

BB NEWS

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OFFICIAL PUBLICATION
OF THE BOYS' BRIGADE
IN SINGAPORE



**ALSO
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GENERAL INFORMATION



ITE College Central Primers!

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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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BB VISION OF NURTURING YOUNG LIVES!



BB VISION OF INTERGENERATIONAL COMMUNITY LIFE



The Boys' Brigade Headquarters is relocating to 10 Kwong Avenue soon! 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 webpage <https://s.giving.sg/yN37vPY>)



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

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SEIZE THE OPPORTUNITY!

POH LEONG BERG (LTA), BRIGADE PRESIDENT

The COVID-19 pandemic has upset nearly every area of our lives, from the personal (how we live and relate to one another) to the school (how classes and CCAs are conducted, including how the Boys' Brigade (BB) parades and programmes are organized), and to the workplace (how institutions are organized and how they interact with their customers).

This pandemic is a crisis for the world. The word "crisis" in Chinese comprises two characters 危机 (Wei Ji) - one representing danger, the other opportunity. A crisis presents us a choice. While the crisis brings danger to our lives, it also creates new opportunities for growth, relationships, and engagement. Crises allow us to find strengths and abilities that are hidden inside us because they challenge us in ways that we did not experience in normal circumstances.

I have had many opportunities in my life, especially in my BB journey over the past 32 years, which have allowed me to grow as a person, experience new and diverse things, build new relationships, and be involved in many ways of contributing to society. These opportunities have usually started with seizing opportunities when they are offered to me and simply saying 'yes'.

To seize opportunities, we need to be intentional and act when an opportunity presents itself in our BB journey. To make the most of every opportunity, we need to be intentional about our time, decisions, choices, and actions. When we make the most of every opportunity, we will see things differently and it will change our perspective; we will be deliberate about our actions, mindful of our character and motivated in all that we do.

To seize the opportunity, we can set goals to challenge ourselves so that we can make the most of our time in the BB. Goals require commitment and discipline from us, thus giving us renewed purpose for our BB journey. Perhaps we want to achieve the highest award in the BB, the Gold Award or the Founder's Award or The President's Award, or the Best Boy award, or be the best Officer that transforms the Boys' lives. Let us remember the big picture, why we joined the BB or why we serve in the BB. When we focus on this greater vision we have for ourselves, we will think about where we want to be and what we should be doing.



To seize the opportunity, we must have the courage to try and the curiosity to learn new things; to get comfortable being uncomfortable. Let us not allow fear - the fear of failure or the fear of the unknown - to keep us from seizing these opportunities. Fear can paralyze us and keep us from living our best. We need to see fear as a way of challenging us to become a better us. We have to let go of the way things used to be done and rethink our approaches and programmes for our parades. If we want to make the most out of every opportunity that comes our way, we need to stop looking in the rear-view mirror of life and instead look ahead and move forward.

The BB can no longer operate in the tried and tested ways in the new normal. What made us successful in the past may no longer be possible during and after the crisis. We need to realize that innovation is our only option. We need to do things differently and do different things. We need to take advantage of the situation as the opportunity presents itself, to innovate and adapt our core badgework and programme. We need to identify and focus on new opportunity areas such as the use of technology, to train and mentor Boys and connect with Officers. We need to re-evaluate and ensure resources are reallocated suitably as well as build a new foundation for post-crisis growth so that we remain relevant.

Eleanor Roosevelt said that

“The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.”

Let us seize the opportunity to dream, and to be the best we can be as we go through our BB journey.

One Body, Belonging To Each Other

REV DANIEL TONG (LTA), BRIGADE CHAPLAIN

Romans 12:5-6 states that, "We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other. In His grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well." (NLT).

Joining The Boys' Brigade, one does not simply join other Boys in a CCA in the same school. Rather, upon putting on the uniform, one is immediately inducted into a band of brothers (with some sisters), both younger and older (our Brigade having members from kindergarten to retirees), from around our island state. With Companies of all sizes, our Brigade with around 6,900 Officers and Boys in 114 Companies – not to mention our alumni dating back to the 1930s – is indeed one body with many parts, all belonging together.

