

2024 ISSUE 4

BB NEWS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE BOYS' BRIGADE IN SINGAPORE



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THE BOYS' BRIGADE



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October - December Quarterly Highlights

In the final quarter of 2024, we had many fun-filled activities to see out the year! In October, three ITE Primers Programme Companies came together for their annual Unity Challenge, where they had many exciting games and activities. These combined games allowed Primers from different Companies to interact with one another.



Boys enjoying a game during the National Leadership Assessment Camp



22J Company at the Singapore Zoo

In November, Boys from 76J Singapore Company in First Toa Payoh Primary School had a 'CrossFit' experience, where they learned more about fitness while Boys from 22J Singapore Company in Anderson Primary School had an excursion to the Singapore Zoo!

In addition, we held some of our most anticipated events of the year this quarter – the Annual Officers' Retreat on 5 & 6 October at Opero Hotel Southkey Johor Bahru, BBHQ Official Opening and Stedfast Summit on 2 November, 18th Pipes and Drums Festival on 22 & 23 November and the BB Share-a-Gift Car Flag Off on 7 & 14 December.

Let us celebrate the Season of Giving as we usher in 2025!

Unveiling the winning 95th Anniversary Logo Design



The 95th Anniversary logo is designed to reflect the spirit of The Boys' Brigade (BB), showcasing the plethora of activities and skillsets that play a huge role in the BB, for example sports (Adventure), BB Share-a-Gift Project (Community Service), Leadership & Discipline.

The radiant rays of light in yellow and orange reflects our theme for the celebrations in 2025 – **Be the Light**. It symbolises the transformative power and the passion and inspiration for our Boys and Officers.

The overall design serves as a powerful reminder of the legacy built over 95 years – celebrating the past and ongoing journey of The Boys' Brigade in Singapore.

Creating Positive Impact

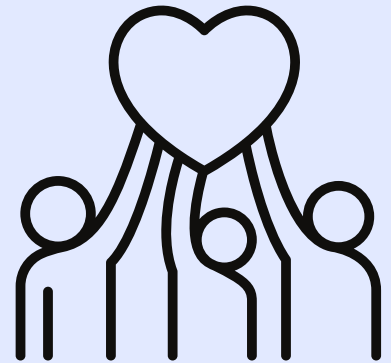
by Brigade President, LTA Patrick Koh

As one of the most developed countries in Southeast Asia, Singapore offers a unique environment where young people can harness their skills and passion to contribute meaningfully to society.

One of the most effective ways for you to make an impact is through community service. Volunteering with local organisations can help address social issues such as poverty, education, and mental health. The Boys' Brigade provides young people with opportunities to engage in volunteer projects that cater to community needs. By participating in these activities, you can contribute to the welfare of others and also develop empathy, leadership skills, and a sense of responsibility.

Advocating for environmental sustainability is another crucial area where you can make a significant difference. Singapore is known for its commitment to maintaining a clean and green environment. You can lead in promoting sustainable practices, such as reducing waste, conserving energy, and participating in community clean-up drives. Initiatives like the Singapore Green Plan 2030 encourage all of us to engage in sustainability efforts, from planting trees to using public transport.

Leveraging technology for social good is particularly relevant in today's digital age. Young people in Singapore are tech-savvy and can utilise their skills to develop apps, websites, or social media campaigns that address pressing issues. The use of technology can also foster collaboration among youths, encouraging them to work together on projects that benefit the community.



Primer and Boys giving out BBSG hampers to residents

Engaging in discussions and forums can empower young people to voice their opinions on issues they care about. Through various platforms, youth can raise awareness about social justice, mental health, or education reform. Organising events and workshops can provide a space for dialogue and encourage others to get involved.

In conclusion, making a positive impact as a youth in Singapore is achievable through community service, environmental advocacy, harnessing technology, and active engagement in social issues. By taking initiative and collaborating with others, young people can play a vital role in shaping a better future for our communities.

