

MGS ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION

FELLOWSHIP 2009



ESTABLISHED 1887

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2009

PAST vs PRESENT GAMES : 18 APRIL, SATURDAY, 8am-12pm : MGS SPORTS COMPLEX

MGS ALUMNAE AGM : 4 JULY, SATURDAY, 3pm : ALUMNAE ROOM

LOVE MGS 2009 : 17 JULY, FRIDAY, 7pm : MGS AUDITORIUM **122ND FOUNDERS DAY DINNER** : 25 JULY, SATURDAY, 7.30pm :

THE MERITUS MANDARIN HOTEL **MGS FUN FAIR** : 29 OCTOBER, 9am-12.30pm : MGS



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We are well into 2009. The events that have taken place over the past six months have turned the world upside down: many go to work half expecting to find that they will no longer have a job; others have been retrenched and are now looking for new jobs. It's sad to see the innocent having to suffer the consequences of this worldwide economic downturn. We can only pray that the worse is over and that the various stimulus plans that have been set in motion all over the world will reverse the situation.

Despite all the bad news, we will continue with our plans for the year undaunted.

In February, we participated in 'Love with a Cause', the school's charity drive which saw wheelchair-bound Dr William Tan wheeling himself around the school track for 24 hours pulling a carriage (with a passenger) in aid of the Children's Cancer Fund as well as the school's Grow a Seed Fund. Some of our Alumna ran or walked alongside Dr Tan as he made his way around the track. The Alumnae's famous gourmet hot dogs were a hit with the

crowd and this time we also had pasta with meat sauce to sustain the hungry hordes.

Next on the calendar is the Past vs Present Games which is scheduled to take place on Saturday 18 April 2009 from 8 am-12 pm. Hopefully, you responded to our email blast and will come join us for a day of fun and fellowship. For the last few years, the Past has taken the Anna Tham Challenge Shield home – what does that prove? Age and experience can and does surpass youth and vigour!

Do look out for the notice of our Annual General Meeting which we plan to hold before the end of June. Also on the calendar is LoveMGS, our Prayer & Praise concert on 17 July 2009.

The next major event is our 122nd Founder's Day on 25 July 2009. This year the dinner will again be held at the Meritus Mandarin Hotel. For the cohorts who are celebrating their special years, do make sure you register your tables early.

This year we have revamped the format of our newsletter. Do let us have your feedback. We are trying to go paperless – so if you prefer not to receive the printed edition of this newsletter, please let us know so that we can take your name off the mailing list for the printed edition. Instead we will send you the PDF version, which will also be made available on our web pages later.

In Psalm 103 verse 17, the Psalmist said, "But for those who honour the Lord, his love lasts forever, and his goodness endures for all generations." The Lord has blessed MGS and all of us for many generations – let us continue to honour and obey Him so that our school will endure in His love forever!

God bless,
BARBARA CHEE



Founder's Day Dinner



The highlight of the year was the Founder's Day Dinner with over 80 tables. Celebrating the school's 121st year, the dinner was held at the Meritus Mandarin Hotel again. As it is also the Prom night for the graduating Secondary 4 classes, the dinner gave the girls a chance to dress up and party. Guests included some of our President scholars – Ann Tan, Tan Li Feng, Yap Hui Kim and Lee Bee Wah who were honoured earlier on at the Founder's Day Service – and the family of Evangeline Chew which comprised four generations of MGS girls! They certainly embodied the evening's theme "Once an MGS girl, always an MGS girl".

In the course of the evening, we were entertained by two of the youngest finalists in the ALOUD Talentime contest as well as an eye-popping dance item by the Secondary School Dance Club. The recipient of the Margaret Goh Award last year was Dr Aileen Aw (Class of 1955), who has served faithfully on the Board of Management for many years. Among the reunion years present that night were alumna from the Classes of 1968, 1978, 1988 and 1998.



What Are They Doing Now?



