

# 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





All in all, the Fairfield Homecoming event was an incredible success, thanks to the organisers and the Fairsians who turned up. It was indeed a memorable day as the students and their families were able to spend time bonding with one another. The sense of school pride was also palpable in the air. The experiences of this event convince us that the faith, traditions and culture unique only to Fairfield must be sustained and passed on to future generations.

# Fairsians

## Reconnect on Fairfield Homecoming Day

by Raelee Toh (Sec 2A)

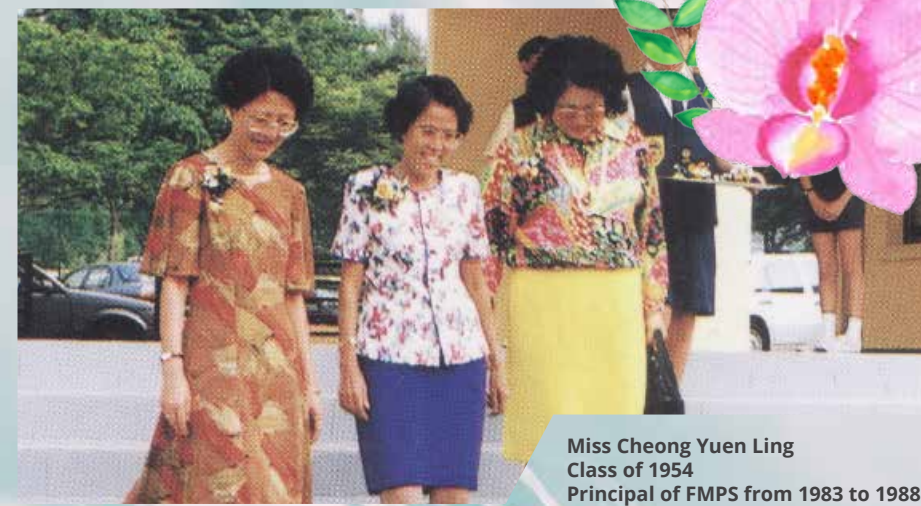


On 14 May 2016, the Fairfield Methodist Schools' Alumni Association held the Fairfield Homecoming event to provide a platform for the Fairfield family to enjoy a time of fun and games through a plethora of fun-filled events.

The event kicked off with the commencement of the Badminton, Volleyball, Captain's Ball and Soccer matches at 9.00am. Teachers were present at the respective venues to encourage their former students who were decked out in their bright alumni attire. The alumni teams exhibited tremendous tenacity to persevere till the very end despite the rain. The vociferous cheers and loud applause reminded all of the Fairfield Family which we all belong to. This added much excitement and delight to an already joyous occasion and it certainly lent itself to the building of the Fairfield family experience among staff, students and the larger Fairfield family.

While the matches took place, school tours were conducted by the Fairfield Primary student ambassadors to invite prospective students and parents to better understand Fairfield's rich heritage and experience the vibrant culture in Fairfield. The Partners-in-Education (PIE) also set up exciting games and food booths for the younger ones to bond with their family members.

The school leaders of FMS(P) and FMS(S) also came down to support the event at the 'Assembly Session', when everyone sang the Fairfield School Song with gusto, listened intently to a message by the Fairfield Alumni Association's first male President, Mr Adrian Tan, and participated actively in a prayer by Chaplain Rev Dr Lorna Khoo. This assembly session was a nostalgic reminiscence of morning devotion, which enabled all to walk down memory lane while fondly remembering the positive school experiences.



**Miss Cheong Yuen Ling**  
Class of 1954  
Principal of FMPS from 1983 to 1988

### Obituary

In 1988, Miss Cheong was sent off in a grand dinner held by FMPS, attended by 100 ex colleagues and staff. After leaving Fairfield, she became Inspector of Schools at MOE (East zone)

Miss Cheong will always be remembered for her positive attitude and her faith in God. She would always make the best out of difficult situations and face challenges.

