

# BB NEWS

THE BOYS' BRIGADE

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The opinions expressed in the above articles are the personal view of the writers and do not necessarily represent the policies of The Boys' Brigade.

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 Fundraising Goal of \$1.9 million.

We are an Institution of Public Character, hence donations will garner 2.5 times tax deduction. Please support us!

By Giving.SG webpage: Using QR code here or https://www.giving.sg/the-boys-brigade-in-singapore/bbhq2023

By Cheque: Addressed to The Boys' Brigade in Singapore and mailed to 1200 Sembawang Road Singapore 758526. Do indicate "New BBHQ Development Fund" at the back of the cheque.















# Fail to Plan, Plan to Fail

Mr Poh Leong Berg, Brigade President (2022)

"Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Will he not first sit down and estimate the cost to see if he has enough money to complete it? For if he lays the foundation and is not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule him, saying, 'This fellow began to build and was not able to finish." (Luke 14:28 – 30). This parable is an important reminder for us about the need to plan. Every purpose needs a plan.

Many social, family, and personal activities compete for the time of our Boys' Brigade (BB) ministry or CCA. We need to ensure that what the BB offers to its members is complete, wholesome, and achievable. It is the responsibility of every BB Company to endeavour to make every parade or programme a worthwhile investment for both the members and the officers. This is why planning is important.

We can use a plan to impart to fellow officers and members a vision to which they can commit. A thorough plan helps to show them that we are serious about accomplishing our objectives. And so, as we start the new year, let us plan and set goals.

Planning causes future actions to be accomplished with greater efficiency and effectiveness. When we plan, it enables us to:

- Lead Orderly Lives. It allows us to do things properly and in a systematic manner and avoid confusion.
- Think Ahead. It is wise to plan with foresight so that we will not be foolish in our actions. It helps us to anticipate future needs, enables us to be future-effective, and to hope for that future reward.
- Move Toward Objectives. It enables us to be focused, run towards the finish line and be productive instead of running aimlessly. Planning also helps us to avoid fighting fires, i.e. constantly trying to solve one urgent problem after another.

There are steps we can take to plan and organize. Broadly, these steps consist of:

Objectives. We need to determine what we want to accomplish. Objectives give us a target toward which we and the people we work with can direct our efforts. We cannot decide how much money will be required or when different activities need to happen unless we have established what needs to be achieved and why. The objectives are also criteria which we can use to measure the effectiveness of our programme.

**Programme.** After determining what should be accomplished, the next logical step is to determine how the objectives should be realized. A programme lays out the steps that are necessary to move us from where we are now towards our objectives.

**Schedule.** Having worked out the programme, we then choose when the different parts of the plan should be undertaken. We decide when each activity should begin and end, and milestones that will measure our progress.

Resources. We will have to ascertain how much manpower, funds and other resources will be needed and how they should be supplied. We find out how much money is needed and how this money can be obtained. We determine how many people we need and how to recruit and train them.

Flexibility. We must expect the plan to change. We might need to add new elements and delete some old elements of the plan at every review session. When we do come up with a new idea, we need to determine to which objectives the new ideas contribute. How do these objectives compare to those in the existing plan?

There are two useful proverbs for us about making plans: "Plan carefully what you do, and whatever you do will turn out right" and "Make plans by seeking advice". Remember, when you fail to plan, you plan to fail. Always seek wise counsel when you plan. Planning is a path to wisdom, and it prepares us for the future.



Rev Dr Bernard Chao, Associate Brigade Chaplain

For many of us, Christmas is our favourite time of the year. We look forward to the delicious expectation of Advent. We cannot wait for Christmas morning. Some of us cherish more and more the gathering of family and friends. Younger ones look forward to receiving gifts.

As Christmas approaches, so does the new year. We are particularly reflective and some of us will be making fresh resolutions. I suggest that Christmas offers us a compass for how we can live into the new year of 2023.

It is important that we know that Christmas is not a fairy tale. It is not about Santa Claus, rich foods, or even the giving and receiving of presents. That's a commercialized narrative that was designed to get us to buy more things.

