



BB NEWS

THE BOYS' BRIGADE

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14TH COY ALUMNI
SPORTS DAY

17TH PIPES & DRUMS
FESTIVAL

33J COY MILESTONES
FOR UNIFORMED GROUPS



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JOY OF GIVING

by LTA Patrick Koh, Brigade President

Every Christmas season, along with invited stakeholders and friends, we like to bring our Company Boys to the housing estate near our school to do our part in BBSG.

Looking back on the past, I experienced an incident that happened in the first year. I brought the food hampers up to a unit and began to knock on the door. I heard the resident respond to me and hence I waited patiently for the door to open. Three minutes passed and the door was still not open. I started to wonder why it was taking so long. As I knocked on the door again, it followed with the resident's response. However, once again the door did not open. With so many more hampers to go and my patience running out, I wished he could open the door quickly.

About two minutes later, the door began to open slowly. Right at that moment, a sense of guilt and shame overwhelmed me. I saw an old man on a wheelchair dressed in a nice button-up T-shirt welcoming me. This made me realise that the reason why he took so long to answer was that he was making sure that he looked presentable.

From that incident, I learned to be more patient and understanding towards the beneficiaries as I wait each time I knock on the door.

As we continue to inspire one another to bring cheers to the needy, I would like to share the 3 effects of our actions.

Your actions can inspire others to do the same, creating a chain reaction of goodwill that extends beyond your initial gesture. One act of kindness can spark multiple others, potentially positively impacting numerous lives.

It fosters a sense of unity among people, regardless of their backgrounds or differences. As we engage in selfless acts, we contribute to a collective atmosphere of compassion.

It will certainly boost your sense of well-being and happiness. Knowing you've made a positive difference in someone else's life can provide a sense of fulfilment and purpose.

So as we begin this year, let us remember every act of our kindness will be like a ripple effect that will affect more than what we can imagine.



BB Share-a-Gift Opening Ceremony 2023

Co-creating and Co-labouring Milestones for the Uniformed Groups

By Captain LTA Eden Lok, 33J Singapore Company Fairfield Methodist School (Primary)

In 2023, Fairfield Methodist Schools celebrated the resumption of programmes and celebrations amongst three Uniformed Groups (UG): The Boys' Brigade (BB), Girls' Brigade (GB) and Red Cross. The UGs' efforts culminated in our Annual Camp from 26 to 28 May 2023, and Primary 6 Graduation Outing on 28 October 2023. In the spirit of One UG, we hope that these efforts will inspire more combined milestones, leveraging the strengths and inclinations of our students to cultivate a flourishing community. The Boys and Girls of both the Juniors and Seniors Companies comment and reflect on their experiences in 2023 below.



Primary 6 Graduating Outing with the UGs in Fairfield Methodist Schools (Primary & Secondary).



Caden Lau Kai Sheng enjoying the company of his peers at the Primary 6 Graduation Outing.

“

I really enjoyed being a BB Boy in my primary school days. All the UGs were able to come together for this year's annual camp and Primary 6 graduation trip to Universal Studios Singapore. Through the bonding games and quality time spent together, I am happy to have made new friends from different walks of life. I especially liked the night games as our team displayed excellent teamwork and we won! I am thankful to the teachers and seniors for 4 enriching years of BB. I want to do what I can to contribute back to this team, and am looking forward to coming back to 33J to serve. Through BB, I have learnt to be Sure and Stedfast in whatever I do, and always face difficulties with endurance!

Junior Boy Caden Lau Kai Sheng

”



Nathan Tang enjoying a light-hearted moment with the Primary 6 Boys.



Nathan Tang leading the Night Games during the Annual Camp in 2023.

“

Having returned to 33J for the first time as a senior this year, I have already formed many wonderful memories both with the Boys and with other seniors too. Seeing the many smiles on the faces of the Boys and their enthusiasm to actively participate in the activities planned for them really warms my heart. My hope for the Boys is that they will continue to walk in God's ways and grow up to be God-fearing Boys as they start a brand new chapter of their lives. May they also continue to share the close bonds that they have with each other in the future as well!

