



FELLOWSHIP

MGS Alumnae Association

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NEWSLETTER



A Word From the **President**

Mrs Sim Suh-Ting

As we start another term, I am mindful that I have been President of the Alumnae for too long and hence, plans are afoot for the selection of a new president. This should therefore be my last message as president.

Inevitably, there is a desire to look back through the years to wonder if things could have been done differently, if more could have been done and what had actually been achieved. As one should always be forward looking and not ponder over the "what ifs" or the "if onlys", I would prefer to end my long stint by not looking back in those terms or even in terms of deeds or accomplishments but to share with you what I had gained in my attempt to serve God and school - the blessings have been so many; the close friendships made more than I had expected; the memories more than I had started with; the unexpected lessons that have humbled; the mysterious ways of the Lord that continue to astound; and finally, the constant reminder that only God's way is the best way because really and truly man can propose but in the end God disposes.

If you are amazed that I experienced all this during my years in the Alumnae, don't be because MGS is a school that will continue to stretch and challenge not only her students but also her principal and staff including Alumnae and board members. A school with 119 years of history that has continually evolved and changed to be relevant to the times cannot be expected to do anything less than stretch and challenge all associated with her. Whilst I am pleased therefore that we have once again successfully completed yet another building phase, completed adding a new wing, new facilities, there is work still to be done in deciding MGS' future direction and course. We are in the midst of further evolution and change given the different education landscape offerings that exist today. We have considered many options, discussed many avenues of change with the Ministry but at the moment, no solution is at hand and it is possible that the answer lies in not one big change but in many little ones taking place before we see how they might all come together perfectly within God's plan.

For those of us who are anxious to see MGS leap into a direction that will vault MGS to a position that we feel she should be in, I can only say that we must patiently wait to see what unfolds. Whilst we will continue to knock on doors until an opening is found, I am confident that so long as we look to God and seek His

direction, MGS will be right but we must continue to uphold the administration, Alumnae and board members in prayer.

I thank both present and past committee members for their untiring support in all the activities that we have undertaken. I have been moved by the commitment shown to the MGS cause; and strengthened by the unwavering support for the school that all Alumnae members so easily demonstrate because of their love for their alma mater. I ask for the same support and more be given to my successor.

To all who think MGS matters, I stand by your side; to all who give thanks to God for MGS, I stand by your side; to all who will look to God for MGS' future, I stand by your side. Salut! To God Be the Glory!

Calendar of Events

Past vs Present Games

Date: 8 April (10am-1pm)

Venue: MGS Sports Complex

MGS Alumnae Association Annual General Meeting

Date: 22 April (4pm)

Venue: Alumnae Room, MGS

Love MGS 2006

Date: 26 May (7.30 pm)

Venue: MGS Auditorium

Founder's Day Dinner

Date: 25 July (7.30 pm)

Venue: Meritus Mandarin Singapore

Teachers' Day Lunch

Date: 31 Aug (1 pm)

Venue: To be confirmed

Back At Blackmore

The renovations are finally completed, and all the girls are back together at Blackmore Drive. With upgraded facilities and spanking new buildings, it's a campus to be proud of. As the primary girls adjust back to life here after two years at Clementi, they share their thoughts.

"I like Blackmore because it is new. It feels strange to be with the secondary girls. They are much older than I am. I am very happy in the new school."

~ Beth Nicole Chan, Pr 2.2

"I like my class very much because it is decorated with octopus, stingrays, sharks and tortoises. It feels like studying in the ocean. I like the quadrangle too because it is big enough for catching. I like going to school because it has a lot of places that I can explore."

~ Josephine Chan Pr 2.1

"Instead of mini tennis, I can now play real tennis. I enjoy the tennis courts, bigger classrooms and the air-conditioned auditorium. I also enjoy the whole sports complex and the renovated library. I have a bigger and better ballet room to go to."

~ Deborah Wong, Pr 4.1

"It is really great to be back because many of my memories are locked away behind some doors."

~ Marian Kang, Pr 5.6

"I feel happy in Blackmore but there is no tree with giant roots in Blackmore unlike Clementi. The school is so big and exciting. On 18 January, me and my friend Joanna discovered a secret playground."

~ Pek May Anne, Pr 2.6



"The classes are bigger and the basketball area has been transformed into a new space called the Bamboo Courtyard. It looks like a modern city building. Some pupils say it looks like a condominium."

