

IN TANDEM

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

JUL 2023

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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 |
| Hannah Tan | 2002 |
| Mervyn Quek | 1992 |
| WJ Teng | 2013 |
| Ivy Goh-Soh | 1998 |
| Natalie Chen | 2000 |
| Chua Wei Wei | 1990 |
| Joseph Guo | 1997 |



The President's Note - Jul 2023

Dear Fairfield Family,

I bring greetings to you on behalf of **The Fairfield Methodist Schools' Alumni Association (TFMSAA)** and hope you have had a fruitful and exciting first half of the year 2023.

Our Alumni Association held our Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Saturday 18 Feb 2023. At the AGM, we elected our management committee for 2023. I am delighted to introduce to you our team:

Ms Eunice Yao (1st Vice President), **Ms Cho Pei Lin** (2nd Vice President), **Ms Stephanie Ang** (Hon Secretary), **Ms Felicia Foo** (Hon Assistant Secretary), **Dr Gracie Eng** (Hon Treasurer), **Ms Lo Wei Pin** (Hon Assistant Treasurer) along with our 7 committee members, **Dr Low Guat Tin**, **Ms Sharon Liat**, **Ms Hannah Tan**, **Mr Mervyn Quek**, **Mr WJ Teng**, **Ms Natalie Chen** and **Mrs Ivy Goh-Soh**.

Along with the 14 elected members, we also have our 2 school representatives in **Mr Joseph Guo** (Sec) and **Ms Chua Wei Wei** (Pri) serving together in the committee.

We are also pleased to have our Alumni Secretariat, **Ms Lau Pui Kee** (PK) to support the management committee's functions and operations in the Alumni Association.

Prior to the AGM, we also hosted some 20 new members as well as our 2 Principals --**Mr Wee Tat Chuen** (Sec) & **Mdm Law Li Mei** (Pri) for a lunch reception. Mdm Law also gave a presentation and addressed questions about enrolling students to our Primary School.

One of the biggest activities in the first half of this year is our Fairfield Carnival which took place on Saturday, 29th April 2022. This Carnival is special as it only happens once every five years. Prior to the Carnival, we also ran a 10-week contest on Telegram to encourage Fairsians to participate in it. The prize winners were presented their prizes at the Carnival.

Our Alumni Association was privileged to have the opportunity to set up and operate 2 stalls (a Korean Food and a Drinks Stall) at the Carnival. The Korean food was sponsored by Chingu Dining Pte Ltd, a subsidiary of Gourmetz Pte Ltd whose owner is a Fairsian—**Mr Desmond Chin**. We had the support of our fellow Alumni members as well as volunteers (some of whom were our former Fairfield staff such as **Ms Carolyn Howe**, **Ms Santha Maniam** and **Mrs Lily Yap**). We sold \$10,000 worth of Carnival coupons and achieved some \$7,000 worth of sales (both for food and drinks) at our stalls. We are grateful to our sponsors, well-wishers, and everyone else who patronised our stalls and contributed to the success of the Carnival. We also want to thank the Board of Management and both our Schools for involving all of us at the Carnival. Above all, we give thanks to God for the good weather and the smooth proceedings that Saturday.

During the Carnival, we also hosted some 20 Alumni/retired Staff during lunch. The guests who were present included **Ms Dorothy Ho**, **Ms Low Soh Tin**, **Ms Patricia Lam**, **Mrs Lisa Soh**, **Mr Lim Sin Heng**, **Ms Elaine Lim**, **Mr Wong Kok Heng**, **Mrs Martha Chew** and **Mrs Ivy Tay**. Each of our invited guests also received our Alumni Association limited edition Tote Bag, a lunch box, as well as \$40 worth of Carnival tickets for them to patronise our stalls. It was truly an enjoyable time as these former Fairfield staff had a great time meeting one another.

One of the key objectives of our Alumni Association is to develop a true spirit of loyalty and love for Fairfield. It is with this intention that we decided to offer an education award to recognise a Fairfield Alumnus who has demonstrated his/her passion for learning and loyalty to Fairfield.