Each part has, through the decades, contributed to the growth of the Brigade. As a result, we have maintained our traditional strengths of drill, badge work, and adventure training; growing our activities to encompass canoeing, archery, bagpiping, overseas engagements, and much, much more. Many faithful Boys have also contributed to help ensure that our Brigade remains current, through the development of new curriculum and online engagement platforms, etc., constantly refreshing our focus to better mentor our members in "the promotion of habits of Obedience, Reverence, Discipline, Self-respect and all that tends towards a true Christian manliness."

We believe every member of the Brigade to be of value and able to contribute meaningfully to their respective Companies and schools, as well as the Brigade and family, not to mention our nation. We believe YOU have something to offer, and do encourage you as part of the Brigade to step out of yourself a little and engage in the adventure, to serve and lead as given the opportunity. To discover, put into good use, and develop the ability and gifts we know our Lord God has blessed you with. For as S.D. Gordon in The Bent Knee wrote,

"We have nothing to do with how much ability we've got, or how little, but with what we do with what we have. The man with great talent is apt to be puffed up, and the man with little (talent) to belittle the little. Poor fools! God gives it, much or little. Our part is to be faithful, doing the level best with every bit and scrap. And we will be if Jesus' spirit controls."

Welcome to our little band of brothers, there is much our Lord and the Brigade has in store for you. We look forward to exciting times ahead together, many parts with different gifts, but all belonging together, Sure and Stedfast!



Commemorating BB in Singapore



To celebrate the founding of The Boys' Brigade in Singapore, all BB members don their full uniforms in school on 12 January. Usually, the BB Day Message by the Honorary President, Lieutenant General (Ret) Winston Choo would be read out during school assembly.

This year, the BB Day Message video was broadcasted in schools!



SCL Brendan Soh, President's Award Recipient 2020, 121 Singapore Company, Anglo-Chinese School (Independent) read the BB Day Message!



Here's how some Companies commemorated BB Day in their respective schools!



Scan the QR Code to watch this year's special BB Day message!



SCAN ME

CONCLUDING BB'S 90TH ANNIVERSARY!

90th Anniversary Virtual Relay

Marathon relays have always been one of the main highlights of The Boys' Brigade quinquennial celebrations. You might have seen photos of the 75th Anniversary of BB's Movement with a Marathon Torch Relay on 20 September 1958, or the BB Singapore Golden Jubilee Run in 1980, or the Diamond Jubilee Celebration Run in 1990 and you may even have participated in the BB Jubilee Relay (Bike) in 2005.

Despite the COVID-19 situation, we hope that our BB Boys will uphold this spirit of perseverance that is passed down through the generations. Hence, we organized a 90th Anniversary Virtual Relay between 16 November and 13 December 2020!

The objectives of this event are:

- 01** To celebrate our 90th Anniversary through communications and engagement with our stakeholders.
- 02** To encourage our BB members to be physically active and stay healthy during this pandemic period.
- 03** To promote intra- and inter-Company bonding.

The event had three main components:

1. Brigade Executive Virtual Relay



Last November, 14 Brigade Executive (BE) members took the lead in groups of four to five to complete a Virtual Relay that began from our existing HQ to the new HQ premises with a total distance of 11km. Scan the QR code on the right to view the full BE Virtual Relay Video!



SCAN ME



2. BB Companies' Virtual Relay

A relay is never complete without torch passing! BB Companies were encouraged to film a 4-second video of their BB Boys virtually passing the 90th Anniversary Torch from one Company to the next. A total of 52 Boys represented their Companies as torch bearers.

Scan the QR Code to take a look at the awe-inspiring BB Companies' Virtual Relay Video! The video also serves as an encouragement to remind Brigade members about the blessings upon the BB through the past 90 years.



