

INTANDEM



Ostentatiously Yours

Blessed Founder's Day Dinner 4 Aug 2012



A close-knit party celebrating 124 years of God's goodness to the Fairfield Schools and welcoming the latest additions to the Fairfield family. That took place on the blessed evening of 4 August 2012.



Fairsians from across the generations gathered at NTU Alumni Club@One North. It was a family reunion with anointed praise and worship led by a team from the Aldersgate Methodist Church, a best-dressed competition, treasured fellowship, lots of photo opportunities and CAKE! We were all dazzled by the sheer ostentatious glory of the contestants in the best-dressed competition! These good looking and charismatic Fairsians truly stole the limelight, strutting their gear and displaying grace in the competition! Thanks to all who took part! Let's give them yet another well-deserved applause!



The blessed dinner also managed to raise funds for the fundraising project in aid of the Primary School's upgrading project for the building of a performing arts studio and a competitive sports hall. All glory to Jesus! Amen!



Androids, digi-cams, cyber-shots, Diana Minis, iPads... you name it... it was there – everybody taking pictures with long-time-no-see classmates, teachers, seniors, juniors... sweet fellowship.. (quick! email us at info@fairfieldalumni.org.sg to get your tickets for the tickets to next year's 125th dinner!)

It was a fantastic dinner. Our beloved School Song and Hymn were sung, evoking beautiful memories as we enunciated the lyrics, realizing how they have been etched dearly on our hearts. The graduands from the Class of 2011 also

joined us in the party as Alumni for the very first time! So blessed to have you all there! Class of 2011...2005...1999...1995...1975....

Until next year! 125th! Fairfield! We love you!!! ■



Olson Talent Development Programme...

The Olson Talent Development Programme (OTDP) aims to cater to the diverse interests and talents of the Fairfield pupils to allow them to pursue their strengths and passion in specific subjects beyond the boundaries of the curriculum. The programme runs after school hours and participation is voluntary.

Fairfield's vision is to develop our pupils to be active, lifelong learners and influential leaders. Through our enriching and holistic learner-centered programmes, we aim to create a vibrant community where the pupils' abilities, needs and interests are catered to. As such, the OTDP is designed in alignment with the school's teaching and learning framework and will cover six subject areas, each featuring specially created activities which aim to extend the pupils' learning, develop their 21st century competencies and broaden their horizons.

OTDP - English



OTDP - Humanities



OTDP - Mother Tongue



...(OTDP)



OTDP - Science

The subject areas and their respective programme objectives are as follows:

Subject Area	Programme Objectives
English Language: Creative Writing Programme	Students will creatively engage with poetic and prosaic texts in order to produce their own high-quality works. They will delve deeply into the craft of writing through a mentorship programme with local writers as they interact with and learn first-hand from these professionals.
Humanities: The Fairfield Special Humanities Programme	Students will engage in hands-on discovery of History and Geography through activities such as discussing documentaries and exploring historical controversies. They will also be brought on learning journeys to places such as Marina Bay, Bukit Timah Nature Reserve, Fort Canning, and the Peranakan Museum where they will further explore various historical and geographical concepts.
Mathematics: Singapore Mathematical Olympiad Training	This programme prepares students to compete in the Mathematical Olympiad Competition. Through the solving of challenging mathematical problems, students stand to learn higher-order thinking skills while being stimulated to think creatively and critically.
Chinese Language: Chinese TV News Education Workshop	The workshop stimulates the students' interest in Chinese Language through broadcast-related activities, developing in them an acute awareness of current affairs. Students will hone their ability to read and express themselves through vocal and pronunciation training. Their writing ability will also be strengthened through news-scripting activities.
Science: Enhanced Life Sciences for Young Scientists	The programme enhances the students' interest in Life Sciences, and extends what students learn during their Life Sciences module in Secondary One. Students will participate in a series of enrichment workshops designed to broaden and deepen their understanding of modern stem cell and DNA research.
Aesthetics: In the Masters' Footsteps	Students will gain a richer understanding and appreciation of fine art through an exploration of art history. They will also interact with art practitioners and professionals as well as establish connections with art institutions to learn more about fine art in the process. This exposure serves to nurture and refine their skills.

