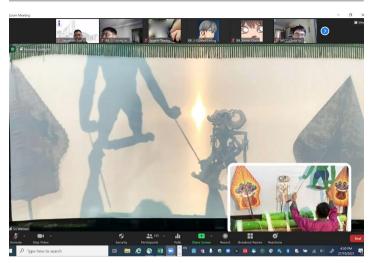
# BBIEWS

4TH ISSUE DEC 2021

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION
OF THE BOYS' BRIGADE
IN SINGAPORE



# GENERAL INFORMATION



The Boys of 91st Cov enjoying their Wayang Kulit Exposure session!

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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. 0067).

## 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 activities.

We are committed to serve the community.

We are served and led by Volunteers.

We are enterprising, in tune with our changing world.

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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The Boys' Brigade Headquarters is relocating to 10 Kwong Avenue! We aim to realise our BB Vision of Nurturing Young Lives and Promoting Intergenerational Community Life at the new premises with a preliminary Fundraising Goal of **\$1.1 million**. Please support us!

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 donations webpage or head to https://tinyurl.com/HelpBuildNewBBHQ)



Via Cheque: You may also opt to mail a cheque to us addressed to The Boys' Brigade in Singapore

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# REFLECTION AND RESPONSE -CLIMB THE LADDER

POH LEONG BERG (LTA), BRIGADE PRESIDENT

n the course of our normal, pre-pandemic lives, we were always busy trying to stay on top of everything we do. However, COVID-19 has interrupted and changed our lifestyle, the way we engaged our Boys, and the way The Boys' Brigade (BB) activities were carried out.





While it has been tough, the pandemic has given us the opportunity to benefit from the gift of rest and reflection. It has been a time to reflect on how precious and precarious our lives are and assess the effectiveness of the BB programmes in nurturing and mentoring our Boys into leaders of character with godly values.

Reflection and Response are two sides of the same coin. Reflection allows us to make sense of things, to challenge our thoughts, gain perspective, discover breakthroughs, and discern purpose in our lives and in the BB. Response thereafter propels us forward, increasing our fruitfulness. Reflection and Response need to co-exist for the best outcome. As we start the New Year, climbing up from where we were through reflection and reaching towards our desired outcome as we respond, the LADDER approach is a useful tool.

We need to be diligent and alert to the situation around us by listening with our ears, eyes, and heart; listening to what is spoken and unspoken, and to what people are doing and not doing.

Listening with an open mind and empathy allows us to understand and to hear diverse views so that the real issues can be revealed to be resolved. We can only learn by listening so that we can improve.

Asking relevant questions will get us the answers we need. We need to poke and prod during conversation to draw useful conclusions so that we can make good plans.

Asking ourselves the following questions allows us to reflect to be better and make meaning for ourselves and in our BB involvement.

- 1 What is my life's purpose? What do I want for myself during my time in the BB or serving in the BB?
- What insights and core values do I want to impart to those whom I have the opportunity to influence?
- What lessons can I take from the experiences during the pandemic? What do I want the new normal to be for myself and the BB?



# **DETERMINATION AND PASSION**



# **END IN MIND (VISION)**

Vision inspires. Having the end in mind (a focused and clear vision) will spark and fuel the fire within, and draw us and others forward. We need to boldly go where no one has gone before, to

# RALLY THE PEOPLE

To achieve the vision, we need a good team. We need to rally the people through leadership by example, inspire confidence, give hope that the vision will be accomplished, and provide direction.

As we work with people who are supportive and aligned to the vision, we need to create an environment that is conducive for growth, capitalise on people's strength, and empower them for the BB ministry. We need to invest in and develop these people as they will accomplish many things for the BB because of their passion.

Reflection and Response need to be part of our life journey process. We learn from our past, move to the present, and then speak of hope for the future. It is a discipline that we must all adhere to regularly so that we can live a purposeful life and create meaningful programmes in the BB ministry.

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# Choosing to Grow

# REV DR BERNARD CHAO (LTA). ASSOCIATE BRIGADE CHAPLAIN

ow will you live the year 2022?
Many people give little thought to the future—it just kind of "happens" to us.

