



BB NEWS

THE BOYS' BRIGADE

Official Publication of The Boys' Brigade in Singapore

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2023 Issue 1



Contents



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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>



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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.

ADVENTURE OPEN HOUSE 2023 - KAYAKING & STAND-UP PADDLING

This annual Adventure Open House has always been popular, especially since Boys are keen to participate in outdoor water activities.

This year, we had 120 Boys from 6 BB Companies who signed up for the kayaking and stand-up paddling sessions held at the BB/GB Sembawang campsite on 11 February 2023.

The event fostered inter-Company bonding as Boys from different Companies came together and learnt new adventure skills. The Boys were also motivated to start getting physically active, as they geared up their preparations for the Brigade-level adventure race BB Blaze, to be held on 1 April 2023.



Boys from 7th Singapore Company having a great time in the waters during the Stand-Up Paddling session.



Boys from 10th Singapore Company (pictured on the left) and 49th Singapore Company (pictured on the right) signed up for the kayaking challenge.



BB Day 2023

Celebrating our 93rd Anniversary with GROWTH!

On every 12 January, The Boys' Brigade in Singapore commemorates our BB Day, as Boys don their uniforms proudly in schools. This year, Honorary President, Lieutenant-General (Ret) Winston Choo shared the BB Day message on *Growth*.

Though the last years of the pandemic had been a challenging chapter in our lives, it has also brought out the best in our members as we upheld our BB Motto and remained Sure and Stedfast!

The BB Companies have remained vibrant as we emerged strong from our experiences and the lessons that we have learnt and continue to pursue growth.

Let's take a sneak peek at how some of our BB Boys and Officers celebrated the BB Day in school!



BB Day 2023 video read by President's Award 2022 Recipient, Senior Cadet Lieutenant Chan Qi-En, Samuel from 12BR Singapore Company (Anglo-Chinese School (Barker Road))



5th Singapore Company, Kuo Chuan Presbyterian Secondary School



7th Singapore Company, St. Andrew's Secondary School



9th Singapore Company, Westwood Secondary School



11th Singapore Company, Christ Church Secondary School



“ ”

I felt very proud to represent the BB to lead the morning assembly. It was an honour to read the BB Day message to the whole school.

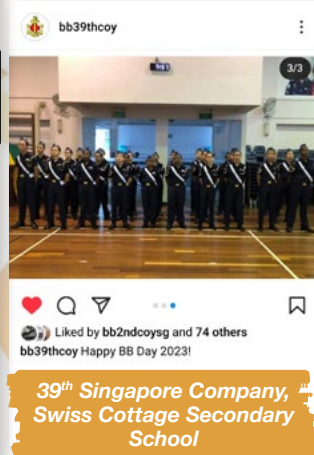
Jake Ng, 22J Singapore Company, Anderson Primary School



12J Singapore Company, Anglo-Chinese School (Junior)



**25th Singapore Company,
Hillgrove Secondary
School**



**39th Singapore Company,
Swiss Cottage Secondary
School**



**44th Singapore Company,
Fuchun Secondary
School**



**45th Singapore Company,
Xinmin Secondary
School**



**61st Singapore Company,
Queensway Secondary
School**



**50th Singapore Company,
Gan Eng Seng School**



**49th Singapore Company,
St. Hilda's Secondary
School**



**47th Singapore Company,
Serangoon Garden
Secondary School**



**62nd Singapore Company,
Orchid Park Secondary
School**



**64th Singapore Company,
Ang Mo Kio Secondary
School**



**93rd Singapore Company,
Yuying Secondary
School**



**85th Singapore Company,
Jurong West Secondary
School**

**94th Singapore Company,
Nan Hua High
School**

SLOW START BIG WIN

Mr Patrick Koh, Brigade President

Jack and John decided to have a competition to see who can chop down 20 trees in the shortest time using just an axe. With eager eyes, both of them counted down together and began their competition.

Jack began fervently and speedily cutting down one tree after another. John, on the other hand, began by sharpening and grinding the axe. After cutting the fifth tree, Jack was wondering why John had not started.

As Jack started to chop the sixth tree, John finally began chopping. Jack realized that John's speed of chopping down trees was incredible. Jack began to take more time to chop down trees as the axe became dull. At the twelfth tree, they were on par. From that tree onward, John began to overtake Jack and cut down all 20 trees way before Jack.

There is no magic to that winning. John had a slow start but he was preparing for the big win.



This year, we will be resuming National Leadership Camps, BB Blaze, Adventure Quest and Character Quest. At the Company level, we will also see the resumption of the annual camps and the various outdoor adventure activities that are the hallmarks of our BB programming.

