



BB NEWS

THE BOYS' BRIGADE

Official Publication of The Boys' Brigade in Singapore

www.bb.org.sg

2024 Issue 02

05

BB Blaze

09

New BBHQ
Dedication
Service

18

Founder's Award
Presentation
Ceremony



CONTENTS

- 03** Quarterly Highlights
- 04** Brigade President's Message
- 05** BB Blaze
- 06** J M Fraser Awards
Presentation Ceremony
- 07** Anchor Conference and
Officers Enrolment Ceremony
- 08** 19th Coy Special Parade and
Parents' Engagement
- 09** New BBHQ Dedication Service
- 10** Programmes for Primers in
the North Cluster Companies
- 11** 36th Coy Visit to BBHQ
Heritage Gallery
- 12** NDP Feature
- 13** Primers Summit and Primers
Challenge 2024
- 14** Grief and the Empty Shell
- 15** Brigade Chaplain's Message
- 16** National Leadership
Assessment Camp and
Cluster Consultation Sessions
- 17** 74th Coy Tree Planting and
Sustainability and Basic
Officer Training Course
- 18** Founder's Award Presentation
Ceremony
- 19** 2nd Coy Overseas Values-In-
Action Programme

Apr to Jun Quarterly Highlights

During the month of April, many Companies held their Enrolment and Dedication Ceremony for the induction of their new recruits, the officiation of Key Appointment Holders, and the renewal of commitment by Officers, Primers, and Boys. It is certainly encouraging and heartening to witness the re-dedication of Companies, signifying the continuation and growth for yet another year!

One of the most anticipated Seniors Programme events was held on 6 April and saw a total of 481 Boys & Primers from 50 Companies taking part. Read more about the BB Blaze in a featured article on page 5, alongside other prominent events such as the Founder's Award Presentation Ceremony and J M Fraser Awards Presentation Ceremony!



This quarter was also recruitment period for some of the Primer Companies. For instance, the Primers from Ngee Ann Polytechnic held a booth at their school's CCA Fiesta on 25 and 26 April to engage students, and even organised a special BB Primers Monopoly game with amazing prizes for winning individuals. On the other hand, the Primers from ITE College East set up a booth at their school's CCA Fair during April to attract students who could become potential BB Boys. Read more about the Primers Summit and Primers Challenge on page 13!

Our condolences on the tragic passing of LCP Isaac Loo from 66th Singapore Company in Woodlands Secondary School which brought about an outpouring of grief from the BB community. Read more about how to cope with grief and loss with a personal reflection by Brigade Secretary on page 14 and a writeup by Brigade Chaplain, Rev Daniel Tong, on page 15.

NAVIGATING IN THE WORLD

By Brigade President,
LTA Patrick Koh

Global leadership is a crucial aspect of leadership in an interconnected world. As businesses expand internationally and collaborations become more diverse, there is a greater need for global leadership. With the increase use of remote offices, your team members can be from any part of the world. Hence it is important for us to be an effective Global Leader to navigate the world today.

Firstly, global leadership requires cultural knowledge and an understanding of diverse perspectives. Effective Global Leaders are capable of navigating in different cultural norms, values, and communication styles. By valuing diversity and inclusivity, they create an environment where all voices are heard and respected.

Secondly, effective Global Leaders possess strong communication skills that transcend language barriers. They can convey their vision and ideas clearly across cultures, ensuring that their engagement relates well with a global audience. They promote trust and alignment within their teams, thus driving collaboration and innovation.

Lastly, Global Leaders must have a strategic mindset that encompasses global trends and challenges. They stay informed about geopolitical developments, market trends, and emerging technologies on a global scale. By anticipating changes and proactively addressing issues, they can guide their organisations through uncertainty in a rapidly changing world.

In The Boys' Brigade, we seek to provide our members with the opportunity to embrace diversity, prioritise effective communication, and stay attuned to global trends so that you can be better equipped in today's interconnected and dynamic global landscape.



BB Blaze

A total of 481 participants from 50 companies took part in the BB Blaze on 6 April! They completed a gruelling 19km multidisciplinary race across Central and Eastern Singapore, covering stations that included archery, kayaking and even overcoming an obstacle course that required them to scale over a high wall and cargo net. They were also tested on first-aid and micro-navigation skills which they have learnt during their time with the BB. This year, there was also an Open Category offered to Primers and Officers who missed out on the BB Blaze during the Covid-19 period. We were honoured to have Mr Marcus Tan, Chief of Sport Development Group, Sport Singapore present the prizes and to give a word of encouragement to the winning teams.