As members of The Boys' Brigade, we are guided by the Object of the BB: "the promotion of habits of...a true Christian manliness." We are more intentional about life because we choose to live in a way that will develop good habits of character. I want to suggest that we enter the new year by choosing to grow.

There is a sense in these two years of the pandemic that many things and almost everything has been put on pause. This need not be your story. We can all choose how we will live and continue to learn, be creative, and contribute to our families and communities whatever the situation presents.

I want to encourage you to choose to grow in the new year. Choose to be intentional and proactive in thinking about, making decisions, and carrying out plans to learn new things, develop new friendships, and undertake new projects. These can take place in your BB Company, in your school, in your home, or in some other group you are involved in.

Of course, your BB Company would be an ideal place because we can encourage each other as we choose to grow. Talk to your fellow Boys, Primers, or Explorers, and discuss your ideas with your Officers about things you'd like to learn, activities you'd like to do together, and challenges you'd like to undertake. Choose to grow, together.



The Bible records how the apostle Paul understood growth: "I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow." (1 Corinthians 3:6-7, NIV)

The Bible teaches us that we have a part to play because we need to plant seed and water the seed. That requires intention and choice—we need to choose to grow and act on it. Then the good news—God will bless your efforts and cause the growth.

As you choose to grow and explore new possibilities in the new year, pay attention to how God will cause these activities that you choose to try out lead to growth in your character.

Praying for all of you to grow in the new year and wishing you and your families a happy new year! A New Cultural Experience

# LIM YUSHENG (LTA), CAPTAIN

91st Singapore Company, Regent Secondary School

ollaborating with three other Uniformed
Groups from the school (NPCC, Girls' Brigade
and Red Cross Youth), we organised a Wayang
Kulit Exposure session using a grant from the
National Arts Council!





A total of 45 Boys and 102 Girls attended the hour-long session online on 27 October to understand the background of Wayang Kulit and the use of puppets. Two thrilling stories were weaved into the presentation and our Boys and Girls shared that they had thoroughly enjoyed this new experience!



"I felt that the performance was spectacular and that the story had depth. I was thoroughly immersed in the plots that unfolded and was amazed that only two performers were needed to put up such a show!"

- LCP Koh Zhuo



"I enjoyed learning about the different characters in the Wayang Kulit, such as Seri Rama and each character's symbol within the stories. I am exposed to new instruments used such as the Gendang Ibu and the Gendang Anak."

- PTE Kayden Lim



I liked how enthusiastic the players were and the varied expressions they used while narrating this story. I learnt of the many ways that musical instruments could be played to make this story more interesting."

- PTE Zachary Goh

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# A HEART FOR OTHERS

econdary 3 Boys from the 10th Singapore Company (Beatty Secondary School) took the lead role this year to plan and organise the 2021 BB CARES project. They thought carefully about the beneficiaries for the project and chose to bless the migrant workers here. They empathised with their difficult situation during the pandemic, having been away from their homes for a long time. They wanted to show some care by packing gift bags filled with necessities such as disposable face masks, wet wipes, body wash and food items such as biscuits and noodles for them.







A total of 21 Boys and five Primers from 10th Singapore Company, together with five Boys from 76I Singapore Company (First Toa Payoh Primary School), and six Officers participated in this project. On 18 December 2021, the team put smiles on the faces of the 47 migrant workers as they shared the gift bags at a construction site at Lorong 8 Toa Pavoh!



"Initially, I felt that we wouldn't be able to complete the project on time due to the shortage of manpower. We were given a budget for the gift bags and we tried to obtain the best prices for the items. To do this, we had to compare prices across supermarkets and online stores. One thing I learnt in this group project is to schedule regular meetings and to split the tasks after reviewing each person's current workload. This project is great as we do not know much about the migrant workers initially. But now, we get to meet them, see their living conditions first hand and learn how the COVID-19 situation has impacted them." - SSG Lee Wei Hao (pictured above, second from right in second row)



"When we discussed this project, the top priority that surfaced was the hardships of migrant workers. We were concerned if they had enough for their daily needs and if there were medical supplies to protect themselves from the virus during severe lockdown periods. Hence, we made sure that the items we distributed would be useful and help to remind them that they are not alone in this pandemic. We hope that it would also encourage them to be

- SSG Hayden Yang (pictured in photo on left, third from right in third row)

EXPLORING DESPITE

CHALLENGES

# DIANA THIO (LTA), CAPTAIN (TILL END 2021)

02E Explorers Company, Chen Li Kindergarten

ue to social distancing measures, the Company could not organise group outings as part of the Adventure badge work. Hence, parents were encouraged to incorporate adventure activities during their family bonding time. Over the period from September to October 2021, 22 Explorers earned their badges through these activities.



