

# INTANDEM

Published by The Fairfield Methodist Schools Alumni Association [www.fairfieldalumni.org.sg](http://www.fairfieldalumni.org.sg)  
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## One Legacy - what it means to me



*Eunice Yao, fourth from right seated*

Some dictionaries define “Legacy” to be a gift of property handed down from a predecessor. It is synonymous with heritage and inheritance. It is also closely associated with something different, precious and to be valued.

Exuding unity, love for the School, love for each other, love for Jesus and the things of Jesus; that is an inheritance, a legacy that has been handed down from generation to generation.

After graduating, Fairsians gather to celebrate our common spirit and memories, appreciate our teachers and care for our juniors, the next generation of servant leaders who grow up in Fairfield.

*Others before self, ever ready to pitch in to help make a difference in the lives of fellow Fairsians in an excellent manner, getting involved in activities that benefit others and celebrate Jesus and His goodness: that spirit of generosity, the desire to give back to the School, a passion to serve.* To me, that is the One Legacy that is common in every generation of Fairsians. It is this Legacy that has been etched into the heart of every Fairsian.

Where then did this Legacy come from? It is modelled after our beloved seniors who graduated before us, who learnt from the teachers who loved, nurtured and led them as they grew up. Who then is this One Legacy modelled after? In whose life does the motto “Pure and Honest” abound?

Jesus’ own focus on the goodness and love of God, His passion to serve and bless the people, Jesus’ excellence, humility and tender love and consideration for His disciples and the little children. Being a loving loyal Son, focusing on God’s Word while being tempted (but in vain) in the desert, feeding 5000 men with 12 baskets left over, forgiving Peter who denied Him three times, appearing to two of His disciples at the Emmaus road, preparing breakfast for His disciples.

The birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus is the One Legacy that we have been blessed with.

Surely we are blessed that this One Legacy is inspired and impressed upon us by Jesus Himself who first gave our founder Miss Sophia Blackmore the desire to serve Him, who first came to serve us.

Because this One Legacy is supplied to us according to Jesus’ richness and glory, it shall be continually nurtured and provided for by the One who first started this legacy 125 years ago! Our heritage is indeed different from the world’s – it is precious and to be highly valued. All glory to Jesus and may this One Legacy be handed down for generations of Fairsians to come! ■

*~ Eunice Yao / Class of 1999 (4A)*

## Updates on Fundraising

We need to raise \$5 million for our school’s upgrading project – where Fairfield will look forward to enhanced facilities and redesigned classrooms including a Performing Arts Studio and Competitive Indoor Sports Hall. With donations received and the recent Carnival@Fairfield, we have just over \$2 million in our kitty. A very big thank you to Alumni, parents, staff, students and friends for all your blessings and contributions so far!

Of the 1,000 bricks @ \$1,000 each and 100 stars @ \$10,000 each, there are still:



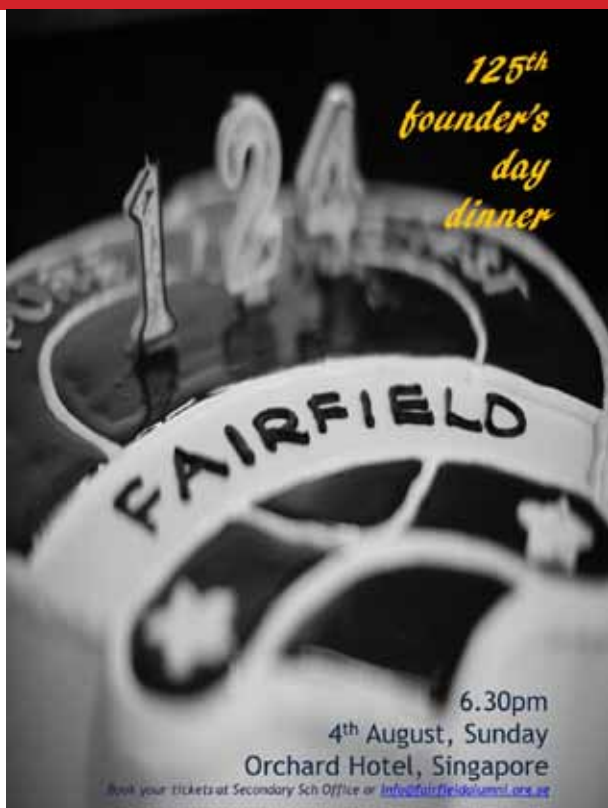
769 more Bricks available!

