

BB NEWS

Official Publication Of The Boys' Brigade In Singapore

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Mentoring Youths



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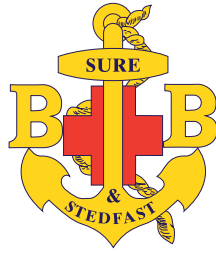
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THE BOYS' BRIGADE

THE BB 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.

THE BOYS' BRIGADE

The Boys' Brigade is an international movement with Companies in more than 60 territories. 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)

BB NEWS

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Caring For The Next Generation

Rev Malcolm T H Tan OSL
Brigade Chaplain

It's always good to have friends. Pity the one who refuses to have friends and wants to be all alone. Most of us choose those who are our age group and are our peers. That makes sense. After all, we understand each other better, we go through similar experiences in life and we have fun hanging out together, having 'chill' time. Older people somehow spoil everything when they join us and try to tell us what is right and what to do. Often there is no 'chemistry' or 'compatibility'.

Wait! Not everyone in the older generation is like that. On the other hand, it is good to have friends of different age groups, those who are close to us in age, those older than us and also some who are younger than us. Having only one age group for friends may result in our having an impoverished social experience. It is not good to have no friends. It is not good to have friends that teach us to do wrong and it is also very limiting in life to only have friends who are of one age group!

Consider the benefit of having friends who are much older and wiser than us.

They have gone through much of life beyond us. They have seen much and have learnt much, sometimes from their own mistakes. Some are wise enough to know how not to be bossy with those younger. These are people who are good and safe friends to have. We have much to learn from them, from their experience, their mistakes, their insights and their own successes. Some of them may be even willing to set aside time to be a guide and mentor for a specific agreed upon period of time with us. Of course, there has to be chemistry and compatibility. There will have to be a clear goal and purpose for the commitment of time and energy for both involved. Remember, you can't be a 'mentee' forever in life. There must always be a chance to grow up. Of course, this does not mean that you will reach a stage in life when you will stop learning. We must never stop learning in life, though we can't be a 'mentee' forever. We will have to grow and learn in other ways, appropriate to our new season in life.

The great challenge is for older and wiser people to step up to the plate.

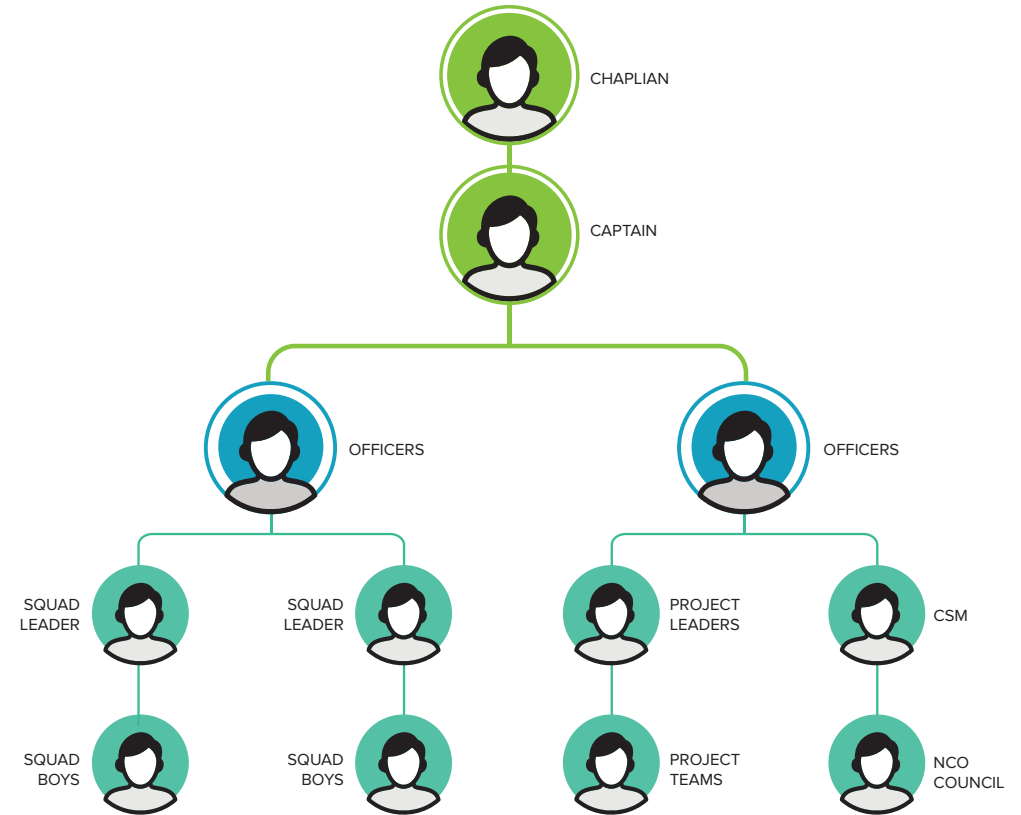
Many are not able to make the time because of their many life and family commitments. Yet, many claim to care for the next generation. Not long ago, the Barna Research Group found that twenty somethings who stay in church were more likely to have a close personal friendship with an adult inside the church. Those who had an adult mentor at church, not including the Pastor, were about three times as likely to stay as those who did not. It's one thing to say you care about guiding the next generation but it's another thing for you to do something about it. Remember, there is a strong correlation between 'influence' and 'relationship'. As the Apostle Paul says: "And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others." - 2 Timothy 2:2 (NIV)

