

IN TANDEM

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

JUL 2026

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The Alumni Association Committee (Class of)

Kelvin Ong	1989
Stephanie Ang	1999
Natalie Chen	2000
Joseph Guo	1997
Felicia Foo	1976
Lo Wei Pin	1980
Zhan Yanxin	1997
Leong Siu Marn	1982
Rachael Lee	1999 (Pr)
Glenn Wong	2015
Serene Soh	1999
Larry Loh	1999

The President's Note - Jul 2026

Dear Fairfield Family,

I bring you greetings from The Fairfield Methodist Schools Alumni Association (TFMSAA) and hope you have had a wonderful 2026 so far.

On the 7 June 2026, we bid goodbye to Mrs Tay Poh Luan (102 years old). Mrs Tay was a former Principal (Pri Afternoon) when Fairfield was still an all-girls' school in Neil Road. Many of our old girls would remember her fondly for her contributions as a Captain of our 3rd Girls Brigade Company. Our Alumni Association last visited her home for Christmas carolling back in Dec 2024. Her passing is a loss for the Fairfield family and she will be dearly missed. Do read about the article on the late Mrs Tay that we are featuring in this issue.

Find out more about our new Vice-Principal (Admin), Mr Boh Hong Jik, who came onboard FMS(P) in Dec 2025. FMS(S) also held a special celebration for Mr Hou Meng Hsien's 80th birthday in April and we bring you the highlights. Catch up on our annual Alumni Staff lunch held on 18th April 2026 in this issue too.

Our Alumni Association held our Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Fri 6 Mar 2026 over at Fairfield Methodist School (Secondary). At the AGM, we elected our management

committee for 2026-27. I am pleased to introduce you our new Committee.

Ms Stephanie Ang (1st Vice President), **Ms Natalie Chen** (2nd Vice President), **Mr Joseph Guo** (Hon Secretary), **Ms Felicia Foo** (Hon Assistant Secretary), **Ms Lo Wei Pin** (Hon Treasurer) and **Mr Zhan Yanxin** (Hon Assistant Treasurer) that form the office bearers along with the other 5 committee members; **Ms Rachael Lee**, **Ms Serene Soh**, **Mr Glenn Wong**, **Mr Larry Loh (Sec Sch)** and **Ms Leong Siu Marn (Pri Sch)**.



We want to record our heartfelt thanks to our previous Committee Members: **Ms Eunice Yao**, **Ms Loh Jia Hui**, **Ms Gracie Eng**, **Mr Mervyn Quek** and **Ms Chua Wei Wei** who have stepped down from their service to our Alumni Association.

Along with the 13 elected members, we also have our 2 newly co-opted school representatives in **Mr Larry Loh (Sec Sch)** and **Ms Leong Siu Marn (Pri Sch)**, who are both our alumni and will serve as full-fledged Committee members in our team.

Finally, please remember to gather your classmates and friends to form a table as we hold our **138th Founder's Day Dinner** over at **Singapore Marriott Tang Plaza Hotel** on **Tuesday 4th Aug 2026**. Our theme this year is 'Superheroes' so come dress in your best outfit and win prizes. Be entertained by a special performance as our school leaders take on the stage. 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. Wait no further and secure your seats for the dinner as we celebrate Fairfield's 138th Birthday the Superheroes' way.

We look forward to seeing you at our 138th Founder's Day Dinner on 4th Aug 2026!

Till the next issue.

LOVE AND BLESSINGS,
Kelvin Ong

Dear Readers,

We hope you have been enjoying IN TANDEM, which is posted to your home address!

With climate change and the need to reduce our carbon footprint, we would like to reduce the amount of copies of IN TANDEM we print.

You can read the latest issue of IN TANDEM on our website via this link <https://www.fairfieldalumni.org.sg/newsletter/>. We will also announce the latest publication of IN TANDEM on social media platforms like our Facebook page.