72 more Stars available!



*Adopt a brick or star and leave a legacy either in your name, your class or in memory of someone!  
 For enquiries, please contact the Primary School at 67788431 or [fmsp@moe.edu.sg](mailto:fmsp@moe.edu.sg) ■*

# 125th Founder's Day Dinner



It's Reunion Time! Awesome!!!

This year's dinner is all about the Fairfield Legacy! Join us as we celebrate our old dame's 125th birthday in style.

The Alumni is putting together a musical night, brimming with memories, thanksgiving and precious opportunities for Fairsians to catch up and party together!! The wait is over!!! Gather the crowds and form your tables NOW!

*Date: 4th August Sunday*

*Time: 6.30pm*

*Venue: Orchard Hotel*

*Ticket Cost:*

*Alumni & Parents - \$110*

*Current Students &*

*Class of 2012 Graduands - \$90 ■*

## Special Visit to 'Fairfield Methodist Girls' School' @Neil Road & Alumni Teachers Dinner

Our dear 101-year-old building at Neil Road, formerly Fairfield Methodist Girls' School, is being given a new lease of life as a centralized career centre for the Ministry of Home Affairs. The Alumni Association knows how much all of you out there miss the building and want to visit those hallways we used to throng! Come join us for a special visit to Neil Road where we once again will raise our voices together for a short service to thank God for blessing the school for 125 years! We will then host our annual Fairfield Alumni Teachers gathering at Fusionopolis. So join us and reunion with schoolmates and teachers! LIMITED SEATS AVAILABLE!

*Date: 1 Nov 2013 Friday*

*Service @ Neil Road*

*Time: 4.30pm to 6pm*

*Venue: Neil Road building*

*Cost: \$10 per pax*

*(Two-way transport from Dover Road 4pm available at additional cost of \$20 per pax)*

*Alumni Teachers Dinner @ Fusionopolis*

*Time: 6.30pm to 9.00pm*

*Venue: Penang Place @ Fusionopolis #B1-20*

*Cost: \$40 per pax*

Please sign up by 30/9/2013 – contact PK @ 96461853 / email : pklau121@yahoo.com.sg or Wei Pin @ 965731965 / email: lwpin@lohocklingco.com.sg ■

## REFLECTIONS FROM CARNIVAL



Hello I am Jo, many Fairsians or teachers would know me as Zihui. As a vintage lover (self proclaimed vintage protector instead of karung guni), I enjoy visiting flea markets, thrift shops and even the 'Thieves' Market' in Sungei Road.

I started my collection for vintage stuff when I was about 10 years old - with a metal tin box I found at the back alley of Chinatown which I paid \$4 for with my pocket money. I went from buying stuff from flea markets to selling my beloved items at flea markets all across Singapore. What I enjoy most from the hobby is how every item I collect has a story to tell. It was thus with great joy that I agreed to serve in the Alumni committee to organize the flea market stall for the Alumni Association at the Carnival@Fairfield.

I graduated from Fairfield almost 15 years ago and never had any opportunities to serve the school until now. I was originally concerned whether I could commit to the task at hand. The entire experience turned out to be much easier (and enjoyable!) because I was not alone in organizing the flea market stall! Let me explain...

Through word-of-mouth, email, publicity in In Tandem, the Alumni FaceBook page etc, we managed to really reach out to the Fairfield Alumni network. It was so heart-warming to hear from fellow Alumni from all ages who approached us to volunteer their services. Some set up food stalls, others handicraft stalls, while yet others offered to help us with the flea market. Many came to the school to donate their "once-precious-to-them" items. In fact, the response was so overwhelming, we spent more than 10 hours packing and displaying the items a day before Carnival@Fairfield!





