

BB NEWS

Official Publication Of The Boys' Brigade In Singapore

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GENERAL INFORMATION



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)

OBJECT

The advancement of Christ's Kingdom among Boys; and the promotion of habits of Obedience, Reverence, Discipline, Self-Respect and all that tends toward a true Christian Manliness.

OUR VISION

To be the Youth Organisation of Choice

OUR MISSION

To nurture youth, based on Christian values, to serve and lead.

OUR BELIEFS

We are First for Youth

We provide fun, meaningful and challenging activities.

We are committed to serve the community.

We are served and led by Volunteers.

We are enterprising, in tune with our changing world.

We actively engage our stakeholders.

We are a Christian organisation for all Youth.

BB NEWS

The BB News is the official publication of The Boys' Brigade in Singapore. The opinions expressed in the articles are the personal view of the writers and do not necessarily represent the policies of The Boys' Brigade.

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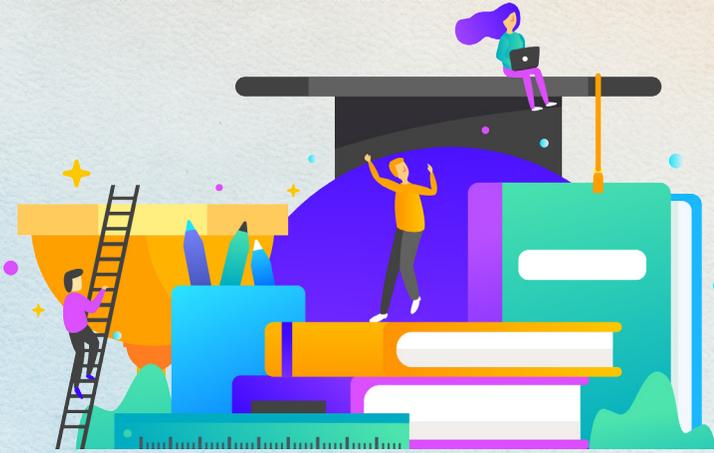


CHARACTER - OUR MOST IMPORTANT ASSET!

POH LEONG BERG (LTA)
Brigade President

We make choices daily in our lives - what to wear, what to do, where to go, what to eat, and so on. But there is another choice that is much more important than all these and that is, 'who do we want to become'. The choice we make each time will turn an integral part of us into something a little different than what it was before. The decisions made each time may seem small but when it is aggregated as a whole in our life, we will surely, though slowly, become what we have chosen; our choices create the path for our life.

Abraham Lincoln once said, "Character is like a tree and reputation like its shadow. The shadow is what we think of it; the tree is the real thing". Does our character stand strong and grow deep like a strong and mighty oak tree or does it disappear like the shadow when the clouds come? We need to nurture our character, growing a little each time each day, so that one day when challenges come our way, we will have the strength to do what is right. How we deal with circumstances in our lives tells others many things about our character. A difficult situation does not necessarily make character, but it does reveal it. When we are at crossroads during a crisis, we will choose one of two paths - character or compromise. Each time we choose character, we become stronger.



John C. Maxwell, in his book, 'The 21 Indispensable Qualities of a Leader' suggested four things every person needs to know about character.



'Character is more than Talk': We can say all we want about our values but it is our action that is the real character as it communicates credibility and consistency.



'Talent is a Gift, but Character is a choice': We do not have control over many things but definitely we can choose our character. It is in our daily choices that we create our character.



'Character brings lasting success with people': People follow and trust those whose character is not flawed. Those who have good and godly character earn the respect and trust of others.



'Leaders cannot rise above the limitations of their character': Successful people who achieve much but lack the character to sustain them through tough times are headed for disaster.

There is a wise saying: "Watch your thoughts, for they become words. Watch your words, for they become actions. Watch your actions, for they become habits. Watch your habits, for they become your character. And watch your character, for it becomes your destiny. What we think, we become."

