

IN TANDEM

In Tandem is jointly published by The Fairfield Methodist Schools Alumni Association and the Fairfield Methodist Schools (Primary & Secondary)

FEB 2022

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The Alumni Association Committee (Class of)

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

A Fairfield Production

The President's Note - Feb 2022



Dear Fairfield Family,

I bring greetings to you on behalf of **The Fairfield Methodist Schools Alumni Association (TFMSAA)**. A happy and blessed 2022 to you and everyone at home.

We want to welcome everyone back to school, whether you are a staff, a student or a parent sending and waiting for your child in school. A very special welcome to all the new Primary One and Secondary One Fairians (more so if you didn't come from the other side of the fence (that is). It's a fresh new year with lots of opportunities to learn, study, gain knowledge, make new friends and explore in your new school environment. Hope you will find the Fairfield journey a truly enriching one.

We are also very happy to warmly welcome our new Secondary School Principal, **Mr Wee Tat Chuen**, as he takes over from **Ms Audrey Chen**. We thank Ms Chen for her leadership at Fairfield over the last 7 years. Mr Wee is also the first Fairfield old boy to head our Secondary School. Let's pray that God provides the strength and gives him the wisdom to lead and guide Fairfield to greater heights!

Our theme for Fairfield this year is 'Stronger as One Fairfield' What does the theme mean to you?

At the Staff Dedication Service held for both Secondary and Primary School staff on 30 Dec 2021, our Guest-of-Honour Ms Hee Piang Chin (an old girl of Fairfield and former Board member) shared that One Fairfield points to our common heritage, our common connections with the church and the alumni, our values as embedded in our badge (Pure and Honest) as well Fairfield's mission in providing a holistic education experience.

Truly, one of the uniqueness of Fairfield is the bond that Fairians share no matter what our age group may be. We have donned our famous yellow and blue uniform whether we were 6 or 16. As a Methodist Mission School, we have attended chapel services, listened to daily devotions and sung our school song together: 'A world has opened for us, a world that's bright and gay, a world that's full of interest since to school we found our way...' When Fairians connect with one another, we always remember with fondness the love and care that we have received from our Fairfield journey through our Principal, Teachers and Friends in the Fairfield community.

Even as we celebrate the 134th year of our founding this year, we want to give thanks to God for watching over Fairfield as we progress from year to year. Most importantly, we thank God for the love He has showered upon Fairfield over the many generations, and indeed may it continue to be so until Kingdom come.

It is also our hope and prayer of that we will all be able to finally meet in person as we celebrate Founder's Day come 4th Aug 2022. We also look forward to the many other programmes that we will be organising such as Alumni Staff Lunch, Past Versus Present Homecoming Games, Alumni Welcome Tea and Group Outings once the pandemic is over.

Come Saturday, Feb 26h at 2pm, we will be holding our 2022 Annual General Meeting (**AGM**) via Zoom. Do register and join us at the **AGM** if you are already a member of **TFMSAA**. If you are still considering whether to sign up for our membership, now is the time to come onboard and explore how you can contribute in your own way along with the Committee by stepping forward to serve in our Alumni Association Committee when we elect the new office for 2022. Let us come together and keep the Fairfield flag flying high together.

Even as the world is evolving and as we learn to live in the post Covid-19 era with it's various variants, there are still many things we can count our blessings on and be thankful for. Let us be stronger and steadier as One Fairfield family and continue to support and uphold one another through our prayers and deeds.

Until the next issue, be **Pure & Honest**.

LOVE AND BLESSINGS,
Kelvin Ong



FOUNDED 1888

The Fairfield Methodist Schools

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2022

AGM 2022 will be held on 26 February 2022 (Sat) 2pm. It will be held as a virtual meeting via Zoom and all members are cordially invited to attend.

If you would like to attend the AGM please register your interest by 16 February 2022 at this link <https://tinyurl.com/FairfieldAGM2022> or through the QR code below. The Zoom details will be provided to you after successful registration.

If you have any enquiries, you may contact our secretariate, PK, @ 96461853 or email at pklau121@yahoo.com.sg.

AGENDA FOR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2022

1. To confirm the Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting held on 27 February 2021.
2. To receive the President's Report.
3. To receive the reports from the Principals of Fairfield Methodist Schools (Primary & Secondary).
4. To receive and, if approved, adopt the audited Statement of Accounts for the year ended 30 November 2021.

5. To elect the Executive Committee of the Alumni Association for 2022 comprising:-

- i. The President
 - ii. 2 Vice Presidents
 - iii. The Honorary Secretary
 - iv. The Assistant Honorary Secretary
 - v. The Honorary Treasurer
 - vi. The Assistant Honorary Treasurer
 - vii. 7 Committee Members
6. To appoint an Honorary Auditor to hold office for one year only.
7. To transact any other business of which notice shall have been duly given.