Setting Up Home

Fellowship catches up with Tania Hoahing (Class of '87) who was recently featured in the Straits Times article “Spurred to Start Foster Home” (November 15, 2008). Tania founded Blue Sky Healing Home in China to help children with rare medical conditions.

Tania had moved to Beijing in 2003 as an expatriate tai-tai. After the initial few weeks, Tania began to volunteer with some charity groups, including a medical foster home where she first met two-month-old Tian Bao, who had an abdominal defect. The medical foster home at the time was full and the director asked Tania to take Tian Bao home. Tania fell in love with the beautiful baby and set about to adopt her. A blessing, a catalyst for change, the baby made her realize that there were many children in orphanages or from poor families in China who needed help but could not afford to do so. With an acute shortage of medical foster homes in China, Tania decided to set one up.



That was about five years ago in 2004. Since then, Blue Sky Healing Home, the medical foster home she founded, has since helped over 90 children obtain medical care for extremely complex medical conditions that their families or orphanages could not afford. Her home relies on private donations to fund its ongoing running costs of caring for up to 20 children with complex medical conditions ranging from heart problems, bladder exstrophy, anus imperforation to cleft lip and palate, and bone deformities.

No easy task, Tania's labour of love demands a great deal of time, perseverance and, in her own words, a “thick-skin”. She credits her years in MGS for giving her the fire to embark on this undertaking, and her oldest and dearest friends from school who have supported her and built her confidence over the years.

One incident she remembers vividly was when Mrs Teh entrusted her with a stack of Primary 5 exam papers to carry up to the Teachers' Room. She was at that time only in Primary 2 and the thought of such responsibility overwhelmed her. But Mrs Teh said, “You can do it, I

trust you.” These few words turned out to be a cornerstone in building her confidence early on in life.

All grown up now with two children of her own, Tania faces myriad challenges in running the home – from government bureaucracy to finding the right doctor to handle the various medical conditions of her charges, to doing the paperwork for any adoption processes. So what keeps her going? “Look at my kids!” she says as she shows me pictures of the children she has helped. “How do you say no to saving a life?”

Now that Tania has moved back to Singapore, she has to rely on her team in China to run the home. Does she miss them? “I miss them very much! All my children and my team,” she declares passionately. She hopes to visit soon but for now, she is focusing on settling down in Singapore, raising funds and even bringing one of ‘her kids’ to Singapore for treatment.



Tania is grateful for the contributions from relatives, friends and even strangers who read about her work. If you'd like to support or find out more about Blue Sky Healing Home, log onto www.blueskyhealinghome.org or email Tania at tania@blueskyhealinghome.org

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Emily Lim (Class of '87) wrote and published her debut picture book as a winner of Singapore's First Time Writers and Illustrators Publishing Initiative in 2007. They were inspired by her personal journey coping with Spasmodic Dysphonia, a rare voice order for the past nine years. In the process, she has found strength in God and also love and support from family and friends. She's much better now and has faith that she will recover fully. Her three books are published under Mustard Seed Books label, inspired by Matthew 13:32.

Fellowship: How did you start writing books?

Emily Lim: I took part in the First Time Writers Publishing Initiative in 2007 and won a grant to publish my first book *Prince Bear & Pauper Bear*. This was organised by MDA and The Book Council and the competition was specifically for children's books.

I decided to start writing full time after I completed my second book, *The Tale of Rusty Horse*. The feedback from friends and strangers strongly encouraged me to continue writing. Receiving an international award for *Prince Bear & Pauper Bear* around the same time also gave me a lift. When I found out that I was the first in Southeast Asia to win the Independent Publisher's Book Awards in children's books, the world's largest book awards competition,

Toy Stories

Fellowship catches up with author Emily Lim who talks to us about her literary journey.

I knew it was definitely providential.

I have seen God's hand strongly throughout this writing process and believe this is where I'm meant to be in this chapter of my life.

F: Was it difficult to get publishers to support you? It's a competitive space isn't it?