Miss Cheong is always grateful to God. For example, during morning assemblies she would always thank God for the weather. When there was sunshine, she thanked God for the good weather; when there was rain, she thanked God for the shower of blessings.

Through her joyful attitude and kindness, she touched the hearts of all those whom she taught. In fact, many of her former students (from Crescent Girls or Birkhall) placed their children in FMPS back then, so that their children may benefit from her teachings and leadership.

We will certainly miss her. She is an example of a faithful girl and Principal at Fairfield who has always loved her alma mater. We thank God for her life and the achievements of the late Miss Cheong.

Miss Cheong a faithful old girl and principal at Fairfield passed away peacefully on 8 March 2016. Her leadership as Principal and Alumni President; and her driving force while serving in the alumni inspires us.

She was the first Principal of the then Fairfield Methodist Primary School (FMPS) when the schools moved to Dover Road and went co-ed in 1983. Later, she was the President of our Fairfield Methodist Schools Alumni Association from 1992 to 2000.

She graduated from Fairfield in 1954. After graduation, she was deemed two years too young to enrol in the Teacher's Training College (TTC). She later did her A levels as a private

candidate and despite having feelings of not wanting to teach, she entered TTC.

Miss Cheong taught in several Primary and Secondary schools before joining FMPS. These schools included Crescent Girls School and Birkhall Primary School (Queenstown). She taught for 14 years at Kim Seng Technical School. The school closed in 1992 and the school building is now the Ministry of Education's (MOE) training centre at Zion road. She was Vice Principal of Mei Chin Primary School before joining FMPS.

Miss Cheong was conferred the Efficiency Medal in 1982 and the Public Administration Medal (Bronze) in 1992 by the Government of Singapore.





Fairfield Methodist Schools Alumni Association presents

# LOVE IS IN THE SUNSHINE

dress code: summer

## Makan Makan & REUNION

by Koe Yue Ann (Sec 2B)

Each year, Fairfield Methodist Schools' Alumni Association organises a lunch for our retired and long-serving teachers and staff of Fairfield. It was no different this year, as the Alumni Teachers' Lunch was held at Furama Hotel on 23 April 2016 to thank our Fairfield teachers and staff—including those who have retired. Some of these staff members have served the school for more than a decade and are still teaching. This event presented an opportunity for this special group of teachers to gather and reminisce about the 'good old times'.

Many ex-students also came back to meet and catch up with their teachers. Everyone was chatting and laughing joyously with one

another over the scrumptious lunch provided.

What made the event even more memorable was the celebration of Madam Ah Hwa's birthday that day. She has served the school for more than 40 years as a cleaner and is still happily working in the school.

Saying goodbye was the most difficult moment for everyone as they had to wait for another three months before they get to see each other again during the Founder's Day Dinner.

May our teachers and staff continue to find joy in living and impacting the lives of others!

**FOUNDER'S DAY DINNER 2016  
ORCHARD HOTEL**

**6:30PM 7:30PM**

\$110 early bird by 21 July/ \$130 per person  
contact: [info@fairfieldalumni.org.sg](mailto:info@fairfieldalumni.org.sg)

**04**

**AUGUST 2016**



## The Ateneo de Manila Grade School (Philippines) visits FMS(P)

Ryan Ng Yiheng, 5G, interviews teachers Mrs Virgie G. Esteves (Answer A) who teaches Primary Six Mathematics and Mr James San Diegao (Answer B) who coordinates the Primary 5 level, to find out more:



A student from The Ateneo de Manila Grade School enjoying a Science lesson.

**Question 1.:** What do you think of Fairfield?

**Answer A:** I think that Fairfield is a very good school. It has a lot of things to offer to the students. They can learn a lot from CCAs. It also has very good teachers.

