

IN TANDEM

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

MAR 2025

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The Alumni Association Committee (Class of)

Kelvin Ong	1989
Eunice Yao	1999
Gracie Eng	1999
Stephanie Ang	1999
Lo Wei Pin	1980
Felicia Foo	1976
Zhan Yanxin	1997
Mervyn Quek	1992
Loh Jia Hui	1989 (Pr)
Rachael Lee	1999 (Pr)
Glenn Wong	2015
Serene Soh	1999
Natalie Chen	2000
Joshua Lim	2004
Chua Wei Wei	1990
Joseph Guo	1997



The President's Note - March 2025

Dear Fairfield Family,
I bring you greetings on behalf of The Fairfield Methodist Schools Alumni Association (TFMSAA) and hope you have had a fruitful 2024 even as we forge ahead with 2025

We want to welcome new alumni members who just joined our Alumni Association. We also want to welcome our new staff and students who joined our Fairfield family from 2025

Here's an overview of what our Alumni Association did throughout 2024

Our Alumni Association held our Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Sat 24 Feb 2024 over at Fairfield Methodist School (Secondary). At the AGM, we elected our management committee for 2024-25. These are the following persons who served in our Committee.

Ms Eunice Yao (1st Vice President), Ms Lo Wei Pin (2nd Vice President), Ms Stephanie Ang (Hon Secretary), Ms Felicia Foo (Hon Assistant Secretary), Dr Gracie Eng (Hon Treasurer), Mr Zhan Yanxin (Hon Assistant Treasurer) along with our 7 committee members, Ms Sharon Liat, Mr Mervyn Quek, Mr WJ Teng, Ms Natalie Chen, Ms Ivy Goh-Soh and Ms Loh Jia Hui.

Along with the 14 elected members, we also have our 2 co-opted school representatives in Mr Joseph Guo (Sec) and Ms Chua Wei Wei (Pri), who are both our alumni serving in this year's committee.

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

Our former School Board and Alumni

Committee member Dr Low Guat Tin has also been nominated to be an advisor to our Management Committee, and we want to extend our heartiest congratulations to her.

Prior to the AGM, we also hosted new members as well as our 2 Principals (Mr Wee Tat Chuen (Sec) & Mrs Soh Mei Foong (Pri)) for a lunch reception. Both our Principals also gave an overview on the development of our schools. We also warmly welcomed Mrs Soh into the Fairfield family as she takes on the principalship from our former Principal Mdm Law Li Mei.

On the 13th April 2024, we hosted the Alumni Staff lunch over at Furama City Centre. This is an annual Alumni Association event to appreciate our staff (in service or retired) who have taught or worked in Fairfield for at least 15 years. It is also our way to thank them for their contributions to our schools and nurturing generations of Fairfians. Some 50 staff, along with our management committee attended the lunch. Our current 2 Principals along with our School Board of Management Chairperson Mrs Joni Ong as well as our former Principals, Ms Dorothy Ho (FMSP) and Ms Elaine Lim (FMSS) were also present at the lunch.

The next major activity we had on our calendar was the 136th Founder's Day Dinner held on Sunday 4th August 2024 over at Marriott Hotel. Some 400 guests attended the celebration and the highlight of the dinner was certainly the performances put up by our Primary School Principal Mrs Soh, along with our Vice Principals from the Secondary School, Mr Jerome Ngan, Ms Stella Koh and Mdm Veronica Chua. Guests were also treated to a special violin and vocal performance put up by our students from our Primary School. It was certainly a treat for everyone present and a memorable one as our guests took the opportunities to capture the celebrations over at our photo booth as well.

As in previous years, our Alumni Association also organized a 'Hotdog Buns' Day both for the graduating students over at our Secondary & Primary School respectively in

September and in October. Our Management Committee was present to bless our graduating classes with food, beverages and gifts. This was our Alumni Association's way of encouraging our graduands to stay connected with Fairfield no matter where they will be heading to after their major examinations.