01 Company Category
Completion of 19.30km(JP coys only) /90km/900km

02 Individual Category
Longest weekly activity time for Boys/Officers/Old Boys

03 Novelty Category
Exercise photo on social media (Most Likes/Most Interesting)

16 NOV-13 DEC

Many thanks to the following Companies that participated!

1J, 2nd, 4th, 5J, 7J, 8J, 12BR, 12BRJ, 12I, 12J, 13th, 14th, 19th, 20J, 21J, 21st, 23rd, 24J, 27th, 28J, 28th, 31st, 34th, 35J, 36th, 37th, 39th, 42J, 43rd, 44th, 45th, 47th, 48th, 49th, 50th, 53rd, 55J, 56J, 57J, 59J, 60th, 61st, 62nd, 64th, 74th, 75J, 84th, 86th, 90J, 91st, 93rd and ACJC Primers Singapore Companies.



90th Anniversary Commemorative Pins were awarded in appreciation of these BB Companies' contributions.

3. Fun Competitions

We had the most engagement from the Fun Competitions as it involved the participation of BB Boys, Primers, Officers, Old Boys and Parents.

a. Company Category

Companies encouraged their Boys and stakeholders, including parents, old Boys and teachers to exercise by running, walking or cycling a targeted combined distance of 19.30km, 90km or 900km. These meaningful targets signified the founding year of The Boys' Brigade in Singapore (in 1930) and our 90th Anniversary. A total of 189 participants from 12 Companies had completed an aggregate of 11,019km for this category.



90TH ANNIVERSARY VIRTUAL RELAY
(COMPANY CATEGORY)

7J SINGAPORE COMPANY
(80.93KM)

19.30km

90TH ANNIVERSARY VIRTUAL RELAY
(COMPANY CATEGORY)

12I SINGAPORE COMPANY
(575.64KM)

31ST SINGAPORE COMPANY
(91.1KM)

37TH SINGAPORE COMPANY
(325.47KM)

90km

90TH ANNIVERSARY VIRTUAL RELAY
(COMPANY CATEGORY)

12BR SINGAPORE COMPANY
(1506.21KM)

12BRJ SINGAPORE COMPANY
(933.49KM)

23RD SINGAPORE COMPANY
(914.47KM)

900km

90TH ANNIVERSARY VIRTUAL RELAY
(COMPANY CATEGORY)

34TH SINGAPORE COMPANY
(2021KM)

44TH SINGAPORE COMPANY
(971.4KM)

49TH SINGAPORE COMPANY
(955.96KM)

900km

90TH ANNIVERSARY VIRTUAL RELAY
(COMPANY CATEGORY)

50TH SINGAPORE COMPANY
(1733.132KM)

93RD SINGAPORE COMPANY
(910.73KM)

900km

b. Individual Category

The Individual Category encouraged Boys, Primers, Officers and Old Boys to join The Boys' Brigade in Singapore Strava Club to strive for the longest weekly activity time (running and cycling). More than 100 BB members and stakeholders joined our Strava Club during the competition period!

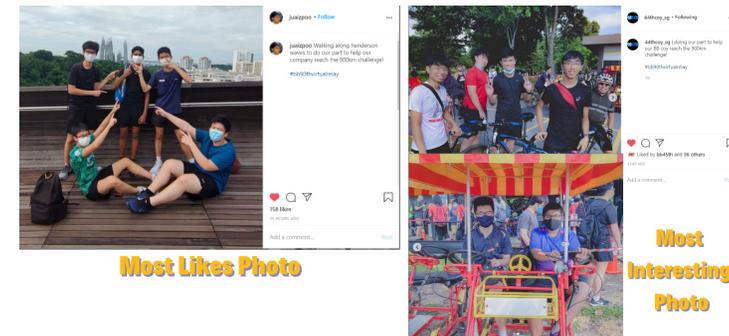


Weekly winners from each Category (Boy/Primer, Officer, Old Boy) received 90th Anniversary-related prizes, such as 90th Anniversary Stickers, 90th Anniversary Caps, 90th Anniversary Commemorative Pins and other sponsored sports items from Innotrek Pte Ltd.



c. Novelty Category

The Novelty Category invited Boys, Primers, Officers and Old Boys to post exercise photos on Facebook and/or Instagram with the 90th Anniversary hashtag (#BB90thVirtualRelay). The Weekly Most Likes and Most Interesting Photos Winners were awarded with GrabFood vouchers. Pictured on the right are some winning posts from the Novelty Category.



