

BBNEWS

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OFFICIAL PUBLICATION
OF THE BOYS' BRIGADE
IN SINGAPORE



**ALSO
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www.bb.org.sg

GENERAL INFORMATION



Boy from 14th Coy writing words of well-wishes to reach out to seniors!

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THE BOYS' BRIGADE

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

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Please address all correspondence and article contributions to:

The Editor, BB News
The Boys' Brigade in Singapore
1200 Sembawang Road
Singapore 758526 (Temporary Office)

Tel: 6737 0377 Fax: 6737 1676

Email: bbhq@bb.org.sg

Website: <http://www.bb.org.sg>

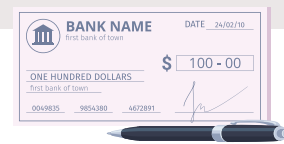


The Boys' Brigade Headquarters is relocating to 10 Kwong Avenue! We aim to realise our BB Vision of Nurturing Young Lives and Promoting Intergenerational Community Life at the new premises with a preliminary Fundraising Goal of **\$1.1 million**. Please support us!

The BB is an Institution of Public Character.
Hence, your donation will grant you **2.5 times** tax deduction.



Via our Giving.SG webpage (Scanning the QR Code above will bring you to the donations webpage or head to <https://tinyurl.com/HelpBuildNewBBHQ>)



Via Cheque: You may also opt to mail a cheque to us addressed to The Boys' Brigade in Singapore

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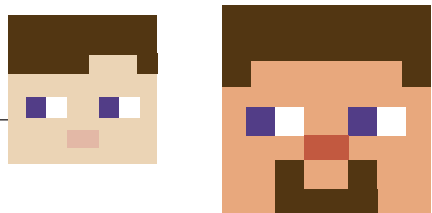
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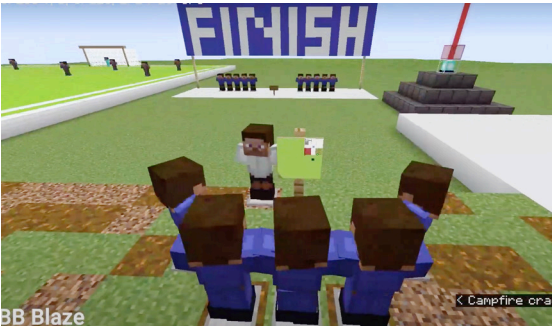
UNDERSTANDING THE INTENT

PATRICK KOH LEY BOON (LTA), VICE-PRESIDENT



I remember vividly when I was a junior officer in the Singapore Armed Forces. I was once deployed into the depth of the enemy territory to destroy the possible enemy reinforcement during an exercise. As the distance was very far away from the headquarters (HQ), I had difficulties in reaching the HQ through the radio set. But I remembered before setting off that the Commanding Officer reminded me the intent of the mission: to deny and destroy enemy reinforcement. So, I carried out the mission with that clear intent in mind.

Today, in the midst of all the new challenges and limitations, do we know what is the intent of the BB ministry? Our movement was started with the objective of cultivating and nurturing our Boys’ lives in the area of Obedience, Reverence, Discipline, Self-respect and all that tends towards a true Christian manliness. With that clear intent in mind, we can continue the mission even in the midst of all the limitations.



With whatever resources available, we can continue our mission to impact lives. To do so, we must make sure we are prepared to do things differently and to do different things. Instead of looking at the needy in the community that we might not be able to reach out to, the 7J Singapore Company Boys and Officers reached out to their graduating Primary 6 cohort in St. Andrews Junior School by sending them encouragement notes and care packages as their way of reaching out to their immediate community.

The usual annual recruitment will also need to be done in other ways. The 13th Singapore Company innovated with a fun and meaningful game using Minecraft for recruitment. Primers and Officers built a BB World within Minecraft to recreate some activities that Boys do to attract new recruits.

Our NCO Council now plays an important role for us to link with the Boys. We will now have to put into play



what they have been learning, allowing them to lead their squads and encourage the Boys under their charge. So it is important for us to spend time with them over the various means and continue to equip them so that they can perform their roles effectively.

Nobody has a perfect solution as to how best to run parades nowadays. The whole idea is to commence multi-prong approaches and see which method is the best and exploit the success while exploring new ideas and ways of doing things.

