

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
Low Guat Tin	1962
Diana Chee	1972
Felicia Foo	1976
Sharon Liat	1977
Lo Wei Pin	1980
Chua Wei Wei	1990
Eda Ho	1991
Winnie Chan	1995
Joseph Guo	1997
Zhan Yanxin	1997
Raymond Lim	1998
Chan Wei Da	2001
Joel Tan	2005

A COMMITTED ALUMNI

You read about our first male President Mr. Adrian Tan (Class of 1996) in a previous issue of In Tandem, but what about the rest of the Alumni Association Committee? We caught up with some of them and asked them why they are volunteering time for the Alumni Association.

Written by Cho Pei Lin (Class of 1994)

The Alumni Association is led by a group of volunteers who serve in the Committee. Every year, the Committee takes the lead in key activities by the Association, including organising the annual Founder's Day Dinner and Alumni Teachers Lunch. They maintain the website (www.fairfieldalumni.org.sg), reply emails and post regularly on the Alumni Facebook page to interact and communicate with members. Of course, they also publish In Tandem and coordinate the submission of articles from both schools. Over the years, the Alumni Association has put together and added events like Past vs Present Games to the recent Homecomings. They take part in school events like carnivals and fund-raising. Often, they see themselves as not only linking alumni to schools, but also a link between both Primary and Secondary schools.

Many joined the Committee because they were invited by someone else to serve. For Vice-President Kelvin Ong (Class of 1989, 4E), he remembers being voted into the committee when he took part in the biggest Annual General Meeting ever of the Alumni Association back in year 2000 at Carlton Hotel – more than 100 alumni were in attendance that year. He shared, "There were only 2 or 3 other old boys in the Committee then: Ong Sin Tiong and Charles Chan (both Class of 1986), and David Tay (Class of 1989). Together with Kristine Goh, Joni Ong, Veronica Chia, Jenny Soh, Mrs Tang Poh Kim, Ms Dorothy Ho, Gloria Chee, Tan Siew Chwee and a few others, we formed the new committee in the new millennium and thus began my 17-year involvement with the alumni committee to date. I joined the Alumni Association graduation at the Founder's Day Dinner in 1990 at Mandarin Hotel (when I was in JC1). It was with a sense of pride and belonging to the Fairfield family that I wanted to be a part of the alumni association."

The Committee has representations from both schools who are nominated by the school Principals. Chua Wei Wei (Class of 1990) represents the Primary School and Joseph Guo (Class of 1997), the Secondary School. Whilst the school need not nominate Alumni to be representatives, there was no lack of Alumni to choose from as many of our Alumni are serving as teachers in



At the 2015 Annual General Meeting



Diana & Wei Pin, 4th & 5th from left standing

both schools. They represent the school at Alumni Committee meetings and play a key role in supporting Alumni related events.

For Lo Wei Pin (Class of 1980), joining as a life member after graduation was her way of continuing to be part of the school that she loves. In 2006, she signed up to be part of the Committee when all her three children started school in Fairfield. She explained, "I wanted to be involved in my children's school lives and activities. I saw it as an opportunity to serve and I was definitely attracted by the strong Fairfield spirit and camaraderie that the committee had." Wei Pin has a huge role in the Committee – as the treasurer, she balances the accounts and oversees the Association's cashflows,



Felicia with then committee member Denise & the late Ms Lau Woon Yoke at Alumni Teacher's Lunch 2009

ensuring that all income and expenses are properly accounted for. She also sends the annual accounts for auditing and oversees their approval at the Annual General Meeting before filing them with the Registry of Society.