If you would like to continue receiving issues of IN TANDEM in print via post or soft copy via e-mail, please respond by scanning the QR code on the right.

Please indicate your response by **Dec 31, 2026**. Thank you.





FOUNDED 1888
The Fairfield Methodist Schools
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



SUPERHEROES

138TH FOUNDER'S DAY DINNER

DATE: TUESDAY, 4 AUGUST 2026

VENUE: SINGAPORE MARRIOTT TANG PLAZA HOTEL
GRAND BALLROOM (LEVEL 3)
320 ORCHARD ROAD, SINGAPORE 238865

TIME: 6PM PRE-EVENT
6.30PM DINNER

DRESS CODE: SUPERHEROES

UNLEASH YOUR INNER HERO—WHETHER BOLD, SUBTLE, OR SYMBOLIC. REMEMBER, NOT ALL SUPERHEROES WEAR CAPES!

SAVE THE DATE—YOUR PRESENCE WILL MAKE THIS NIGHT SUPER!
PRIZES AWAIT OUR BEST-DRESSED HEROES AND HEROINES!



HERO REGISTRATION - PER PERSON

EARLY BIRD BEFORE 1 JULY **\$150**
STANDARD FROM 1 JULY **\$170**

NEXT GEN HEROES (CLASS OF 2025) **\$100**

STRONG & COURAGEOUS



SCAN THE QR
CODE TO SECURE
YOUR SEAT(S)!



Mrs Tay Poh Luan - A Lifetime of Service, Leadership, and Love



Mrs Tay, an old girl and former principal of Fairfield, passed away peacefully on 7 June 2026. Her leadership as Principal of Fairfield Afternoon School and her dedication to the Girls' Brigade continue to inspire us.

Born on 17 April 1924, Miss Lim Poh Luan was enrolled in Fairfield Girls' School in 1931 by her mother, herself a proud Fairsian. As a student, Miss Lim was spirited and sporty, with netball being her favourite sport.

Her life took a defining turn in 1939 during her final year at Fairfield (Standard 7), when she joined the Girls' Brigade (GB) 3rd Company. Even as she moved on to Methodist Girls' School (MGS) for further studies, she remained with the GB.

The war did not deter Miss Lim from her studies. In 1941, while sitting her Cambridge School Certificate examinations at MGS, the air raid siren sounded during her History paper, forcing her to take shelter under a staircase. She would not receive her results until 1946, and recalled that she had failed the History paper.

After the war, in 1946, Miss Lim restarted the GB 3rd Company and became its Captain. That same year, she applied to teach at her alma mater. A versatile educator, she taught subjects ranging from folk dancing and singing, English and Mathematics, starting with Primary 1 classes and teaching up to School Certificate level.

In 1949, Mrs Elsie Lyne, the founder of GB Singapore, helped her secure a scholarship to study at University College Swansea (University of Wales), where she undertook a special course in Youth Work, covering psychology, social history of the UK, arts and crafts, and administration. She was subsequently awarded a second scholarship by the British Council to study



Social Administration at the University of Liverpool's School of Social Science, where she studied social work, psychology, social history, philosophy, and economics.

Returning to Fairfield in 1952, she resumed teaching with great joy, particularly in seeing former pupils grow up and return to contribute to the GB. That same year, she founded the GB 8th Company in the Fairfield Afternoon school, which had been established in 1929 to serve children from less privileged backgrounds, those who had dropped out of or were unable to secure a place in the morning school due to the high demand.



Mrs Tay and her staff of the 1950s:
Front row (from left): Mrs Koh Joo Hock, Miss A. Baruch, Mrs Chia Kim Teng, Mrs Chia Choo Neo, Mrs Tay Poh Luan, Mrs Chee Shook Yin, Mrs Susie Teo, Mrs Tan Boon Hock, Mrs Kan Keng Fong, Mrs Tan Lay Keow, Mrs Neo Kah Lee, Mrs Tan Gook Lian, Mrs Sun Huan Syn, Mrs Lim Bock Guan, Mrs Catherine Hu, Miss Linda Wong, Mrs Margaret Chung, Mrs Gladys Wee, Miss Lee Cheng Hoe.
Back row (from left): Miss Cheong Kim Chee, Mrs Koh, Mrs Maria Han, Mrs Lim Sam Quee, Miss Anita Thio, (teacher on extreme right unidentified).