Hopefully, we will soon be opening up to more events that can accommodate more Boys. But for now, continue to stay focused on the intent and maintain contact to do whatever we can to nurture the Boys and provide them with enriching learning experiences during this season in The Boys’ Brigade.

Here, There, And Everywhere!

REV DANIEL TONG (LTA), BRIGADE CHAPLAIN

Mask up and keep a safe distance. Work from home and keep social gatherings to the minimum. Differentiated restrictions for the vaccinated and unvaccinated. All these COVID-19 safety measures have put a crimp on much of our plans and usual modes of interaction! Thankfully, there are many online platforms available for us to connect on; but how effective are platforms like Zoom and Google Meet, WhatsApp and Telegram in our efforts to mentor and develop character?

Practically, their effectiveness rests on our not taking a N.A.P., and Be TripleA.

N.A.P. refers to our being *Negative*, pessimistic over the effectiveness of serving and ministering over such means; *Absent*, our cameras off and attention disengaged or distracted with another task; and *Pan*, disparaging or criticising other’s efforts made to engage. It takes two hands to clap. Both the giving and receiving party to actively engage with one another.

Be TripleA – Adaptable, Authentic, and Attentive. **Be Adaptable**, accepting the current situation as the new normal and learn to flow with the constant changes and new modalities. **Be Authentic**, honest and open to the current situation and how we feel. **Be Attentive**, duly present and giving your fullest attention and energy to the event and meet.

More important than these practical steps, remember that our Heavenly Father, the Almighty Creator of the Universe, is not bound by time and space – in our current context the safety measures restricting our face-to-face mentoring sessions. Character development wise, He is the one who convicts us of our sins, sets us free from our bondages, renews our thinking and transforms our lives. All this from His seat in heaven, and in the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

Let us, therefore, take heart and press on in our efforts to mentor and cultivate the image of our Lord Jesus within each other, bearing constantly in mind our Lord God’s pronouncement:



“Am I only a God nearby,” declares the LORD, “and not a God far away? Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them?” declares the LORD. “Do not I fill heaven and earth?” declares the LORD. (Jeremiah 23:23-24)



FAREWELL TO GANGES AVENUE!



After 36 memorable years located at 105 Ganges Avenue, representatives of The Boys' Brigade in Singapore comprising Office Bearers and Boys, bided farewell to the premises on 30 Sep 2021!



Bugle call by Jonathan Tan (LTA), 94th Singapore Company (Nan Hua High School)

With safe management measures in place, we broadcasted a simple farewell ceremony on 25 September using Facebook Live to reach out to Boys, Officers and stakeholders.

The 'live' audience joined in on reliving some indelible memories and stories from our time at Ganges Avenue. In order to solicit online engagement, prizes were offered in response to correct answers to quizzes.



BB's National Day Carnival in 1987 with President Wee Kim Wee in attendance!



R: Appreciation Tea for former BB Patron - former President, Mr S R Nathan on 27 Jan 2012
L: Advanced Officer Training Course in the 1990s



BB Share-a-Gift

Boys at the BB Share-a-Gift Warehouse

Part of the programme also included a walkaround session with BB Boys, where Officer Ernest Cho (2LT) reminisced about his time as a BB Boy performing warehouse duties during the BB Share-a-Gift project. He also recollected the enjoyable time spent with his peers during the Pipes & Drums Learning Fiesta training sessions at the headquarters.

In order to enthuse BB members on the array of exciting programmes that would be in store at the new headquarters, a "sneak peek" video was broadcasted. We certainly look forward to creating more wonderful memories for BB in our new premises at 10 Kwong Avenue!



Brigade Secretary Jason Lim (LTA) lowering the BB Flag



Brigade President Mr Poh Leong Berg symbolically locked the gate to the premises.

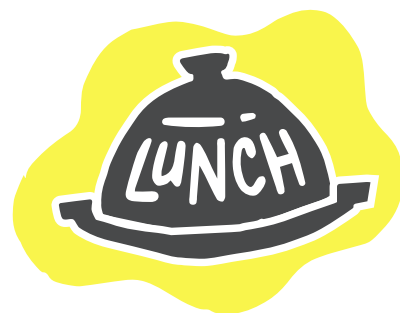


Final BB Vesper at 105 Ganges Avenue played by bagpiper Ernest Cho (2LT), 2nd Singapore Company (Victoria School)



If you missed our Facebook Live event, do scan the QR Code or click <https://tinyurl.com/BBHQatGangesFarewellCeremony> to watch!