Christmas celebrates a historical event—the birth of a child, a boy named Jesus. It really happened. The Bible tells us that this birth was miraculous in how it had been prophesied about centuries before, how Jesus was born of a virgin Mary, and how this Jesus is the saviour of the world.

The birth of Jesus was described by the gospel writer John as a gift:

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16, NIV)

Jesus was the gift of God the Father of his Son. Jesus is the gift of salvation for all of us, for you and for me. The teachings and acts of Jesus restores our relationship with God and has the power to restore the relationships in our lives.

As members of the Boys' Brigade, we view Jesus as our example of Christian manliness, the ultimate Captain of our lives. Jesus shows us how we are to live. Christmas is a compass for our lives because we see the example of Jesus who lived and died so that others can have life. At Christmas then, we remember Jesus who lived as a gift to others.

Our Lord's example shows us a different way from the selfishness and self-preoccupation we see all around us and, truth be told, in ourselves. Jesus our Captain shows a more meaningful and eternally significant way to live. This is to live in such a way as to be a blessing to others, to bring cheer to others, and to bring life to others. In this way, each of us becomes a gift, a present, a listening ear, a welcome help, a friend in need, and an encourager to others.

For the new year of 2023, would you choose to follow the example of Jesus and become a gift to others?





#### Annual Officers Retreat

The in-person Annual Officers Retreat was finally back! It had been a few years since Officers from different BB Companies gathered for an overnight retreat! This year, we had 122 Officers with us for a two-day-one-night trip to Holiday Inn Hotel in Johor Bahru from 8 to 9 October. Some highlight activities included sharing sessions by Rev Daniel Tong (Brigade Chaplain) and Rev Raymond Sim (Chaplain of the BB Alumni), as well as meaningful workshops that not only allowed the participants to learn something new, but also to network and bond with different Officers across Companies!

Let's check out some memorable moments of our Annual Officers' Retreat 2022!



# Christmas Light Up

The wet weather on 12 November 2022 did not diminish the excitement of 133 Boys from 14 BB Companies, who gathered at Ngee Ann City Civic Plaza. This was because they were here for Christmas on A Great Street 2022 - Community Chest Light-Up Ceremony! This event was co-organized by the Community Chest and Orchard Road Business Association. The Guest-of-Honour was President Halimah Yacob, who officiated the Christmas Light-Up along Orchard Road!



#### BB Share-A-Gift's 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Concert

BB Share-A-Gift (BBSG) is our signature community service project that mobilizes more than 3,500 Boys and volunteers every year to pack and deliver food necessities hampers to beneficiaries all across Singapore during the Christmas season since 1988. This spirit of charity and giving never ceased during the pandemic, and we were glad for the full resumption of BBSG activities with increased in-person interactions for our 35th anniversary last year.











In celebration of the project's 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary, a grand Opening Ceremony Concert was organised on 21 November 2022 at the University Cultural Centre, National University of Singapore. We were honoured to have Deputy Prime Minister Mr Lawrence Wong as Guest-of-Honour for the event. We collaborated with FLY Entertainment artistes to put up a performance for more than 300 BBSG beneficiaries. Our BB Boys showcased their talents in the combined Pipe Band performance with delightful music, including Christmas carols.

The BB will continue to nurture our Boys to develop a caring heart for the community, and we hope more will join us to celebrate this spirit of charity and fellowship this year!

# Officers Enrolment Ceremony 02/22

On 14 November, 26 new Officers who completed the Basic Officer Training Course attended the Officers Enrolment Ceremony at the Church of the Good Shepherd. Rev Dr Bernard Chao (Associate Brigade Chaplain) shared the exhortation message and officiated the dedication service. The new Officers received their Certificates of Enrolment from Brigade President Mr Poh Leong Berg.





#### **A Reunion Dinner of 30 Years**

#### SGT Irwynn Chia, 64th Singapore Company, Ang Mo Kio Secondary School

On 26 November 2022, the 64<sup>th</sup> Singapore Company had a celebratory dinner for our 30th Anniversary. The event was held at Teck Ghee Community Club (TGCC) with stakeholders invited from Teck Ghee, St John's Chapel, The Boys' Brigade, Ang Mo Kio Secondary School, alumni and families of the Boys. We were honoured to have Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong as our Guest-of-Honour as well as the presence of the TGCC's Chairman, Mr Gerald Singham.