**Answer B:** I think that the teachers are very competent. I think that the students are very receptive and observant.

**Question 2.:** How is your school different from ours (Fairfield)?

**Answer A:** Our school is an all boys school. We have a few schools from the primary school to the University. There are three thousand primary students, thirteen classes per level and forty students in each class.

**Answer B:** That is a tough question as I have seen more similarities than differences. If I were to cite a difference, our school is an all boys school and the student population is almost twice of yours.

**Question 3.:** What do you think your students have learnt from their experience here?

**Answer A:** I think that they have learnt that it is important to make friends from different races. I also think that they have learnt to work with a person that is not their friend, but just somebody that they know, and lastly how to enjoy the hospitality of their newfound friends.

**Question 4.:** What do you think of the students in our school, Fairfield?

**Answer A:** I think that they have good discipline. The student are very accommodating. During lessons, they are very engaged in their learning. They ask questions openly, explain their thoughts well and they do not make a lot of noise during their lessons.

**Answer B:** I like how the students can be themselves and yet show respect for their teachers.



A Primary 5 student and his buddy from The Ateneo de Manila Grade School.

**Question 5.:** Based on your observations so far, can you tell us what you think of the lessons?

**Answer A:** I think that they are very interesting. I have also learnt a lot of teaching strategies, like set formation and gaps and differences. I have also learnt a new game, named Blow Wind Blow, and many other things.

## Fairsians at Haimen, China

School Immersion Programme at Dongzhou Primary School  
By Mr Kenneth Kueh



Students taking a group photo at Dong Zhou Primary School.

A mix of trepidation and excitement filled the air as forty Primary Five students from Fairfield Methodist School (Primary) embarked on a once-in-a-lifetime journey to Dongzhou Primary School in Haimen, China. The students had undergone several briefings and training sessions in preparation for the 3-day exchange programme, but were nonetheless left amazed by the incredible welcome they received the first time they stepped into the school gates. Rows of smiling faces greeted the students as they

took in the spectacle of the entire school, clad in their full uniforms with their iconic red ribbons around their necks, cheering in welcome.

After the ceremonial welcome, the Fairsians were introduced to their buddies for the following three days and, after a round of shy greetings, were whisked away to the various classes for lessons. Though many of the subjects were similar to those from home, the content and delivery varied greatly. Learning all

the subjects in Chinese was enough of a shock to the Fairsians!

"I never knew 'circumference' and 'diameter' had such interesting Chinese names!" commented a student who had gone through a Math lesson. Several students were also in awe of the Chinese literature lessons, experiencing the beauty and cultural identity of the Chinese language in a vastly different environment. The students learnt invaluable life lessons, drawing comparisons between their education in Singapore and that in Haimen, learning to appreciate and improve through this learning journey.

The adage 'work hard, play hard' certainly proved universal as the school celebrated Children's Day across China, coincidentally during our visit. Our students experienced the festivities for themselves through an impressive concert where both schools performed for each other, as well as a fiesta through which the children realised that when it came to play, they were not so different after all.

All vestiges of anxiety in the students were replaced with tearful farewells as the day for our departure arrived. Thanking God for the experience, the Fairsians returned home, looking forward to one particular date etched firmly in their minds: the day when their buddies would soon visit them in FMS(P) for exchange in July. Though the visit was short, the memories and lessons learnt would remain indefinitely, and guide them in the times to come.

# Passionate about Physical Ed



Mrs Morna Wee wins prestigious Outstanding Physical Education Teacher Award 2015

Supported by Physical Education and Sports Teacher Academy (PESTA) and the Singapore Sports Council (SSC), the Singapore Physical Education Association recognises the outstanding contributions that Physical Education (PE) teachers have made to the teaching, development and promotion of PE in Singapore with the Outstanding Physical Education Teacher Award (OPETA).

Mrs Morna Wee, an alumna and Head of Department of Physical Education at Fairfield Methodist School (Primary) was the only winner of this prestigious award in 2015.