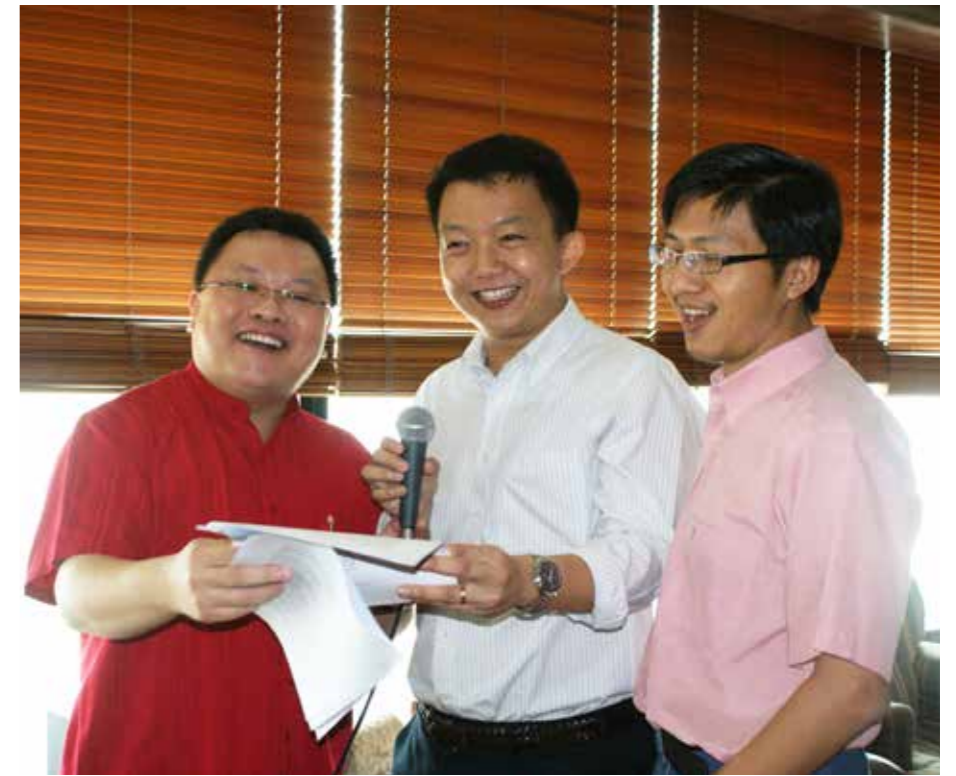
Yanxin & Wei Pin working hard at a Founder's Day Dinner

For many Committee members like Raymond Lim (Class of 1998) and Cho Pei Lin (Class of 1994), it is being able to serve the schools in whatever small ways they can. Pei Lin is also in charge of issuing letters of membership to Association members who are registering their children for Primary One registration. "We know how important Primary One registration is for some of our Alumni Association members and try our best to allay their concerns by updating them about the registration process like reminding them to request the letters from us two months prior to registration date."

His strong interest in Fairfield's history prompted Zhan Yanxin (Class of 1997) to join the Committee. Yanxin was hoping that he could learn more about the rich history and heritage of the school by being part of the Committee. After joining the Committee, he not only learned more about the history of the school, but enjoys meeting up with old classmates and teachers during Alumni events.

Whilst parents send their children to Fairfield to study, the best memories of Fairfield tend to be unrelated to academics. Kelvin remembers leading worship at Chapel and leading the Chess Team to National Schools Tournament as President of the Chess Club. Wei Wei remembers fondly the canteen stall aunty in Primary school that sells luncheon meat and potato rice, and her Principal Miss Cheong Yuen Lin who took time to teach them their 'Ps and Qs'.

For Felicia Foo (Class of 1976), chapel services were definitely her best memories. She also fondly remembers her math teacher Mrs Chiu Peck Siong. Similarly, Raymond remembers his Chinese teacher Miss Law, his Secondary One Physical Education teacher Miss Jessie Sing, Literature teacher Miss Emmanuelle and



Kelvin at Alumni Teacher's Lunch 2010

his Geography teacher Mr Charles Chan. Although feared in school, Discipline Masters like Mr Hou Meng Hsien and Mr Siew Lin Tuck are also fondly remembered by many Committee members!

Why continue to serve in the Alumni Association? Felicia shared, "In the many events that we organise, we share a sense of achievement when, as a committee, we know that we have created another platform for Fairsians to come together and through them, create yet another shared memory with each other."

In fact, many Committee members shared about being witness to God's goodness and faithfulness whilst serving in the Alumni Association. Wei Pin recounted, "At the last 2 carnivals, I was involved in the Alumni food stalls. God not only provided food items abundantly but food items were also fully sold out. Another incident was the 125th Founder's Day Service – a combined service with both schools. It was raining at the start of the event which was held in the open school field. The service started at the scheduled time despite the rain and we were all holding umbrellas. As we sang the opening hymn 'Great is thy faithfulness', the rain gradually stopped and by the end of the hymn, the rain stopped completely!"