The Boys also had the opportunity to receive their promotion ranks from the Prime Minister. Throughout the dinner, Officers, Boys and our alumni could be seen catching up with one other. I also chatted with an alumnus who was from the first few batches and learnt more about the Company in its early years.

The guests also enjoyed a heartwarming video that showcased the Company's heritage and achievements over the past 30 years. The Company's bagpipe band performed to the delight of the audience. We played the tune Amazing Grace, together with TGCC Chairman Mr Gerald Singham, who was a former BB Boy himself.

As one of the pipe band members, we had to go through arduous training in order to be well prepared for the performance. The trainings usually took place during the school day late afternoons and everyone would be tired afterwards. We also had many rehearsals on the promotion ceremony and practiced knot-tying to build the hourglass structure. All our efforts paid off as the structure turned out to be an amazing sight and the pipeband performance impressed all who were present.





## 49th Coy Family Day 2022

#### SSG Gabriel Yeo, 49th Singapore Company, St. Hilda's Secondary School

Family Day 2022 was an experience to remember. Being the batch that had activities restricted due to COVID-19, the idea of having such a large-scale event was very foreign to us. As a batch of 12 Boys, we felt that it was a daunting task to organize an event for 180 people.

Though our end-of-year examination schedule clashed with the planning phase for the event, we worked closely with the Officers, and executed the plans that they had set out for us with precision. Together with my batchmates, we managed to overcome the obstacles and persevered as a team. Our event had 10 carnival games with one BB Boy helming a booth. We also had a Pipes and Drums Band performance and a game show to entertain the guests.

This event demonstrated the "49th combined effort", where Officers, Primers and Boys came together hand-in-hand to make the event a success. Indeed, a person alone can do little, but as a team, we can conquer anything. I am thankful for the guidance of our Officers and Primers, and proud that my batch was able to pull through and execute the event successfully.





The 49th Company's Pipes and Drums Band had a fabulous performance during the Family Day.



Parents and family members of the Boys were busy taking pictures and videos of the band performance.

Interactive games that Boys and their family members enjoyed





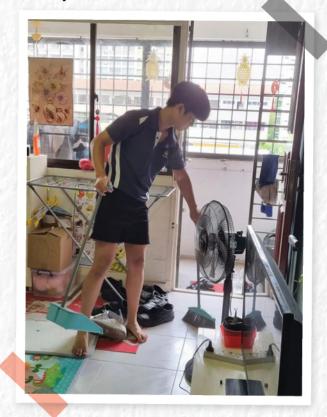
#### **A Winsome Smile**

Mr Ray Kwok, 39th Singapore Company, Swiss Cottage Secondary School

Aunty Wong is old and frail. She gladly welcomed us into her 3-room flat in Teban Gardens in October. A group of us (6 BB Boys and myself) had pre-arranged with her to clean up her flat as part of the Boys' community service. Her flat was cluttered and dirty, as she could not do cleaning regularly due to old age and poor health. Our Boys had brought along cleaning tools and trash bags and tried to do their best for the three hours allotted. As they embarked on their tasks, the Boys started screaming as cockroaches, ants, spiders and lizards emerged from cushy hideouts. A Boy found a can of insecticide subsequently and helped to get rid of the insects.

One of the Boys also sat next to Aunty Wong and chatted with her every now and then, as he felt sad for her as she lived alone in the flat. We managed to clear away 12 trash bags of old and unwanted stuff and were rewarded with a winsome smile by Aunty Wong.

The Boys shared that they rarely did housework at home. This clean-up experience also helped them to reflect on their personal life and the people around them:





I will not take the cleanliness of my home for granted anymore!

- Lim Guang Rong Keith



This experience made me feel sad for these old and lonely elderly with dirty living environments that might affect their health conditions. It has also made me not take the clean house I live in for granted and I realised that regular clean-ups are necessary to improve living conditions.

