

IN TANDEM

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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 *- Jan 2024*

by our Alumni Association to recognise a Fairfield alumnus who has excelled both academically and in extracurricular activities. Details of how you can apply for our 2024 Alumni Education Award can be found on our website.

next phase of their education journey. We wrapped up our 2023 Alumni event with Christmas carolling on Saturday 9th December. The carollers visited and sang at the homes of our alumni teachers and principal.

Dear Fairfield Family, on behalf of The Fairfield Methodist Schools' Alumni Association, here's wishing you a healthy and blessed 2024. To all our staff and students, especially the Primary One and Secondary One cohort joining our school for the first time this new year, we welcome you to the Fairfield family. The second half of 2023 was as exciting as the first since Fairsians, Alumni, Staff, Parents, and everyone connected to the Fairfield community were all in the mood for our 135th Anniversary celebration.

"Fairfield! The Musical" was performed to sold out crowds for three sessions back in July last year, which culminated in the gala night that was graced by our Deputy Prime Minister Heng Swee Keat and Mrs Heng. This was a performance spearheaded by our Primary School with casts from our Secondary School as well. Our Alumni Association also played a key role in garnering the support from our alumni community to attend the musical. That certainly speaks volumes of our One Fairfield initiative.

We also had our combined 135th Founder's Day Service hosted by our Secondary School on 4th Aug 2023 and our guest of honour was none other than Education Minister Chan Chun Sing. At the service, Mr Chan also presented the inaugural Alumni Education Award to our first recipient, Ms Liesl Ann Wong. The annual award is valued at \$3000 and is fully paid for

The highlight of our 135th Founder's Day Celebration was our annual Founder's Day Dinner which was held on the evening of 4th Aug, 2023 at Orchard Hotel. 'A Sparkling Evening of Glitz & Glam' was the theme of our dinner and it was hosted by our own Fairfield Alumni Ms Magdalene See from Whisk & Fold & Mr Steven Chia from Channel NewsAsia. Some 500 alumni, staff and guests that evening were serenaded by a live band performance throughout the dinner. Special guests who were at the dinner included our former principals, Mrs Tang Poh Kim, Ms Audrey Chen, Ms Elaine Lim and Ms Dorothy Ho. Diners were also treated to a special performance by alumni sister act Selena & Rosemary Tan. It was indeed a wonderful time for everyone as they took the opportunity to catch up with one another. That memorable evening also had all of us present singing our School Song, School Hymn and of course the birthday song for Fairfield. Most importantly, we celebrated God's goodness and faithfulness to Fairfield for the past 135 years.

Our Alumni Association also organised a 'Hotdog Buns Day' for the graduating Secondary 4/5 students over at the Secondary School on 22nd September and for the Primary 6 students on 13th October respectively to bless them with food and drinks. This was our Alumni Association's way of telling our graduating students that we are always with them even as they move on to the

Finally, we want to warmly welcome our new Principal for Fairfield Methodist School (Pri) Mrs Soh Mei Foong, who takes over the school leadership from Mdm Law Li Mei, who was our Principal from 2016 to 2023. We thank Mdm Law for leading our Primary School for the past 8 years. Our Alumni Association Management Committee looks forward to working closely with Mrs Soh and her team from 2024 and beyond.

Even as we embark on our new 'adventure' in 2024 settling into a new environment or meeting new colleagues or classmates, let us not fear the uncertainty of the future and what lies ahead. Instead, let us all be encouraged and know that 'the Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged' (Deuteronomy 31:8).

Until the next issue, keep well and have a fruitful 2024 ahead.

LOVE AND BLESSINGS,

Kelvin Ong

Blessed Carolling 2023

(Eunice Yao, 1st Vice President, Alumni Committee)



It was a beautiful Saturday afternoon in December 2023 and the blessed carollers from the Alumni Association had the privilege of gathering and visiting the homes of former principal, teachers and alumni, spreading Christmas cheer. Truly Jesus is the reason for the season. It was a privilege and delight to be part of this year's carolling. The 25 young and not so young (6 from the class of '62) gathered to bond together over a sumptuous lunch fellowship before we set off to visit our beloved principal/teachers (Mrs Tay Poh Luan, Mrs Eileen Chua, Mrs Chiu Peck Siong and Dr Low Guat Tin).

All Glory to God for truly Jesus is the reason for this season. We rejoiced singing Christmas Carols to bring joy to our hosts, telling the story of Jesus (from Luke 2) and praying for them. We had such a wonderful and joyous fellowship and we are very grateful for the hosts' warm hospitality and their generosity for the delicious refreshments.