Faithful to the Object of our Brigade

by Brigade Chaplain, Rev Daniel Tong

On our 95th Anniversary, we remember and give thanks for how our Lord Jesus have grown the Brigade. From a BB Company in a church, we have spread our wings and grown into a Brigade in partnership with our local schools. In addition, it has been our joyful privilege to bless the needy in our community through our annual Brigade-level Share-a-Gift, and Company-level BB CARES (Community Activities Rallying Everyone to Serve) Projects.

Our care of the community, however, did not arise with the inauguration of the Share-a-Gift and BB CARES projects in 1988 and 2002, respectively, but with our care of Boys. Started as an outreach to often misbehaving Boys – first in the church, and then out in the community, those in the know would tell you that our Companies often continue to receive and look after Boys with challenging behaviours and backgrounds.

Through drill sessions, life-skill lessons, camps and field-craft, encouragement and prayer, along with community engagement, our Boys were taught *obedience, reverence, discipline* and *self-respect*. It is our joy that many Boys have grown to find life-long friendships and camaraderie in the Brigade; as well as a personal sense of self-respect and care of others. Many have also gone on to become well respected business and community leaders.



Officer assisting to tune his Boy's bagpipe during the Pipes & Drums Festival



This is the Object of The Boys' Brigade: the advancement of Christ's Kingdom among Boys and the promotion of habits of *Obedience, Reverence, Discipline, Self-Respect* and all that tends towards a true *Christian Manliness*. To know and be transformed by God into godly Men who "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interest but each of you to the interests of others." (Philippians 2:3-4)

Achieving this begins with every Officer and Boy dying to our own wants and needs, allowing our Lord Jesus to shape and transform us into His image, and our imitation of His love and care for one and all – regardless of their educational and financial status, ability and age, belief and connection. This is the life and example of many Officers of the Brigade, whose dedication to this Object have exponentially impacted thousands of Boys, along with their families and our community.

As we celebrate our 95th Anniversary, we look back with humble thanks for the privilege to bless our Boys and community, and look forward to continue building a legacy of Boys stedfastly growing and standing firm throughout their lives in *Christian Manliness*. May our Lord Jesus find us ever faithful to the pursuit of the Object of our Brigade!

Annual Officers' Retreat 2024

The Annual Officers' Retreat took place on 5 & 6 October at Opero Hotel Southkey, Johor Bahru, bringing together 128 Officers from 55 Companies.

Participants had the opportunity to join one of four breakout sessions: Tufting and Paracord Strapping, Traditional Chinese Medicine Approach to Mental Wellness, Appreciating Traits of Each Generation, and Effective Communication through One Piece/Pokemon Trading Cards.

Officers engaged in various workshops aimed at enhancing their skills and broadening their perspectives. The Tufting and Paracord Strapping session offered a hands-on experience that encouraged patience, attention to detail, and practical abilities. In the Traditional Chinese Medicine Approach to Mental Wellness workshop, Officers learned sustainable and culturally relevant strategies for maintaining mental health.

The Appreciating Traits of Each Generation session focused on bridging communication gaps and fostering collaboration across different age groups. Additionally, the Effective Communication through One Piece & Pokemon Trading Cards workshop introduced creative ways to use card games as tools for engaging youth and improving communication with their Boys.

This retreat served as a platform for personal growth, skill-building and friendships forged, empowering Officers to lead and mentor with greater effectiveness. May they continue to lead with unity, wisdom, and compassion!



National Leadership Assessment Camp

On 12 & 13 October and on 2 & 3 November, 85 Boys from 20 Companies and 56 Boys from 11 Companies respectively participated in the third and fourth run of the National Leadership Assessment Camp (NLAC) at the BB/GB Campsite.

The Boys were organised into squads and engaged in a series of team-building activities that emphasised effective time and resource management to overcome various challenges. One highlight was a raft-building exercise, where squads were tasked with designing and constructing an improved raft to compete in a relay race.

The NLAC serves as a platform for the future leaders of BB to challenge and refine their leadership skills. Throughout the camp, participants encountered a variety of scenarios designed to foster resilience, critical thinking, and teamwork. From tackling outdoor challenges to facilitating group discussions, these young men gained invaluable skills to guide and inspire those around them. While the journey is demanding, it is one that moulds them into the leaders of the future. Prepared to lead, prepared to serve!

