

MGS
ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION

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PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

T.S Eliot once wrote, “For last year's words belong to last year's language. And next year's words await another voice. And to make an end is to make a beginning.” Indeed life is ever changing.

This is true for our own lives as well as life at Blackmore Road. This year we welcome Miss Grace Ng as the new school Principal. We joined the school in a fund raising fun fair 'A time of our Lives' and conducted another successful pre-fun fair bake sale featuring homemade and gourmet cakes & cookies. All that in the first quarter of 2014.

While we were unsuccessful in our efforts to Save Old School, with the help of the URA we managed to collect some artefacts from the old school and these will be installed at the Blackmore campus as we embark on a project to rejuvenate the Heritage Room. This project will also need funding and as we develop and plan for this we will establish how much we need. So if you are thinking of a worthy cause to support this year please do keep this



project in mind. More updates will be made in our email blasts.
We are looking at ways to engage our younger alumna and would love to hear from you if you have any ideas. One project we have in mind is to revive attempts to record the history of the school through the memories of retired staff and alumna. In the past we did not have smartphones handy. However now that most of us and even our children have them, using smart phones to record and even video these recollections and memories should be easy enough for all of us?
We already have a couple of books sharing some of these recollections. I am sure there is much more material and stories out there (including classroom antics) and even reunion stories which should be included. How can you help? By contributing your stories of " friendships made and pleasures shared". Some of you have shared with us on Facebook and the S.O.S page. Please continue to do so.
We will also need some tech savvy members to help us put all these recordings into some order; so if you can spare some time (can even work from home), please let us know.
Again I would like to remind all our members to update their particulars on the Alumnae data base. If you have not been receiving emails from us, then you need to let us have your new email address. Please email us at mgsalumnae@gmail.com .
We look forward to meeting you at any or all of the forthcoming events.. More information will be given as we progress through the year.
We want to hear from you - all feedback is welcome!

BARBARA CHEE
President
MGS Alumnae Association



A WARM WELCOME TO NEW PRINCIPAL, *Ms Grace Ng*

MGS welcomed Ms Grace Ng as Principal in mid December, 2013. An active old girl of Paya Lebar MGS (PLMGS), she is familiar with the Methodist Schools' culture and spirit. Just prior to her new posting, Ms Ng was Deputy Director at the Guidance Branch, Student Development Curriculum Division, MOE. Other previous appointments include being Superintendent for a school cluster, Principal of Juying Secondary School and Vice-Principal of PLMGS.

WE TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY to ask Ms Ng a few questions to introduce her to alumnae members. What not many may know, due to her well-coiffed and stylish appearance, is that Ms Ng is a sporty person - qualified to teach inline skating and also skis when she finds time during the holidays.

○ Welcome to MGS Ms Ng! It's been a few months into the job. I know you have probably answered this many times but what are your initial thoughts about the school and the girls in general? Are they both what you expected before joining the school? What challenges do you see with these girls?

The last three months have been invigorating! The girls, as expected, are confident and articulate. It is also evident that their hearts are in the right place, as such, I don't see challenges as much as I see opportunities to shepherd and guide these girls to reach their fullest potential.

Girls, like all children, are malleable and impressionable and as a school, we need to help them hone their intellect, skills and competencies to negotiate the volatile, uncertain and complex environment of the future.

Our Christian faith must be their cornerstone as they take their place in their family, workplace, community and the world.

○ How would you say schooling has changed from when you were in school? The children seem so much busier and have less time to play and interact with their friends compared to when we were in school. Can anything be done about this?

School was simpler in the past because we had fewer resources and we had different priorities as a nation. Children today are very fortunate because of the deluge of opportunities provided for their growth and development. The parents and teachers should know the children and help them learn to prioritise and choose

for your alma mater.

Come and be with the school as we focus on the whole child. Share your expertise or open up your workplaces for our girls to learn. Volunteer in programmes and activities that nurture the children, mentor the young minds and coach them in life.

Lastly, pray with us for the girls and the school.

○ Is it too early to ask for your vision for the school? Which areas have you identified to need more attention in the next two to three years? What would you like to say you have achieved during your time here?

