

IN TANDEM

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**CREATING
JOY IN
LEARNING**

The Alumni Association Committee (Class of)

| | |
|---------------|------|
| Kelvin Ong | 1989 |
| Cho Pei Lin | 1994 |
| Eunice Yao | 1999 |
| Lo Wei Pin | 1980 |
| Sharon Liat | 1977 |
| Felicia Foo | 1976 |
| Hannah Tan | 2002 |
| Low Guat Tin | 1962 |
| Zhan Yanxin | 1997 |
| Raymond Lim | 1998 |
| Stephanie Ang | 1999 |
| Joel Tan | 2005 |
| Chua Wei Wei | 1990 |
| Joseph Guo | 1997 |



Class of 1962 Continues to Create Fairfield Memories

By Miss Low Guat Tin (Class of 1962)

The class of 1962 is unique in more ways than one. In 1960, our dear afternoon school principal, Mrs Tay Poh Luan negotiated with the morning school principal, Miss Lim Geok Kheng to allow some of the afternoon school students to proceed to the morning school so that they can complete their education in Fairfield Methodist Girls' School.

You see in those days there were 2 different Fairfield schools—the morning and the afternoon schools. The morning school students could study all the way to Form IV (the equivalent of Sec 4 today) while the afternoon school ended at Form II (Sec 2). Those afternoon school girls with better grades then proceeded to study in various other schools which offer them a place. They went to MGS, Fairfield's morning school, or St Margaret's while others completed their education in private schools.

After much negotiation by Mrs Tay, we were finally able to take a common examination with the morning school girls in 1960. Those from the afternoon school who qualified transferred to the morning school. By the grace of God, I was one of them! Hence, many of us from the afternoon school started Form III (Sec 3) in the morning school.

Meanwhile, the afternoon school also offered classes leading to the Senior Cambridge Exams.

Such a motley bunch of girls—the rich 'siew che' (young ladies) and the boisterous girls like me, soon grew to accept one another and friendships blossomed. Though I have known many of the morning girls for only 2 years (Forms III and IV), we have become friends for life! We do not have to:

Drink hot coffee
Drink hot tea
Burn your lips
and Remember
me!



Remember these 'poems' that we used to write on one another's autograph books? Unique in more ways than one? Well, since we left school in 1962, many of us have been meeting once a month for dinner. I know of 2 groups who continue to meet up monthly for meals. (see photo of one group).

And, as a cohort, we continue to organize 'anniversaries gatherings' to meet our teachers and each other. Our first get together was in 1977, 25 years after leaving our alma mater. Since then, we met up once every 5 years (1982, 1987, 1992, 1997, 2012, 2017).

In 2017, Ms Wong Kok Yee felt that once every 5 years was too long a wait to meet old friends, so she suggested that we should meet once in 2 years. (Incidentally, Ms Wong also decided to sponsor the dinner from 2012, as the Lord has blessed her richly!)

The photos on this page are from our recent gathering in 2019. At each of these reunions, we have approximately 100 girls and teachers attending. Mrs Tay Poh Luan and Mrs Tang Poh Kim have always availed themselves to be at the dinner. Some teachers such as Mrs Tan Ting kim, the late Miss Margaret Tai, Mrs Neo Kah Lee, have also attended. We have classmates who flew back for these

reunions, Kim from the States, and others from Australia. How did we manage to gather so many? For this we must give credit to the organising committee.

Grandmas like Chew Geok Eng will personally call up almost everyone to invite them! What an onerous task! But she always do it cheerfully. We also tried to provide transport for some. It's all worth it as it's so great to catch up with each other and some of our teachers, at least once every 2 years. We look forward to our 60th anniversary! Wow we would have left Fairfield 60 years ago...or have we ever really left?