Congratulations to:

Champion – Team 18 from 12I Singapore Company in Anglo-Chinese School (Independent)

1st Runner-Up – Team 22 from 14th Singapore Company in Anglican High School

2nd Runner-Up – Team 1 & Team 101 from 2nd Singapore Company in Victoria School & 94th Singapore Company in Nan Hua High School respectively

"This year's blaze experience was an unforgettable one! Apart from the fact that we managed to win, there were many memorable moments too. We prepared for almost half a year and gave it our very best on the competition day. The race was filled with adrenaline and excitement, but also physical and emotional fatigue. I was grateful that my team managed to support and encourage each other to cross the finishing line. I would like to thank everyone who represented the school in BB Blaze, the teachers and Officers in charge for taking the time out of their schedules to prepare for the competition!"

CPL Duan Zehao
from 12I Singapore
Company in Anglo-
Chinese School
(Independent)



We also want to congratulate the teams from the Open Category:

Champion – Team OC11 from 91st Singapore Company in Regent Secondary School

1st Runner-Up – Team OC04 from 14th Singapore Company in Anglican High School

2nd Runner-Up – Team OC03 from 12I Singapore Company in Anglo-Chinese School (Independent)

"BB Blaze was really tough but I enjoyed the activities that were prepared for us. I also enjoyed the navigation and finding out where we were going after each checkpoint. It was made more challenging because we had to endure the scorching heat and physical challenges such as doing 10 squats if we made a mistake at a station. The biggest takeaway from BB Blaze, as a first timer, was the sense of accomplishment after completing the race. I felt proud of the team. We may not have made it into the top 10 but I am glad that with the training we went through, we were able to finish the race as a group together. This is an experience I will remember for a very long time."

LCP Adam Alexander Toh
from 93rd Singapore
Company in Yuying
Secondary School



J M FRASER Awards

Presentation Ceremony

We celebrated the achievements of our Boys' Brigade Companies at the annual J M Fraser Awards Presentation Ceremony on 25 May at ITE College Central! We were honoured to have Mr Sng Chern Wei, Deputy Director-General of Education (Curriculum), Ministry of Education Singapore, as our Guest-of-Honour for the event. This prestigious event is a testament to the hard work, dedication and commitment of the school Principals, Chaplains, Officers and Teachers of The Boys' Brigade.

Congratulations to 33J Singapore Company in Fairfield Methodist School (Primary) for achieving the Best Juniors Programme Company Award, and 12I Singapore Company in Anglo-Chinese School (Independent) for achieving the Best Seniors Programme Company Award! Each Company was also recognised for their exceptional achievements and contributions, embodying the spirit of The Boys' Brigade. Well done to all BB Companies!

We were treated to a delightful combined bagpipe band performance comprising of Boys from the 11th Singapore Company in Christ Church Secondary School, 25th Singapore Company in Hillgrove Secondary School, 49th Singapore Company in St Hilda's Secondary School and 64th Singapore Company in Ang Mo Kio Secondary School, and a well-coordinated precision drill performance from 5th Singapore Company in Kuo Chuan Presbyterian Secondary School.

Best Juniors Programme Company
– 33rd Singapore Company



"The J M Fraser Awards Ceremony was well organised and I feel that each company's achievements were recognised and celebrated by everyone! I am grateful and humbled to be given the opportunity to receive the 2024 J M Fraser Award for Excellence (High Distinction) and the Lim Siong Guan Challenge Trophy for the Best Juniors Programme Company on behalf of the 33J Company!"

Chief Lead Boy, Jonathan Ho,
from 33J Singapore Company
in Fairfield Methodist School
(Primary)

"We are caught by surprise that we are blessed with the Best Company award. This award does not mean that 12I is the best at what it does, nor is it the best at ministering to the Boys. Instead, we believe that the strength of a Company lies in its ability to help other Companies and to partner with the Brigade to advance the mission of the BB. Apart from winning accolades, more importantly, we hope that the Officers from 12I will remain committed to the pursuit of excellence and that the Boys will be focused on leaving an impact on others."