By Order of the Executive Committee
Gracie Eng
Honorary Secretary

FAIRFIELD METHODIST SCHOOLS' 133RD FOUNDER'S DAY

Contributed by: Chua Wei Wei

The Fairfield Methodist Schools (Primary and Secondary) celebrated 133 years of its founding on 4 August this year. Usually, the schools celebrate Founder's Day with Founder's Day Services in the respective schools and then the Dinner in the evening. This year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, instead of hosting the dinner, the Fairfield Methodist Schools Alumni Association commemorated this special day with a live stream on its Fairfield Alumni Facebook page in the evening.

The genesis of the idea came from the forward penned by one of its former principals, Mrs Tang Poh Kim in the Fairfield Song Book which was distributed to students to mark the Centenary of the school in 1988. She wrote that "among its many traditions, Fairfield is known as a singing school – a school that delights in singing. Be it singing the praises of the Lord, singing National songs or singing pop songs."

The Fairfield Musical Journey was produced by committee members of the Alumni, Cho Pei Lin, Sharon Liat, Hannah Tan and Joel Tan (with the help of our alumni Dale Cheong's production company High Notes). The aim was to have a programme that would reach out to Fairsians of all generations - from those who had studied in Fairfield Girl's School at Neil Road to those who had studied or are currently studying in Fairfield Methodist Schools at Dover Road. Hence the idea of showcasing songs from the billboard charts from different generations, performed by alumni over the years. Besides songs from different generations, the programme also highlighted milestones of the school's history - from her founding, to the war years, and the relocation to Dover Road –charting God's faithfulness in the school's last 133 years.

The production featured our alumni Selena Tan from Dream Academy belting out "Somewhere Over the Rainbow", a song that won an Academy Award for the Best Original Song in 1939 which was a song from the Fairfield Songbook and taught in all music classes from Neil Road to Dover Road. Alumni from different generations presented popular campfire songs such as "Top of the World" and the "Hokey-Pokey", bringing back fond memories to all Fairsians. An all-time favorite of the nation, "Home" originally sung by Fairfield Primary alumni Kit Chan, was also sung by current students, teachers and parents.

The production also included special appearances by former Principal Mrs Tang Poh Kim, Bishop of The Methodist Church in Singapore, The Rev Dr Gordon Wong and Minister for Education Mr Chan Chun Sing, giving the Fairfield Community their well wishes.

As a whole, 2021 had been a difficult year. Despite not being able to gather together physically, our live stream allowed us to reach an audience beyond that of schools, its stakeholders and the Alumni Association. Alumni of all generations enjoyed the evening, using the live stream as a virtual gathering to catch up with classmates and friends, and learning about the rich history of our school.



Fairsian Friends for Life

Our time in Fairfield had built solid foundations for friendships that last for life. In this issue, we celebrate these long-time friendships by showcasing Fairsians of different eras. From memories of their school days to keeping in touch after, these Fairsians tell the story of friendships that stood the test of time.

Poetry from an Octogenarian Fairsian

Contributed by: Gracie Eng

Mrs Juliana Ong (Nee Wong Kum Ying) graduated from Fairfield Girl's School in 1950. After graduation she went into teaching and retired as a principal in 1981.

Mrs Ong entered Fairfield Girls' School in 1938. Her schooling was disrupted by the World War II and she graduated in 1950. She found salvation through chapel services and Bible classes and is thankful to Fairfield for moulding her into who she is. When asked of her memories from the 3rd company Girl's Life Brigade lead by Mrs Tay Poh Luan (Afternoon school principal), Mrs Ong fondly recalls it as the best time in her life. She remembers a lot of camping and campfires, earning badges, learning how to march, and taking part in a parade along Padang.

Mrs Ong studied in the morning school, with Mrs Lim Bock Kee as the principal. She reminisces several teachers: Her form teacher Mrs Harper taught her English, Mrs Carol Mary Morrison was her teacher for literature and history, and Mrs Elsie Lee was her music teacher. Mrs Harper and Mrs Lee persuaded shy Mrs Ong to take part in a play where she had to sing solo, despite her reluctance. Upon graduation, Mrs Ong started teaching as a career. She taught in several government schools such as Telok Kurau, Cedar Primary School and Serangoon School. She took on the role of Principal of Playfair School, and subsequently Kim Keat School – where she eventually retired from in 1981.

Mrs Ong keeps in contact with her classmates. Before the pandemic, a few of them meet occasionally for lunch or tea. During the pandemic, Mrs Ong spends her free time writing poetry, which she refers to as her "ramblings or musings". With the encouragement from her supporters such as Rohana Zubir, daughter of the late Zubir Said composer of our National Anthem, and our esteemed Mrs Tang Poh Kim, Mrs Ong printed two poetry books named "All things bright and beautiful The Lord God made them all".

When asked if she has any words to current Fairsians, she said "You should all go to chapel regularly and study the Bible, and always be thankful to God for putting you in Fairfield, where they give you the groundwork to be close to Christ. Show kindness to people around you when you are mingling in a crowd, so that they will know you are well brought up in Fairfield. Be a good example to the young ones and show that it was Fairfield's spirit that has taught you. May all your days be bright and gay."



