

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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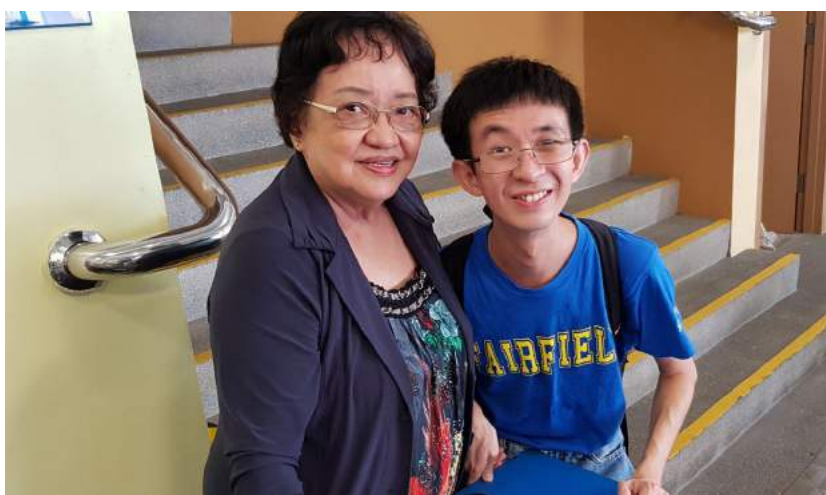
The Alumni Association Committee (Class of)

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
Eunice Yao	1999
Adrian Tan	1996
Joseph Guo	1997
Zhan Yanxin	1997
Raymond Lim	1998
Chan Wei Da	2001
Joel Tan	2005
Stephanie Ang	1999



Awesome 130 YEARS OLD!

Last year was an awfully busy year for the Fairfield family and the alumni made sure we did not stay idle at all! We started the year with Carnival@Fairfield, and carried on by gathering our Alumni Choir for the combined Founder's Day Service, the opening of the Archives, and of course, organized our annual Founder's Day Dinner. We were definitely busy but also very happy to have contributed to the shared memories of our awesome 130th Founder's Day celebrations. As we always sing...only busy folks will be bright and true and gay! Here are some photographs for the memories!





SAVE THE DATES

FAIRFIELD HOME-COMING

Alumni Soccer Tournament . Primary One School Tour . Reunions

25 MAY 2019

@ FAIRFIELD SCHOOLS

131st FOUNDER'S DAY DINNER

4 AUGUST 2019

SHERATON TOWERS SINGAPORE

Email us at info@fairfieldalumni.org.sg for more information or to book your tables now!



CARNIVAL@FAIRFIELD CHRONICLES

Last year, on 7th April, the entire Fairfield family gathered at Dover Road for Carnival@Fairfield 2018! The Alumni had two huge stalls in the Primary School hall – a thrift stall and a bakery. We reproduce here some articles from our secondary school students and photographs for the memories!

ALUMNI ALLEGIANCE

by Phoebe Tan and Chloe Chua (Sec 4E)

Here's an idea:

This coming Teacher's Day, gather a group of friends, and work together to move your favourite (or least favourite) teacher's beloved car from its spot in the parking lot to the middle of the school field!

How's that for an epic Teacher's Day hoax?

Sounds too surreal? Believe it or not, decades ago, this very prank was executed right on Fairfield's very own soil!

Desmond, who was from the Class of 1989, heartily recounted this escapade, as he was a member of the group who executed the plan.

Desmond and his friends returned for Carnival@Fairfield, an event which allowed alumnus of all ages to visit their beloved alma mater.

A queue formed in front of the merchandise stall, and another in front of the photo booth. Laughter filled the air, as many generations of Fairsians gathered in Fairfield in nostalgic remembrance of the memorable activities they had in this very school.

"Remember when...?" The chatter continued incessantly.

The past century has been kind to Fairfield, and in turn, the school has, undoubtedly, positively impacted countless lives.