FMS(S) Debating and Oratorical Society - Champions of the Methodist Cup 2012

On the 27th of October 2012, the members of our Debating and Oratorical Society represented Fairfield in the Annual Methodist Cup organised by Anglo Chinese Junior College. The hotly-contested tournament, first organised 10 years ago, is a tournament held especially for Methodist schools debaters.

This year, debaters from the following schools took part in the tournament: Anglo-Chinese School (Independent), Anglo-Chinese School (Barker Road), Methodist Girls' School, Paya Lebar Methodist Girls' School and Fairfield Methodist School (Secondary).

Despite not having a coach for the last 6 months, the Fairfield debaters remained undaunted as they fielded both the junior and senior teams for the tournament. It was something that they had set their sights on and prepared for. Our junior team, with less than one year of debating experience, had the odds stacked against them but they persevered and did not let us down, winning two out of three rounds. Our senior team did not disappoint as well and did Fairfield proud by winning all three rounds, making them the overall champions of the Methodist Cup 2012. It was especially commendable for them as they were the only team in the tournament that won all three rounds.

Worthy of mention was also our senior team winning for the first time in the tournament's history the Bishop Dr. Robert Solomon Cup for Best Team Performance. To top things off, individuals of the senior team won awards for their sharp and eloquent debating skills. Among the 50 debaters who took part, Andrew Ng of 3E received the award of 7th Best Speaker, Alex Goh of 3A received the award for 6th Best Speaker and Keziah Simon of 3F received the award for 5th Best Speaker. Our junior team also gave great speeches and put on a praiseworthy performance. Skylar Seow of 1E was named best speaker of the second round and Henry Goh of 3F was named best speaker of the third round.

The debaters' achievements underpin the school's commitment to provide our pupils with a holistic education that is diverse and enriching to stretch and develop the abilities of different groups of pupils. We would like to give thanks to the Lord because He is good, for His mercy endures forever.

Congratulations Fairfield Debating and Oratorical Society members! ■



Pupil Development



Primary 6 Batam Service Learning Trips

In 2012, apart from preparing for PSLE, all Primary 6 pupils also took time off on 4 different Saturdays to bless Batam, Indonesia. Armed with games, mural painting plans, songs and dances, the Primary 6 pupils visited and blessed children from 1 orphanage and 1 Primary School. Despite the language barrier, it was evident from the faces of the Indonesian children that they had enjoyed the activities planned for them and more importantly, the presence of our Fairsians. Having said that, it was also clear to that we, Fairsians, were also very blessed by the Indonesian children's open hearts and friendships. Many Fairsians had also witnessed how the children were contented despite of the little that they have. Indeed it is more blessed to give than to receive.

Combined Uniformed Groups Service Learning Trip to Siem Reap, Cambodia

On the 3rd December to 8th December, 44 pupils and 12 teachers and officers of the Boys' Brigade, Girls' Brigade and Red Cross visited Siem Reap, Cambodia for a week of blessing Cambodia. Visiting 2 local primary schools, 2 villages and 1 primary school over 4 days, the group of Fairsians hoped to bless the children with their gifts of English, Art, Music and Dance lessons. But as with all service learning trips, in blessing others, many Fairsians were also blessed by the children they met. One of our pupils' reflections is as follows:

Day 3 Reflections by Norvins Tong, 6E

Today, we went to Chum Bok Hea Pri Sch. The Cambodian children were very excited. It was really fun. We went inside the classroom and introduced ourselves to the children. We used flashcards and wrote our names on it. After introducing ourselves, we asked them to introduce themselves. We then continued by taking out charts and explaining the words. We explained the words using actions and repeating the words. Those who did not understand the words, one of us would go to them personally and repeat the word until they could pronounce it. After teaching eight words, we sang the song "If you're happy and you know it..."

We carried on teaching the last four words. We split into three groups since there were nine of us. Two groups took all boys and one group took all the girls. Boys went outside while the girls stayed inside the classroom. We played a game by using pictures and we scrambled it up. We gave them each one picture and asked them to put it in the correct place.

