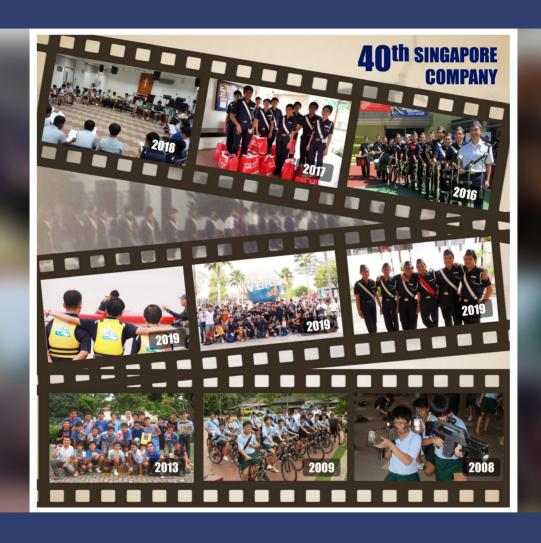
# BBNEWS

3RD ISSUE OCT 2020

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION
OF THE BOYS' BRIGADE
IN SINGAPORE





BB through the generations, for all generations!



# GENERAL INFORMATION



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# THE BOYS' BRIGADE

The Boys' Brigade is an international movement with Companies in more than 60 countries. Founded by Sir William Alexander Smith in 1883, it is the pioneer of uniformed youth organisations. In Singapore, the movement is recognised by the Ministry of Education as an approved CCA and it is registered as a Charity under the Charities Act 1982 (Registration No.

### Object

The advancement of Christ's Kingdom among Boys and the promotion of habits of Obedience, Reverence, Discipline, Self-Respect and all that tends toward a true Christian Manliness.

### **Our Vision**

To be the Youth Organisation of Choice

### **Our Mission**

To nurture Youth, based on Christian values to serve and lead

### **Our Beliefs**

We are First for Youth

We provide fun, meaningful and challenging

We are committed to serve the community.

We are served and led by Volunteers.

We are enterprising, in tune with our changing

We actively engage our stakeholders.

We are a Christian organisation for all Youth.

# **BB NEWS**

The BB News is the official publication of The Boys' Brigade in Singapore. The opinions expressed in the articles are the personal view of the writers and do not necessarily represent the policies of The Boys' Brigade.

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BB Through the Generations, For All Generations! Since our founding in Singapore in 1930, we continue building up our Boys by developing them to be trustworthy and credible leaders by building their character through various activities. Your generous donations will go towards enriching young lives!

> The BB is an Institution of Public Character. Hence, your donation will grant you **2.5 times** tax deduction.



Via our Giving.sg webpage (Scanning the QR code above will bring you to the webpage https://tinyurl.com/BBGivingSG



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# ADAPTING AMIDST **ADVERSITY**

# POH LEONG BERG (LTA), BRIGADE PRESIDENT

here is a tale about a frog which fell into a pot of water. The pot was on a stove. The frog did not try to jump out as the water was not hot yet. Slowly, the water began to warm up, but the frog stayed in the pot, without realizing it was in danger, as the change in temperature was very gradual. As the temperature of the water started to rise, the frog was able to adjust its body temperature accordingly. The frog only realized it was in danger when the water started to boil. The frog tried hard to jump out of the pot of boiling water but by then it was too late and the frog was cooked to death.

This story teaches us not to be like the frog. The frog could not make it due to its own inability to sense when it had to jump out. We need to step back regularly, review and examine our circumstances, and adjust and adapt accordingly. We must take action while we still have the strength and the ability to do so.

Change is always difficult, even positive change, as it produces stress and disrupts our

Change caused by adversity is painful but adversity is not necessarily a bad thing. We need to realize that each adversity also includes the seed of opportunity. The BB must be resilient and be able to adapt and respond in a positive and harmonious manner when challenges arise, and adopt behaviors that will enable us to reframe adversity as opportunities for growth and new ventures; only then will the BB last from generations to generations.