Cooking Up Some Fun



Searching for e-parade ideas that excite and sustain Boys' interests can be a challenge. Here's how the Officers and Teachers-in-charge of 5J Singapore Company (Kuo Chuan Presbyterian Primary School) organised one to engage Boys as well as their parents!

The Company arranged a home cooking session for the Boys to prepare a meal with their parents' supervision on 28 August. The pre-packed ingredients were delivered to the school by the vendor and the Boys collected them during recess in school.

During the two cooking sessions hosted by the vendor, the 52 Boys honed their listening skills by following detailed instructions via both a recipe and through video conferencing. Okonomiyaki and chocolate banana trifle were on the menu that morning! Even the school's Principal and Vice-Principal joined in on the fun!



A couple of Boys with their creations!



"It was an incredible experience! My favourite part was the cooking. And when I ate what I had made, it felt like I was eating a rainbow!"
- Junior Cirrus Zoisl
(pictured above)



"The main struggle with having e-parades is sustaining the attention of Boys. As the sessions were conducted over Zoom, we had constant 'check-ins' to make sure that the Boys were keeping up with each step of food preparation and cooking. We also spotlighted some of the Boys' videos so that other Boys' could see that they were not struggling alone. If the parades or lessons are not interesting enough, especially during 'screen-time', children will naturally tune out. Hence, conventional methods of running the BB programme need to be modified during the pandemic if we are to ensure that the Boys still receive a holistic programme which helps them develop skills and in maturity." – Captain Gerard Su (LTA)

"I really enjoyed the cooking session. During the process, I accidentally broke an egg. Luckily, my mother had an extra egg for me!" – Junior Nathanael Lim

REACHING OUT VIRTUALLY

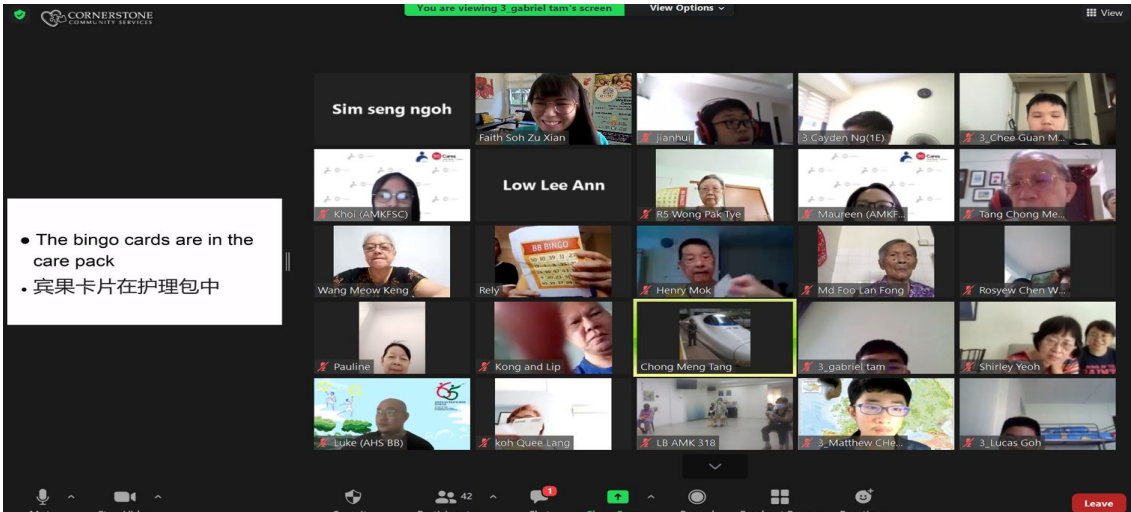
EUGENE HO (LTA), CAPTAIN
14th Singapore Company, Anglican High School



In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, one main challenge we had planning for this year’s BB CARES project was to effectively reach out and engage our intended beneficiaries while following safe management measures. Squad 3 decided to reach out to seniors whom they felt would feel lonely due to the decrease in visitors, or being unable to meet with their friends over a meal.

After identifying the goal of combating social isolation amongst seniors, we partnered with SG Cares Volunteer Centre at Ang Mo Kio (AMKFSC Community Services) who helped us to reach out to the seniors from Lions Befrienders Senior Activity Centre at Ang Mo Kio 318 as well as Cornerstone Community Services at Ang Mo Kio 591A.