90th Anniversary Limited Edition Watch

The Boys' Brigade in Singapore collaborated with BOLDR Supply Co. to produce 90 timepieces of a special limited edition Venture Watch to commemorate the BB's 90th Anniversary. This timepiece is an inspiring reminder of the BB's endeavour to produce outstanding leaders to serve the community through the years.



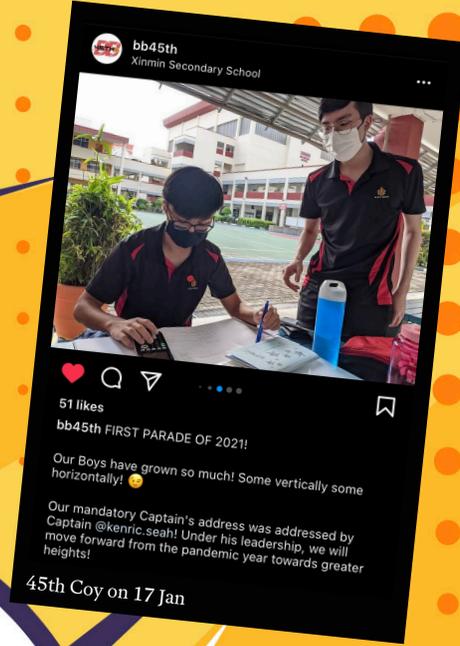
The founder of BOLDR, Leon Leong, is a BB alumnus. Grateful to the Brigade for its impact on his life, Leon initiated the collaboration on the commemorative timepiece with a portion of the sales being donated to the Brigade. We are heartened to see the success of our Old Boys as well as their love for the Brigade which never ceases with passing time. We are also grateful to all who have supported this collaboration by purchasing the watches.



SCAN ME



Company Snapshots



EARLY BEGINNINGS

WOON HIN SWEE (LTA), CHAPLAIN

ITE College Central Primers Company



The idea of using the BB Primers Programme activities to engage youths in FGA Singapore was mooted in the early part of 2020. Amidst the COVID-19 situation in Singapore, the FGA Primers was successfully launched in July 2020. Mr Simon Lee then initiated the process to start another Primers Programme Company in ITE College Central. With the support of Mr Chong Leong Fatt, Deputy Principal and the school staff, a new Primers Company was officially formed in September 2020. They also gave the support to have students from ITE College East and ITE College West to join the Company as well.

As the Company was formed during Phase Two after the Circuit Breaker in Singapore, recruitment of Primers became a big concern. But through dedication and hard work of Teachers Mr Jonathan Toh, Mr Lee Che Chen and Mr Robson Koh, students under their care were invited to join the CCA in November and December 2020.

By the end of December 2020, more than 30 students had joined the Company. Being a newly formed Company, the newly formed Executive Committee (Exco) needed guidance from more experienced BB Boys with Exco experience. Help was also solicited from the BB cluster groups to encourage Boys from various Companies who had the capacity to assist.

Under the leadership of the Officers, Teachers and Volunteers, the Exco is functioning well and the Company is growing healthily in numbers. Students get to grow in leadership and character while forging healthy friendships. They worked together with their peers, helping the less fortunate and mentoring others and so on, paving the way to achieving the BB Object in the long run, beyond the students' schooling years.



Some programme highlights for these Primers were cycling activities at Punggol and East Coast Parks, December Day Camp and learning of new musical instruments (bagpipes & drums). More activities are lined up for 2021, including kayaking and canoeing, expeditions, camps and other outdoor activities.



The Company has weekly book presentations where Primers share their thoughts and takeaways after reading a leadership book!



Designing their very own ITE College Central Primers Company tote bags!