~ Tessa Oh, Pr 4.1

"Now that we are back at Blackmore Drive, there is so much space!! Before I came here, I was a bit nervous. I wondered whether there was a lot of space or would it be very cramped. When I got to my class I found that it was huge!!!"

~ Chloe Liang, Pr 3.2

"On 3 January 2006, we were finally back at Blackmore! Classes here are much bigger and there are more facilities including the running track. I could never forget the time when we had to run 1.6 km (NAPFA test) on the field at Clementi. The field was so bumpy I nearly fell flat. Well, I am happy that the whole school is finally pieced back together just like a jigsaw puzzle. I look forward to school every day. School rocks!"

~ Krystal Lim, Pr 6.2



"Ahh...the luxury of the six fans, the spacious classrooms, the new navy blue tables and yellow chairs... The new campus is simply wonderful!"

~ Joy Lim, Pr 6.3



The Inkwell Project Fundraiser



In 2005, parents and teachers came together to organise a five-month long literary project for the entire school. The aim was to raise funds for the school's renovations while promoting a love for reading.

The main fundraiser was a 'read-a-thon' where students had to seek out sponsors who would pledge a sum for books read by the girls. Extensive book lists were prepared by the teachers for the various levels. There were other activities complementing the 'read-a-thon' as well.

The Big Bang Book Fest

The project was kicked off on 5 March 2005 with Book Fest. This was a carnival which celebrated books and all things literary. There was a book sale run by parents who had to learn the art of book retailing in weeks with the help of publishers, Penguin and Pansing. The school IT department pitched in with scanning equipment and cash registers. There were smaller stalls selling book-related items, as well as *Café Du Jour*, a parent-run café where the menu comprised items such as 'Peter Rabbit's Salad Bowl', 'The Grinch's Casserole' and 'King Babar's Treat'.

White hoardings around the school were decorated with students' artwork including fantastic depictions of familiar fictional characters. Meanwhile, there were games galore conducted by the girls to add to the festivities. At the carnival, the Alumnae brought back our ever-popular *Gourmet Hot Dog Stand* (a big hit from last year's Family Fiesta!) to the appreciative crowd. We also assisted in the pricing of books and the display and running of one of the several bookstores.

Drama group, iTheatre lent a hand and staged a performance, "Dancing with Dragons", as well as conducted puppetry workshops for the primary girls. NIE lecturer, Emmeline Payne gave a talk on "How to encourage your child to be a better reader" and Karen Lim gave one on drama. The event also saw local author Bessie Chua (an alumna of the then Fairfield Methodist Girls' School) launched her new book "Little Pioneers" in which carried a reference to Sophia Blackmore.

Ongoing Bookishness

After the Book Fest, Inkwell continued at a more subdued pace. Every month end, the class which collected the most for the read-a-thon would be announced and prizes were awarded for most money collected and most books read. Another incentive was being appointed 'Library Angels' – girls who read up to a certain number of books qualified for various library privileges.

During the five months of Inkwell, teachers and parents conducted many other literary activities which included:

- **Wordsworth** - A series of talks by local authors, playwrights and poets
- **All the World Is A Stage** - Drama performances brought to the school by local theatre companies
- **Storytime Pyjama Party** - A writing workshop for upper primary girls
- **Book Character Parade** - a fancy dress parade
- **Library Labyrinth** - A treasure hunt game to test the younger girls' knowledge of their library
- **Spiral Story Telling** - Coached by Steve Stine of "Kayla & the Magical Tree", saw primary girls develop and pass on stories from one class to another
- **Inkwell Chronicles** - a school newspaper developed by the Secondary 3 girls
- **Book Appetit** - cooking classes by cookbook chefs
- **Lexical Odyssey** - Zany Brainy games including a spelling bee

Inkwell closed in early August 2005 after raising about \$300,000. In the secondary school category, Sec 4A3 raised the most money during the read-a-thon, while P2.4 was the top primary class. The winning classes enjoyed movie outings sponsored by Eng Wah Cinemas. Individually, Victoria Tay of Sec 4A3 and Natalie Tan of Sec 3A4 were the top two fundraisers.