Thanks be to God for the fine weather and His protection in our travelling from home to home in 5 cars. God is the strength of our heart. He is always faithful and strengthening us in all the challenges we face. We appreciate greatly the committee members for organising such an eventful fellowship. Praise the Lord. We are thankful to Wei Pin the choral conductor, Hannah the guitarist and the musicians, the team telling Jesus' story and prayers by Kelvin for the hosts, the transport officers ferrying all the Fairsians from home to home, not forgetting everyone for participating, and singing their hearts out.

Here's what some of the carollers had to say:

Sylvia Tan Geok Chiow (class of '62)

Meeting and singing carols with the old girls who graduated in 1962 and Hannah who graduated in 2013 gave me a sense of how precious Fairfield is to so many and how much God has blessed the school!

Elsa Yow (class of '85)

I had a wonderful time all day! Even though we only had a short time of rehearsal, once we started carolling, I was reminded how musical Fairsians naturally are.

Hannah Tay (class of 2013)

It was such a pleasure getting to play the guitar and singing together with everyone. My favourite part was seeing all the old teachers singing their hearts out. Definitely a highlight of my Christmas this year!

By the grace of God, we are blessed to be a blessing! Here's to our next carolling session in 2024!



Looking Back at "Fairfield! The Musical"



We wrapped up "Fairfield! The Musical" in a truly spectacular manner! The musical beautifully echoed our rich and diverse history, resonating deeply with many within the Fairfield community. As the curtain fell, we honoured the dedicated cast members who spent months of rigorous training and rehearsals. As we look back fondly at the memories of the journey leading up to this milestone production, let us acknowledge the invaluable contribution of the numerous teachers who toiled behind the scenes, orchestrating the success of this musical. Let us take a moment to listen to a few of them as they graciously share their insights and experiences from their involvement in this phenomenal project!

Graphic Design Team (Reflection from Mr Wong Yek Yue):

The musical production was grand and professional. It could be seen in the dedication of the cast and crew during rehearsals. My challenge was to do justice to their hard work and match the vision of the producers. Fortunately, I had a driven and entrepreneurial team of teachers to collaborate with. There were numerous brainstorming sessions before the team settled on the look, feel and message for the musical poster. Most people would be surprised by how many hours of computer graphics work went into a simple publicity poster like ours. Looking back at all the visual collateral, I have nothing but pride in what we have achieved.



PROPS TEAM:

The members of the Props Team were proud to have contributed to this unforgettable experience. From conception to the drawing board, from the drawing board to the little mock-ups, and finally from the mock-ups to the actual product, there was never a dull moment. Led by Mrs Rena Tham, the members of the Props Team consisted of the following teachers: Ms Ang Bee Chin, Mdm Chan Man Pui, Ms Chiu Kit Ying, Mrs Cindy Wong, Mrs Iris Tan and Ms Kwan Yoke Cheng. The team met regularly, including during the March and June holidays, to brainstorm and prepare for the creation of the myriad of props that were needed for the musical. The props, like the music, the lyrics, and the cast members, played an important role in the success of the musical.

Some of the props included items such as toys and plates of potato rice, for the Carnival Scene, as well as umbrellas needed for the dance item performed by FMS(S) students, just to name a few. Undoubtedly, some of our props included the all-time favourites - the bumper cars, as well as a gigantic pop-up book used in a vital scene by the main cast. Although most of the props had a stage time of less than five minutes, it took the team many hours to cut, build, tape, and assemble them. We even made extra sets in case any of them were damaged during the performances. At the end of this amazing journey, the team is so proud to have contributed to Fairfield's 135th celebrations! We hope that the musical brought much joy and nostalgia to all who came to watch!



COSTUMES TEAM:

Being a part of the costume team for the musical has been an incredibly rewarding experience. It is fascinating how something as seemingly simple as costumes can play such a vital role in bringing a production to life. Throughout this journey, it was an opportunity to learn and grow in various ways. First, the teamwork involved in the costume department has been remarkable. From collaborating with fellow team members to coordinating with the cast and crew, we appreciate the importance of effective communication and organisation. Problem-solving has also been a key skill we have honed. Whether it is altering costumes to fit different actors or making last-minute adjustments before a performance, being a part of the costumes team has taught us to think on our feet and find solutions under pressure. What is truly special about working



on the costumes team is the sense of fulfilment that comes from seeing the final product on stage. Watching the actors bring the characters to life in the costumes we have designed and crafted was incredibly rewarding. It was a reminder that every small detail plays a part in making the musical a success.