We believe that we were well guided in forming the ITE College Central Primers at this opportune time, even amidst COVID-19, despite past unsuccessful attempts in doing so. Now that the door is open, we hope that those who read this and have the burden and capacity for this important youth work, to come forward to join us. It is our hope that other doors will be opened and Primers Programme Companies in ITE College East and West, Temasek and Republic Polytechnic will be a reality in the near future!



"My favourite activity since joining ITE College Central Primers as an Exco Member has been the 3-day camp we organised last December. There were a lot of opportunities to plan activities and I got to work together with my fellow members. It was a good opportunity for me because I usually go with the flow but this experience pushed me to plan ahead and I was able to learn from other Primers. For example, the BB Boys turned Primers taught us how to run a Company since we're new and they also taught us tactics on how to bond groups together."
- CLT Nur Rihhadatul 'Aisy bte Romi (pictured second from right)

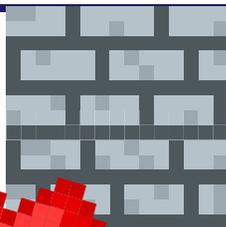
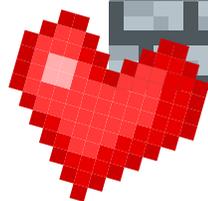
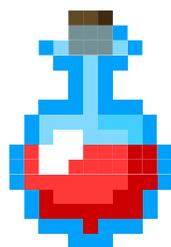


A DIFFERENT APPROACH

13TH SINGAPORE COMPANY, SEMBAWANG SECONDARY SCHOOL

Realising the need for a novel idea to engage the Company's Boys in a fun but meaningful way, Chaplain Mr Reuben Yong thought of using Minecraft for recruitment and for online lessons. After the Officers and Teacher-in-charge purchased a Minecraft server and accounts, Primers and Officers began building the foundation for BB World. They then started selecting Boys with good attendance and behaviour to unleash their creativity in building BB-related activities within Minecraft World. Rules were also implemented to prevent the Boys from spending too much time online.

Acting Captain Thomas Cher Jun Xian (2LT) added, "We received positive feedback as BB was the only CCA to put in such effort for recruitment!"



"This Minecraft Building activity was a very interesting experience for me as I was able to use my childhood game to showcase the different aspects of BB. While working on this project, my platoon mates and I had so much fun as we coordinated the different structures in the Minecraft World. I feel that this Minecraft World will be able to attract many new students to find out more about BB without having to listen to a talk or by reading a brochure. Instead, they watched an interesting and eye-catching video to know what BB has to offer. I enjoyed this experience and would be happy to do this better next year!"

- LCP Darien Tong

"Building the Minecraft World for our recruitment was very engaging and helped me to express my creativity through a game that I enjoy very much. I am also delighted that we were able to help with each other's design and bond with each other through this online platform. We had so much fun playing the minigames that we created for the recruitment of Secondary 1 Boys. They were also amazed by the structures in our server which made them interested in joining The Boys' Brigade."

- CPL Niranjan Murali



Scan the QR code to view the Minecraft World created by 13th Coy!

62ND SINGAPORE COMPANY, ORCHID PARK SECONDARY SCHOOL

Wanting to expose the Boys to a unique experience beyond the usual BB activities, the Company turned to a creative way for the Boys to spend the Lunar New Year celebrations.

The Company organised a Chinese calligraphy session for 31 Boys and new recruits on 6 February 2021.



"Before the session began, I thought Chinese calligraphy was going to be pretty boring. However, as the session went on, I felt more interested to try writing the Chinese characters. I soon found myself engrossed in the lesson as I continued to practise. I saw many of my peers and the new batch of Secondary Ones having fun writing and enjoying the lesson. I also appreciated the calligraphy teacher's patience as he demonstrated the correct strokes to us. Overall, I found the session a fruitful experience as we brought home the auspicious letters that we have written for keepsake and to celebrate the Lunar New Year. I would recommend such lessons in future for my juniors!"