Would you be keen to also serve in our Alumni Association Committee? Join us at our Annual General Meeting at 10am on **3 March 2018! Email info@fairfieldalumni.org.sg to register!**



Raymond with Mrs Chiu Peck Siong at the Fairfield@Neil Road visit

SAVE THE DATE

AND JOIN US!

Fairfield celebrates our 130th birthday this year. We look forward to having all of you join us at the events:



03
MARCH

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION AGM

Join us at our AGM at 9.00am and meet other Alumni Association members! This is also the event to attend if you want to join the wonderful Alumni Association Committee!

CARNIVAL @ FAIRFIELD

The Alumni Association is putting together food and beverages stalls and a 'thrift stall' selling almost-new items! Gather your friends and volunteer to run a F&B stall or help us out at our thrift stall. Donate and sponsor products for sale – brand new or almost-new. Watch out for more announcements on our Facebook page!

07
APRIL



04
AUGUST

FOUNDER'S DAY THANKSGIVING SERVICE

This Founder's Day, join us as the entire Fairfield family gathers for a combined thanksgiving service as we give thanks and celebrate 130 years of God's grace and blessings upon the school. The Alumni Choir led by alumni Samuel Kwan is going to be performing at this event! If you would like to join the Alumni Choir, please get in touch with us!

FOUNDER'S DAY DINNER

In the evening, come paint Raffles City Convention Centre yellow and blue as we celebrate the school's birthday together. Early bird booking before 31 May 2018: \$130 per pax. After 31 May 2018: \$160 per pax. Students: \$110. Class of 2017: \$90 (after \$20 subsidy from FMS(S))
Email info@fairfieldalumni.org.sg for bookings now!

04
AUGUST



SAY HELLO

to our new VP: Ms Ng Swee Lin

Interview conducted by Cherelle Lee (Primary 6G 2018) & Kanchana Puravalan (Primary 6A 2018)

“Never think that you are too small, inexperienced or that you are not as smart as others. You are special in your own way. Work hard and others will see it.”

These were the words of wisdom our new vice-principal, Ms Ng Swee Lin shared. We had the privilege of getting up close and personal with her. At first, we were nervous about meeting her, but she turned out to be so warm and welcoming that we were quickly put at ease.

Ms Ng brings with her to FMSP over 30 years of teaching experience. She last served at Kranji Primary School. So far, she feels that Fairfield is a good mission school, strong in enforcing Christian values and provides distinct programmes such as the daily morning devotions.

As we interviewed her, we were thrilled to find out a few surprises about her! She thoroughly enjoys social dancing and also likes watching cooking shows such as “Jamie Oliver”. She is also an

avid K-pop fan even though she does not understand Korean. When asked what colour crayon she would be in a box of colourful crayons, Ms Ng replied that she is unable to choose any particular colour as she loves all bright colours.

Looking back, Ms Ng fondly remembers her school days,

“I remember that I was a quiet and shy girl in primary school. However, I became more confident in secondary school.”

When she was in Secondary School, Ms Ng had joined the badminton as her CCA and also became a member of the school band. She mentioned that she first played the cymbals. Even though the cymbals looked easy to play, she highlighted that it requires perseverance to endure the weight of the heavy instrument while marching. Focus was also necessary to hit the cymbals together on the right beat. Ms Ng also played the drums and the glockenspiel in the band. She was consistent and hardworking and this resulted in her teachers and seniors electing her as the Band Major in Secondary 3.