Through this experience, I met many Alumni (both ladies and guys) whom I do not know previously and made many new friends. Everyone was helpful and we definitely all had great fun with the entire experience, especially when we were sorting out some of the treasures that were donated. My personal favourites included a nice pair of Precious Moments figurines, some very nice vintage ladies' bags, and even some gifts which were still unwrapped!

On the day of Carnival@Fairfield, some of us were originally concerned whether we would be able to attract enough buyers for these items at the flea market. We had great fun attracting the crowds with our shout-outs "Lelong Lelong, 3 for \$20! Value for Money!!" and watching some "consumers" stopping by our stall for hours to pick up the best bargains!

When the rain poured down on us in the later part of the day, we did not despair. Instead, the rain presented us with the best crowds because we were sheltered! Also, we could borrow the sound system from the outdoor stalls nearby to invite the crowds to check out our stall during the rain. It was a perfect moment for us so we took the opportunity to slash prices!

I definitely enjoyed myself very much. The joy of organising the flea market is being able to meet people from all walks of life, being able to witness them finding something they want or need, and of course the joy of bargaining. Some interesting Alumni I met included a family of six sisters who all went through the Fairfield education, a family where 3 generations attended school at Fairfield, and a family where 2 generations were taught by the same teacher in Fairfield!

*Indeed, this experience allowed me to experience what it means to serve the school as an Alumni, brought back the sweet "Fairfield spirit", reminded me of our long and rich history, and confirms that the Fairfield legacy continues. I am grateful for this opportunity to be able to serve.*

One Life. One Love. One Legacy. One Fairfield. ■

~ Jo @ Koh Zihui / Class of 1998 (4D)

# Carnival@Fairfield 2013

6 April 2013 marked the start of the most anticipated day of all Fairians – the Fairfield Carnival, which takes place only once every 5 years!

From early in the morning, many students started setting up their stalls with their classmates and teachers, preparing a wide variety of games and mouth-watering delights before the crowd arrived.

Even a heavy downpour could not dampen the strong Fairfield spirit as the students, staff and even the alumni continued to work hard at their respective stalls. Their enthusiasm and determination paid off as the rain slowly stopped and the carnival finally began at 930am!

The crowds burst through the gate and swarmed the school grounds. Many generations of ex-Fairians, including ex-principals, joined in the vibrant atmosphere of the fun fair. Even the neighbouring residents, including the needy, were blessed as they received free fun fair tickets to purchase any basic necessities and more importantly, to join in the fun as part of the Fairfield family.

The Primary School was home to most of the rides like the Viking Ship and Meteorite, as well as the renowned Bouncy Castle, which people of all ages had much fun trying out. The canteen was also filled with a vast array of food like cupcakes, hotdogs, roti prata, chocolate fondue, and even fried delights from Old Chang Kee! It was no wonder that it was constantly packed with people enjoying and savouring the wide variety of tasty food.

The Secondary School was also filled with countless exciting game stalls which were lined up along the sides of the Secondary School field as people of all ages tried their best to win the attractive prizes that every class had worked hard to supply! The “Haunted House at the Asylum” proved to be extremely popular with both visitors and students. Flocks of people also inundated the area surrounding the infamous dunking machine, especially when the teachers were being dunked. Many students willingly paid generous amounts of coupons to get a chance to dunk their friends, coaches, and teachers. Even our Secondary School Principal, Mr Owyong, agreed to be dunked! Everyone enjoyed the many suspenseful moments and had much fun at the dunking station.

Moreover, the canteen was also home to a variety of mouth-watering food - Snowie’s Snow Cone, Uggli Muffins, French Fries, Lao Ban Beancurd, Otah, and not to forget, the Milo and Mr Bean vans parked at the assembly ground! Under the sweltering heat, nothing could quite beat a cup of original Iced Milo!