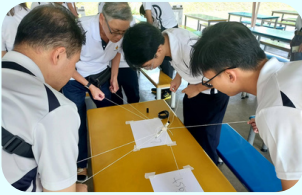


"NLAC was an eye-opening experience for me. It taught me many values such as leadership skills, teamwork and resilience. It challenged me to grow as an individual and step out of my comfort zone to work with other Boys who I just met for the first time. I also learned to take more initiative and be more assertive, and that all leaders are different."

-SSG Seah Wan Le from the 93rd Singapore Company in Yuying Secondary School-



Basic Officer Training Course



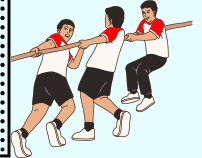
31 Officers from 20 Companies attended Day 2 of the Basic Officer Training Course (BOTC) 02/24 on 12 October at BBHQ!

The Officers learned about the BB Uniform, Company Operations as well as about Elevating the Adversity Quotient. They proceeded to have their Adventure Weekend from the 26 & 27 October at the BB/GB Campsite, where they had practical lessons on facilitation and lessons on doing RAMs, with a 5.4km hike to end the day!

Officers then spent Day 2 doing fun adventure activities like High Elements, Zipline and Kayaking!

During BOTC, I learned to focus on three key points for communication and discovered Adversity Quotient's role in resilience. The course deepened my commitment to guiding youth with faith, discipline, and purpose-driven leadership.

-2LT Joy Lee from ITECC Primers Company in ITE College Central-



Officers' Enrolment Ceremony

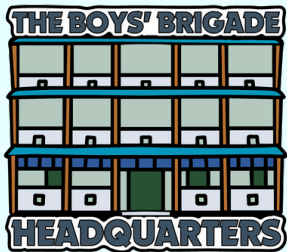
On 18 November, a total of 35 Officers from 20 Companies were enrolled into the Brigade during the Officers' Enrolment Ceremony!

The ceremony was opened by our Brigade President, LTA Patrick Koh, with his address and a word of encouragement to the newly inducted Officers. Followed by an exhortation by Brigade Chaplain Rev Daniel Tong and the dedication and enrolment of the Officers.

In appreciation of our long-serving Officers, 4 Officers were presented with their 10-year Long Service Award while 2 Officers attained their 15-year Long Service Award.



BBHQ Official Opening



The BBHQ Official Opening was organised on 2 November, having moved to 10 Kwong Avenue earlier in 2024. Our donors and Officers were treated to a bagpipe band performance, inaugural launch of Give2BB video and a buffet lunch. Guests also got to receive a limited edition souvenir pin. May the BBHQ be a hub of activities for the years to come!



Stedfast Summit

The Stedfast Summit happened concurrently with the Official Opening, with many activities planned for Boys to participate in as they visit the BBHQ for the first time!

The Boys embarked on a station-based game quest, filled with adventure and fun as they sweated it out to complete the passport! They even had the opportunity to share their BB Memories and indulge themselves in snacks and ice-cream!





Christmas on a Great Street 2024

On 9 November, 75 Boys from 9 Seniors Programme Companies formed the line-of-honour for the President of the Republic of Singapore, Mr Tharman Shanmugaratnam.

The annual Light Up Ceremony, organised by the Community Chest and Orchard Road Business Association, ushers in the season of giving with our Boys giving their time to the community.



Remembrance Day

On 10 November, 2 Boys from the 47th Singapore Company in Serangoon Gardens Secondary School paid tribute in honouring the brave men and women who fought for Singapore's freedom.

The Remembrance Day ceremony is traditionally held on the second Sunday of November, the Sunday closest to Remembrance Day on 11 November, which is the anniversary of the end of World War I in 1918.



"The memorial service at Kranji was deeply moving, with the sight of the graves evoking a profound sense of loss. At Bukit Chandu, I learned about the military through an insightful speech by a Retired Army Officer LTC, who shared stories about his badges. The museum visit was equally informative, detailing the Malay Regiment's brave struggle against the Japanese. This experience deepened my understanding of history and sacrifice."