Fairfield My Alma Mater

FAIRFIELD OH FAIRFIELD MY ALMA MATER

Moulding and building young maidens' future

A place to nurture and train impressive minds

To prepare to face a world filled with intricate designs

The team of dedicated teachers their expertise to us impart

Teaching and sharing the best knowledge new lives to start

Fairfield has opened a new world that's bright and gay

Like the beautiful sunshine to show us the way

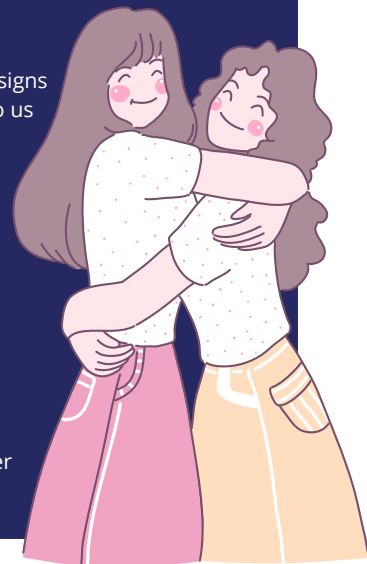
Fairfield an institution of learning filled with promises to treasure

Our future is prepared by their doctrines deep beyond measures

Fairfield oh Fairfield my Alma Mater

With grateful hearts our accolades to you we offer

- Mrs Ong's tribute to Fairfield



Of cliques and friendship

Contributed by: Dr Low Guat Tin

Dr Low Guat Tin left Fairfield Methodist Girls' School in 1962. She is retired from The National Institute of Education where she spent years involved in the Leaders in Education Programme, a programme for school leaders

It all began in the 8th coy Girls' Brigade (Fairfield Afternoon School. I joined the Girls' Brigade in 1959 where I met a bunch of passionate young girls, mostly teenagers like me. We had tons of energy and enjoyed each Saturday afternoon meeting with gusto. Soon, the group grew bigger and younger ones joined in the fun. It was at the 8th GB that firm friendships that lasted to this day were formed, and it was at the same company that many found God.

In those days we went camping, hiking, overseas trips together (albeit only to Malaysia) and the bond continues to this day. We were MCs at weddings of our GB 'comrades', we hosted anniversary and birthday dinners among us and of course there is the usual dinner gathering. These dinner gatherings or birthday parties are packed with fun, as there are a couple of creative souls in our midst. So, they were not just diners sitting around a table, but besides the great food, there is always great fun. This is especially so when major birthdays are celebrated or when two or three birthdays fall on the same month. We are currently waiting with great expectation to 2022 when a couple of us touched the big 7! Yes, there are possibly 4 who will be 70 next year! And I for one wait in great anticipation to the day when we gather for this event!

God has blessed our group not only with creative and fun-loving girls but also great cooks. So, there are gatherings around laksas, Japanese food, mouth-watering Chinese meals and sumptuous western meals (all home cooked)! And during durian seasons there is the gathering around the famous Mou Sans. We have not forgotten our teachers and sometimes we do invite a couple to the gathering.

I am extremely thankful to God that through Him we have found such lasting friendships! And through the Girls' Brigade, many of us had the chance to experience His awesome love for each and every one of us!



'Our hearts are gay and light' - Class of '80 Sisters for life...



Contributed by: Chung Lai Thoe and friends - Class of 1980

We are the 1980 cohort - 4 classes of 162 students. We left Fairfield Methodist Girls School 42 years ago; and went our separate ways, but the bonds of friendship we formed in Fairfield mellowed like vintage wine.

Fairfield was a small school then. Each primary school cohort consisted of 2 classes for the AM and PM sessions respectively. We rotated between class A and B based on odd/even register numbers assigned alphabetically by our names. The odds of landing in the same class was 50%. Several of us spent 10 school years in the same class.

Extra-Curricular Activities (ECAs) also facilitated the bonding. With (sometimes without) supervision from our dedicated loving teachers or seniors, we camped out during school holidays, cycled at East Coast Park, played "rounders" and "yeh-yeh" (also known as jump rope or "skipping"), prayed on school grounds, studied the Bible together, spent time at one another's homes or hung out in shopping malls.

Our batch had the unique privilege of staging 2 plays, *Pride and Prejudice* in 1978 and *Mid-Summer Night's Dream* in 1980 at the Victoria Theatre. These were directed by our multi-talented Literature teachers, and other teachers who lent their expertise for costume, dance, make-up and theatre speech lessons. We worked hard, played hard. We were often competitive, but always there for one another when it mattered, e.g., when we were reprimanded for childish pranks ("stink bombs" in Science labs), when we faced a personal crisis, or simply when we needed help with schoolwork.

