

IN TANDEM

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

JUL 2025

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The Alumni Association Committee (Class of)

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

The President's Note

- July 2025

Dear Fairfield Family,
I bring you greetings from The Fairfield Methodist Schools Alumni Association (TFMSAA) and hope you have had a fruitful first half of 2025.

On the 21ST May 2025, we bid goodbye to Mrs Chiu Peck Siong (1937-2025), a long-time staff of Fairfield and who has also taught many generations of Fairsians.

When I started my secondary education in Fairfield back in the 80's, Mrs Chiu was a Senior Assistant of our School to then Principal Mrs Tang Poh Kim. I always remember her as a kind-hearted teacher who always had a smile for staff and students alike. During her retirement years, I would also occasionally chat with her whenever she brings her grandchildren to Bukit Panjang Methodist Church Kindergarten, where my home church is. Over the last few years, our Alumni Association also had the pleasure of Mrs Chiu hosting us at her home for our annual Christmas Carolling session. I am thankful a few of my fellow Committee members along and other alumni got to visit Mrs Chiu about a week before she was called Home to be with the Lord. She will be missed and with her passing, closed a chapter of our association with one of the most loved teachers in Fairfield.

Our Alumni Association held our Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Sat 15 Feb 2025 over at Fairfield Methodist School (Secondary). At the AGM, we elected our management committee for 2025-26. 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), Dr Gracie Eng (Hon Assistant Secretary), Ms Loh Jia Hui (Hon Treasurer) and Ms Natalie Chen (Hon Assistant Treasurer) that form the office bearers along with the other 6 committee members; Ms Felicia Foo, Mr Zhan Yanxin, Mr Mervyn Quek, Ms Rachael Lee, Ms Serene Soh and Mr Glenn Wong.

We want to record our heartfelt thanks to our previous Committee Members: Ms Cho Pei Lin, Ms Sharon Liat, Mr Teng Wei Jien and Ms Ivy Goh-Soh who have stepped down from their service.

Along with the 13 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 and continue to serve in this year's committee.

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

Prior to the AGM, we also hosted new members as well as our Principal (Pri) – Mrs Soh Mei Foong and Vice-Principal (Sec), Mdm Veronica Chua for a lunch reception. Both our Principal and Vice Principal also gave all the AGM attendees an update on the development and achievements of both our schools.

We hosted the Alumni Staff lunch over at Jen Hotel Tanglin J65 Café on Sat 26 April 2025. This is an annual Alumni Association event to recognise 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 these staff every year for their contributions to our schools and nurturing generations of Fairsians. Some 60 attendees, along with our management committee attended the lunch. Our School Board of Management Chairperson Mrs Joni Ong, along with current and former School Leaders, Teachers and Staff enjoyed the fellowship over good food and shared memories.

As we celebrate the 137th Anniversary of our school founding this year, let us continue to pray for God's wisdom and guidance for all our school leaders, teachers, staff, students, parents and alumni of our Fairfield

community. May we always be 'happy Fairsians' that walk in 'wisdom's ways.'

Finally, please remember to gather your classmates and friends to form a table as we hold our 137th Founder's Day Dinner over at Marriott Hotel (Orchard) on the evening of Monday 4th Aug 2025. Our 'Let Love Shine' is a dinner celebration event you would not want to miss this year as you catch up with friends, classmates, and teachers. Enjoy a special performance by our school leader, take part in our table games and win prizes as you savour the 8-course dinner. We will also have a photo booth for you to capture beautiful memories for the evening. A roving photographer will also be around to capture all the highlights of the dinner so be in your most radiant outfit. There will also be new and limited editions of Fairfield Alumni merchandises that will be on sale that evening to raise funds for our Alumni Association. So do secure your seats for the dinner and let us celebrate Fairfield's Birthday together with a big bang.

Check out the many interesting articles we have lined up for you in this issue of In Tandem as well.

We look forward to seeing you at our 137th Founder's Day Dinner on 4th Aug 2025! Till the next issue.

