



THE BOYS' BRIGADE

BB NEWS

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2023 Issue 3

JP & SP
CHARACTER QUEST
ITECC
ESCAPE TO KLUANG

THE PRESIDENT'S AWARD
PRESENTATION CEREMONY
FOUNDER'S AWARD
PRESENTATION CEREMONY



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OUR YOUTH TODAY

by LTA Patrick Koh, Brigade President

Being a youth today is not an easy phase of life at all. As Officers, we like to tell our Boys of our fun time when we were young. Back then in the 80s, there was no mass proliferation of handphones, social media, or internet. We spent our time playing in the fields, marble pits, or even at the void decks with plastic balls. Discerning between good and bad, or distinguishing black from white, was straightforward.

Today, our Boys must grapple with many things. Social media is a way of life. Last-minute changing of meeting time is possible by means of messaging. Games can be played in the comfort of your home so long as you have a smartphone. The only problem is that you must have an infinite supply of power to your phone i.e. power bank.

In my recent interaction with our President's Men, it is very clear that our youth today are concerned about challenges like Mental Health, Economic Uncertainty and Climate Change.

Mental Health: The pressures of modern life, including academic stress, social media and societal expectations, can take a toll on the mental well-being of young people. Anxiety, depression, and other mental health issues are increasingly prevalent among youth. Access to mental health resources and reducing the stigma surrounding seeking help are important aspects.

Economic Uncertainty: The future may present the Boys with economic challenges, including high costs of living and competitive job market. These factors can lead to financial instability and affect their ability to achieve their goals and aspirations.

Climate Change and Environmental Concerns: Young people are acutely aware of the urgent need to address environmental issues, particularly climate change. They are concerned about the long-term impact of climate change on their future and the planet.

As they maneuver around, right or wrong is no longer a binary. Sometimes, social norms will drive the answer. Differentiating black or white distinctly may not be easy as there will be more than one shade of grey.

This is where the Boys will need sound guidance to direct them to the right path. And that is why the Officers will have to play the important role of guiding them and helping them achieve their best in their formative years.

Though the world is changing rapidly, we must stick to our objective. The environment is changing, the method must be followed. And the principle will remain. The object is timeless. ".....The promotion of habits of Obedience, Reverence, Discipline, Self-respect and all that tends towards a true Christian Manliness."

As long as we continue to impart these character values to the Boys, we can be assured that we will be able to prepare them for stormy weather in their lives!

Sure & Stedfast



Founder's Award

Presentation Ceremony 2023



The Founder's Award is the highest and most prestigious award that a Boy can attain in the Seniors Programme. On 8 July, 138 Boys received the Award from our Honorary Vice-President Dr Ho Yew Kee, in the presence of 590 guests comprising of the Boys' families and BB stakeholders at the Orchid Country Club.

Founder's Award Recipient SSG Ruban Joyson Judah Jeberson from 86th Coy in Jurongville Secondary School reflects,

The road to attaining the Founder's Award was not an easy one but it has been a meaningful journey. I learnt many valuable soft skills and became better at handling stressful situations. I remember the Founder's Award Applicant duty most vividly, where I met three Boys from other Companies for the first time and worked together at an NTUC outlet for BB Share-A-Gift. As a shy person, I was anxious and wanted to get over it quickly. However, when we broke the ice and started talking to each other, I realised that it was not so bad after all. As we got to know each other better, we became more comfortable with communication, and we became more efficient as we split up into different roles for the unloading of the donations from NTUC as well as the packing at the warehouse. Through this, I learnt the value of communication, organisation and flexibility. I am undoubtedly grateful towards my Company as well as The Boys' Brigade for the golden opportunity to experience the full journey of the Founder's Award programme. The experience was especially meaningful and encouraged me to strive to improve myself as well as others around me. I sincerely hope to leave those who are reading this with this message: Strive to be better every day and embrace the hardships and failures that come along the way, for great men are not born great but grew to be great.