EL: Yes, it was. I wrote to several publishers during the competition but nothing came out of that. I decided then to spend some time reading up on the industry and went ahead to publish it on my own, with the publishing grant I was awarded. I set up Mustard Seed Books to publish my first book *Prince Bear & Pauper Bear*, as inspired by Matthew 13:32 of the

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Emily's books are retailing in all major bookstores at \$18.69 before GST.



Down Through The Years

Fellowship caught up with Evangeline Chew (Class of '87) and her family comprising four generations of MGS girls. We asked them the same questions and their answers simply reflected the truth in the saying, "Once an MGS girl, always an MGS girl."

- Fellowship: What are your most endearing memories of life in MGS?**
Liau Beng Khim (Class of '36): I had a wonderful Christian teacher when I was in Standard 7 in 1934.
Tan Meng Eng (Class of '61): In my primary school days, I loved to slide down the cement embankment in front

- of Miss Foo Sa Moi's office.
Evangeline Chew (Class of '87): I'll always remember the times our class played tricks on our Physics and Chinese teachers. We still talk about them fondly at our reunions!
F: What did you eat during recess and how much did you pay for it?
LBK: I had 5 cents pocket money per day. It was spent on mee siam or other food (2 cents), a drink of ice water (1 cent) and kachang puteh (1 cent). The remaining 1 cent was spent on kachang puteh after school.
TME: I ate char beehoon or kway teow which costs only 20 cents. Sometimes I ate from the kway teow soup(red bowl) lady who was a very fierce woman. Other times, I bought drinks at 10 cents from the stall which the various classes took turns to man. I also ate kachang puteh sold by the Indian man and kueh-kueh.
EC: Red Bowl noodles for 40 or 50 cents, Orange

- Bowl porridge for 30 cents. Sometimes I'll also get a drink for 10 cents.
Andrea Chong (Currently in P2): French fries for 80 cents.
F: How did your experience in MGS shape you in adult life?
TME: It was in school that I came to know the Lord. I enjoyed the chapel services and the hymns that were sung.
EC: Being in MGS and the Girls' Brigade shaped much of my values and outlook in life.
F: Who were your most memorable teachers in MGS and why?
LBK: Miss Royce who was my Standard 7 teacher for Scripture. She was a good Christian.
TME: Mrs Tan, my Primary 1 teacher. She was very kind to me when I was sick. She helped to get me home in the principal's car. Mrs Lim Si Moi and Mrs Yeo, my Primary 6 teachers, who prayed for us just before the exams. Mrs Tan Yong Tai was always immaculately dressed, but I was terrified of her. She was very strict. Mrs Anna Tham, my form teacher in my Senior year. She was also the Maths teacher. My classmates and I idolised her.
EC: Mrs Dorcas Ang and Mrs Ee who were my P1 teachers. They were very motherly and made the transition into primary school so much easier. Mrs Moses Yu, who was a really great Maths teacher. She made Maths seem so interesting and easy. I really enjoyed her lessons. She was my Sec 4 form teacher too and we'll always remember her treating us Lana Chocolate cake.
Most of all is Mrs Tay Poh Imm who was my Girls' Brigade Captain. What she taught me

- goes way beyond the classroom. She really cares for all her students and instills discipline in the most loving way. Most of all she reinforced what my parents taught me about prayer. Mrs Tay would pray with all of us in every situation and constantly remind us that God is faithful. She is the epitome of a Servant Leader, going out of her way to help all those who need it. Today, she is still my mentor and continues to hold a special place in my heart.
AC: I like Mrs Tay [Poh Imm] because she is kind. She taught me music in Primary 1.
F: Was there a routine in MGS that you really liked or disliked but had to do? Why?
TME: I liked the daily drinking of cold chocolate milk from Cold Storage. The bottles were placed just outside the classroom for us to pick up at recess. I disliked going back to school at 3 pm in the afternoon for sports practice. Although it was not a routine, I disliked using the secondary school toilet. The floor was always wet and when the wind howled, it could be a little daunting.
EC: It was not a routine per se but going to the dark and mucky school primary toilet down the stairs sure was not appealing at all! It was made worse with all the ghost stories we were told.
AC: I enjoy Gym.