Save THE date

Founder's Day Dinner 2020

We gathered as one Fairfield family on 4 August 2019 and were blessed with great fun and good food! Save the date for 4 August 2020 – we will be going back to Sheraton Towers Hotel to bring the house down! Early bird tickets at \$110 per pax for bookings before 1 July 2020; students at \$90 per pax and Class of 2019 at a subsidized \$70 (subject to availability)! Hurry email us at info@fairfieldalumni.org.sg to 'chope' your seats!





Spreading Christmas Cheer and joy!

Happy birthday Jesus! We're so glad it's Christmas!

Christmas came slightly early on 7 December 2019 when Fairfield Alumni held its inaugural Christmas Carolling!!

Around 20 carollers gathered at the Archives where we started to prepare for the afternoon of carols, the cooling weather as a brilliant plus to the event! We had the privilege of carolling at 3 blessed homes. Starting with the beautiful home of Mrs Joni Ong, Chairman of our Board of Management. Followed by a visit at the cosy home of Mrs Chiu Peck Siong (teacher, special assistant, Fairfield Methodist School) and last but not least, the finale at the lovely home of Dr Low Guat Tin. It was a meaningful way to start the Christmas festivities as we carolled and shared the joy of the season. At each house,

we also blessed the home we visited, listened to Scripture on the Birth of our Lord Jesus Christ and also, in typical generous Fairfield Family tradition, savoured delicious treats prepared by each host (though we did specify just water to wet our lips after singing will do)! There was also rich fellowship as Fairsians gathered to spend the afternoon together, reminiscing (as always) and celebrating the blessings that Jesus has brought us in the year that has gone by.

Thank you to all the carollers who signed up for this event and to those who couldn't join us this time, there's always Christmas Carolling 2020! Watch our Fairfield Alumni social media for news of our next gathering and next year's carols!

Getting to know Mr Joel Lim

Mr Joel Lim has been a teacher in Fairfield for 13 years. In these 13 years, his passion and desire to produce interesting and out-of-the-box tasks is evident in all his lessons. His enthusiasm is highly infectious and he serves to be a huge source of inspiration to both students and teachers! He is a testament to one who does not hesitate to go the extra mile to deliver lessons that would inspire and motivate his students to excel. A loving husband and father, Mr Lim is also a loyal colleague and friend.

If someone narrated your life, who would you want to be the narrator?

The honour would definitely go to God first. Second choice would be my parents then followed by my wife, of course. Those closest to me as well... like my mentoring group.

On a scale of 1-10, how strict were your parents?

My parents were not strict and I am grateful for that. My parents used a balance of encouragement and discipline to raise me. My father is very creative and he loved creating games. We bonded through games. My mother is a very loving person. My parents have been a huge source of inspiration to me!

What is your greatest fear?

One of the greatest fears I have is to leave this earth without knowing that my life was significant. I want to make a difference and I hope that I have done so in my time in Fairfield.

What would you be working as if you were not a teacher?

Prison counsellor or Psychologist

FUN FACTS!

Mr Lim loves turtles! He once brought his pet turtles to the swimming pool for a swim!

Mr Lim's favourite movie of all time is TOY STORY. He loves it because it's about friendship and loyalty!

A most 'useless talent' that Mr Lim has is spinning pens. He also has a talent for making a fake knuckle-cracking sound. It sounds very real! Ask him for a demo!

A body part that he would not mind losing is his 4th toe on his left foot!

One of Mr Lim's favourite sports is ROCK CLIMBING!

The President's Award

for Teachers (PAT)

honours the achievements of educators who have a passion and commitment to teaching, inspiring and nurturing their students.

Launched in 1998, it recognises excellent educators for their dedication and hard work in developing our young.

Journal Entry: 4 Sep 2019

If someone were to ask me how I feel about receiving the PAT this evening, this is what I would share...

My heart is brimming with joy and thanksgiving for God's faithfulness! And even though this award is a great encouragement to me, the truth of the matter is...I did not achieve it on my own. You see, every spark and creative idea in the classroom, every success I have in mentoring and working with teachers, every breakthrough in solving problems at work...