LOVE AND BLESSINGS,
Kelvin Ong



Mr Kelvin Ong with members of the Management Committee, former staff and old girls at the home of the late Mrs Chiu Peck Siong



FOUNDED 1888

The Fairfield Methodist Schools
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

proudly presents

FAIRFIELD METHODIST SCHOOLS 137TH FOUNDER'S DAY DINNER

Let Love Shine

DATE: **Monday, 4 August 2025**

VENUE: **Singapore Marriott Tang Plaza Hotel
Grand Ballroom (Level 3)
(320 Orchard Rd)**

DRESSCODE: **Radiant**

Schedule

6.15 pm: **Cocktails**

6.45 pm: **Dinner**



Pricing

Early bird before 1 July | **\$150** per pax

From 1 July | **\$170** per pax

Current Students |
Class of 2021 - 2023 | **\$130** per pax

Class of 2024 | **\$110** per pax

Scan the QR code to secure your seat(s) or visit
tinyurl.com/FairfieldFDD2025

ALUMNI TEACHERS LUNCH 2025



The Fairfield Alumni Management Committee hosted the Alumni Teachers Lunch Teacher's Lunch on Sat 26 April 2025 over at Jen Hotel Tanglin J65 Cafe.

This is an annual event to give appreciation to our teachers (in service or retired) who have been with us for at least 15 years, to thank them for their contributions to our schools in nurturing generations of Fairians. It is also a platform for the teachers to meet each other and catch up.

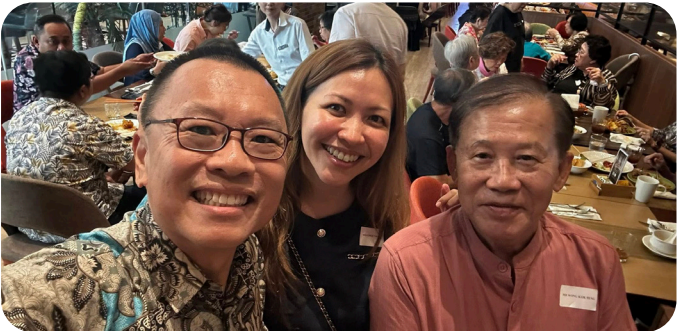
After the invitations were sent out, the response was quite good and about 60 teachers attended. The food was sumptuous and was quite a wide spread. Not just the fresh seafood, the deserts were aplenty and diners were spoilt for choice.

Among the retired teachers, we are honoured to have our current Principal from FMS(P), Mrs Soh Mei Foong as well as our Schools' Board of Management Chairperson, Mrs Joni Ong present with us along with 2 of our former Principals, Ms Dorothy Ho (FMSP) and Ms



Elaine Lim (FMSS). Other notable mentions was, Mrs Lyuo Shao Mei who attended last year as well. Mrs Lyuo graduated from Fairfield Girls in 1956 and then came back to her alma mater to teach mathematics between 1962 to 1997.

All praise and honour be to God for the past 137 years and may the legacy of Fairfield live on, May God continue to bless Fairfield always.



Fond Memories of The Fairfield Red Cross Unit, Serving One Another

The Fairfield Red Cross Unit marked its end in March 2025. The Red Cross was one of the longest running CCAs in Fairfield discontinued due to dwindling student enrolment. The Primary School unit closed in December 2024 and Secondary School Unit closed in March 2025.

The story began in 1952, when the Red Cross Link was established at Fairfield Girls' School with the help of music teacher Mrs Elsie Lee Swee Cheng who had assisted the Chief Representative of the British Red Cross for the Far East (Miss Teresa Spens) to start Red Cross Links in Singapore. Like the Girls Brigade, the Red Cross was set up with Junior and Senior Units.

The first meeting of the Fairfield Red Cross was held on 21 March 1952. The motto was "Serve one another" and this motto has remained throughout its existence.

Red Cross members learned marching and drills, other than first aid skills. There would be activities like quizzes, talent times and hikes.