WO Daniel Gaw
from 12I Singapore Company
in Anglo-Chinese School
(Independent)



Best Seniors Programme Company
– 12I Singapore Company

Anchor CONFERENCE 2024

A total of 85 Officers from 37 Companies attended the Anchor Conference at Sands Expo and Convention Centre (Marina Bay Sands) on 4 May. There were 3 plenary sessions in all, covering: 1) Transformative Leadership, 2) Nurturing Youth Resilience, and 3) Facilitate Discoveries and Insights. The keynote speaker was Mr David Chua, CEO of the National Youth Council (NYC) and Chairman of the *SCAPE Board. He was joined by 3 other plenary speakers: Mr Kenneth Kwan from Deep Impact, Mr Narash, Co-founder of Impart, and Ms Grace Tan from Leadership Facilitator TLC & Associates. It was a good time of learning for these Officers who continue to further their training and development in the BB!



“Attending my first Anchor Conference was truly enriching. Despite it being on a Saturday, a day I usually reserve for rest and family, I made attending the conference a priority. I am pleased it exceeded expectations. While not entirely new, the contents acted as a revitalising refresher, leaving me recharged. Engaging with fellow participants was a highlight, broadening my understanding and appreciation for our Brigade’s work.”

2LT Freida Chan
from 69J Singapore Company in
Xinghua Primary School



Officers ENROLMENT CEREMONY

The Officers Enrolment Ceremony was held at Prinsep Street Presbyterian Church on 10 June. We saw a total of 18 new Officers from 15 Companies enrolled into The Boys’ Brigade. Congratulations to these new Officers who have been dedicated and enrolled! Our Brigade President, LTA Patrick Koh, opened the ceremony with his address and a word of encouragement. The ceremony then continued with an exhortation by Brigade Chaplain, Rev Daniel Tong, followed by the dedication and enrolment of the new Officers.

We also presented prizes to our BB Companies that have done well during BB Week which was held in March to April this year. In particular, four Companies have received special awards. Congratulations to 34th Singapore Company in Marsiling Secondary School, 12I Singapore Company in Anglo-Chinese School (Independent), 8J Singapore Company in Radin Mas Primary School, and 12J Singapore Company in Anglo-Chinese School (Junior)!





TO COMMEMORATE MOTHERS' DAY, THE 19TH SINGAPORE COMPANY IN YISHUN TOWN SECONDARY SCHOOL ORGANISED AN EXCITING PARADE SESSION WHICH INVOLVED A FLOWER BOUQUET WORKSHOP AND A PARENTING TALK CONDUCTED BY FOCUS ON THE FAMILY.

The flower bouquet workshop began with a brief introduction of the different types of flowers used in the bouquet such as roses and baby breath and the various preservation methods of the flowers. This enabled the Boys to gain more insights into the intricacies involved in creating a preserved flower bouquet. During the workshop, the Boys unleashed their creativity to arrange the flowers and learnt simple wrapping techniques to transform a bunch of flowers into stunning bouquets. Towards the end of the workshop, the Boys were given time to pen down their notes of appreciation to their mothers. This hands-on experience was not only engaging but also extremely meaningful as the Boys were able to express their appreciation for their mothers through their sincere efforts in making the personalised bouquets and heartfelt notes.

While the Boys were busy with their floral creations, the parents were not left out of the day's activities! They were invited to attend a parenting talk on "Raising Screenwise Kids" conducted by Focus on the Family which is an organisation dedicated to strengthening relationships within the families. During the workshop, parents were equipped with strategies to establish positive digital habits as a family and learnt the importance of setting clear and appropriate boundaries for screen usage and fostering meaningful offline activities.

Once the parenting talk was over, the Boys presented their bouquets to their mothers as a gesture of appreciation for the effort in raising them up. The Boys' hard work in creating the flower bouquets were paid off when they saw the bright smiles that lit up their mothers' faces! Apart from showing appreciation to their mothers, the Boys also specially created a flower bouquet to thank the school's security guard, Mdm Victoria, for her dedication and care towards the students during her many years of service to the school.

Lastly, we took the opportunity to invite the parents to present the Target Awards to our Secondary One Boys. It was a meaningful moment for our Boys as their parents personally attached the target awards to their uniforms, signifying the beginning of an exciting journey ahead in The Boys' Brigade! Subsequently, we concluded the parade session with a simple birthday celebration for the Boys whose birthdays are in May and June. Overall, it was indeed a memorable event and we hope that the Boys will continue to show gratitude to their parents for their love and support!

19TH COY *Special* PARADE AND PARENTS' ENGAGEMENT

by Teacher Ms Esther Wong
from 19th Singapore Company in
Yishun Town Secondary School



New BB Headquarters Dedication Service

A total of 86 attendees were present for the new Boys' Brigade Headquarters (BBHQ) Dedication Service on 20 April. We were joined by our Honorary Office Bearers, Brigade Executive, Chaplains, Captains, Officers, and BB Alumni members who celebrated the dedication of our new campus at 10 Kwong Avenue, marking a significant milestone in our BB journey and history! Attendees got an opportunity to tour around the new campus, where they visited the reinstated Heritage Gallery and the new Digital Media Studio. May the dedication of this space mark the continuation of the BB legacy, impacting the lives of Boys for generations to come!