May we remain Sure and Stedfast in Christ and be faithful to help the next generation to likewise be Sure and Stedfast.

Grace and Peace

MENTORING YOUTH FOR Life

LTA Poh Leong Berg
Brigade President



The Officers mentor every BB member so that the Boys become leaders who can lead and serve effectively. Tim Elmore wrote in his article 'Becoming a Life-Giving Mentor' that "Leaders cannot be mass-produced, but are developed through life-on-life mentoring. There's no life-change without life-exchange".

The Boys' Brigade (BB) seeks to promote the habits of obedience, reverence, discipline, and self-respect amongst our Boys, and to nurture them to serve and lead. One means of achieving this goal is through mentoring. John C Maxwell, in his book 'Becoming a Person of Influence' said that "Giving the people the motivation to grow without also providing them with the means of doing it is a tragedy. But the mentoring process offers people the means to turn their potential into reality, and their dreams into destiny. Mentors impact eternity because there is no telling where their influence will stop".

Mentoring has been and will always be the key driver for BB to nurture and mould Boys into men with sound moral character. Mentoring is the means by which we build the Boys up to achieve their fullest potential and grow to be responsible and useful citizens of the nation. Many old Boys attest to the important role their officers played in shaping their lives, making them who they are today, living lives that make a positive difference in their family and community. I thank all officers, past, present, and future, for caring and mentoring the Boys to become fine men ready to contribute to and transform society.

In my previous message of the BB News, I had mentioned that the BB is a big family. The BB is where officers and Boys come together, week after week for parades and events, and, camping during school holidays, as well as for training together for badge-work and competitions. During those times, Officers spend time mentoring the NCOs and Boys; and NCOs likewise mentor their Squad Boys or Boys in their project team. We have a natural structure within the Company for mentoring. See Diagram. These mentoring interactions are intentional, relational, experiential and timely.

In the mentoring process, the BB Officers as mentors, provide our Boys with

- A 'topographical' map that guides them in their life journey
- A moral compass that enables them to decide the direction and action to take
- A toolkit that helps them when they are faced with challenges in life
- A safe learning environment for them to make mistakes and learn from them
- A testing ground to challenge them to scale new and greater heights
- A runway to empower them to soar

Mentoring seeks not only to develop godly character in our Boys but also to prepare our Boys to maneuver through life. Mentoring also enables the BB to grow a generation of future leaders for our country, society, stakeholders, and the BB.

The Community of Practice for Mentoring was formed just about a year ago, to share best practices and learn new approaches to effective mentoring. Some of these initiatives will be piloted and subsequently implemented at the Brigade as a system in the coming months; and with this,

we hope to bring mentoring to the next level. This exciting journey will propel the Brigade forward in her next lap of work among the children and youth.

I look forward to working with all the officers in further strengthening the mentoring culture in the BB.