Our cohort had various small cliques that kept in close contact; holidaying overseas, playing mahjong, celebrating birthdays, attending one another's weddings, and more recently, our children's weddings. These small cliques, and modern technology made it easy for us to organise large gatherings. For those who have emigrated to America, Canada, Australia and the UK, small gatherings would be set up whenever they visited.

In 2010, we celebrated our 30th graduation anniversary, dressed in sarong kebaya. In 2014, we celebrated our 50th birthday dressed in yellow and blue. The turnout at each event was good, with 40-50 attendees from all 4 classes. We have had on average 2 tables at the Founder's Day Dinner in the last 10 years. In fact, we had gathered 50 people, and were targeting 70 to attend the 2020 Founder's Day Dinner!

In the past 2 years, meeting physically has been challenging due to COVID-19 restrictions. Ironically, the ultimate act of friendship during these pandemic times is to stay apart, though often we long for a reassuring hug from an old friend. The Whatsapp chat group we had set up years earlier continues to be our main "connect" mode; smaller cliques would still meet whenever possible

I thank God and Fairfield for these steadfast and lifelong relationships. They are especially precious to me as I do not have any blood sisters, and these friends with hearts that are "gay and light" are my sisters for life!

May God continue to bless all students of Fairfield and Fairsians, especially the Class of 1980 - in Singapore and overseas!

Digital Literacy

Staying Safe on the Internet

by Sarah Tauffil (Secondary 2H), Sarah Chan (Secondary 3B), Ilya Aqilah (Secondary 3C), Joshua Ho (Secondary 4B), Kylee Tan (Secondary 4E) and Ang Jan Tsi (Secondary 4F)



Giddy with elation, the students gasped excitedly as they sighted the stacks of boxes at the front of the classroom. Animated chatter, littered with 'ooh's and 'wow's, filled the classrooms as the students' hands itched to tear the layers of plastic, eager to see their new devices for the very first time.

The Secondary One, Two and Three students received their Personal Learning Device (PLD) in the form of an iPad. This was part of MOE's National Digital Literacy Programme (NDLP) for schools to help students strengthen their digital literacy and improve engagement in teaching and learning. However, venturing into digital learning left parents concerned about their children's welfare, where accessing harmful internet content such as pornographic and gambling-related websites or those with extremist content could lead to calamitous consequences. This is where digital literacy comes in.

Digital literacy refers to an individual's ability to find, evaluate, and clearly communicate information on various digital platforms. With many people, especially youths, becoming over-reliant on these platforms today, what can they do to stay safe on the internet and become more tech savvy?

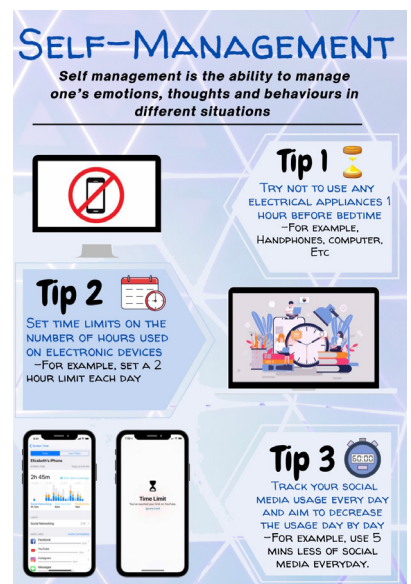
The Peer Support Board (PSB) established a new Digital Literacy Department! Ms Brenda Nio, one of the teachers-in-charge, came up with a segment called 'Digi-Byte', which is aired during morning assembly. Digi-Byte

promotes digital literacy by airing clips and interviews about cyberbullying and providing tips on how to stay safe on the internet. This is especially important because students are empowered to take charge of their own learning digitally.

"Our world today depends heavily on the internet and communication technology, and these continue to advance so rapidly that it can sometimes be hard to keep up," Ms Nio explained. "With more and more everyday tasks now made possible through apps, there are also increasing risks such as scams and internet addiction which we can fall prey to if we are not equipped and prepared. If we are well-prepared to navigate the digital world, we can reap the benefits that were intended in the development of such technology!"

Michael Eric Dyson once said, 'If journalism is the first draft of history, then digital literacy is the first blush on the first page of history.'

Amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, our educational landscape has also evolved, as we pursue digital methods of teaching and learning and pave the way for much more to come. The care and concern our teachers and the PSB have put in to help all of us to become more digitally literate is admirable. May we continue to help one another stay safe on the internet!



LO(H)VE GOES A LONG WAY

by Eden Koh (Secondary 4B), Kylee Tan (Secondary 4E) and Ang Jan Tsi (Secondary 4F)



"We are blessed to be a blessing in Fairfield," says Mr Larry Loh, a School Counsellor currently working in Fairfield Methodist School (Secondary). Prior to becoming a School Counsellor in FMS(S), Mr Loh actually worked in Fairfield as an Allied Educator (Teaching and Learning) for a few years. However, Mr Loh's story in Fairfield dates even further back. Mr Loh studied in Fairfield too!