Founder's Day

Dinner 2005



On 25th July last year, the MGS Founder's Day Dinner rolled by once again. As it had been done for the last decades, MGS girls both past and present filled the Island Ballroom of the Shangri-La Hotel to celebrate the school's 118th Founder's Day – excited graduands, recent old girls, and older 'old girls' all bedecked in finery.

In between course after course of hearty Chinese food, guests were entertained by the students, awards were presented and speeches made. The primary school students charmed guests with their own musical performance of CATS, prancing about in furry costumes and rolling about the stage. Then, to music loud enough for a disco, the year's graduands strutted across a purpose-built catwalk in a fashion show worthy of professional models, showing off clothes by Club 21.

On a more serious note, Mrs Moses Yu was presented the MGS Mrs Margaret Goh Service Award for her outstanding commitment to MGS. Mrs Yu joined MGS in 1957 and continued to serve the school for an amazing 43 years! Another award recipient that night was Dr Wu Dar Ching. He was presented the Service to Education Award 2005 by the Ministry of Education in recognition of his service as a member of the MGS Board.

To honour the late Mrs Margaret Goh, MGS named an orchid from its orchid hybridization programme in her memory. Named the Dendrobium Margaret Goh, it was officially registered with the Royal Horticultural Society in the UK. Mrs Fang Ai Lian presented the naming certificate to Mrs Goh's son, Eck Kheng during the dinner.

Long serving teachers and staff had their moment on stage too, that evening. The long service awards were presented, with much applause, to Mrs Corrine Sim, Vice Principal of MGS, Mrs Agnes Lee, Mrs Tay Poh Imm and Ms Ruby Soh, who spent 35 years helping hundreds of MGS girls grapple with the intricacies of the science lab!

Several anniversary years were present that night: the Classes of 1955, 1975, 1985 and 1995.

With the belting out of the Auld Lang Syne and the school song, the celebrations had to come to an end. The young graduands scattered, older ladies took their time to wander out and soon the ballroom was quiet again.

Clockwise from top: A night of camaraderie among the MGS family; primary girls charming audiences as prowling cats; confident strides by 2005 graduands during their fashion show item; Mrs Anna Tham and Mrs Moses Yu catching up with old girls; Mrs Yu receiving the MGS Mrs Margaret Goh Service Award from Goh Eck Kheng; young ladies of MGS looking their best for the evening.



Change in Venue Founder's Day Dinner 2006

This year's Founder's Day Dinner will be held at the Meritus Mandarin Singapore. Our flyers will be out soon. Make your reservations!

In the Service of Others

Joyce Tan, an MGS alumna, was recently presented the Outstanding Social Worker Award by President Nathan. Fellowship catches up with her.

An outstanding social worker, Joyce Tan, from the Class of 1971, has been Director of Programs at Methodist Welfare Services for the last seven years. Before that, she worked at the Singapore Association for Mental Health for many years.

Fellowship: Tell us about the award you received from President Nathan.

Joyce: The OSWA (Outstanding Social Worker Award) Merit is given out annually in recognition of the work done by social workers in Singapore. Recipients are nominated by their peers or agencies. Its objective is to honour those who have dedicated their time to help others and contribute to the advancement of the social work profession.

Fellowship: What made you go into Social Services in the first place?

Joyce: My major in university was social work - I guess you could say I became interested in this field of work at an 'early' age.

Fellowship: Isn't working with the less privileged depressing? How do you counter that to maintain your own mental health/optimism?

Joyce: Social work training disciplines you to separate work and personal life. You are there to help them find the best alternatives to meet their needs. You do not take those problems upon yourself or expect to be their only source of help. I enjoy learning about and learning from people, and social work offers limitless possibilities for both.



I pursue my other interests when I leave the office - taking nature walks, exploring wild life sanctuaries, photography, working with clay (pottery), singing in my church choir, going on mission trips to Nagaland in India and spending time with my family. I need quiet time in creative activity to restore my energy to be with people.



Fellowship: Why did you choose to work with mental patients earlier in your career?

Joyce: I wanted to reach out to the most displaced and misunderstood members of society; to help those who are often shunned by people because of their inability to communicate their needs.

Fellowship: What are the most gratifying experiences in your career?

Joyce: When people grow, change and are able to draw on their own strengths and abilities, and when they become motivated to help others as well. This applies not only to my patients, but also to fellow workers who have developed a passion for helping those who are more vulnerable.