CPL Nathan Tang

”



Nathaniel Tang leading the Boys alongside the Teacher-in-Charge at the Primary 6 Graduation Outing.



UG campers listening to a briefing conducted by Primary 6 Lead Boy.



Being the camp commandant of this year's combined UG camp was a very enriching experience. I got the opportunity to work with seniors, Officers as well as the Boys; and through these interactions, I have learned a lot. I appreciate that the Boys enjoyed the activities we planned for them and I am also grateful for the opportunity to give back to the CCA that has given me so much. My hope for my juniors is that they grow to become leaders of the future, and that they come back and share these experiences with their juniors in the future.

SCL Nathaniel Tang



Having journeyed with the Primary 6 Boys across the year, it was a great way to end the year with a trip to celebrate the end of their PSLE. I appreciate the students' enthusiasm for all the activities planned out for them. I also had the opportunity to work with the seniors, Officers, and the teachers to ensure each activity ran smoothly. I hope that the Juniors will become God-fearing, mature youths as they enter their next stage of life. I also hope that they come back and volunteer as Seniors to guide the next generation.

2LT Jeremy Tan



Jeremy Tan with the Boys and Teacher-in-Charge.



Rare, But Not Extinct!

by Rev Daniel Tong, Brigade Chaplain

I read an article today, whose opening statement read: “Cats are eating more than 2,000 species of wildlife globally, including hundreds that are of conservation concern” (ST: 15/12/23). In exercise of its natural instinct to hunt, cats have become “among the most problematic invasive species in the world.” Are you a “cat,” or the “more than 2,000 species of wildlife globally ... of conservation concern?”

The instinct to survive is within all of us. An instinct which leans us towards being takers more than givers – with takers striving “to get as much as possible from others,” while “givers are the rare breed of people who contribute to others without expecting anything in return” (**Give And Take** by Adam Grant). The instinct to take is often subtly honed by human society which encourages us to achieve and accumulate, often in competition with others.

Our Heavenly Father on the other hand teaches and encourages generosity toward others, to which the Apostle Paul testifies in Acts 20: 33-35,

I have coveted no one's silver or gold or clothes. You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my own needs and to the men who were with me. In everything I showed you that by working hard in this manner you must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'

The Apostle Paul knew he could not cling on to the earthly things, and hence chose to lay up treasures for himself in heaven, blessing rather than seeking to take from others. There was no sense of FOMO (fear of missing out) within him, as he looked to his future inheritance in the kingdom of God – an inheritance he deemed to be of far greater worth than all he might ever be able to accumulate on earth.

Will you share in this heartbeat, and under the love of our Heavenly Father, be of “the rare breed of people who contribute to others without expecting anything in return?” Giving back to the community in whatever ways within our means, rejoicing when we see others helped and lifted up, under the conviction that it is indeed more blessed to give than to receive!



BB Share-A-Gift 2023

Every year, the Boys play their part in the Boys' Brigade Share-A-Gift (BSAG) project, seeking to bring joy and cheer to the community during the year-end festive period. The signature community service project mobilises more than 3,500 Boys and volunteers every year to pack and deliver food necessities hampers to beneficiaries across Singapore during the Christmas season since 1988. The project returns for its 36th year, expanding its support to families with children living in rental housing under the Ministry of Social and Family Development's (MSF) Community Link (ComLink) programme for the first time since its inception. The project benefited more than 45,000 beneficiaries this year.

The opening ceremony was graced by Ms Indranee Thurai Rajah, Minister in the Prime Minister's Office and Second Minister for Finance, and Second Minister for National Development. The BB will continue to nurture our Boys to develop a caring heart for the community and we hope more will join us to celebrate the spirit of charity and fellowship this year!



Christmas Light Up 2023

Over 100 Boys participated in the Christmas on A Great Street 40th Anniversary on 17 November 2023, organised by Orchard Road Business Association and Community Chest! The Light Up Ceremony was officiated by President Tharman Shanmugaratnam at Shaw House and the Boys had the privilege of ushering in his arrival to the event. It was a great way to close the year of 2023 and enjoy the festivities along Orchard.