Mrs Tay married in 1954, and in 1957, was appointed Principal of the Afternoon School, making her the youngest school principal in Singapore at the time. Even in this role, she continued to teach, including religious classes for Standard 7. Though known as a strict principal, she was deeply caring towards her students — going so far as to invite them to her home to help with their revision. She held the position until 1961.

In 1961, seeking to further develop herself professionally, Mrs Tay applied to join the inspectorate at the Ministry of Education (MOE). She served as an Assistant Inspector of Schools from 1969 to 1973, and remained

in the inspectorate for 23 years until 1984. In recognition of her outstanding contributions to Singapore's education system, she was awarded the Efficiency Medal in 1972.

Throughout this period, Mrs Tay remained actively involved in the Girls' Brigade in various leadership capacities. She served as Chairman of Girls' Brigade Singapore (1968–1973), Vice-President of the Girls' Brigade International Council (GBIC) (1967–1977), and President of the Pacific Fellowship of Girls' Brigade (1973–1977), during which she supported GB companies across the Pacific islands in strengthening their organisations. In 1977, she was appointed President of the GBIC, a post she held until 1984.

Mrs Tay also contributed to the wider community, serving on the Central Committee of the Singapore People's Alliance Party (1958) and the People's Association Central Committee (1960–1963).

After her retirement, she remained a beloved figurehead for alumni. Well into her later years, Fairfield old girls regularly organised visits to her home, and she continued to attend events such as the Alumni Staff Lunch organised by the alumni association.

In 1985, Mrs Tay suffered a serious fall and found relief through massage therapy during her recovery. Inspired by this

experience, she went on to study massage at the YMCA and used this skill to help others for many years. Among those she helped was the mother of a former pupil who had suffered a stroke; through her dedicated care, the woman was able to recover and regain her ability to walk.

Though Mrs Tay has returned home to the Lord, we will always remember her servant heart and her enduring contributions to education in Singapore and to the Girls' Brigade. Her indomitable spirit and boundless energy, sustained even well into retirement, will continue to inspire generations of Fairsians.

The Fairfield School Song Turns 100

A much beloved icon of Fairfield, our school song is about 100 years old.

The lyrics of the school song were written by Ms Irene E. Chapman in 1923. The lyrics and music score were modified from the school song of an American College. Ms Chapman would have written to the college for permission to use its lyrics and melody. The song entered the repertoire of music at Fairfield, unofficially as the school song. It was sung at the opening of the Olson Wing in 1924 and was officially published in the Malaya Message in 1927 as the Fairfield School Song.

Ms Irene Chapman was from Minneapolis, America. She was a missionary and was posted to our school in 1918 on contract. She returned to America in 1923 after spending 5 years teaching music at Fairfield. Ms Chapman showed the school song

to a student named Wong Lai Chong who was delighted with its rhythm. Ms Wong - later Mrs Elsie Lee Swee Cheng - became a music teacher as well.



The school song represents the identity of the school and fosters loyalty when we sing it. Lines from the lyrics have been adopted as themes for the school for example the school theme in 2025 was "Love is in the sunshine".

Many of us won't forget the lyrics for the school song as most of us would have sung it for ten years during our school life. The next time you sing the school song, think about what

it means to you.

In 1983 when the school went co-ed, several lines of the school song were changed. See if you can spot them below.