It was the year 1998. The last all-male Secondary 4 class sat in the middle of their classroom, holding out a white T-shirt with a vertical yellow stripe tracing from the left shoulder to the hem. Bags and books were strewn messily on the tables around them, but the students were not bothered by it. Instead they smiled at the camera. It was a bittersweet time as they were graduating in one year's time.

Mr Loh recalled fondly the five years he spent in FMS(S). Although each teacher showed their love differently, students like Mr Loh knew that they were cared for. For example, Mr Loh recounted how his form teacher, Mr Charles Chan, never gave up on his classmate even after the student was suspended from school. Ms Thio Lay Hong, an Additional Mathematics teacher, often went above the call of duty by staying back in school almost every day to help her students with their homework. In fact, Ms Thio, who is still teaching in the school, still does so after all these years! There were other teachers who supported and shaped his beliefs and character too, like Mr Lim Sin Heng and Mr Vincent Chia.

After graduation, Mr Loh encountered setbacks, including a polytechnic journey that ended in Year 2. However, he continued to soldier on after recalling his lessons in Fairfield. Though Mr Loh's first job as an

Account Executive in an advertising agency offered him good career prospects, he wanted the opportunity to care for students the same way his teachers had cared for him. With the support of those around him and with a renewed sense of purpose, Mr Loh decided to change his career and started as an Allied Educator.

This journey began at none other than his alma mater.

"Despite my setbacks, I am grateful that I can fulfil my purpose in life, more so in Fairfield!"

As an Allied Educator (Teaching and Learning) then, he would support students who required more attention in the classroom. During this journey, Mr Loh was grateful to Mrs Choe, who gave him much advice and many opportunities to sharpen his pedagogical skills and knowledge.

After a few years in FMS(S), Mr Loh became a School Counsellor, and was posted to another school. His interactions with students who needed support in Fairfield prepared him well for his experiences in the other school. However, his ability to identify with Fairfield's core values and familiarity with Fairfield's culture saw him return to serve in Fairfield. "It was like a homecoming! This is a place where I can bring what I had learnt to better serve the Fairfield family once again."

The culture of love and empathy Mr Loh experienced in Fairfield has continued to stay in his heart, and is apparent in the way he cares for students in FMS(S) today. As a School Counsellor, Mr Loh strongly believes in the importance of connecting with students to better understand them as unique individuals. Sincerity, empathy and having an open mind are qualities one needs in his field of work.

In light of the River Valley (RV) incident, the role of school counsellors is ever more significant in supporting students in the school.

"The RV incident spotlighted the mental health of students, and the importance of the role that School Counsellors play to strengthen students' mental well-being." In his time as a School Counsellor so far, Mr Loh explains how some students, even after constant intervention, still fall back to their undesirable behaviour. He understands how difficult it may be for some to find the courage to reach out to others for help. Thus, he encourages students to look out for one another and make sure no one is left behind. And for Fairsians who are ready to seek help, Mr Loh's door will always be open!

For his significant contributions, Mr Loh received the 2021 National Day Award Efficiency Medal. Our ex-Principal, Ms Audrey Chen, congratulated Mr Loh, "I'm really happy that Larry was awarded the Efficiency Medal — nominated by his previous school. We are so blessed to have him back with us as he has already contributed in so many ways since he came back."

In his many years in Fairfield, Mr Loh has learnt many things, and hopes to pass his knowledge down to the next generation of Fairsians. Until then, he leaves us with a few words of wisdom:

"May we as a Fairfield Family continue to build on the legacy that our past teachers and students left behind. Let us be inclusive as a society, proactive in supporting and speaking up for our vulnerable friends, and stay grounded always."

We are indeed blessed to be a blessing wherever we are planted.

Welcome to the Fairfield Art Gallery: Appreciating Our Young Artists



by Kayla Ng (Sec 3B), Kylee Tan (Sec 4E) and Ang Jan Tsi (Sec 4F)

A multitude of unique artworks, from acrylic paintings to realistic colour pencil drawings, can be seen displayed on the wall. Everyone who walks past this unique location of Fairfield Secondary finds themselves captivated by the beautiful artworks. All these were created by our very own Fairsians, whose hours of hard work were exemplified in each stroke of the brush.

This is the Fairfield Art Gallery. Established in 2021 to showcase the artistic skills of our students, the gallery is located along a corridor on Level 3.

A student artist and journalist Kayla Ng from Secondary 2D remarked, "I was actually pleasantly surprised when I first saw my artwork at the Fairfield Art Gallery. I am also proud and happy that my artwork is recognised and appreciated."