-LCP Rohan Jakka from 47th Singapore Company in Serangoon Gardens Secondary School-



Annual General Meeting 2024



Incoming and outgoing Brigade Executive members



Brigade President LTA Patrick Koh delivering his message



Officers in attendance

The Boys' Brigade's 91st Annual General Meeting was held for the first time at the new BB Headquarters at 10 Kwong Avenue with a total of 129 Officers from 92 Companies in attendance.

Brigade President LTA Patrick Koh gave us the opening address and the Brigade Council took stock of the activities organised throughout the past year.

We would like to congratulate the 5 awardees of the A.M. Cherian Long Service Award awardees (20 and 25 years).

Lastly, we saw the dedication of our Brigade Executive for 2025, the BB Alumni Management Committee and the Brigade Staff.



BB Share-a-Gift Opening Ceremony 2024

The Boys' Brigade Share-a-Gift 2024 campaign officially launched on 23 November, encouraging the public to donate food items or contribute online to fulfill the wishes of beneficiaries. Now in its 37th year, the campaign aims to support over 51,000 individuals in need.

This flagship community service initiative engages more than 3,500 Boys and volunteers annually to pack and deliver essential food items and hampers to beneficiaries across Singapore during the festive season.

The opening ceremony was officiated by Mr Gan Kim Yong, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for Trade and Industry, and MP for Choa Chu Kang GRC. The Boys' Brigade remains committed to nurturing compassion in our Boys, fostering a sense of care and service to the community. We invite everyone to join us in celebrating the spirit of giving and fellowship this Christmas season.



18th Pipes & Drums Festival

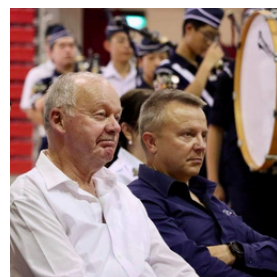


Winning band of the Boys Category, 64th Singapore Company in Ang Mo Kio Secondary School



On the 22 & 23 November, we had the 18th Pipes & Drums Festival at Kuo Chuan Presbyterian Secondary School! Participants filled the air with incredible music dedicated to BB's Scottish heritage.

A total of 130 participants from 13 Seniors Programme Companies and 1 Girls' Brigade Company participated in the competition. Bands were judged with intense precision by our esteemed adjudicators from Australia, Mr Ainsley Hart and Mr Rob Bennett (right picture).



The Guest-of-Honour was Mr Lau Peet Meng, Permanent Secretary (Transport Development), former member of 12th Singapore Company in Anglo-Chinese School, who presented the prizes to the winners.

Congratulations to 64th Singapore Company in Ang Mo Kio Secondary School for winning the Boys category, and to 2nd Singapore Company in Victoria School, a combined band featuring members from 5th, 27th, 93rd Singapore Companies and Merlion Pipe Band on winning the Open Category!



"Participating in the 18th Pipes and Drums Festival has allowed me to see the standard of other companies in terms of pipe band. I was able to perform in front of judges who were nice and welcoming and gave me feedback that allowed me to learn what I could improve on and what I am good at. The advice given by the judges has allowed me to improve as a better snare drummer playing in a pipe band."

-LCP Petrus Tan from 64th Singapore Company in Ang Mo Kio Secondary School-

ITE Primers Unity Challenge 2024

BY LTA ELIJAH TAN FROM ITECC PRIMERS COMPANY IN ITE COLLEGE CENTRAL

The Unity Challenge is an initiative designed to bring together the three ITE Primers' Companies. The Full Gospel Assembly (FGA)/Institute of Technical Education College Central (ITECC) Primers' Company was launched on 21 September 2020, followed by the establishment of the College East (CE) and College West (CW) Primers' Companies in 2021, during the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic. Though each Company has its unique approach, they share a common goal: to inspire and uplift the youth in ITE. This shared purpose led to the creation of the Unity Challenge, driven by the vision of reaching 1000 Primers in ITE.



Going above and beyond, Primers from the three ITEs came together to form a combined planning committee, fuelled by the passion and excitement built up from last year's Unity Challenge. They were challenged to put aside their different Company practices and come to a common ground to plan a memorable day for the rest of their peers.