We will get every four of them to come out and play the game. Each kid would get a sweet. After finishing the game, some of us recapped the words with those children who were not playing yet. We finished all three charts, and we started to play monkey using an angry bird soft toy. I felt over the moon, because I was having so much fun throwing the ball, and some of them play volleyball too! I thought every little thing was like a treasure to the Cambodian children. We should be thankful for the good things we have in Singapore.

After playing, we said goodbye to the children. We were touched because some of them even hugged us when we left. They couldn't bear to see us leave! I have learnt that it is better to give than to receive. We gave them lessons in English and we received their hugs and goodbyes.

I hope these lessons will have a big impact on their lives. They are always eager to learn new things and they try their best to pronounce the words. Even though we teach them lessons, we also need human interaction with each other.

by Mr Goh Sheow En, SH/CCE





Fairfield Choir in Prague/Vienna

On Monday 26 November 2012, 32 members of the Fairfield Methodist School (Primary) choir along with four teachers and four parent-chaperons, embarked on their 8-day musical journey to Prague, Czech Republic and Vienna, Austria. The objectives for the Eastern European trip were three-fold: To gain exposure performing to international audiences, benchmark themselves against several international choirs through the 22nd International Festival of Advent and Christmas Music competition as well as experience the culture and architecture of the foreign lands.

On arrival in Prague, the choir engaged in intensive in choir practices with their accomplished conductor Miss Susanna Pua and skilled pianist Mrs Freda Lim. Under the consummate conducting and mesmerising piano accompaniment of the respective instructors, the choir members' resilient efforts paid off when they clinched the Gold Award in the 22nd International Festival of Advent and Christmas Music competition. To God be the highest honour and greatest glory!

Of course, all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy. So, in between choir practices, performances and competition, the Choir found time to immerse deeply in the rich history of Prague. The Choir visited The Prague Castle with its famed St. Vitus Cathedral. Choir members were brought to the fascinating Astronomical Clock, the famed Charles Bridge and the iconic Old Town Square, where their public performance in St Nicholas Church was well-received by the international audience. Choir members also revelled in the alluring atmosphere of the Christmas Market thereafter with some souvenir-shopping.

The Choir had more treats en route the bus ride to Vienna from Prague. They encountered snow! Glorious snow! Most were simply awestruck by the breath-taking beauty of God's creation. Spectacular snow aside, splendid sights awaited the Choir in Vienna. Besides seeing the stunning baroque-styled buildings, the well-known Musikverein and the celebrated Mozart Apartment, the Choir was privileged to attend a master class by Choral Maestro Professor Erwin Ortner. Through the three-hour lesson, Choir members learnt useful techniques on how to improve their singing.

The varied and meaningful experiences which the Choir engaged in, together with the lasting friendships they had forged on the trip, were made possible with the unstinting devotion of their accompanying teachers Ms So Bee Soon, Mrs Sharin Lim, Mdm Lim Sok Hui and Mrs Cecilia Lee as well as parent-chaperons Ms Lyz Ng, Mrs Adeline Chin, Mr Ma and Mrs Esther Wong. Many thanks go to our parent-chaperons who played a huge part in assisting the teachers to look after the Choir members. Much appreciation also goes to our Principal, Mrs Chaillan and Vice-Principal, Ms Liat who approved the overseas trip; SH/Aesthetics, Mrs Irene Yong, for her invaluable advice; Ms Dolores Lim, for her efficient administrative support; Miss Koh Siew Peng, for guiding a few Choir members in making the souvenirs for their Exchange with the Prague Philharmonic Children's Choir and last but not least, to one and all who had prayed for the Choir's health and safety during the trip.

by Mdm Lim Sok Hui, Choir Teacher

FMSP 2012 Cultural Immersion Trip to Taiwan

On 19th November 2012, a team of 34 Fairfield Methodist Primary School teachers and students embarked on their trip to Taiwan. This was a six-day cultural immersion trip, where we visited a local school and various sightseeing spots.