"I'm really glad to be a part of Fairfield's 130th birthday and a part of Fairfield's history and future too." Gina Tan, a Fairsian from the 2007 batch reminisced, "I was in Fairfield Netball and Student Council during my time in Fairfield, and what I remembered most fondly was the friends I had made here. We still keep in contact with each other, and with our teachers too, even after graduating from Fairfield." When asked about his wish for Fairfield, Desmond replied, "My hope is that the current principals and vice principals will bring the school



to the next level by continuing the good work they have been doing."

"Even in the next decade, I hope that Fairfield continues to remain at the same place, and hold the same charm and warmth!" Mr Goh Sheow En, a Fairsian and former teacher of Fairfield Primary reflected. His wife, Ms Joy Sim, a Fairsian herself, added, "My daughter is going to be enrolled in Fairfield in future!"



DUNK TANK DIARIES

by Chloe Chua (Sec 4E)

How much would you pay to get back at your teachers?

The day of celebration saw a particularly large crowd gathered below the main stairwell, where an unfortunate teacher perched atop the tank of water. A volleyball launched straight at the trigger button sent him right into the freezing water below.

The crowd erupted into cheers.

But it didn't start there: The team behind Dunk Tank began its work two weeks prior to the carnival. The Alumni planned the occasion, while the general student body nominated the victims. The Fairfield spirit was evident and dynamic, which played an important role in hyping up the upcoming fiesta, where Fairsians past and present gathered together to furnish their support and cheer as one family.

Just how successful was the Dunk Tank in raising funds? Through a combined effort, the ten 'popular' teachers raised an aggregate of \$3,324.

Rain or shine, the dunking stall never fails to deliver! With the giant gym ball unveiled, a larger crowd gathered and cheered on Fairfield's very own Vice-Principal, Mr Alan Lim, as he made his attempt to dunk his fellow colleague and Vice-Principal, Mr Lim Sin Heng.

Mr Tan Chang Ci, known as 'Mr FBT' for his love of jogging in FBT shorts, was dunked a total of seven times. His valiant efforts were rewarded in the form of generous donations, as he raised the highest and most impressive amount of \$1,110.

To end it all off, the last teacher dunked that day was none other than the school's Discipline Master, Mr Vincent Chia.

"I don't know whether being chosen to be dunked should be taken positively or negatively. Does it mean they like you, or they don't? But I will take this as a compliment, since they are willing to spend money to dunk me." Ms Nio commented. "But let me put it on record: In five years, there will not be a third time!"



Indeed, Carnival@Fairfield brought generations of Fairsians back to Fairfield, where the dunk tank reignited every individual's deep love and gratitude for Fairfield. The Fairfield family definitely grew stronger together as a result of such memorable moments.

BAKING HER WAY TO SUCCESS

Carina Tan describes herself as a pastry enthusiast, a food lover and a mess creator. But she is definitely more than that – she is an international award winning pastry chef at Swissotel The Stamford & Fairmont Singapore. How did she embark on this journey?

Carina Tan graduated in 2010 from Fairfield Secondary and went on to study electrical engineering in Singapore Polytechnic. Armed with a diploma already, she then decided to pursue her interest in pastry and baking – and as she puts it herself, she has ‘not looked back since’. She formally studied pastry and bakery before joining a kitchen baking buckets of cookies, macarons and making chocolate decorations. Today, she is the Chef De Partie of Swissotel The Stamford & Fairmont Singapore.

“I enjoy working very much and I developed an even greater passion for chocolate making and pastries. Inspired by my peers and driven by my new-found love for chocolate works, I made my way into several competitions. Through these competitions, I expanded my knowledge and continued to hone my skills,” Carina shared.

Well in 2018, she took part in the internationally recognised patisserie competition – **Mondial Des Art Scurès** – which is held in Paris every two years, consisting of the top 16 countries around the world, like France, Japan, USA, Malaysia and Singapore. For the competition, they had to produce one chocolate sculpture and one sugar sculpture, each with a minimum height of 1.2m, and one mixed sugar and chocolate sculpture with a minimum height of 40cm. On top of that, they had to bake 30 chocolate and fruit confectionary, 20 ice cream petit cakes, 20 plated desserts and 4 chocolate entremets. These were all done over a span of 19 hours spread across 2 days. Indeed it was no easy task!