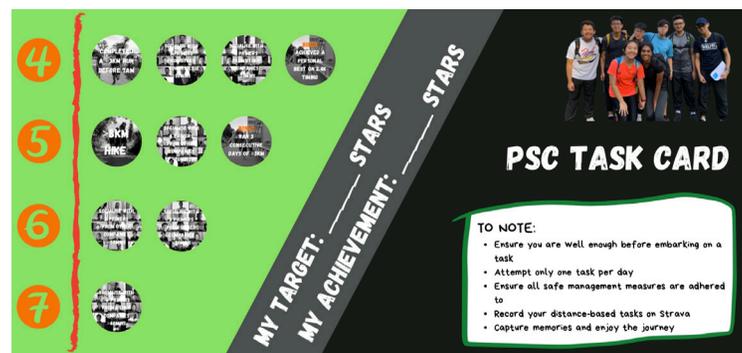
- SSG Kale Lim Wei (pictured above, leftmost)



Aiming for the Stars

With overseas travel currently ruled out, the annual trip to Gopeng, Perak in Malaysia where Primers could experience a myriad of thrilling adventure activities to forge camaraderie and teamwork amongst members from different Companies had to be cancelled.

To combat the #FOMO, Primers actively participated in challenges to complete the Primers Star Challenge over the course of three months commencing last October! From physical challenging activities to activities for bonding and forging friendships, the completion of each task earned the Primers between 1 to 7 Stars to accumulate towards their final score.



Example of a Task Card for Primers to collect Stars!



Visiting Pulau Ubin for two Stars!
(Photo by SCL Samuel Song, 48th Coy)

Socialising with fellow Primers from other Companies



“My takeaway was to not be afraid to step out of my comfort zone, especially during this COVID-19 period. I had become very comfortable with staying at home all day. But because of this challenge, I have connected with many new friends from other BB Companies, and gotten back into running. I also tried new sports such as volleyball and became much more active than before.” - Photo (above) by SCL Andrew Leng, 49th Coy



Photo by SCL Ryan Chin, 121 Coy



Photo by SCL Jairus Chua, 27th Coy

Spending Time with Family



SCL Thivishanan s/o Durairasan (leftmost), 60th Coy



SCL Daniel Chee from 60th Coy on a scenic walk with his father!



Photo courtesy of SCL Ryan Tan, 94th Coy (middle)

Keeping Fit



Photo by SCL Kylie Young, 60th Coy (middle)



Photo by SCL Zachary Tan, 12BR Coy (left)

“Through the Primers Star Challenge journey, I realised the discipline required to set a timeplan to complete a task a day and to follow through with the plan!”
- SCL Hareesh S from 50th Coy (second from right)



Baking and Cooking



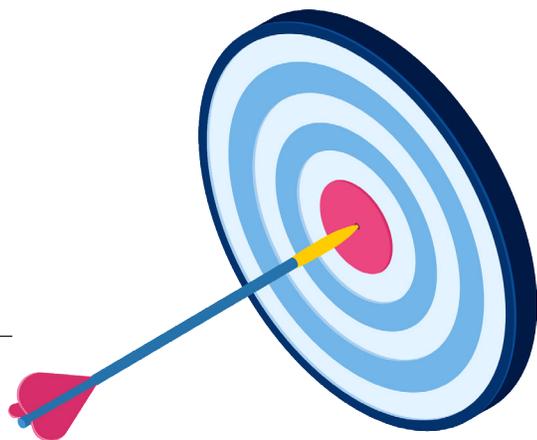
SCL Evan Chong from 12BR Coy baking for his family and friends



Photo by SCL Ryan Tan, 94th Coy

“I learnt not to give up and pushed myself to run/hike to complete the tasks.” - SCL Isaac Tan from 33rd Coy (second from right)

SHOOTING FOR SUCCESS



Earlier in February, current Boys and new recruits had the chance to experience archery at BBHQ as part of the annual Adventure Open House!