- Navaneethak Kannan Srinivas (Primer-In-Charge)



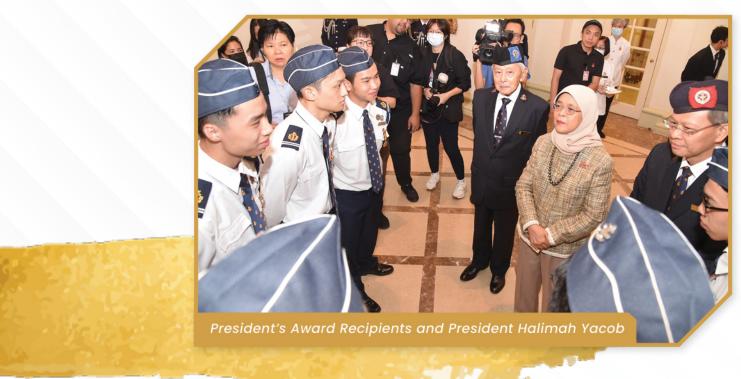


#### **President's Men of 2022**

On 6 October 2022, President Halimah Yacob, Patron of the Boys' Brigade, conferred The President's Award to eight Primers at the Istana. Being the highest accolade attainable within BB, the Primers had successfully completed the demanding requirements to obtain the President's Award. The recipients are:

- SCL Chan Qi-En Samuel (12BR Singapore Company)
- 2. SCL Eber Gareth Fu Zi En (121 Singapore Company)
- 3. SCL Ian Chia Yong Jin (12BR Singapore Company)
- 4. SCL Jaren Mok Zhen Yu (121 Singapore Company)
- 5. SCL Long Deng Jeh Joel Daniel (121 Singapore Company)
- 6. SCL Reuel Ang Wei En (33rd Singapore Company)
- 7. SCL Ryan Chin Rui En (121 Singapore Company)
- 8. SCL Tham En Siang Linus (94th Singapore Company)







SCL Samuel Chan, 12BR Singapore Company

I first heard about The Boys' Brigade (BB) in Primary 3, but it was when I attended the Secondary One CCA Orientation Day at Anglo-Chinese School (Barker Road) in 2017 that BB caught my attention. The blue uniform and the badges looked cool to me. When the seniors shared their programmes, it sounded exciting and adventurous.

Initially, I just looked forward to meeting my friends and having fun each week. I was not even looking for any leadership position then. However, with the many opportunities given to me by my Officers and seniors, I begin to realise that the BB is making a difference in my life.

Camps, leadership courses and personal development courses allow us to develop values of service, discipline and respect for others and self. I also learn to guide and manage juniors under our care, as well as to plan for Company events, skills training sessions and character development lessons.

Receiving The President's Award is an encouragement for me as well as an inspiration for my juniors. I hope that they will continue to give their best and to exemplify good qualities through servant leadership, character and service.

This prestigious award is a reminder of the important role of The Boys' Brigade in nurturing youths and has encouraged me to continue to serve and make a positive impact on the future generations of BB Boys. I will always serve to the best of my ability in whatever roles that I am entrusted with, both present and in the future.

This President's Man also has some words of advice and encouragement for his juniors:



Give your best in everything that you do. I do not know the future ahead. All I know is that it will be tough, but do not give up. Lead a life of humility and service. Think of others more and that if serving is below you, leading is beyond you.

Respect and honour others, respect the work given to you and do give your best. At the same time, respect yourself by following the standards and good values you want to live by and obeying the rules set. Most importantly, do the right thing even when no one is watching you.



## **Primers Challenge 2022**





63 Primers from 16 BB Companies gathered at Marina South Pier ferry terminal early in the morning on 30 October, where they took a ferry ride to St John's Island for the Primers Challenge 2022. This year, the participating Primers were sent on an adventure quest where they have to explore the island in small teams and search for clues in order to solve the puzzle that can save the world from a pandemic.

St John's Island was chosen because it is one of the last few places in Singapore where our Primers can experience and enjoy the beauty of nature while learning more about the rural environment in modern Singapore.