THE PRESIDENT'S AWARD

On 12 July 2017, President Tony Tan Keng Yam conferred The President's Award to seven Primers at the Istana. The recipients are:

- SCL Brendan Chang Jing Quan, 53rd Singapore Company
- SCL Chong Kit Yeong Timothy, 121 Singapore Company
- SCL Ivan Tang Wu Hwan, 60th Singapore Company
- SCL Neilsen Chan Tze Wei, 60th Singapore Company
- SCL Ong Chong Li Philip, 121 Singapore Company
- SCL Sim Jiawen Donovan, 121 Singapore Company
- SCL Teo Kai Jin, 60th Singapore Company

Advice for Aspiring President's Men



SCL Brendan Chang Jing Quan
53rd Singapore Company, Bukit Batok Secondary School

Understand that it is more about the process rather than the end goal
Aim to learn much more about yourself through the process of applying for The President's Award. Regardless of whether you attain it or not, it is still a meaningful process of reflection and understanding your beliefs better.

Find your own conviction for the Award
Do it for the right reasons, let this journey towards the Award be a meaningful testimony to be used to inspire future generations of Boys.

Be honest, be yourself
For the application form, do write only about the things that you had done; be completely honest about who you are and remember that the point is to discover more about yourself and not to conceal your shortcomings



PRIMERS MENTORING BOYS

SCL Ivan Tang Wu Hwan
60th Singapore Company, Raffles Institution



New Mentoring Committees

The Primers 2017 batch had initiated two Mentoring Committees to serve the Secondary 1 and Secondary 2 cohort. The intention was to integrate the Secondary 1s, understand their mindsets and make their first year in the BB truly enjoyable and fulfilling. For the Secondary 2s, we hope to prepare them to take on more responsibilities such as planning for events and to help them improve their interpersonal skills.

My most memorable mentoring experience was during the preparation for the South 1 Cluster Drill Competition 2016 where half the competing contingent comprised of Secondary 1 Boys, who were new to BB and to drill. During training, I would help them with drill movements that they were weak at. Outside of the training, I kept in close contact with everyone, talking and joking with them, learning more about them and doing all I could to help them along the way.

A Company Mentor's Testimonial

"I wasn't a really committed Boy when I was in Secondary School. Hence, I decided to join the Secondary Two Mentoring Committee to get to know my juniors better. Our role as mentors was to conduct badge work lessons and to mentor Boys in their leadership journey. At the start of the year, we organised a batch outing to let Boys know about what to expect for the year ahead and to brief them about junior Company appointments. These appointments provide early leadership exposures and feedback on how to improve their leadership skills. Through the process, we have heart-to-heart talks and learnt more about what is happening in our mentees' lives. This was rather enriching as I learnt quite a lot from listening to their stories and perspectives as there were many good things that they did which I would not have done were I in their situation. It was a truly amazing experience for me and I hope that this Committee could be incorporated into the programme for other Companies as well."

SCL Ganeshan Surendhar

A Company Mentee's Testimonials

"The Primers mentoring the Open House Planning Committee helped us to stay objective and bridge our differences to work together. In addition, they had stayed up very late just waiting to vet our proposal for the event. It made us appreciate them not only for their seniority but also for their commitment to being there for the Committee whenever it matters."

PTE Ian Tan



MY JOURNEY AS A MENTOR

SCL Neilsen Chan Tze Wei
60th Singapore Company

I was really thankful when I first heard that our Company was initiating a Mentoring Committee. I was looking forward to journeying more closely with the Secondary 2s with whom I did not have much time to interact with as a Seniors Programme Boy.

In general, the timeline for the mentoring sessions look like this:

March	First mentoring session with Boy; Adventure Camp during holidays
March to May	Leadership Development Course & Life Skills lessons
May	First planning experience (Open House); Release of Junior Company appointments eg. Deputy Squad Sergeant, Photography IC, etc
June	Leaders Retreat
July to August	Event planning in groups

The biggest lesson I've learnt in mentoring:

I started my mentoring journey with many lofty ambitions. However, underneath it all, I was also anxious and afraid that I might make some mistakes. I was convinced that surely things wouldn't turn out as I thought. One aspect that I struggled with a lot was how to balance my involvement in my mentees' lives and not seem overbearing. However, upon reflection, I realized that this should not be my real worry. Ultimately, as a mentor, we are not just "teachers" but older brothers. Even if I couldn't help them I could lend my support. More often than not, the best thing that we can offer is the pat on the back, a listening ear and a sincere word (whether it's a scolding or encouragement). No amount of programme or lesson does the same thing, and I think that these smallest things are actually the hardest, most needful and impactful.

Some words of advice for future Primer mentors:

Mentoring is not about taking control or making the path, but walking the path together and embracing the opportunities that are given along the way.

You don't have to be perfect, but be professional when it comes to skills.

Take joy and use the small things. Sometimes simple incidents during parades serve as good opportunities to learn.