COLLABORATION WITH GRACE ORCHARD SCHOOL

(represented by Mrs Julie Yuan)



We were incredibly grateful to receive an overwhelming response to Adopt a Seat; for students of Grace Orchard School (GOS), a longtime partner of Fairfield. Fairfield staff also took the initiative to purchase and pack musical merchandise for the GOS students. Witnessing the sheer happiness on the GOS students' faces as they received the merchandise was a heartfelt reminder of the essence of inclusion; it is about love and playing a part, however big or small, in providing access and opportunities for all to share in the beauty of life's experiences. We are blessed to be a blessing and look forward to more of such meaningful collaborations!

A Sparkling Evening of Glitz and Glam

Eunice Yao, 1st Vice President, Alumni Committee



Our Founder's Day dinner on 4th Aug 2023 was surely more than just glitz and glam! It was a wonderful evening where Fairsians of all ages gathered to celebrate Fairfield's 135th birthday at Orchard Hotel. In attendance, we had a centurion, Mrs S.T. Liu, a Fairsian, who turned 100 in 2023. Fairsians from the classes in the 1950s to 1990s and even current students from the primary and secondary schools joined in the fun-filled evening! It truly was a party to remember. Hosts of the night were the charming Steven Chia and Magdelene See (both Fairsians themselves).

The witty Selena Tan and her sister, Rosemary Tan, sang and entertained with popular songs. Some cast members from the "Fairfield! The Musical" also took to the stage to celebrate the successful conclusion of the musical.

There is no party without the party goes! We took time to get a couple of Fairsians to pen their thoughts of the evening:



As we gather once again, we celebrate the spirit of unity that has shaped us into who we are today (Hannah Hong, class of 1978);

Always a beautiful thing to be part of Fairfield's celebrations and milestones. Thank you one and all for the memories past and present (Dale Cheong, class of 1999);

A spectacular night, meeting former teachers who look the same after 40+ years, and with the class of '81 (Thio Lay Hoon, class of 1981);

4th Aug is the connection once again to people and the school I love...and our Fairfield teachers from 50 years ago who continue to radiate life and love (Lim Peck Hoon, class of 1980).

So, until the next birthday of our beloved school--we thank our Father for this wonderful special school we call Fairfield!



CELEBRATING FAIRFIELD'S 135 YEARS OF LEGACY

by Reuven Tay (Sec 4E), Shaan Naresh Anand (Sec 4E), Kerin Chua (Sec 4D), Amelia Lee (Sec 4E), and Chloe Chin (Sec 4D)

On the morning of 4th August 2023, Fairfield joyously commemorated a significant event - her 135th Founder's Day. This special day was marked by meticulously planned pre-service and post-service activities that encapsulated Fairfield's rich history and enduring values. The Guest of Honour (GOH), none other than our esteemed Minister for Education, Mr. Chan Chun Sing, graced us with his presence, marking this day as a significant milestone in Fairfield's illustrious legacy.

Minister Chan's early arrival was a testament to his enthusiasm for the occasion. He took the time to immerse himself in Fairfield's rich heritage, embarking on an inspiring journey through our school. As he explored Fairfield's Archives Room, student leaders from both schools served as knowledgeable guides, unveiling the profound significance of various artefacts and the selfless individuals who have played pivotal roles in shaping Fairfield's identity over the years. This enlightening experience left Minister Chan with a newfound appreciation for Fairfield's illustrious history.

His next stop was the idyllic Sunshine@Fairfield, where our talented student baristas proudly prepared and served their conscientiously crafted beverages to the Minister. The rich aroma of freshly brewed coffee and the warm hospitality of our students created an atmosphere of joyous interaction.

One of the highlights of the 135th Founder's Day Service was Minister Chan's succinct yet powerfully delivered speech, in which he emphasised the core values in education and shared on the 'Three Beyonds': Beyond Ourselves, Beyond our School, and Beyond the Here and Now. He challenged all Fairsians to aspire to even greater heights, urging us to make the best use of our blessings. As a token of appreciation, a beautiful painting titled 'Flourishing as One Fairfield' was presented to Minister Chan. This artwork symbolises the strength found in diversity and the boundless potential that emerges when Fairsians come together to thrive as one community.



To conclude the service, a heartwarming montage beautifully encapsulated the essence of this year's events, featuring highlights such as the Carnival@Fairfield and the Fairfield Musical. Following this, Minister Chan, alongside our school leaders and esteemed partners, led the audience in a heartfelt rendition of a birthday song dedicated to Fairfield. As the voices of all joined in harmonious unity, the 135th Founder's Day Service came to a close, leaving everyone in attendance with a profound sense of pride and unity.