"Isaac loves riding on a bicycle with his father and younger brother. This became their afternoon routine whenever there was fine weather. On this day, they started cycling from home to the Marina Bay area.

They enjoyed the scenic views at Kallang Park, National Stadium, Merlion Park and the Singapore Flyer, Isaac is looking forward to exploring more of Singapore!"





"Our family spent the weekend at the beach. Both Take and his sister enjoyed building sand castles and laughed heartily as they tried to bury each other in sand." Mr & Mrs Lee





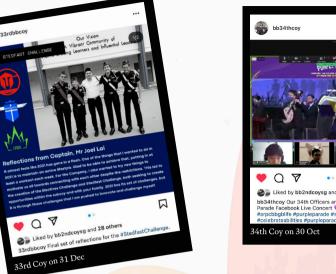
"Our family went on a two-hour round trip, cycling from home to Gardens by the Bay. We packed McDonald's for lunch and ate at the pond area. Morrison and his brother had lots of fun trying to identify the different species of birds and sea creatures in their habitats." - Mrs Leong









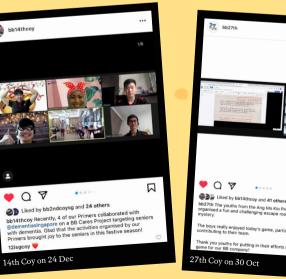


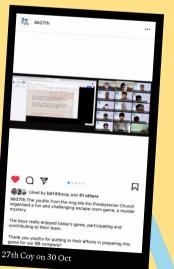




















# PRESIDENT'S MEN 2021!

ongratulations to all nine President's Award Recipients of 2021! The recipients received the highest accolade in The Boys' Brigade's Primers Programme from President Halimah Yacob on 14 December 2021 at The Istana.



They are (from L to R):

SCL Ethan Yap Sheen Kiat (27th Singapore Company)

SCL Hareesh S (50th Singapore Company)

SCL Lee Jun Heng, Justin (12I Singapore Company)

SCL Cheah Eu Jin, Ethan (12BR Singapore Company)

SCL Chee Jia Jing Daniel (60th Singapore Company)

SCL Ong Yi Xian, Seth (60th Singapore Company)

SCL Leng Chi Yeong, Andrew (49th Singapore Company)

and SCL Evan Chong Ian Han (12BR Singapore Company).

Pictured right: SCL Jerome Tan Kian Shao (12I Singapore Company) who attended via video conferencing.







Here's some of the words of advice and thoughts from a few of the recipients!



"Knowing I inspired a junior to reach for leadership roles or create a community service outreach programme showed me that even though serving can be tiring, lives are being changed in the process and that's the whole point of me being in BB.

The culture we created as a cohort was a very encouraging one. For example, Head Primers would be handwriting letters and creating care packs for other Primers and juniors to encourage them for their exams.

I was very glad to receive The President's Award. However, I do not think that the award is about me. Rather, it is a testament to the encouragement and support of my Officers, Teachers, seniors and cohort through these years. Without them, this Award wouldn't mean as much."

- SCL Lee Jun Heng, Justin (pictured above)



"The BB pushed me outside of my comfort zone. I think that the main takeaway for my time in the BB would be discipline. I was not a disciplined person before I joined the BB. My Officers taught me through mentorship and drill lessons, to apply discipline in my everyday life, such as in my academic work.