- WELL DONE, CLASS OF 2008!**
The Sophia Blackmore Class 2008 (SBC) at Methodist Girls' School achieved grades that any novice in the field would have been proud of. The pioneer cohort of SBC girls comprise two classes - 27 in one class and 28 in another. Of these, 48 registered a single digit score for L1R5 (First Language and 5 relevant subjects) in the recent GCE 'O' Level examination.
Two girls - **Jaclyn Chong Shu Yeen** and **Natalie Wong Sing Yee** from SBC - scored **10A1s each** and **6 other girls scored 9A1s each**; **10 of them scored 8 A1s each**, and **27 registered a perfect score of 6 for L1R5**.
About **70% of the girls in the mainstream scored at least 5 distinctions** each in the 'O' Level examination 2008. Hannah Lee Jingwen, Charmaine Chen Sini and Tong Ying Er from the mainstream scored 8A1s each.
Congratulations to the Class of 2008!

- LOVEMGS 2009: MGS REJOICE!**
LOVEMGS was birthed out of a vision to see MG girls, past and present, coming together as one MGS family to remember and worship.
This year, we celebrate the **10th anniversary of LOVEMGS** and, with that, 10 years of God's faithfulness and steadfast love toward us. The theme for this year is **MGS REJOICE!** along with a theme verse of Philippians 4:4 - "Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!"
A new committee from the classes of 2005 and 2006 (yes, we're young!) has come on board to organise this year's event, and we are extremely excited to see what God has in store. We invite you to join us, not only on the event day, but also in these months leading up to it as we make preparations.
We are looking for people who are willing to be prayer warriors who will intercede on behalf of the committee, the girls, the teachers, the school, and the event. Regular prayer updates will be sent out by email. If you would like to help out in any way, kindly contact me, Debbie Wong, at seekingone@gmail.com.
LOVEMGS 2009 will take place on **Friday, 17 July 2009**, so mark this date down in your calendars! Please help us to spread the word - we all know the saying: **Once an MG girl, always an MG girl!** Hope to see you there!
On behalf of the **LOVEMGS 2009 Committee**,
Debbie Wong
Chairperson, LMG '09

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Bible. It was to signify small beginnings and also the hope that my writing would serve a meaningful purpose and be enjoyed by many just as the birds came to perch on the mustard seed tree.
F: So how do you think your time at MGS has shaped or influenced your writing?
EL: My time at MGS definitely grounded me well in the English language and I first discovered my flair for creative writing then. Our English teacher

- Mrs Gerson encouraged my best friends and I to take part in a nationwide writing competition when I was in Sec 3 and we came in second. Our skit was converted into a video and won a second award in a nationwide video competition.
Interestingly, my first two books have also just been converted into cartoon by acclaimed media house Peach Blossom and will be aired on TV in March, which parallels my school win.
F: Were there any teachers or friends who inspired you?

- EL:** My best friends then in MGS are still my best friends now. They have been a great source of support and encouragement for me. Lynn helped critique my manuscripts and Swee Lin bidde \$3500 for a rocking horse at my *Rusty Horse* book launch, all proceeds of which went to children's charity Club Rainbow. For my third book launch, I donated the first \$1000 in sales proceeds that day to Blue Sky Healing Home, a healing home for orphans in china, started by my girlfriend Tania Hoahing. So at many levels, my

- time at MGS has had a profound influence in my life and the type of friendships I seek. That's probably why the theme of friendship factors strongly in all my books.
F: Any tips for writer's block?
EL: Yes, it's very real! I had a severe writer's block working on my second book. After several unsuccessful rewrites, I put it aside and wrote my third manuscript. That gave me fresh eyes when I came back to my second book. I also realise you need to just sit down and put your fingers to it.