SSG Ruban Joyson Judah Jeberson serving in the BB Share-A-Gift project



SSG Ruban Joyson Judah Jeberson with his family (third from left)



Recipients of the 2023 Founder's Award with their families



Juniors Programme

CHARACTER QUEST 2023

547 BOYS
39 COMPANIES

This year's Juniors Programme Character Quest saw 547 Boys from 39 Companies gathered at Greendale Primary School on 11 August. The Boys competed in teams of four to six in a variety of activities that centred on the theme of "Obedience". There were 10 stations with seven game stations and three quiz stations that featured online game-play. Each team exercised their creativity to complete the challenge quests on an own-time-own-target basis. Team 40 from 41J Coy in Tao Nan School emerged as Champions, whilst Team 34 from 33J Coy in Fairfield Methodist School (Primary) came in 2nd place, and Team 27 from 24J Coy in Fuhua Primary School came in 3rd place. The Boys were also treated to delicious pizza and ice-cream after sweating it out during the competition! We congratulate the winning teams, as well as all teams who are conquerors through the participation of this competition as they overcame challenges, stepped out of their comfort zones, and demonstrated teamwork!



Boys who had to use their mobile phones to complete online game-play



The Champion team from 41J Coy in Tao Nan School



Treats of pizza and ice-cream at the end of a fun day!



Boys had to think creatively to complete this game!

The Boys assemble at the hall of Greendale Primary School



CLT Nathaniel Tang reflects on his journey from being a Junior Boy who participated in the JPCQ in 2017 to becoming a Committee Member of this year's competition. He was from 33J Coy in Fairfield Methodist School (Primary) and 33rd Coy in Fairfield Methodist School (Secondary), and now serves as a Primer in both Companies.

Since joining The Boys' Brigade in Primary 3, BB has been the place for so many of my important moments, transformative experiences and treasured memories. All have shaped me into who I am today.

I first learnt about this competition as a Junior Boy. I was excited to hear that it would be a fun way for me to apply good character values and principles, in addition to bonding with my peers and seniors. I quickly signed up to join the team and looked forward to the training. The lessons were interactive and interesting, and I was undeterred even when my team was not placed in the Top 10 positions. Joining the Character Quest competition became an annual 'tradition' for me. And I never imagined that my team would place 1st in 2017! The journey compelled me to explore my own character values more deeply and helped me to see how I could help others through teamwork.

As a Primer, I had the privilege of conducting training sessions to prepare my Company Boys for the competition. The training sessions afforded me with more opportunities to get to know the Boys better, and honed my facilitation skills.

I also had an amazing opportunity to organise a collaborative training exchange that brought together the Junior Boys from 33J at Fairfield Methodist School (Primary) and 41J at Tao Nan School. We are thrilled that the 41J and 33J were placed 1st and 2nd for the Juniors Programme Character Quest 2023!

I would like to continue my involvement in this competition and hope that Boys will continue to benefit from the character development lessons that are conducted.



CLT Nathaniel Tang as a Senior Boy with his family (second from left)



CLT Nathaniel engaging the Guest of Honour, alongside the Brigade Executive during the JPCQ Competition (second from right)

CLT Nathaniel briefing the marshals during the JPCQ Competition (first from right)



CLT Nathaniel as a Junior Boy winning Character Quest in 2017 (first from right)

ESCAPE TO KLUANG 2023

by LTA Elijah Tan and Volunteer
Lim Hui Min, ITE College Central

Escape To Kluang 2023 is an overseas community service trip that aims to give a different community service experience for the Primers of ITE College Central. We hope to serve and bring joy to the less fortunate while building international connections and we desire to ignite the passion of The Boys' Brigade community in Kluang, Malaysia, through bagpipe sessions and sharing from the Primers. The trip took place from 20 to 24 September.



SERI JUBLI INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

The Primers ran a programme at Seri Jubli International School, engaging students from Year 3 to 6 (aged 9 - 12) and Year 10 (aged 16), with the objective of creating a fun and meaningful day for them. The Primers had planned a series of station games for their house games day, as well as a short sharing session about life as a student in ITE for the Year 10 students who were preparing for their International General Certificate of Secondary Education. Additionally, our Primers also presented bagpipe performances.



FARMING WORK AND ROCK HOUSE



The Primers visited a local farm run by Youth Pastor Jit Pang who currently runs four different farms where the produce is used to bless poor families around Malaysia. They learnt more about farm maintenance such as grass trimming, wrapping the fruits to protect it from the environment, as well as harvesting. The Primers also engaged the children (aged 4 to 8) at the Redeeming Our Community Kids (ROCK) House and distributed the harvest to families in the community. The children and Primers had a fun-filled time playing station games, getting drenched, and having a friendly street soccer match. Through these activities, the Primers witnessed the living conditions of the children and developed a better understanding of the local community outreach efforts.

PRACTICING OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS

by Rev Daniel Tong, Brigade Chaplain

Competitions and awards... love them (especially as recipients), hate them (for being so out of reach).