We need to be watchful. We need to watch and examine in which area of our lives we might have taken shortcuts, compromised, or taken the easy way out. The battle of wanting to create good character starts with our thoughts. When we are careless in our thoughts, it is the beginning of becoming that which we do not want to be. As Derek Prince said, “Your character is the sum total of your habits. Your habits are formed by repeated decision. Because every decision is either positive or negative, it is either building up or breaking down your character”.

**OUR CHARACTER IS WHO WE ARE
AND WHAT WE DO. OUR CHARACTER
IS OUR MOST IMPORTANT
ASSET. NO ONE CAN TAKE
THAT AWAY FROM US.
THE CHOICE IS OURS
TO MAKE TODAY!**



A STORY ON THE OLD CHEROKEE

An old Cherokee (the indigenous peoples of the Southeastern Woodlands) told his grandson: “My grandson, there’s a battle between two wolves inside us all. One is Evil – it is anger, jealousy, greed, pride, resentment, inferiority, lies and ego. The other is Good – it is joy, peace, love, hope, humility, integrity, uprightness, kindness, and truth.” The boy thought about it, and asked: “Grandfather, which wolf wins?” The old man quietly replied: “The one you feed.” (coolnsmart.com)

MORAL OF THE STORY:

Both wolves are always there inside us. The best way to overcome the evil wolf and feed the good wolf is by mastering our habits. Feeding the good wolf is hard; it takes much energy and time from us but when we choose to do so, to start putting in positive qualities and godly values, we will turn out to be a person of good character who is trusted, valued and respected by the people around us, and able to contribute positively to society.



YOUR *life* PURSUIT

REV DANIEL TONG WEE HWA
Brigade Chaplain

We are engaged in pursuits our whole life. As a child, we pursue fun and games. As a student, we pursue grades and degrees. As an adult, we pursue a good career and the setting up of a family. As we age, we pursue a healthy body and enjoyment of the fruits of our many years of labour. What are we pursuing in life? What are you pursuing as a member of 'The Boys' Brigade?

The majority of us tend to spend most of our time pursuing "the things of this world"— grades and degrees, championships, badges and rank. Important as such achievements and accolades are, let us realise that they are simply a means to an end. A key "end" for the Brigade in its use of competitions and promotions, etc. is: The promotion of habits of Obedience, Reverence, Discipline, Self-respect and all that tends towards a true Christian manliness. Character!

For as biblical scholar, William Hersey Davis, is quoted as saying (source unknown),

Character is the one thing we make in this world and take with us into the next.

The circumstances amid which you live determine your reputation; the truth you believe determines your character.

Reputation is what you are supposed to be; Character is what you are.

Reputation is made in a moment; Character is built in a lifetime.

Reputation makes you rich or makes you poor; Character makes you happy or makes you miserable.

Reputation is what men say about you on your tombstone; Character is what angels say about you before the throne of God.

Your character is what God knows you to be. Your reputation is what men think you are.



What are YOU known by, and what have you set your heart to pursue in the Brigade and in life? I pray that it is not "the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life" (1 John 2:15-17), for these will not last beyond this life. Rather, set your mind and heart to "flee from these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, gentleness" (1 Timothy 6:11). Character! ... which "is what angels say about you before the throne of God," and that by which "God knows you to be."

The Brigade is committed to help every Boy embark on the life-long pursuit and development of a true Christian manliness; having had and continuing to develop programmes toward this goal (as this issue of BB News will help show). May these efforts bear the good fruit of godly character in our Boys today, along with their capturing of the vision to continue to pursue growth and development of this throughout their lives!

SHARING HOPE AND JOY

For 31 years since 1988, The Boys' Brigade has been seeking to bring cheer to the less fortunate by collecting food items and fulfilling Christmas wishes of beneficiaries through the BB Share-a-Gift (BBSG) project. And specially for this year, the public can also choose to make cashless donations via PayNow QR codes on BBSG collection tins.

The project was officially launched on 21 November with the focus on Hope being the greatest gift of all! Mr Desmond Lee, Minister for Social and Family Development and Second Minister for National Development, joined us in launching the season of sharing. The project will reach out to 41,756 beneficiaries with the support of our Sponsors, Partners, BB members and the Singapore community.