Fellowship: Has an MGS education benefitted you in your career and if so, how?

Joyce: The values, discipline and Christian teaching throughout my school days had an influence on the choice of my vocation. Actually, it was by being a member of the Girls' Brigade that my social consciousness was awakened - our visits to the old folks homes and feeding severely mentally handicapped children in the old Tampines Home gave me my first insight into the world outside MGS! My schoolmates were probably also a good influence on me! The part of the school song "for friendships made and pleasures shared and lessons learned apace" sums it all!

Fellowship: Finally are there any thoughts you would like to share with our readers?

Joyce: The school is a critical place in a child's life. It can influence the values we carry with us for the rest of our lives. We should really examine the values the children are exposed to. Parents also have a large part to play as it is at home that these values are reinforced.

Fellowship: Thank you.

What are they doing now?

Tricia Ho (Class of '99), a former violinist with the National Youth Orchestra, recently made news in the Australian newspapers for inventing an ergonomic, 'pain-free' violin as part of her thesis project in university. Her violin is made of carbon fibre and a 'shape memory polymer' called Veriflex, which can be moulded to fit the violin player before each performance, thus reducing aches and pains, especially for professional musicians. Tasmanian instrument maker, Neil Laughlin, was also heavily involved. She has no patent for the design, and told The Australian newspaper: "It's not something I want to make a million dollars from; it's a project I really enjoyed doing." Tricia will soon receive a German design award and her violin has been shortlisted for the Australian Design Awards.

Pink is everywhere and you can't miss it. Many of the lower primary girls seem to be using it - Strawberry Shortcake bags and stationery. Their brothers are likely to be using Toy Story or Thomas the Tank Engine merchandise. Behind this kiddie trend is entrepreneur and old girl **Choong Yih Min** (Class of '84) who started Creative Moms Pte Ltd. The business started when this mother of three struggled with the perennial issue of juggling kids (three boys), the demands of the corporate world and doing something that she really enjoyed. The idea of retailing and distributing came to mind, and since then the business has grown to a presence you cannot miss these days especially when you step into any department store!

MGS Reunions

Class of '85: MGS Blessings

By Rebecca Chung

Thirty-four "young" ladies of this Class re-united after 20 years on 3 Dec 2005 at Corduroy & Finch for tea. Amidst the excited squeals of "Is that YOU!?", "Oh my goodness! You look so DIFFERENT!" and "What? 3 children!"; there were the hushed whispers of "Who is that?" "That girl from Science 1?? Are you sure it's her?" "Aiyah, what's her name??" However, most girls were recognisable, and a few were improved versions of the 1985 ones!

It was indeed a great time down memory lane, with many of us scratching our heads trying to remember people and events, and laughing loudly without restraint, like the excited school girls we once were. After re-introductions, catching up with one another and filling our tummies, we gathered for a poll-taking. It was found that two-thirds of us were married, one-third with children, most of whom have two.

Later, Sharon Lim, our organiser and hostess gave out awards for the following:

- The Least Changed** - Lim Foong
- The Most Changed** - Fong Yee
- Least Changed Personality** - Sharon Lim

Nation-Building Award

- Rebecca Chung
(but I only have 3 kids!)

Most Interesting/ Unusual Job

- Grace Tow (Swimming Instructress)

Dated the Longest Without Getting Married

- Tan Jwee San
(flew in from Beijing)

Body Beautiful

- No One

Came the Farthest for the Reunion

- Grace Liow (from Hongkong)

As I left the reunion, I felt so blessed to have been an MGS girl (and may I say, I still am, at heart!), to have known such great friends (a few of whom I still keep in close contact with) and to have had so many good memories. I know that my eldest daughter, who is in MGS this year, will not only receive an outstanding education, but will leave with cherished memories and friendships. Indeed, "today our hearts confess the debt we owe, the love we hold for our dear MGS."

God bless MGS!



Class of '84: Just Like That!

By Sim Ee Wawn

Even after 22 years, few things have changed. It was, as usual, Oh Su Lin who picked up the phone and made the calls, and initiated the first reunion for the Class of '84. That she used to do in school, and that she continues to do. From what started as a tea of a handful of friends, grew into a monster, and ended up being a proper class reunion which saw 66 old girls - comprising former arts and science girls - turn up at the Spoon Room at the Island Country Club.

