



# FELLOWSHIP

AN MGS ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION  
NEWSLETTER 2016



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A Letter from One MGS Girl to Another. LOVEMGS. Commemorative Souvenirs. Upcoming Calendar of Events



BARBARA CHEE  
PRESIDENT  
MGS ALUMNAE  
ASSOCIATION

## President's Message

I made up my mind to step down as President of the Alumnae last year, knowing that I would no longer be able to fully commit to this role in the coming years. I must say that it has been an honour and a privilege to serve the Alumnae, and I will continue to be actively engaged in many, if not most, of the events to come.

During my term as President, the question that recurred time and time again was how to remain relevant in today's society. We have been trying our best to engage our younger members and at the same time keep in touch with our older members.

When you read our newsletter, you may think we are repeating ourselves every year with our litany

of events. My committee members may be the same people but, in actual fact, each year we are engaging a fresh cohort. This is the case with our homecoming events for the graduating classes (Sec 4s and P6s). Hopefully they will remember how the Alumnae has always been there for them so they will, in turn, step up and support the Alumnae when they become adults.

My job as President was made easy by the support of my wonderful committee members, who went above and beyond their roles in the committee to ensure that each event ran smoothly. I will treasure the friendships that I have made with each and every one of them and I am truly thankful that our good Lord has blessed us with good rapport and

cooperation in all our endeavours.

Our most ambitious project to date – establishing the Heritage Centre for the school – is a work in progress. We have consultants working on the storyline and design, and we hope for a grand opening next year as the school celebrates her 130th anniversary.

The Heritage Centre project is targeted at the whole MGS community – past and present girls, teachers, the church and anyone interested in how our school was established and has evolved over the years. We are appealing to all our members to contribute towards the project. If you have any memorabilia or photos of your school days that you would like to donate to our

# President's Message



archives, including old textbooks, ten-year series papers, samples of needlework, etc. please let us know. Better yet, if you would like to help us catalogue, collate and organize the archives, please come forward as well. We will also be having several fund-raising events and we look forward to your generous support.

Why, some may ask, are you still so active in MGS? Hasn't your daughter graduated? I often get these kinds of questions posed to me. Depending on my mood and who is asking these questions, my

answers can vary. I may brush the questions off by saying, "Someone has to do the job!" or I may be more forthcoming and say, "I am proud to be an Alumnus of this school and by serving on the committee, I hope I am contributing or 'paying back' the school for making me who I am today."

Just singing our school song or hearing the school choir sing it makes me proud to be an MGS girl. The lyrics resonate with meaning, and a sense of nostalgia always washes over me when I hear that familiar introduction on the keyboard. I believe that

it is the values taught in MGS, the school environment and the culture that have evolved over the years which set us apart as exceptionally confident and godly women.

It is for these reasons that I serve. It is for these reasons that I sent my daughter to MGS. And it is for these reasons that the Alumnae exists. In case you have forgotten the school motto, which is "To Master, To Grow and To Serve", may I urge each one of us to remember our alma mater and what she has done for us as we pursue our own dreams and aspirations.



## Thank You...



# Teachers' Day 2015



The annual Teachers' Day lunch was more special last year given that 2015 marked 50 years of Singapore's independence. The nostalgic mood, coming after the National Day celebrations, made it an appropriate time to remember all that we have to be thankful and grateful for. Fittingly, our theme for the Teachers' Day lunch was "Yesterday Once More" and the walk down memory lane would not have been complete without recognizing the contributions of our retired pioneer teachers – in particular, Mrs Anna Tham, principal to many of us present that day and also the school's longest serving principal. Some twenty retired teachers were also present to join us for the festivities.

Aside from the usual lucky draw, door gift and sumptuous lunch, the teachers were treated to a performance by our very own Alumnae band. The band comprised members spanning a quarter of a century, from the Class of 1981 to 2006! Thanks go to Selena Lai ('81), Lee Ming Ying ('81), Audrey Tang ('86), Jocelyn Ong ('96) and Debbie Wong ('06) for joining us that day. You can probably tell from the photos who the senior and baby members are... The band proved to be a big hit with their repertoire of old favourites and our sporting teachers jostled to go on stage to sing along. Suffice to say this is not the last we will see of the band, as there were many requests for a repeat performance!

Thanks go to the supportive parents whose generous donations contributed to the success of the event and also to the Board for co-hosting it with the Alumnae.



by Koh Bee Ann  
Class of 1981

# Alumnae Day & P6 Homecoming



On 22nd August 2015, the MGS campus was abuzz with excitement as past and present girls of various age groups gathered to celebrate Alumnae Day and the P6 Homecoming.

Our annual Past vs Present games saw teams playing netball, football, badminton, table-tennis, frisbee and even word games like Boggle.

Once again, the Past girls showed both their sporting and linguistic prowess and emerged victorious to win the Anna Tham Challenge Shield for the fourth year running.