We are therefore pleased to announce the launch of our Fairfield Alumni Education Award in conjunction with our 135th Anniversary celebration. This award comes with a cash value of \$3,000 and application

is open to any Alumni Association member matriculating into either a local or an overseas University in 2023. The pioneer recipient of the award will be receiving the award from our Education Minister during our 135th Founder's Day Service on 4th Aug 2023. More details can be found in this issue. The application form is also available at www.fairfieldalumni.org.sg. We look forward to receiving applications from our members.

Have you purchased tickets to our "Fairfield! The Musical" that will be happening on 28th and 29th July this year? If you have yet to do so, do remember to buy your tickets soon before they are sold out. Let us remember our heritage through the performances as we celebrate yet another milestone this year. Limited tickets are available at go.gov.sg/musical.

Finally, please remember to gather your classmates and friends to form and buy a table as we celebrate our **135th Anniversary** over at **Orchard Hotel** on the evening of Friday 4th Aug 2023. The 'Glitz and Glam' Dinner is an event you would not want to miss. Expect a memorable evening as you catch up with friends, colleagues, and teachers. Enjoy the special performances we have lined up as well. Let us celebrate Fairfield's Birthday and be inspired to 'Flourish as One Fairfield'.

We want to give all praise and glory to God with a calendar full of activities both for our Alumni Association and the 2 Schools in 2023.

See you soon at the upcoming Musical and our Founder's Day Dinner!

LOVE AND BLESSINGS,
Kelvin Ong



**Apply
Now**

Education Award 2023

About the Education Award

The Fairfield Methodist Schools Alumni Association (TFMSAA) Education Award seeks to encourage Fairsians to be lifelong learners as they pursue higher levels of education to realise their potential and aspirations. The award is also for our Alumni Association to recognise an outstanding Fairfield alumna, who has demonstrated his/her passion for learning and loyalty to Fairfield Methodist Schools, in his/her pursuit of tertiary education in local or overseas undergraduate studies, and to build a network of Fairfield Scholars who are recognised by both the Alumni Association and the Fairfield Methodist Schools. A one-time cash prize of \$3,000 will be awarded to the successful applicant.

Shortlisted applicants will be contacted by our Association in due course and the award recipient will be receiving his/her award from our Education Minister during our 135th Founder's Day Service on 4th August 2023. We look forward to receiving applications for our education award from deserving Fairsians!

Visit <https://fairfieldalumni.org.sg/fairfield-alumni-association-education-award-2023> to find out more!

A word from Mr Wee Tat Chuen, our Secondary School's Principal:



Once every five years, Fairfield Methodist Schools come together to hold a combined Oh!It'sFairfield! Carnival. This exciting event is one of Fairfield's most loved traditions and brings together the Fairfield family including our alumni, parents, students and other stakeholders. But it is especially meaningful for current staff and students as they are directly involved in planning, organising and making the carnival happen! They learned the most in terms of leadership and entrepreneurial skills; and make the most special memories together!

Besides the objective of gathering the Fairfield family, the carnival is also a platform where the school can raise funds to support the various upgrading/ new projects.

We also have a very special goal for this coming carnival. As the nation comes out of COVID-19, we want to be a blessing to the special-needs and less-privileged communities. This year, we are happy we get to bless beneficiaries from Grace Orchard School, St. John's - St. Margaret's Nursing Home, Southwest CDC (Community Development Council) and our own students on Financial Assistance! We are also happy to bless and encourage identified organisations which are working with these communities. For example, we had social enterprises such as My Nonna's and Don8uri joining us and spreading the word about their causes!

Make Me A B135SING

by Amelia Lee (3E), Chloe Chin (3D), Kerin Chua (3D), Shaan Naresh Anand (3E), Wynstelle Olga (3A), Rafael Aleph (2A), Kayla Ng (4B), Sarah Chan (4B) and Daniel Gan (4B)



*Over here! Over here! Put the box here!
Can someone hang the banner a bit higher?*

In the early Saturday morning on 29th April 2023, footsteps and various commands echoed throughout the school grounds as students from all levels put the final touches to their food and game stalls. At the field, the stage for the ribbon-cutting ceremony was set. As jubilant cheers and a roar of applause reverberated across the field, SNIP! The 135th Oh!It'sFairfield! Carnival was officially opened by our Guest of Honour, Ms Low Yen Ling!