I would like to encourage potential applicants to focus less on the award, but more on helping others in the Company as well as the local community." - SCL Ethan Yap Sheen Kiat (pictured left)

"I am motivated by my purpose to live out and work on the BB's Object. I have seen how the BB has inspired me and my juniors and peers. I am greatly encouraged when I see my juniors grow. I had a conversation with one of my juniors, who mentioned that he does not want to do things out of pride. Such small snippets of their growth in character is a testament to the work of the BB. It makes the three years of investment in their lives worthwhile - an incredible joy and satisfaction.

The President's Award has given me a unique opportunity to reflect on my time in BB. The reflection process allowed me to consolidate lessons learnt, see how I have grown and consider how this enables me to serve in the future. It has also given me the chance to honour those who have poured out their time and invested in my life

- my parents, Officers, teachers, peers, and juniors."

- SCL Jerome Tan Kian Shao

(pictured in video conferencing photo on page 12)



"The President's Award is actually one that my dad and I decided I would aim for, when I first joined the BB in Primary 3. It feels surreal as I look back to how much I've grown these past 10 years.

To potential applicants, I would advise that they do not focus on getting the award itself, but rather to try and enjoy the process. I think that the Award is about understanding who you are as a person and reflecting upon what you've done in the BB and how you can improve your character values. For it is your values that will shape how your life will turn out in future!

- SCL Hareesh S (pictured above)



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# **GARDENING** FOR GOOD GOH SER GUAN (LTA). CAPTAIN

44th Singapore Company, Fuchun Secondary School

iven the current pandemic situation, our Company decided to think of ways to engage beneficiaries in the community in a fun, yet meaningful activity. We approached Woodlands Social Centre (WSC) as it was affiliated with our sponsoring church. After much discussion within the Company, we decided on a virtual terrarium workshop as it seemed like a unique activity!

The terrarium kits were delivered to our 27 Boys and 52 WSC beneficiaries' homes a day prior to the online Zoom workshop on 30 October. We conducted icebreaker games for introduction and shared with the participants about terrariums as well as its care and maintenance. For the practical component, we proceeded into breakout rooms. Our Secondary 3 Boys provided instructions whilst the rest assisted and interacted with the beneficiaries.



I think that the workshop offered families some bonding time, as parents helped their children with building the terrariums. It is indeed a good phygital experience for all!





"I enjoyed the session as I was able to recognise some of the children who had participated in past BB CARES events organised by the Company. I also managed to make some new friends. One of the obstacles that I faced was my lack of confidence in relating to strangers. My teachers and Officers encouraged me to overcome this challenge. Seeing the smiles on the children's faces made this encounter very meaningful!"

- SSG Ryan Melvin Rajah (pictured above, top left corner)

"I appreciated the leadership opportunity to share my knowledge and to help the participants create their own terrariums. I also learnt to remain patient and be encouraging when teaching others."

- SGT Christopher Ralph Benjamin (pictured left, top left corner)

# The Joy of Sacrifices

eading and bonding Companies together are bands of Officers who dedicate their time and efforts to mentor the next generation of Boys and Primers. We catch up with two Officers who have served with the BB for five to 10 years!





rightmost) with fellow Officers and Boys at Company's Enrolment before COVID-19. the Character's Quest competition in 2016!

Officer Jeshuren Moses (pictured first row, Officer Jeshuren Moses (pictured front row, second from left) at 5th Singapore

"I have been in The Boys' Brigade since my primary school days. And I've grown from being an introvert to someone who socialises and isn't afraid to experience new things. I am grateful for the leaders of the 5th Singapore Company who mentored and guided me. I returned to the Company to serve hoping to do the same for younger generations. I was taught to be a light of this world and to inspire Boys to grow up with good moral character values.

It is not easy to take on the challenge of guiding Boys in addition to facing personal challenges, I work in an architecture firm and my working hours are not fixed. However, I choose to wake up early on Saturday mornings to attend parades as I truly enjoy the time spent with BB Boys. It is a blessing for me to serve with my Captain and other Officers and lighten each other's loads. The fruits of the labour far outweigh the personal sacrifices of time and commitment by the volunteers. Seeing the improvements made by the Boys in their lives brought much joy. As I see the changes in my Boys and myself, I appreciate the hard work put in faithfully by my leaders across the years in the Company. - Jeshuren Moses (LTA), 5th Singapore Company, Kuo Chuan Presbyterian Secondary School





Officer Jasper Onn (pictured fourth from left) with his fellow Officer Jasper Onn speaking with his Boys Officers and Primers (Taken before COVID-19)!