Meanwhile, at the P6 Homecoming, the P6 cohort of 2014 reunited to play games and bond over yummy food and ice cream. The organizing committee worked hard to ensure that as many of their classmates as possible returned to MGS for a time of worship and fellowship.

The event culminated in a joint game between the girls attending the P6 Homecoming and the participants of Alumnae Day.

Join us on August 20 this year to help us continue our triumphant reign and for a time of fun and fellowship.



by Sharmila Nair  
Class of 1986





# Reunion - Class of 1995



The last time some of us met was in 1995, in the school hall, as we sat for our GCE O-level exams. This time, well into our thirties, you would not have been able to tell it was our 20th year reunion, given that we all still giggled in the same girly manner, chatted in the same loud manner and took endless photos in the same unrelenting manner. The only thing that had changed was...nothing, really.

Many flew back to Singapore just for the reunion, and when the 60 of us met, it felt like we were instantly transported back to a time when we were still in our blue and white sailor uniforms, scrunching up our skirts to stuff between our legs before we sat anywhere cross-legged. Our "real" lives and responsibilities of work, motherhood, etc. seemed like another world away, just for a few precious hours that evening. Our feelings of nostalgia would not have been complete without our teachers, many of whom looked even younger and prettier than they did 20 years ago, reminding us of our teenage antics and the pranks we played!

Truly, it was an evening "for friendships made and pleasures shared". Needless to say, we can't wait for 2025 for this all to happen again!



by Dorothea Lim & Janelyn Yeo  
Class of 1995





# 128th Founder's Day

MGS marked her 128th Founder's Day with a parade and service on Friday, 24th July 2015, followed by Founder's Day Dinner on Saturday, 25th July 2015.

The guest-of-honour at the Founder's Day Service was Ms Ho Peng, an Advisor to the Ministry of Education. She paid tribute to the legacy of Ms Sophia Blackmore and urged the current generation of MGS girls to emulate Ms Blackmore's example and strive to be "change makers" who could make a difference in the world around them. In the spirit of SG50, the school also paid tribute to the pioneer generation in our midst – from teachers and staff to our beloved red bowl noodle aunty and Hock Seng the bus driver!

Founder's Day Dinner once again saw the MGS community of past and present girls, staff and well-wishers gather at the Island Ballroom of the Shangri La Hotel for an evening of reunions, thanksgiving and celebration. Awards given out over

course of the evening included the Service to Education Award to Rev. Dr. Peter Wong and the Mrs Margaret Goh Service Award to Mrs Fang Ai Lian. Long service awards were given to the following staff for their years of dedicated service to the school: Mrs Serena Chan, Mrs Chen Kok Peng, Mrs Chen Seok Hwa, Mrs Tong Mei Jit (20 years); Mrs Catherine Choo, Mr Heng Jee Sin, Ms Clara Wong (25 years); and Mrs Tay Poh Imm (45 years).

It was a lovely evening of reminiscing and catching up. The evening drew to a close with the traditional item from the graduating class of 2015 and a rousing rendition of the school song.

This year's 129th Founder's Day Dinner will be held at the Shangri La Island Ballroom on Monday, 25th July 2016. Booking forms are available on the school website and from the school office. We hope to see you there!

*by Fock Yin Ling  
Class of 1989*





# *128th Founder's Day*





# *A letter from one MGS girl to another*

April 2016

To my great grand-daughter, Astrid,

Thank you for inviting me to the MGS canteen at Blackmore Drive to celebrate your birthday with you. It was lovely to see you and your classmates giggling away in the same 'sailor suit' that I, too, wore in the 1930s.

Looking at you brought back many fond memories of life long before the Internet, Facebook and Taylor Swift. I hope that this letter will inspire you and all MGS girls, both past and present, to be proud of your MGS legacy and embrace the life-long blessing of being an MGS girl.

MGS, to me, is not just a school. It is our family. My maternal grandmother, Siau Mah Li, was "adopted" at six years old by Miss Sophia Blackmore because her father wanted her to have a formal education and learn English. She was the first Chinese girl to attend MGS. While there, she lived at Nind Home, the affiliated boarding house. She went on to teach at the school. Later, my mother, Darling Kim Neo and her sisters, Susie Gin Neo and Edna Gek Neo, all attended the school and stayed at Nind Home as well.



*Mah Li (middle) with daughters Kung Kim Neo (right) and Kung Ghin Neo (left) standing in front of Kim Neo's daughter, Happy Tan*

As our family was closely connected to MGS and specifically to Miss Blackmore, it was only natural that my mother Darling shared the good news of the impending arrival of her first born with Miss Blackmore. Well known for having strong opinions, Miss Blackmore advised my mother to "name the child Happy, whether it be a boy or girl". And so it came to pass, that on November 13th, 1923, I was indeed named Happy Tan. That makes me the 3rd generation of women in our family to attend MGS, and you the 6th. I understand that at ninety-three years old I am one of the oldest living MGS alumnae.