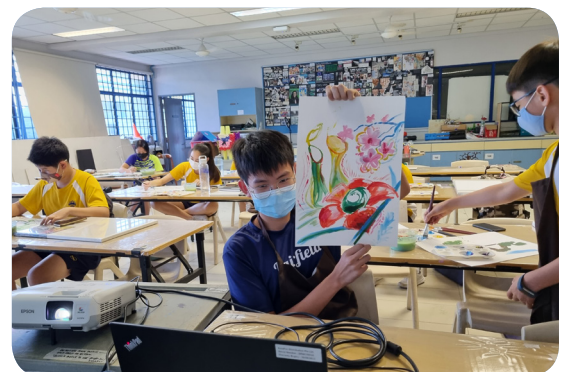
Another featured student artist, Naomi Lim from Secondary 3F chirped, "I feel very honoured because I never expected myself

to create an entire artwork, let alone one that is good enough to be put up for display for all to admire. I'm also really grateful for this opportunity! I hope that more students can enjoy expressing themselves through art."

The Fairfield Art Gallery has a large, three-dimensional logo situated at the top of the wall. This logo comprises a yellow circle with a dark blue wand that creates ripples on the circle's surface. It sits beside a string of large, cursive words that spell out 'Fairfield Art Gallery'. This logo was designed by Reid Matthew from Secondary 1D, who was inspired by the ripples created by a drop of water in a pool of oil. Oil and water are two different elements which juxtapose each other, similar to how the Fairfield-themed blue and yellow in the logo juxtapose and complement each other. Reid wanted his design to express the uniqueness of every creative Fairsian, which is portrayed by the ripple effect that a droplet of water creates on a pool of oil. This also captures the essence of the influence that art has on people.

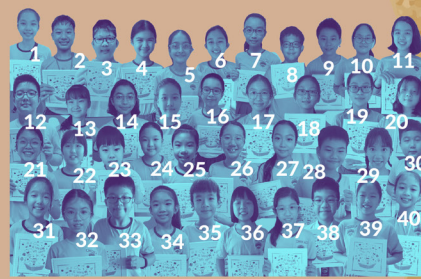
Ms Desiree Tham, an art teacher in Fairfield, explained, "The Fairfield Art Gallery inspires Fairsians to express their personal voice on contemporary issues that we face in our daily lives as we view the exhibits. As art reflects our society, it is imperative that students are able to make connections between these art pieces and real-world issues. Through the students' artwork, we hope to advocate deeper questioning of present-day issues."

As Vincent Van Gogh once said, "If you hear a voice within you saying you cannot paint, then by all means, paint, and that voice will be silenced." We should always pursue our passion and interests, even if it means going against the more profitable and pragmatic trends of modern society. The Fairfield Art Gallery thus serves to motivate Fairsians to nurture their artistic skills, passion and creativity, so that we can view the world from an artistic perspective.



1. BELLE LIM (PRI 6D)
2. JOSEPH FOO (PRI 6C)
3. ELEOS LO (PRI 6D)
4. ARIELTAY (PRI 6H)
5. HANIKA SINDHWANI (PRI 6C)
6. RENEE KOH (PRI 6D)
7. CHARLOTTE TAN (PRI 6D)
8. JORDAN WILLIAM ROY (PRI 6D)
9. BENJAMIN TAN (PRI 6C)
10. TRICIA CHUA (PRI 6G)
11. CLAIRE CHAN (PRI 6D)
12. GREG TOH (PRI 5A)
13. CHEYENNE CHEONG (PRI 5A)
14. HEERA SIVAKUMAR (PRI 5A)
15. QIN ZIQI (PRI 5F)
16. ENOCH SEE (PRI 6D)
17. ELISE KOH (PRI 5A)
18. CHEW EE TENG (PRI 5A)
19. JENNIFER CHU (PRI 6D)
20. JEVYN TAN (PRI 5A)

21. ZOBEL LEE (PRI 5A)
22. JERLYN SOH (PRI 5B)
23. HO HO TENG CARYS (PRI 4A)
24. DUAN LINHAN (PRI 4F)
25. ALEXIS LIM (PRI 5B)
26. CAYLA LEE (PRI 5B)
27. JANIS CHAN (PRI 5A)
28. LUKE TAN (PRI 5A)
29. TIFFANY HUANG (PRI 4G)
30. JOASH TAY (PRI 4A)
31. SARAH CHEOK (PRI 4F)
32. SHERYL CHUA (PRI 4D)
33. JULIEN SEE (PRI 4C)
34. VICTORIA LI (PRI 4D)
35. ADOLPHUS LIM (PRI 4B)
36. CHARISSE YEO (PRI 4C)
37. JERMAINE CHOO (PRI 4G)
38. CADEN LAU (PRI 4E)
39. LECIA CHONG (PRI 4E)
40. NAOMI TIE (PRI 4B)



MEET OUR Writers



WHAT WERE YOUR SOURCES OF INSPIRATION AS YOU WROTE YOUR POEMS?

Contributing to the publication has helped me remember how fun life in primary school was! The happy thoughts of the fun and enjoyable times in school helped to spur me on and motivate me to continue writing even when I was tired!



HOW DID YOU FEEL WHEN YOU LEARNT THAT YOUR POEMS HAD BEEN PUBLISHED?