I will be building on my predecessors' work and legacy. The focus on the next 3-5 years will be on strengthening the teaching and learning ethos in the school and building the capacity of the staff and the leadership to confidently take the school into the new landscape.

The Theme for 2014 is "Established for His Glory" Psalm 90:17. We pray that "the beauty of the Lord will be upon us and establish the work of our hands for us ..." There are boundless opportunities for learning and growing as an MGS community. As a school, as a family, we have our aspirations and our dreams; we have made commendable plans and delivered great programmes. Our teachers are competent and committed to the MGS mission. But the imperative must not be left out of the whole equation - God and God alone must be the centre of it all. It is my prayer that God will take centre stage in our efforts and He will bless the work of all our hands.

○ Being part of the Methodist Schools in Singapore, it is inevitable some comparison is made with our brother school ACS which appears to have stronger bonds amongst its' old boys. How do you think the school and the MGS Alumnae Association can work together to foster a greater sense of school spirit and camaraderie amongst its students past and present?

I do see that MGS alumnae are very proud of their alma mater. The immediate task is to galvanise them to work with the school in different areas so that our girls see and feel the presence of the alumnae a lot more.

○ Anything else you would like to say please add it here

I am glad to be a part of the MGS community! In all we do may His name be glorified in MGS, and through MGS always.

Thank you very much for taking the time to answer our questions. Again, a very warm welcome to MGS and we wish you a blessed and fulfilling time here.



FAREWELL, BUT NOT GOODBYE



It is with great sadness that we bid farewell Mrs Shirleen Ong as Principal of MGS from 2008 to 2013. She has been an integral part in spearheading the MGS' Integrated Programme that has had a far reaching impact on the lives of current and also on future MGSians.

WE WISH her the very best as she leaves MGS to become Director, Educational Technology at the Ministry of Education.

What was your most fulfilling experience during your term as Principal of MGS?

Helping MGS secure the Integrated Programme (IP) was my most fulfilling experience. From the moment we knew there was a window to put in the application to the time we got the official approval from MOE to start an IP track. It was a most difficult but rewarding journey.

What is your impression of a secondary school MGS girl?

I remember the first day I stepped into MGS as Principal. It was during the school holidays and there were not many people around. I parked my car and surveyed the surroundings. A girl walked up towards me and greeted me. When I asked for directions to the office, she was polite and well-mannered. That impression has stayed with me since and I am glad to say that until today, I have not yet met an MGS girl who has changed my opinion.

What do you think the school needs to keep up with the evolving educational environment?

There are several challenges confronting education today. Parents and schools are no more the main source of education for our children. Today, children are a lot more connected to the rest of the world than their parents were. To me, the key concern is not about acquisition of content nor the need to keep up with the fleeting changes brought about by newer technology. It is the cultivation of values that our children must have.

New media is a part of our children's lives. We must accept it and harness its strengths instead of fixate on its weaknesses and dangers. As a school, we need to reinforce the need to be responsible users of information and to help our children in school be aware that it is very hard to erase the digital footprints they leave behind.

What would you like to be remembered for?

I don't seek to be remembered. I see my role, during the particular season as MGS Principal to do what God has called me to do. While I don't seek to be remembered, I do remember the friendships and treasure the relationships made in the course of my time in MGS. I love the community that I was in, because my colleagues were great; the alumnae was selfless; the church was giving; the Board was a tower of strength and the parents were gems.

You promoted partnership within the school between staff, parents, alumnae and students. How important do you think community ties are?

When there is partnership by the various stakeholders, there is a greater sense of understanding and appreciation for the things that we do for each other. Partnerships signal an inter-dependent relationship that help our girls understand that the world is a richer, more meaningful place.

What do you think of the primary school going independent?

Independence – like the way the secondary school is run, offers a lot of attraction and potential. The flexibility to hire the staff that the school deems suitable (instead of through posting); the flexibility in running and operating of certain programmes are attractive too.

However, all these advantages come with a cost and higher school fees. At the primary school level, we do desire for our brand of education to be accessible to all. While advocates of an independent primary school can say that one can offer subsidies for school fees, unfortunately, the actual costs of schooling is far beyond that of school fees alone. We certainly must ensure that the access to the MGS brand of education must not be available only to those who can afford.