- F: May we get a sneak preview of your next book?**
EL: My fourth book will be the last in this toy series. It is a humorous story with friendship as the central theme - it's about being there to support one another as we go through our ups and downs in life. It's inspired by how I ran around seeking cures and other things to fill me through my journey of coping with my voice disorder. My storybook toy character goes through a comical journey, which is ultimately very human in depicting the yearning to be fulfilled.

The Hawaiian Connection

For Susan Chong, an unplanned holiday to Hawaii with her mother opened a door to the past of our well loved alma mater.



Mary and Family

Mary Clarke Nind was raised in England and was married to James Nind. They both moved to the US and lived in Illinois, Michigan and Minnesota and had four children, two of whom became missionaries – one went to China and the other to Madeira Islands.

As far as she recalled, Alice believes the money her great-grandmother gave to MGS in Singapore was her own and not raised through the Women's Social Concerns Society in Minnesota where her great-grandmother was the president. Alice also mentions that as far as she knows, Mary Nind was in Singapore once in November 1895.

Alice Johnson's grandparents were William H Lacy and Emma Nind Lacy who lived in Foochow and later in Shanghai. William was the Director of the Methodist Publishing House. Both passed away in October 1925 within days of each other. For a time, all their five children were missionaries in Fukien with two continuing as lifelong missionaries.

for many reasons. Alice's father, Henry V Lacy, was the treasurer for the work in Singapore and Malaysia while he lived in Mount Sophia. After they retired, her parents returned to the US.

Alice's brother, Henry (Hank) A. Lacy and his wife Elizabeth lived in Singapore/ Malaysia in 1978-1979. He was based in Penang but traveled around Singapore and Malaysia. According to Alice's sister-in-law, Elizabeth, the MGS in Penang was also founded by Mary Nind with her own money as was the building of Deaconess Home.

In 1906, Mary Nind's four children published *Mary C. Nind – A Memorial* – a book about her for the Women's Foreign Missionary Society. Within this book is also a photo of the Deaconess Home in Singapore. Alice also sent a clipping of a Straits Times article about MGS, dated 1 May 1979, which showed a picture of a classroom in MGS in Short Street in 1921. (A copy of this clipping is also in the MGS Archives.)

Barbara Chee, the MGS Alumnae president and Mae Hoon Ann, asked that I share the story with you and so I pen it here for our record.

Susan Chong
(Class of '68)

They lived on Mount Sophia in a large period house made of wood, which had been built using money from Mary Nind for a deaconess house.

Alice Johnson's mother, Jessie A Lacy, went to Hainan Island in Fukien (now known as Fujian) in 1909 and moved to Ngu Cheng on the mainland of China in 1911 to teach in a girls' school. Her father Henry V. Lacy went to China at the age of one and eventually became principal at a boys' school in Ngu Cheng where he met her mother, Jessie. They married at the Nind-Lacy Chapel in 1913 in Foochow (now known as Fuzhou). The chapel is still there today according to Alice. Her parents later went to Futsing (within Foochow) and Foochow in Fukien. All their four children were born in Fukien.

The Deaconess House

Alice Johnson's parents came to Singapore when the civil war broke out in China and were in Singapore in 1949. They lived on Mount Sophia in a large period house made of wood, which had been built using money from Mary Nind for a deaconess house.

Alice had a photograph of the house on Mount Sophia, behind which her mother had written: "Our house. Top square room is Father's study. Upstairs windows guest room. Our sitting room is over the driveway porch. You can scarcely detect the narrow verandah running all about it. Implanted vines pretty now. Mt Sophia, Singapore." They hosted many missionaries who came to Singapore

My mother and I went to visit her good friends, Dr Donald Jones and his wife Jacqui for nine days in the summer of 2008. Every day was beautiful and the incredible views of the sea and the mountains could have convinced the even most jaded that there is heaven on earth.

On Sundays, we went to the First United Methodist Church of Honolulu. It was on the second Sunday that, in a chance meeting, a friendly lady introduced herself to me as Alice Johnson. She then went on to inform me that her great-grandmother founded a school in Singapore and that it was the Methodist Girls' School.