All these come for one single source - our Heavenly Father above. As much as I felt so honoured at the Istana, the true honour and glory must go to God...

Because without Him, I am nothing. And throughout my journey as a teacher, God has used my students, placed fellow teachers and God-fearing leaders alongside me, to sharpen and grow me to be a better person. As such, this award cannot be mine alone. It must be shared with my Fairfield family, whom I have been so privileged to work with.

They are the ones who have inspired me and taught me how to be a good teacher. I have received so much grace from God, so much blessings in the people around me.

All praise and glory to Him for His faithfulness in my life. :)



Scan Me to read more about it!

Discourse is Critical to Learning

Mr Joel Lim provides a psychologically safe learning environment so that the students are not afraid to fail and gives them an incentive to contribute to the discourse. That discourse, he says, is vital to learning.

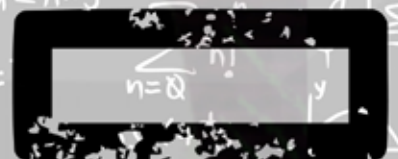
"If you have very strong discourse, you don't have to write anything down," says Joel, who has been a Lead Teacher for three years.

A good teacher, he says, will explain a concept. A very good teacher can explain that concept clearly. But a truly excellent teacher will guide learners to discover the concept for themselves. That is when the knowledge truly sinks in.

Mr Lim's job is to facilitate the students to get to the "aha" moment, he says. "That's when it shifts from a very good lesson to an amazing lesson. That meaning-making, that sense of achievement is so strong, it's etched into them. I want them to achieve joy."

At the heart of his pedagogical approach is inquiry-based learning and problem-based learning. With inquiry-based learning, students are encouraged to explore materials, ask questions and share ideas. With problem-based learning, students learn through solving an open-ended problem.

The exercise to find the height of the flagpole is an example that combines both pedagogies. Trying to determine the height of tall objects is a problem that they have to solve and students learn basic principles of Mathematics by trying to solve this problem. Along the way, students are encouraged to ask questions, to experiment and learn by trial and error and have productive failure.



**CAN A TEDDY BEAR BE USED TO
TEACH MATH?**

**YES!
ACCORDING TO MR JOEL LIM!
AS WELL AS QUADCOPTERS AND
M&MS!**

**HERE'S HOW HE KEEPS HIS
STUDENTS HOOKED THROUGH
FUN AND UNEXPECTED
CHALLENGES!**

Mr Joel Lim is an approachable mentor who can offer sound pedagogical guidance to Math teachers. He possesses a willing and welcoming heart to open up his classrooms for observations to cross-pollinate good practices with fellow teachers. An innovative teacher leader who is always open to leverage ICT and new teaching ideas to break new grounds, Mr Lim is not just a trustworthy colleague but also a close brother-in-arms.

Mr William Ang
Head of Department (Mathematics)



SCAN ME

Scan QR Code to
read more about it!



Proud smiles!



Mr Joel Lim and Mr
William Ang



Daniel Wan, Daniel Chua
and Mr Joel Lim

A Tribute

Mr Lim started teaching us Math in Primary 5. Our first impression of him was a cheerful and funny teacher, who played many fun and interesting games related to Math. As we got to know Mr Lim better, we realised that he is a very passionate teacher who is unlike any other teacher. Although our classmates misbehaved, he did not reprimand them. Instead, he talked to my classmates in a firm but never in a fierce manner unless he had no choice. Throughout the two years, Mr Lim had always been very encouraging towards us. Whenever we received marks that did not meet our expectations, he continued to spur us on and reassured us that we were A* students in his eyes, regardless of our Math score. Mr Lim also found all sorts of ways to help our class stay focused and work as a team. He filled his lessons with many games and activities and even gave us small treats and candy to perk us up after a long day of school.