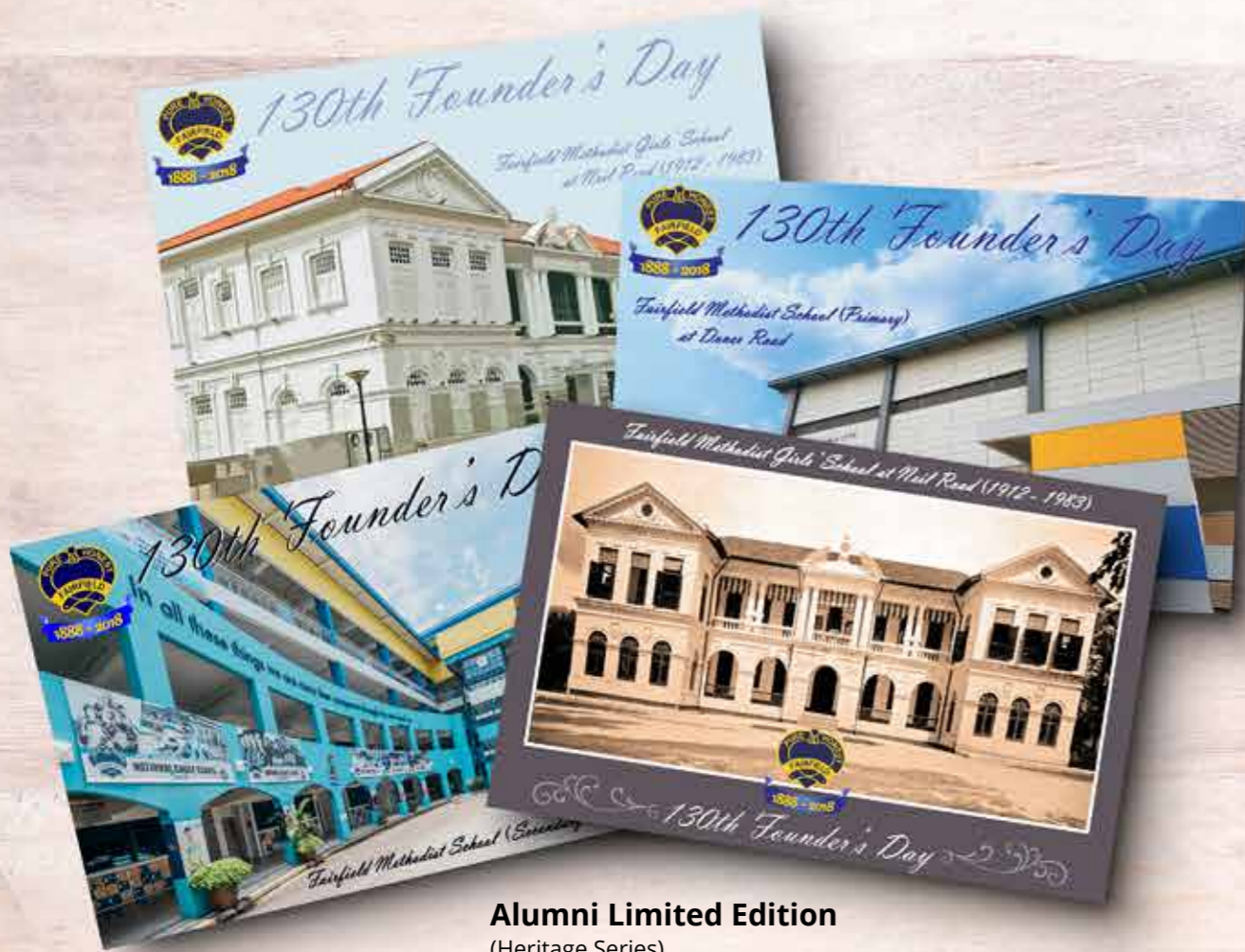
Fairfield is indeed blessed with the honour of having Ms Ng, a bright and cheery lady, as our new vice-principal. May God bless her with unending wisdom and joy as she leads the school to greater heights!



CARNIVAL @ FAIRFIELD

LIMITED EDITION STORED VALUE CARDS!

Instead of 'carnival coupons', the carnival this year on 7 April 2018 will feature stored value cards with beautiful limited edition designs! Book yours today at info@fairfieldalumni.org.sg or at the schools' General Office!



Alumni Limited Edition

(Heritage Series)
 400 Sets of 4 @ \$200
 Each Set, Stored value: \$180
 Can be purchased through

- Alumni (200 sets)
- FMS(P) (100 sets)
- FMS(S) (100 sets)



FMS(P) Limited Edition
 (House Series)
 200 Sets of 4 @ \$100 Each Set
 Stored value: \$80
 Can be purchased through FMS(P)

FMS(P) Limited Edition
 (Values Series)
 200 Sets of 4 @ \$100 Each Set
 Stored value: \$80
 Can be purchased through FMS(P)

FMS(S) Limited Edition
 400 Sets of 4 @ \$100 Each Set
 Stored value: \$80
 Can be purchased through FMS(S)

CURIOSITY & TENACITY BEHIND 'INVISIBLE CLOAK'

Eugene Lek, Winner of the Broadcom MASTERS International Award (Junior Scientist Category) at the Singapore Science and Engineering Fair 2017



An academically proficient student with an aptitude and strong interest in Science, Eugene carried out a science research project titled 'An 'Invisible Cloak' Prototype for the Evasion of Passive Infrared Radiation and Ultrasonic Sensors' and submitted it under the Junior Scientist Category of the 2016/2017 Singapore Science and Engineering Fair. For his excellent work, Eugene was awarded the top prize of the 'Broadcom MASTERS International Award' in the Junior Scientist Category.