Occurring once every five years, the Oh!It'sFairfield! Carnival served as a bridge between past and present students and staff. It also brought everyone together to Flourish as One Fairfield and take a trip down memory lane. With game stalls providing an array of entertainment and food stalls serving delectable morsels and drinks, the Carnival guaranteed excitement and fun!

For this momentous occasion, Fairfield also invited and blessed various beneficiaries. The student leaders hosted and conversed with families from the Southwest CDC (Community Development Council). They also brought them to the hall to grab a bite and do some shopping at the supermarket and flea market. From Korean street food to pastries, the aroma of these mouth-watering dishes filled the hall in perfect harmony, each scent providing a refreshing sensory experience. As the guests walked into the hall to escape the blazing heat of the outdoors, the fragrance of the foods permeated



their nostrils, making their stomachs rumble and beg to be satisfied. It was indeed heartwarming to see the guests' joy and appreciation as they savoured the food and shopped for goods.

Ms Low Yen Ling, the Mayor of the South West CDC, shared that the Carnival was a wonderful platform for the community to gather in Fairfield. Setting out to see the carnival in action, she was taken on a tour where Fairsians initiated brief chats with her to shed light on their stalls. With a plethora of games and food stalls set up by both schools, Ms Low was thoroughly impressed by the carnival's scale. She also praised the Fairfield community for their values in action and encouraged everyone to continue to be a blessing to the community.

Guests also enjoyed playing a wide variety of games and savouring fantastic food. One of these activities included the 'Dunk & Splash', a carnival-exclusive event where the highest bidders got to dunk their favourite teachers, friends and even Mr Wee, our beloved Principal! Students cheered, as they watched their seniors and staff plummet into the water. Many also made a beeline for Secondary 4F's Horror House, where guests were kept on their toes with jumpscares at every corner! Finally, to commemorate this fun-filled day, guests captured the day's memories at the photo booth set up by Secondary 3D.

Indeed, the Oh!It'sFairfield! Carnival was a resounding success, as Fairfield managed to bless the community, establish meaningful connections and put a smile on everyone's face.



Fairsians' Fest-ination For Learning

by Lauren Soh (3A), Kerin Chua (3D), Amelia Lee (3E), Shaan Naresh Anand (3E), Daniel Gan (4A) and Kayla Ng (4B)

What a way to end the term! The Fairfield Learning Festival was a resounding success, with students from Secondary One to Four going on learning journeys and listening to talks from industry professionals and former students. This week-long festival was an opportunity for Fairsians to learn beyond the confines of the classroom, broaden their horizons, and create unforgettable memories together.

The Secondary One students kicked off the festival with a series of learning journeys, starting with a trip to Labrador Nature Reserve. The Rainforest Race was a hit, with students competing in a group scavenger hunt and completing tasks that allowed them to immerse in nature. The subsequent days were just as enriching, with the students going on a Singapore River learning journey and joining a curated tour at the National Gallery.

The Secondary Two students had a blast during their Mother Tongue learning journey in Chinatown. They explored the Chinese heritage of Singapore by finding iconic murals and shops around Chinatown. They also visited the National Museum and Punggol for their Geographical Investigation into sustainable housing. They rounded up their experience with arts parade workshops where they learnt skills such as sculpting and bread-making.

For the Secondary Three students, the festival provided a chance to broaden their understanding of career opportunities in Singapore. They listened to Education and Career Guidance talks by leading industry professionals and clarified their aspirations in these industries. The talks on safeguarding one's mental health were presented by social media influencers Krison Sum and Aiken Chia, who are icons of inspiration! The students were also taken on fascinating learning journeys to gain hands-on experience on the real-life applications of science.



The Secondary Four students received amazing insights on the wonders of working life through talks conducted by professionals from different fields, including Film and Animation, Finance, Virtual Reality, and Clinical Psychology. They also went on learning journeys to gain more knowledge on the different industries in Singapore, from event management to the maritime industry. A group of students even completed a job shadowing stint at St. James' Church Kindergarten, where they were amazed by the teachers' patience, dedication, and passion to nurture young children.