Important attributes of a mentor:
COURAGE, LOVE AND WISDOM.

FOUNDER'S AWARD PRESENTATION CEREMONY

The Founder's Award Presentation Ceremony took place on 1 July 2017 at Joy Garden Restaurant, SAFRA Jurong. 120 Boys received the Founder's Award, the highest award in the Seniors Programme. Mr Desmond Lee, Minister, Prime Minister Office and Second Minister, Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of National Development, graced the occasion as the Guest-of-Honour.



Advice for Aspiring Founder's Men

WO Lee Jit Yin Jaydon
27th Singapore Company, Presbyterian High School

- If you hope to become a Founder's Man, regardless of your position in your Company, as long as you give your best in everything for BB, you will have a chance.
- Do not be discouraged if you fail one promotion test, or did not get your desired position in your Company. Continue to work hard towards the Founder's Award. However, do not be so blinded by the thought of achieving the Award that you forget the real meaning behind each activity.
- Do not just be content that you are the only one doing well and on your way to a Founder's Award. Always remember to help your juniors and batch mates achieve the same.

KEEPING ME ON TRACK

WO Takeuchi Asuka

50th Singapore Company, Gan Eng Seng School



I have an elder brother who always told me about the enjoyable times he had in The Boys' Brigade. My curiosity and interest in the BB piqued as he shared more stories and experiences. When I joined the BB, my seniors passed me the handbook with the Founder's Award information. I told myself that if I'm going to spend at least four years in this CCA, I should make it worthwhile and vie for the award too!

Mr. Keith Lim, my Officer and Teacher, is someone whom I look up to in the BB. I admire him for his ability to analyse situations and advise me on ways to tackle the issues. He also keeps me on track whenever I start to go astray from what I should do.

During the South I Cluster Drill Competition, given our Company's good performance, I thought that we had a good chance of placing first or second and that I had the best shot at the Best Commander Award. However, I was greatly disappointed when the results were announced. Mr Lim encouraged me and said that we should celebrate progress as we had performed better than last year. He motivated me to continue to train with the Boys so that we would perform well in the National Day Parade (NDP) in Gan Eng Seng School. He advised me to encourage the Boys and highlighted that I have to remain positive so as to be able to lead the Boys and instil good morale in the Company.

I remember a particular period of time in Secondary Three when I had gained a lot of recognition and started to act in a prideful manner. After the end of the NDP in school, I proudly emphasized to the BB Executive Committee that I was the main reason for the success of the BB marching contingent. I recalled Mr Lim looking to speak to me soon after. Instead of berating me, he calmly spoke to me, helping me to understand what happens when pride takes over one's senses. To help me to better relate, he even shared his personal story with me. This incident helped me to grasp the concept of humility and teamwork and how to apply it in my life.



TAILORED MENTORING

2LT Keith Lim Yu Tian

50th Singapore Company

Asuka was an outstanding cadet in Secondary Two. He was outspoken, quick-witted and was able to inspire his peers. However, I recognised one key weakness that could possibly hinder his development; that is his pride. His charisma and ability to lead made him a potential candidate for the position of Company Sergeant Major (CSM). The Officers discussed extensively about him and the future of the exco structure and mentorship approach if we were to appoint Asuka as CSM. Eventually, Asuka was selected by the Teachers, Officers, Primers and even recommended by his peers to be the CSM. Asuka adopts a hands-on approach to leadership and tends to lead in the midst of action. I often have to remind him to see the bigger picture and consider the long-term effects of his decisions. Over the years, he has grown to be a more patient and wise leader.

The 50th Singapore Company has groomed many leaders through our leader-centric approach. We believe in customising the mentorship experience for each batch of Secondary Three leaders. We hold true to the maxim of "using the Company to build Boys and not using Boys to build the Company". For the past few years, we had adjusted the leadership structure to maximise the strength of each batch of Secondary 3 Exco. Hence, new roles that suit the Boys were created and old roles that were not fitting were eliminated; thereby setting up the Boys for success from the get-go. In addition, the Officers are receptive to ideas for improving the Company's programmes and operations and the Boys appreciate that they have a say in Company matters. This helped them to develop a sense of ownership, motivating them to work harder and do better.