Fairfield School Song

A world has opened for us
A world that's bright and gay
A world that's full of interest
Since to school we found our way

It's a world that's full of gladness
And we're happy all the day
And we learn that only busy folks
Can be bright and true and gay
It's at Fairfield, at Fairfield
Where all the world is bright
Where love is in the sunshine
And our hearts are gay and light

Oh! It's Fairfield, at Fairfield
Where all the world is bright
Where love is in the sunshine
And our hearts are gay and light

There we live and work and study
There we walk in wisdom's ways
Gaining strength for all the future
Far and near we'll sing thy praise

May blessings be upon thee
May many find thy halls
May the women of the future
Be found within thy walls

Here's to Fairfield, to Fairfield
To every student here
To every lad and lassie,
And to every teacher dear
Oh! It's Fairfield, at Fairfield
Where all our hearts are light
Where love is in the sunshine
And all the world is bright

Alumni Staff Lunch 2026



The Fairfield Methodist Schools Alumni Association hosted the annual alumni staff lunch over at Jen Hotel Tanglin J65 Café on Sat 18 April 2026.

This is an annual Alumni Association event to recognise and thank our staff (in service or retired) who have taught or worked in Fairfield for at least 15 years. It is to appreciate these leaders and staff for their contributions to our schools and nurturing generations of Fairsians over the years.

Some 80 attendees, along with our management committee attended the lunch. Our current Principals, Mr Wee Tat Chuen (FMS(S)) and Mrs Soh Mei Foong (FMS(P)) were also amongst the guests invited for the lunch fellowship. Ms Anna Cai, who joined the Fairfield family as Vice-Principal (FMS(S)) was present and so was our retired principal, Ms Dorothy Ho (FMS(P)). All the guests enjoyed the leisurely lunch and were spoilt for choice as they tucked into fresh seafood, grilled meats, local fares as well as a wide selection of desserts.

Many of the guests also took this opportunity to catch up with one another during this yearly affair and we look forward to hosting them again in the years ahead.

All praise and honour be to God for the past 138 years and may the legacy of the connections we made in our Fairfield journey shines on.

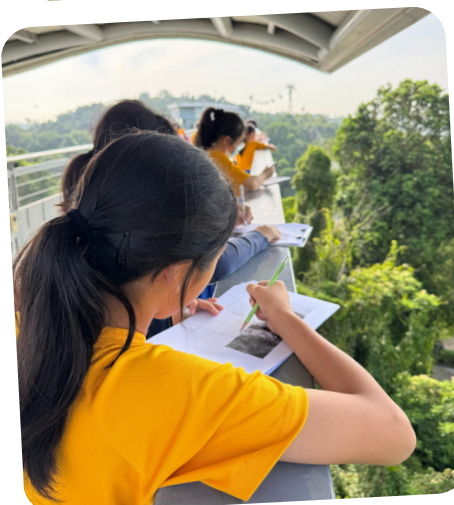


Beyond the Classroom: Fairfield Learning Festival 2026

by Matilda Chen (Sec 1B), Beth Loh (Sec 1H), Seng Yun Hee (Sec 2B), Darryl Quah (Sec 2B), Aw Zhuo Xi (Sec 3C), Cherylynn Hao (Sec 3G), Zobel Lee (Sec 4F), and Renee Kwan (Sec 4F)

After months of lessons, assignments, and pen-and-paper assessments, the long-awaited Fairfield Learning Festival finally arrived. First introduced in 2023, the festival aims to inspire students to discover their passion for learning through meaningful experiences beyond the classroom. This year's programme offered a refreshing change from the usual school routine, bringing learning to life through activities that were engaging, purposeful, and closely connected to the world around them.

The Secondary 1 students ended their first term in secondary school with an enriching trip to Fort Siloso, Sentosa. Blending nature and heritage, the learning journey allowed students to better understand Singapore's wartime history, including the experiences of British and Singaporean soldiers, while also appreciating the rich biodiversity found in tropical rainforests. They also took part in a Code for Fun workshop, where they learnt basic coding skills using coding blocks to programme a micro:bit – a tiny, palm-sized microcontroller board designed to make coding and physical computing fun and easy. Beyond picking up new digital skills, students developed computational thinking, an important part of problem-solving. Overall, the Learning Festival gave the Secondary 1 students opportunities to learn, bond with their peers, and grow in confidence.