The Time of Our Lives

Celebrating Love, Friendship and Community

The Time of Our Lives, MGS' Fun Fair was held on Saturday, 15 March 2014. The Fun Fair which had been several months in the planning, brought together the whole MGS community as well as the greater community at large. Funds raised from the Fun Fair will be used towards the building of the upcoming Integrated Sports Complex that will be built on the school grounds.



LIKE the previous years, the MGS Alumnae Association participated in the Fun Fair with gusto. With a great love for food, the Alumnae decided to continue its tradition of offering fine cakes and baked goods for sale in the air conditioned Secondary School Dance Room, to be washed down with freshly brewed espresso drinks and hot brewed flavoured teas.

Baked goods were offered by way of loving hands and hearts who baked their signature items for sale as well as sponsorships from commercial organisations such as Goodwood Park Hotel that supported the event.

The non-commercial baked items were sold by way of pre-sales, ahead of the event, to be compliant with the National Environmental Agency's regulations. Commercially baked goods were available on the day of the Fun Fair itself. Supporters could pre-order goodies such as Laura Hsu's sticky date cake, Wee Kung Ling's carrot cake, Lisze Lee's box of six dark chocolate brownies and many other delicious home-baked treats.

On the day of the Fun Fair, the whole cakes, as well as cupcakes brought quick sales. Many visitors to the dance studio took the opportunity to recharge in the cool atmosphere, eat a hot toasted curry puff, drink a hot beverage, catch up with old friends, and recharge before they continued on to the next stop.

Several metres down and around the corridor in the Alumnae Room, Alumnae souvenirs were flying off the shelves. Newly minted alumnae made a beeline for the much sought after Alumnae t-shirts with many shirts sold out after a short time. Other popular items sold included the foldable umbrellas, thumb drives, luggage tags and storage bags.

In addition to the Alumnae's offerings, visitors to the Fun Fair were greeted at the entrance of the school by an old Volkswagen van circa 1963 selling old books as well as a very popular popcorn and candy floss stall! In the canteen and quadrangle were many classes who set up stalls selling everything from freshly barbequed satay, pasta, hot dogs, pizza to Vietnamese spring rolls and more! There were also many games stalls and a very popular bouncy castle and slide that brought about much fun and laughter. All around, enterprising girls took to selling their fruit cups and iced lollies on trays as they walked around and tempted those who did not want to stand in queues.

One of the key highlights of the day was the traditional "dunking" of the Schools' senior leadership team in the mid afternoon. Giving in to rousing cheers, the Vice Principals, very sportingly, took to sitting on the plank, amidst the rousing cheers of the girls. One by one, they ceremoniously got dunked led in the finale by MGS' new principal, Ms. Grace Ng. Louder and louder cheers of "Principal! Principal!" echoed in the courtyard as she climbed up – she didn't sit for long as she got very quickly dunked by one of the Vice-Principals! Proving that age is indeed no barrier to having fun, 75-year old Vice-Chairman of the Board, Dr Eileen Aw, insisted on being dunked much to the amazement of those around.

The Alumnae raised over S\$19,000 from the event. The proceeds will be used to support both the Integrated Sports Complex as well as the refurbishment of the Alumnae Room.



Of Friendships Made

ON SATURDAY, 31 August 2013, approximately 140 girls from Primary 6 Class of 2012 gathered back in MGS for the annual Primary 6 Reunion Tea. The Reunion Tea was organised by the ex-Central Committee of the Primary Prefectorial Board, with the aim to strengthen friendships during the transition from primary to secondary school. It was a time of reflection and reconnection for many of the girls who attended.

The day started off with worship, led by Eunice Lee and her team. The theme being G.I.B. (Girls In Black), the girls were stretched both physically and mentally as they made their way around the school, solving riddles to bring them to all the familiar places. "They were then rewarded by delicious food and drink prepared by their parents and went home with goodies presented by the MGS Alumnae Association. After prizes for the games were given out, the day ended with the releasing of lanterns into the sky. The girls wrote all their best wishes on the lantern and found the joy of releasing them into the sky with their friends.