The main focus of this trip is a three-day immersion programme in a Taipei elementary school - Jimei Elementary School. When our coach arrived at the gate of the school, their students' representatives were all ready to welcome us with flower garlands and synchronized cheers. Their warm hospitality immediately set us at ease and we returned our appreciation with loud applause and earnest smiles. Over the next three days, students participated in a wide array of



activities. Not only did we attend their Chinese language classes, we also had a first-hand experience of their Aesthetics and Physical Education lessons. We were introduced to the many skills and patterns of rope skipping and in the span of 30 minutes, our students mastered a Korean hip-hop dance, under the guidance of the student leaders in Jimei Elementary. This wide range of activities provided our students with ample opportunities to interact with the local students and teachers, promoting friendship between students from both countries. It also offered us a glimpse into a schooling life that is very different from Singapore's education system.

In this short span of six days, we also toured many of the famous attractions in Taipei and Yilan. Visits to cultural and historical sites such as the National Palace Museum and Martyr's Shrine offered us a deeper understanding of the varied and immense history of Taiwan. The highlight for many must have been the stay in Tou Cheng Farm Resort, Yilan. This was certainly an out of the world experience as compared to the concrete buildings we see every day in our modern city. Greenery abounded in this resort and the efforts the Taiwanese put in to conserve their natural environment through recycling and the prohibition of all chemicals in the farming of vegetation, set many of us thinking about the how we could contribute to environmental conservation in Singapore.

All in all, this Cultural Immersion trip to Taiwan definitely motivated and increased students' enthusiasm in the learning of the Chinese language through exposure to the Chinese culture and provision of an authentic Chinese language learning environment in a local school. It also helped our students to cultivate values such as self-reliance and independence, while fostering bonding and team camaraderie with fellow schoolmates. ■

by Chen Pei Shi, CL Teacher

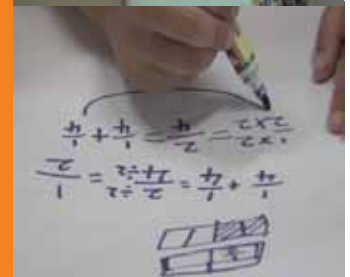
Staff Development

Sharing Abroad...

...49th Annual Conference for the Mathematical Association of Victoria

While December is a break from school for most of us, Mrs Pearlyn Gan (NIE Teaching Fellow) and I, continued our quest for learning in Melbourne. We presented a research paper entitled Higher Order Thinking Tasks for Low Achievers at the 49th Annual Conference for the Mathematical Association of Victoria. The participants at the conference learnt that low-achieving pupils are capable of exhibiting higher order mathematical thinking. *In fact, these pupils showed greatest improvement after the pupils had completed tasks that were designed to foster higher order thinking skills.*

By Ms Ng Mei Yun, HOD/Mathematics





Learning Locally...Learning through Baking

The Teaching Staff of FMSP continued on the theme Finding Your Professional Voice as part of staff development to learn more about Self-Directed Learning (SDL) during one of the sessions at the Year-End Staff Planning Week. The highlight of the Staff Planning Week was on 20 November 2012 when teachers engaged in reflecting on how pupils might feel when they learnt new knowledge and acquired new skills. The session, conducted by a team of teacher-facilitators and trainer, Dr Divaharan, an NIE lecturer, juxtaposed baking bread to the teaching-learning process. Through the activity, parallels to how student-learning could be more self-directed were highlighted to teachers.

To conduct the bread-making trigger activity was Mr David Yong, HOD/SP, who did a live demonstration using a bread machine. Using the KWL approach, teachers used online applications to post 'what they wanted to know', 'what they know' and 'what they had learnt' online regarding baking bread. Questions raised by teachers were addressed during the workshop much like the way questions which pupils would ask in a typical classroom setting would be addressed. Teachers collaborated in groups to make their bread using the bread machines brought in by some of the staff members.

Through the hands-on activities, Dr Divaharan stressed the need for teachers to place themselves in the shoes of the pupils. She explained that doing so would enable teachers to be more mindful of the various steps it would take pupils to be self-directed learners. The end of self-directed learning is in pupils' evaluating and assessing how much they have learnt. In the case of the staff, this was shown by evaluating our bread during the bread-tasting segment.