Brigade President Mr Poh Leong Berg, NTUC FairPrice CEO Mr Seah Kian Peng, Prudential Singapore CEO Mr Wilf Blackburn, BBSG Chairman Mr Lui Chong Chee and Mr Desmond Lee (L to R)



The first food hamper for BBSG 2018 at FairPrice Xtra Jurong Point!



BBSG Car Flag Off 1 at People's Association Headquarters on 1 December with Prudential Singapore's employees and their families and friends!



Our Presenting Sponsor, Prudential Singapore, all ready to deliver food hampers to beneficiaries!

CHERISHING PARENTS



With an aim to engage parents and enhance family communications, the BB's 11th Singapore Company teamed up with The Girls' Brigade Singapore's (GB) 18th Company to host Parents Night! They collaborated with FamChamps Singapore on the usage of games and activities that promoted the importance of families and positive experiences within families.

On 20 October, parents started gathering in the open-air parade square at Christ Church Secondary School that was specially decorated with fairy lights for the evening. An icebreaker game was organized to encourage conversations between Boys and their parents.



Parents, Boys and Officers playing an M&M Game, which involved simple questions to answer depending on the colour of M&M sweets chosen.

The Boys and Girls also played a Values Game with their parents while enjoying the buffet dinner. The objective of the game was to highlight the uniqueness of each individual and to showcase platforms which the Brigades provide for them to develop skills and gifts.



Three generations enjoying Parents Night!



Talented BB/GB youths serenading the audience throughout the evening.



At the end of the evening, the emcees hosted an appreciation session where the Boys and Girls read out the thank you cards that they had prepared for their parents earlier in the day.



“This is the first BB event my wife and I have attended since Rayden just joined BB this year. It’s good to know how our kids are doing in school, so events to engage parents like this are great!

We persuaded Rayden to join BB instead of another CCA choice as we felt that he has leadership qualities to be discovered. I think that BB has helped Rayden to uncover his potential.”

Mr Andy Zhu and Ms Shirin Cheong with Rayden

“Through joining BB, I think that Gabriel’s personality and character has been well developed. We’ve been to other BB events with Gabriel, and my wife and I have enjoyed being able to spend such times with him.”

Mr & Mrs Victor Bacay with Gabriel



WALKING FOR RICE



SIA KEQIN (LTA)

Captain, 27th Singapore Company, Presbyterian High School

On 27 October, the 27th Singapore Company organised a Walk for Rice event as part of our golden jubilee celebrations. We had two objectives; to re-visit the milestones we achieved with a heart of thankfulness and to bless the neighbouring community.



All ready for flag off at the school by Brigade President Mr Poh Leong Berg.



Together with our Old Boys and sponsoring church, Ang Mo Kio Presbyterian Church, we started our community walk around Ang Mo Kio (AMK).

A mini heritage trail was organised en route to Bishan-Ang Mo Kio Park where the Company's 50 years of history and testimonies of transformed lives were presented. Our young members were made aware of the rich traditions and areas of focus for the Company, namely drill, pipe band and community services.



For every five kilometres clocked, the Company donated and delivered a food hamper for families of young children living in the surrounding rental flats. In total, more than 240 families were blessed.



Working hard to distribute food hampers to four HDB blocks in AMK.

“Initially, I was a little nervous to knock on the doors of the residents we were reaching out to. Thankfully, Aunty Li Kian and Uncle Tony were in my team to show us the way. When my turn came, I tried my best to tell the residents who we were and what we wanted to bless them with. With every bag given away, a sense of thanksgiving was felt as we had shared our blessings with the residents and their families.”

LCP Essek Chua Song Yang

Celebrating OUR SILVER JUBILEE

BAY QINYAO (LTA)

Captain, 45th Singapore Company, Xinmin Secondary School



The 45th Singapore Company celebrated our silver jubilee on 17 November with some 200 stakeholders who have supported us in our BB journey. Brigade President Mr Poh Leong Berg also joined in the festivities. In a display of our Scottish heritage, we invited 40th Singapore Company in Changkat Changi Secondary School to present a delightful bagpipe performance. Our homegrown band which comprised of Old Boys, Xinmin Secondary School students and staff members also captivated the audience with a song medley performed using a fusion of Chinese and Western instruments!