As we are excited to resume all our activities, I want to encourage all Officers to prepare the Company well just like John sharpened the axe before the competition. You too can prepare by Being Safe, Intentional and Creative.

Being Safe. Many of our Boys had few opportunities for outdoor or strenuous activities during the COVID-19 pandemic. Do spend more time building up their stamina and conditioning through progressive training. Take breaks and hydrate regularly to allow the body to recuperate. Also, check the apparatus or equipment that you are training with to make sure they are serviceable. Do gradually increase the duration and frequency.

Being Intentional. Our current Company leadership did not have the privilege of experiencing what the pre-COVID senior NCOs went through. They probably have not attended a stay-in camp, and have not gone for a long hike. Many may not even have tried water sports. Do not assume that they know what to do. You will probably need to guide them more intentionally. They will not be able to imagine the scale and magnitude of the risks involved. Take this opportunity to handhold them to plan through the activities and build a deeper bond with them.

Being Creative. More often than not, practices are passed down from the previous generation. It might not be relevant anymore. Take this time to try new ideas. The leadership that starts from a completely clean slate might be able to generate new ideas and a new way of doing the parades. Try approaching problems, challenges, and opportunities with an open mind and the willingness to try new things. It's important to remember that creativity is a process and not a product. Not every idea will be a success, and it's important to embrace failure as a natural part of the creative process.

I am certain that as we progressively resume our activities, we will be able to offer our Boys a safe environment to stretch their limits and expand their horizons. We too, from a slow start, can attain a big win.



*85th Singapore Company,
Jurong West Secondary School*



*66th Singapore Company,
Woodlands Secondary School*

Growing in Love, Knowledge and Understanding

Rev Daniel Tong, Brigade Chaplain

Moving slowly but surely past the pandemic, we're all looking to resume our regular activities and lives; the Brigade being no exception. Looking to this resumption, the operative for most is not simply to take up where we left off, but to creatively develop something newer and better, leveraging on lessons learnt during the pandemic.

In life, we are always looking to grow – to grow taller, to grow smarter, to grow richer, to grow in recognition and admiration by those around us, et cetera, et cetera. It is human, good and right to aspire to grow. Let us not, however, pursue growth for the sake of growth, but rather ensure the pursuit of right growth goals.

As a Brigade, we seek growth in the recruitment of Boys and Officers, but not for the sake of being able to proclaim ourselves the biggest and best Uniformed Group. Yes, practically, we need the numbers to survive; but our growth goal is and must ever be the long-term impact of lives challenged and transformed, as elucidated in the Object of our Brigade.



We rejoice when Boys and Officers form life-long “habits of Obedience, Reverence, Discipline, Self-respect and all that tends towards a true Christian manliness,” and grow to become positive influences of righteousness at home and in the marketplace. In this pursuit, we endeavour to introduce Jesus to all, because we believe He is our best hope to achieve this personal growth and societal future.

As pandemic restrictions further loosen and we pursue growth and development, let us ever keep the Object of our Brigade before us as our goal. To this end,

I pray that your love will overflow more and more, and that you will keep on growing in knowledge and understanding. For I want you to understand what really matters, so that you may live pure and blameless lives until the day of Christ's return. May you always be filled with the fruit of your salvation – the righteous character produced in your life by Jesus Christ – for this will bring much glory and praise to God. (Philippians 1:9-11, NLT)

Showcasing the BB @ CCA Trials!

This year, most schools have resumed the in-person CCA trials, where educational booths are set up for incoming students to learn and try out the fun activities before deciding which CCA to join for the next 4 or 5 years.

Our Boys and Primers are also impressing the new kids with their BB Spirit, sharing their BB experience and bringing interesting hands-on adventure activities such as archery and field cooking for the new students to try out. Through these activities, our Boys not only bring in new Juniors to the Company, but also bond as they work together to think of innovative and fun ways to attract the new Boys.



21st Singapore Company, Geylang Methodist School (Secondary)



49th Singapore Company, St. Hilda's Secondary School



50th Singapore Company, Gan Eng Seng School



53rd Singapore Company, Bukit Batok Secondary School



93rd Singapore Company, Yuying Secondary School



ITE College East Primers Company



ITE College West Primers Company



ITE College Central Primers Company

Growth through CCA Recruitment



Secondary One Boys enjoying themselves at Bubble Soccer Booth

LCP See Jun Xiang, a Secondary Two Boy from 91st Singapore Company, Regent Secondary School shared his growth experience.

Each year, my school organises a CCA Experience for all Secondary One students to visit different CCAs across four days. When I was in Secondary One, I signed up for the BB as I was drawn by the varied activities organised.