While dedicating the new BBHQ, we also aimed to preserve our rich history and legacy through the showcase of artifacts, photographs and records. This instills a sense of tradition and continuity in current and future members. It also provides a space for former members to reconnect with their BB roots and share their experiences with the current generation. Meeting senior passionate BB members during the refreshments exemplified the intergenerational community life the new headquarters aims to promote. Truly, the new headquarters aims to nurture young lives and promote intergenerational community life.

LTA Philisa Neo from 49th Singapore Company in
St Hilda's Secondary School

Programmes for Primers in the North Cluster Companies

By LTA Peter Ong from 19th Singapore Company in Yishun Town Secondary School

Officers from 19th Singapore Company in Yishun Town Secondary School decided to bring together Primers from Companies in the north cluster, fostering a community that promotes collective growth, development, and camaraderie. Since August last year, we have successfully hosted a diverse range of programmes, including:

Brainstorming sessions to facilitate idea-sharing and collaboration

Gatherings to strengthen bonds and build relationships

Upfront speaking opportunities to develop public speaking skills

Activity planning workshops to enhance leadership and organisational abilities

A course which engaged 11 Primers in moral character development

On 1 June, we organised a fun-filled outing to Play Nation, followed by a heritage tour to the founding place of the 1st Singapore Company at Prinsep Street Presbyterian Church. This short visit provided a unique opportunity for Primers to connect with the rich history and legacy of the BB. Assistant Brigade Secretary, LTA Ho Yew Keong, with his inspiring sharing, encouraged the Primers to embrace their roles with dedication, passion, and a sense of purpose, motivating them to make a meaningful impact in the BB companies.



Primers learning more about BB's history at Prinsep Street Presbyterian Church

“

From the talk by LTA Ho Yew Keong, I learnt many important lessons. My key takeaway would be that it is never too late to find your place in life. I learnt that it is completely fine if I am lost for a while, not knowing what to do. I learnt that it is important to be patient in life and to stay strong even if I feel lost.

”

CLT Prasanna Balaji Prakash
from 19th Singapore Company in Yishun
Town Secondary School

“

One point that resonated with me the most was “Leadership starts from within”. If we want to build high standards in our Boys, we need to start with ourselves, self-imposing even higher standards. Only then will the Boys truly respect us as leaders and follow our lessons wholeheartedly.

”

SCL Ernest Chua Yong Yi
from 62nd Singapore Company in
Orchid Park Secondary School

Primers engaged in brainstorming sessions



36TH

Coy Visit to BBHQ Heritage Gallery

By LTA John Seet

from 36th Singapore
Company in Compassvale
Secondary School

This year, our school had set aside the mornings of 20 and 21 May as CCA Experience Day, which involved all Uniformed Groups (UGs). It was the first time for the school to organise this. Day 1 was for UGs to organise their activities in a different format, aimed at injecting more interest among their members. On Day 2, UG members could choose to visit and experience the activities in another UG of their choice.

We took the opportunity to bring 30 of our Boys to visit The Boys' Brigade Headquarters (BBHQ) Heritage Gallery on 20 May after the school's Investiture Ceremony for UG leaders. The visit included a tour of various BBHQ facilities such as BB Shop, Digital Media Studio, Conference Rooms, Training Rooms and a view of the sports field. For many of the Boys, it was their first time viewing the new BB Headquarters.

At the Heritage Gallery, the Boys were encouraged to spend time checking out the various exhibits and to learn more about our BB History. To motivate them, we held a simple quiz session towards the end of the visit. The Boys were organised into four groups and they competed in answering the questionnaire which was crafted in multiple choice format. Group 4 was the winning team and they were awarded chocolates and sweets. In addition, LCP Clarence Wong from Group 4 topped the individual score and he was awarded a prized 44-year-old BB drinking glass which was donated.

On the bus back to school, our teachers concluded that it was indeed a meaningful visit even though we were not sure what to expect initially. Our Boys enjoyed themselves on this outing and this was a good alternative to the usual parade format held in school.

Note to all Officers and Companies: The BBHQ Heritage Gallery is open for tours! If you would like to bring your Boys to visit the BBHQ Heritage Gallery and other facilities such as the Digital Media Studio, kindly contact Mr Samuel Bey, Senior Manager for Stakeholder Engagement at Samuel_Bey@bb.org.sg.

