

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



Alumni Joel with his P5 & P6 form teachers Ms Patricia Lam & Mdm Koh Swee Kin



Mrs Tang, Auntie Ah Hua & Mr Wong



FAIRSIANS 'COME HOME'

By Chloe Chua (Sec 2E)



A selfie by Joel Tan with his teachers



A group shot for the memories!



Mrs Choe, Mr Wong, Ms Wong & Mr Siew



Past & Present Principals & Vice-Principals!



The beauties of our staff room (once upon a time!).



'You only learn from those you love' - Goethe



Mrs Neo & Mrs Lim with Sharon Liat

Alumni STAFF LUNCH

By Shanyl Ong (Sec 4E)

The annual Alumni Teachers' and Staff Lunch was held at the Asian Market Café at Swissôtel The Stamford on 22 April 2017. Organised by the Fairfield Methodist Schools' Alumni Association for our retired and long-serving teachers and staff of Fairfield, the event certainly brought back many fond memories for our teachers, as they took a trip down memory lane while chatting over great food.

What made the event even more memorable and interactive was the discussion on the project of revamping the Archives Room in Fairfield Secondary, a place which still holds fond memories for many of our alumni teachers and staff. Indeed, these ideas generated would indeed be useful for the planning and revamping of the Archives Room.

All in all, the Alumni Teachers' and Staff lunch was successful in bringing many together for an unforgettable gathering, before they get to see each other again during the Founder's Day Dinner. May all our teachers and staff continue to find joy in living and impacting the lives of others!



On 20 May 2017, the Fairfield Methodist Schools' Alumni Association held the Fairfield Homecoming event to provide a convenient platform for the Fairfield family to enjoy a time of fellowship and games within the warm embrace of the familiar blue and yellow walls. The myriad of engaging activities certainly achieved its aim of reuniting not just graduates of the various cohorts but also retired educators.

A carnival consisting of a multitude of amazing recreational activities and games was also organised for the Fairfield Family. The bouncy castle certainly appealed to the younger ones who had much fun playing in it. Parents and children also bonded more closely with each other through their joint participation in the carnival games like Nerf and Hoop Shot.



Many Fairsians from previous batches made the effort to form teams to participate in an exciting soccer tournament. The vociferous cheers and loud applause added much 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.

Whilst these events were ongoing, school guides from Fairfield Primary commenced the school tour, where they engaged parents of potential students about the various facilities and experiences the school provides to all Fairfield Primary students, so as to advocate the enrolment of their children into the Fairfield Family.



This year's Homecoming was made more memorable with the addition of the Tea With Retired Teachers which enabled students of previous cohorts to connect with their beloved former Fairfield teachers. This certainly brought back a plethora of fond memories of one's childhood spent under the guidance of these wonderful educators.

All in all, Fairfield Homecoming 2017 was a rousing success which undoubtedly ignited the spark of school pride amongst everyone in the Fairfield Family.

A Nostalgic Rock & Roll Night

By Chloe Chua (Sec 2E)



School leaders danced the night away



Alumni who are now serving in the schools



Truly a night of rock & roll!



Worship led by Mr Vincent Chia & Alumni Joel Loke



Class of 1992 with Mrs Tang & Ms Thio



A group shot for the memories



Mr Wee & Ms Shamsiah LOL

Happy Birthday Fairfield!



The Alumni Association Committee who organized the dinner

Fairfield celebrated her 129th anniversary on 4 August 2017 with a sumptuous dinner at Singapore Marriot Tang Plaza Hotel. The event saw Fairfield's generations of alumni and teachers coming together to celebrate God's faithfulness towards Fairfield.

Prior to the dinner, both staff and alumni members caught up with one another in light-hearted chatter. Many did not miss the chance to grab their own memento of this event through the photo booth and the souvenir booth, which were situated just outside the ballroom.

In line with this year's Founder's Day Dinner theme 'Nostalgia', a Kacang Puteh stand was set up within the venue where anyone who either

posted a fond memory on or liked the Fairfield Alumni Facebook page was entitled to free Kacang Puteh served in paper cone. Old-school games, such as the conventional pick-up sticks, five stones and kuti kuti, were placed at each table. This allowed all to reminisce fondly about their childhood, which brought about a sense of sentimentality. Furthermore, the best-dressed competition enticed many to put in much time and effort to dress nostalgically. In order to win over the judges and the audience, the selected candidates put on an exhilarating performance which made this Founder's Day dinner much more memorable.