Homecoming for Class of 2013

FOR GIRLS from the graduating class of 2013, 25 January 2014 was a day of mixed feelings — great happiness to be reunited with their fellow former schoolmates and great sadness with the realisation that it would be the last official event. And thus began the Homecoming for the class of 2013 of the MGS Alumnae Association, a day to reminisce fond memories and welcome the beginning of a new chapter in our lives. The theme was "You'll be in My Heart" in order to remind everyone of the everlasting bonds of friendship that follow MGSians through every phase of their lives.

The girls gathered at 9 am when they were welcomed by Ms Barbara Chee, President of the MGS Alumnae Association. This was followed by a time of praise and worship as well as games. The girls enjoyed posing for photos at a photobooth and creating banners.

The event concluded with the long standing tradition of releasing gold and blue balloons into the air, but not before the level inscribed each of their hopes and dreams onto their individual balloons.

"Homecoming for the class of 2013 was definitely an amazing close to my journey in MGS. After four years of being in this amazing school it was difficult to accept that I had to let it go and Homecoming for the class of 2013 helped me close that "chapter" of my life and marked the beginning of the next part of my life. I was able to say goodbye to friends and schoolmates but mostly say goodbye to a wonderful school that I am proud to say has been my home for 4 years of my life. MGS will always have a special place in my heart and I will never forget my time as an MG girl!" - Valerie Tan, 4S 2013

"Being in MGS for 10 amazing years, I am truly grateful for my schoolmates and teachers whom I have come to call family. We all enjoyed ourselves during Homecoming for the class of 2013 as it has helped us realise the importance of spending time with the ones who matter the most to us" - Marianne Lim, 4T



126th Founder's Day Dinner

The most anticipated event of the year!



THE ONLY TIME of the year when school uniform rules do not apply, Founder's Day is truly the biggest social event of the year. Old girls and young streamed into Shangri-La Singapore's magnificent ballroom decked out in their most exquisite outfits. Shrieks of delight filled the ballroom as many old girls embraced, having not seen each other for years. Shrieks came from the younger ones as well who were thrilled at seeing their friends decked out in their finest.

As always, the famous Hock Seng drew much attention with girls racing to have their pictures taken with him.

This Founder's Day saw two primary school teachers receive long service awards. Ms Karen Jasmine Soh who served 20 years and Mdm Tan Tat Eng who served 30 years.





Class of 1988 at MGS 126th FDD



A Year of Jubilee

What do 50 year old MGSians do when they gather? On 29 June 2013, a group of 60 ladies gathered to celebrate their year of jubilee.

IT WAS truly a time to remember as many of them had not seen each other since they left school 34 years ago. Many ladies returned to Singapore from distant shores such as Dubai, Australia, United States of America, United Kingdom and China just for the reunion.

During the reunion which took place at the home of Patricia Loi (Class of 1979), the ladies feasted on local food, looked through old photographs and past year books as well as reminisced about friendships shared. They even set up a make-shift photobooth that was lovingly serviced by Glen Goh, the husband of Karen Tan (Class of 1979). These ladies sure know how to party!

They are looking forward to their 60th birthdays with much gusto!



20th Anniversary Celebrations!

Rachel Yeo from the Class of 1993 shares about their reunion at Founder's Day Dinner 2013.

20 LADIES from the MGS Class of 1993 gathered to celebrate our 20th reunion at Founder's Day Dinner 2013!

It all began in June when one of our number, Cheryl Chia, started rallying fellow former schoolmates to celebrate Founder's Day with her. The hope was just to form one table but her efforts gained momentum as more people were added to the Facebook group she started and they began catching up with long forgotten friends.

While many are now living overseas, those that were still in Singapore, including Alethea Chew, who flew all the way back to Singapore from the United States, attended the dinner.

Part of the fun for the night was having the



famous Hock Seng in one of our tables! This was met with shrieks of laughter from those of us who had him as our bus driver back in the day. Ivane Tay reminisced about how he used to call her '107' after her house number while Wendy Tan recalled how, 2 years ago, she had driven to MGS for a meeting and Hock Seng was there at the school gate directing traffic. She wound down her window and shouted "Hock Seng!" And he promptly shouted back in Mandarin, "What number?"

