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A MGS ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER 2015



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BARBARA CHEE

PRESIDENT
MGS ALUMNAE
ASSOCIATION

President's Message

Greetings to all our members and may I take this opportunity to wish everyone a blessed year ahead. As we all gear up to celebrate SG 50 and the SEA Games in mid 2015, some of our upcoming events will be adjusted from their usual dates to accommodate these special celebrations.

We are still planning to renovate the Heritage Room. In the course of our discussions, we have found that this project will be larger than anticipated! We have a mammoth task at hand - aside from enlarging the existing space and curating the exhibits, we will need to digitalise our archived documents and photos, make a comprehensive list of both our treasures and collection of artifacts as well as to record and capture the history of MGS by interviewing retired teachers and Alumna. So if you can help us with this oral history project by interviewing people who can share their memories of their school days at Mount Sophia or if you would like to share your personal recollections, please let us know. Email us at mgsalumnae@gmail.com.

We would like also to remind you that our Annual General Meeting will take place at 3pm on Saturday 25th April 2015. Although we last held the AGM as a breakfast meeting, this will not be feasible this year as parking is limited with the construction of the integrated sports hall.

On Friday, June 26th, 2015, our younger Alumna from the Class of 2012 will be staging Love MGS - this is a time of Praise & Worship and we hope you will come and join us. We are delighted that each year the cohort waiting to enter university has eagerly taken up the challenge of managing this event. The theme this year is "Jubilee". All glory be to God.

It is with deep sorrow that we mourn the recent demise of our first Prime Minister Mr Lee Kuan Yew. Each one of us has benefitted from his vision for Singapore. For me, the most touching part of his life was his love for his wife, the late Madam Kwa Geok Choo who was our alumna. We want to remember both Mr & Mrs Lee for their lifelong partnership and love.

In Psalm 28:9 the psalmist says He will "shepherd them also and carry them always". Let us trust our Lord in all things, knowing that He is there for us through all seasons.



One Year On... My Reflections


I thank God for the past year in MGS. To me, it's been a wonderful experience being constantly reminded of God's faithfulness and love for His children, of how He would always honour His Word. There is much to write and to reflect on but allow me to just focus on two aspects.

First, we began the year 2014 with a plea that God would bless and establish the work of our hands for us as found in Ps 90:17. The plea came from a heartfelt acknowledgement of our own inadequacies and the need for the sovereignty of God to prevail in all circumstances especially in a changing landscape of complexity and uncertainty both for our staff and students. Since then, I have stood witness time and again to God's blessing and provision for MGS every step of the way, whether it was resources, staff, or man's favour. Our needs would always be met in a timely way.

In addition God has also blessed the hard work of our staff and students seen in the astounding achievements of 2014. In the past one year, I saw the God of MGS at work... I am deeply humbled.

Secondly, if the adage "It takes a village to raise a child" has any special significance, it would be here in MGS. Every MGS girl must know

how much she is valued and loved by the MGS community. It is heart-warming to see how our parents, alumnae, the church and board members rally together for the school and for the girls, whether it is mentoring, coaching or putting up banners, cooking or creating learning spaces for the girls. The spirit of support and sacrifice is most evident. Our girls must never take this for granted and think they are entitled to such. It is imperative that our girls learn to appreciate and be thankful for the "village" they are in and the village that has been there for them.

One year on in MGS, and I continue to be fascinated by the enthusiasm in MGS, for learning, and in embracing change for the better. I continue to see the warmth and love of the MGS community. I am thankful. 

*Ms Grace Ng
Principal*



Teachers' Day 2014



MGS Teachers' Day Celebrations has always been one of my favorite events on the Alumnae Association's calendar. It not only gives me the opportunity to work alongside a group of women dedicated to serving our alma mater long after we have left her portals, but most importantly, to celebrate and honor the MGS staff and management who toil tirelessly to make our daughters' time at MGS meaningful and rich with tradition.


Each year, the MGS AA organizes a lunch celebration that includes a sumptuous meal and home-grown entertainment. It's a unique time for our beloved teachers and coaches to

relax in an off-site setting and to enjoy the camaraderie of each other, the Board of Management, the Alumnae Association, and retired teachers.

Last year, our celebration was held on Friday, September 4th at the Singapore Island Country Club's Island Ballroom. As always, our guests were extremely sporting, and many dressed up according to the theme "Heads or Tails". The venue was decorated beautifully by some of our very talented committee members, and we were treated to grand displays of creativity and teamwork from the teachers as they gamely strutted on stage showing off their costumes. One group even took the

initiative to create a game that it led the audience to play.

The photographs speak for themselves; of an afternoon filled with both laughter and gratitude.