Mr Vincent Chia was also invited to lead the worship session, where praise and glory were

given to God for His unwavering love and continued guidance in seeing Fairfield through the last 129 years. Thereafter, dinner served as a platform for all to interact and bond with one another. With the cake-cutting and the singing of the school song and hymn, the sense of school pride was evident as everyone joined in for a wonderful time of music and dance led by Fairfield's school leaders.

Indeed, this event reignited the spark of school pride and fond memories of Fairfield. The sense of unity was indeed palpable as everyone present joined in as one people to celebrate Fairfield's 129th birthday!



Mrs Law with Board Chair Mrs Joni Ong & Alumni members Sharon Liat & Cho Pei Lin



Power Fairsian Girls!

UP CLOSE & PERSONAL WITH OUR PS

Mdm Law and Ms Audrey Chen may be familiar faces for the current students and staff, but beyond daily assembly sessions and speeches, the team at In Tandem cornered them and asked them some really personal questions! They gamely answered:

Which schools did you go to?

L Mdm Law (L): I went to Balestier Girls' School (it's no longer around, though), then to Cedar Girls' Secondary School before attending Anderson Junior College.

A Ms Chen (A): Methodist Girls' School and Raffles Junior College

What were your CCAs in school?

L I was in the school band in secondary school. When I was in JC, in addition to joining the band, my co-curricular activities expanded to many outdoor adventure programmes as well.

A In secondary school, I was involved in Drama and Christian Fellowship. In JC, I was in the Choir and continued to act in drama productions.

Share with us your best memories of your school days.

L Our lessons were usually carried out within the confines of the classroom. So my best memories are CCA activities which I enjoyed being with friends, outside of classroom, and even better, outside school (e.g., national day performances, inter-school band competitions).

A My best memories were of my JC days. I had a very intellectually stimulating environment in the Humanities Programme class and enjoyed the lively discussions that we had on all kinds of topics. I also had a great time with my Choir friends, breaking out into song quite randomly in the canteen and wherever we gathered.

When did you first become interested in teaching?

L Unlike many school principals, teaching isn't my first and only career. I studied and practiced law (my surname's sake) for a couple of years before I decided to take a break to do something different. The break happened to be a teaching stint at a JC where I found myself enjoying it tremendously. So the rest was, as they say, history...



Ms Chen back in MGS days (circled in red)

A I did not set out to become a teacher. I had applied for a Public Service Commission scholarship to study Economics and Sociology, but was offered a Singapore Government Scholarship for teaching, and asked to study Literature and Mathematics instead. Although initially hesitant, I decided to take up this scholarship when I considered the very enriching experience I had on the Humanities Programme under my Literature and General Paper teacher, Mr Keith Wiltshire. I wanted to follow his example and become a teacher who could inspire her students to think critically and have a love for learning.



Ms Chen with students of FMS(S)

Favourite Bible verse

L Phil 4:13 : "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

A I like many verses, but one favourite that has endured over the years is Romans 8:28

Tell us something else we do not know about you!

L I've got an unforgettable, and harrowing, adventure to tell. In 1995, a few colleagues and I climbed Mount Rinjani in Lombok when the volcano rumbled from sleep and erupted in the centre of the crater lake. We ran from the crater (yes, we were already there), through the night, and all the way down to safety. Then we found ourselves all covered in ashes and reeking of sulfur. We have only God to thank for preserving our lives!

A I've stayed in a yurt in an alpine meadow in Kyrgyzstan.

What do you like most about Fairfield so far?

L The caring culture of the school where teachers always go the extra mile to help our children learn- not just the subjects, but about values that we cherish and life that we desire to live out according to God's purposes for our lives, and gifts that God has blessed each one of us.



Mdm Law playing in the School band

FAIRFIELD TURNS 130!

You're invited to join in the celebrations!

Save these 2018 dates!

7 Apr: Fun Fair Buy funfair tickets, sponsor something, join us & run a stall!

4 Aug: Founder's Day Dinner

Venue: Raffles City Convention Centre

Gather classmates & form

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!