Mr Lim has also inspired us to do our very best in everything we do and be resilient when we are faced with challenges.

Especially in secondary school, we will have bigger "Giants" in our secondary school lives, this is where we will continue to be inspired by Mr Lim to never give up.

We are truly grateful and appreciative of Mr Lim's patience and support in the last two years.

Thank you Mr Lim for all that you have done!

Daniel Chua and Daniel Wan (Primary 6H 2019)

Congratulations,

Mr Joel Lim!

#proudofoyou



President Halimah Yacob , Mr Ong Ye Kung, Ms Indranee Rajah, Mr Joel Lim and other recipients



Mr Joel Lim and his lovely family



THE UNBREAKABLE FORTITUDE OF TAN WEE KIAT

by: Melody Tham (Sec 4E)

'Normal (Technical) (N(T)) students will just end up in the Institute of Technical Education (ITE).'

Imagine living with this stereotype every day for four years. With the low expectations placed upon you, would you stop trying and conform to society's view of you? Or would you push yourself to prove your worth?

An alumnus of Fairfield, Tan Wee Kiat started his journey as an N(T) student in Fairfield Methodist School (Secondary). Resigned to the ever-present stigma regarding his academic stream, he became notorious for his rambunctious temperament. He was even on the brink of expulsion for his behaviour at one point.

However, he had a change of heart in Secondary 3 that motivated him to push for excellence in order to pursue his passion. He accredits his turning point to one of his teachers, who is none other than Fairfield's Mr Lee Yew Ming! Mr Lee's guidance inspired Wee Kiat to exemplify the values of maturity, determination, and perseverance which enabled him to walk in wisdom's ways. In 2019, Wee Kiat graduated as the top scorer in his Diploma in Visual Communication and Media Design course at Singapore Polytechnic.

So, how did this drastic change and success come about? We contacted Wee Kiat and had a chat with him about his journey in Fairfield Methodist School (Secondary) and his Polytechnic course.

He first met his source of motivation during Mathematics lessons in Fairfield Secondary. Mr Lee was able to retain the perfect balance of firmness and relatability, which made students feel very comfortable interacting with him. His unique teaching style piqued Wee Kiat's interest. His focus during these Mathematics lessons improved his grades. This progress, coupled with his natural competitive streak kick-started his determination to perform well in all his subjects.



However, as he constantly worked towards improvement, the question of 'What am I working towards?' surfaced.

Wee Kiat had a deep interest in drawing but he had doubts about pursuing a career solely in art. Thus, he consulted Mr Lee, who then suggested that he go for the Diploma in Visual Communication and Media Design course at Singapore Polytechnic.

Of course, the jump from secondary school to ITE and subsequently to Singapore Polytechnic was huge. Wee Kiat recounted, "I think the toughest part was having to quickly adapt to a new environment and become self-disciplined as the lecturers no longer 'hold your hand' to help you throughout your course." He held on to the determination Fairfield instilled in him to continually seek to improve himself, working harder each day to achieve his success.

Wee Kiat has some words of wisdom for everyone who may be facing issues in different aspects of their lives. "To those struggling, this may sound cliché, but just don't give up. There will always be obstacles that may trap you, but you need the endurance and resilience to just push through to reach the end goal. To the graduating cohort, follow your passion. Don't make the mistake of choosing the course so that you can be with your friends. Ultimately, it's your passion that will pull you through. Good luck!"





NCC (SEA)

MAKING WAVES AT THE ANNUAL SEA CHALLENGE

by: Averil Kan (Sec 4A)

Raging waves crashed against the side of the boat, threatening to capsize it. The NCC (Sea) cadets stabbed the persistent waves with their oars and drew them back; the sea parting before their strength. With eyes locked on the target before them and chests heaving, they forced their shaky arms to continue pushing the water behind and the boat forward.