We then wrapped up our 2024 with Christmas caroling on Saturday 7th Dec 2024. The Carolers (made up of our Committee members together with other Alumni) visited four homes this year to spread some Christmas cheer with our joyful tidings of familiar Christmas carols. One of the host families was none other than Mrs Tay Poh Luan, who was our Afternoon School Principal when Fairfield was still an old-girls school. We were certainly glad to be able to spread the spirit of Christmas to all the families we visited including to the homes of our Board Chairperson Mrs Joni Ong, Alumni Adviser Dr Low Guat Tin and former staff Mrs Chiu Peck Siong.

Our 2025 Alumni Education Award is now opened for application. Send in your application to us if you are matriculating into University this year and would like to win the award from our Alumni Association worth \$3000. More details may be found on this issue.

Truly, we want to give all praise and glory to God for both for our Alumni Association and our 2 Schools in 2025 and beyond.

Until the next issue, have a blessed and fruitful 2025 ahead.

LOVE AND BLESSINGS,
Kelvin Ong

ALUMNI TEACHERS LUNCH 2024

The Alumni Association organises the Alumni Teacher's Lunch annually to allow our alumni teachers and staff to get together and catch up over a sumptuous meal. The tradition and platform for alumni engagement with teachers is traced back to the alumni tea or reception organised after Sports Day from the 1930s.

The Alumni Teacher's Lunch was held on 15 April 2024 at Tiffany's Café at Funan City Centre. After the invitations were sent out, the response was quite good and half the café premises was fully seated with teachers and alumni. The food was sumptuous and quite a wide spread. Not just the fresh seafood, the deserts were aplenty and diners were spoilt for choice.



Alumni took the chance to catch up with teachers. One was surprised when perhaps a teacher mentioned that he or she can recall us, but we could not pinpoint which year the teacher taught us. Certainly, this brings back memories of our school days.

Among the retired teachers, we are honoured to have Mrs Lyuo Shao Mei join us. Now in her 80s, Mrs Lyuo graduated from Fairfield Girls in 1956 and then came back to her alma mater to teach mathematics between 1962 to 1997.

Many photos were taken, many hugs were given, many chatter. This shows Fairfield is one big family and we are blessed to be part of the family, May God continue to bless Fairfield always.



Fairfield Education Awards 2025



The Fairfield Schools Alumni Association (TFMSAA) Education Award seeks to encourage Fairfians to be lifelong learners as they pursue higher levels of education to realise their potentials and aspirations. The award is also for our Alumni Association to recognize an outstanding Fairfield Alumnus, who has demonstrated his or her passion for learning and loyalty to Fairfield in his/her pursuit of tertiary education in local or overseas undergraduate studies, and to build a network of Fairfield Scholars who are recognized by both the Alumni Association and the Fairfield Methodist Schools.

A one-time prize of \$3,000 will be awarded to the successful applicant.

We look forward to receiving applications from deserving Fairfians for our education award in 2025! Visit <https://www.fairfieldalumni.org.sg> to find out more



A ROCK & ROLLING GOOD TIME AT FAIRFIELD'S 136TH FOUNDER'S DAY DINNER

Fairfield celebrated our 136th Founder's Day on the evening of 4th August 2024 with a "Rock of Ages" themed dinner at Marriott Tang Plaza Hotel, where Fairsians past and present reunited for a fabulous night of food, fun, and fellowship.

Our lively emcees, mother-daughter team Karen and Andrea Ralls, walked us through the programme, including praise and worship led by Holy Covenant Church and a Fairfield trivia quiz to test our knowledge of Fairfield's history. Attendees were delighted by the talents showcased by Fairfield students and staff. Travis Wong (Pri 3) and Chua Suen Ern (Pri 5) entranced the audience with a stirring violin duet, and Pri 5 students Micah Chua and Jonathan Ho presented an original song titled "Laying Strong Foundations", which they had composed and dedicated to Fairfield for this Founder's Day. In keeping with our tradition of having new School Leaders sing at the Founder's Day Dinner, Mrs Soh Mei Foong (P, FMSP), Ms Stella Koh (VP, FMSS), Mr Jeromy Ngian (VP, FMSS), and Mdm Veronica Chua (VP, FMSS), along with several teachers who provided instrumental support, also performed a rendition of several pop songs.