The Company has also developed a clear learning roadmap as well as fair awards and promotion structure. This enables the Exco to direct the attention of Boys towards excellence and reduces uncertainty and cases of unmotivated Boys. The Officers can then focus more attention on specific mentoring of Boys. We also conduct regular feedback sessions with the Exco. For each parade, the Exco is required to submit a Parade Order days before. One Officer will run through the plan with them and highlight issues on safety, time constraints, logistics and programme feasibility. The Officers will also review the parade at the end of the day.

In summary, we believe that all Boys can have success eventually and it is our duty to be patient and mentor them with the correct values, guiding them in the direction that best caters to their abilities and needs.



BB EXPLORERS PROGRAMME

The BB Explorers Programme is a community development programme in partnership with The Girls' Brigade Singapore. It is designed for Boys and Girls aged 5 to 6 (K1 and K2) who are taken on a two-year journey spanning four Discovery Islands which will help them to:



Discover the world around them



Discover their place in the world



Discover the needs of others



Discover themselves



Uniform

While they engage in their activities, the Explorers are dressed in:

1. Kindergarten Attire
2. BB Vest with badges
3. Hat

Badge Work Curriculum

The programme teaches the Explorers values that can be applied in the real-world context and covers the following badge work:

- Nutritionist
- Naturalist
- Little Einstein
- Community Service
- First Aid
- Heritage
- Adventure
- Drill
- Sports & Games
- Life Skills
- Arts & Aesthetics

Upon completion of the programme and having fulfilled the criteria, Explorers will receive the Hero in Me badge. It acts as a reminder of the things that they had learnt; to make the right decisions in life and expressing and living out timeless values.

EQUIPPING THE EXPLORERS WITH PRACTICAL LIFE SKILLS

The 1st Explorers unit was pioneered by St Paul's Church Kindergarten on 14 January 2016 with 178 members. Over the year of operation, the unit has received encouraging feedback from parents highlighting the positive changes that they had observed in their children.



"We ran into a neighbour recently and Robin greeted him with, 'Good evening, Uncle. How are you? How was your day?' I was a little surprised as he would usually say a casual hello. He has been very conscious of his actions, to make sure that he's walking the talk, and living out the values that he has learnt in school. He would sometimes ask me, 'Mummy, was I behaving responsibly?'"

Mrs Bharati Peter



"The Explorers programme has taught my daughter, Emma, the value of humility and how to care and serve. Through this programme, she has learnt the importance of honesty, even calling me on her own accord one day to confess that she has broken something at home."

Ms Jane Cheong



"It is important for children to build strong characters through fun and experiential activities instead of rote learning. Sarah has become more responsible after joining the programme, and now takes better care of her own belongings."

Ms Goh Kim Pei



The Explorer Programme focuses on equipping practical life skills in addition to character development. In the month of August, the 1st Explorers unit was exposed to the concept of terrorism and the threat it poses to our nation. Their teachers explained to them the importance of staying united in the face of external threats. Through story-telling and activities, the Explorers learnt the value of being attentive to their surroundings and staying vigilant. They committed emergency numbers to memory and learnt how to call for help via SMS and a local application 'SGSecure'.

LEARNING THROUGH APPLICATION

Chen Li Presbyterian Kindergarten began a 2nd Explorers unit on 1 April 2016 with 47 members.

In a lesson on hard work, students enjoyed a short video about the Three Little Pigs. This version included a mother pig who emphasized the importance of giving one's best in all that one does. This was illustrated in the hardworking elder brother's brick house, which took the longest to build and managed to withstand the wolf's attack and saved all of their lives. This was followed by a craft session where recycled materials including cardboard, ice cream sticks, masking tapes and recycled paper were used.



"Our programme employs songs, drill, story-telling and craftwork to engage students, reinforce values learnt and practice relevant life skills. The children love it and parents see the benefits."

Ms Diana Thio, Captain



After building their "houses", the students gathered to put the houses to the "Wolf's Wind Test". Everyone chuckled when the houses were blown away and cheered for those that could withstand the winds.

In closing, the teachers reinforced the importance of giving one's all. Explorers who had built sturdy houses that could withstand the winds received a reward for their efforts while the rest were praised for their creativity and enthusiasm. With positive reinforcements, the Explorers left the short one-hour session with bright faces and pride in the houses they had built. Some even expressed their desire to bring their houses home!



EXPLORING THE GREAT OUTDOORS

The 3rd Explorers unit was started in February 2017 by Ang Mo Kio Methodist Church Kindergarten with 140 members. The programme incorporates songs, storytelling, reflections and outdoor activities to teach and reinforce values and skills. To engage parents in their learning, the unit also established direct communications channel with the parents.