Thank you, teachers and coaches of MGS. For everything. The MGS Alumnae Association would also like to thank Parentlink and the Parents of MGS who generously supported the event through the kind sponsorship of the lucky draw prizes. 

*Joy-marie Toh
Class of 1989*



Homecomings



Youth Chapter

On Saturday 24 January 2015, the Class of 2014 returned to their second home to attend the annual Youth Chapter event organised by the MGS Alumnae Association, aimed at reuniting the previously graduated cohort. This year, the theme for the event was Epilogue, signifying the conclusion to their lives in MGS, while concurrently opening a new door to the next phase of their lives.

Various games, namely Wheel of Fortune, Friendly Feud, as well as Don't Forget the Lyrics, were played, infused with a touch of MGS culture and zest. Students had fun amicably competing against each other and nostalgically reminiscing about their time in MGS.

To end off the event, the yearly Youth Chapter tradition was carried out, where each girl penned their hopes and dreams and attached them to balloons before releasing it into the sky, symbolizing dreams that would take flight and fly high. With the guidance of God, a humble spirit and the confidence of an MGS-nurtured girl, each student in the Class of 2014 will definitely be able to go forth with purpose and hope for the future.

*Cherie Poon
Class of 2014*



Homecomings

P6 Class of 2013 Reunion

At the end of August 2014, the P6 Graduating Class of 2013 gathered in the Primary Hall. Over 200 girls made their way back to their alma mater to reconnect with old friends for a time of fellowship, food and games.



1990 Athletics Relay Team Reunion

The 1990 MGS Athletics Relay Team that represented MGS from 1988 - 1990 recently got together for a reunion. This group of sporting women trained regularly to compete in both relay as well as individual events to bring honour to the School – these friendships made have stood the test of time!

Patsy Teo (1990), Li Baolan, Yap Li Ming & Karen Ho (1991)



Then



Now

Founder's Day Dinner 2014



25th July 2014 once again saw the Shangri-La Island Ballroom filled with the sounds of MGS girls past and present, staff and friends of the school. There were tables filled with old girls from the classes of 2004, 1994, 1989, 1984, 1974 and 1964, amongst others - all taking the opportunity to have a mini-reunion while at the same time celebrating God's faithfulness to their beloved alma mater for the past 127 years. The class of 1964, celebrating their 50th year since graduation from MGS, prepared a slide show with old photos and even presented the MGS Alumnae Association with a love gift from their cohort.



For some, it was a wonderful evening of chatting and catching up with old classmates and old teachers. For others, it was a chance to take Instagram-worthy photos with classmates and teachers dressed in their evening best! The school choir also entertained the crowd with their performance of an old favourite, "To MGS".

The annual Mrs Margaret Goh Award was presented to Covenant Community Methodist Church for its many years of faithful partnership with MGS. Long service awards were also presented to the following teachers: Ms Tsien Juian Juian and Mrs Magdalene Sim (20 years); Mrs Beatrice Leong (25 years) and Mrs Chan Lai Har (35 years). As has become a tradition, the evening ended with a performance by the Graduating Class of 2014, culminating with a rousing rendition of the school song.

This year's Founder's Day Dinner will once again be held at the Shangri-La Island Ballroom on Saturday, 25th July 2015. Booking forms are available on the school website and from the school office. We hope to see you there!



*Fock Yin Ling
Class of 1989*

Founders' Day Dinner 2014



Reunions



Class of '94

25th July has always been a special day on the MGS Calendar and this year was no exception, especially for the Class of 1994 who had made a pact 10 years ago to reunite once again on their 20th year of graduation and MGS' 127th Founder's Day.

Planning started in May when some of our girls found out about the upcoming dinner from their daughters and started to spread the word around our Class of 1994 Facebook group. Thanks to the wonders of social media, our efforts quickly gained momentum and 54 of us were able to join in this joyous occasion.



Despite not having seen each other for ten years, the joy of kinship and an unique MGS camaraderie flowed naturally that evening as we shrieked with much joy and laughter in seeing how much we have changed over the years, whilst reminiscing about our younger days spent in Methodist Girl's School.

We also took the opportunity to catch up with our teachers from both MGS Primary and Secondary like Mrs Chan Lai Har, Mrs David, Mrs Tay Poh Imm, Mrs Corrine Sim, amongst others, and tried to get them to remember who we were or the mischievous things we did in school. Many of us also took the opportunity to take a photo with our then-principal, Mrs Anna Tham, as well as chatting with the famous Hock Seng who was seated at our table.

It was an amazing evening of catching up and reminiscing - where we were reminded once again that while time passes, our hairlines may whiten and thin; or our waistlines may expand, the inexplicable bond that we have with our alma mater remains.