Mdm Law during National Day celebrations

A Fairfield has a warm family culture and the staff are very friendly and helpful people. The PiE parents have been such a blessing to me, and I really appreciate how they give so generously of their time to help the school and pray for us.

What do you hope to achieve during your term as Principal of Fairfield?

L The history of Fairfield is an amazing

story of intrepid principals who responded to the call of God to build, grow and bless the school through the decades. I hope to continue this legacy to lead the school to another height where our children are engaged in their learning, are able to forge strong friendships and develop love for the school, and love for God. Also, through these VUCA (volatile, uncertain, complex, ambiguous) times, I hope to be able to lead and walk with the teachers in finding and

learning new ways of doing things to keep abreast of curricular changes and changing expectations of teaching.

A I hope to be able to do my small part in creating a culture of thinking in the school and nurturing students who are able to be positive influences wherever they go.



FAIRSIANS IN CHINA

Dong Zhou Immersion Trip

On 23-28 May 2017, a group of Primary Five students were led by our school principal, Mdm Law and five teachers to participate in the cultural exchange programme with Dongzhou Primary School in Shanghai, Haimen. During the trip, the students were immersed with the local cultures through experiential learning. They attended Chinese, Mathematical and Physical Education lessons with their buddies from Dongzhou Primary School. To enhance their learning on Chinese cultures, they also had hands-on experiences on local activities such as cloth-dye and making of kites, fragrant-sachets and rice-dumplings. From this trip, the students have learned to be more independent and confident.





FMS(S) Girls' Brigade Celebrates its 80TH Anniversary

by Rebecca Chan Si Ting (Sec 2B)

At GB we seek serve & follow Christ

To commemorate the 80th anniversary of the FMS(S) Girls' Brigade (GB) Third Company, many exciting activities were lined up. Besides the annual GB Enrolment Service, a Fancy Drill performance and a Ukulele Band performance were put up by the Secondary 4 and Secondary 3 Girls respectively. In addition, the lower secondary Girls took the opportunity to create a Heritage Board to showcase the Company's progress over the 80 years.

The Secondary 4 Girls put in much time and effort to perfectly synchronise their movements with the selected music for the Fancy Drill. This enabled them to put up a spectacular performance at the Indoor Sports Hall at FMS(P). The Secondary 3 GB Girls also took the chance to perform a few beautiful songs on the ukulele, which allowed the parents to indulge in the music while enjoying their refreshments at the school canteen.

The Girls also participated in the Low Guat Tin (LGT) National Challenge in March. In preparation for this challenge, the Girls outlined and sewed squares of cloth with designs depicting what GB meant to them, with the guidance of their teachers and parent volunteers. On the day of the LGT challenge, together with the other GB Companies, they sewed sections of cloth to create the largest patchwork measuring 30 metres by 30 metres, in an attempt to break a record in the Singapore Book of Records.

The Girls also spent much time and effort researching for relevant information to do up the Heritage Board for the LGT Challenge. This process enabled the Girls to learn more about the history of the Girls' Brigade in FMS(S). They discovered that the Girls' Brigade was very different in the past. With the guidance of the teachers, the Girls managed to complete each of

their parts and finally create the Heritage Board!

Through these activities, the girls learnt important values such as patience, teamwork and resilience. Everyone also enjoyed their time there and created memorable and meaningful moments with each other.



Music is also a large part of GB



We have loads of fun too!



Happy Blessed Birthday GB!



Performance by our Junior girls



At the enrolment service



Ng Han Boon A Resilient and Responsible Achiever

Han Boon is a teachable and reliable student who works very hard to strive for academic improvement in all his subjects. He displays great resilience to go beyond his comfort zone to test his limits and maximise his potential, as seen from his promotion from the Secondary 1 Normal (Technical) stream to the Secondary 2 Normal (Academic) stream at the end of 2013 and promotion from the Secondary 2 Normal (Academic) stream to the Secondary 3 Express stream at the end of 2014. For all his hard work and resilience, Han Boon was awarded the Edusave Scholarship in 2013, the Edusave Merit Bursary in 2014 as well as the Edusave Character Award in 2014.