As a Secondary Two Boy this year, I was excited to be deployed to help out our bubble soccer station. Initially, I felt quite lost but was thankful for the help I received from my peer Josiah Eang. Through this experience, I learnt to brief and conduct the activity safely for Secondary One Boys. I also appreciated the importance of team work! I am thankful for the exposure as it is a joy to watch Boys enjoying themselves at our booth.



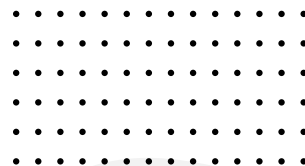
Boys teaching the Secondary One students how to position their bows and arrows.



Boys sharing about their BB Journey in 91st Singapore Company with their juniors!

34th Coy Archery

34th Singapore Company Boys had an archery session conducted by the BB Archery Officers at Marsiling Secondary School on 4 March 2023.



91st Coy Cycling @ East Coast Park

Growth through Perseverance



Boo Yu Cheng, 91st Singapore Company, Regent Secondary School

On 18 February 2023, our Company went cycling at East Coast Park. It was a hot and humid day, making it quite exhausting for us. We enjoyed the scenic ride as we cruised through the East Coast Park and coastline trail in our two-hour session.

The Company divided the Boys into three groups – the BB Blaze training team, the Cyclists team and the Beginners team. The objective for the BB Blaze training team was to improve their speed and train for the upcoming competition in April. For the Cyclists team, they cruised leisurely in the park and even ventured into the Changi Jurassic Mile. It was an opportunity for them to spend meaningful time outdoors and bond with one another.

For the Beginners team, it was a daunting challenge learning how to balance, pedal, steer and ride a bike smoothly. I was one of the 12 Boys who learnt to cycle on that day. It was a difficult task for me as I also had to overcome my fear of falling from the bike. I felt a sense of uncertainty as I tried to maintain balance and physical leg coordination on the bike. After an hour of continuous coaching from Sir Christopher, our perseverance paid off as my friends and I finally learnt how to ride a bike! We felt a sense of accomplishment, and I was very happy that I learnt a new skill and experienced a sense of independence and freedom whilst riding the bike. This experience instilled much confidence in me to try out new things in the future.

In summary, our cycling trip at East Coast Park has helped us to bond and build a rapport that would come in handy for future teamwork. We have also created fond memories that we will cherish in the years to come.



Boo Yu Cheng riding a bike on his own after an hour of training!



Officers coaching the Boys from the Beginners team.



Boys from 91st Singapore Company cycled to various locations together.



JUNIORS PROGRAMME OFFICERS CONFERENCE 01/23

40 Captains and Officers from 36 Juniors Companies gathered at Church of The Good Shepherd on 14 February for the Juniors Programme Officers Conference. To prepare their Boys for the upcoming Juniors Programme Adventure Quest (JPAQ), these Officers had a fruitful briefing session with the JPAQ Chairman, Mr Brendon Loon from 33J Singapore Company.



An updated BB Family Starters Kit was also distributed during this Conference, as well as the Seniors Programme Officers Conference. This info kit is for distribution by BB Companies to parents of new recruits in order acquaint them with the BB and our activities.



SENIORS PROGRAMME OFFICERS CONFERENCE 01/23

73 Captains and Officers represented 53 Seniors Companies in the Seniors Programme Officers Conference 01/23 on 7 March 2023. It was a fruitful session as the Officers had not been able to meet physically in such a large group for some years. In addition, they also enjoyed the sharing session on good practices for Global Awareness (Master) Badge as well as the briefings on the upcoming National Leadership Camps and BB Blaze competition. The Officers were also introduced to new members of the Seniors Programme Committee in 2023!

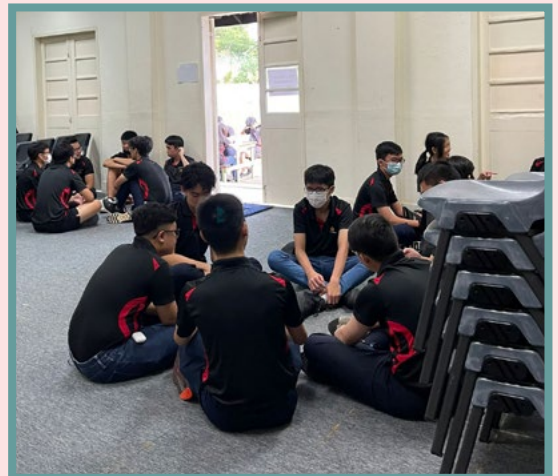


PRIMERS SUMMIT 01/23

Growth Beyond the BB Syllabus!