For the Secondary 2 students, the festival was a journey through heritage, technology, and community. At the National Museum of Singapore, they explored fascinating artefacts and learnt about Singapore's transformation from a settlement into a thriving metropolis. They also participated in the AI for Fun workshop, where they created AI chatbots using Botpress and designed app interfaces using Google Stitch, applying E21CC skills such as critical, adaptive and inventive thinking. Another highlight was their visit to Margaret Drive in Queenstown, where they explored the social sustainability of housing estates and reflected on how communities change and grow over time.



The Secondary 3 students began their learning festival with a visit to the Singapore Discovery Centre, where they gained deeper insights into Singapore's journey from the Japanese Occupation to modern nationhood. They also heard from a retired officer, who shared about the importance of national defence and the role each citizen plays in protecting the country. These experiences deepened students' civic, global and cross-cultural literacy as they reflected on Singapore's history, identity, and shared responsibility. The cohort then embarked on various science-related learning journeys. Some visited St John's Island to learn about marine biology and the work of scientists at the St. John's Island National Marine Laboratory, while others explored the NUS Physics Demo Lab through hands-on experiments.



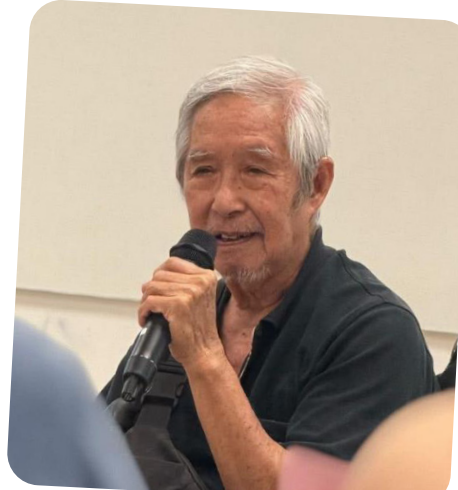
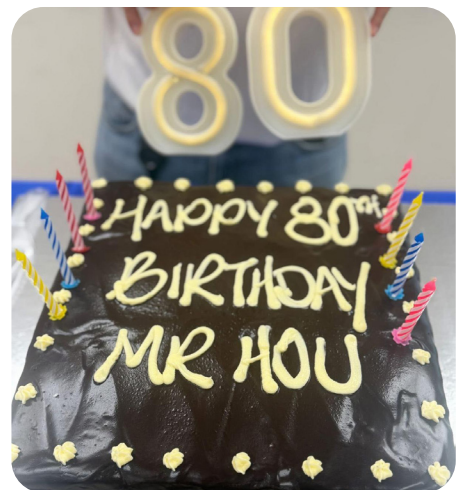
For the Secondary 4 students, the festival focused on future pathways and possibilities. Through interactive talks, polytechnic visits, and industry learning journeys, they explored post-secondary options and possible careers. Speakers from various industries shared insights into their professions, while visits to organisations such as the Ministry of Health and YMCA exposed students to different fields of work. To round off the experience, students attended a workshop that helped them include their learning and achievements in their portfolios. These activities strengthened their communication, collaboration and information skills as they reflected on their strengths and next steps.



With a week that blended fun, discovery, and purposeful learning, Fairfield's Learning Festival reminded students that learning does not end in the classroom. It continues through every journey, conversation, experience, and reflection. Thanks to the combined efforts of the school, teachers, partners, and students, this year's festival was a meaningful and memorable experience for the Fairfield community.

A Fairfield Legacy: Shaping Lives Across Generations - Mr Hou at 80

Written by: Mr Larry Loh



There are teachers whose names you remember long after you leave school. And then there are those whose presence you continue to feel – in the corridors, in the spaces around you, and in the quiet ways you carry yourself. Mr Hou Meng Hsien is that kind of teacher.