It was wonderful to meet up with so many of our teachers from both MGS Primary and Secondary like Mrs David, Mrs Chan Lai Har, Mrs Catherine Choo

and Mrs Tong Mei Jit, among others, and try to get them to remember who we were, usually from the many mischievous things we did. Mr Vincent Ong, the new Vice-Principal, was PE teacher during our time so we greeted him quite warmly and made him take pictures with us! We were Mrs Shirleen Ong's first batch of students when she joined MGS and had a good time reminiscing with her too. And we were very pleased to be able to take a picture with the principal from our era, Mrs Anna Tham. But best of all for me was the opportunity to catch up with these girls from my youth and together raise a SHOUT for MGS! Happy Birthday, MGS!





Fifty and Fabulous in New Zealand

Ralph Waldo Emerson once wrote, "A friend may well be reckoned the masterpiece of nature," indeed, 15 ladies from the Class of 1980 enjoyed this true masterpiece of nature in one of the grandest masterpieces of nature in the world, New Zealand.

LED BY CAROL THAM, a group of adventurous ladies which included, Charlotte Yew, Annie Yong and Lim Li Hsien, Caron Choo, Pat Yeo, Ng Wan Ching and Karena Teng, to name a few, decided that the trip would be good to rekindle old ties.

A timely reminder that age is no barrier to physical activity, they trekked through Abel Tasman National Park, Queenstown, Rob Roy Glacier at Mount Aspiring National Park, Siberia Valley and Routeburn Track.

It was truly a journey of a lifetime for many of them. As Lim Li Hsien commented, "We felt like we were 50 going on 15!"



Lights!
Camera!
Action



MGS TEACHERS' DAY Celebrations are arguably one of the most fun-filled events in the MGS Alumnae Association's annual calendar. It is a time for the senior management and staff of the school to celebrate the achievements of the school while letting down their hair and having a fun and informal time away from rigour of school life.

2013's celebrations were held in the Singapore Island Country Club ballroom with the theme "Lights! Camera! Action!". The movie posters and elaborate decorations assembled with much love by the Alumnae Association committee set the tone for an afternoon of laughter and deafening chatter that rivaled an average recess in the MGS canteen! The annual fancy-dress parade was a highlight as always, and the scrumptious buffet spread was a real treat.

The photos speak for themselves; a fantastic time was had by all and we look forward to the next Teachers' Day Celebrations with great anticipation.

A big thank you to the parents and well-wishers who contributed to the event as well as the MGS Board of Management and the Alumnae Association for their support and effort.



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www.facebook.com/mgsalumnae

Sharmila Nair from Class of 1986 talks about walking through Mount Sophia's hallowed halls for the very last time.

Many of us would remember with great fondness MGS at Mount Sophia. So it was with deep sadness that we learnt in 2011 that the efforts to preserve Mount Sophia as a heritage site were unsuccessful. Mount Sophia was sold to make way for the development of commercial and residential properties. In 2012, MGS officially bade farewell to the Old Girl with a final celebration service held on 2 June 2012.

ONLY THE OLSON BUILDING has been identified as a heritage site and will be preserved and most probably used as a club house for the upcoming residential development.