Eliciting such conflicting emotions... why have them?

Well, for one, they unite and excite us. Challenging as the competitions may be, they serve to unite us behind an event and goal, the puzzles and adventures serving to add some buzz into the routine of our regular parades. In addition, competitions also serve to drill into us the lessons and skills picked up in the course of our planned Company schedule; drawing us out of our comfort zones and stretching us in both capacity and capability.

Camaraderie, expertise, and competency, etc. is not and should never, however, be our primary goal for organising and engaging in these endeavours. Our Object being ever: the promotion of habits of Obedience, Reverence, Discipline, Self-Respect (ORDS) and all that tends towards a true Christian Manliness. The moulding of character, not the pursuit of awards; which is important, lest we be caught in the snare of "practicing your righteousness before men to be noticed by them" (Matthew 6:1).

Let us compete wholeheartedly and cheerfully, regardless of winning or losing; working hard and humbly thankful for every achievement, gracefully accepting and plodding on with a never-say-die attitude when today is just not our day. Growing in the grace to put others before ourselves, enjoying the shared experience – of sweat and tears, fun and laughter – as we compete against one another for the reward.

Let me be clear, our competitions are important, as are the awards! Nonetheless, they are just "treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy" (Matthew 6:19). The ultimate competition is the training to look beyond ourselves toward the welfare of others. The ultimate award being the "storing up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal" (Matthew 6:20-21).

As when facing any competition, to cultivate the habits of ORDS requires preparation and practice. We must research and understand the shape and form of these habits, learn and plan how they may be incorporated and ingrained into our lives, then rehearse and practice integrating these habits into our daily competition to live lives "that tends towards a true Christian Manliness."

Practice makes perfect, they say, and we must indeed practice these righteous habits daily till they become second nature to us. Till we express them without conscious thought, not to be noticed by others, but simply because it is the righteous thing to do. Day by day, let our hearts be fixed on heaven above, on loving our Heavenly Father, that under His love and the anointing of His love, we might love our fellow men wholeheartedly (Matthew 22:37-39).

The President's Award

PRESENTATION CEREMONY 2023

Attaining The President's Award is the most prestigious accomplishment in The Boys' Brigade. It is awarded to Primers who had excelled in the demanding requirements of leadership and service in the community, as well as within their own Companies as adventure activity leaders or event planners.



This year, 10 deserving recipients were presented The President's Award by our BB Patron, President Halimah Yacob, at the Istana on 26 July. The recipients are:

SCL Caleb Lim Kai Le, 14th Coy, Anglican High School
SCL Earnest Choo En De, 39th Coy, Swiss Cottage Secondary School
SCL Ezekiel Joshua Chan, 60th Coy, Raffles Institution
SCL Ganesh S, 50th Coy, Gan Eng Seng School
SCL Ian Thng Zi An, 12I Coy, Anglo-Chinese School (Independent)
SCL Loke Kar Hoong, 19th Coy, Yishun Town Secondary School
SCL Sng Chi Hang Ethan, 93rd Coy, Yuying Secondary School
SCL Soh Woon Kiat Patrick, 14th Coy, Anglican High School
SCL Timothy Stephen Ang, 12I Coy, Anglo-Chinese School (Independent)
SCL Wong Xavier, 94th Coy, Nan Hua High School

The President's Award recipient SCL Loke Kar Hoong from 19th Coy in Yishun Town Secondary School reflects,

One does not simply receive The President's Award. Its prestige outweighs sacrifice, and this alone demands a challenging journey where dedication and resolve are put to the ultimate test.

When I was first introduced to the Award by my Officers, there was some form of hesitation. I was not the best at managing my time, often leaving things until the last minute. Stepping up to obtain this Award sounded daunting. Yet, it presented an interesting challenge. I would regret it if I did not at least try; hence I was eager to embrace the opportunity and experience the journey, regardless of the outcome. In addition, my mentors and peers had faith in me, and I was not ready to let them down.

This Award called for long hours of preparation. The biggest learning point came in the form of overcoming my biggest

struggle: finding the right balance to juggle my various responsibilities. I experienced plenty of fulfilling moments as I undertook this venture, be it from organising Company awards for Boys, to connecting with my fellow Primers at Brigade-level events. There were also valuable lessons learned along the way. With the responsibility requiring a great investment of time and effort, I recognised the importance of effective time management. For example, planning a proper timeline made it easier to juggle my responsibilities.