Overall, the Learning Festival was an enriching and enjoyable experience for everyone involved. Fairsians gained fresh insights and opportunities to flourish as one Fairfield. It was also a testament to Fairfield's commitment towards providing a holistic education for Fairsians.



A Splendid Sports Day!

by Alicia Ng (1C), Mikaela Tay (1C), Tricia Chua (2A), Sarah Goh (2C), Delaine Tan (3A), Chloe Chin (3D), Amelia Lee (3E), Reuven Tay (3E), Bertrand Tang (4A), Daniel Gan (4A), Ian Lau (4A), Nur Ilya Aqilah Binte Muhammad Hakim (4C) and Sarah Chan (4B)



The Fairfield Sports Day at Ngee Ann Polytechnic on 10 March 2023 was a triumphant celebration of sportsmanship, unity, and resilience. After three years of safe-distancing restrictions, our staff and students were thrilled to finally participate in this highly anticipated event.

Excitement was in the air as the events kicked off, with male and female representatives from each Secondary One class competing fiercely in a fast-paced 100m race. The energy was infectious as the runners gave it their all, spurred on by the enthusiastic cheers of their peers. The relay race and ping pong competition were equally enthralling, with every class showcasing their best performances. In the end, the deserving winner of the Secondary One class was 1E.

The Secondary Two students battled it out in an intense tug-of-war competition, displaying creative strategies and teamwork. Spectators roared with excitement as each class gave it their all. The special teacher-versus-student match was a highlight, as it allowed the students to challenge their teachers' physical prowess.

The Secondary Three students demonstrated their prowess in Captain's Rugby, with loud cheers from their peers echoing throughout the two-level hall. The matches were exhilarating, and the level established stronger ties through these competitive matches.



The Secondary Four students had a blast playing a modified version of softball, with every team firing on all cylinders to earn valuable points. The students displayed great sportsmanship, with their classmates cheering them on throughout the games. In the end, Secondary 4D emerged as the ultimate victor.

The prize presentation was a memorable affair, with our former Vice-Principal, Mr Lim Sin Heng, receiving a warm welcome from the crowd. The victors were cheered on



enthusiastically, and the upbeat atmosphere continued even after the event. Fairsians chattered excitedly about the fun-filled Fairfield Sports Day, which was a roaring success.

Overall, the 2023 Fairfield Sports Day was a shining example of camaraderie and unity, with Fairsians flourishing as One Fairfield. We are proud of our students' dedication and resilience, and grateful to our staff for organising such a fantastic event.

FAIRFIELD! THE MUSICAL

(AN INTERVIEW SPECIAL)

by Cayla Phua Si En (P3D) and Seth Phua Yi En (P5H)



Have you ever been on stage with bright lights in your eyes and a vast dark hall in front of you? Well, my brother and I were fortunate enough to be given the opportunity to experience this! My name is Cayla. My brother, Seth, and I are part of the 'Fairfield! The Musical'. It has been an exhilarating experience and we can't wait for everyone to see it in July at the Victoria Theatre. In the meantime, we hope we can build up the anticipation for you by sharing our experiences during the musical rehearsals. Enjoy!

How did you feel when you found out you were cast in the musical?

Cayla: I felt curious, happy and excited. I was curious about the type of role I would get. I felt happy as it is my desire to be part of the musical to represent the school to tell the story of Fairfield. I also felt excited about the upcoming musical rehearsals and to learn something new.

Seth: I felt amazed and excited as it is my first time doing something as major as this. I had not expected to even get through the first round of auditions. What made me thrilled was when I found out that I was chosen to be part of the main cast. That was unexpected for me!

How did you feel waiting for the first rehearsal to start?

Cayla: I felt curious about the rehearsals as I did not know what it would be like! I was also nervous about meeting the other cast members who were my schoolmates from other levels, and I wondered if I would be able to get along with them. Nevertheless, I felt excited!

Seth: I was quite uncertain of what the experience would be like, as all I knew about the musical was that there would be several practices, and that there would be acting and dancing involved. I was in for a ride!