Han Boon's depth of computer knowledge, dedication and leadership skills enabled him to mentor and influence his juniors effectively. As the Vice-President of Media@Fairfield in 2015, Han Boon and his fellow Media Club mates built and programmed a flamethrower robot which won the Best Mechanical Design at the World Robots Tournament 2014. In 2015, he also helped to build a quadcopter drone for the Singapore Amazing Flying Machine Competition.

As the Community Student Leader of his class from 2013 to 2016, Han Boon contributed greatly to the community by discharging his duties responsibly. He engaged elderly citizens on a regular basis to spend time with them, packed hampers to bless the less privileged and organised block parties in collaboration with the Dover Community Club for the Dover residents.

Han Boon's passion for Information Technology kept him busy during his leisure time. He co-developed a website for a photography company, programmed and self-published a smartphone application which was available for download on

Google Play Store. After his GCE O-Level examinations, Han Boon continued with his web-design business and is exploring possibilities to launch another small business.

He is currently studying Information Technology at Singapore Polytechnic.

How did you feel when you collected your results?

I felt nervous. As I worked really hard in the last four years, failure was not an option for me.

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

I would firstly like to thank my family members for supporting me tremendously.

Next, I would like to thank my FMS(S) teachers for always selflessly helping and supporting me. One of my fondest memories was that of a particular English Language teacher who expected us to bring and use 11 highlighters of different colours to better organise the information in our notes and to make revision for the GCE O-Level examinations easier for us. Initially, the whole class did not realise the effectiveness of this method. However, I made tremendous improvement in the course of my Secondary 4 year, from scoring a C6 to achieving a B3 at the GCE O-Level English Language examination.

Every teacher in Fairfield helped me to improve my results. I had really dedicated teachers who sacrificed their lunch to have consultation with me for three hours. I also had committed teachers who sacrificed their personal and family time to help me even though they did not teach me.

I would also like to thank my school leaders, especially Mr Alan Lim who personally helped me.

Lastly, I would like to thank my friends and classmates who morally supported me. We would laugh together, work together and lend each other a helping hand in difficult times during my arduous journey.

Without these people, I would not have made it this far.

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

Time management was not my forte. I used to be very playful and not care about my studies until one day I reaped what I sowed and got into trouble. My parents and school leaders really got me to work harder to create a better future for myself. Since I always wanted to pursue a career in Information Technology and engineering, I knew I had to start working harder and display greater focus in my studies. I convinced myself that this stressful period would not last forever as I would rather sacrifice ten months of freedom to study in my dream course the following year.

Do you have any advice for the 2017 batch of Secondary 4/5 students?

Only you have full control of your future. Experiencing a failure only teaches you to be stronger and to desire for greater success. There isn't a dead end unless you tell yourself that there is. Even if you did not do well, there will always be another opportunity awaiting you. Only you can prevent yourself from achieving success in life. All the best!



Class of 1962 Parties on!

To God be the glory, Great things He hath done

Contributed by Dr Low Guat Tin (Class of 1962)

We rejoiced on July 6th, 2017, when 110 of us were able to come together and give thanks at a thanksgiving and reunion dinner. We were honoured to have with us our ex-principals – Mrs Tay Poh Luan, Mrs Tang Poh Kim, and Ms Dorothy Ho. Many other teachers who taught us in the fifties and sixties were also able to join in the gathering. Also present was one of the oldest Alumni alive - Mrs Lee Miu Ling. Mrs Lee was a past president of the Fairfield Alumni Association and is a hale and hearty 95 year old!

We are grateful to the organizing committee chaired by Ms Mock Wong Leng and five others who worked tirelessly for months to gather everyone from the Class of 1962.

Those who joined in the party had a very good time as we had a happy reunion, knowing that it is God's love that has bind us together all these 55 years since we left Fairfield! We are very grateful to teachers and principals of Fairfield who created such a safe haven for us to grow up in. Our friends flew in from USA, UK, Australia

and China. This cohort is special because we started celebrating our 30th reunion in 1992 and subsequently, we have been celebrating every 5 years.

Many happy memories of our school days were brought back to us through a PowerPoint presentation by Ms Sylvia Tan who spent weeks pouring through old photographs and magazines. Everyone left happy and looking forward to our next reunion. We decided to meet every two years instead of five!

So, with one voice, we sang "Be Thou My Vision" and "To God be the Glory". Indeed, TO GOD BE THE GLORY!