The teachers re-enacted a scene in the story and brought the characters to life



In August, the Explorers set out for a field trip to Bishan Ang Mo Kio Park, where they learnt more about nature. Excitement bubbled amongst them as their teachers shared on the characteristics of various plants and insects and how to identify them. The field trip ended with a picnic in the park. Thereafter, the Explorers were asked to recall and share what they had seen. In addition, they drew pictures and coloured them to reinforce their learnings.



"Being part of the Explorers team has been quite hectic. However, I feel more satisfied than ever, especially when I see the Explorers doing the right things and practicing what they had learnt."

Mrs Joshua, Teacher



BB CARES ANCHOR EVENT

The BB CARES Anchor Event was a Racial Harmony & Family Carnival held on 22 July at St Hilda's Secondary School. Mr Seah Kian Peng, Member of Parliament, Marine Parade GRC, graced the event as our Guest-of-Honour. Beneficiaries from various VWOs, parents and stakeholders enjoyed a fun filled day of activities. Game stalls were conceptualised and managed by the BB Boys and their Officers for the participants. Delicious ethnic food, handbells performance by the 2nd Explorers unit, Combined Bagpipe Band performance and a magic show delighted the beneficiaries.



7th Singapore Company, St Andrew's Secondary School – "Aim for Harmony!" Game



The objective of the game was to bounce tennis balls into hula hoops on the ground to knock down a tower of cans. These hoops represented attributes of racial harmony such as empathy, acceptance and sensitivity.



"Although planning the game booth and gathering logistics was really time consuming, I did not regret joining the Planning Committee for the games booth. All our efforts brought joy to the participating beneficiaries."
CPL Henry Tze (not in picture)

32nd Singapore Company, Damai Secondary School – "Words with Cups" Game



Participants collected alphabets by throwing ping pong balls into cups, after which they would form words with the "collected" alphabets.



"Even though I did not talk a lot with my beneficiary, I noticed that they were all smiles when someone came to talk with them. If given a chance to do something similar again, I would be more courageous and try to converse more with them."
CPL Isaiah Henry Lagansua

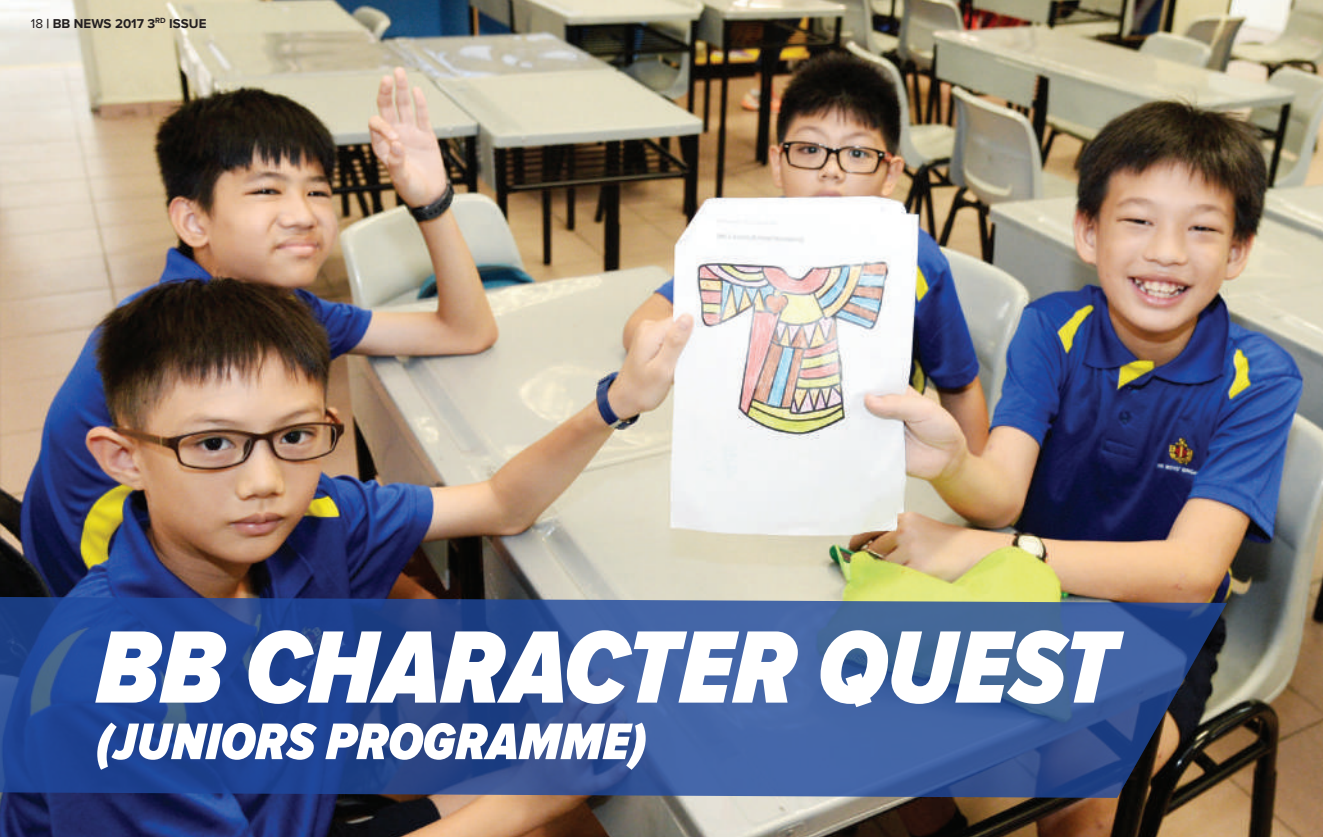
49J Singapore Company, St Hilda's Primary School – "You Can Succeed!" Game