These are some principles we can adopt as we adapt and make changes to overcome after adversity:



Be strong and courageous



Character, confidence, and commitment matters



Godly leadership



Everyone needs to journey together



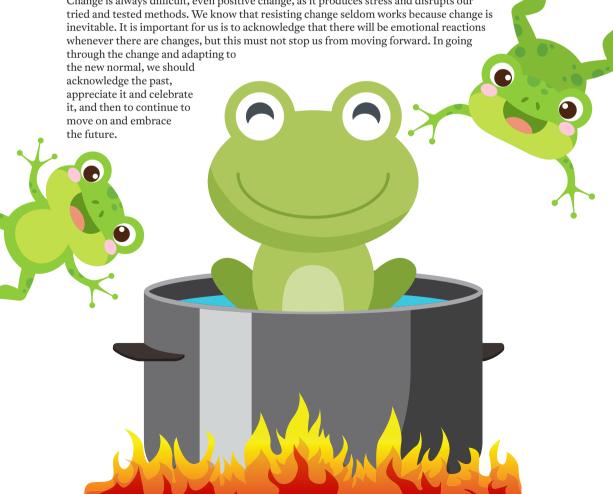
Change must be approached sensibly, correctly and in a timely manner for continuity to occur. The following are possible measures we can take to adapt to and embrace change as we face the current pandemic situation and any other challenges.

> Know who we are – our mission, beliefs, core values, attributes, and talents will allow us to be sure and steadfast and not be shaken by the changes affecting us. It will build up our resilience and help us overcome adversity.

opens the door to possibilities and growth. It will help us focus on how we

from such experiences will give us confidence and will increase our

Respond in an optimal and productive way by acknowledging that change can adjust, adapt, and move forward. Make small changes a regular part of our lives. Reflecting and learning adaptability to major or unexpected change.



I am encouraged that during this COVID-19 pandemic, our BB Companies have adapted to engage and mentor the Boys by adopting new digital platforms, pedagogies, and activities. At the Brigade level, we have taken on new ways of organising our events and programmes, such as having the online Thanksgiving Service and the virtual mass run event to celebrate our 90th Anniversary. These examples demonstrate the fortitude of the Brigade in embracing new ideas and transformation while preserving our core values and beliefs at the same time.

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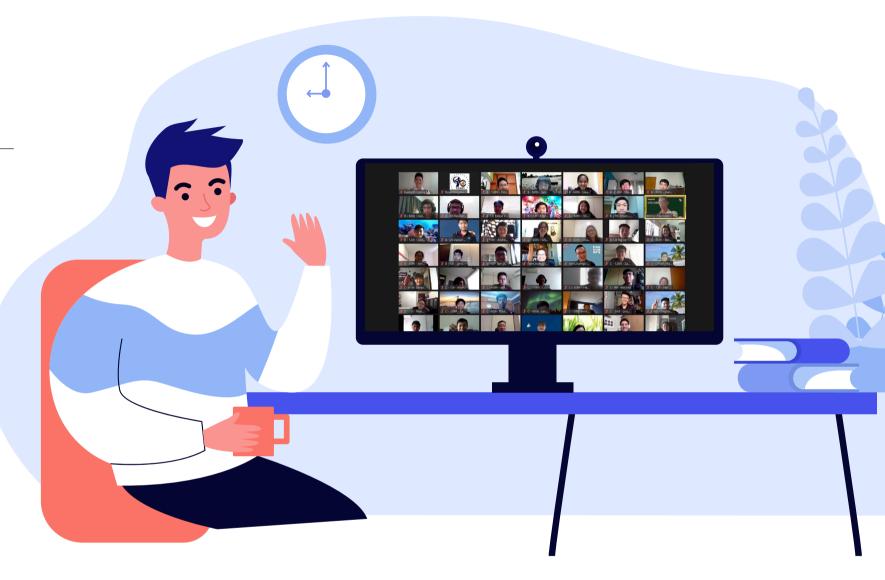
# PREPARING FOR TOMORROW

# REV DR MALCOLM T.H. TAN (LTA). ASSOCIATE BRIGADE CHAPLAIN

These are unusual days to be living in. Things are not like before. In fact, we are told that it is the "new normal" and that the "old normal" may not come back completely, so soon. Some say that they may not come back at all. Life since the beginning of the year 2020 has been one of fear and uncertainty because of a global pandemic that has not spared Singapore. Now it is dangerous to be carelessly walking around and speaking to each other without having a mask on, because of a life threatening virus called Covid-19. This virus can kill and has killed some, especially those in the older age bracket. Without a definite medical cure (vaccine), the obvious that should be done, is to practice "social distancing", minimising our physical proximity with each other, to avoid coming into contact with water droplets emanating from our immediate conversation partners. Those water droplets are said to transmit Covid-19 from one person to another. The impact of this has been to inconvenience life at home, school and work for many.