Fairfield's legacy is a testament to her enduring commitment to excellence. More importantly, it is a testament of God's goodness and faithfulness! As we celebrate 135 years of history, we look forward to many more years of blessings, achievements, and the continued flourishing of our beloved Fairfield community.

FAIRFIELD EDUCATION AWARD 2023

About the Education Award

The Fairfield Methodist Schools' Alumni Association (TFMSAA) Education Award seeks to encourage Fairians 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 alumnus, 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.

We look forward to receiving applications from deserving Fairians for our Education Award in 2024! Visit <https://fairfieldalumni.org.sg> to find out more!

We are delighted to present Ms Liesl Ann Wong (Class of 2020), our first recipient of the Fairfield Methodist Schools' Alumni Association (TFMSAA) Education Award, which seeks to encourage Fairians to be lifelong learners as they pursue higher levels of education to realise their potential and aspirations. Liesl received the award from the Minister of Education, Mr Chan Chun Sing, at the 135th Founder's Day Service on 4th August 2023.

Liesl is currently studying English Literature (with minors in Psychology and Japanese Language) in the College of Humanities and Sciences at the National University of Singapore (NUS). She is considering becoming an educator, impacted by her experiences in Fairfield. This includes the values that were taught during chapel and morning devotions, such as having a heart of service and being a blessing, and the guidance from her teachers who inspired her with their heart for the students. Her time in the Fairfield Choir was also formative. As a Student Conductor, she was able to hone her musical talents, build strong friendships, and lead her peers and juniors.

To her juniors in Fairfield, Liesl would like to offer the following advice: "Cherish your time together in Fairfield – how much you gain from this experience depends on how much you are willing to put in! (Most of the best and lasting friendships I've formed are with my friends from class/CCA). Don't stress yourselves out or wear yourselves too thin though - doing your best doesn't mean that you get straight As for everything, all the time. Do your best within the circumstances, and draw strength from your friends, teachers, parents, and others who care. You are loved! All the best – you can do it."

Congratulations once again to Liesl, and we wish her every blessing in her studies and endeavors going forward!



BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING



On 22nd September 2023, members of the executive committee of the Fairfield Methodist Schools' Alumni Association returned to their alma mater to encourage and bless our graduating cohort with hotdog buns and drinks as they prepare for their upcoming GCE examinations.

The joy was evident on the faces of our Secondary 4 and 5 students as they gathered during their lunch break at the canteen to collect their treats. What truly made this occasion heartwarming was the interaction between the alumni and the students, where they shared stories, laughter and invaluable wisdom. Our students also personally thanked the alumni for going the extra mile to make the graduating cohort feel cherished.



This memorable event stands as a shining example of the enduring partnership between the Fairfield Methodist Schools' Alumni Association and Fairfield Methodist School (Secondary). It serves as a testament to the love and support that defines our flourishing Fairfield community.

On behalf of our entire school and the Secondary 4 and 5 cohort, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to our Alumni. Their generosity and unwavering commitment to our students are nothing short of commendable.



CELEBRATING SINGAPORE'S 58TH BIRTHDAY @ NE SHOW

Reflections by Shawna Lo (P5H)

I attended the NE show on 8th July 2023. As it was my first time watching the National Day Parade in person, I felt exhilarated, excited and thrilled. Moreover, this year, the parade is back at the Padang! As we entered the parade grounds, the atmosphere was electric. The air was filled with chatter while my friends and I waited for the parade to start. My heart swelled with pride as I saw the Red Lions descend from the sky. Their dedication and courage were evident through the time and effort invested in rehearsing for the show. They showcased true bravery as they leapt out of the plane. I appreciate their hard work and commitment.

I also enjoyed watching the singing and dancing because it was entertaining and fun. Overall, I enjoyed the NE Show. It made me feel proud that Singapore has progressed so far. I felt a strong sense of belonging as I sang the national anthem and recited the pledge alongside thousands of other students. It was a fantastic opportunity to bond with my classmates, sharing laughter and creating lasting memories.-



Reflections by Li Siyan (5G)

On 8th July 2023, my classmates and I were invited to the NE Show for the first time. Typically, I would watch it on TV with my family, so this was an exciting change! I was so thrilled as I imagined the yelling, singing, and lively atmosphere at the Padang. The night before, I could hardly sleep, but as soon as I woke up, the excitement hit me - today was the day! Rushing to school, we boarded the bus with our Form Teachers, all of us in high spirits.

We arrived at around 3pm, and within thirty minutes, the Padang was bursting with people. We grabbed a quick bite and eagerly anticipated the start of the show. At about 5pm, the show kicked off with one of my favourites - the Kallang Wave. This got everyone excited, setting the tone for the evening.