At once I invited her for lunch after church. It was my alma mater and I wanted to know more. I did not catch the name of her great-grandmother though, and as the service resumed, Alice wrote on the church programme the name: Mary Nind.

All the way here in Hawaii, I was amazed to find such a link to MGS through a chance meeting.

Although already in her 80s, Alice Johnson drove her elderly church friends to the lunch. (I later learnt that she lives alone, walks from her home each morning and swims in the Pacific Ocean too boot. A true inspiration to us all.)

So this is the story that Alice shared with me about her great-grandmother, Mary C Nind, and her children who were closely associated with the Methodist Church in Singapore and Malaysia as well as MGS.

REUNIONS
CLASS OF 78

30th Anniversary
Reunion of the

Precious Pearls

Thirty years since we graduated from dear MGS and we're still as vibrant as ever! 🌸 The Class of 1978 celebrated our 30th "Pearl" Anniversary at the 121st MGS Founder's Day Dinner on 25th July 2008 🌸 Forty three classmates gathered (some with next-generation MGS daughters) to refresh friendships first forged in classrooms, canteens and courts of long ago, and to cement relationships that have grown from strength to strength over the years.



"Stepping into the hotel lobby was the first shock. Young MGS girls in their party best and painted faces were an abrupt reminder that I've moved on to the 'aunty' category. After locating our table came the second shocker: hey, who were these folks milling around our tables?"

Then slowly and surely the memories came back. The not-so-familiar faces matched the 16-year-old faces that I still held dear in my mind. Where's the pigtail, the basketball tucked under the arm, and that cute little girl? Instead we have sophisticated ladies, working gals and mums with daughters in tow. Cheerful hellos soon melted away the chasm of three decades.

It was a wonderful occasion to have met old friends and to just give thanks to God for keeping all of us through these many years."

- Diana Chong



"... As I mingled, there was still the heady laughter, incessant chatter (even with Corinne politely telling us to sit down and listen when the speeches were made) and familiar idiosyncrasies of those I knew better; this time however, a quiet but undeniable confidence was present in each. And as I recalled specific occasions in our years together at Mt Sophia, I am thankful to MGS for good and Godly teaching, for pointing us towards wholesome attitudes and viewpoints, and for fostering sincere and lasting friendships."

- Brenda Yew



"The thought of seeing all your primary school chums again after 30 years was really rousing, and friendships made when we were 6-year-olds were re-kindled! We are what we are today because of what we shared and went through in school together and that is something very precious which only MGS girls can identify with!" - Jasmin Ong



"It was heart-warming to see so many of our classmates that night. I know for some it wasn't an easy decision to attend a reunion dinner, but their presence proved just how much we value our school friendships.

It was a very nostalgic night for us. Memories were tested, and I thank Joyce Liang for remembering that I was in the afternoon session in Primary One, together with her. Prior to this, I couldn't remember where I belonged. And it is this sense of belonging – the sharing of a bond amongst us MGS girls that sets us apart and brings us together.

On the night of the 25th July 2008, as we sang the school song, I looked around the ballroom and especially at my classmates, and I thought to myself, "Surely it doesn't get any better than this." - Wong Mei Poh



The Alumnae saw a busy year with its line-up of activities in support of the school and the girls.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Our Annual General Meeting was held on **28 June last year**, a little later than before due to changes in the constitution. We saw a very healthy turn out, which was heartwarming, as it reflected an **increasingly active membership**. After the new committee was voted in, we rounded up business with our usual extensive tea spread

and as a bonus, every member who attended the meeting was given an **Alumnae T-shirt** and **MGS shopping bag** as a souvenir to take home.

PAST VS PRESENT GAMES

The annual Past Vs Present Games was held in **April** last year where once again current MGS girls competed zealously against the 'old' girls in sports

ranging from tennis to netball and captain's ball. The little ones also had a part to play in the 'fun games' and everyone had a **rollicking good time**.