Now most people are encouraged to stay and to do work from home. School is not the same with students having to have masks on and having to maintain a 1 metre distance from each other. Some programmes seen to be not absolutely necessary, have been suspended for the time being. We are living in the midst of adversity now. If we are not careful, we might be infected with Covid-19 and pass it on to those in our family that are older and more vulnerable. Being stuck at home with each other for most of the time has not been good for our own personal sanity and family life, either. Many of our parents also work in those occupations where frequent human contact is absolutely necessary. Social distancing has meant a slowdown in business and customers, especially for those in travel and hospitality. Many have lost their jobs as businesses have been forced to shut down or downsize under the circumstances. What can we do in such a time as this?

Several things come to mind. The first is the need to have confidence and determination to somehow carry on with life because of an unshakeable inner conviction, that we will survive in the midst of this pandemic because God is with us! (Romans 8:37). Our resilience must come from the Lord. Secondly, we need to be wise and creative in learning how to survive and flourish in this situation. We may not be able to do things the usual way but we can still do those things in new and creative ways. For example, time spent at home can also be opportunities to do new things together as a family. Perhaps some of us can learn to cook and volunteer to do dinner for the family, or perhaps the family may want to have time out together to go jogging or cycling, which are permitted activities. Wisdom tells us to still be careful and not be reckless in ignoring "social distancing" when stepping out of the house for permitted recreation.





Thirdly, we must thank God for modern technology. Now it is possible to have office or business meetings with each other through our computer laptops. It is possible for the church to have worship services recorded and sent out by Youtube. It is also possible for teaching sessions, fellowship sessions and prayer meetings to be conducted by Zoom or Skype. Indeed, when God closes the door, He opens a window. Thank God for modern technology. Life can go on. Next, this situation should tell us to prepare for the future. What will we do when things start to become more normal again? Some things will still have to be done differently. To be prepared now for tomorrow is to be perhaps prepared for a bountiful harvest later. Finally, we must discipline ourselves not to think only about ourselves. Many are worse off than we are. Can we be an instrument of God by being a blessing to the

bruised, the weary or wounded in life in this pandemic? May God show us how. Jesus is still the Anchor of all our souls.

Sure and Stedfast.

# A COLLABORATION BETWEEN NP SP NYP PRIMERS NP HITCLUB PROJECT \*\*\*\* SIGN-A-SONG SINGAPORE

# Project Sign-A-Song!

# SCL TAN SI MIN AND SCL LIM JIA HUI

# NP PRIMERS COMPANY, NGEE ANN POLYTECHNIC

Each year, BB Primers from the various polytechnics would participate in the National Day celebrations by serving as motivators. One of their roles is to engage the audience before the start of the celebration. This year, the Ngee Ann (NP), Nanyang (NYP) and Singapore (SP) Polytechnic Primers collaborated in a project that would allow them to continue experiencing the excitement of being part of the celebrations.

Primer Ku Shi Huan from NP noted, "Project Sign-A-Song was a meaningful way to engage the deaf community in the celebrations for Singapore's 55th birthday!"

We worked together with NP's Hi! (Hearing Impact) Club members who taught us basic alphabet signing as well as song-signing for Stefanie Sun's National Day song - We Will Get There (2002). Primer Mohamad Nabil Bin Jumahat from SP shared, "The lesson was fast-paced and hard at first, but we managed to handle the song eventually.

Primer Felicia Goh from NYP shared, "It was interesting to learn to sign my own name. I enjoyed the bonding sessions with Primers from SP and NP as we were deliberately placed in mixed groups by the organisers.

During the filming process, the participants had to submit individual and group signing videos via Zoom. Despite the technical difficulties faced during the preparations, the participants were very cooperative and willing to go the extra mile to help out in the production of the video!"



Scan the QR Code here to watch Project Sign-A-Song!