In the 1950s, to serve the community, the girls made stuffed toys, scrap books and frocks for the under privileged children, while the senior girls prepared articles for the international album to send overseas. Other activities to serve the community included visits to the old people club at Wesley Hall and helping out with crippled children outing at Katong Park.

In 1962, the red cross members started the red cross Hospital and Library Service in the Singapore General Hospital which was near Neil Road. It lasted to 1969.

In the 1970s, the teachers who made a mark were Mrs Eileen Chua, Mrs Neo Kah Lee and Mrs Iris Kee who helmed the red cross for more than a decade. In 1971, The Red Cross took part in the inter-school Red Cross Debate for the first time. The Red Cross debate team took down big names like Raffles Institute and Tajong Katong Girl's School and came in second overall in the inter-school Red Cross Debate. In 1972, it was first recorded that the Red Cross took part in Singapore Youth Festival (SYF). Also In 1972, monthly assessments were started for cadets to ensure that they had learnt all that has been taught. As time went by, the programme was further developed and used to spot future leaders of the Unit.

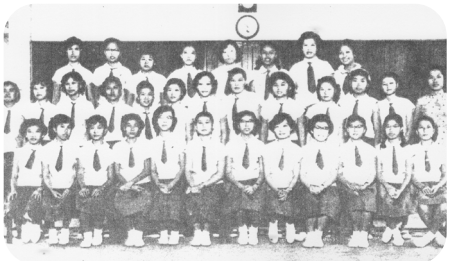
The Unit used this to prepare for the annual First Aid Competitions where they have excelled, for example obtaining Gold in the 2019 competition.

In 1983, with the schools separating into primary and secondary, the Fairfield Primary Red Cross unit was formed replacing the Junior Unit. In 1984, the chairman of the Secondary Red Cross was student Miss Yeo Li Li. She would later return as a teacher-in-charge to helm the Red Cross from 1996 to 2005. In the 1990s after the opening of the school extension at FMSS, the red cross had its own room facing the school field, where the current general office is.

The Fairfield Red Cross Youth Unit specialised in first aid and evacuation knowledge. Besides learning first aid, foot drill, evacuation, the unit members learnt outdoor survival skills in cooking, campcraft etc. There were also activities to serve the community like the Project Red Cross Love and home visits to the homes of the elderly such as St Andrew's Nursing Home. Members also engaged in environmental efforts, including litter picking, recycling projects, and other green initiatives. The Unit maintained high standards of excellence, attaining the Excellent Unit Gold Award (EUA) from 2022 to 2024.

Red cross members who graduated from school came back to serve the unit, long after they graduated. This was in the form of the Volunteer Instructor Programme.

The Fairfield Red Cross left a huge impression on Fairfield students. Members who joined and left would have many fond memories of working as a team, learning self-discipline, and sharpening their first aids skills - skills which have proved useful later in life.



TRIPS FOR INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE (TIE) - CHIANG MAI 2024

24 Primary Four student leaders embarked on their first international learning journey to Thailand from 4 – 8 November in 2024, the first of its kind since the COVID-19 pandemic. This inaugural cultural immersion experience was specially designed for our P4 Student Leaders (Peer Supporters, Class Monitors, and Sports CCA Leaders) to deepen their understanding of one of Singapore’s closest neighbours through meaningful interactions with students from Phrao, Chiang Mai.

The trip aimed to:

- deepen in students the 21st Century Competencies (21CC) of global and cross-cultural literacy and sensitivities
- strengthen students’ commitment and rootedness to Singapore
- expose students to Thailand and sensitise them to Singapore and its place in the world
- provide a platform for students to serve and give to the school

Led by Year Head, Mrs Chua Wei Wei, and supported by a dedicated team of five teachers, the students planned and conducted various interesting activities such as English Language and sports lessons for their Primary 1 and 2 counterparts in Little Candles Methodist Primary School in a little village located 2 hours away from Chiang Mai. Despite some language barriers, the students from Little Candles enjoyed all the lessons planned for them tremendously. Our students were equally enriched by the lessons conducted by teachers of Little Candles Methodist Primary School as well as church volunteers from the Lisu tribe who hailed from the villages in the surrounding mountains of Phrao.