Was what you experienced during the rehearsals what you expected?

Cayla: In Term 1, I was able to participate more, which met my expectations. We learned many new songs! In Term 2, we had the chance to observe each other's roles so that we could better understand the show.



We also learnt new dance steps to the songs that we have learnt! I was grateful to be given a chance to experience the excitement that goes on both backstage and onstage during rehearsals.

I had a lot of fun during that practice even though it was one of the most intense practices that I had attended.

What is your experience working with the Musical Director and the team of instructors?

Seth: I found the Musical Director, Mr Dwayne Lau, the Music Director, Ms Elaine Chan (who used to study in Fairfield too!) and the team of instructors to be incredibly supportive. They went out of their way to ensure that we felt at ease during rehearsals, positioning themselves nearby to provide timely reminders whenever we stumbled over our lines. This thoughtful gesture

Seth: Not really, as I did not expect the sessions to be so fun yet tiring. There were several rehearsals where we had to extend our weekly rehearsals from four hours to six hours a week. I've discovered that being an actor is sheer hard work! There was a lot of refinement to our acting, singing, and dancing process to upkeep the standards. At first, I felt awkward on stage as I was not used to being in the spotlight. Over time, I gained confidence and felt comfortable enough to have fun on stage. The rehearsals were always lively and energetic. I liked the acting rehearsal sessions best. I recalled that there was a dance that was very difficult and tiring to master. However,





alleviated much of the daunting atmosphere surrounding the rehearsals. They were firm only when necessary, particularly when faced with uncooperative behaviour or loss of focus on our part.

Did you encounter any difficulties during this journey, and how did you overcome them?

Cayla: In January, I fell ill, which unfortunately caused me to miss several rehearsals. However, I remained determined and committed to the musical by practising and memorising the lyrics and songs at home. The air was filled with music daily! Through my diligent efforts, I was able to catch up and bridge the gap in my participation.

Seth: It was difficult memorising all my lines. I had to spend more time studying the lines than for my Chinese spelling tests! I did not want to let my team down and that motivated me to keep going.

What do you like best about the rehearsals?

Cayla: I enjoyed singing the most. The dance rehearsals were very tiring. Given the opportunity, I would like to try out for the acting roles again as that is where my passion and interest lie.

Seth: I found that it was enjoyable to meet new people, a few of whom I became good friends with, like my friend Evan Goh. I was able to form close and lasting bonds with



Seth giving his best at the musical auditions



my fellow cast members, which included students from Fairfield Methodist School (Secondary), many of whom I may not have met if I had not been part of the musical.

Being a cast member has allowed me to...

Cayla: ...make new friends from the musical, including friends from across the levels from Primary 2 to Primary 6. I even made new friends from Fairfield Methodist School (Secondary) whom I look up to as my seniors. I am also looking forward to performing at the Victoria Theatre, a world-class stage.

Seth: ...experience many hilarious things! There's always a funny incident at rehearsals like people blurting out the wrong lines or saying their lines at the wrong time.



Cayla (left) during the recording of one of the original songs written for the musical

HOW TO PURCHASE TICKETS

1 Purchase tickets through the website: go.gov.sg/musical



OR

2 Scan the QR code



FAIRFIELD!
The Musical

WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY
Dwayne Lau
MUSIC BY
Elaine Chan

Victoria Theatre
28 - 29 July 2023

GUEST-OF-HONOUR:
Mr Heng Swee Keat
DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER
& COORDINATING MINISTER FOR ECONOMIC POLICIES

Fairfield! The Musical Merchandise for sale

Sales at FMS(P) and FMS(S) will start from 28 June to 21 July

Venue:

- NE walkway area @ FMS(P)
- General Office @ FMS(S)
- Merchandise will also be sold at Victoria Theatre during show days on 28 & 29 July

Get your limited edition Fairfield! The Musical merchandise now!

While stocks last!