When I saw my name in print, I felt so happy that I could contribute to the special publication but also a bit scared because I was worried about how others would feel about my writing. I was also afraid that my classmates would criticise me. In the end, I received only praise and affirmation from everyone!

WILL YOU CONTINUE TO WRITE?

My thirst for knowledge to learn more of the world will continue to motivate me to keep on learning. Writing is enjoyable, and what I find enjoyable, I get addicted to. I will continue writing for as long as I can!

SHARED BY
ELEOS LO
PRI 6D

The publication

'A World has Opened for Us'

is a special book of poems contributed by our FMS(P) wRiters, FMS(P) teachers, as well as members of the Alumni. Poems about 'School Life' were penned and shared with much love and nostalgia, and very much enjoyed by all the readers.

Excerpts from the publication!

Teachers Who Made an Impression

In walks the Mathematics teacher,
tall and straight
Every girl scrambled to her seat
Good Morning was the greeting
loud and clear
Not a whisper or a sound
could be heard
Every girl trembled
to hear her name called
No right answer, one had to stand



Minutes passed and soon nearly the whole class had to
Until one bright spark
the right answer gave
"Whew," was the feeling felt
by everyone.
Soon the bell rang and
we were dismissed.

In contrast, the English teacher stepped into the class
Motherlike and gentle she greeted us
Talking and giggling
could still be heard
No one seemed to pay attention
to what was said
"Girls, girls, let's begin,
turn to page ten,"
No one seemed to bother
In desperation she pleaded
for attention.
When no one respond,
she marched out of class
Vowing never to return
to the wayward class
With contrite hearts,
a few of us ran after her
Vowing never again
would we repeat such behaviour
After much persuasion
she finally came back to class

Ms Ho Dorothy
Class of 1988
Former Principal - FMS(P)

School Life at Fairfield

"A world has opened for us"
And so these words ring true
Since the first day we stepped into
Fairfield
Clad in yellow and blue
We learned our lessons,
we learned to play
We learned to give thanks
for each new day

Fairfield is now a grand 'ol Dame
A hundred and thirty-three
Pure and Honest
we're still called to be
To bless, to give, to be a light
Now with gusto let us sing
"And all the world is bright!"



Ms Sharon Liat
Class of 1977
Former Vice-Principal - FMS(P)

Pearl Pang
Class of 1974

Thank you,
Ms Dorothy Ho,
Ms Sharon Liat &
Ms Pearl Pang

WHAT WERE YOUR SOURCES OF INSPIRATION AS YOU WROTE YOUR POEMS?

No matter what kind of poem you may write (be it haikus, limericks, free verse etc.), the first step is always finding something that inspires you. I've had many classmates, juniors and friends ask me how to find inspiration and my answer is always the same. Number one, look around you. Inspiration for anything and everything can be found if you just take a deep breath and observe what is going on in your surroundings. For example, it could be raining outside. The next step is to associate your feelings, emotions and thoughts with what you have decided to write about. Using the first example to tie in with this, what does rain remind you of? What are the emotions you feel when it rains? (Do remember to write all of this down on a spare piece of paper :) After this, use your five senses to see, hear, smell, touch and taste the subject of your poem. E.g., What are the sounds rain droplets make when they hit the ground? Do you smell anything right after it rains? Once you have completed these three steps, try to link all of these thoughts together. There is no such thing as right or wrong in poetry. Your first try doesn't have to be perfect but you should always look to improve your poems as you continue to practise. Another piece of advice I would like to give you is: Don't ever give up. There will be times when your motivation is low, or when you encounter writer's block. In these instances, I normally take a break from writing and do an activity that I enjoy. Reading a good book or taking a stroll outside always helps to jumpstart my momentum again.

HOW DID YOU FEEL WHEN YOU LEARNT THAT YOUR POEMS HAD BEEN PUBLISHED?

When I first saw my poems published in the school poem book, I felt an odd sense of pride and satisfaction. After all, that was MY poem, MY creation that was staring at me from the pages of the book! That motivated me to continue writing poetry and I hope this piece will also motivate you to try to do so.

MY INITIAL THOUGHTS

When I was first informed that I would be attending various workshops to learn about poetry, I was sceptical, surprised and even a little confused. After all, what good would poetry do for me in the future? Poetry isn't exactly something you would put on your resume when applying for jobs.

Little did I know, this particular form of writing, of art, was going to open a whole new world for me. Poetry served as a way for me to express myself, to pen down thoughts and emotions I was never brave enough to voice out. Even today, poetry holds a very special place in my heart, and I wish to share the beauty of poems with as many people as I can.

SHARED BY
CLAIRE CHAN
PRI 6D

Excerpts from the publication!

A New Future

Taking the prime seat,
I hear the sweet melodies of
Tunes, voices,
beats that echo through the halls
Watching from the side,
I cheer on the strong display of
Sweat, grit and energy
that powers through the courts
Alas! How I miss these pure enjoyment
of school life!