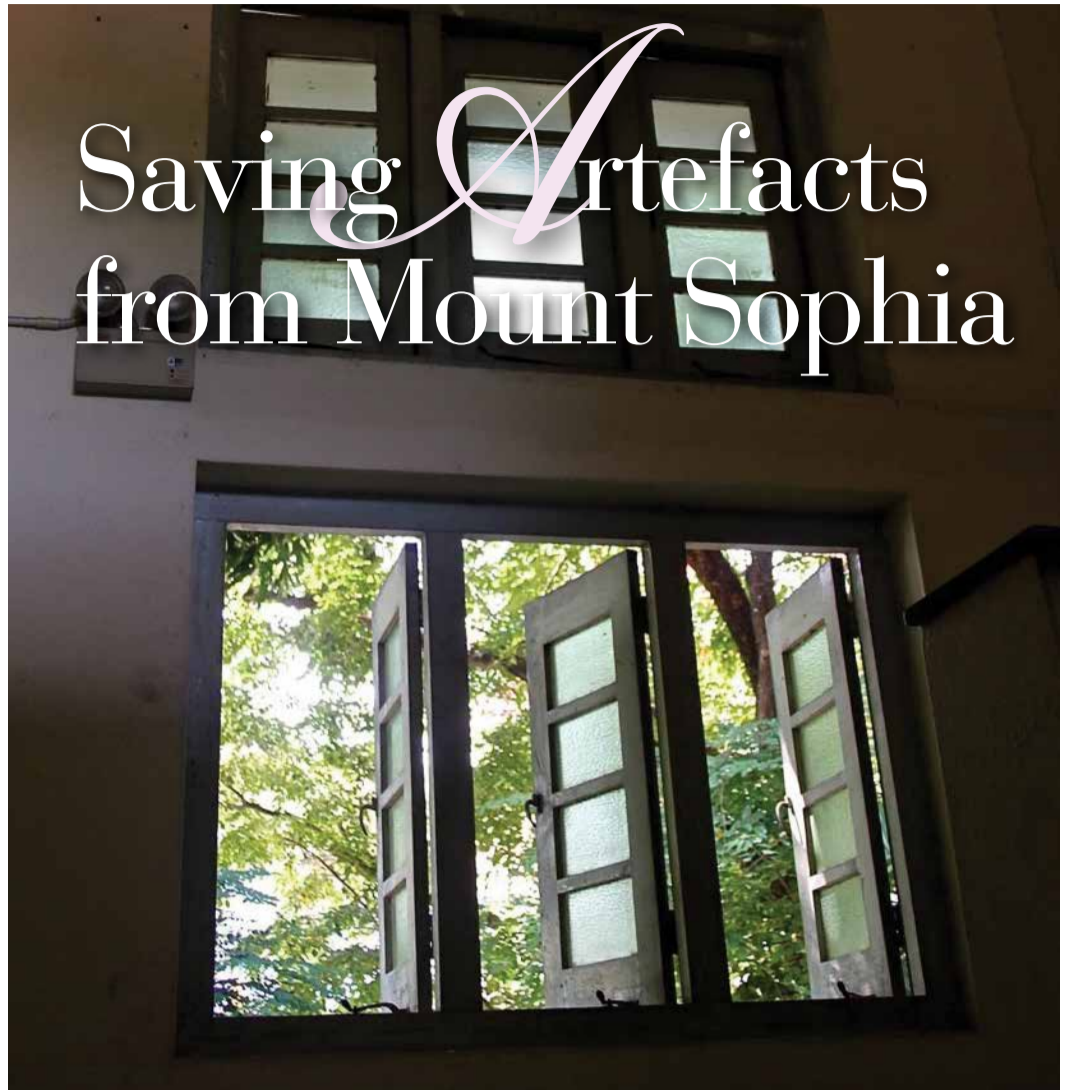
- Closing off Olson Building to the public inevitably means that we are finally closing a chapter in MGS' history and heritage.
- Beginning humbly from 1925 to when the school moved to Blackmore Drive in 1992, it has been a long and colourful chapter as it has seen generations of MGS girls grow up along its corridors.

The Alumnae Committee were recently given the opportunity to walk through the School buildings in 2014 to identify and retrieve some artefacts in an effort to preserve a tangible piece of our history.

As we walked through the buildings each of us conjured different memories of our respective times spent at Mount Sophia. I had the privilege of embarking on this retrieval exercise with my best friend, Angelina Wong. We were able to relive our memories of the place we first met and forged a strong and unwavering friendship of more than 30 years! I am sure that if the walls of the buildings at Mount Sophia could speak, they would tell many a tale of friendships made and pleasures shared.

We remembered the big airy toilets, where we would meet between classes to gossip, the canteen where we enjoyed our favourite chicken wings and mee siam. The School Hall, where we had weekly chapel and the basement where we gathered for our Girl Guide meetings.