On 18 February, 87 Primers from 21 Companies participated in our Primers Summit workshops to learn more about Mental Health and Money Management at BB/GB campsite.

Mr Joel Wong from TOUCH Community Services Learning shared with the Primers on the various mental health conditions and how to identify and support close ones with mental health conditions. The Money Management Workshop was conducted by Mr Trevor Tan of the Institute of Financial Literacy, who taught the participants how to develop good financial habits and avoid scams.



Two Year One Primers from 12BR Singapore Company, Anglo-Chinese School (Barker Road) shared their reflections and feedback on the workshops:

“

I enjoyed today's session as I was able to meet and interact with Primers of different schools and backgrounds, as well as learning how to adopt better financial habits such as saving and planning for future needs.

- CLT Jayden Lim

“

Today I learnt how to identify mental health issues and how to administer coping strategies if I were to encounter issues myself or others that need a helping hand to lift us up. After today's session, I will use the knowledge I have received from the amazing instructors to help my family and my friends better manage their mental wellness.

- CLT Cruz Chua



PRIMERS SUMMIT 2023

AGENDA

- MONEY MANAGEMENT
- MENTAL WELLNESS

0830 - WELCOME
0900 - ICEBREAKERS
0930 - SESSION 1
1055 - BREAK
1100 - SESSION 2
1230 - Q&A,
NYAA BRIEFING,
FEEDBACK
1300 - END OF DAY



The NYAA Butterfly Award for Primary School (33J Coy)

The Boys' Brigade in Singapore is honoured to take part in National Youth Achievement Award (NYAA)'s Butterfly Award's pilot programme designed by the NYAA and MOE to provide a platform for primary school students to develop holistically through the four main domains below:

- ① Service Learning (Learning to Serve)
- ② Outdoor Appreciation (One with Nature)
- ③ Healthy Living (Health is Wealth)
- ④ Family Bonding (Meaningful Interactions)



One of our participating Juniors Programme Companies is 33J Singapore Company, Fairfield Methodist School (Primary), which has been actively bringing their Boys to attend different activities within and outside their school for the programme.

Last year, the BB Boys went to Gallop Stables to learn about equine care, grooming and management where they had a fun time interacting with the horses as they learn to appreciate outdoor nature.

The Boys also had an unique service learning experience as they were under "work attachment" where they followed their primary school's operational staff to share the burden of after-school duties from July to November, such as cleaning the school toilets and canteen.



Parents were also invited to join the Company's Family Go-Karting Day where they had a fun and meaningful time with one another.



This year, the Company enrolled the Boys into a fencing module under the category of "Healthy Living" that the Boys really enjoyed. Not only did the Boys pick up a new sport; they also have fun and bond with their peers in a new activity that they do not find it in the usual curriculum.

"I find the fencing module very fun. We get to learn movement for the first few weeks, and sparred against a partner in the last few weeks!"
Junior Jarius Goh

"Fencing is fun and not violent. At first, I was scared because I was afraid of getting hurt. But I got used to it now and is enjoying the sport. I am thankful as this is an opportunity that not many of us will get to experience on our own."
Junior Jonathan Ho



14th Coy Alumni Reunion Lunch

CPL Joel Tay and CPL Joel Koh, 14th Singapore Company, Anglican High School

The Alumni Reunion Lunch is a long-standing tradition of the 14th Singapore Company. This year, the 14th Company Alumni Association decided to reinstate the tradition with a blast. With the assistance of the Company's NCOs, the Organising Committee put together a programme to bring old Boys as far as back as those who graduated in 2016. The Officers, teachers and volunteers from All Saints' Church (English Congregation) were invited in appreciation of their efforts and contribution towards the Company.

The homecoming was an afternoon of fun and bonding, with games like Pass-It-On Charades. An NCO also prepared a video montage that showcased how the Company has developed across the years. Additionally, a photobooth was set up to display the trophies and awards which the Company had achieved over the years. It was a meaningful catch-up time for our Company and alumni. It was heartening to see the strong esprit-de-corps among the past and present members being an unwavering constant, with this being an integral pillar of what we call our "BB 14th Company Spirit".

“

It was a nostalgic experience with many batches of Company Boys under one roof. I got to mingle around with my seniors and juniors in a cohesive environment. This event really struck a chord in my heart, as it showed how far the Company has come and I am appreciative of all the memories forged.

”

SCL Caleb Lim

“

I learnt more about how the old BB Boys developed lasting friendships and forged unique memories during their time in the Company. The event was a great way to unite everyone, regardless of who they are or their age. I hope to be invited back to reminisce wonderful memories in the BB, in the years to come when I become an alumnus myself.

”

CPL Ng Kong Joon





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