The Boys organised an online programme to engage the seniors from both centres and they brought them on virtual excursions to various attractions in Singapore such as the Esplanade, the Singapore Flyer, Singapore Science Centre and Sentosa while sharing various fun facts and trivia about these places. The Boys also organised an interactive bingo game, which the seniors thoroughly enjoyed. As some of the seniors were only able to converse in Mandarin, the Boys took up the challenge of conducting the online programme bilingually (in both English and Mandarin), demonstrating their bicultural roots.



Additionally, the Boys also designed care packs consisting snacks and cards sponsored by Hey, You Got Mail!. The cards contained words of well-wishes from the Boys to the seniors and aims to simply brighten up their day.



Staff from the Senior Activity Centres and the SG Cares Volunteer Centre were pleased that the Boys went out of their comfort zone to engage the seniors while waiting for the programme to start. This helped to create a comfortable environment where the seniors and the Boys were able to interact freely without barriers.

What the esplanade is known for

- Singapore's national performing arts centre.
- One of the busiest arts centres in the world.

Opened in 2002

Presented more than 41,000 performances and activities

Drew an audience of 28 million patrons and 98 million visitors

You are viewing 3_gabriel tam's screen

View Options

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Leave

“I think the events went pretty smoothly. I was part of the team leading the bingo activity and was also an emcee for the event. The seniors were more sociable than I expected, and they enjoyed the activities very much. Everyone was very engaged and diligent in their own tasks and duties. The senior members of the squad also did their best to make sure everyone knew what to do for the online programme to run smoothly.”

PTE Ho Le Hao

“I believe the initial planning was very unique and creative with the idea of a virtual tour. Throughout the process of making this idea a reality, everyone really worked well together to make it happen and we had fun! Even though there were some setbacks, I think we did well overall and the final outcome was rewarding as it entertained the seniors and thus helped the community become more positive, especially during these troubling times.”

SGT Gabriel Tam

A Family Tradition

Some 30 years ago in 1991, a father followed his brother’s footsteps for a family tradition that was continued by his son this year as well. We caught up with SSG Thaddaeus Tham of the 7th Singapore Company (St. Andrew’s Secondary School) and Rev William Tham, Chaplain of 11th Singapore Company (Christ Church Secondary School) who are both recipients of the Founder’s Award, the highest award attainable in the Seniors Programme.

Thaddaeus’ Story



SSG Thaddaeus Tham (pictured leftmost on bottom row)

Since primary school, I was inspired by my father’s stories about The Boys’ Brigade, ranging from the many badges that he had received to the lifelong friends that he had made.

Like him, since joining the BB, I have also acquired invaluable skills such as leadership, teamwork and communications through the badge work programme. I was also placed in positions of responsibility where I was empowered by my Officers to lead my peers and juniors.

My favourite badgework is the Adventure lessons. The camping skills that I have learnt such as tent pitching and mess tin cooking broadened my limited knowledge on outdoor survival. I love the adventure camps that were organised as it allowed me to develop camaraderie with my cohort. Being able to hike overnight with them was always thrilling. The activities planned were a blast; even burnt luncheon meat tasted great! We would have a fun time bonding, talking and laughing over our eventful day. These are the moments when I feel that BB is more a community than merely a CCA.

I felt accomplished when I achieved the Founder’s Award, as it was my goal ever since I joined BB in Secondary 1. I have always wanted to follow in my father’s footsteps and I made it!



SSG Thaddaeus (pictured left)



William’s Story:



William pictured right

What advice/support did you provide your son with through his BB journey and eventually his Founder’s Man award?

There were times when he was about to give up, saying it was challenging and that he might not be able to complete the badge work requirements in time. My advice to him was to keep trying as it was not about the Award, but rather the reward from skills acquisition, building resilience and character development. My way of supporting him was to watch over his journey, alert him to the pitfalls and guide him on what it takes to build character before God and man. And I also did share with him about my experiences and personal development leading to the attainment of the Founder’s Award.

How do you feel about your son receiving the Founder’s Man award?

It definitely brought back memories of when I received my Founder’s Award. I feel proud of his journey; that he had made it through and had not given up. I hope that this will be an indelible memory that will be passed down our family line and that it would inspire future generations of the Tham family to join BB. My brother was also a Founder’s Man and he was actually the one who had inspired me to be a BB member. I am thankful to God for all in my BB Company who were part of my memorable BB journey.