While preparing for the competition, Eugene exhibited curiosity and tenacity, which were aligned to the Fairsian outcomes of wisdom and personhood. Eugene also went on a fully sponsored trip to Los Angeles, USA to attend the Broadcom MASTERS International Programme and visit the Intel Science and Engineering Fair.

How did you feel when you were awarded the top prize of the Broadcom MASTERS International Award at the Singapore Science and Engineering Fair 2017?

I felt overjoyed as I did not expect to win the top prize since there were many other projects that were theoretically more advanced than my project.

What did you do for your science research project?

I was wondering how secure the security systems really were. How likely was it for anyone to go undetected in a highly-secured facility? This intrigued me enough to decide to test them out for myself. As such, I set up and calibrated common security sensors as well as designed and built a suit that would enable one to go undetected among those sensors.

What was a particularly memorable experience during the conduct of your science research project?

Mr Ngoei was a very demanding mentor who expected me to do my best, so it felt really satisfying when I finally managed to complete my project by successfully putting on my suit and walking around undetected by the common security sensors.

What sparked your interest in Science?

I started developing a passion in Science since primary school without knowing why. But one thing I know for sure is that the constant discovery of new things that happen around us still continues to intrigue me.

Honestly, I hope to become an engineer rather than a scientist in future. I wish to use the new ideas that scientists discover to create and develop solutions for the people around us.

How was your experience at the Broadcom MASTERS International programme and the Intel Science and Engineering Fair at Los Angeles? What did you learn from it?

The experience was great. I got to meet people who were of the same age as me from all over the world who were equally passionate about Science. I not only learnt about the projects that others had done, but found out about the limited resources they had while carrying out their science research projects. For example, most of the other students I met had no teacher mentors to guide them in the planning and execution of their projects. They had to rely on themselves to find the necessary resources to do so. I am just thankful that in our schools in Singapore, we have dedicated teachers who help us to learn about new things and grow in personhood.



Are there any key people from Fairfield Methodist School (Secondary) whom you owe your success to?

Yes indeed. The FMS(S) SPEAR (Science Programme for Education of Aspiring Researchers) teacher mentors most definitely played an important role in my success. Their guidance allowed me to improve my skills and better carry out my project.

The laboratory technicians also often went the extra mile in helping us to prepare the laboratory equipment and in ensuring our safety while we were in the laboratory carrying out our projects.





Ministry of Education
SINGAPORE

From Relief Teaching to MOE Teaching Award

Teaching Scholarship Presentation Ceremony 2017



As an ex-student of Fairfield Methodist School (Secondary), Sandy was highly self-motivated, diligent, and driven by a spirit of excellence to produce quality work each time. A patient and considerate friend, she was exemplary in her conduct and speech, and was a positive influence among her peers.

Besides being an active Student Councillor, she was a dedicated member of the Girls' Brigade. Her good leadership qualities and positive attributes enabled her to be chosen as the Chairperson of the Girls' Brigade Company from 2013 to 2014. During her stay with the company, she contributed actively to the company's achievements in various events and competitions. In 2014, she was awarded the prestigious Pioneer Brigadier's Brooch which is the highest local award given to an outstanding and deserving member of the Girls' Brigade.

What inspired you to take up the MOE Teaching Award?

One thing I wanted to do was to make a difference to the people around me. I was offered this opportunity when I was asked to return to Fairfield to work as a relief teacher. That was when I made my choice to apply for the MOE Teaching Award. During these five months, I really developed a deeper appreciation of my teachers as well as an understanding of the role of an educator. Teaching is certainly not an easy job as it requires a lot of effort, patience and tenacity but at the end of my journey, I felt that it was one of the most rewarding experiences one could have. It allowed me to see that I could make a huge difference in the lives of others.



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

I think Fairfield is extremely blessed to have such dedicated and encouraging teachers.