Passionate about the design of learning experiences in PE, Mrs Wee has created many fun activities and programmes through Gymnastics, Games and Sports, Dance and the Fairfield Outdoor Education programme for her students.

At a school-wide level, she has also changed the way the school had been running its Sports Day. For the past few years, she has run the school's Sports Carnival where the games have been modified according to levels to ensure age-appropriateness. Within each level, the games are further modified into low-ability and high-ability modified games. The equipment used, play area and the rules are also changed. The students learn the modified games through their PE teachers and during House Practices after school. The skills demonstrated in the games are the skills taught during PE lessons. During play, students are also given the opportunity to learn values like resilience, team work and sportsmanship. The modified games provide students a higher success rate in competitive sports so that they have a positive learning experience. In turn, they develop more confidence to participate in physical activities.

As a leader and a role model in the PE community, Mrs Wee has shared her programmes for the school and conducted workshop with schools in the cluster, untrained contract teachers from other schools and a group of educators from Bhutan.



A class in a PE lesson with Mrs Wee on the fundamental skills of dance movement.



A P4 PE lesson on sending, travelling and receiving floorball.



Kayaking in session at the P5 Camp.



# Values-In-Action

## FMS(P) teachers taking the lead

By Mr David Yong, Year Head (Upper Pri)



Teachers working in unity to serve the community.

'A Fairsian Leads with Character, Serves with a Heart' – this was echoed in the actions of teachers when they went out to serve the community on 31 May 2016. As part of staff professional week, when teachers normally use the first week of the June holidays to meet to review their work plans at mid-year, Fairfield teachers took time to reach out to the community. Working in 3 groups, the Principal, Vice-Principals, Department Heads and teachers visited Orange Valley Nursing Home, Lion Befrienders Senior Activity Centre and Willing Hearts.

At the Orange Valley Nursing Home and Lion Befrienders Senior Activity Centre, our teachers entertained the elderly residents with songs, dances and magic shows. At Willing Hearts, a soup kitchen that prepares meals for the underprivileged, teachers cut up vegetables and fish to be used for the following day's meals. Mr Kenneth Ong shared that he was humbled by the experience. He volunteered to wash, clean and cut up fish at Willing Hearts. He said that he had only spent 2 hours doing that and was tired out. He was especially touched that there were other volunteers from other organisations on other days who had spent the entire day laboring in the warm kitchen doing just that.

Mr Zamree (SH/ML&TL) and Chairperson of the Staff Well-being Committee said that he was heartened by the teachers' enthusiasm and effort in their community outreach. He shared that a number of teachers in their reflections, wrote how they were challenged to step out of their comfort zones to entertain the elderly. Ms Suria reflected that as a result of the service-learning, she is more appreciative of what she has in life. The experience has taught her the importance of giving back and serving with sincerity.



Teachers preparing the meals for the next day at Willing Hearts.

Ms See Chui Geok (SH/CCE) was encouraged by the fact that teachers were unanimous in wanting to mirror what students have been doing in their M.A.D projects. Ms See explained that M.A.D. stands for Making A Difference – the school's VIA programme for Primary 5 and 6 students. At Primary 5, students research and raise funds for a beneficiary of their choice, and at Primary 6, students visit these beneficiaries, and deliver their funds in person.

Ms See was heartened because the places which the teachers had visited were among the beneficiaries which Primary 6 students had chosen. Ms Fazylla who teaches a Primary 2 class, said, "It is important that teachers model the values and actions that they would like to inculcate in their students."



Ms Dorcas Koh summed up the day most appropriately. "We worked together to get things done. We planned a performance, songs, games and prizes to entertain the elderly. We gave them opportunities to enjoy their favourite songs. I learnt to be patient and sensitive to their needs. I hope to encourage my own children to do VIA and be a blessing to the elderly around them. I hope teacher VIA will not stop here but will be able to encourage more students to be more involved and to give back to society."