Beyond the classroom, the students also enjoyed hands-on learning experiences, such as making eco-friendly paper from elephant poo at The Elephant Poopopaper Park. A visit to the Chiang Mai City and Arts Cultural Centre helped to contextualise all the learning and broaden their worldview.

Back in school, our young ambassadors translated their insights into assembly presentations, sharing their learning and reflections with the wider student community – inspiring their peers with stories of cross-cultural friendship, resilience and gratitude.



Fairsians Flourish at the Festival!

by: Elijah Wong (Sec 1F), Yoo Hyenah (Sec 1D), Ashlyn Ho (Sec 2E), Amy Claire Chan (Sec 2F), Alicia Ng (Sec 3D), Goh Yu Qian (Sec 3G), Mikaela Faith (Sec 3D), Zobel Lee (Sec 3F), Cherylynn Hao (Sec 2C), Fayth Wai (Sec 3E) and Goh Yu Qian (Sec 3G)

Since 1967, the Singapore Youth Festival (SYF) has served as a prestigious national platform to celebrate the artistic achievements of students across the country. For generations of Fairsians, it has represented a significant milestone—one that unites our school community in a shared pursuit of excellence through the performing arts.

From 24 March to 29 April 2025, Fairfield's Performing Arts CCAs took to the stage with passion and pride. Each group demonstrated not only remarkable individual talent but also the collective strength that shines when Fairsians work together towards a common goal.

The Fairfield Symphonic Band delivered a stirring rendition of Symphonic Dances for Wind Ensemble (Part 2: Tango) by Yosuke Fukuda, earning a well-deserved Certificate of Distinction. Fairfield Dance captivated audiences with Transcend, a piece marked by elegance and finesse, which also enabled them to attain the Certificate of Distinction.

Fairfield Choir upheld its tradition of excellence with moving performances of 木の影 (The Shadow of the Tree) and Ta Na Solbici (And So We Dance in Resia), securing yet another Certificate of Distinction.

Meanwhile, the Guitar Ensemble charmed audiences with Eine Kleine Nachtmusik and Kalimba, while Fairfield English Drama delivered an emotive rendition of Fire by Ken Mizusawa. Both groups achieved Certificates of Accomplishment.

Beyond the accolades, SYF 2025 reminded us that the Fairfield flame burns brightest when we stand united. Our students performed with courage, conviction, and commitment, carrying forward a proud legacy and inspiring all who witnessed their journey.



FLOURISHING FRIENDSHIPS FAR FROM FAIRFIELD

by Mikaela Tay (Sec 3D), Goh Yu Qian (Sec 3G), Alicia Ng (Sec 3D) and Fayth Wai (Sec 3E)

From 20 to 24 May 2025, 58 selected Secondary 3 students proudly represented Fairfield Methodist School (Secondary) on the Trips for International Experience (TIE) to Vietnam and Thailand. More than just overseas travel, these trips were thoughtfully designed to cultivate global-mindedness, foster cross-cultural understanding, and inspire students to serve and learn beyond the classroom.

The TIE Vietnam team explored the vibrant city of Ho Chi Minh, where they immersed themselves in the nation's rich history. Visits to the renowned War Remnants Museum and the Cu Chi Tunnels brought history to life, allowing students to gain a deeper appreciation of Vietnam's resilience and heritage. At Viet Anh School 2, students engaged warmly with their Vietnamese peers, sharing insights about Singapore's culture and forming meaningful cross-cultural connections. A hands-on experience with the culture and traditions of Vietnamese coffee added a unique local flavour to their learning journey — offering students a window into everyday life in Vietnam.



Meanwhile, the TIE Thailand team travelled to Chiang Mai, where they had the privilege of visiting the prestigious Prince Royal's College. Students were inspired by the school's advanced curriculum and stunning architecture — an eye-opening experience for many. Their visit to Vineyard Methodist School allowed them to introduce traditional Singaporean games and snacks, such as chapteh and country erasers, to their Thai peers. Despite language differences, the students formed lasting bonds, proving that friendship transcends borders and that shared laughter and learning create powerful connections.