# **PROJECT SIGN-A-SONG**

NP SP NYP PRIMERS X NP Hi! CLUB



"WE WILL GET THERE"



# Enrolment Ceremony Online!

The annual Enrolment Ceremony for the Boys' Brigade formalises the membership of new Boys as well as renews the memberships of existing Boys. Determined to preserve this BB tradition, the 36th Singapore Company (Compassvale Secondary School) decided to shift their Enrolment Ceremony online!

On 4 July, over 70 participants including Boys, Officers, Teachers, Parents, Old Boys, volunteers and Mr Lam Kien Ann, Executive Director of BB Thailand attended the e-Enrolment Ceremony. The 36th Coy has established a long-term partnership with BB Thailand that kickstarted in October 2018 with a 6-days, 5-nights overseas trip to BB Chonburi units. In return, they hosted cultural sharing sessions with BB Thailand Boys in Singapore in April 2019.

The newly appointed Company Sergeant Major (CSM) CPL Aaron Foong shared, "The e-Enrolment and Handover Ceremony over Zoom was a completely new experience for everyone. Allowing us to host more guests online was something that made this service special and having the Executive Director of BB Thailand join us was definitely a key highlight."





CSM CPL Aaron Foong (above) sharing his reflections

To initiate the new BB recruits, Primer Jared Kim produced a special video that featured Acting Captain John Seet, Teachers-in-charge Mr Patrick Chong and Mr Patrick Ho as well as Boys who reflected upon their BB journeys. Mr Ho shared his hope that the Boys will learn servant leadership and that leaders are not to order people around but to serve. He believes that the BB journey ahead will be very meaningful for the Boys.

Logistics IC, CPL Yeo Jing Kai said, "It was an eye-opening event and thankfully with everyone's help, everything went smoothly. It was an honour to attend the inaugural e-Enrolment Ceremony organised by my Company."



Mr Patrick Ho (above) sharing his journey as BB Teacher-in-charge

# CARING FOR **PSYCHOLOGICAL WELLNESS**

A pandemic can be overwhelming and can affect our mental well-being as we enjoy relating to people for networking purposes and collaborations. Hence, BB Singapore organised a workshop on 4 July for BB Officers, helmed by psychologist and Officer Bay Qinyao (45th Singapore Company) and Captain Vincent Tan (73rd Singapore Company). The online event attracted 65 attendees from Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia and Philippines. Oinyao and Vincent shared tips on post traumatic growth for the Covid-19 situation as well as strategies to engage the Boys and mentor them while online, and more!

# How can Officers notice symptoms of stress while online?

▶ Change in Boys' attendance behaviour.

- ▶ Disinterest in activities.
- ▶ Disruptive/attention seeking behaviours.
- Verbal cues
- Anger/emotional outbursts.
- Statements of desperation or feelings of stress or devaluation.



- Para-verbal cues
- Tone of voice may be petulant, annoyed or unreasonable.
- Volume of voice may be too loud or too soft.
- Intonation rhythm may be faster than normal.

### Non-verbal cues

- Facial features show anger, sadness or contempt.
- Erratic social media practices

# **Strategies to Engage and Mentor Boys:**

- ▶ Help them to manage their expectations and frustrations.
- ▶ Explore coping strategies with them.

▶ Acknowledge their challenges. ▶ Share your own situation, struggles and solutions. ▶ Request for feedback using emoticons or scales of 1-5 to represent boredom level etc.

▶ Being present and engaged in appreciating their present situation.



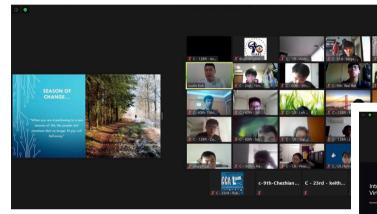
▶ Validate their successes.

- ▶ Start BB parades with a quick check-in on each other's well-being.
  - Developing interactions through online games and bite-sized content.
    - Establish breakout rooms led by Primers or NCOs for more intimate sharing and group bonding.
    - Turn the Boys' focus towards caring for the community by planning for the BB CARES community service project.

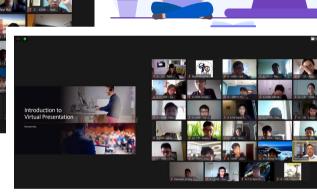
Vincent shared that self-care for Officers is also important. "It's a good time to slow down and prepare for teaching and learning. When we slow down, we will be a better support to those who need us. And online engagement of Boys needs to be social-emotional, creative, fun and have a sense of community."