It was not all too long ago when the National Cadet Corps (Sea) made history in Fairfield by bringing home the esteemed Challenge Shield in 2018, and they were back to do it again this year.

The cadets' stomachs lurched as they faced their stony-faced opponents. Shoulders heavy with the unspoken expectations placed upon them, they clenched their clammy hands and tried to swallow down their worries and nervousness. Although they knew they had practised and prepared to the best of their abilities, the nagging thought of possible failure pecked away at them.

Despite this, they persevered. They reached out to each other, remembered their coach's words of encouragement, and ventured out into the sea alongside the other schools, fighting with spirit and vigour.

"When we got there, we were really nervous that we would do much worse than last year, but we actually beat our own timing!" one of the cadets cheerfully commented.

To the cadets' surprise, both teams had surpassed their previous timings and performed exceedingly well. The Secondary 1, 2, and 3 Girls achieved first placing at the Singles and Doubles Kayaking Competitions. As a result, they emerged as overall Sea Champion. In addition, the Secondary 1 Boys attained first spot for Doubles and second placing for Singles, while the Secondary 3 Boys achieved second placing at the Doubles Kayaking Competition. After the adrenaline-filled race and the announcement of results, the team enveloped each other in a hug. The shared sense of camaraderie was palpable.

Of course, their fellow peers, teachers, and coaches were immensely proud of the cadets regardless of the result. The cadets huddled together, as tears overflowed from the buildup of emotions from the start of training till the end of the competition. Their blood, sweat, and tears had certainly paid off!

To quote Elbert Hubbard, a wise philosopher, "God will not look you over for medals, degrees or diplomas but for scars." Indeed, while success is valuable, the path to success is priceless. Bonded through trudging on the rough, thorn-filled road, the NCC (Sea) cadets found that the real prize gained was the friendship they forged with one another and the value of hard work and teamwork.

LEADING WITH CARE AND DILIGENCE - SAMUEL WONG

by: Melody Tham (Sec 4E) and Thomas Wong (Sec 2E)



Sure and Steadfast. This has been the Boys' Brigade's (BB) motto since its establishment. To be sure and unwavering in your ideals, a steadfast and dependable leader to your fellow peers, and to have a heart of service to help your community is the core of all BB Boys' values. This year, an alumnus of the Fairfield BB, Samuel Wong, won the President's Award, which is the highest award in the BB Programme. It is presented to Primers who have successfully completed the demanding requirements in leadership and service in the community.

Samuel Wong first started his journey in the Boys' Brigade in primary school, and grew to love the CCA because of its enjoyable activities, the friendships fostered and his personal growth from the values learnt through his experiences. He graduated from Fairfield's 33rd Company in 2017 as the Company Sergeant Major, but his dedication to BB didn't stop there. Even after graduation, he continued his involvement by joining the Primers Programme and coming back to Fairfield to mentor his juniors. For his unwavering service to the community and the Boys' Brigade, he was awarded the esteemed President's Award in 2019.



Are you able to juggle school work, leadership responsibilities as a CCA Leader, and voluntary activities?

Most students would be intimidated by all these heavy commitments, but Samuel had the virtue of discipline instilled in him through BB, and was able to manage his time well to cope with such a hectic school life. This wasn't the only value BB taught him! Through the tough times shared with his batchmates, Samuel learnt the value of teamwork while forging unbreakable bonds with his peers.

Undoubtedly, he was extremely grateful and honoured to receive the President's

Award, but he humbly credited his success to his BB and subject teachers for their unwavering support and guidance. He also thanked his BB officers and seniors in the 33rd Company who mentored him and his batchmates for the wonderful memories and brotherhood.

Samuel's advice for his juniors in Fairfield was simple yet powerful: "Give your best in all that you do, and enjoy and treasure your friends and time in Fairfield!"

Fairfield is immensely proud of Samuel, as he has continued to walk in wisdom's ways and set a good example for all Fairsians. Congratulations, Samuel!