Despite the yawning gap of 22 missing years since many of us last met, its touching how things just fall into place again - just like that. For many it was like we left school just the other day. For most of us, we still talk the same, laugh the same, and it was easy to jump straight back into our old friendships. Some looked more prosperous, some looked even more glamorous, and most of us - well, looked the same. Of course, there were changes - like kids (many with two, some with only one, one even expecting her fourth!), expanding girths, successful careers (whether as businesswomen, corporate climbers, professionals, or homemakers).....but what stood out was that all of us ended up leading happy, balanced lives of our choice.

Photos were taken before the food went in, and the microphone (yes it was a big enough gathering to warrant a mike! Yay!) was passed round to reintroduce ourselves and strategically plug our businesses - gynae practices, kiddie merchandise, calls for volunteers for sleep research, foldable bikes, etc....Then, the noise level went up as it used to in secondary school when the teacher stepped out of class - we started yakkling, catching up with old friends, moving from table to table and milling about. This time, no "Girls! Keep Quiet!" would stop us. It had been too long.

Thanks to Kym Ng, on whom was foisted the task of compiling a contact list, hopefully we won't have to wait another 22 years to see each other again!



Class of '95: An Evening to Remember

By Dorothea Lim Hua-Fern

Isn't it amazing how time seems to stand still when you're in MGS? And you think you'll be in school forever, until all of a sudden reality kicks in and the O-levels spell a tearful farewell to the best friends we'll ever make our entire lives. At our Baccalaureate Service in 1995, we made a pact to meet again in 10 years' time, and have a bash at our annual Founder's Day dinner. And a bash we did have in 2005, proudly filling a total of seven tables!

In November of 2004, nine months before Founder's Day, word about our much-awaited 10th Anniversary reunion spread to classmates across the continents via email, ensuring that as many girls (yes, we will always be MGS 'girls') as possible from the Class of 1995 had ample time to plan to make it for the evening of July 25th 2005.

Slowly but surely, the contact list grew. After nine months of labour (pun intended), we finally delivered a dream which had been conceptualised 10 years earlier.

From across the globe, 70 of us descended upon the Island Ballroom in Shangri-la Hotel, some even flying home

transatlantic specially for the night. Founder's Day 2005 was a day we will all remember fondly for the rest of our lives. We had all grown into special ladies in our own right. We had become successful businesswomen, local celebrities, academics, teachers at our most beloved alma mater, and even mothers to little angels whom we can't wait to see in MGS uniforms! But no matter what we looked like or what lives we now lead or where we lived, meeting up with our most treasured old school friends transformed us back into the same giggly 16-year-olds we once were. Looking at the Secondary Four students that night enjoying themselves as much as we were, we couldn't help but think: We MGS girls just don't change, do we?

The night simply wasn't long enough. We had so much catching up to do, so many photos to take, and so many teachers to greet and say, "Do you remember me?" One night just wasn't enough. So we made a pact to meet again in 10 years' time, just like we did 10 years ago. So we all went home with mixed feelings of nostalgia, happiness, sadness and of course, excitement in anticipation of Founder's Day 2015.

Class of '65: Fabulous 40th Fun 'n' Fellowship

Yes, we had a fabulous time at the MGS Fun N Fellowship night on 19 August 2005, feasting, catching up with one another and reminiscing about old times! We had selected the Friday closest to the founding of the school – 15 August 1887 – for our 40th anniversary reunion, held at Fraser Place.

We started with a buffet dinner at the 3rd floor, then adjourned to the Retreat on the 4th floor for more Fun 'n' Fellowship. Each time someone entered, there were screams of delight as she was correctly named. Except for the greying hair and some fuzzy memories, we were still the same noisy bunch.

The presentation 'Memories, Gems and Sentiments' was the highlight of the evening! Many hours were spent packing photographs, messages from girls abroad, drawings and paintings in autograph books, and a message from Miss Ellen Crabbe (Mrs Barnes), a favourite Literature teacher residing in Perth, into a seven-minute production by the committee.

The presentation had taken up most of the evening that we only had time for few items. There was a lucky draw where almost every one went home with a gift; the school song was sung with gusto and birthday girls of the month of August cut a birthday cake. They were Elizabeth Cheah, Miranda Chua, Tan Poh Imm and Wendy Ngo. The evening ended with three cheers for MGS.