# Primers e-Fellowship

Some Primers spent their Saturday morning meeting fellow Primers from other Companies for an e-Fellowship on 18 July! To warm up, the 79 Primers from 14 BB Companies played a game of Kahoot! where they were quizzed on their knowledge of the BB.









# 1. Introduction to **Virtual Presentation**

with the following skills:

This session was facilitated by Mr Tennant Kiu, Director of Singapore Adventure & Leadership Training Pte Ltd, who covered the basics of equipment set up, how to design meaningful audience interactions and collaborations as well as presentation tips for maximum impact.



# 2. Youth Mentoring

This session was helmed by Mr Chong Ee Jay, Deputy Head of FamChamps Singapore. He shared about nurturing relationships, communicating care as well challenging the growth of mentees. Mr Ang Hoe Yong, the former BB Primers Programme Chairman, also shared insights from his personal experience.



# 3. Finding Your Why

Mr Justin Koh, Officer of 108th Singapore Company at Furen International School, shared with the Primers on finding their callings and adaptations for this new season in life as BB Primers.

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bb4whitley Today at BB parade, seniors presented their ideas for squad bonding activities and learnt about Total Defence. The Sec 1s continued with their LDC1 topped off with rounds of badminton. // 28 Aug 2020

#bb #bb4whitley #bbsingapore #theboysbrigade #boysbrigadesingapore #boysinblue #sureandstedfast #whitleysec #learning #learningtogether #learningcommunity

4th Coy on 28 Aug



bb28th

0 13 likes

#bb28th

28th Coy on 10 Aug

33rdbbcoy It's finally Teacher's day. The day that we acknowledge and celebrate our teachers' hardwork and dedication that they put in for us. It is amazing how much effort our teachers, officers and primers put in every day to teach us, guide us and nurture us. They are

33rd Coy on 4 Sep

bb28th We had a good online catch-up with our old Nice to find out about how each of them are doing and how the BB has continued to benefit them even after



Xinmin Secondary School Liked by 26thboysbrigade\_sg and 51 others bb45th #thisweekat45th Our Boys continued on their

bb45th

They did map reading, leadership development and BB Cares planning!

Though parade time has been reduced, we try our best to make the best out of it!

45th Coy on 23 Aug

99th Coy on 4 Sep



Liked by 26thboysbrigade\_sg and 116 others

25thbcoys9 In this year of uncertainty, we were unfortunately unable to hold the Recruits' POP as per usual in March. However due to the improvements in the usual in March However due to the improvements in the covid-19 situations and technology, we were finally able to have a POP for our new recruits.

25th Coy on 31 Aug





O P Liked by bb50thcoygess and 19 others

bb\_sixty6 For PT today, we cracked our brains solving Pigpen Ciphers to find and complete a series of tasks and activities to reach the end!

66th Coy on 5 Sep







# **ENGAGING E-PARADES!**

HO YEW KEONG (LTA), CAPTAIN

### 1] SINGAPORE COMPANY, PIONEER PRIMARY SCHOOL

When our BB Teacher informed us that the Company could organise Zoom meetings from 16 June, we were excited to be able to meet up with our Boys. The Officers started to brainstorm creative ideas to engage the Boys. Since we were unable to organise physical outings, we opted for virtual excursions that would be brought right into the comfort of our Boys' homes. We approached Mr Jerome Lim, a former BB Officer that operates a bakery shop named Pronoia Foods LP and Mr Patrick Koh, our BB Vice-President who runs The Steamboat Specialist. We requested for them to impart two key values that they hold for their businesses that are also applicable to Boys.



Jerome brought us around his shop and kitchen to show us the array of ovens, mixers and bakery equipment. He then conducted a baking demonstration of yogurt muffins. He said that his two key values at work are **timing and accuracy**. Timing in the sense of the baking time and accuracy in terms of the ingredient portions required. He pointed out that the relevance of timing for Boys would be that there is time for them to play and a time to study. In terms of accuracy, the Boys would need to work things out in life with a higher degree of accuracy instead of taking things for granted.

Due to privacy restrictions, there are no screenshots of the Zoom sessions.