Saving Artefacts from Mount Sophia



What we therefore wanted to do was to identify significant artefacts that could tell a story to our future generations. This was by no means an easy task as we wanted to ensure that every single item preserved was not just a simple classroom door handle or window pane, but that every item represented the shared memories of the generations gone by.

The Committee first came together to identify items to achieve this aim. It became immediately obvious that we wanted to take much more than was practically possible. For a while, some of us tried to become structural engineers, brainstorming how to transport the entire clock tower to Blackmore Drive! In the end, we decided to be realistic and settled for a few bricks from the clock tower instead.

We worked closely with government authorities and the new owners (both of whom were very understanding to our requests) to extract those items from the existing structure. The wrought iron classroom doors and windows had to be hacked out, grilles dismantled and the armoured door below the Principal's office all had to be carefully removed. The sheer age of these items and the fact that they were very well made, constructed all those many years ago made taking them out an arduous task but, our contractor managed to do a good job of it. Thankfully the items were removed in one piece and transported back to (and are currently stored at) the current school premises at Blackmore Drive.

We are now working on plans to incorporate these items within the Blackmore Drive campus to allow our girls (both past and present) to see the items and learn or reminisce about part of the School's history.

Whilst the preservation of these artefacts cannot completely replace the buildings at Mount Sophia, we hope that in time to come they will symbolise the spirit of our school and represent our indomitable spirit and God's continuing guiding presence to our beloved School. We hope that it will give in all of us the strength to acknowledge our past and to also embrace our future as we strive To Master, To Grow and To Serve.





THE LONG RIDE 2014

SINGAPORE TO SWEDEN
FOR BREAST CANCER
RESEARCH

THERE ARE MORE breast cancer deaths in Asia than in Europe and the US and many differences exist between Asia and the West – in terms of resources, cultural barriers and a large rural population. What works in the West may not work in Asia and it was with this in mind that a special series of talks was organised by the MGS Alumnae.

On 11 May 2013, members of the Alumnae and the public had the opportunity to listen to presentations on breast cancer, the effects it

has on our lives and the inaugural introduction of The Long Ride 2014, Singapore to Sweden for Breast Cancer Research at the Kwa Geok Choo Auditorium, MGS.

The afternoon started with Serena Wee, Director of Can-Care, introducing the various educational resources, services and personalised cancer care products that are available in Singapore for woman who are newly diagnosed with cancer, cancer survivors and their families. The next speaker Lynn Heng spoke about her personal experience in supporting and caring for a caring patient, providing us with a moving and yet insightful look at the very important area of being a cancer caregiver.

The final presentation was by Associate Professor Philip Lau (Head & Senior Consultant, Division of General Surgery, National University Hospital) and Associate Professor Mikael Hartman (Senior Consultant, Breast & Trauma Services, Department of Surgery, National University Hospital). Both speakers shared



about “The Long Ride 2014: Singapore to Sweden” where they will motorbike from Singapore to Sweden from March - June 2014 on an official four-month mission.

During their journey, they will be visiting cancer centres and hospitals in multiple countries. Their entire journey will span 22 countries covering about 40,000 km. They spoke about how they aimed to raise awareness for breast cancer by conducting lectures, surgical

demonstrations and participating in forums with collaborating institutions. The candid and informative talk was well-received by all present and demonstrated to those present the need for greater breast cancer awareness in our Asian populations.

The MGS Alumnae is pleased to be a supporter of “The Long Ride: Singapore to Sweden”, and wish Prof. Lau (son, husband and father of MGS alumnae) and his team-mate Prof Mikael Hartman all the best!

The long ride can be followed on <http://longridess.com/>



LoveMGS 2013 May Your Glory Shine

2 CORINTHIANS 3:18 “So all of us who have had that veil removed can see and reflect the glory of the Lord”

LoveMGS is an annual Christian event unique to the school since 2001. For the past 12 years, this time of worship, hearing the word and basking in His presence has been very special to MGS girls- both present and past, and unites them in gathering before the Lord.

This year, LoveMGS took place on the 28 June 2013. The theme was “May your Glory Shine” and the theme verse, 2 Corinthians 3:18, focused on encouraging girls to recognize and reflect God’s glory in their own lives.