When I finally received The President's Award, I felt a great sense of accomplishment. I remembered those who had invested time in me and mentored me! Through this Award, I hope that more could recognise the success of The Boys' Brigade in nurturing Boys into competent leaders. Moving forward, I look forward to my future responsibilities as I continue to grow within The Boys' Brigade.



Hike with Boys during our March Adventure Camp



Teaching Boys Knots for Adventure (SCL Loke Kar Hoong, Centre)

PRIMERS SUMMIT 03/23



21 Primers from 7 Companies participated in the third run of the Primers Summit

A total of 21 Primers from 7 Companies participated in the third run of the Primers Summit on 5 August. For this session, they learnt how to use various educational technology tools and skills to improve their training and presentation styles. This helped to enhance the Primers' interaction and engagement with audiences in leading badge work lessons.



Primers learning educational technology tools and skills



Primers listening to the talk conducted by an external speaker

BB CARES 2023 ANCHOR EVENT

BB CARES 2023 Anchor Event was organised on 15 August at the Chinatown Yip Yew Chong Arts Trail. More than 200 participants from three Companies (7th, 19th, and 86th) as well as seniors from Thye Hua Kwan Active Ageing Centre (Beo Crescent), Lions Befrienders Active Ageing Centre (Clementi 420A), Chinatown Active Ageing Centre (Chin Swee) and Volunteers from City Sunshine Club gathered for an Augmented Reality (AR) tour at Chinatown.

Prior to the event, the Boys and Volunteers attended virtual briefing sessions conducted by Corporate Alliance for Good to learn more about the interactive features in the Locomole AR App. Using the App on their mobile phones, participants took part in the tour and explored Chinatown using AR.

We are also grateful to our sponsor, City Developments Limited, for their support in making the BB CARES 2023 Anchor Event meaningful and memorable for all the participants.

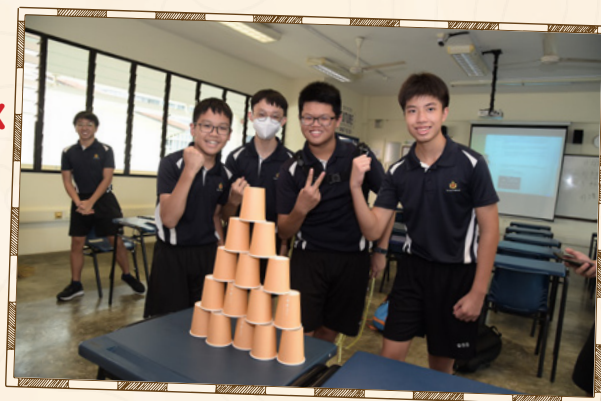


CHARACTER QUEST 2023

This year, we saw a total of 590 Boys in 133 teams from 51 Companies competing in the annual Character Quest at St Andrew's Secondary School on 26 August. The Boys competed in teams and participated in indoor and outdoor segments that centred on the theme of "Obedience". To involve more Boys in the experience, Companies were encouraged to put up a skit or cheer in the lead-up to the competition. The outdoor segment was also made more engaging by splitting the games into three thematic zones, dealing with "pride", "fear" and "strength". 5th Coy in Kuo Chuan Presbyterian Secondary School emerged Champion while 49th Coy in St Hilda's Secondary School came in 2nd place, and 14th Coy in Anglican High School came in 3rd place. Congratulations to all teams who had stepped up to the challenge boldly and demonstrated teamwork to overcome obstacles – every Boy a winner in his own right!



Winning champion team 5th Coy in Kuo Chuan Presbyterian Secondary School with Guest-of-Honour Bishop Emeritus Dr Robert Solomon



Boys competing in indoor games



Boys competing in the outdoor segment



Boys using their creativity and analytical thinking to solve challenges



A total of 590 Boys from 51 Companies assembled at St Andrew's Secondary School



Boys replenishing their energy during lunch

PRIMERS UNITY CHALLENGE

by LTA Elijah Tan, Captain of ITE College Central

The Unity Challenge is an initiative that brings together three ITE Primers Companies for an exchange of ideas and experiences gained from running programmes. This event was held on 6 October at ITE College Central (ITECC) with 74 participants from ITE College East (ITECE), ITE College West (ITECW) and the host College. The participants were also challenged through games where the tribes had to unite to win, amplifying the message of "UNITY" to the Primers. The Officers also had a great time sharing about challenges that they underwent and lessons learnt. The Primers and Officers also bonded over dinner, building relationships that they will never forget. The day ended with a Pipes and Drums trial session, allowing Primers to try what it is like playing the instrument, as well as an invitation to join the training sessions weekly for free.