William pictured standing and facing the camera

What are the differences in terms of your own journey as a Founder’s Man as compared to your son’s?

To start with, during my BB days, badges were not easy to achieve due to the shortage of resource in planning for and organising badge work activities. Applying for the Founder’s Badge was not automatic progression, but only open to the select few who had completed the stringent requirements within the Company. I remembered that the interview process was rigorous. A panel of interviewers in BBHQ from different walks of life asked tough questions which tested my capability, capacity and commitment towards the Brigade. I believe that Thaddaeus’ journey was different, with no brigade-level physical interviews for him to undergo. Instead, he had to submit his responses with regards to his BB journey for the Founder’s Award application. He is also more fortunate in that the Brigade has grown in terms of the volunteers and resources available to nurture Boys. Regardless of the different approaches, I appreciate what God and His people have done to build up generations of Founder’s Men and also in the building of the Brigade at large.

GARNERING GOLD

The Gold Award is the highest attainable award in the Juniors Programme. We caught up with some awardees to find out what they think of receiving the award, their favourite moments of BB life, and more!



33J Singapore Company, Fairfield Methodist School (Primary)

"I was elated to receive the Gold Award. I am glad that I had completed many of the badge work requirements prior to the curtailing of activities due to the pandemic. I had taken part in the Character Quest competition where I learnt problem solving and leadership skills. I enjoyed community service work through the BB Share-a-Gift project as I was able to bring the joy of Christmas to many families in need. My favourite memory of BB was the overnight camp in Primary 4. It was great fun learning how to take care of myself independently, away from home in a safe environment. I also appreciated the different modules where I picked up archery and orienteering skills. I look forward to joining the BB in my secondary school, as I have learnt so many values such as obedience, reverence, discipline and self-respect."

- Junior Nathan Isaiah Tang Bo En

41J Singapore Company, Tao Nan School

"My Officers and Teachers have guided me and others for many years and the love displayed at every parade demonstrated the care and efforts that they put in to help us. I would never be who I am today without them. My favourite memories were times spent during camps, community service and brigade competitions, as I was able to bond with my Company mates and we became like a family. I would join the BB in my secondary school as the activities are fun and enriching. We also learnt important values such as perseverance, integrity, determination, sincerity, responsibility and teamwork which can be applied in our daily lives."

- Junior Kayden Lee



75J Singapore Company, Punggol Primary School

"My favourite memory in the BB was visiting a nursing home. My grandparents are in Malaysia and I hardly have the chance to interact with them. So I truly enjoyed going to the nursing home to take care of the elderly, as it gave me a chance to interact with them while showing care and concern to those who may feel lonely. I think that it is meaningful to look after the elderly in society. Through the BB, I have learnt to apply my school's core values of Self-discipline, Teamwork, Affection and Responsibility in my daily life."

- Junior Ethan Yap



"I felt a sense of achievement after being presented with the Gold Award! I have enjoyed the varied activities organized by the BB such as hiking in the Dairy Farm Nature Park, picking up litter in the community and visiting elderly homes. Character study lessons were helpful in developing my values system. I have also learnt how to march and understand basic drill commands that would be helpful for my future National Service. I wish to continue in the Seniors Programme in my secondary school."

- Junior Andronycus Lye (pictured 1st row, 3rd from right)

90J Singapore Company, Princess Elizabeth Primary School

"I always believe in trying my best in everything I do, and this applies to my BB parades as well. I think that this mindset has helped me to achieve the Gold Award. I have learnt a lot of life skills in the BB and these lessons will help me even after graduation. My favourite activity is outdoor cooking for teamwork and bonding with my peers. The BB has also taught me to be empathetic and caring to others. I remembered visiting St Luke's Hospital and performing for the elderly there. Seeing the smiles upon their faces, I was reminded that all the hard work preparing for it was worth it. I have learnt to be a humble and respectful person as well. These traits have helped me to become a better person."



- Junior Aloysius Bay (middle, enjoying a field cooking session in 2019)

GETTING MENTALLY LIT

A study by the Institute of Mental Health released on 24 August 2021 revealed that 13% of the general population reported experiencing depression or anxiety symptoms between May 2020 and June 2021. In addition, more than half of young people polled by the National Youth Council shared that mental well-being was a challenge for them in the second half of 2020.