Patrick brought the Boys through a kitchen tour and explained the functions of the heavy equipment used for food processing and packaging. He asked the Boys some questions after his presentation as well. He shared that his two values are safety and care for people. Safety as the staff are using heavy machines like big saws to cut frozen meat and being caring in terms of staff welfare. So, our Boys learnt that they need to ensure that safety comes first whether at play or elsewhere and also to show care and concern for those around them.





Since we were not confined by physical limitations, we "travelled" to Cambodia via Zoom to visit The Boys' Brigade Learning Center (BBLC)! The Centre was established in 2003 in Prayut Village, Puok Commune, Siem Reap. The objective of the Learning Centre is to meet the felt needs of local youths eager to learn English and IT skills. With the help of former and current Centre Managers, Mr Kong Chak Mun and Ms Sok Eng respectively, the Boys toured the BBLC facilities and surroundings, including a high school and market as well as Angkor Wat!



"I appreciated the efforts of the BB Officers in coordinating this programme for the Boys. It is really enriching for them to learn from professionals with diverse backgrounds. And I enjoyed the sessions too!"

- Teacher Rachel Koh

**ICP MORVEN CHIN** 

## 44TH SINGAPORE COMPANY, FUCHUN SECONDARY SCHOOL

What did we do during our online Citizenship Stage 2 badgework?

The first lesson we had was about poverty. We learnt that even though Singapore is a developed country, there are still some needy persons with low incomes and large families to support. Our flagship BB Share-a-Gift Project reaches out to these persons by engaging sponsors, corporations and individuals to provide grocery items and special wishes to these families. I learnt to be more grateful with what I have and to not take things for granted.





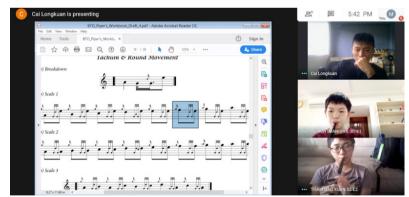


By: saif, Ryan, hanshan, Chris, Morven and

The second lesson was on social entrepreneurs who had impacted society through their businesses. We worked in groups to research and compile presentation slides on successful social entrepreneurs. Our Officers and Teachers provided feedback on our work as well as our presentation skills. I hope to continue to work on my presentation skill as it is a useful skill to have.

We had limited number of pipes and drums training in Term 2 due to the Covid-19 situation. So, I was glad when training resumed in Term 3, even though it was conducted online. These sessions however, required higher concentration levels as we had to listen to the instructor very attentively. We took turns to be coached individually at the start of each session. Thereafter, we gathered to play the tunes as a pipe band. I practised hard to achieve the perfect tune even as we learnt new songs that required higher skill levels. I believe that I would be able to play better through my perseverance. And it is important for everyone to put in our best efforts to achieve harmony in the tunes.

LCP INTACH SRANGOL

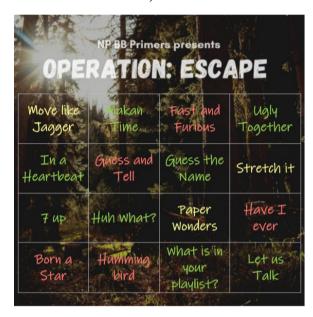


Caption: Since end May 2020, the Company has been having Pipes (t) Drums practice online via Google Meet every Thursday for two hours in the afternoon.



# SCL LEE YAN FANG AND SCL CHUEY SUM YEE BELLE

# NP PRIMERS COMPANY, NGEE ANN POLYTECHNIC



Inspired by the movie plot of Jumanji, where characters were sucked into an unknown world due to a system glitch and had to work together to find a ruby to escape, 'Operation: Escape' encouraged our members to foster bonding whilst having fun! For this game, the Primers were assigned various tasks to complete within a bingo template. And for every bingo line completed, a clue to the final location was presented.

The tasks were colour-coded according to categories:



Yellow was for enrichment. For example, 'Move like Jagger' had the participants learn a dance together.



Green was for bonding. For example, in 'What is in your playlist?', the participants were given a word and had to take turns to sing a different song with the word in it.



Red was for sharing. For example, 'Have I ever' is the opposite of 'Never Have I Ever' where participants took turns to share their past experiences.





struggles for independence.

the four main characters in

Oberon, and Roundhouse.