The sheltered stage in the middle of the field showcased the talents of various groups like the Chinese Dancers from the Primary School, the Secondary School Choir, Worship Band, as well as our very own Mr Ezal, who excited the crowd with his scintillating guitar performance.

*It was indeed an indubitably fruitful day for all of us! Through the preparation for the carnival, bonds were built, fostered and strengthened as the staff and students had various priceless opportunities to get to know each other better and to work as a team. Many ex-Fairians also recounted nostalgically the many wonderful and beautiful memories of the days they spent in this very school which they held so dear to them.*

All in all, it was God who has blessed Fairfield with this successful carnival, and it is thanks to His love for Fairfield that we were able to leave such a great impact on everyone who had participated in this fun fair. To God be the glory! ■

~ Hannah Liu and Jan Ng (Secondary 2E)

# Chapelthon 2013

## One Love, One Life, One Legacy



Fairsians past and present gathered for a time of prayer and praise at Chapelthon 2013. This year's Chapelthon was held on 23 May (Thursday), with Fairsians from all walks of life coming together to pray for Fairfield.

It was a blessed night of declaring God's goodness and faithfulness to Fairfield the past 125 years, and in singing with conviction that "all of God's promises won't let go of me!"

We started the night with prayer in groups of twos and threes, seeking the Lord for a fresh encounter at Chapelthon 2013, and a word in season for each and every one of us. The first band from Aldersgate Methodist Church then led us in a time of praise. We were reminded of the One Love from God that never fails, a love that transcends all understanding.

A video called 'Carry Your Candle' was then shown. It was a reminder that there is a candle in every soul, and that we are to be a beacon of light in the darkness, and live our One Life to the fullest.

The second band from the class of 2008 then led us in a time of worship. A heartfelt desire to honour God, to put Jesus at the centre and that He'll forever reign in our lives.

Our speaker, Mr David Chan, then expounded on the word of God from 1 Kings 8:22-52 and 2 Samuel 9, on how King David showed kindness to Mephibosheth. Mr Chan then challenged Fairsians to ask ourselves this- "To Whom Can I show God's kindness to?"

Subsequently, we broke into 6 different groups to pray blessings over Fairfield, based on the school hymn. It was a heart-warming scene, witnessing Fairsians praying blessings over the school learning environment, for the pupils, teachers, clerks and servants. We then prayed for the school Principals and Vice-Principals. We ended the night with singing the school hymn as One Fairfield.

*In celebration of our 125th Founders' Day, we are gathering 10,000 reasons to thank God for Fairfield. Be part of the One Legacy Project. Drop your thanksgiving to <http://tinyurl.com/onelegacyproject> by 4th August 2013! Start your posts with the following: "Through Fairfield, God has blessed me with.."*

To God be the Glory! ■

~ Tan Han Rong Class of 2005



# Fairfield (Primary): We are ALL learning!



The school was privileged to have hosted some visitors in Semester 1. They learnt more about Fairfield's teaching and learning methodologies!

## Visit by Ying Wa Primary School, Hong Kong

On 10 April 2013, Fairfield Methodist School (Primary) hosted the 42 staff members of Ying Wa Primary School, Hong Kong to a Learning Journey@Fairfield. They were on a 5-day Singapore study tour to learn more about the different pedagogies used in the classrooms. Fairfield was privileged to have been one of the four schools that they visited on their trip. They expressed their heartfelt thanks for the many unforgettable moments of witnessing the passion and the highly organised curriculum of English, Mathematics, Science Chinese Language and Social Studies in the nine classes they had observed. They shared that they loved the friendly and energetic children, the resourceful and presentable teaching staff; and certainly the vibrant and prosperous country of Singapore.

Through their visit to Fairfield, the teachers of Ying Wa Primary School expressed that they were inspired more than they could have expected and that they would bring their experience and knowledge gained from Singapore back home to Hong Kong to benefit their boys.