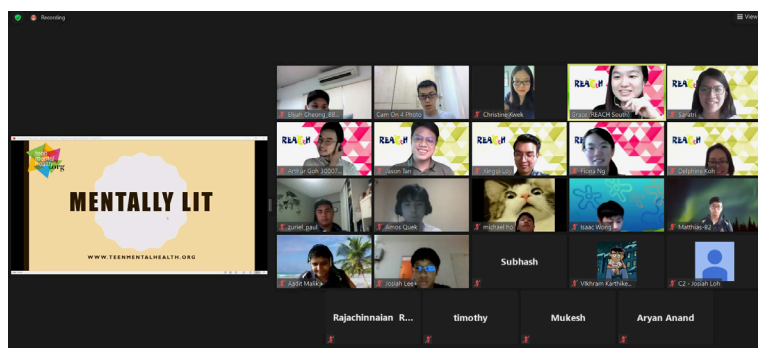
With that in mind, BB had partnered with Temasek Foundation and the Institute of Mental Health's Response, Early Intervention and Assessment in Community Mental Health (REACH) to roll out a new programme to enhance Mental Wellness for our Boys. It is on route to becoming a brigade-wide programme for all BB Companies in secondary schools by 2022.



The pilot programme 'Mentally Lit' had been rolled out to the 7th and 99th Singapore Companies in St. Andrew's Secondary School and Canberra Secondary School respectively. The workshops aim to prepare Boys with suitable skill sets as peer support leaders and mental health wellness advocates in school and at home.

"From this Mentally Lit programme, I was able to expand my knowledge on the different types of mental illnesses and also learnt how to differentiate a mental illness from a feeling. It helped me understand what people are going through and to avoid stereotyping. I hope to apply the concepts I learnt to help those around me to get the necessary help for recovery."

- SGT Vikhram Karthikeyan,
7th Singapore Company, St.
Andrew's Secondary School



"As more cases of mental illnesses emerge especially in the youth community, it made me curious to find out more and how I can help. Through the sessions, I learnt that mental health problems should be resolved instead of being put aside as a minor issue. We dispelled the myths and social stigma surrounding mental illnesses. So the next time I hear people criticising mental illness patients, I would step up and share that there is nothing wrong with having the illness and that we need to show more support. I hope that more people will benefit from this programme in future."

SGT Zuriel Paul Thanapal, 7th Singapore
Company, St Andrew's Secondary School



PIPING ON

WO CHOO IAN RAY, BAND MAJOR

121 Singapore Company, Anglo-Chinese School (Independent)

Founded in 1954, the 121 Singapore Company's Bagpipe Band is proud of its long musical tradition. Consisting of pipers and drummers, the Band plays the Great Highland Bagpipes alongside the Snare, Tenor and Bass Drums.



*The Band performing on National Day in 1992 (above)
[Copyright belongs to ACS (Independent)]*

The 121 Bagpipe Band provides its members with invaluable experiences and exposure. It brings members from various levels together, to develop musical skills as well as to foster relationships and camaraderie among members. Its success can be attributed to the dedication and commitment of the Band Administration and its team of Primers, Officers, and alumni, in nurturing, guiding and grooming the junior members.

Personally, I have grown with the Band. Besides learning the bagpipes for the first time, I also learnt a lot through the amazing band culture. For instance, I learnt what it means to be part of a community that supports and cares for one another. Since day one, I was surrounded by kind-hearted people, who provided me with a sense of belonging and acceptance into the band. I remember that when I was in Year 1, I could not decide whether to join the BB with Bagpipe Band or my original CCA. So I joined both initially. The deciding moment came during our Band Camp later that year. We all stayed up late playing games, regaling each other with fun stories, and playing frisbee in the dark. It was experiences like these and many others that made me decide to stay in the Bagpipe Band, and I have no regrets making that commitment.

Annually, the Band performs for a wide variety of major school events including BB Day, Founder's Day, and National Day. We have also performed at public events, including the Opening Ceremony of the 2017 ASEAN School Games and the 2018 Orchard Road Christmas light-up!



*The Band at the school's 79th Founder's Day on 1 March
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*Performing at the 15th Pipes & Drums Festival in 2018!
They won 2nd Place in both the BB and Open Category for
the Band Competition.*

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