Here are some pictures of

our groups doing the various

and meaningful online session

missions! It was a truly fun

with our BB Primers!

Our groups were named after

Jumanji - Bravestone, Finbar,

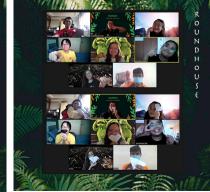




Oberon



Finbar



Roundhouse

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# Chatting with Founder's Men!

12I SINGAPORE COMPANY, ANGLO-CHINESE SCHOOL (INDEPENDENT)

Q: Why did you decide to join The Boys' Brigade (BB)?

WO Brian Sng: Growing up, I have known about the BB through my parents' involvement in serving BB Companies. My father was the former Captain of 44th Singapore Company. When I entered secondary school, I found that there were many Uniformed Group choices. However, the BB stood out for me as I felt that the activities and character development programme will have a lasting impact on me.

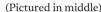
Q: What do you think is special about the Brigade that made you stay?

WO Brian Sng: The key difference is that the BB is a closely knitted community. I have heard stories from my seniors that many of the BB Boys continued to meet together long after their graduation. I also have had the opportunity to forge strong friendships with my cohort mates through BB camps. These camps were designed to stretch us to our limits and forced us to put aside any differences to work together as a team. Through the process, I learnt that it is important not to leave anyone in the BB family to struggle alone. It was also during the camps that I befriended my juniors and shared with them useful skills that I had learnt.



8TH SINGAPORE COMPANY. ZHONGHUA SECONDARY SCHOOL





## Q: Do share with us your background story.

WO Ni Xin: I was born in China, but had moved to Singapore when I was six years old to live with my aunt. I joined the Boys' Brigade Juniors Programme in Primary 3. Having truly enjoyed the activities, I decided to continue my BB journey in secondary school.

ry

All photos on this page were taken before COVID-19.

Ni Xin's Captain, Lam Wee Woon (LTA) was proud of how he had grown and developed during his years in the BB. He said, "Ni Xin was our Company Sergeant Major and has done extremely well in adapting to life in Singapore and within the Company. He has been exceptional in guiding his charges and leads by example in his studies too. Ni Xin volunteers many extra hours to help other Boys in their Drill and Adventure badge work skills!"

32ND SINGAPORE COMPANY, DAMAI SECONDARY SCHOOL





### Q: How did you find out about The Boys' Brigade?

WO Thaddeus Lim: My father was a BB Boy from the 5th Singapore Company. He used to share his fond memories of the BB. He said that he had treasured the camaraderie and bonding that developed through the drill sessions, outings and camps. In addition, he felt that the BB had taught him many values and the lifelong lessons were beneficial. And he is pleased that his cohort mates continued to keep in touch with each other even till today!

### Q: What was the most significant experience that you had in the BB?

**WO Thaddeus Lim:** That would be the opportunity to learn the bagpipe as part of the BB's Scottish heritage and performing it in school! I remembered that when I first started playing the bagpipe, I was constantly teased by my classmates for playing such a peculiar instrument. Over time, they had slowly learnt to appreciate bagpipe music.

There were only three bagpipers in my school during my time. Together, we persevered to hone our skills and put up performances at school events and even participated in many competitions. I was privileged to perform with the Lion City Pipe Band as well. I was especially thrilled to perform at Chingay 2019! My experience with the bagpipe made me realise that you do not need to have the approval of others to try out new things.

# **MEMORIES FOR** 90TH ANNIVERSARY!

As we celebrate our 90th Anniversary this 2020, we invited Companies to share memories unique to their history with photos taken through the years. And we will be showcasing more collages in the next issue of BB News!

Here are some collages the Companies created and sent in:



5th Coy, Kuo Chuan Presbyterian Secondary School



7J Coy, St. Andrew's Junior School



11th Coy, Christ Church Secondary School











17th Coy, Loyang View Secondary School

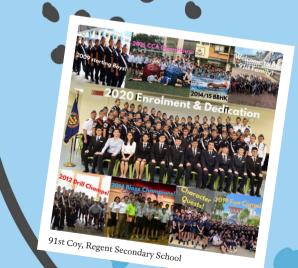
34th Coy, Marsiling Secondary School











64th Coy, Ang Mo Kio Secondary School



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