HOW TO PURCHASE



Water bottle \$10



Drawstring bag \$8



Tote bag (small) \$12
Tote bag (big) \$15



L-shaped file \$3 each



Notebook \$5 each



FAIRFIELD METHODIST SCHOOLS 135TH FOUNDER'S DAY DINNER

A Sparkling Evening of **GLITZ** & *Glam*

Performance by Selena Tan (Founder of Dream Academy)
Hosted by Steven Chia (Channel News Asia) and Magdalene See (Actress/Host)

DATE: **4 August 2023, Friday**

VENUE: **Orchard Hotel Singapore
Grand Ballroom**
(442, Orchard Road)

DRESSCODE: **Glitz & Glam**



Secure your seats at
tinyurl.com/FairfieldFDD2023

Organized by The Fairfield Methodist Schools Alumni Association

Pricing

Early bird before 1 July | **\$135** per pax

From 1 July | **\$150** per pax

Students and Class of 2019-2021 | **\$115** per pax

Class of 2022 | **\$95** per pax
(First 100 signups after subsidy from FMS(S))

Schedule

6.00PM: Cocktails

7.00PM: Dinner

In each issue we interview a Fairsian to find out more about him/her after he/she left us. In this issue we sent the questions to Karl Mak who was with us for his secondary education.

KARL MAK

Please tell us a little about yourself, e.g., your full name, how long were you Fairfield and your year of graduation.

My name is Karl Mak. I was a student at FMSS from 2001- 2004.

What were your CCAs in school? (ps CCA is the modern name for ECA)

I was in the basketball team.

What were your best memories of Fairfield?

When I think about my time in Fairfield, I remember the great memories with my basketball team, our gruelling weekly training sessions and competing in the C and B division. The shared experience as a team forged strong friendships that have stayed with me for many years after graduation. Another key memory would be the Past vs Present Games that I participated in when I was in Fairfield. These games were always something I looked forward to as a student.

Who were some of your most memorable teachers?

Mrs Choe Wai Ling was the most memorable teacher for me. She taught me Geography when I was in Secondary 1 and she was the teacher who sparked my interest in Geography. Years later, I returned to Fairfield as an adjunct teacher after my national service and had the privilege to teach in her department.

What did you do after graduation? How did you start SGAG?

I started an enterprise technology start up right after graduation from university called Televate. Televate failed after a short 12 months and that is when I decided to run SGAG full time. SGAG had been a hobby page that my co-founder and I started in university, but we had no plans of turning it into a business. After my first company failed, I decided that it was the right time for me to try to build a business around SGAG.

Tell us a little more about SGAG and the work of SGAG.

SGAG is a content platform in Singapore that serves to better the lives of our audiences through original content. SGAG reaches over 2 million Singaporeans weekly across our social media channels. Since SGAG started, we have expanded our content network into Malaysia (MGAG), Philippines (PGAG) and Indonesia. In 2020, we expanded to form a digital creator network and currently we are working to empower over 1,000 of Southeast Asia largest digital content creators. Our companies are grouped under our holding company Hepmil Media Group.

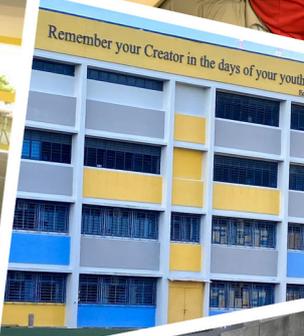
As one of the founders what is your role in SGAG?

As the CEO, I am in charge of growing the business. I work with different leaders across my regional teams to strategize and execute our plans across the region. I am constantly thinking and ideating about possible intersections between technology, culture and the way young people consume content.

Any words of wisdom for your junior Fairsians?

"Remember your Creator in the days of your youth" - I remember looking up at this verse from Eccel 12:1 on the walls of the school building during basketball training, often wondering what life would have in store for me. What I have learned is that life is unpredictable and it can go many ways, with both ups and downs, but as long as we place Christ at the centre of our lives, God will lead us to fulfil our destiny.

SGAG™



For those of us who do not know what SGAG is, here's what Google tells me:

SGAG is a Singaporean social media website with a mission to make every Singaporean's day a better one by creating quality content that engages and entertains. It is also known to have the largest comedy Facebook page in Singapore. SGAG expanded into Malaysia (MGAG) in 2015, and the Philippines (PGAG) in 2018.