Key learning points which the staff took away with them was that just as baking bread is a discipline/routine; a science and an art requiring accurate measure and knowledge as well as involving the use of living things (yeast); so was teaching.

Indeed, baking bread is like teaching since being an educator fully parallels the above in terms of teaching being a science first then an art later. Through the baking activity, teachers were reminded that care had to be taken to obey the principles of living things as well as to create the necessary environment for pupils to grow. Lastly, through the baking activity, teachers learnt to start a task and bring it to completion no matter how difficult or unfamiliar. The perseverance which they had to show was likened to that which pupils had to exhibit in order to be self-directed learners. ■

By: Mrs Lee Siu Marn, School Staff Developer

Primary 6 Graduation Party 2012



On 16th November, the Primary 6 teachers, together with members of the Alumni, put together a special party for all Primary 6 pupils. After a sumptuous buffet dinner, each class presented either a song or a dance item. Everyone, who was present at the party, enjoyed watching their peers display their talents.

The night came to a close when the Primary 6 pupils sang the school hymn for the last time. It was definitely an emotional moment as the pupils bade teary farewell to their friends and teachers. ■



2013 AGM

Date : 19th JANUARY 2013
Time : 10.30 am
Venue : Fairfield Methodist School (Secondary)

All Alumni Members are cordially invited to attend the AGM. Light refreshments will be provided. ■

Joshua

We caught up recently with our young Alumni member, Joshua Tan, who shot to fame at the hit movie *Ah Boys to Men!* This young man, who admits that he has been a bit of an attention seeker from young, assured us that Fairfield can very much count on him as long as it is within his capabilities! The Alumni Association wish him all the best as he start his University life!

1. *Your full name, year of graduation and class.*

Joshua Tan Wei-En, Class of 2006 (Sec 4D). Also from FMS(P), Class of 2002!

2. *What were your CCA in school?*

At primary school, I was in the track and field team. At secondary school I was part of the National Cadet Corps under the charge of Mr Ganesan.

3. *Best memories of Fairfield*

Definitely the friendships I made and the times we spent enjoying ourselves after school playing soccer, hanging around, talking and joking with my mates.

4. *Most memorable teacher*

There are a few I must mention, many made a huge impact in my life, noticeably, Miss Samatha Toh and Mr Ganesan.

5. *When did you first become interested in acting?*

From a young age, I've always been a bit of an attention seeker and I've always enjoyed giving a good performance whether it was in sports or other forms of entertaining my mates. But it really kicked off in Poly (year 3), when I was in Ngee Ann Poly (Mass com) I took an acting module and loved it immensely.

6. *How did you end up starring in Ah Boys to Men?*

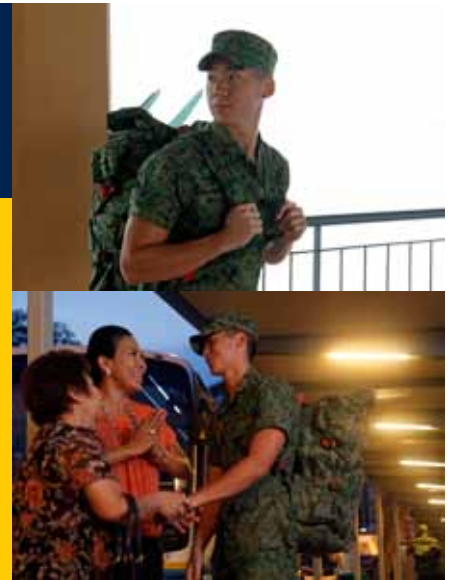
I started out mainly doing short films, like student projects. I later moved on to TVCs, like for KFC and an Iphone application. Ah Boys to Men is my first big break. I headed down for an ordinary audition not expecting much. I didn't do exceptionally well for the first one, as I had to do my lines in Chinese. However, during the call back, I met Jack Neo who allowed me to do my lines in English. I think I did much better speaking in English and Jack liked me. But I was still shell shocked when I was chosen as the lead!

7. *Your future plans?*

I plan to continue my university studies in Australia in the coming year, but still hope to have a future in acting. I will definitely be back during the holidays and work on projects if possible.