On 11 April 2026, a gathering was organised in Fairfield Methodist School (Secondary) to honour a man who has been woven into the very fabric of our school – quite literally. School leaders, staff, students, alumni, and members of the wider Fairfield family came together in a celebration that was as warm as it was overdue, marking Mr Hou's 80th birthday and his long, remarkable chapter of service.

Mr Hou first walked through Fairfield's doors in 1984 as a Design and Technology teacher. What followed was more than three decades of quiet, steady, and transformative contribution. As Discipline Master, he became a figure many came to know well. His approach balanced firmness with grace, and his tough love left lasting impressions on countless young lives. Students may have stood a little straighter in his presence, but they also knew they were seen, guided, and cared for.

What made the afternoon especially meaningful was the rediscovery of just how much Mr Hou had given beyond the classroom. Stories emerged of his tireless, behind-the-scenes contributions during the school's move to Dover Road, including his work on the skybridge – now known as the wellness bridge. These were not merely acts of service; they were reminders that Mr Hou had helped shape Fairfield in very tangible ways.

This became even clearer when another side of him surfaced: his unexpected creative and handyman talents. The man who upheld discipline had also quietly lent his hands and imagination to the physical spaces of Fairfield we know today. That iconic school pond? That was Mr Hou's contribution too.

It is perhaps fitting that a man of such understated service would leave his mark not only in memories, but also in the very landscape of the school. His was a ministry of presence, showing up, rolling up his sleeves, and doing what needed to be done, often without fanfare.

Above all, those gathered were reminded of a man whose faith anchored everything he did. His love for God was not worn loudly, but it shone through in the care he extended, the patience he practised, and the lives he quietly invested in over the years. Somewhere along the way, he became more than a teacher or Discipline Master – he became The Mr Hou.

Blessed 80th birthday, Mr Hou. Fairfield is richer for every year you have given us, and your legacy continues to live on across generations.



Primary School Sports Carnival

Written by: Olivia Chiay and Elsie Kheng of P5E (2026)



After a long term of lessons, the Sports Carnival was a perfect break we had all been looking forward to. It was a chance for us to step out of the classroom, have fun with friends and enjoy playing sports together.

On 13 March 2026, the Assembly Area buzzed with excitement as Primary 3 to 6 students gathered for the much-anticipated event. The event brought together students, teachers, and supporters for a day filled with energy, teamwork and fun. Excited cheers filled the air as the games began and it was clear this would be a day to remember.

Primary 5 students had the chance to play frisbee and volleyball. My friends and I chose frisbee at the Indoor Sports Hall and loved every moment of it. As the disc flew from player to player, our excited cheers grew louder and louder. When it was our turn, we were determined to win. In the end, Martin won. Everyone cheered at the top of our lungs, showing the true spirit of sportsmanship.

We learnt that winning feels great but teamwork and perseverance matter more. We went home not just with memories but with joy and valuable lessons.



"I loved playing with my friends, learning a new sport and experiencing victory together. Hearing Olson cheer and create chants during our volleyball game motivated me to give my best and win."

Katherine Chew of P5E



"I thoroughly enjoyed spending time competing against the different houses in the Basketball game. It is an experience I will always treasure because it will be my last Sports Carnival in Fairfield."

Ryan Chang of P6D



"Sports Day is a very exciting day of the year. I really enjoyed playing Captain's Ball against other teams. In the end, my team won a gold medal! Sports Day will be a special memory to me for a very long time."

Jeroy Kong of P4F



Editor's note:

Congratulations to Blackmore House for emerging as the Sports Carnival champion this year! Fly the flag high as the students' dedication, courage, strength, sportsmanship and house spirit truly shone through.

A big well done to all athletes and supporters who made the carnival such a vibrant and memorable event. Thank you also to the teachers and PiE (Partners in Education) volunteers who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to make the day possible.