I would like to thank Ms Charlotte Belcher as she instilled a love of Literature in me through her engaging and enriching lessons. Her humour always made lessons something to look forward to and her faith in her students' potential was what motivated me to do well in the subject.

Mdm Toh Siew Lan was one of the best form teachers I had ever met. She encouraged and motivated all of us and never gave up on any student. Her tough love on us really brought my class together and inspired me to do the same as a teacher.

Furthermore, my Girls' Brigade and Student Council teachers showed me the importance of teaching and nurturing students beyond the classroom. I would like to especially thank Ms Joanna Lim, Ms Yee Minyi and Ms Liza who were especially encouraging and went the extra mile to care and reach out to their students.

I am also grateful to Ms Audrey Chen, Ms Tan Sor Tin and Mr Joseph Guo for giving me the chance to discover teaching as a career in Fairfield. I am also extremely thankful to all the teachers in the English and Literature Department, especially Ms Brenda Nio, Ms Tan Wei Min and Mr Alvin Chua, as they nurtured and guided me during my stint as a relief teacher.



How has your active involvement in the Girls' Brigade in Fairfield influenced and nurtured you to become the person you are now?

During my time in the Girls' Brigade 3rd Company, I certainly learnt a lot through participating in the weekly devotions, drill sessions, recreational time, annual camps and national events. I became more disciplined, picked up new skills and gained some of my best friends.

I was also extremely honoured to be given the opportunity to step up and serve as a leader in my company as the Chairperson. I learnt how to manage a team, to communicate effectively and to take responsibility for the decisions made. It was through this experience and journey that I got to come out of my shell and more importantly grow in faith through the challenging times of balancing school work and CCA commitments.



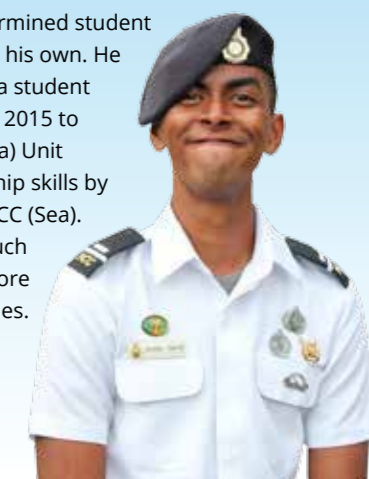
What advice would you give to the current students at Fairfield?

Be tenacious and never give up because all of you have a lot of potential to succeed. Don't be afraid to take up opportunities and rise to the occasion when you are given the chance to because they will help shape you as a person beyond your studies. All the best and God bless all of you!



DANIEL DAVID: A TEACHABLE AND WELL-ROUNDED ACHIEVER

Daniel David, Class of 2017, is a selfless and determined student who always prioritises the needs of others above his own. He has also matured in the course of his journey as a student in Fairfield. As the Assistant Sergeant Major from 2015 to 2016 and the Unit Sergeant Major of the NCC (Sea) Unit from 2016 to 2017, he demonstrated his leadership skills by actively nurturing and mentoring his juniors in NCC (Sea). He also attended multiple school programmes such as the Catalyst Programme, and emerged as a more disciplined leader who displays sound moral values. He shared with us how he felt when he collected his results and who he attributed his success to.



How did you feel when you collected your results?

I felt a surge of excitement course through my veins as I walked up to my form teacher, Mr Alester Tan, to collect my results. After receiving it, I felt really humbled and overjoyed with my results, as all the late nights I spent studying and personal enjoyments I temporarily sacrificed to focus on my studies had finally paid off.

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

I owe my success in NCC (Sea) to Ms Liza, Ms Michelle Tan, Mr Wee Guo Yuan, and most importantly, Ms Trixie Chan, as they gave me the opportunity to assume the role of Assistant Sergeant Major of NCC (Sea) from 2015 to 2016. I am also grateful to Ms Karen Chin for placing her trust and confidence in my abilities to assume the position of Unit Sergeant Major from 2016 to 2017.

I would also like to thank the following teachers who have shaped my character, namely Mr Alester Tan, Mr Eza, Mr Joel Li, Ms Brenda Nio, Ms Shahirah Banu, Mr Leonard Ngoei, Mr Joel Tan, Mr Yap Hock Heng, Mr Dannish Kurniago, Mr Eric Loh, Mr Lee Yew Ming, Mr Alex Woo, Mrs Lim Hwee Ling, Ms Thio Lay Hong and Mr Tan Puok Yuee.