We were extremely excited when the red lions descended from the sky. They jumped from a Singapore Air Force C-130 Hercules aircraft at over 12,500 feet. At first, they were tiny black spots in the sky. Then, they opened their parachutes and glided gracefully down to the Padang. The crowd erupted with screams, yells and cheers! The military march-past and aerial display were equally exhilarating. As the fighter jets

zoomed past, the ground trembled. It was as loud as thunder. During the march-past, some members of the marching contingents fainted, shocking the audience. According to a teacher, they had to keep moving to maintain blood circulation. The stamina and resilience displayed by the participants were truly impressive.

My absolute favourite moment was the NDP 2023 theme song 'Shine Your Light'. Singers on stage performed while hundreds of secondary school students, dressed in white with red capes, danced along. In the most exciting part of the song, a lion rose from the Padang, with fireworks blooming behind it. Singing along with everyone in the Padang, my heart swelled with pride as we sang the national anthem. Fireworks soared above the seats, painting the sky in a whirl of colours, creating a spectacular display.

The NE Show was incredible! I felt a strong sense of belonging to Singapore, and I felt grateful to be born a Singaporean. I rejoiced in Singapore's progress, from a British colony to an independent, intelligent and prosperous nation. I believe the memories from the NE Show will stay with me, serving as a long-lasting source of inspiration. Happy 58th birthday, Singapore!



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 Susan Ang who was with us for both her primary and secondary education.

SUSAN ANG

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

My name is Dr Ang Hwee Quan Susan. I was in Fairfield Methodist Schools from 1983 (Primary 3) to my graduation in 1990 (Secondary 4).

Currently, I am a Dental Surgeon with Q&M Dental Group and I am also an adjunct lecturer with Nanyang Polytechnic School of Health and Social Sciences. I volunteer as a community volunteer and a teacher aide in my free time. I also enjoy doing housekeeping and travelling. .

My primary school years were smooth and routine. I was a school prefect and I participated in the Choir.

My secondary school years were undoubtedly more challenging and tumultuous as I embarked on a journey of growth and self-searching. Like many teenagers, I had tendencies to test boundaries. In Secondary 2, I was suspended from school for missing school without official notice. That period was my lowest point in Fairfield but the overwhelming comfort and support I received from my friends and teachers gave me the determination to do good with my life from then on.

2. What were your CCAs in school?

My CCAs in school were Math and Science Society, Computer Club and Badminton Club.

3. What are your best memories of Fairfield?

Fairfield has given me a lot of fond memories and gifts. My best memories of Fairfield are the people in Fairfield and the camaraderie of my classmates and fellow Fairsians. Every one of my classmates is awesome and unique in his and her own ways. I left Fairfield 34 years ago but some of their quirks are still deeply ingrained in my mind.

The greatest gifts Fairfield has given me are my friends, who are still a big part of my life today. I am overjoyed every time I meet

a fellow Fairsian! Such is undeniably our Fairsian bond. My personal journey and my learning journey in Fairfield were rich and my experience in Fairfield have been nothing short of the best.

5. What did you do after graduation?

After my graduation in 1990 from Fairfield, I went on to pursue my A levels at Anglo Chinese Junior College. In 1993, I was admitted into the Faculty of Dentistry in the National University of Singapore (NUS). I graduated in 1997 with a Bachelor of Dental Surgery and served as a Dental Officer in Choa Chu Kang Polyclinic and Paya Lebar Airbase Dental Centre.

6. How long have you been in Q&M?

In 1999, I joined my current company Q&M Dental Group as a dental associate before becoming a partner in 2002. Q&M Dental group initially had 2 clinics--at Bukit Batok and Toa Payoh Central. I joined Q&M Dental because of a classmate who had just signed up with Dr Ng Chin Siau, our precedent partner then and now CEO. I have never looked back on this decision. Working in a group like this has given me the flexibility to spend more time with my family, explore other hobbies and devote time to continual learning. Besides my degree in Dentistry, I also have a postgraduate diploma in Health Services Management. Lately, I also completed a Mediator Accreditation assessment with the Singapore Mediation Centre.

7. What is your role in the company?

I am a clinician and my role is to deliver dental care to the clients of the company. I also supervise dental surgeons who are on conditional registration as and when required. I see the full range of patients but my interest lies mainly in aesthetic dentistry.

8. Any words of wisdom for your junior Fairsians?

Seize the Day. Do something today that your future self will thank you for.

Your Mindset is your biggest attribute or obstacle. Change your mind and you change your life. Do not expect others to change. It is easier to change yourself.