"After graduating from St Hilda's Secondary School, I joined the Singapore Polytechnic BB Primers and also came back to serve in my alma mater. It means a lot to me, to have grown from rank and file as a Boy to a BB Officer. I truly treasured all my experiences in the BB.

A memory that stood out was when I was appointed Camp Commandant for my Company's training camp in 2017 as a young Officer. I was entrusted

with the responsibility to ensure that the camp runs smoothly and that the programmes were interesting. I was grateful for the many leadership opportunities across the years to work with Officers and Boys in the Company.

In spite of the many highs that I felt serving, there were also occasions when I felt burnt out. I had never really taken a proper break these years of juggling all my responsibilities. But what kept me going is being in a community

where all the Officers have a common interest at heart to mentor and develop the potential of Boys.

I encourage all Primers to challenge yourselves to assume a bigger role as an Officer in your Companies. To all Officers who have just started your service, the best advice I have is to rely on the support of Officers around you. Finding a mentor for personal advice will also be very helpful!" - Jasper Onn (2LT), 49th Singapore

Company, St Hilda's Secondary School

# CELEBRATING 90 YEARS OF 2ND SINGAPORE COMPANY!

1931 to 2021

ongratulations to the 2nd Singapore Company (Victoria School) for reaching their historical milestone of 90 years!





The Company organised a Thanksgiving Service with safe distancing measures in place to celebrate the momentous occasion on 27 November 2021. The hybrid event held at The Bible House was streamed live and garnered a total of 265 participants.



"The Company has been a warm and nurturing family for me since I was a Boy. Attending the Thanksgiving Service brought back fond memories of my time as a Boy and Primer. I appreciated that the Company has helped me to build resilience, discipline and shaped my moral values. Seeing Captain Raveen (pictured above) marching as a Boy in the throwback video demonstrated the huge impact that the Company had in his life, so that he can become the leader that he is today. May the 2nd Company continue to inspire many Boys and achieve greater things in the years ahead!"

- Shane Ng (Old Boy and former Primer)

"In the process of editing the Company's 90th Anniversary video, I thought to myself - Is it possible to summarise 90 years in a video? Honorary Captain Yong Chee Yee and I brainstormed ways to compact all the stories into a short video. He even accompanied me till dawn as I made the final edits on the last day. My hope is that instead of being amazed by our Company's history, one would see God's faithfulness and blessings through the stories captured!"

- Timothy Lai (2LT)

"Carrying the Company Colours during the service gave me a tremendous sense of pride and honour, knowing the 90 years of history behind it. It felt akin to carrying the legacy of the 2nd Company. The gravity of my role and the pairs of eyes upon me was quite unnerving. But I was glad to be able to be a part of this significant ceremony!"

- Regan Choy (2LT)

"During the Anniversary Thanksgiving Service livestream, I felt really excited to watch the video on past experiences of Boys and Officers. I have been in the Boys' Brigade since Primary Three, and learning the history of the pioneers allowed me to appreciate the BB's roots. I hope that the Company will continue to grow in the years ahead. And for our Pipe Band to grow too, as it is part of the cultural heritage from our Scottish roots."

- LCP Eagan Tan

Some Testimonies from Boys and Primers about their BB Journey in the 2nd Company:





"The bonds we build through BB are very meaningful and I enjoyed everything my cohort did together! Our small group of tenor drummers in the Pipe Band is closely knit, and we still make an effort to go out regularly outside of parades. I have become good friends with some of my seniors as well. As a Primer, I hope to bond well with my juniors and be someone that they can turn to for guidance on matters outside of the BB as well."