Some honourable mentions include Mr Joel Li, who always gave me an expectation to live up to. He also enrolled me in a programme that effectively tackled and resolved the disciplinary issues I was beset with. Ms Brenda Nio made me realise that reputation is like a piece of paper. Once

it is crumpled and torn, it can never go back to its original form. Mr Lee Yew Ming proved to me that punishment isn't always the solution to tackle malicious behaviour, and that at times, you have to understand an individual's background, reason for causing mischief as well as the negative peer influences, and give him or her the necessary advice so that they may avoid making the same mistakes. These teachers helped me to demonstrate clarity in making sound decisions in the course of my studies in Fairfield.



I also owe my success to my parents, who encouraged me to take up the option of being laterally promoted to the Normal (Academic) stream in Secondary Two. Having attained a PSLE score of 148 points, I was originally from the Normal (Technical) stream in Secondary One. But my parents believed that I was able to soar higher and do better, and pushed me to my limits to meet the criteria for a lateral transfer to the Normal (Academic) stream. With persistence and tenacity, I did well enough to qualify for the lateral transfer.

I am also thankful to my form teachers then, Ms Helen Chong and Mr Gary Chew, who encouraged me to go ahead with the lateral transfer. A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step, and this opportunity was that first step I took.

How did you manage your time between your commitment towards your studies and holding key appointments in your CCA?

To me, CCA was a stress-reliever. The camaraderie I forged amongst my cadets and schoolmates always gave me a reason to look forward to my CCA every Wednesday and Friday. It is important to plan ahead and prioritise what needs to be done first. This really helped me to cope well with both my studies and CCA.

Do you have any advice for the 2018 batch of Secondary 4/5 students?

You should never ever disregard the amount of effort our Fairfield teachers are willing to put in to help you succeed at the national examinations. Everyone is born with the ability to do something special, and should see themselves as being capable of doing well in their studies. Even if you fail, you must understand that every successful individual has encountered failures before reaching the top. Colonel Sanders, the founder of the recipe for KFC chicken, had his recipe turned down 1009 times before it was accepted. As an inventor, Thomas Edison made 1,000 unsuccessful attempts at inventing the light bulb before finally succeeding. Persistence and determination are key to achieving success, and I believe all of you will develop the willpower to do well in your national examinations.

Obituary

Tribute to Miss Lau Woon Yoke

Miss Lau Woon Yoke, Class of 1960, taught English and Mathematics to generations of Fairians from 1963 to 2005. In the late 1960s, following the call by the Ministry Of Education for schools to set up bands to promote music and culture, Miss Lau was the lady behind the Fairfield Brass Band. From its first 20 members, the Fairfield band has grown to be today's Symphonic band and celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2017. Miss Lau passed away peacefully on 27 Jan 2018. Here are some extracts from many tributes left for her on the Alumni Association's Facebook Page:



A more recent photo of Miss Lau and the Fairfield Symphonic band (Facebook)



Photo of the first twenty members of the School brass band with Miss Lau and instructor Mr Lancaster (1967 school magazine)

“
My deepest condolences to Miss Lau's family. I was in the brass band from 1975 to 1978 and she was always there at every practice and was strict on attendance. Thank you for your time with us and achieving the things we did. I was hoping to see you this year at the founder's day dinner. Rest in peace. - Nirmala Nanayakkara, Class of 1978
”

“
Fairfield Military Band, thereafter Fairfield Symphonic Band, has bred many an amazing musician, quite a handful of whom are active performers and teachers in the local music industry. I give thanks for the life of Ms Lau, for her initiation of the school band. We are indebted. May she rest in peace. - Dale Cheong, Class of 1999
”

“
Miss Lau is a selfless and patient teacher who is a role model to all Fairians. I remember sharing bus 198 with her every morning to school from Jurong. An inspiration to her students. Miss Lau you will be sorely missed by all. - Andy Han, Class of 2003
”

“
She was the only teacher in FMSS who tried to reach me for Christ. She is such a lovely, gentle and kind teacher who cared for her students. Rest in peace Miss Lau - a faithful servant of our Lord Jesus. - Jenny Yeo, Class of 1968
”