“In an international competition, we always try to bring our own personal touch to try and come up with something that is unique or not done before but of course most importantly try and show the best of what Team Singapore could bring to the world. It was a big but pleasant surprise that we were



placed 3rd out of 16 teams. It was a big reward personally for all the hard work the team has put in together and the support we received from everyone.”

It certainly seemed like a very tough competition and a challenging career! When asked if she will encourage others to join her profession, Carina had these tips, “It is not the easiest job to pursue, and the hard truth that not many will tell you that it is not the highest paying job one can get. However, if you are good at baking, it is one that will bring you great personal satisfaction from the joy that you bring to others.”

When asked what she remember of her time studying in Fairfield, Carina shared that it is filled with memories of the time spent with her friends and how they were all part of the school as one big family. “I think one of the biggest takeaways from my school days was the character development the school provided me, teaching me to put in the best that I can in everything that I do, even if one may not see the outcome initially.”

Fairfield's GOT Talent!

We definitely have plenty of talents in Fairfield. Here we catch up with some of our very talented primary school Fairsians!

GAVIN TEO: A YOUNG AND ASPIRING JUDO MASTER



01 How old were you when you started attending Judo lessons?

I believe I was only 3 years old when I started!

02 What do you usually do to prepare yourself for a competition?

I ensure that I eat healthily, including fruit and milk in my meals. I also train harder than usual!

03 Tell us how you felt when you won the Bronze Medal in an International Judo competition earlier this year?

Winning the medal felt glorious and I was very happy!

04 What do you want to be when you grow up?

I would like to be a Judo Olympian or a palaeontologist! I love dinosaurs as much as I love Judo!

05 What motivates you?

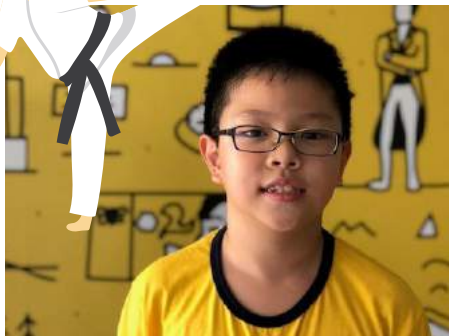
My family!

06 Who is your biggest supporter?

My grandfather!

07 Do you have a favourite sportsman or hero? Tell us what you admire about this person.

Lionel Messi from Argentina! He is a strong player and he works hard to achieve his goals!



DELPHINA TONG: FUTURE ARTIST AND FASHION DESIGNER

Delphina Tong, from Pri 3F, participated in the Singapore Youth Festival (SYF) 2018 Logo Design Contest and received the commendation prize.

We got the golden opportunity to interview this young and amazing artist! In the interview, Delphina mentioned what inspired her for this competition. She was inspired by some IKEA logos she had chanced upon while shopping with her mother.

They then had a conversation about which ones they liked and disliked, and discussed about what she would like to include in her artwork. Delphina used colours, shapes and lines which is reflected in her design. They were used to express and replicate the colourful and vibrant mood of the festival. The entire competition piece took her about 5 days to complete. Delphina enjoys using water colour as her main medium and she also loves to sketch. When asked how old she was when she first started painting, Delphina

said that she was only 6 years old!

Delphina aspires to be a fashion designer when she grows up. She revealed that red is her favourite colour, and of course, it would be the colour of the first piece of garment that she designs! She added that she has learnt that the meaning behind an artwork is very important. Every piece of art has a story to tell.

We wish to carry a message from Delphina to all aspiring artists in Fairfield and beyond, and that is to **press on, and never stop drawing!**

Check out Delphina's logo on the SYF Website!