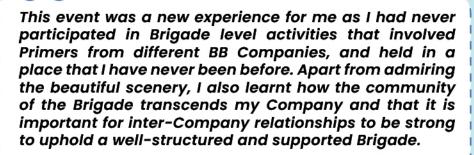
Two Primers from 12I Singapore Company, Anglo-Chinese School (Independent), who participated in the Primers Challenge shared their adventure stories:



Primers Challenge was an eye-opening experience for me. I made new friends with the other Primers as we hunted around St John's Island for clues to a puzzle. I had never been to St John's Island before, so I was really amazed by the natural beauty that Singapore has here!

SCL Michael Chi, 121 Singapore Company





SCL Zachary Ban, 121 Singapore Company







#### **Celebrating Heroes Amongst Us**

#### - 19th Singapore Company's 60th Anniversary Celebration

Mr Edwin Lee, Captain of 19th Singapore Company, Yishun Town Secondary School

The 19<sup>th</sup> Singapore Company celebrated its 60th Anniversary on 12 November 2022 at The Grassroot Club in Yio Chu Kang. The dinner was organised by a group of BB19 Old Boys led by Mr Ronnie Hsu. Mr. Ng Teo Heng (Principal of Yishun Town Secondary School) graced the occasion as the Guest-of-Honour (GOH). We are pleased to have in attendance with us, Mr Poh Leong Berg (Brigade President), Brigade Executive members, Honorary Captains Mr Philip Yuen, Mr Kevin Foo, Mr Peter Ong, former Teachers-in-Charge and about 200 present and former Boys for the dinner celebration.



"Celebrating Heroes Amongst Us" is the theme for the Diamond Jubilee. Our GOH Mr Ng, in his opening address, specially acknowledged the Company's effort in nurturing Boys in Yishun Town Secondary School in the areas of leadership and academic performance. He also commended the Company in teaching the values of "Community Spiritedness", where we exhibit love, care and concern towards the less fortunate among us. He appreciated the Company's efforts to maintain parents and stakeholders relationships and viewed the BB Company as a strong partner that shares the school's vision and mission.

19th Singapore Company has been blessed by many Officers who served selflessly over our humble history of 60 years. The Company presented awards to these deserving Officers. This celebration also honours the Boys who had benefited from the BB programme and went on to achieve success in both their professional and personal lives.



# 2nd Coy October Camp

Mr Regan Choy, Officer of 2nd Singapore Company, Victoria School

The October Camp of 2<sup>nd</sup> Singapore Company started off with outdoor cooking for dinner. This was conducted by the NCO Council where they guided the lower secondary Boys on how to set up a fire and cook. It was a novel experience especially for the Secondary One Boys as this was their first outdoor adventure camp.







On the second day, the Company went on a 25km expedition in the east of Singapore. At each checkpoint, the Boys were tested on their badgework knowledge such as how to tie different knots like bowline, fisherman's knot and square Lashing. Other stations featured micro-navigation using maps and compasses and the country code. Although the expedition was tiring, it strengthened the bonds amongst the Boys and helped them apply crucial life skills such as map reading without using a smartphone's GPS.



The following day was family bonding day. Laser tag was the chosen icebreaker activity for the Boys and their parents. The parents also interacted with our cohort Officers to find out more about the BB programme and how their children are doing in the BB. The highlight of the event was personalized cards that were designed and written by our Boys that were presented to their parents.





It was a refreshing experience to finally be able to organise events such as Family Bonding Day and an outdoor adventure camp after two years of the COVID pandemic.

Throughout the three days in the October camp, not only did I strengthen the friendships and bonding with my friends and seniors, but I also learnt many different skills which are useful in our daily lives. I also gained a deeper knowledge of the culture and traditions of The Boys' Brigade. Although it was a tiring process, I enjoyed it so much and it was a very memorable experience.



PTE MORGAN SUTIONO (SECONDARY I)



The highlight of the camp for me was the walking expedition! Each squad had to walk different routes all over the Bedok area and completed many fun team building activities along the way. The expedition was indeed tiring and my legs were very sore after that. However, the camaraderie between my juniors has strengthened, and we got to put crucial life skills to use.

CPL NATHANIEL LIM (SECONDARY 3)

Over the course of the camp, I understood more about myself and my limits. The expedition really pushed my physical limits as we have had to navigate around Singapore using only a map and a compass, and walked nearly 25km. But I felt accomplished, and I had really bonded with my squad after this.