NDP *Feature*

Singapore celebrates her 59th birthday at the Padang this year! As with past years, The Boys' Brigade is privileged to form one of 35 marching contingents for the National Day Parade (Parade & Ceremony segment). Named "United We Stand", the segment highlights the collective strength of Singaporeans standing together as one united people. This year, the marching contingents will perform an Onward March for the first time at the Padang, where the marching contingents will march onto the spectator stands while waving mini Singapore flags with the audience. To commemorate 40 years of Total Defence, the parade will also perform a special TD40 Transformation manoeuvre that will impress and delight spectators. The ceremony is an expression of our love for Singapore, and promises to be a remarkable display of strength to honour our nation's progress.



NDP taught me invaluable lessons in commitment and perseverance. Hence, this year, when given the opportunity, of course, I chose to participate again, as I have the chance to guide new members and relive the incredible experience. Participating in NDP has definitely strengthened my sense of teamwork and national pride. It has also allowed me to sharpen my drills and uniform standards through the guidance of more experienced members and officers. I am grateful for the transformative opportunities and would 100% participate again if given another chance.

CPL Liew Shan Kai
from 74th Singapore Company in
Kent Ridge Secondary School

Participating in the contingent was exhilarating with the crowd's contagious energy, especially during the National Education (NE) shows. Despite challenges like the scorching heat during morning trainings, I embraced new experiences like umbrella drills and enduring the long parade. What drew me back to NDP this year were the pre-show vibes where we were all smiles and laughter, and the chance to connect with new people and the opportunity for personal growth.

CPL Aldric Neo
from 47th Singapore Company in
Serangoon Garden Secondary School

After joining NDP last year, I was excited to join NDP again this year as I enjoyed my time and would like to introduce NDP to my juniors as something that is fun and memorable. Many said that NDP will be stressful because of needing to stand in the blazing sun for long hours. In fact, it is not that bad as I have been doing this since Secondary 1 during BB's usual marching preparations. Despite the long hours of training and hard work, I am better than ever in my drills and endurance. My advice is, take any opportunity you are given. Sometimes those opportunities may be the best experience that has ever occurred to you.

SGT Teo Chun Kai Bosco
from 91st Singapore Company in
Regent Secondary School

PRIMERS SUMMIT

The Primers Summit 02/24 was held on 13 June. A total of 103 Primers from 24 Companies participated in this event. Primers Summits are organised thrice yearly. For this second instalment, 4 workshops were conducted: Games That Teach and Lesson Planning for Adventure Activities taught by Singapore Adventure & Leadership Training (SALT), as well as Mental Wellness and 5 Love Languages facilitated by TOUCH Community Services. Through these workshops that impart both hard-skills and soft-skills, Primers learnt different ways to conduct debrief, theories in programme design methodology, mental health issues, and cultivating strong and meaningful friendships!



PRIMERS CHALLENGE 2024

The Primers Challenge, a 4 Day 3 Night camp, was held at the BB-GB Campsite during 13 to 16 June. A total of 85 Primers from 22 Companies participated in this annual event. Activities included kayaking, cycling, abseiling, tag archery and team building games. They had a campfire on the last night to round off the camp. Primers got to make new friends from different Companies and forge new bonds over the course of the camp!

“Primers Challenge 2024 was an eye-opening experience. I got to do things that I have never tried before, such as abseiling and kayaking. I was challenged to put away my ego and look out for my camp mates, most of whom I just met. The genuine interactions with the other Primers, and the friendships formed will be treasured by me.”

CLT Thaddea Yew
from 14th Singapore Company
in Anglican High School



GRIEF

and the EMPTY SHELL

By Brigade Secretary, LTA Wilson Tan

The recent passing of our dear BB Boy, Isaac Loo, brought about a huge outpouring of grief. For those who do not know him personally, the sudden heart attack was most saddening, to say the least. Imagine what it would have been like for his immediate family members.

This recent episode triggered a recollection of what happened when my mother passed away suddenly. It was sudden because I (and many others) was not by her bedside when she breathed her last. She was sick and frail but her demise was nonetheless sudden.

For some months, if not years, thereafter I have come to realise I felt like an empty shell. After an initial period of intense grief, I was able to return to my daily routine. There would still be the occasional time of pain and sadness. But what struck me more was the sudden outbursts of, at times anger if not despair. It felt like moments of insanity amid an ordinary life.