“To be a small part of something this great has been a humbling and enriching experience and I hope that the 45th Company can continue its good work of nurturing Boys.”

Liu Hongyou (second from left), Old Boy from the 2003 batch who is now a teaching staff in Xinmin Secondary School.



Boys sharing on expeditions to Old Boys.



Interacting with parents through games.



Guests from sponsoring Bethesda (Serangoon) Church playing tag archery.

SERVING OTHERS IN A FOREIGN LAND



For their recent cultural exchange and overseas service learning trip, 23rd Singapore Company in Springfield Secondary School made their way to Cambodia with 'The Girls' Brigade Singapore's 44th Company. The group visited multiple sightseeing locations in the city of Phnom Penh but their main work was in the nearby Tang Krang Village.

At the village, the Boys and Girls spent two and a half days giving Tangel Primary School a spanking new look. After spring-cleaning the premises, they proceeded to brighten up the area by painting not just the doors, but also the exterior and interior walls of the school building.



The Boys were also given the opportunity to work with concrete to repave the cement floors within the classrooms. This is so that the local students would have a more conducive location to study in.



Above: Completed newly repaved platform for local teachers to stand on comfortably to teach their students!



TOP: Boys mixing cement to repave uneven floors within the school.

REFLECTIONS

“I noticed that the people in this country seem happy with what they have even though it may be in a poor condition. I think that we should not look down on them but we need to help in order to show the love for Cambodia from the world.”

LCP Roman Jarod

“Tangel Primary School was not that well maintained; hence it took us quite some time and efforts to clean and paint different parts of the school. I learnt to appreciate the foreign construction workers in Singapore as we did some cement work within the school compounds which was tiring and tedious.”

CLT Elvis Tan

“The most important thing I learnt during the trip is to appreciate life. Visiting the Cheung Ek Killing Field and knowing how many innocent lives were taken made me realise that life is more fragile than I thought and thus, we should be more appreciative about living.”

CLT Edmund Chan

BACK TO BASICS

LAI SZE CHUAN (2LT)

Acting Captain, NP Primers, Ngee Ann Polytechnic

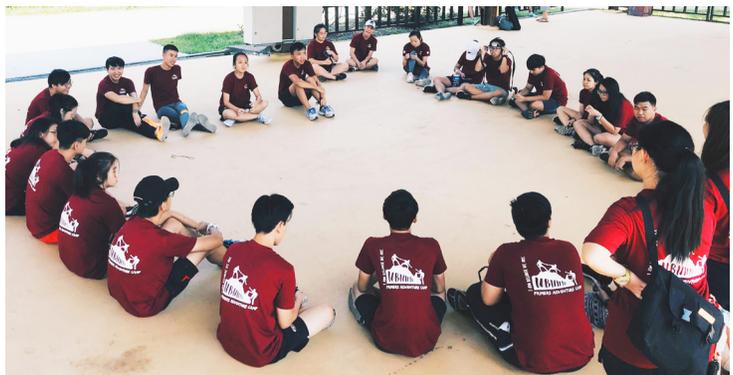


The NP Primers Adventure Camp was held on the rustic island of Pulau Ubin on 29 and 30 September. The rugged adventures organized fostered the BB family spirit as our Primers lived together in a back-to-basics lifestyle. The objectives for this camp were for the Primers to rediscover themselves and to hone their leadership skills.

In order to create a solitary environment without distractions, our Primers embarked on solo walks around the island; with the opportunity to think deeply and reflect on their own lives. Away from the bustling city and technological gadgets, they treasured the moments of silence and peace.



Opportunities were also presented for Primers to lead others through the activities conducted, including a hike around Pulau Ubin. The Primers had to navigate their way through multiple trails and complete activities that required teamwork, perseverance and a spirit of excellence. They also learnt to pitch their own tents and prepare meals within the constraints of the ingredients provided.





At the end of the camp, the Primers penned down their thoughts and memories on a card which they brought home as keepsakes. We hope that we have enriched the lives of these youths beyond what they already know and enable them to develop skills that will shape them to be better people in society.