# CRIME

## Prevention through Art

Fairfield Art Students Awarded First Prize in Anti-Scam Mural Competition 2016



A group of Art students from Fairfield Methodist School (Secondary) clinched the first prize of the Anti-Scam Mural Competition 2016 organised by the Queenstown Neighbourhood Police Centre and Buona Vista Zone 'D' Residents' Committee. The event was held at Block 13 Holland Drive on 12 March 2016, and was graced by Minister Chan Chun Sing.

The winning entry titled 'Stop Donating to the Story-Tellers' was launched by Minister Chan Chun Sing, Mr Tan Kian Hoon, Chairman of National Crime Prevention Council, and Assistant Commissioner of Police Gerald Lim. As a reward for our students' creativity and dedication to this challenge, the students received the top prize of \$1,200 for producing the beautiful mural that highlighted the dangers of scams.

Focused on educating fellow Singaporeans about vigilance, the Secondary 4 Art students worked through the December holidays in 2015 to finalise the design and concept of the wall mural. Beginning with a blank wall in a HDB block, the Secondary 3 Art students put in much hard work painting the wall. They were meticulous in bringing out the finer details of the intriguing wall mural so that the public could learn more about protecting themselves from being scammed.

The competition enabled the students to build stronger bonds while putting their talent to work. It also gave them a wonderful opportunity to educate the public about the dangers of such scams.





# Kaleidoscopic Odyssey 1 2016

Fairfield Guitar Ensemble's First Concert  
by Raelee Toh Hsuan Hui (Sec 2A)



On 3 June 2016, the Fairfield Guitar Ensemble held its first ever concert, Kaleidoscopic Odyssey 1 at Fairfield Methodist School (Primary) Performing Arts Studio.

Conducted by Mr Chua Teck Seng, the student guitarists demonstrated their musical talents to captivate its audience. Determined to surpass previous performing standards, preparations for the concert started seven months ago, where the students learned a plethora of soundtracks from diverse genres of music. Fairfield Guitar Ensemble managed to put up an entertaining and enthralling performance, featuring pieces such as 'Concerto in D', 'Pompeii', 'Amazing Grace', 'Lemon Tree' and 'Flashlight'.

The members displayed tremendous diligence and tenacity in the weeks leading up to the concert, putting in long hours of intense training each week to conscientiously sharpen their skills. Though the journey was an arduous one, the Ensemble members bonded as one family during these rigorous trainings.

Entering the hall with confidence and poise, the Ensemble delivered a laudable performance. The invited guests were clearly enchanted by the Ensemble's breathtaking performance



which displayed a high standard of musicality and showmanship. Mention must be made too of the RGS Guitar Ensemble and the OPSS Guitar Ensemble members who were invited to put up special performances. Jonathan Chua, who is a member of Singapore's local renowned band, The Sam Willows, presented his own rendition of two wonderful pieces entitled 'Love Yourself' and '7 years' with Fairfield Guitar Ensemble's very own teacher in charge, Mr Ezal.

The Fairfield Guitar Ensemble would like to express their appreciation for the support given by the school leaders, teachers, parents and peers who took time off to attend the concert. Indeed, the Ensemble will strive to scale even higher peaks in future.

# Making Every

## Sec 3 Student A Blessing to the Community

by Jeslyn Leung (Sec 3A)



Fairfield is passionate about developing students to have a heart of service for the community. With this in mind, this year's Secondary 3 Fairfield Learning EXperience (FLEX) Week introduced students to a new programme that enabled students to be a blessing to the community.

Students from each Secondary 3 class were split into groups within their own classes and given the challenge to conceptualise, plan, and execute their own Values-In-Action (VIA) programme. Students had to get in touch with their target groups and organisations, and share how they would like to contribute to the community. With ample support from the school and guidance from the teachers, students were able to carry out their VIA programme competently.