It did not help that I was not by my father's bedside when he passed away 36 years ago. I still remember to this day getting a call from the general office of my Junior College. I was at a Co-Curricular Activity (CCA) meeting on a Saturday when I dropped everything and rushed to the hospital.

The grief in me was evident but the emptiness was not. On the outside, the empty shell looked just like any other. But on the inside, it was – as it says – empty. A cursory look or even a close observation would not have pried open the hidden thoughts or unleashed the inner pain within me. In fact, I did not know then I was feeling empty then, until some years later.

For this reason, we need friends (if not family) to not only walk alongside us but also to bring to the surface the inner pain that requires a healing touch. Instead of burying all the pain only to have them erupt in outbursts, we must understand how we heal in times of pain. That will also equip us to help those empty shells rediscover their real selves.

I am thankful that we have this big BB family that is united by a long heritage and more importantly, a belief that is anchored in the one true God. We may not have the answers to many of life's difficult questions. But we can have honest and open conversations about the struggles of studies and work at the daily level, or deep-seated issues that we may be reluctant to bring up. But bring up we must, that we may find true healing and ultimately, freedom in Christ!

Melancholy, a sculpture created by Albert Gyorgy, portrays the void that grief leaves us with. The sculpture depicts a figure made of copper sitting on a bench slumped over, with a giant hole in the center of it. This hole represents the massive void that we all feel when we lose someone dear to us, and many people have expressed their appreciation for this sculpture for it portraying the exact emotions they feel, but perhaps have not been able to quite put into words.

Photo Source: Wikimedia

Absent, Not Lost

by Brigade Chaplain, Rev Daniel Tong

Over the course of this year, we have lost a number of our own, the majority most of us would not know of, but none more sudden and sad than SGT Isaac Loo of the 66th Coy, a young lad of just 14 years of age. To lose a loved one and friend who is advanced in age is at times tough enough. To lose one at such a tender age really strikes us in the face with regards to the frailty of life, and causes us to question, "Why?"

This is a difficult question, because a theological discussion of this matter would not assuage our deep feeling of loss for this young man; and we are not God all-knowing with the answer to this question. All we can do is work through our own feelings of heartbreak, anguish, and distress at our loss that we may not fall into despair, but be able to live on – not forgetting our loved one – without drowning and losing ourselves in our grief.

Our Lord Jesus Christ shows us the way.

Time: Our Lord Jesus was only amongst us here on earth a short thirty-three and a half years, actively ministering only in the last three and a half years of his life here. Yet the impact of His life has been felt by countless people through the centuries, right up to this very day.

From the life of our Lord Jesus, we learn that it is not the amount of time that matters – time in any case is never enough. Rather, the issue is what we make of the time on our hands. Do we squander it in meaningless activity, or maximise every moment available to us in productive and honourable engagement with God and others? How are you spending your time? When it comes your time to leave this world, will you be well and long remembered, or happily forgotten? "There is an appointed time for everything. And there is a time for every event under heaven – A time to give birth and a time to die" (Ecclesiastes 3:1-2).

We may disagree and fight against this "appointed time," but we know this to be a truth we cannot escape, which both frustrates and scares us. Christians are reassured by the knowledge that our loving Lord Jesus is in full control of this "appointed time," and with our best interests at heart, will only give us the best. Still a bitter pill to swallow at times – like with the loss of SGT Loo – but one wherein we are comforted by the fact of the sovereign might and love of God for SGT Loo.

Despair: The crucifixion of our Lord Jesus following His triumphal entry into Jerusalem totally dashed the hopes of His disciples and followers, throwing them into disarray and despair. How could this have happened? Were they wrong all along in their belief in Jesus? What were they to do now?

Losing someone near and dear to us, especially suddenly, can send us into a tailspin of despair; a dark place which many have entered and from which many struggle to return – some never. The followers of our Lord Jesus was on the brink of that dark place upon His death, but were rescued from it by His assurances and appearances to them. One time was when the women who followed Him went to the tomb and found Him missing. There they were met by two men who comforted them, saying, "Why do you seek the living One among the dead? He is not here, but He has risen." (Luke 24:5-6)

Our Lord Jesus is risen, and "if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. ... For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first" (1 Thessalonians 4:14 and 16). We need not despair over those no longer among us on earth, not least of whom SGT Loo, for asleep in our Lord Jesus, they will rise with Him on the Last Day.

Hope: Knowing the devastation His disciples and followers would feel over His sacrifice, our Lord Jesus sought to prepare them with the knowledge that He was merely going ahead to prepare their place in heaven, and will return in due course to bring them home (John 14:1-3).