We were also pleased to take the opportunity to present two members of the Fairfield Methodist Schools' Board of Management, Ms Kwok Wan Yee & Mdm Sandra Tan, with their Long Service Awards (5 years) during the dinner. Congratulations to both, and much thanks for the faithful service to our community!

We hope everyone enjoyed their time at the Founder's Day Dinner and look forward to seeing all of you again next year!



(FL)-Experiencing the Outdoors Together

by Timothy Chua (Sec 2D), Ashlyn Ho (Sec 2E), Charisse Yeo (Sec 2E),
Mikaela Faith (Sec 3D), Mischa Budiman (Sec 4A) and Tricia Chua (Sec 4A)

After studying and working hard together as a cohort in Semester 1, the Secondary Ones were finally going for their long-awaited camp from 15 to 17 May 2024. The excitement was palpable as students gathered early in the morning, their chatter and laughter echoing through the school corridors. For some students, this would be their first night adventure away from home. Bursting with anticipation, they 'took flight' for PAssion Wave @ Sembawang, ready to immerse themselves in nature, forge new friendships, and participate in thrilling team-building activities.

One of the most exhilarating experiences of the camp was dragon boating at Jurong Lake Gardens. Despite the heavy rain that curtailed some activities, the students' spirits remained high. They donned their gear, split into three teams, and eagerly boarded their boats. Under the guidance of experienced coaches, they learned to paddle in unison. Once they got the hang of it, a spirited race ensued. The students splashed water at each other, their laughter and cheers resonating across the lake. The camaraderie and joy experienced during this activity were truly unforgettable.

Another highlight of the camp was the outdoor cooking activity. This wasn't just about preparing a meal; it involved a lively bidding process for ingredients using tokens

earned from mini games. The bidding wars were intense, with students shouting numbers and vying for the best ingredients. The excitement continued as they worked together to cook their meals. Their efforts culminated in a delicious feast which was devoured in seconds, leaving them hungry for more.

The second day concluded with a much-anticipated campfire. Each class prepared performances filled with cheers and dances, showcasing their creativity and enthusiasm. The campfire was a spectacle of vibrant energy, with students cheering for their peers and dancing along. The night was filled with applause and laughter, creating an atmosphere of joy that left everyone beaming with pride and happiness.

All too soon, the camp came to an end. As the students boarded the bus back to school, they carried with them not just their belongings, but also a treasure trove of memories and newfound friendships. The camp was more than just an outdoor adventure; it laid strong foundations for the students' secondary school journey, fostering unity and resilience.



BREAKING BARRIERS: Secondary 2's (FL)-EXciting Journey of Embracing Diversity

by Mikaela Faith (Sec 3D), Erica Ng (Sec 3C), Fayth Wai (Sec 3E), Goh Yu Qian (Sec 3G) and Sarah Goh (Sec 4E)

The Weighted Assessment season for the Secondary 2 students has finally come to a close! Now, what lies ahead for these students? Fear not, as the Secondary 2 students embarked on three core events packed with various activities that were focused on appreciating different abilities and fostering family harmony from 15 May to 17 May 2024.

The first event aimed to broaden their understanding of diverse capabilities. In an era often marked by high expectations, the 'diff-ability' workshop stood out as highly relevant. It offered experiences ranging from group games with unique sound effects simulating the challenges faced by individuals with autism, to learning sign language for the deaf and crafting fidget cubes for those with ADHD. Among the exercises, seated volleyball left a lasting impression, where students experienced mobility impairments by using only their upper bodies, gaining profound insights into the daily hurdles faced by individuals with cerebral palsy. Each station deepened their empathy and awareness of 'diff-abilities'.