In the end, experience triumphed and the P vs P trophy went back to the old girls once again! The fun was capped in true Alumnae style with – what else? – our famous tea spread with lots of drinks, pies, pastries and nibbles.



REUNIONS



CLASS OF ⁸⁴ The Same After All These Years

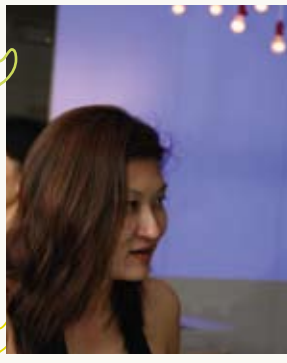
The Class of '84 held its reunion in July last year at the old school on Mt Sophia. We were all hitting the 'Big 4-0' that year, and Ya Hui - the world class maestro in our midst - had suggested that it was the perfect excuse for a big bash. So with resolute determination, a few of us found time amid kids, work and travel to organise and get this party started.



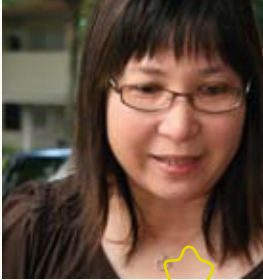
Goodie bags and a sure-win lucky draw (Lesley's idea) with prizes like manicures, hotel vouchers, facials. And who won the bike sponsored by Ketti?



That's Me!
Pointing out **faded images of our younger selves** as old school photos were flashed on the wall... much to everyone's laughter and cheers.



Sixty Six Girls
Over 66 of us turned up at Bistro Gaga and the last **24 years after leaving school** just melted away. A few even flew back from overseas just to join us that evening!



Sit properly!
Group pictures were taken in the **usual spots where class photos were always done** – at the old dental clinic, the basketball court, and even along the staircase.



PARENT LINK CONNECTION

Supporting the school's activities, we participated in the P1 picnic again last year, assisting Parent Link who spearheaded the event.

MUSIC BY OUR GIRLS

Also in support of Parent Link's activities, the Alumnae helped to rope in **old girls as angel investors to sponsor the**

production of an original MGS music CD titled 'Mplified'.

Available at the MGS General Office for \$20, it's filled with toe-tapping music, updated tracks and original arrangements by current and past MGS girls including Belinda Foo and Rosita Ng.

LOVE MGS

For the younger generation, LOVE

MGS has become an event to look forward to every year. The theme this year was **"My God Shelters"**. The worship team kept the audience on their feet singing praises and giving God the Glory that only He deserves!

TEACHER'S DAY LUNCH

Teacher's Day Lunch was another event on the annual calendar hosted by the Alumnae. Held at the NTU Alumni Club,

the teachers were good sports, dressing up with T-shirts carrying all sorts of slogans and even perform their **OWN cheers onstage** in all manner of styles from **Hokkien chants to Chinese opera**.

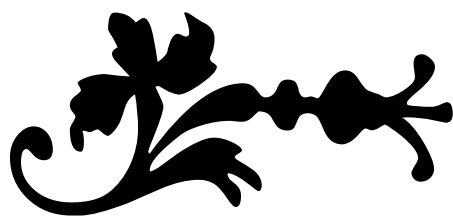
MGS FUN FAIR

At the end of the year, the ladies of the Alumnae as usual collected a room full of new and gently used items for the MGS

Fun Fair, and it was business again at the Alumnae Store. Endless streams poured in to pick up clothes, children's books, lucky dips – a great hit with the kids – and **all manner of household items**.

Whatever was left was cleared during the **Red Bag sale** and once again, we racked up a good day's taking for the association. Thanks to all who helped and donated their goods.





Mrs Moses Yu

Mrs Moses Yu nee Lau Kuo Fong Ovidia, was called home to be with the Lord on Monday 16 March 2009. MGS remembers Mrs Yu from the Class of 1951 and a well-loved Mathematics teacher. As a schoolgirl, she anchored the MGS relay team – a barefoot athlete, she ran her fastest in every race, flopping to the ground at the finish line! Mrs Yu began her career in MGS in 1958, and retired from service at the start of the millennium. Corrine Wee pays tribute to her.