The girls who came together to plan the anniversary were Ai Choo, Elizabeth, Evita, Fawziah, Lillian, Maureen and Miranda. On a curious note, 40 girls signed up for our 40th Anniversary reunion. We studied at 11 Mount Sophia and we were celebrating our 40th at 11 Unity Street!



Planning our 60th Birthday Bash!

We will be celebrating our 60th Birthday in 2009. If you belong to the Class of 1965 or know of someone who does, do contact us so that we can make it a truly wonderful Sixtieth Birthday Bash. Contact us at le3vita@gmail.com



"Let your light so shine before men, that they may

And on this we base our theme for

Love MGS 2006 –

My God Shines! We felt
God was saying to MGS... we are
moving from **My God Saves** to... **My
God Shines!**

"My God Saves" was our theme at Love MGS 2001. Just like the Samaritan woman who met Jesus at the well and was saved, we, the MGS body, were (symbolically) sinners in need of a Saviour. Now though, a new season has dawned. MGS is no longer bowed in shame, but shining, radiant, and clothed in the righteousness of Christ! It is time for us to go out and tell the world about Him, to **shine forth His glory!**

"And many of the Samaritans of that city believed in Him because of the word of the woman who testified, 'He told me all that I ever did.'"

– John 4:39

It is with great eagerness and expectation that we work towards this vision, plowing back to the school that has influenced our lives in one way or another. If you have a desire to join us or support us in any way, we'd love to hear from you!

7 years of thank

Love MGS 2005 was indeed a magnificent night. Once again, the MGS body, both young and old, past and present, joined in one voice to proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord over our school! God was enthroned in our praise as we worshipped Him through an amalgam of creative expressions – music, dance, photography, testimonies, and even the Holy Communion.

And, for the first time in six years, Love MGS became more than a once-a-year event. Love MGS 2005 was a ministry to the school, an avenue for past girls to give back to their alma mater. Taking a band of present-girl musicians under our wings (whom we now affectionately call the "Baby Band"), we mentored them, using music as a platform to share with them the love of Christ. We also served alongside various chapel bands, sharing music, and sharing experiences with these beloved daughters of God.

Most exciting of all, on the night of Love MGS 2005, in the midst of fervent prayer and intercession, God revealed to us a word of knowledge:

M-G-S -- "My Glory Shines"

Reuniting as one family...

...may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven." – Matthew 5:16

Love MGS 2006 – "My God Shines"
Friday, 26th May 2006

MGS Blackmore Drive

More details available at:

<http://www.mgs.sch.edu.sg/loveMGS.htm>

Get in touch with us at lovemgs@gmail.com



Charity Golf Tournament

Preparations for this fund-raiser began way back in February 2005. The MGS Building Charity Golf Tournament was held on 20 October 2005 at the Raffles Country Club, Palm Course. The Organising Committee targeted to raise \$200,000 for the school's re-building. Chaired by the enigmatic Mrs Christine Dhanabalan, the Committee not only met the target, they exceeded it by \$30,000!

The tournament was graced by Guest of Honour, Mr Mah Bow Tan, Minister for National Development as well as other VIPs including Mr S Dhanabalan, Chairman, DBS Bank, Dr Wang Kai Yuen, MP for Bukit Timah GRC, and Mr Ng Ser Miang, Chairman, Fairprice Co-operative Ltd & Secretary-General, Singapore National Olympic Council.

The day of the tournament started with somewhat dubious weather conditions. Slightly overcast, we all prayed for better weather and God once again was gracious to provide a beautiful afternoon, with initial showers to cool the day. The rest of the afternoon was just perfect weather for golf.

Nineteen girls from the MGS Golf Club were present, accompanied by Mrs Chong Swee Kim, Teacher I/C Golf CCA. They were assigned to help in the distribution of goodie bags, taking candid photographs and video clips of participants, topping up the ice-boxes with drinks at different holes, labelling prizes and handling traffic. Another three girls participated in the tournament itself. They enjoyed it thoroughly, although it was the first time on the course for one of the girls.

Dinner was a simple buffet held at the Club's Shanshui Restaurant. For starters, we screened the raw video footage and photographs taken earlier by our own girls, which drew much laughter from the participants.