Day 2 dawned with the arrival of FAMQUEST, a role-playing activity where students formed 'families' to navigate life's pivotal choices. This interactive experience revolved around maneuvering through stations representing significant decisions impacting family dynamics. These choices, symbolised by physical currency denoting 'love', 'joy', and 'wisdom', were crucial for achieving victory. Building harmony within the 'family' proved vital to overcoming challenges, fostering teamwork and breaking down social barriers among students. FAMQUEST not only strengthened class bonds but also instilled a shared understanding of the importance of harmony in real-life family settings.

On the same day, each Secondary 2 class embarked on immersive learning journeys like dining in the dark to simulate blindness, thereby applying their newfound knowledge from the workshops on 'different abilities'. In particular, Secondary 2C visited a home for individuals with autism. Upon arrival,



students were warmly greeted by the residents, who engaged them in drawing activities. The students learned to draw a flower from the instructor, before guiding residents through the process. The warmth of their interaction lingered long after reluctant goodbyes were exchanged, leaving a lasting impact on both groups.

Throughout the week, the Secondary 2 students showcased resilience as they tackled challenges and laid strong foundations for their understanding of individuals with different abilities, acknowledging their often-underestimated strengths and daily hurdles. As the week drew to a close, the memories of these transformative events remained vivid. Strengthening bonds and deepening insights, the Secondary 2 students wholeheartedly immersed themselves in a week brimming with laughter, curiosity, and profound learning experiences, exemplifying excellence in their endeavours. This FLEX week will undoubtedly be cherished as an unforgettable journey for all involved.



Reunion for Class of 1994

The Class of 1994 threw a big reunion at 1-Arden, gathering more than 80 fellow Fairfield classmates. The date, 30th April 2024, was aptly chosen to commemorate 30 years since they left Fairfield Secondary. The planning started back in August 2023, when a group of friends from the Class of 1994 attended Founder's Day Dinner and decided that they had to try and do something for the big '3-0'. With the advance of social media platforms, they searched for old friends and names and pulled each other into a WhatsApp group. Special thanks to Ms Wendy Tong (4F '94) for helping to secure an entire section of 1-Arden for the event!

For Mr PK Ong (4C '94), it was a reunion that should have happened earlier! He shared, "I felt it was an awesome idea to meet up after 30 years! But we should have done it earlier. When I reached there, it was fun trying to identify everyone and to say hi to old faces that I've not seen all these years. Really brings back memories from our youthful days. Friends from NCC(Land) and playing basketball. It was amazing to see everyone again! Wish more people from my class could be there but 80+ people showed up so it was great!" PK was remembered by his Fairfield classmates as being obsessed with basketball when he was a student, and now is a basketball Coach with SG Basketball.

Another classmate from 4C '94, Mr Shawn Ho, attended the event with his wife Ms Jerina Chiang (4A '94). He commented, "Some I had not seen in 30 years. But it didn't matter. Conversation flowed so easily, bringing us magically back to Fairfield!"

Mr Lim Chih-Yang (4F '94) had similar sentiments. He shared, "30 years since we left the gates of Fairfield, the feeling of camaraderie and friendship still reign strong among the class of 94. We will always treasure and never forget this memorable gathering."

It was the first time so many from the Class of 1994 has gathered since passing through the gates of Fairfield and everyone truly enjoyed themselves. Ms Serene Lee (4A '94) recalled, "Our secondary school reunion took us on a ride down memory lane. As we gathered, I couldn't help but feel like I'd stepped into a time capsule. Some of us were mates since Primary 1! We snapped selfies, reminisced about our teenage mischiefs and laughed at old funny stories. Amidst the laughter and nostalgia, we rekindled old friendships. It was amazing to see how everyone has bloomed from the gawky teenagers we once were. So, cheers to the past, the present, and the fact we survived school together, and hopefully not too long till the next meet up!"