Principal Mrs Maria Lam had the following feedback regarding the Learning Journey@Fairfield: "I think the word 'Thank you' is not adequate to express our heartfelt attitude for your warm hospitality. The school is so inviting and the environment is so conducive to learning. I hope students of Ying Wa will have a chance to come one day."

A comment from a teacher: "Awesome to see Fairfield do so much more than what the MOE requires. I like how you're overhauling your curriculum (through piloting your reading programme, say) and making students more responsible for their learning. I enjoyed being here! Thanks so much!!"

A comment from a Head of Department: "*A very good visit for us indeed. Students were very polite and cheerful. Teachers were always presentable and willing to share teaching ideas. The campus is text-rich, very nicely decorated. Great hospitality!*"





### Visitors from Australia

We welcomed two visitors from Australia on 22 May 2013. They were Kathy Thompson-Mills and Josie Decorso, experienced teachers from Magill School, Adelaide, Australia. Magill School is a public school with a large multicultural community of more than 800 pupils. Kathy and Josie teach Year One students and were interested in learning about our pedagogy, assessment and civic and moral programmes. As part of their professional development, they aimed to have first-hand experience of the Singapore Education system.

During their visit to Fairfield Methodist School (Primary), they spent the morning observing two lower primary classroom lessons and interacting with our experienced lower primary teachers, Mrs Tan Wee Ling and Mdm Sharon Ng, Mrs Mallika Habeeb. Their visit ended with a school tour led by Mrs Lee Siu Marn.

### Visit by Principals and Vice-Principals from South Zone

On 25 April 2013, 17 School Leaders from South Zone attended a learning journey to Fairfield Methodist School (Primary) to learn more about how the school's Teaching and Learning Framework is incorporated in lessons. They visited the classrooms of five teachers, namely Mr Joel Lim, Mrs Yaw Siok Ching, Mrs Tay Shu Yi, Mdm Png Bee Hiong, and Mrs Mimi Cheong, to view the translation of the '5E + 1' Model in classroom settings. The classroom observation lessons were followed by a discussion with Heads of Department. This visit was organised by the South Zone Community of Practice for Leadership in Curriculum and Instruction. ■



# Learning Symposium for Parents

## *English Language Learning Symposium*

The English Language Department held a Learning Symposium for parents on 7 March 2013. Entitled ACE Writing Workshop, the symposium aimed to equip parents with an understanding of the P5- P6 writing structure. In all, about 60 parents attended the talk, which was held in the evening for the first time. Parents learnt more about the marking rubrics for continuous writing, the six traits of writing (ideas, organization, word choice, sentence fluency, voice and conventions) as well as some strategies which teachers adopt in a typical writing class at Fairfield. Parents got to do their bit of writing as well as they tried out one of the strategies, the “Flashback” technique. With knowledge gained from the Workshop, it is hoped that parents would be able to better support their children at home to ace the writing component.



## *Mathematics Learning Symposium*

When children encounter difficulties in their work, parents are often the first source of help for their children. Many parents end up having to ‘learn’ and ‘unlearn’ mathematics concepts and procedures with their children as they become increasingly involved in their children’s education. At the Mathematics Symposium held on 13 Apr 2013, parents learnt how to differentiate between a conceptual or procedural mistake. They also learnt how to ask the right questions to help their children develop strong Mathematical conceptual understanding.



## *Chinese Language Symposium*

The Mother Tongue Department conducted two Learning Workshops for parents in Semester 1. The first workshop, “Creative Writing”, was targeted for P5 and P6 parents. The speaker, Mr Wang Deqing, shared important tips on how to help pupils excel in composition examinations. The second workshop, “Reading with Your Child”, was conducted by our own CL teacher, Mdm Gu Xiaomei. She shared with parents the importance of cultivating good reading habits from young. She also shared useful tips on how parents can encourage their children to love reading.