8. *Any words of wisdom for your junior Fairians?*

Days in Fairfield will be one of the most enjoyable ones in your entire life! When you are older, you will appreciate and cherish the moments you had in this lovely school. So, really, take more photos and don't be like me, I can't find many photos of myself in my beloved Yellow and Blue anymore :(■



Fairfield Fun Fair - 6th APRIL 2013

Come 6th April 2013, join thousands of Fairsians, young and old, as we throw the biggest carnival in Dover Road with the Fairfield Fun Fair!

Calling out to all Alumni members to join us at the Alumni booth where we will be setting up a FLEA MARKET. Take some space and set up a store of your own, or donate items to be sold at our Alumni booth. We want you all to join us at the Alumni booth at the Fairfield Fun Fair this coming 6th April!

Fun fair tickets are available at the General Office of either school! Contact Alumni at info@fairfieldalumni.org.sg for donations and to help out at our booth! ■



Past vs Present is back

If there were common threads running through most Fairsians – no, not yellow and blue – they would be the burning loyalty to the school and the deep connections forged during those years. Which is why one of the most popular highlights on the school calendar of yesteryear was always the fiercely contested Past vs Present Games.

Bringing back the tradition after a three-year hiatus, the Fairfield Alumni Games Day, also known as the Fairfield Alumpics, was revived on July 21, 2012. For easier logistics, the event was open to only former students this time.

Rounding up those who have long pined to relive the days of mucking around in the canteen or staying behind after classes to shoot a couple of hoops, the Alumpics was jointly organised by the Fairfield Alumni and members from Aldersgate Methodist Church, with support from the two schools.

At 9am on Saturday, over 150 participants started to stream in, joined by Alumni members, school staff and volunteers. A total of 12 captain ball teams, eight soccer teams and six basketball teams signed up, with ages ranging from 17 to over 30.

Gathering at Fairfield Methodist School (Primary)'s covered play area, the day commenced with a brief worship session, followed by the much-anticipated school song. An opening address was given by primary school principal, Mrs Chaillan Mui Tuan, where the ex-students were warmly welcomed and encouraged to contribute to fundraising efforts that would benefit the next generation of Fairsians.





As the games kicked off at various locations throughout the schools, there was team spirit on display at the field, nail-biting passing on the assembly grounds and impressive dribbling over at the indoor courts. It did not matter that battles were being played out between the older versus younger alumni; what was more heartwarming were the conversations across teams.

Key Alumpics organiser and Fairfield Methodist School (Primary) teacher Mr Low Wee Teck, said: “The highlight of the day for me was seeing Fairsians of different batches come together and enjoy a day of fellowship and fun through sports!”

Even in the thick of action, only a few minor cuts and bruises were sustained, immediately treated on by a first-aider on duty. Parent volunteers also ensured that nourishment was always available at the canteen, selling ice-cold Nescafé and isotonic drinks and servings of beehoon and chicken rice.

Unlike previous years where unfortunate medical cases had surfaced or unruly behaviour spoiled the fun, the event unfolded smoothly and wrapped up with a prize presentation at 5pm. Praise God for clearing the skies to bring lovely weather and for his protection upon all the players.

Teams were all smiles at the end of the day, clearly driving home the message that winning wasn't all that they were here for. Restaurant vouchers sponsored by Wendy's were handed out to the top scorers and contact numbers and farewells were exchanged. It was as much a sporting event, as it was a catch-up among old buddies.

As people like to remind me: “Once a Fairsian, always a Fairsian.” In that light, any initiative that continues to foster this sense of belonging is definitely a keeper.

*By Gracia Chiang**

**The writer is a non-Fairsian who grew up in Aldersgate Methodist Church surrounded by Fairsians and married – yes, you guessed it – a die-hard Fairsian.*



Some comments from alumni sourced from the Facebook event page:

Great day to catch up with all in this event..... Haha... Even the future fairsians are looking forward where they can know and play with each other...Great job and many thanks for organising this successful event.... Looking forward for the next one.... – Jessie Sing

*Thanks to the committee for reigniting the tradition! Great job!
– Cho Wei Hao*



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