MRS SOH MEI FOONG

Towards the end of 2023, there was an announcement that some schools in Singapore would undergo a change of principals, including Fairfield Methodist School (Primary). We had to bid our beloved principal, Mdm Law Li Mei, a fond farewell as she had been appointed to a new school. We then had the privilege of welcoming a new leader, Mrs Soh Mei Foong, to our school as the new principal.

So... who is Mrs Soh Mei Foong? Let us find out more about her! We had the honour and privilege of spending some time with her and asked her a few questions. We are now going to share the answers with you!

If you would like to find out more about our principal, then this is the right place! And, who knows? You might pick up some good advice too! Enjoy!

What were your first impressions of Fairsians?

Mrs Soh: Well, when I first walked into the school, I thought that they were very well behaved. I also thought they were confident when they spoke, and they also spoke eloquently.

What was your best memory of school?

Mrs Soh: I used to study in an old school called Belvedere Primary School, which does not exist anymore. My favourite memory from there was... Actually, first I need to give some context; the daily pocket money I received then was \$0.10. I know that sounds like very little. I mean, you cannot even buy much with \$1 these days.

However, back then, \$0.10 was a lot of money. There used to be a canteen stall that sold chocolate cakes. I remember every day during recess, I would go there to buy the same one piece of chocolate cake, because that was all I could afford. So, every day I would eat the same chocolate cake and it was very yummy!

Another fond memory I had of school were two art projects I had done. One of them was to make a paper durian, and another one was to make a 2D rabbit out of thread. I remember that my mother helped me in both art projects, and she was also really supportive of me as well. Speaking of my mother, she was yet another memory of school that I have! Once in a while, my mother used to bring sandwiches with strawberry jam and butter to school for me. Back then, parents were also allowed to enter and exit the school premises during recess.

What was the best piece of advice you have ever received?

Mrs Soh: A pastor once said to me that commitment is more important than love. For example, if you really love writing, you also need the commitment to do it. From his advice, I learnt that sometimes when love is not enough, I still need to commit and strive to do my best in all my pursuits and endeavours.

What can you cook to perfection? And are you willing to share the recipe with us?

Mrs Soh: This is a bit embarrassing but... I do not cook, and I cannot cook. Unless you count boiling water? Is that cooking? (Author's note: Apparently it is!) So um... sorry to disappoint everyone...

What do you like to do in your free time?

Mrs Soh: I like to do quite a lot in my free time actually, like eating nice food. I also love to go for walks and swim. I do a lot of crafts in my free time as well, and I like to read too.

If you were a crayon in a box of crayons, which colour would you be?

Mrs Soh: Well, I like colours and I do like all of them... But, if I had to pick, I think I would choose orange. It is bright so it gives out positive energy, and it looks like the sun, which is a great source of light and radiance.

If you had the power to change the world, what would you do?

Mrs Soh: I would want everyone to live a purposeful life because having purpose is meaningful. So, if you live a purposeful life, you will also live a meaningful life. And, if you have a purposeful life, you will be gainfully engaged with your time and would not feel so bored all the time! With purpose and meaning, your life can be fun and enjoyable!

Mrs Soh is indeed a leader with a heart to serve! From our interaction with her, she has made great efforts to allay our nervousness with her warm smile and kind gestures. Throughout the interview, she gave us her undivided attention despite her busy schedule and truly stayed true to what she meant by being committed to the task at hand. Happily married and a mother of two boys, (as well as several pets!) Mrs Soh is no stranger to looking after the needs of others. She is definitely someone whom Fairsians can look up to as a role model! Fairfield Methodist School (Primary) is so blessed to be under her leadership. We look forward to getting



to know her even more as she continues to guide us with wisdom, humility and heart.

WELCOME TO THE FAIRFIELD FAMILY, MRS SOH, AND GOD BLESS YOU AND KEEP YOU!