## *Science Learning Symposium*

On 27 April 2013, a 3-hour workshop was organised by the Science Department for Primary 5 and 6 parents. The focus of the workshop was to expose and explain to parents how they could help their children tackle the area of applying and articulating scientific concepts effectively. ■



## Carousel 2013 - Showcasing the best of...



On 12 April 2013, Fairfield Methodist School (Secondary) held an event, 'Carousel', to showcase various exciting performances put up by our very own talented Performing Arts Groups. Held in both the auditorium and the Chen Su Lan Hall, 'Carousel' attracted a huge crowd, which included parents, staff and pupils, interested to watch these spectacular performances.

Many exhilarating and scintillating plays for both the young and old were put up by both the Chinese and English Drama Clubs in the auditorium. This prompted many ex-Fairsians to revisit and admire these performances, which were unsurprisingly greeted with deafening applause and standing ovations.

The performances in the school hall were just as enjoyable as those in the auditorium. The guitar performance was seamless as the guitarists played wonderfully. The Symphonic Band was also astounding, as the unique combination of sounds from each instrument to create the majestic music was indeed an unforgettable experience to behold. The Fairfield Choir sounded angelic, as the atmosphere transformed into a mixture of both ecstasy and delightful tension as they presented their songs. The Dance Group certainly lived up to their high standards, putting up a performance that was both breathtaking and dazzling.

*Such a celebration of our talented Performing Arts Groups, who had truly put up an amazing display, was due to the hard work and dedication of the pupils, teachers and instructors. Everyone is now eagerly looking forward to the next edition of Carousel. ■*

*~ Bill Puah (Secondary 2E)*





## ...Fairfield's Performing Arts Talents





# 8 Questions...with Steven Chia

We heard great feedback about our last chat with Joshua Tan (Class of 2006). And so we will be continuing with this column “8 Questions” where we catch up with an Alumni of Fairfield every issue of In Tandem to keep in touch! This issue, we had a quick chat with Steven Chia who greets Singapore every weekday morning on AM LIVE! of Channel News Asia.



1. Your full name, year of graduation and class.  
*Steven Chia Oon Seet, Class of 1989 (4D)*
2. What were your CCA in school?  
*NCC, Tennis, Choir...I was also a prefect\*.*
3. Best memories of Fairfield  
*Playing “hantam bola” in the field\*\**
4. Most memorable teacher  
*Mrs Olive Kan – she was my form teacher in Sec 1 when I was in the Normal stream. Even when I had moved on to the Express stream in Sec 2, she continued to look out for me and also helped me with my literature studies.*
5. When did you first become interested in presenting/television work?  
*I really sort of “fell” into it by chance. I had been working behind the scenes as a Producer, Director, Scriptwriter...making TV shows, corporate videos...the company I had been working for at the time was looking for a host for a new show. I decided to try out just for fun and I got the part. After that, I started presenting more TV shows while still working behind the scenes. I found it came quite naturally and that is when I started to pursue it a bit more...but it was never a goal to begin with.*
6. How did you end up in Channel News Asia?  
*I was fortunate because they came looking for me. I had been in the media industry for some time already and had worked on a CNA show before. So I guess when they needed someone, they decided to try me out. It just so happens that I was also looking for a change at the time, so things just worked out. Though the early hours did scare me at first, but as I was tell people, if they pay you to be somewhere, you jolly well show up!*
7. Your future plans?  
*Though I have been at this role in front of the camera for about 7-8 years now, there is still much to learn. Every day is different in this job and that is what keeps it interesting. I have done some part time teaching over the years and in the future I would like to teach again. I feel it’s important to share my experiences and I’ve always enjoyed working with young people as well. But for now, I’m happy where I am because this job allows me to do what is most important to me right now...and that is to spend time with my children.*
8. Any words of wisdom for your junior Fairians?  
*Enjoy the time in school, make good friends and don’t be afraid to try new things. Experience is one of the best ways to learn anything. And ask questions, you can’t learn if you don’t ask.*

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Editor’s note:

\*The Student Council back then was known as Prefectorial Board, and student councillors were known as ‘prefects’.

\*\*Hantam Bola literally means ‘hit ball’ in Malay. It is an exciting and adrenaline filled game that involves hitting a moving target (player) using a projectile, usually in the form of a tennis ball. ■