To kickstart the evening, a pre-event art and craft activity was organised for the girls at 5.30 pm where they could decorate a souvenir with their names and write down what glory meant to them. Light refreshments and food were served at 6pm. At 7:00 pm, the auditorium doors were opened and excited girls of different ages streamed in to fill the seats.

The event began with a time of praise and worship led by a band formed from the class of 2010. A special dance

item was put up by 4 dancers from the class of 2010 to help girls understand a different portrayal of how God’s glory can transform their lives. Two testimonies were then shared- one by twin sisters presently studying in MGS, Robyn and Kathlyn Lee, and another by Abigail Lee, from the class of 2010. These testimonies helped the girls better relate to their peers about the theme of seeing and reflecting this glory in their lives. Pastor Evangeline Yeh was invited on stage to share the word and engaged everyone with her enthusiastic and heartfelt sharing. The night came to a close with Pastor Evangeline encouraging the girls to break light sticks as a form of their commitment unto the Lord, and a time of ministry in prayer as seniors and alumnae members individually for girls who came forward during the altar call.

Thank God for His faithfulness to the school in yet another year of LoveMGS, may His glory continue to shine always



Maestro & Mother

Leanne Sim catches up with old girl and world renowned violinist, **Lee Huei Min**.

At the age of two when most of us received Barbies, Lee Huei Min received a violin. Growing up with three older sisters who all played the violin or another instrument, she was quick to learn the violin so that she could be just like them. At the tender age of five, she and her three sisters played a quartet together at a Christmas concert at church.



WHEN SHE JOINED MGS in Primary Four she was already a seasoned violinist and a year later was accepted into the University of Michigan preparatory programme. While she was only in MGS for a short while, she remembers her time clearly, "I remember our Principal at that time, Mrs Tham. She seemed so regal and inspiring. I also remember my form teacher Mrs Chia as she was always calling me 'blur queen' for day-dreaming in class and not focusing on my 13 times table!"

Although she spent only a year in MGS before moving to the United States, she shares that her time in MGS influenced her, "I was at another primary school prior to joining MGS but I just felt so at home in MGS. I was so proud to put on the uniform and loved singing the school song every morning – as cheesy as it sounds!"

Leaving MGS to the University of Michigan was a life changing experience. Especially for an impressionable nine-year-old as Huei Min shares, "Thinking back, it was probably a much harder decision for my mother than me. For me it was a great adventure and I think at nine, you're too young to realise the gravity of it. I was very sad leaving my friends and family, especially in those days there wasn't email or Facebook, so it was much harder to stay in touch, but my mother came with me so that helped a lot."

When she was 14 in 1997, she made headlines both locally and abroad becoming the youngest student in history to be admitted to Yale University's graduate programme in music. While the island nation was glowing with pride, Huei Min tried

her best not to let anyone on campus know her real age, but that did not last long, "In my first week, I tried so hard not to let anybody know I was younger. I wore heels and everything! But the next week, an article came out in the Yale Bulletin (the college newspaper) that said that I was the youngest student ever at Yale School of Music at 14 so my cover was blown!"

It goes without saying that being a prodigy comes with great power. She has since been able to raise over S\$6 million for various charities over the years, with charities related to children or the arts closest to her heart.

Huei Min is truly a lifelong learner. Even with her degrees in music, she completed a Masters in Public Policy at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy in 2009.

Giving birth to her son, Conor, in 2011 has not slowed Huei Min down one bit, "I am still practicing and am planning some recordings for later this year. I also started a violin studio, Wolfgang Violin Studio a few years ago with my mother so that keeps me pretty busy. I have a few very talented students that are a joy to teach. I'm hoping to get back into more concerts when Conor is a little older and I can bring him on tour with me. I am looking forward to that!"

When asked what keeps her going, Huei Min quips, "As a teen, I really liked the Nike slogan Just do it! And when I was performing, I always liked the quote from the great violinist Jascha Heifetz, 'A violinist should always be happy. He should be happy if the concert is going well and if not, he should be happy that it will soon be over!' I have some perfectionist tendencies so that quote always kept things in perspective for me. I've also learnt to listen to all the advice everyone has for me, but in the end, I have to trust my own instincts."



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