- CLT Edwin Sidheek

"I joined the Company and its Pipe Band in 2019. One of the highlights in my BB journey was when I saw the awesome performance of my seniors during our Overseas Values-In-Action trip to Chiangmai. I looked up to them and wished to attain their performance standards. Our band has also helped me through some tough times. During the pandemic situation in 2020, I felt lonely and did not find meaning in doing things anymore. This was when we started having band sessions online. The interactions helped me to cope and made me look forward each week to meeting the community. The Band also helped me with commitment and perseverance. I learnt that as long as you are willing to continue, even though it might be hard at times, there will always be progress."

- SGT Samuel Yeo

"Having spent my secondary school life in the 2nd Company, I felt that it has given me the holistic experience that enabled me to mature into a young adult. The most memorable experience for me was the annual BB Blaze competition. Entering secondary school as an unfit person, training for the competition taught me the importance of physical fitness and perseverance. It was not easy for me to keep up with the training, but I survived through the camaraderie and spurring of my friends in the team.

During my time in the NCO (Non-Commissioned Officers) Council as Physical Training 2IC, Squad Leader and Logistics Committee member, there was a fair share of work I had to complete in order to ensure that parades would run smoothly. I owe it to my batchmates who stood by me as they were very supportive. Serving in The Boys' Brigade has been an enriching experience so far, and that is why I chose to continue my journey in the BB as a Primer, in order to continue serving for a greater cause."

- CLT Spencer Chu

# SPREADING JOY AND KINDNESS.

he annual Boys' Brigade Share-a-Gift (BBSG) Project entered its 34th year at its official launch on 20 November! Deputy Prime Minister Mr Heng Swee Keat was the Guest-of-Honour, together with Presenting Sponsor Prudential Singapore's CEO Mr Dennis Tan, FairPrice Group's Retail Business CEO Ms Elaine Heng, Brigade President Mr Poh Leong Berg and BBSG 2021 Chairman Mr Henry Tan at the event.



BBSG continues to spread joy and kindness to 44,167 beneficiaries, with 8,503 receiving Specific Wishes and 35,664 receiving General Wishes. General Wishes beneficiaries receive either BBSG Food Hampers, NTUC FairPrice vouchers worth \$40 or food hampers ordered via FairPrice Online. Specific Wishes beneficiaries receive items based on individual requests such as shoes, clothing and appliances.

From L - R: Mr Dennis Tan, Mr Poh Leong Berg, Mr Heng Sweet Keat, Mr Henry Tan and Ms Elaine Heng







With the pandemic still ongoing, face masks were also included to meet the changing needs of beneficiaries. Mr Henry Tan shared, "As we transitioned to endemic living, many families and individuals continue to be affected by the social and economic impact brought upon by COVID-19. BBSG remains committed to helping the less privileged in society."

# Online Fundraising for Our Future

arlier in 2021, we started to raise funds for the development of the new BB Headquarters and activities hub at 10 Kwong Avenue. Rectification work has commenced from late 2021 and construction work will be carried through 2022. Many BB stakeholders, including Officers, Chaplains, Teachers, Boys, Primers, Alumni and sponsoring churches had supported our cause generously.





Celebrating its 90th Anniversary in 2021, the 2nd Singapore Company (Victoria School) invited their old Boys to jointly raise a target sum of \$25,000. The Company had far exceeded this initial fundraising goal in early June 2021, but continued with the enthusiasm of the Old Boys and their family members.



The 12BR Singapore Company (Anglo-Chinese School (Barker Road)) fundraised in memory of their founding Officer-in-Charge, the late Mr Loo Kee Hian. The BB had always been an integral part of Mr Loo's life and he had contributed much to the starting of 12BR Singapore Company from 1994.



The 12I Singapore Company (Anglo-Chinese School (Independent)) hopes to raise \$20,000 in honour of their former Captain and Teacher-in-charge Mr Jonathan Ng, who will be retiring in 2022, after nurturing generations of men and women.

Other BB Companies that joined in the fundraising efforts online on the Giving. SG platform are the 17th, 21J, 26th, 28J, 28th 37th, 64th and 86th Companies. We are truly heartened by these selfinitiated Company fundraising campaigns. We also thank all Companies and stakeholders that have supported our fundraising efforts in one way or another, such as Company fund transfers and so on. Do email ong ying hui@bb.org.sg to set up your Company's fundraising campaign today!



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