This stall featured a series of appropriate "Minute to Win It" games for the elderly, including ring toss, jigsaw and cup stacking. In addition, the Boys also organized a mini welcome party for the beneficiaries from All Saints Home Tampines (ASHT).



"It was a very successful event and we would like to thank the organisers for the hard work and coordination put in and we look forward to participating again the next time."
Ms Mei Lee, Staff-in-Charge of ASHT



BB CHARACTER QUEST (JUNIORS PROGRAMME)

The BB Character Quest (Juniors Programme) 2017 was held on 19 August at Kuo Chuan Presbyterian Primary School. A total of 491 Boys from 42 BB Companies formed 109 teams to participate in the competition. The Boys arrived early in the morning wearing their new BB polo t-shirt. They were challenged mentally and physically as they participated in each of the six games; learning and developing a better understanding of the Obedience theme. Bishop Terry Kee of the Lutheran Church in Singapore was our Guest-of-Honour for the Prize Presentation Ceremony. Congratulations to all winners and Team 038 from 33J Singapore Company in Fairfield Methodist School (Primary) who emerged as Champions for this year's competition!



TEACHERS' APPRECIATION TEA



In recognition of our Liaison Teachers' invaluable efforts in coordinating communications between Schools, Officers and Boys, the Brigade hosted them for tea on 12 August 2017. Over 70 guests attended the event held at the Straits Chinese Restaurant. Upon arrival, they received door gifts as tokens of appreciation. Mr Poh Leong Berg, Brigade President, greeted the guests and welcomed them with words of appreciation. Mr Kevin Yap, restaurant owner and an ex-Boy, bantered about the good old days and shared about Peranakan culture and food. The participants were treated to a sumptuous Peranakan spread and the afternoon ended with a little surprise, handmade bookmarks that were presented to the Teachers for their hard work!



"I enjoy my job as the BB Teacher responsible for adventure activities. I get to train with the Boys and it does not feel like work."

Mr Lin Zheng Chang,
49th Singapore Company,
St Hilda's Secondary School



"Rather than a job, I see being a BB Teacher as a service. It is very meaningful."

Mr Jason Ting,
45th Singapore Company,
Xinmin Secondary School



"Being a BB Teacher is enriching and fulfilling; especially when you see the Boys mature over the years."

Mr Banerjee,
85th Singapore Company,
Jurong West Secondary School

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100	25,400	7.530	7.620	143,600	
100	59,200	7.520	7.630	49,000	
	65,900	7.510	7.640	31,900	
200	72,200	7.500	7.650	143,600	
	11,300	7.490	7.660	28,900	
	16,700	7.480	7.670	13,900	
	17,100	7.470	7.680	74,500	
	8,000	7.460	7.690	40,100	
	5,200	7.450	7.700	102,300	



 Single Right Click to submit BUY/SELL Stop Limit order

 Double Left Click to submit BUY/SELL Limit order

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