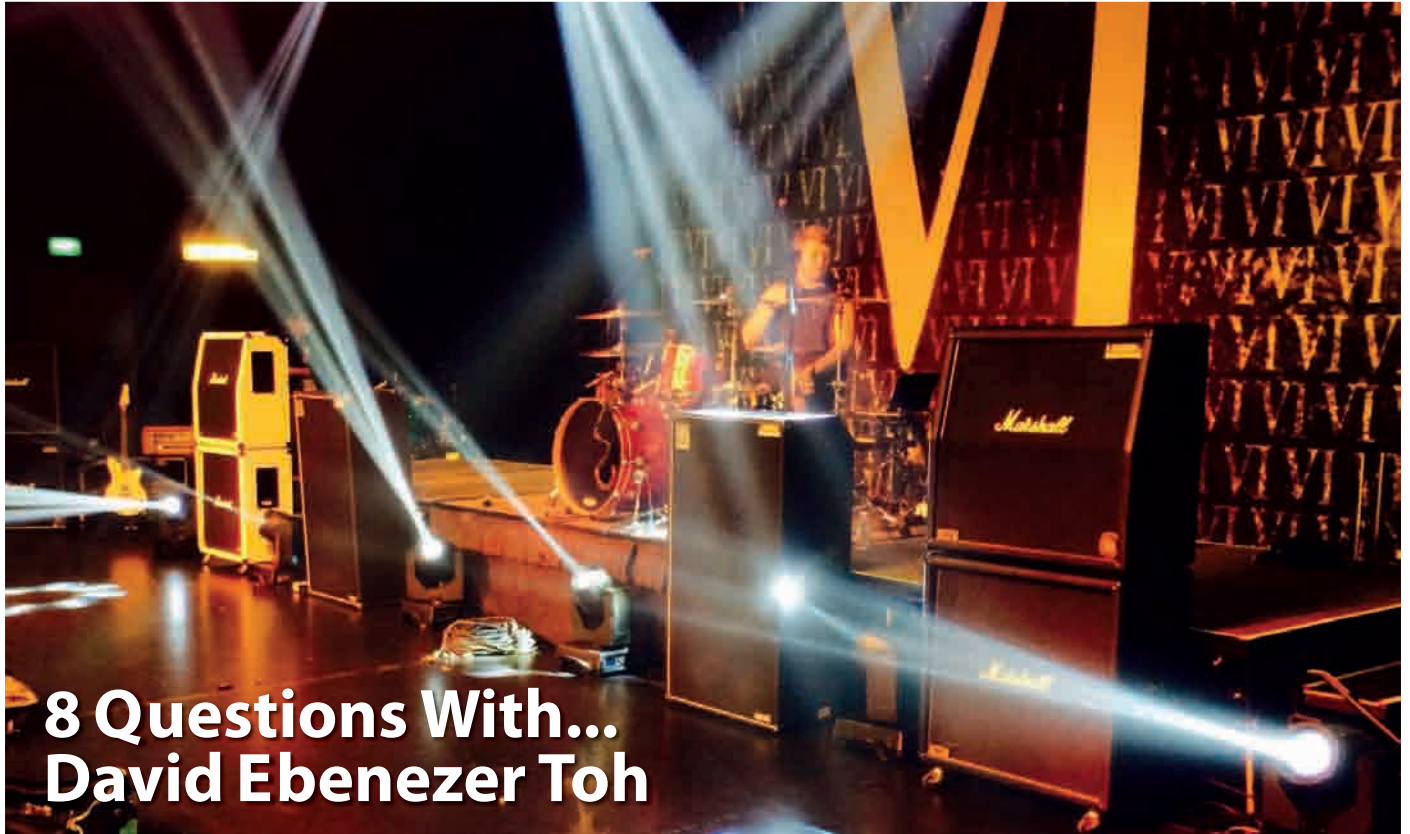
The journey was no doubt an arduous one. The dancers started the year needing to grow accustomed to a new instructor and a new genre of dance. On top of that, the dancers had to learn a whole new choreography in a short period of four months. With much effort, our Fairfield dancers managed to accomplish this feat within three months. However, with only a month left to the presentation day, the entire choreography

had to be changed. This certainly caused much stress and pressure for the dancers. Amazingly, Fairfield Dance displayed much discipline, resilience and teamwork to accomplish all that was necessary to perform a beautiful piece during the SYF Arts Presentation.

It was truly a touching moment when tears flowed down each dancer's cheeks after the performance, knowing that they did their very best on stage. More than just their achievement, this journey was most certainly something that will forever be etched in the dancers' hearts.

All in all, Fairfield Dance has done the school proud by displaying excellent teamwork and tireless dedication, and will strive to scale even higher peaks in future.

*Contributed by
Sarah Simon, Sec 2A*



8 Questions With... David Ebenezer Toh



In this issue, we had a chat with David Ebenezer Toh, who owns and runs one of the most established sound system and musical instrument backline rental company in Singapore – Ebenex. The company recently sponsored equipment for Homecoming Fairfield, an event organized by the Alumni Association.

1. Your full name, year of graduation and class.

David Ebenezer Toh Ern Tien, Class of 1998, Sec 4C

2. What were your CCA in school?

The Boys' Brigade

3. Best memories of Fairfield?

Competing at the annual cross country race at MacRitchie Reservoir; checking girls out during recess time (just joking!) and trading basketball cards and comics.

4. Most memorable teacher?

Charles Chan. He was really a real game changer in my life. He inspired me to seek out my life's purpose, to work hard and never give up.

5. When did you first become interested in music?

I started learning to play the guitar when I served with The Boys' Brigade, playing simple Christian songs. I also enjoyed chapel services very much.

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

I own Ebenex – a company which specializes in the sales and rental of concert grade musical instruments. We have a shop, EBX Select Shop, with over 100+ used, premium guitars as well as a backline rental warehouse with close to 30 drum kits, 50+ keyboards, over 100+ amplifiers etc. This year, we opened Rockstar Mansion, a professional rehearsal studio that has hosted artistes like Stefanie Sun, Olivia Ong, Wings etc. We have also support various concerts with backline rental through EBX Backline, such as Mr Big, Michael Bolton, Diana Ross, New Found Glory, YG Family Tour featuring Big Bang, Grasshoppers, Emil Chau, Eason Chan as well as major festivals like St Jeromes' Laneway Festival, Esplanade Baybeats, Music Matters Live, Beerfest Asia, Ignite! Rock festival, Mediacorp Star Awards, TVB Awards, A-Nation etc.

7. What made you or why did you recently sponsor equipment for the Fairfield Homecoming alumni event?

Fairfield always holds a special place in my heart. I attended Fairfield Primary and Secondary and both schools played a key role in helping to shape me into who I am today. My wife, Ming, was also from Fairfield too. In

fact, we are still very close to many friends we made from our school days. It is just this bond we all have since school days. Thus, when Rufus Chan (who was my classmate from Primary 5 to Secondary 2) called me to support the event, I was more than glad to do so. It is very much a homecoming of sorts for me, and I would be pleased to carry on supporting the school for years to come.

8. Any words of wisdom for your junior Fairsians?

It's important to know what you want. I always wanted to be my own boss, doing something I love and being able to make a difference in the local music industry. Once you set your mind on something, do not deviate. There will be ups and downs and some days, you just feel like giving up. Just keep pressing on, working hard, stay on course and slowly, but surely, you will achieve what you want. Do the right thing, be Pure and Honest!