As the trips drew to a close, both teams returned with more than souvenirs — they came home with precious memories, personal growth, and a broadened worldview. Through every interaction, challenge, and cultural experience, Fairians demonstrated resilience and unity, living out the school's values on an international stage. These trips are a powerful testament to how Fairfield continues to nurture caring citizens who are ready to make a difference — both at home and beyond our shores.



Getting to know our new Vice-Principal

MR TONY KNG

By Racer Elwin Tan (P5C) and Isabel Lukito (P5D)

We are excited to welcome our new Vice-Principal, Mr Tony Kng to Fairfield Methodist School (Primary)! He is very friendly and enjoys interacting with students.

In this interview, he shares about his previous work before coming to Fairfield, his favourite subject and what he enjoys most about being a Vice-Principal. He also talks about his hopes for all Fairsians and tells us about his hobbies and exploring different kinds of food.

We hope you enjoy learning more about him!

What was the previous programme or school you were in before coming to Fairfield?

Before joining Fairfield, I was with the Ministry of Education, in the Educational Technology Division. I joined the Media Design for Learning branch, where our focus was to design and produce digital media content to support curriculum, pedagogy, assessment, professional development, events and communications.

What is your favourite subject?

My favourite subject is the Chinese Language. Growing up in a Chinese-speaking household, the language came naturally to me—it was the primary medium of communication at home. This strong foundation not only deepened my appreciation for the language but also inspired me to begin my career in education as a Chinese Language teacher when I first joined MOE.

What do you like about being a Vice-Principal?

What I enjoy most about being a Vice-Principal is the opportunity to connect with students across the entire school. I make it a point to engage with them during recess, listening to their thoughts, learning about their interests, and simply getting to know them better. These interactions are often the most meaningful part of my day—they remind me of why I chose to be in education.

What are your aspirations for students of FMS(P)?

My hope is for every Fairsian to grow into a person of strong character. Integrity is something I value deeply—it's also one of MOE's core values. I want our students to be honest, to stand by their words, and to do what's right even when no one is watching. While academic achievement is important, I believe that character development is just as important—if not more.

I also like to remind students about the 3Cs: take Care of yourself take Care of one another, and take Care of the environment—this includes our school, our nation, and the world we live in. I hope Fairsians will not only support their friends, but also show

care and appreciation for their teachers. Fairfield is more than just a school; it's a big family. And in this family, we grow together with kindness, respect, and a shared sense of responsibility.

What do you do in your spare time? What are your hobbies?

I love to swim—it's something I do almost every day. On average, I swim about 30 to 40 laps each session. I first picked it up around three to four years ago as a way to lose weight, and over time, it's become a daily habit and hobby. In fact, I lost about 20 kilograms through this routine.

Now, if the weather is good and I miss a swim, it feels like something is missing from my day. Some people might find swimming repetitive, but I've found a way to make it enjoyable. I use waterproof earpieces to listen to music while swimming. It really helps me unwind and gives me an hour to clear my mind and take a break from work.

You mentioned that you listen to music while swimming. What kind of music do you listen to, and what's your current earworm?

I enjoy a wide range of music—English, Chinese, even Cantonese—basically anything that catches my ear. I often discover new songs while listening to the radio, and if something stands out, I'll download it and add it to my playlist. My sons also introduce me to songs they think I might like, which helps keep my playlist fresh and interesting.

What is your favourite food?

I enjoy all kinds of food and love exploring different cuisines. Living near the East, I often find myself at Bedok Hawker Centre, which offers a great variety. I'm quite adventurous when it comes to food and don't mind travelling long distances just to try something new. Over the years, I've tasted some rather exotic dishes, including barbecued porcupine, curried fruit bat, donkey meat, raw horse sashimi, and raw octopus. For me, food is about exploration and discovery!