It really warms my heart to see the three Companies, although new and somewhat different in the ways we operate, come together to have this time of fun and laughter! My hope is for the Unity Challenge to become an annual event, a tradition passed down to the generations who will take over the Coys in the future!

Testimonies

Today was a very fun experience! The activities engage us in teamwork and offer the opportunity to get to know and work with people across different backgrounds. I'm definitely looking forward to participating in this event again next year!

**SCL Darren Goh, President of
ITE College East Primers (ITECE)**

I learnt that through Unity with all three ITEs, we can actually create an event that attracts everyone! This event promotes camaraderie and helps to connect all ITE Primers. I will do this again next year and forever!

**SCL Bryan Tan, Vice-President of
ITE College West Primers (ITECW)**

The Unity Challenge was the first time that all three ITE colleges came together under one roof and just had fun and connected with one another. Personally, the programme was just secondary, but the bonds we built today is what made this event a massive success. I am looking forward to planning the Unity Challenge 2024!

**SCL Luke Quek, President of
ITE College Central Primers (ITECC)**



Primers from ITECE, ITECW, ITECC



Wrapping up the king for
"Defend the King"



The final product for Torrent!



Hype-up session for tribes to score points



Primers participating in the
game, Marco Wars



Primers participating in the game,
Kraken's Treasure

Values in Action at St Luke's Eldercare

by LCP Tan Hao Yang, 91st Coy Regent Secondary School

Planning, preparing, and visiting St Luke's Eldercare Centre at Keat Hong on 18 August and 5 September was quite an exciting event for me as I had the opportunity to oversee a booth this year. I had to decide on a game that would attract the elderly to play. My friends bought small gifts for the elderly using the money we contributed. While a few of us hosted the seven game booths, others distributed the gifts to the elderly as well as helped to escort the elderly on wheelchairs around. We were able to engage the elderly in exercises, bingo games, and singalong sessions. I enjoyed teaching the elderly how to play the game that we had set up and seeing their smiles brightened my day. Many of us stepped outside of our comfort zones to speak in dialects and Mandarin! I am thankful for the BB CARES project as it pushes me to serve others and to not focus on myself.



The BB Cares team from 91st Coy, Regent Secondary School



Engagement with the elderly at St Luke's Eldercare

EXCITING LEARNING ADVENTURE AT BIRD PARADISE

by 2LT William Ho, 22J Coy in Anderson Primary School



A Marabou stork flying overhead our Boys

The Boys had a fruitful learning journey on 25 August at the Bird Paradise. Despite the initial heavy downpour, the Boys' spirits were not dampened. We stayed indoors in the Penguin Cove for the first 30 minutes. Thereafter, the Boys spotted many unique birds from different habitats and regions. One highlight was the Bird Show at the large Sky Amphitheatre featuring the aerial prowess and feeding habits of predators such as eagles, vultures, and owls.



Titus Chua having a close view of a crowned pigeon



Breyan Koh posing with a northern cassowary

I have enjoyed the new experience and learnt the responsibility to look out for my squad members as a leader.

Lead Boy Jayden Tan Qi Hong (Primary 5)

I believe that BB activities such as BB CARES etc will help to foster the importance of caring and sharing and inculcating a sense of gratitude. I am truly thankful for the BB Officers and Teachers for their time and care towards the Boys.

Ms Lily Ng-Tan, Parent of Josiah Ng Songyi (Primary 4)

NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION



This year, we celebrated Singapore's 58th birthday and The Boys' Brigade is proud to have participated in the National Day Parade (NDP) as one of the Marching Contingents at the Padang on 9 August.



The Boys' Brigade Marching Contingent at the NDP 2023



The NDP BB Marching Contingent with Education Minister Chan Chun Sing



The NDP BB Marching Contingent with Deputy Prime Minister Lawrence Wong

Company Snapshots

Source: Companies' Instagram & Facebook



10th Coy Beatty Secondary School Toa Payoh East National Day Observance Ceremony



28th Coy Yuhua Secondary School National Day Observance Ceremony at Jurong Spring CC



47th Coy Serangoon Garden Secondary School, 5 Boys participated in the NDP Padang



57th Coy Bukit Batok Secondary School National Day Observance Ceremony



64th Coy Ang Mo Kio Secondary Bagpipe Performance at the Toa Payoh Stadium



94th Coy Nan Hua High School Bagpipe Performance at Clementi CC



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