The prizes for the games were given out by Mr Mah and there were lucky draw prizes for all, so that everyone went home happy. In particular, a special prize was awarded to the Best Score for an MGS girl, past or present. This was won by Dr Caroline Chee, from the Class of 1974.

It was a good day of golf and a wonderful evening - many thanks go out to our generous donors, sporting golfers and all who made it a 'fun' fund-raiser! We also give thanks to our Lord for the MGS family and friends who continue to faithfully support the school.



Teachers' Day

Hoedown



The Alumnae pays tribute to present as well as retired teachers each year on Teachers' Day by hosting lunch for them, and last year we laid out a

sumptuous Peranakan buffet lunch at the Grand Roxy Mercure Hotel in Marine Parade.

"Hee haw!"

Teachers jumped into their Levi's, slapped on their Stetsons and tested their line-dancin' skills at last year's Teachers' Day Lunch. With "Country & Western" as the theme, we had urban cowboys and cowgirls vying for prizes for the Best Dressed, which saw numerous worthy candidates. There was also a competition to seek out the Best Line Dancing team - for good measure, competing teams had been put through some quick lessons by committee member Eng Ai and her friend, Linda.

Teachers also had to show how in tune they were with country & western hits, movies and personalities in a quiz that brought back memories for those who grew up with shows like Bonanza, The Lone Ranger, The Alamo and The Magnificent Seven; and who are fans of Western stars like John Wayne, Roy Rogers and Clint Eastwood!

Teachers' Day Lunch is never complete without our much-anticipated Lucky Draw. We saw prizes ranging from appliances like juicers, steamers, cookers, a microwave oven, a television and DVD player to spa vouchers, shopping, travel and dining vouchers. Our top prize was two return tickets to Bangkok!

All quiet on the western front it certainly was not at high noon on Wednesday 31 August 2005. Instead it was a toe-tappin', foot-stompin', grub-munchin' hoedown! A heigh-ho salute to all MGS teachers!!



The Sculptures

The idea to commission a sculpture for the school came about in the course of a conversation between the late Mrs Margaret Goh's son, Eck Kheng, and Alumnae President, Sim Suh-Ting, in 2004.

Suh-Ting had mentioned that the school was planning a piece of public art for its re-built campus. In fact, the late Brother Joseph MacNally had been approached, but passed away before the project could move forward. Taking up the idea, the Goh family decided to commission the work for the school in Mrs Goh's memory.

Utterly Art Gallery proposed a number of sculptors and Lim Soo Ngee was given the commission. Lim is a veteran artist and a lecturer at Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts whose works explore

different relationships between environment and society. The brief was to create a work that captured the traditions and abiding values of the school through sculptures showing three generations of MGS girls. Further, the sculptures were to be designed to interact with each other as well as to allow people to interact with them. After exploring a



number of possible sites in the school, it was decided that the free-standing sculptures would be placed casually at a corner of the concourse such that it became part of the environment.

MGS girls from the 1920s, 1950s and today were chosen as these periods represented the different stages of growth for the school. Also, the uniforms of the various eras are distinct. Together, the three girls depict shared values, lasting friendships and strong school ties that straddle generations. The latter is clearly evident in the life of the school alumnae.

It is hoped that in time, girls, past and present, will not only recognise the sculptures as an icon of MGS, but will also learn to respect and appreciate art for its beauty and meaning, and its relationship to our environment and society.

A committee comprising representatives from the school board, alumnae and the Goh family has chosen a name for the sculptures. This name will be announced in July at the official opening of the refurbished and enlarged campus.



Mini Fair

The Alumnae stall at the primary school mini fair was very popular both with the students and adults - everyone who loves a bargain got a good deal. We had toys, games, videos, CDs, bags, purses and even slippers and a good range of knick knacks which went "5 for a \$1".

Both old girls and their daughters manned the stall and we were so popular we had repeat buyers coming back for more throughout the day! We collected about \$1,000 which was a good haul considering we were selling recycled goods.

What was left after the sale was donated to a charity shop - so we continued to do our bit for charity even after the "event"!

As for the rest of the mini fair, the girls were treated to an array of games and activities which included the dunking tank and of course lots of food which we also happily tucked into as we took turns to check out the fair in between our sales!