Interview with Delphina by Constance Sam and Lee Yun Ning



Delphina with Mr Yuen and two other finalists of the SYF 2018 Logo Design Contest

ASHER SEOW: AN EXCEPTIONAL PIANIST

MEET ASHER!



Did you know that Fairfield has her very own concert pianist?

This little star is no other than Asher Seow from 3A!

When he was young, his mother allowed him to watch two popular and well-loved movies, 'Fantasia' and 'Silly Symphonies' – a series of 75 animated short films produced by Walt Disney Productions.

He was amazed by how Mickey Mouse could conduct the broom, stars and waves to do whatever he wanted them to do. That magical movie intrigued him and his interest was further sparked when he saw Lang Lang performing 'Rhapsody in Blue'. Lang Lang is a Chinese concert pianist who has performed with leading orchestras all over the world. Asher was deeply impressed by the agility and technical abilities he possesses and was spurred to become a pianist at the tender young age of three!

He admires many musicians but his favourite is Johann Sebastian Bach.

Bach's Double Violin concerto in D Minor is his absolute favourite composition by the famous musician of the Baroque period.

For young aspiring musicians in Fairfield and in Singapore who wish to pursue the Arts, Asher has these words of wisdom to impart:

Interviewers Megan Lee and Cherelle Lee

“Practice makes perfect. Practise meaningfully and slowly.”

Readers will be pleased to know that music is not the only love of Asher's life. As fascinated as he is with music, cats have proven to be equally mesmerising! He loves his pet cat who has blue eyes and a 'triangular face' dearly.

Not only did we have the opportunity to have a chat with him, but we also had the privilege of hearing him play the piano. The melodious music was moving beyond words, with each note played perfectly. We were delighted to see that he enjoys playing the piano and is so passionate about music at such a young age.

Even though the time spent with this young and extremely talented Fairsian was short, we are left with an indelible memory of him. It was truly a pleasure to get to know Asher better! We would like to take this opportunity to wish Asher all the very best in his musical journey in New York!

Article written by
Megan Lee and Cherelle Lee (Pri. 6G, 2018)

JOSHER LO & JOEL TAN: COMPOSERS IN THE MAKING

In January, our music teachers announced that they would conduct auditions for the SYF (Singapore Youth Festival) Songs and Logos contest. Initially, many were really excited to compose a song. However, time was not on our side, with the demands at home and school. We thought no one could afford the time to compose a song, but Joel and Josher from our school proved us wrong.

Joel and Josher worked diligently to make their dreams come true by creating a song for the SYF. What first started off as a small idea became a wonderful and marvellous song. Despite all demands on their time, they still managed to win the consolation prize.

We were honoured to have been given the opportunity to interview them.

We started the interview by asking Joel and Josher if they enjoyed composing the song.

They replied with a resounding, "Of course we did!"

They shared with us that it had been a very fruitful experience as they got to learn how to compose songs. They also learnt how to make the song more melodious.

We were interested to know who helped Joel and Josher with their composition.

"We managed to finish the song with the help of Ms Michelle Yap, our school music teacher, along with Mr Zakki, Mr Elfian, Mr Tan and our family," Joel and Josher remarked.

Next, we asked Joel and Josher if there was a time when they felt like giving up. They shared with us that not everything went smoothly. They had to go back to the drawing board when it was near the deadline as the melody did not fit the lyrics. They thought that they would never make it in time. However, with the help of their teachers and family, they managed to finish the song and handed it in.

We asked the duo, "What inspired you to compose the song?"

"Our dream is to become famous songwriters. So I guess this is the start of our career!"

Out of curiosity, we wanted to know what their favourite songs are. Surprisingly, Joel told us that "Take On Me" by A-Ha and "Rosanna" by Toto, both songs from the 80's,



Joel on the drums



Josher recording his part



The talented boys and their equally talented music teacher, Ms Michelle Yap



Josher, Joel, Joshua and Elijah



Interviewers Joshua and Elijah

were his all-time favourites. Josher revealed that his favourite songs were soundtracks from the movie, "How To Train Your Dragon", and the song "The River Flows In You" by Yiruma.