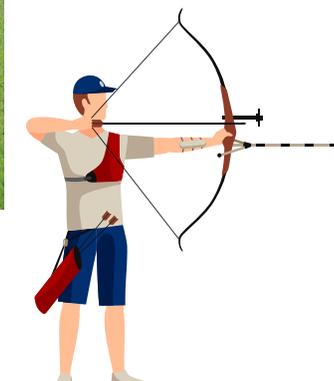
“Back in primary school, I had an experience with archery using softer arrows; unlike today where we were able to use actual archery arrows. It was really fun and slightly painful on the fingers. I would like to try archery in future and attempt to shoot targets that are further away to challenge myself.”

- PTE Cruz Mark Denzel Casin, 34th Singapore Company, Marsiling Secondary School (pictured in white tee)



“I enjoyed this archery experience! I realised that it is different from watching people shoot arrows on TV. The bow is much heavier than I thought, as it seems lightweight on TV, but I realised that some weight is good in order to shoot better.”

- JNR Chang Wei-En, 12BR(7) Singapore Company, Anglo-Chinese School (Primary) (pictured second Boy from left)



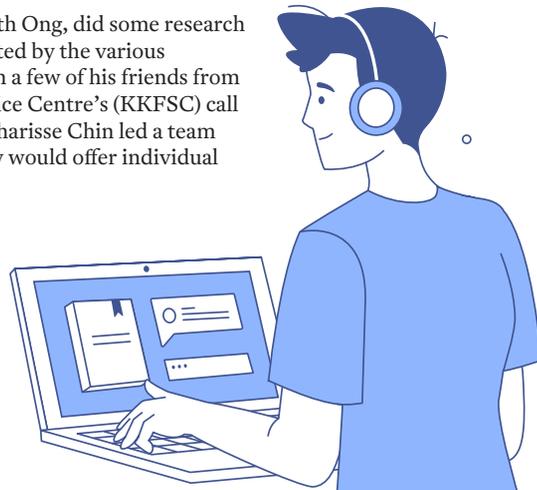
SERVING OTHERS DURING A PANDEMIC

ALAIN CHEN, VOLUNTEER-MENTOR

60TH SINGAPORE COMPANY, RAFFLES INSTITUTION

During the Circuit Breaker period, one of our Primers, SCL Seth Ong, did some research and found that children from lower-income families were affected by the various restrictions and felt moved to find ways to help them. Roping in a few of his friends from the Company, they responded to Kampong Kapor Family Service Centre's (KKFSC) call for tutors for lower-income families. SCL Seth Ong and SCL Charisse Chin led a team of volunteers to conceptualise and execute a project where they would offer individual online tuition for primary and secondary school students.

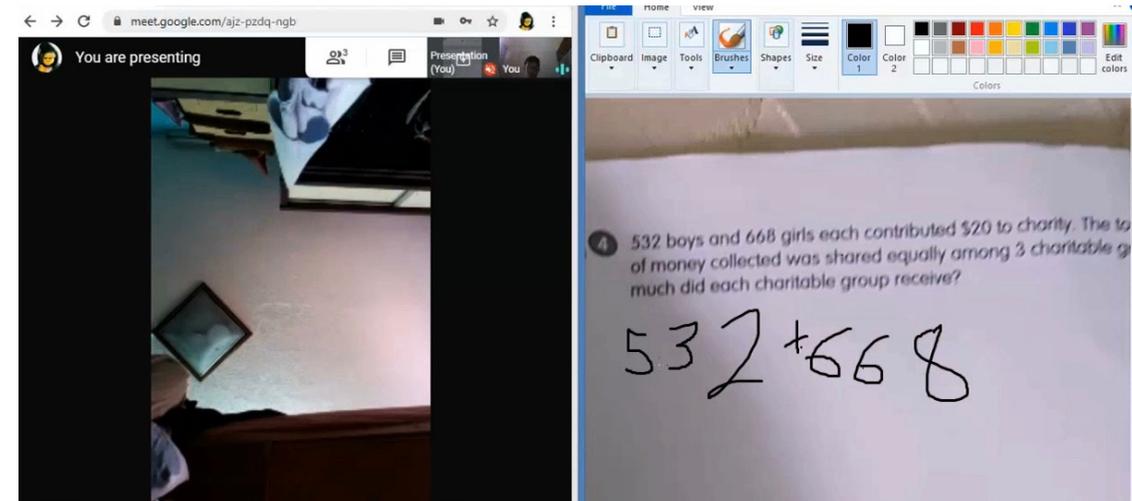
Both 60th Company Boys' Brigade (BB) and 45th Company Girls' Brigade (GB – Raffles Girls' School) came onboard and started tutoring 11 children. Despite the official tuition programme coming to an end in late August 2020, several BB and GB members continued volunteering their time until the students' examinations ended in late October. It was truly heart-warming to see our Boys and Primers taking the initiative to actively serve the community during these challenging times.