I've forged friendships and acquired new knowledge in this camp. I thoroughly enjoyed the adventurous activities that were organized. Venturing alone in the dark was thrilling. Yet it allowed time for me to do self-reflection. From the experience, we gained the confidence to overcome difficulties that we might face. I thank my fellow Primers who had made my experience exceptionally wonderful.

CLT Angel Tay Yi En
(Picture below: Standing, Far Left)



I have learnt many things during the Primers Adventure Camp, but the main take-away for me is to not take the things that we have for granted. During the camp, we had to ration our water, especially clean water, as it is limited in Pulau Ubin. This is unlike mainland Singapore with readily accessible potable water with the turning of the tap. Overall, it is a great experience going back to basics through this camp!

CLT Low Zi Ming
(Left picture: Last Row, Right)



BUDGETING FOR THE FUTURE



Thirty Boys from 19th Singapore Company in Yishun Town Secondary School were privileged to be the first group of secondary school students to attend a class at Visa University on 23 November! The Secondary 1 to 3 Boys were invited to attend a Financial Literacy 101 workshop run by an old BB Boy of 19th Coy, Mr David Tay, who is currently Manager of Consulting & Analytics Asia Pacific, Visa Worldwide.

Mr Tay explained the concepts of budgeting, identifying needs versus wants, bad versus good debts, and online identity theft to the Boys.



The Boys were listening intently and dutifully taking notes as Mr Tay conducted the theory session. Those notes came in handy when they started playing games that were designed to test their knowledge on finance.





19th Coy Officers (in BB polo t-shirts) with the Principal of Yishun Town Secondary School Ms Sharon Yeo, Mr David Tay from Visa, and two Teachers-in-Charge, Mr Toh Wei Xiang and Ms Winnie See. (L to R)

“When I first heard about this workshop, I looked forward to attending it as many of our parents use Visa cards. I felt very honoured to have this workshop organised for us, as we are the first to go to Visa University for our age group.

I enjoyed the workshop tremendously as I learnt three important life skills, which are ‘Saving’, ‘Debt’ and ‘Budgeting’. These skills will definitely be very useful throughout my different phases in life.

The knowledge that Mr Tay, one of my Officers and an ex-BB 19th Coy Boy, works as a Manager at Visa also spurred me on to do well in my studies so that I can have a similar career as him.”

LCP Ong Kai Jie Benedict

“Visa’s financial literacy workshop was an engaging experience for me. From realising the significance of a budget to differentiating between wants and needs, I grasped many useful concepts which would last me a lifetime. I learnt how to save up for future endeavours and manage my expenses in a wise manner. Through a series of meaningful activities such as engaging in games and quizzes, I was exposed to the importance of financial planning in a fun and engaging way.

Furthermore, this event also allowed me to put on my thinking cap as we were given simulated financial problems to solve. I am glad that The Boys’ Brigade had organised this interesting programme for me to take part.”

CPL Isaac Ng

HARMONISING FOR EXCELLENCE



In preparation for the annual Pipes and Drums competition, 72 Boys took time out from their school holidays for intensive trainings. These Boys from nine different BB Companies participated in the Pipes and Drums Learning Fiesta from 26 to 28 November held at Changkat Changi Secondary School. All their extra practice culminated in the 15th Pipes & Drums Festival, where they were tested on their musical talent and skills.



Mr Dean Hall and Mr Brett Tidswell from the Australian Pipe Band College flew specially to Singapore from Melbourne and Adelaide, Australia to coach the Boys in preparation for the competition, and were on the adjudication panel as well.





The 15th Pipes and Drums Festival was held at Changkat Changi Secondary School on 30 November to 1 December. A total of 135 soloists and seven bands from 14 BB Companies participated in the competition. Ms Tan Gee Keow, Permanent Secretary for Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth, graced the event as Guest-of-Honour. After enjoying the performances, Ms Tan presented the prizes that were sponsored by Beyond the Octave to winners of the competition. The 60th Singapore Company in Raffles Institution emerged as Champions for both the Boys and Open Categories.



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