Many students did extensive research on the needs of the community and angled their activities to better suit their target groups. While a group of students devoted their efforts to cleaning the shores of Pulau Ubin under the scorching sun, another group dedicated their time to giving tuition to less privileged primary school students. Others volunteered at organisations such as Willing Hearts Soup Kitchen, which provides meals for underprivileged families and individuals. Many students also opted to be a blessing to the Lions Befrienders, the Salvation Army, Mei Ling Residential Centre, Hospice Care Association, and Orange Valley Nursing Home.

Through these meaningful activities, students learnt to lead, plan and organise activities for those in greater need than themselves. In seeing how even those who are physically challenged can remain optimistic and cheerful, students learnt to show compassion and empathy to others. Students also demonstrated their care for the environment by doing their



part to keep our planet clean and green. With an entire week dedicated to helping their target groups and organisations, Fairfians learnt a lot more about the different needs of the community and how they can step out to meet those needs.

Indeed, the Secondary 3 FLEX Week has succeeded in enabling students to develop a heart of service for the community, and to be a blessing to others.



# 8 questions with ELIM CHEW

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

Elim Chew, 1982, 4D (I think its the last class)

## 02 What were your CCA in school?

Table Tennis

## 03 Best memories of Fairfield?

Being naughty, being outstanding (outside standing), getting lectured by teachers.. I think it's all part of childhood and growing up :)

## 04 Most memorable teacher?

Miss Yee. She was the only one in school then who believed in me – and I believed in her belief in me that I could become a millionaire. During my party and binge-drinking days fresh from London, she would always make sure that I'm back on track, constantly reminding me to reach my dream— and I know that was what kept me going all those years. When I received the news that Miss Yee was one of the 104 people who died on board Silk Air Crash, my heart sank, it was an utter shock and I was overwhelmed with emotions. My firm belief in young people today is due to her – because she had planted a seed in me and saw that everyone has a hope and chance to make their dream real. I never had to chance to thank her, but I know she will be proud of me, wherever she is.

## 05 When did you first become interested in entrepreneurship?

I first became interested in entrepreneurship in Primary four. That was when I took my friend's uncle's 3D cards catalogue to school, and start to take orders of valentines, teachers' day, christmas cards from my friends. I will take a percentage from the sales - It was really good business! (Oops)

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

I sit on more than 20 boards and committees of public service, youth and community – providing mentorship to youths and aspiring entrepreneurs. Moving forward, I will also be doing more speaking engagements, sharing sessions and consultancy to inspire people to be changemakers.

A few friends and I started the FastFast app, providing logistics support – instant delivery for businesses after we saw a market gap. For example, florists and hotels are using FastFast to reach out to their customers in 90mins.

Besides, I am also working on my new platform “Elim Chew TV – Changemaker Series”, a Youtube channel that features people from different fields around the world who are making a positive impact on society through their work. The first video has been launched on 1 July, and subsequent videos will be published on alternate Fridays (Please subscribe: elimchewtv)

My family has also invested in three F&B restaurants in the last two years – I'm KIM Korean BBQ, Kokomama and GoroGoro Steamboat & Korean Buffet, focusing on high quality food at affordable pricings with elements of hip and fun.

Even though we are retiring from retail, but as entrepreneurs, we are always open and looking out for market gaps and opportunities. Afterall, we need to do well to do good.

## 07 77th Street closes its last outlet in end-July. As the founder of 77th Street, how do you feel about this?

I will be lying if I say that I don't feel anything. After all, it's more than half my life. Since the news of closure was announced two days ago, it's heartwarming to receive so many kind messages from all kinds of people, who shared their stories and fond memories of 77th Street with me. Indeed, a generation of young people grew up with 77th Street, and I'm glad to be part of this journey.

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

There's a quote I saw online which I fully concur with “A meaningful life is not being rich, being popular, being highly-educated or being perfect... it's about being humble, being able to share ourselves and touch the lives of others. It's only then we could have a full, happy and contented life”. I hope that more people can rise up to be changemakers, to be the change we want to see instead of waiting for change to happen.