As the vice-chairman of Unity Challenge, it was a great experience learning to work outside my comfort zone. Initially I had many fears when I first took up the role but as I braved through unexpected struggles, I built myself to have endurance and determination to ensure everything went smoothly. A big thank you to all Officers & volunteers who supported the committee every step of the way."

-CLT Zen Tan from ITECW Primers Company in ITE College West-



"Planning for the Unity Challenge was rushed as we balanced school and tests, but it was a valuable opportunity to adapt under pressure. I contributed by designing the unity logo/banner and managing logistics. As working with participants from other ITEs was an exciting and memorable experience that boosted my confidence in collaborating with diverse teams."

-SCL Siti Zahidah Binte Zainordin from ITECC Primers Company in ITE College Central-

START



Explorers Programme Passing Out Parade 2024

BY KINGDOMGARTEN PRESCHOOL SERVICES



20 November was a truly memorable day as we came together to celebrate the remarkable achievements of our Explorers! The Explorers Programme, a partnership between The Boys' Brigade in Singapore and The Girls' Brigade Singapore, is dedicated to fostering character development, social-emotional growth, and community spirit while instilling God's Truth and Love. This Programme equips 4-6-year-olds with values that will guide them throughout life.

Rev. Dr. Christopher Chia, Synod Moderator of The Presbyterian Church in Singapore and Honorary Vice-President (Clerical) of The Boys' Brigade in Singapore, delivered an inspiring message on the importance of being a beacon of light to others.

This year's Passing Out Parade, held at Singapore Life Church, was a highlight of the celebration, marking a significant milestone as the K2 Explorers received their final badge, "Hero in Me." This badge represents the growth, perseverance, teamwork, and courage they have demonstrated throughout their journey, celebrating the resilience and camaraderie they have built along the way.

South 1 Cluster Bowling

BY LTA DARYL CHEN FROM 10TH SINGAPORE COMPANY IN BEATTY SECONDARY SCHOOL

On 26 October, the South 1 Cluster had their Annual Games Day at Toa Payoh SAFRA. An inter-Company bowling competition was organised for this year.

All 10 Companies in the South 1 Cluster participated and there was even an Exco team formed by none other than our Brigade President LTA Patrick Koh!

It was a successful event, allowing Boys, Primers and Officers to bond together and communicate with one another even though they are from different Companies.



76J Getting fighting fit for the Boys

BY 2LT JEROME SIM FROM 76J SINGAPORE COMPANY IN FIRST TOA PAYOH PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Company organised a day camp for the Boys over 7 & 8 November as part of efforts to expose them to new programmes.

On 7 November, the Boys had their first ever CrossFit experience in an actual “box” (CrossFit gyms are also known as “boxes”) with Amplify Fitness. After a thorough warm-up, the Boys were taught the fundamentals of squatting with a weight as well as how to row efficiently. On 8 November, the Boys had an excursion to the Singapore Discovery Centre where they learnt about the history of modern Singapore and our struggles as a young nation.

Over the two days, the Boys understood the importance of being healthy and fit so that they can enjoy their fitness and be relied upon to help their family and friends. Most of all, they will be able to defend their country when they come of age and enlist into National Service to serve their country.



49th Annual BBSG Car Flag-off

BY LTA GERALDINE GOH AND CLT NATHANIEL KOH FROM 49TH SINGAPORE COMPANY IN ST HILDA'S SECONDARY SCHOOL

Every year, the 49th has anchored the BBSG Tampines Hampers Delivery, where Boys and volunteers have the opportunity to bless our community. It is through acts of service—from collecting donations to packing hampers and blessing our beneficiaries—that we can all come together and make a meaningful difference in someone's life.

On 30 November, the 49th Singapore Company in St Hilda's Secondary School once again held its Annual BBSG Car Flag-off event. Together with members from our sponsoring church, Chapel of Christ the Redeemer, family members, and Brothers from the 49J Singapore Company in St. Hilda's Primary School, and the 46th Singapore Company in Junyuan Secondary School, we delivered more than 500 food hampers to beneficiaries around Tampines!



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