Alumni Sports Day

By SSG Chee Guan Ming and SGT Tan Min Le, 14th Singapore Company Anglican High School

On 21 October 2023, the 14th Singapore Company Alumni Association organised the inaugural Alumni Sports Day, with the aim of fostering a sense of community among the Company and doubling up as a celebration to the end of the End-of-Year Examinations for the Boys.

The organising committee, consisting of 14th Singapore Company Alumni Association members and NCOs from the Company, put together a morning of sports like basketball and soccer as well as classic games like Capture the Flag and Marco Polo. Through the various activities planned, the alumni and current Boys pitted their brains and brawns against one another in a team setting, with the goal of securing victory. The close team interactions served as valuable opportunities for the current Boys to learn from the experiences of the alumni while gaining insights into how the Company has evolved over the years. It was particularly heartening to see the strong camaraderie between past and present members of the 14th Singapore Company. A special acknowledgement goes to our sponsor, Mr Ronnie Sim, for generously providing us with sport equipment and refreshments as well.

Keith Neo, President of the BB 14th Company Alumni Association: "Such touchpoints are integral in strengthening the bonds between generations of Boys from the BB 14th Company. I am glad to see how both the alumni and current Boys understand the significance



and are supportive of alumni events like the Alumni Sports Day. I hope to see more alumni events for everyone to come together to celebrate the shared history and traditions which unite us as one BB 14th Company."

LCP Ian Cheong: "The Alumni Sports Day was well thought out and fun for both the alumni and the Boys who are currently in the Company. The activities not only allowed me to bond with my batchmates, but also get to know many more of my seniors better. I am happy to be part of the big BB 14th Company family, where I have built lasting friendships and joyful memories."





17th Pipes and Drums Festival

We were thrilled to organise the 17th Pipes and Drums Festival at Hillgrove Secondary School during 8 to 9 December last year. A total of 127 participants from 13 BB Companies participated in this event. We were honoured to have Mr Lim Siong Guan, Founding Chairman of Honour Singapore, to present prizes to the Champions. The Champion for event 1 went to 2nd Singapore Company Victoria School while the Best Drum Call for event 1 went to 5th Singapore Company Kuo Chuan Presbyterian Secondary School. The Champion and Best Drum Call for event 2 went to 64th Singapore Company Ang Mo Kio Secondary School. We congratulate all Champions and Best Drum Call Companies in the band category!



CLUSTER EVENTS

2023 year end was a fun-filled quarter of Cluster Events!

The S1 cluster held a soccer competition on 11 November 2023 hosted by 5th Singapore Company Kuo Chuan Presbyterian Secondary School. 61st Singapore Company Queensway Secondary School came in first, while 12I Singapore Company Anglo-Chinese School (Independent) came in second place, and 5th Singapore Company Kuo Chuan Presbyterian Secondary School came in third. On the same day, the E2 cluster held an archery competition hosted by 49J Singapore Company St Hilda's Primary School. The Primary 6 graduating Boys from 20J Singapore Company Greendale Primary School, 41J Singapore Company Tao Nan School, and 68J Singapore Company Valour School teamed up to play against each other. It has been a memorable year for the Primary 6 Boys who will be transitioning to Secondary School next year, and the Officers and volunteers from the BB alumni also prepared a special photo-taking booth for them as a commemoration!

Separately, the E1 cluster held a Games Day on 28 October 2023 where 300 Boys, Officers and Primers from 8 Companies participated in a variety of sports and games such as basketball, captain's ball, and volleyball. On the same day, the N1 cluster held an inter-company competition at Compassvale Secondary School for over 200 Boys, Officers and Primers. It served as a post-exam activity for the Boys after the end of the year exams and was an opportunity for the Boys to bond with each other across companies.



Vice-President Mr Oliver Loke presenting awards to the winning teams in the S1 cluster soccer competition



Boys from 20J, 41J and 68J competed against each other in the E2 cluster archery competition



The day ended with the graduating Primary 6 Boys writing cards of appreciation for their Officers and Teachers-in-Charge

E1 cluster Boys celebrating and bonding after the end of the games



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