An evening in the park

"A Delightful Evening in the Park". That was one of last year's fund raising projects. Foodies gathered at the beautiful Au Jardin Les Amis restaurant in the Botanic Gardens to enjoy an evening of good food and fine wine.

The guest chef was well known gourmand Mrs Melina Yong who tickled guests' palates with a fine menu: tien of avocado & crabmeat, squid ink pasta, braised abalone and grilled wagyu beef, and finishing off with a medley of three desserts made from Mango, Grapes and Soursop.



Past vs Present Games

The Past vs Present Games Day was held on Saturday 21 May at the school's newly renovated Sports Complex. MGS girls past and present, fought for the Anna Tham Challenge Shield in tennis, squash and netball. The Past team won the Shield this year making it their 9th win out of the 12 Past vs Present Games played since 1994.



Celebrating the Life of Miriam Jean Gruber

Tay Poh Imm remembers a remarkable woman

*"He has shown you, O man, what is good
And what does the Lord require of you
But to do justly, to love mercy,
And to walk humbly with your God?"
Micah 6:8 (NKJ)*

Strolling past a road sweeper along Mount Sophia one day, Miss Gruber stopped, walked up to the man, gave him a huge smile and said, "Ooh, you do a good job, sweeping the road! So clean, ah! Banyak Terima Kasih! (Thank you very much)"

That was Miss Gruber to the core. She had a deep love for people and could appreciate and draw lessons from the simplest things in life. She had an infectious, hearty laugh and caring demeanor that made her impossible to forget.

Born Miriam Jean Gruber on 27 August, 1914 in Mahanoy City, Pennsylvania, she felt the Lord's call when she was a young girl, and in 1946, was commissioned as a missionary to China at the tender age of 22. She taught in a girls' school in Foochow until the Communists took control of China in 1949.

She came to Singapore in 1951 and served as a teacher and Christian education worker at the Methodist Girls' School for two years before returning to the United States to do her MA degree. When she returned to Malaysia in 1954, she served as House Mother at Shellabear Hall in Malacca.

Durian Initiation

It was also during this time that she cultivated a love for local cuisine – laksa, mee siam, hokkien mee and even durians. She loved to repeat her anecdote about her first encounter with such an exotic fruit when she was a young teacher at MGS. Mrs Ellice Handy, the principal then, arranged to meet her in the carpark for a durian initiation session.

"You will either love it or hate it," said Mrs Handy. Needless to say, the ever-adventurous Miss Gruber loved it!

Deep bonds of friendship

I first met Miss Gruber in 1965, when I was a student at MGS and she was the chaplain. I remember she had an amazing ability to enthrall a hall full of restless girls during chapel with her talks peppered with jokes and practical tips.

My mother and Miss Gruber became great friends and served together in the Women's Society of Christian Service. Over the years, my own friendship with Miss Gruber developed as she became more than a family friend. She was also my mentor. She started a bible study group for some Girls' Brigade officers, including myself, and to this day, we all share a deep bond of friendship cultivated over the years we spent in fellowship with Miss Gruber.

She affectionately referred to us as "her girls", and we kept in contact over the years, even after she returned to the United States in 1975. She would visit Singapore whenever she could and on her last trip in 2002 accompanied by her friend, Sandra Langefeld, she joined in the MGS Founder's Day celebrations, where she was warmly welcomed by our former principal, Mrs Anna Tham, and Miss Kon Mei Leen and the MGS Alumnae.

We celebrated her 88th birthday then and we knew it would soon become difficult for her to make the long journey to Singapore.

A beautiful sunset

It was truly sad for us to hear of her sudden passing on 23 July last year after a fall. Her friends kept watch over her and were greatly comforted that there was a beautiful sunset the evening she went home peacefully. She had returned to be with her Lord.

All those who loved her gathered in the MGS Chapel on 9 September to celebrate the life of Miss Miriam Jean Gruber. Rev Dr Robert Solomon, Bishop of the Methodist Church, and people from different phases of her life shared their memories of Miriam. What struck me was how the essence of their memories were all the same – Miriam was special.

Miriam was truly a woman of God, sincere and consistent in all her dealings. She also had the ability to make each person feel special. Her cheerfulness and enthusiasm brought joy to those around her, and touched so many lives through her ministry. For those who knew her, it was a privilege to have loved her and called her friend.