It is not possible to recount the memories we have of Mrs Yu without smiling, chuckling and laughing because that is how she is ... smiling, chuckling and positively radiating with joy ... Call it infectious or contagious, she almost demands for each of us to look at the brighter side of circumstances and to chuckle at ourselves.

Mrs Yu taught us Mathematics and she was so clear in her explanations. She would wow us when it came to the chapter of Latitudes & Longitudes or Circle Theorem because she'd draw perfect circles on the blackboard without the assistance of a chalkboard compass.

She treated us all the same and yet so many of us felt that she treated us special. We looked forward to her smiles and felt so contrite when she was cross, flustered and wielding her fan furiously. She'd call us by name or at least surnames... like "the Foo-girl", "the Wong-girl" and for me, "the Wee-girl" and occasionally called us "You Bodoh", to "Bodoh squared" and the ultimate "Bodoh cubed" when she was particularly cross. Even to that, we felt special.



Mrs Yu would call students who needed extra help to see her. She'll teach them till they understood! No less! These included



We remember her beetle, the volkswagen which she zipped around in like a grand prix driver, flying over humps down Mt Sophia road.



girls who were not in her class. It is amazing how she would write out the full solutions of every sum she gave for homework on a large A3 paper, stick it in front of her and tenaciously attack the stacks of marking at her table. Day-on-day, it was a dedication few can match.... Every year for the 40-over years of service she gave to MGS.

She was my favourite E Maths teacher who inspired me to pursue teaching as a career and as a life-long passion. When I became a teacher, I became her student again – but now as an apprentice teacher.

Mrs Yu is affectionately known as the 'Staffroom Principal' because we see her as an extension of Mrs Anna Tham, then the 'REAL' Principal. She loved and mothered us and guided us new teachers and not-so-new teachers. It was a beautiful friendship she shared with Mrs Anna Tham, where she exercised conscious daily decisions to protect the Principal's good name. It was easy, too easy for fellow teachers to say that she got the choicer cuts because the boss was her friend. But one thing I noticed about Mrs Yu was that she often took the tougher, more challenging portions of work because her good friend was the boss.

We remember her Beetle, the Volkswagen which she zipped around in like a grand prix driver, flying over humps down Mt Sophia road. We remember her rattan basket where she carried her flask of some delicious drink, her record book, her grade book where she recorded our marks and her Maths textbooks. We remember her in her floral print dresses, her black box-like handbag and comfy shoes.

Most of all we remember her for her smile, her strength and her dedication. We are proud that she was once an MGS girl and she'll always be an MGS girl.

Mrs Yu showed us that it was possible to live out ideals. Ideals were not found in ideal situations but in spite of trials, infirmity and pain. She shared with me a beautiful prayer which meant much to her and subsequently became a prayer I loved... it is the prayer of St Francis of Assisi.

*Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
Where there is sadness, joy;
O, Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
To be consoled as to console;
To be understood as to understand;
To be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive.
It is pardoning that we are pardoned.
It is in dying that we are born again to eternal life.*

As we sit here absorbed in our own precious memories, I would like to share a passage of scripture which reminds

me of Mrs Yu every time I read it.

*She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come.
She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue.
She watches over the affairs of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness.*

Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her.

"Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all"

Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.

Give her the reward she has earned, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate. Proverbs 31:25-31

Mrs Yu has run the good race faithfully, steadfastly and touched so many of us along the way... in a manner that is warm and deep. I know she believes the good Lord has watched over her all through life's journey and she is thankful. Thankful for her portion in life and thankful for the people who cared and loved her. Most of all, she feels love undeserved from a loving family and the unfailing devotion of her husband Dr Yu. We know that it is from her husband that she drew her strength and her radiance.

As she now finds rest in a better place and return to the warm comforting embrace of our Lord, let us all rejoice with her and look forward to the day we will meet her once again.



Corinne Wee



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