When asked if they wanted to compose more songs for the SYF in the future, both of them firmly replied, "Definitely!" without any hesitation.

We were also curious to know what instruments Joel and Josher play.

We discovered that Joel plays the drums while Josher plays the flute and the piano.

Lastly, we asked, "How did you feel when you won the consolation prize?"

"Actually, we were very surprised that we even won something. Honestly, we entered this contest for the experience and also to have fun together! If you think about it, the fact that we can still get a consolation prize even though we competed against 80 over competitors, is quite an achievement," Joel and Josher replied proudly.

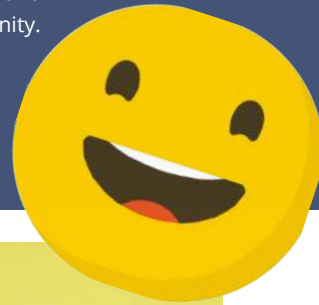
We are so inspired by this dynamic duo and we hope that other fellow Fairians will be just as inspired to let their talent shine! We would like to take this opportunity to thank Josher and Joel for their time and we wish them the very best in their musical pursuits! Who knows, they may be the next composers of the National Day song!

Article written by
Elijah Cheng and Joshua Ho
(Primary 6G, 2018)

BRINGING SMILES FOR MILES

As a Secondary 4 student in FMS(S) in 2018, Lee Wen Long was an exemplary leader who was competent in organising his team and proposing different ways to serve the elderly in the Dover community. He initiated solutions to problems and offered suggestions to resolve issues. When conflict arose during the Secondary 3 FLEX Week, Wen Long stepped forward to mediate the situation and encouraged his peers to contribute. He also displayed great compassion and patience with peers who were not easy to get along with, and was often willing to partner them in various projects. These acts demonstrated his commitment to serving the community.

Furthermore, Wen Long demonstrated resilience in both his academic and CCA pursuits. Despite holding leadership roles in both Media@Fairfield and as a Community Student Leader which entailed heavy responsibilities, he remained resolute in giving his best in his studies.



What were some projects that you initiated outside of school to help the less privileged?

My first project took place during the December holidays in 2016. My group of friends and I accompanied children from Kidzcare@Kembangan Chai Chee Centre during a one-day excursion to the Universal Studios Singapore. This was then followed by a Christmas Party, which was planned by us. It was carried out at one of the pavilion blocks near the Kidzcare@Kembangan Chai Chee Centre. The project aimed to provide a listening ear to the less privileged children so that they would feel included in the community.

In 2017, I founded an initiative titled 'Smile for Miles' with my peers. This Values-In-Action committee which I founded and worked in was established to reach out to the underappreciated, the underprivileged and the unhappy people in our society.

What motivated you to go the extra mile to organise such projects to help the less privileged, despite your busy schedule and heavy workload?

2015 was an important milestone in my journey, as this was the year I entered FMS(S). It dawned on me that I needed to demonstrate even greater commitment to my community because I believe that no one should be left behind. As Robert Ingersoll once remarked, "We rise by lifting others." It is ultimately our willingness to help one another that allows us to progress and become stronger together as a community.

What was one memorable experience you had while helping others?

I organised an Indoor Activity Day at D'Joy Children's Centre for kids in nursery and kindergarten. The project '#youthreadconcept - Kids for the Future' aimed to encourage reading among children. Art and Craft as well as storytelling sessions helped to spark innovation and reinforce the importance of reading. Beautifully wrapped donated storybooks were presented to the children during the event.

I really enjoyed my encounters with the children as they were very enthusiastic about the activities. Their smiles were indeed priceless. The twinkle in their eyes during the games and storytelling segments told me that more than anything, their thirst for fun learning experiences gave them the courage to smile despite the hurdles they face every day.



What advice will you give to Fairsians to motivate them to participate more actively in Values-In-Action (VIA) projects?