Speaking to the screen,
I search for familiar faces that
Nod, smile, frown to show me you are there
Listening through the silence,
again it's often said,
"Can you unmute yourself?"
Truly! I longed to see you face to face!

The new norms, unprecedented, extraordinary
Besieged us as in tumultuous waves upon
waves, time after time
Yet not I see a defeat, a surrender
or a whine

The Fairfield Spirit rallying together,
forging a future
Amen! In God we trust,
our Protector and Provider!

Mdm Law Li Mei
Principal

Fairfield Is Always in Our Hearts

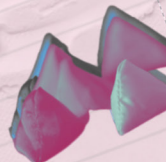
Truly a world has opened for us
Fairfield
is an idyllic cadence of
Yellow and blue
Where love is
in the sunshine!

Tracing the arc in 1888
From Telok Ayer
to Neil Road
to Dover
Girls and boys
In the chrysalis
of Fairfield.

Fairfield
moulds our cast of mind
Christian values
find expression
In being
Pure and Honest
Leavening us
To navigate
the shoals of life.

We had fun
Playing
five stones,
zero point,
one leg
Football, badminton, chess
Catching spiders,
cross-country runs, funfairs
Blackmore-Evelyn-Martin-Olson
and
Admiring Mrs Tang's
elegant tang.

Above all,
we treasure the
laughter and joie de vivre of
friendships forged
at Fairfield
where love is in the sunshine
And all the world is bright!



Thank you,
Mdm Law Li Mei &
Mr Shawn Ho

8 QUESTIONS WITH CHRIS TANG WEE GOH

This issue, we are privileged to invite Lieutenant-Colonel Chris Tang Wee Goh (Class of 1993) to answer eight questions for In Tandem. Chris was the parade commander for National Day Parade 2021. He is currently the Commanding Officer of 113 Squadron in the Republic of Singapore Air Force.

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

Tang Wee Goh, I graduated in 1993, Class 5A.

Question 2 : What were your CCA in school?

In Primary School, I was in Badminton Club and Red Cross. In Secondary School, I was in the Design & Technology (D&T) Club, and I also held the appointment of Class Monitor from Sec 3 to Sec 5.

Question 3 : What were your best memories of Fairfield?

My best memories were my friends. Being in the Normal stream, we went through thick and thin together in the same class for five years. The bond and camaraderie we built over the years kept our friendship going even till today! My classmates still keep in touch with one another over various social media platforms. Come to think of it, it has been close to three decades since we met during our Fairfield days. I'm happy to see everyone doing well in their careers and settle down with their own families.

My other fond memories were the time spent in school doing my Design and Technology (D&T) Club projects as well as my D&T subject folios. The school was like my second home and I enjoyed the company of my D&T teachers and workshop technicians who were always there to provide their help and guidance. Being in the D&T Club has also sparked my interest in engineering and inspired me to pursue my Engineering diploma in Singapore Polytechnic and subsequently a bachelor's degree in Engineering in NUS.

Question 4 : Who were some of your most memorable teachers?

The more memorable ones were during my Secondary School days (1989 to 1993), as they left a deep impression for their leadership, guidance, kindness and



Credits to Photographer - Bp Chua



humility. First ones on the list would be our Principal and Vice-principal Mrs Tang Poh Kim and Mrs Victoria Tham. The Teachers who impacted me were Ms Elaine Lim, Mrs Olive Kan, Ms Liu, Ms Thio Lay Hong, Ms Carolyn Howe, Mr Hou Meng Hsien, Mr Jason Tan, Mr Zhang, Mr Siew Lin Tuck, Mr Paul T, and late Ms Yee Pui Leng.

Question 5 : What inspired you to join the Singapore Armed Forces?

My motivation came from the need to defend our country and to protect what we love and joining the SAF is my way of giving back to society to protect our Nation's continued sovereignty. History has taught us valuable lessons that our independence can only be secured by ourselves and no one else.

Question 6 : How do you feel being selected as the Parade Commander of National Day Parade 2021 (NDP)? And what do you actually do during the Parade?

I'm proud to be the Parade Commander for NDP 2021, given that it is a chance of a life time opportunity, and it is also the highest achievement in my military career thus far.

Credit to Photographer Victor Mok



The Parade Commander is the overall-in-charge of the marching segment of the NDP. As a military tradition, he will command the Parade contingents to salute the Nation and prepare for the march past out of the Parade Grounds.

Question 7 : How do you feel about having the parade in the midst of a pandemic?

The NDP is an important event for all our Singaporeans to celebrate our nation's independence so as to portray our Singapore spirit and unity. Having the NDP during this difficult time will instill greater confidence in all Singaporeans that we can emerge stronger together and as the theme song lyrics aptly puts it, we did it before and we will do it again!

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

To all junior Fairsians, study hard, play hard and dream big. Enjoy the friendship and network that you build today and it will go a long way tomorrow. Stay Pure and Honest, stay united as one big Fairfield Family, and together we continue to shine and create many success stories which we can share with our next generation.