It took His disciples a little while to overcome their emotions and shake off their dispiritedness. Understandably so, and likewise for us when we lose someone close to our heart and dear in our life. The presence of our Lord Jesus, in person and in the person of His disciples as we imitate Him, serves to point us back to His promise of a place in heaven and His return at the "appointed time" to bring us there. Like others, SGT Loo was introduced to this promise and asked, for the way, to which: "Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.'" (John 14:6)

Again, like others before him, SGT Loo came to believe in and surrendered his life to our Lord Jesus. This fact, clearly attested to by his family and friends, gives us the confidence that SGT Loo is not forever lost to us to judgement or oblivion; but is safe in the care of our Lord Jesus, who will on the Last Day draw together and reunite all who call upon His name – SGT Loo being one – in His heavenly kingdom. This is our joyful hope.

Friends, all of us will experience and grieve the loss of a dear one at some, and most likely, multiple points in our life. In the face of these separations, let us not mourn what could have been, but celebrate what was; let us bemoan our separation, but not despair that we will never meet again; let us give thanks for the life of our dear one, and help them find eternal life in our Lord Jesus; and finally, let us not just dream about our future, but make every moment of every day count for God!

Short though his life was, SGT Loo lived it well, and posthumously continued to bless many. He is well remembered and dearly missed, absent, but not lost! Till we meet again in the heavenly kingdom of our Lord Jesus, he rests in peace in the safe and loving arms of our Lord God. Hallelujah!

NATIONAL LEADERSHIP ASSESSMENT CAMP

The first instalment of the BB National Leadership Camp (NLAC) 01/24 was held from 8 to 9 June! 97 Secondary 3 Boys from 16 Seniors Programme Companies participated in this camp. Campers put their teamwork and leadership skills to the test through various team-bonding activities, often requiring them to work under pressure to achieve challenging goals. The Boys were blessed by the leadership opportunities and the new friendships forged at the camp, and will bring back the lessons they have learnt to their own BB Companies as they continue their leadership journey in the BB!



CLUSTER CONSULTATION SESSIONS

During the month of April, the clusters held their Cluster Consultation Sessions at The Boys' Brigade Headquarters. A total of 95 Officers from 75 Companies participated in these sessions. In each of the Cluster Consultation session, our Vice-President for Innovation and Learning, Mr Oliver Loke, kickstarted the meeting. The clusters then broke out into groups for further discussions. It was a good time of sharing and brainstorming on current challenges and future possibilities for these Officers!



W1, W2 and S1 Clusters



N3, S2, E2 and W3 Clusters



N1, N2 and E1 Clusters

74th Coy Tree Planting and Sustainability

By LTA David Oh from 74th Singapore Company in Kent Ridge Secondary School

On 8 April, a total of 30 Officers, Teachers, Primers and Boys came together to plant 50 trees in Kent Ridge Secondary School. The tree planting is part of the badgework for Global Awareness and the experience taught the Boys lessons on sustainability.

“The tree planting was a very meaningful experience. It not only served as good exercise and a great bonding activity, but it also allowed us to do our small but important part of reducing our carbon footprint. During the activity, we got to work together to achieve a common goal. It was refreshing to see everyone working together in such perfect unison. Everyone was also very happy that we got to take a small step towards a better environment.”

CPL Liew Shan Kai

Basic Officer Training Course

20 Officers from 14 Companies attended the Basic Officer Training Course 01/24 that took place over three sessions during the months of April and May. For the first and second sessions, they went through Games That Teach with Facilitation, conducted by Mr Tennant Kiu from Singapore Adventure and Leadership Training (SALT) who used games to demonstrate how Officers can draw out learnings from activities, and were introduced to the Adversity Quotient (AQ) by Ms Kelly from SALT.

Finally, for the third session which is also known as the Adventure Weekend, they completed the practical session of Games That Teach with Facilitation by implementing a game which they brainstormed during the theory session, and learned more about crafting RAM assessment to ensure the safety of programmes for Boys. The Officers also engaged in adventure activities such as the high element course which challenged their fear of heights, as well as kayaking. It was an exciting and fruitful weekend of learning for these Officers who underwent this training to better serve in their respective Companies!

“Aside from the learning takeaways, what I enjoyed most was the companionship and the new friends I have made. It was heartening to hear the stories of the Officers across the various Companies. Even though we came from different backgrounds — be it our age, profession, or church; we were united by the same goal of nurturing the youths at The Boys’ Brigade. My favourite part of the course was the barbecue dinner we had after returning from our 5km hike.”