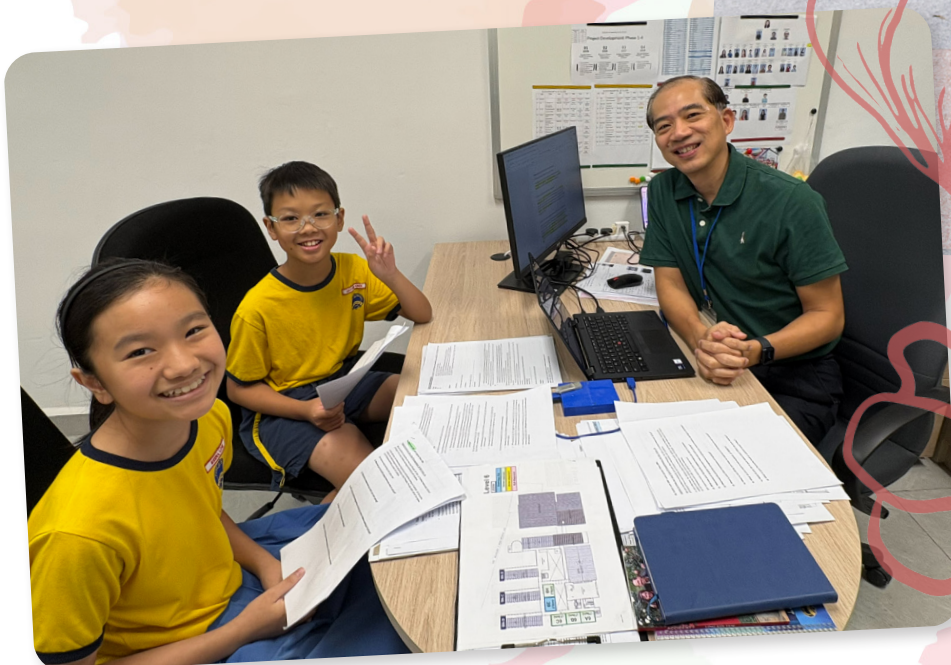
MR BOH HONG JIK

We felt truly privileged to have a heart-to-heart chat with our new Vice Principal (Admin), Mr Boh Hong Jik. From the moment we sat down with him, Mr Boh spoke with such warmth and sincerity that our nervousness quickly melted away. He listened attentively to our questions and responded thoughtfully, making us feel respected and heard.

Mr Boh shared that when he first arrived at Fairfield Methodist School (Primary), he was struck by the spacious foyer and basketball court filled with cheerful students. What touched him most were the Bible verses displayed around the school, which gave him a deep sense of belonging as a Christian. Hearing this made us realise how much Fairfield already means to him.

Mr Boh also spoke earnestly about his priorities for improvement such as refurbishing parts of the infrastructure and replacing the external bamboo blinds. Yet beyond physical changes, his message to us left the deepest impression. He reminded all Fairfield students that we are children of God. He encouraged us to cherish our precious school days, build meaningful friendships, and focus on developing useful life skills. Academic results, he kindly emphasised, do not define our worth or determine our future success.

After our conversation, we felt inspired. We are grateful to have a school leader who leads with both wisdom and heart, and we eagerly look forward to growing under his guidance.



Getting to Know Mr Boh

Mr Boh's favourite subject is Mathematics as he enjoys the challenge of solving complex problems. During his primary school years, he served as a prefect and was a member of the school band, where he particularly valued the friendships he formed. He later studied at Victoria School, where he was actively involved in the National Police Cadet Corps (NPCC).

Prior to joining Fairfield Methodist School (Primary), Mr Boh was Vice Principal (Admin) at Chung Cheng High School (Main) for seven years and was also part of the pioneer team at Valour Primary School. In his free time, he enjoys listening to music, watching Hong Kong dramas, playing sports, and travelling. He also has a fondness for local delights such as nasi lemak and often purchases snacks like peanuts and cashew nuts from NTUC FairPrice or convenience stores.