LCP LUKE CHIN (SECONDARY 2)



#### **Cluster Bonding**

As The Boys' Brigade in Singapore has a huge network of BB Companies in schools across Singapore, they are organised into 10 Clusters based on geographical location. In the last quarter of 2022, two Clusters organized bonding events through sports and activities that allowed Boys to sweat, bond and have fun!

#### NORTH 1 - BAND OF BROTHERS 2022

Held on 29 October 2022, N1 has resumed their annual cluster event "Band of Brothers 2022", after a two-year gap due to the pandemic. This year, the event was hosted by 27th Singapore Company at Presbyterian High School, where 200 Boys from 27th, 31st, 36th, 45th and 47th Singapore Companies came together to be part of this brotherhood bonding through friendly matches, such as Badminton, Dodgeball, Captain Ball, Basketball, English Chess, and Mobile Legends (e-sports).





#### SOUTH 1 - 51 CLUSTER CUP (SOCCER) COMPETITION 2022

The BB Exco team and Boys from 5<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 12BR, 12I, 48<sup>th</sup>, 60<sup>th</sup> and 61<sup>st</sup> Singapore Companies had a fun soccer time at Anglo Chinese School (Independent) on 19 November 2022. The drizzle in the morning did not deter the Boys from giving their best in the matches, and 5th Singapore Company emerged as the Champion Team after several rounds of matches.



Champion Team (5th Singapore Company)



The Exco Team also had a match with the Boys

### 85 Years of Glory

Mr Adrian Tham, 7th Coy's former Captain (1993-1997), St. Andrew's School

It was a huge milestone for both 7<sup>th</sup> & 7J Singapore Companies, sponsored by St Andrew's Secondary and Junior Schools respectively, as we celebrated our 85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on 15 October 2022. The 7<sup>th</sup> Singapore Company was established in 1937 at St. Andrew's School (then at Stamford Rd), and officially registered in 1939.

After the exhortation by the Vicar of the Church of The Ascension, Rev Ian Chew, Mr Adrian Tham shared about his memories as a Boy in 1979, as an Officer in 1986, and as the Captain between 1993 to 1997. Mr Shaun Foo also shared about how the 7<sup>th</sup> Company had impacted his life as a Senior Boy from 1997 to 2000. The Anniversary Service was attended by Boys from both 7<sup>th</sup> & 7J, former and current BB teachers, Officers, parents and 7<sup>th</sup> Company alumni.



7J Boys, Officers, Teachers, and parents at the 85th Anniversary event.



7<sup>th</sup> Company: 1997-2000 (Photo courtesy: Mr Shaun Foo)



7<sup>th</sup> Company in the early 90s (Photo courtesy: Mr Adrian Tham)



7<sup>th</sup> Company (Life Boys), the predecessor to 7J Company, 1956

#### 22J Coy Leadership Camp

The BB Leadership Camp was held on 11 November 2022 in Anderson Primary School. It was organised for the 20 Boy leaders of the Company to learn about important leadership principles, as well as effective skills on how to better engage their members as squad leaders. The Boys were also taught how to give effective drill commands, lead ice breakers, and how to communicate and collaborate to achieve team goals.

Mr See, CCA teacher from 27th Singapore Company, Presbyterian High School, was also invited to share about Direct School Admissions (DSA) through Leadership with the Boys.

Xavier Phua, who participated in this camp, found it to be very meaningful:

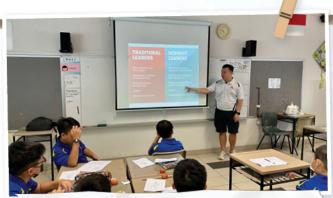


I am grateful to be part of this camp and to have had the opportunity to acquire new skills. I learnt more about humility, integrity and servant leadership. I also enjoyed the delicious food provided for us.





Learning to give commands to the squad.



Chaplain Li Wencong, teaching the Boys about true leadership.



Mr See from 27th Company, Presbyterian High School, sharing about Direct School Admissions.



All ready for the nerf gun battle in the Indoor Sports Hall!



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