OCT Eber Fu
from 12I Singapore Company in
Anglo-Chinese School (Independent)

FOUNDER'S AWARD

Presentation

Ceremony

The Founder's Award Presentation Ceremony was held on 29 June at Orchid Country Club this year. The highest award in the Seniors Programme was attained by 121 Boys across different Companies. We were honoured to have Mr Xie Yao Quan, Member of Parliament for Jurong GRC, to present the award to them. Over 350 guests attended the ceremony to celebrate the achievements of the Boys. Stakeholders included parents, teachers, school leaders, Officers and Chaplains who played a key role in nurturing these Boys into the mature young men that they are today. We look forward to their return to serve the BB in the Primers Programme!



Bagpipe performance by 5th Singapore Company in Kuo Chuan Presbyterian Secondary School



Guests engaging in pre-event icebreaker games

2ND COY OVERSEAS VALUES-IN-ACTION PROGRAMME

By CPL Edison Lau from

2nd Singapore Company

in Victoria School

This year, we held our Overseas Values-In-Action Programme from 25 to 29 May in Chiang Mai, Thailand. During the trip, we explored local community centers such as Santi Village, Water of Life Methodist Church and Cheng Doi School. We also visited places of interest, such as the hot springs and local night market. Immersing myself into the more relaxed environment that Chiang Mai offers, I was able to gradually take my mind off the hustle and bustle here in Singapore.

To begin with, organising a learning carnival in Cheng Doi school was a deeply moving experience for me. There were 4 stations: English, Mathematics, First Aid and Science. I was assigned to work on the Science station, together with Ms Rachel Tan (Teacher), CPL Zhang Ruiyang (In-Charge), PTE Yang Wenxuan and LCP Ganesan Nithishh. The children there were 10 to 12 years old and being surrounded by such innocent joy brings back nostalgic memories.

We planned a Volcano model experiment, with Coca Cola and Mentos sweets. You can never go wrong with this classic experiment which excited them to no end. The children designed their very own volcanoes on pieces of papers with colour pencils, before pasting them onto the Coke bottle. The language barrier was an issue when relaying instructions, but our translator, Ning, kindly helped us out by painstakingly translating all of our reminders and instructions.

I learnt simple Thai phrases such as ‘Chān rāk khun’ (I love you) and Ngān thī dī (Good job), so as to interact with the students there. However, when faced with real-life situations where I needed to apply them, I was stumped initially but quickly learnt how to creatively adapt so that I could convey what I needed using other means like hand gestures and simple English terms.

I met various students of various backgrounds. Their enthusiasm when meeting new people pleasantly surprised me as this was something I rarely see in our Singaporean society. In this whole experience, what really touched me deeply was their strong culture of gratitude. There were 5 batches of students who visited our station but they never failed to shower us with an outpouring of ขอบคุณ (thank you) at the end of each session. Every student also participated actively in whatever we planned and some even ran back to thank us. Although I could not exactly understand what they were saying and needed Ning’s help, I knew it was their own heartfelt gratitude from the way they spoke.

In conclusion, the trip created many fond memories and forged strong bonds that I will definitely hold dear to my heart for a long time to come. Since coming back to Singapore, I have been keeping in touch with the Thai youths I met through Instagram. I have often heard others say that it is more blessed to give than to receive and indeed, this trip has shown me what this truly means.



2nd Coy Boys enjoying a game of soccer with boys from Cheng Doi School



2nd Coy Boys teaching first aid to children from Cheng Doi School

**BECOME
NEXTGEN INVESTORS TODAY!**

JUNIOR SHARE BUILDERS PLAN

**START FROM AS
LOW AS S\$100
PER MONTH**

**More than 60
counters available
for selection**

**Choose from a
wide variety of
stocks & ETFs**

**Enjoy our new handling
fees* from as low as
S\$1 per month**

*Fees are subject to GST & 0.3%
p.a. of Total Portfolio Value

Start Now!



 www.phillip.com.sg

 6531 1555

 talktophillip@phillip.com.sg

Follow us on



Brought to you by Phillip Securities Pte Ltd (A member of PhillipCapital)

Co. Reg. No. 197501035Z

*Terms and Conditions apply. All forms of investments carry risks, including the risk of losing more than the invested amount and may not be suitable for everyone. Please ensure you fully understand the risks and costs involved by reading the Risk Disclosure on www.phillip.com.sg. This advertisement has not been reviewed by the Monetary Authority of Singapore.