Fairsians, do consider organising a VIA project with your friends for the organisation that you are interested in. This need not be a large scale project. It can include many small different acts as simple as giving a card of thanksgiving to the cleaners, greeting 'Good morning, have a safe day ahead!' to bus drivers, and perhaps distributing drinks to construction workers who exhaust themselves under the hot sun.

You can also consider reaching out to the larger community through the multitude of organisations in Singapore. You can partner Willing Hearts, childcare centres, community clubs or even the Dover Residents' Committee.

You can also join the Community Student Leaders to engage in more of such projects. Moreover, you can put your e-mail writing skills in language classes, the calculations in mathematics classes, and the discussions in Lifeskills classes to good use and practice, as you communicate with the organisation, manage your budget and understand your community!



After all, all of us should lend a helping hand to the people around us so that our commitment to the immediate community can make us stronger together. This will then make the world a more peaceful and warmer place to live in.

8 QUESTIONS WITH CHIA CHI YU

Major Chia Chi Yu is an Alumni of Fairfield who is now a regular with the Republic of Singapore Air Force (RSAF) as a F-15SG weapon system officer. In Tandem sent him eight questions so that we can better understand what our air men do protecting our skies!

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

I am Chia Chi Yu, an alumnus of Fairfield Methodist primary and secondary schools. I was previously from Sec 4E, Class of 2001.

Question 2 : What were your CCAs in school?

I was in the school band in both primary and secondary schools. I was also a school prefect from Primary 5 through Secondary 4.

Question 3 : Best memories of Fairfield?

Band practice! Making great music with even better friends are some of my best memories in Fairfield. Be it preparing for the Singapore Youth Festival (SYF) Band Competitions or performing in New Zealand, the hours spent together never seemed enough – so much so that I even joined the Fairfield Alumni Winds after graduating. Also, I thoroughly enjoyed serving Fairfield as a prefect. The leadership opportunities given to me definitely helped me to make my decision to join the Republic of Singapore Air Force as an officer.

Question 4 : Most memorable teacher?

Ms Tamara Nair was my Geography and English teacher in secondary school. She was passionate about the subjects she taught and that passion definitely rubbed off on most of her students. She inspired me to be outspoken, enthusiastic and to think outside the box. She made class time fun and at the same time, gave us the space to learn and be creative. I try to apply the same when I train my junior aircrew today.

Question 5 : What did you do after you graduated from Fairfield? (in terms of further education etc)

After graduating from Fairfield, I went to Jurong Junior College. I enlisted for National Service in December 2003 and joined the RSAF in 2006. I have been with the RSAF since then.

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

I am a Weapons Systems Officer (Fighter) (WSO for short, pronounced 'Wizzo') by vocation. I fly with the pilot on the F-15SG and operate numerous advanced avionics, integrated sensor suites and weapons systems. The two-person team allows us to target multiple targets at the same time. The pilot focuses on the air-to-air fights, while the WSO focuses on ground targets. I am also a graduate of the inaugural F-15SG Fighter Weapons Instructor Course, held in Mountain Home Air Force Base in the USA. As a Fighter Weapons Instructor, I am the squadron's 'Chief Instructor' and am in charge of training both the pilots and WSOs on the F-15SG platform, ranging from junior aircrew learning to fly and operate the aircraft, to senior aircrew learning to be instructors on the jet. Operationally, I stand ready to defend Singapore's sovereignty and our Singaporean way of life.

Question 7 : Why should our students consider joining our RSAF?

The RSAF provides me with an unconventional, fulfilling and meaningful career path. My day at work takes me over 30,000ft into the air, past the speed of sound - sometimes inverted. My work also requires me to train overseas, where I learn and interact with our counterparts, and immerse myself in diverse cultures around the world! This is definitely an opportunity that few people have the privilege of experiencing.

Question 8 : Any words of wisdom for your junior Fairians?

It's not too early to start dreaming and planning for the future. Fairfield has provided me with the great environment to do that! As the saying goes – Any setbacks that you face are merely opportunities to something greater. Keep your chin up and continue to soar Above All!