SCL Seth Ong conducting a virtual tuition session for students! *Pictures pixelated for students' privacy

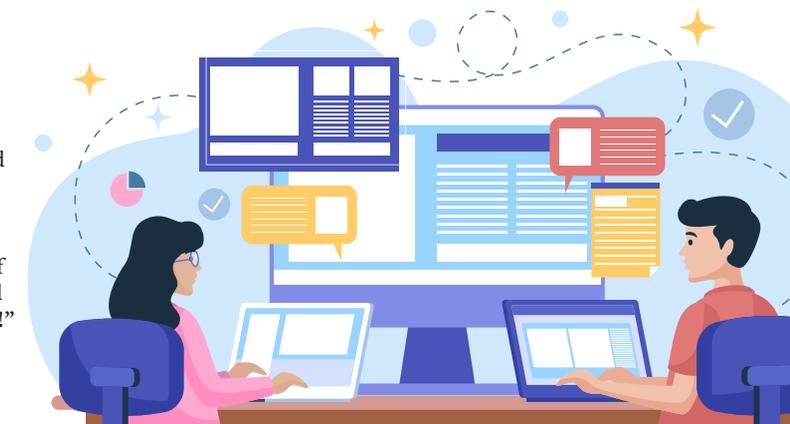


GB Girls during an online tuition session!



SCL Seth Ong said, "I appreciated the time spent with my tuition partner, CPL Jaden Lim, as we planned the lessons together. This experience helped us to foster teamwork and contribute to society."

Social worker at KKFSC, Ms Stella Wong, who supervised the tuition sessions expressed her gratitude that, "the BB and GB students have been a great help to the children. They have been patient and creative in finding ways to engage them despite the challenges of online tutoring. And the parents have noticed improvements in their children's schoolwork!"



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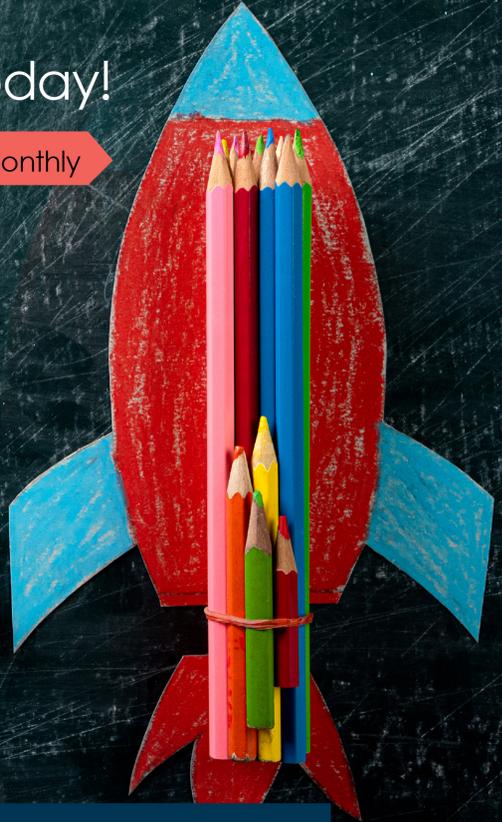
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