As the saying goes - "You can take a girl out of MGS, but you cannot take MGS out of a girl". The ten years of education have instilled in us intelligence, strong beliefs, independence, and gregarious personalities that are uniquely MGS. A camaraderie that never fades was reignited this evening.

We hope that these photos capture the spiritedness of MGS that words cannot express. See you all in 2024!



*Jo Chia & Stephanie Wong
Class of 1994*

Reunions



A Wonderful Reunion in Japan

This last April, six old friends came from all over the world for a reunion! One from Hawaii (Celia Chia); one from Vancouver (Ann Wei); one from London (Adeline Oh) and three from Singapore (Barbara Chee, Rene Lim and Lim Yu Sian). What did we have in common aside from being in school at the same time? Not very much since we left school (or so I thought) but we still kept in touch and decided to do this trip together to celebrate our friendship over the years.

Not wanting to take responsibility for planning the trip we, enlisted the help of a travel planner who worked out the itinerary and booked the hotels, restaurants, guides, transfers etc. We wanted to view the cherry blossoms in Osaka, Kyoto and Tokyo, so we timed the trip for early April.

We were also accompanied by Celia's daughter, Christine, who quietly absorbed what a group of old friends do when they get together - talk about the past! And of course bring each other up to date about our respective families and other friends from school.

As the trip progressed, we found that we had lots in common - shopping, good food and a constant need to find toilets! Photo opportunities were aplenty as our tour took us to scenic places and Sakura - viewing was a major feature. We learnt how to "pose-ze" and say "cheese-ze" when taking photos, just like the Japanese.

Aside from drawing on our past experiences, we now have new memories of a time well spent together. I would urge my fellow alumna to get together more often and not wait until they are "60" to plan reunions.

Let's remember this line from the school song: *"for friendships made and pleasures shared"*. Truly our trip was a wonderful and memorable one and we plan to have a few more whilst we can take "10,000" steps a day!!



Barbara Chee
Class of 1971


LOVEMGS

LOVEMGS is an annual worship event organized by MGS alumnae who are passionate about seeing God exalted in the school. The first LOVEMGS took place in 2000, borne out of prayer and a vision to see MGS girls stand united and bring praise to our Maker. It has since become a mainstay event in the school, drawing MGS girls past and present (as well as some of their male counterparts) to come and worship the Lord together.

Last year, God brought a team of old girls from the Class of 2011 together to pray and plan for this event and discern what God would have to say to all who would gather at LOVEMGS. They settled on the theme "Christ is Enough," hoping to remind MGS girls that whether we have much or very little, whether our successes and achievements are numerous or few, God alone is sufficient for us.

Pastor Martin Tang (formerly of Changi Christian Fellowship) delivered God's Word at the event, sharing testimonies from his life that echoed the apostle Paul's discovery that "everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord." (Philippians 3:8, NLT). His life testifies to the truth that our greatest prize pales in comparison to all that Christ offers us, and our deepest hurts and problems cannot keep us from Him either. In fact, He often uses the painful and difficult situations in our lives to help us see that He is able to fully satisfy us and cause us to delight in Him.

The event ended with a call for all to surrender the things they hold dear - in the words of the apostle Paul, to "[discard] everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that [we] could gain Christ and become one with Him" (Philippians 3:9a), for that is the greatest blessing of all.

LOVEMGS will next be held on 26th June 2015. Keep a lookout for updates on our Facebook page and join us for an evening of worship to our God! To get involved, contact us at lovemgs@gmail.com. All are welcome! 

*Debbie Wong
Class of 2006*

LOVE MGS



Souvenirs & Memorabilia

When waves of nostalgia hit you, put on a comfy collegiate MGS V-neck Tee and reminisce about “friendships made and pleasures shared”. One of our bestsellers, the Tee is available in several sizes and colours.

Looking for a gift for that Old Girl or something commemorative for that new MGS girl, have a look at what we have - you just might find what you are looking for at reasonable prices.

Come Founder’s Day 2015, look forward to new items that will be available. Certain items might be limited.

How to order? Please visit the school website at www.mgs.sch.edu.sg to download the order form or email us at mgsalumnae@gmail.com. Happy Shopping!



Upcoming Calendar of Events

Every year, the MGS Alumnae Association works closely with the School to stage a variety of events for the school community. Below is a listing of some of the key dates coming up.

DATE	EVENT	VENUE
Friday, June 26th, 2015	LOVEMGS	School
Saturday, July 25th, 2015	128th Founders’ Day Dinner	Shangri-La Hotel
Saturday, August 22nd, 2015	Alumnae Day P6 Class of 2014 Reunion	School

We look forward to having you join us on these special and memorable occasions where fellowship and food is in abundance!



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