My memories of MGS go back as far as to the time when the school was at Short Street. My father hired a rickshaw driver to bring me and my neighbours to school. When MGS moved to Mount Sophia, he paid the 'uncle' more to pull the rickshaw up the hill. Little did he know that the rickshaw puller dropped us off at Adis Road instead, and asked us to walk up the hill ourselves!

When my mother passed away, I stayed at Nind Home on Mount Sophia for a short period of time. When I married your great-grandfather, Chen Jan Jee, I was delighted to discover that his mother,







my mother-in-law, Chia Kim Lian, was also an MGS girl who attended the Bible Women's Training School. If you and your friends go to the Methodist Archives, many photos of her with Misses Sophia Blackmore and Mary Olson can be found. One such photo of her with Miss Blackmore can be found just outside the Kwa Geok Choo Auditorium in your school now! She's the one with a baby on her lap.

What I find most wonderful about the MGS spirit is that it is so strong and infectious. Your grand-uncle James Chen is what I call an 'Honorary' Old Girl. He has been actively taking photographs of, and for, MGS for the last 30 years and has captured many of the significant moments of recent MGS history. Legend has it that he met his wife, Christina Chen (Class of '79) along an MGS corridor while taking photographs of the MGS teachers for the school magazine.

Your grandmother, Victorine Chen (Class of '62) was a prefect and later extremely involved as a parent-volunteer when your mummy was in school and helped out with the primary school reading programme. Even now, she is still ready to whip up a batch of coconut candy from Ellice Handy's cookbook for MGS events. Your mother, Joy-marie Toh (Class of '89) was also a prefect and continues to serve MGS actively through the Alumnae Association. I hope that you will always maintain your ties with MGS - or the 'Monkey Girls' School' as we knew it, even when I was little.

Both your grandmother and mother spent all their school lives on the Mount Sophia campus. Each of us has special recollections of our different times. I had never visited the current location until you entered Primary One! But I know that time and space remain unchanged in an MGS girl's heart. One day, you too will reflect on your time at MGS through laughter and tears.

I wish you and your friends a wonderful MGS journey that is just beginning, but has no end. A journey rich with deep memories that will be forever etched in your heart, like they are in mine. May you be the Master of your own path, Grow in confidence, and Serve God, country, school and family.

Much love always,

Your Meh Meh  
Mrs Happy Chen  
Class of 1939



Mrs Happy Chen, Joy-marie Toh, Astrid Virk (Joy-marie's daughter)  
March 2016



# Reunion - Class of 1981

*Turning 50. Looking 30. Feeling 20.*



*Serious business of sorting out flash mob dance steps*

There was no escaping SG50 activities last year so our Class of '81 (born 1965) hatched plans for an MG50 party on 1 August 2015. The theme of this party was **M** for **Music** & **G** for **Grooving**. The benchmark for a successful reunion party is to have a good turnout and we had close to one hundred people show up! Thank you to Facebook and WhatsApp for facilitating communication. It was a terrific opportunity to catch up with everyone, especially those who had migrated overseas. Our party was also memorable and super fun because of the entertainment in store - ourselves!

Besides eat and talk, what else should people do when they get together? Sing and dance, of course...to the music we grew up with! We put together a band comprising Belinda Foo (vocals & 2nd keys), Selena Lai (keys), Teo Pek Swan (drums) and myself


the Carpenters, Barry Manilow, ABBA, Queen and songs from the movie Grease. Then came the surprise for the evening - a flash mob dance. Months before this party, a small core group diligently met to learn the routine to this flash mob dance. The aim? To get as many off their chairs and on the floor grooving as possible to the music of Bee Gees' Stayin' Alive, Night Fever, Disco Inferno and more. A big thank you to grooving aunties Wendy, Ee Pin, Oileen, Guet Cheng, Geok Kim, Diana, Tsui Lan and more. It was so amazing to see how you inspired half the crowd to get up on their feet and onto the floor to groove with you.



*The Drama Mama Band.....which has since been renamed Something Special. They play for special occasions - for a friend's baptism party in December.*



The party ended with an encore of ABBA's *Thank you for the Music*. It was a lovely evening rekindling friendships over music, grooving and conversation.

I read somewhere that amongst the top regrets people have is: "I wish I had stayed in touch with my friends." This party was instrumental in helping us stay in touch with each other. This was our third or fourth big reunion since we left school, and it was sobering as some in our year had passed on. In the Good Book the Psalmist writes, "teach us to realize the brevity of life, so that we may grow in wisdom" (Psalm 90:12. NLT). Carpe Diem. Yes, we are to 'seize the day'. So...when's the next party? 

*by Lee Ming Ying  
Class of 1981*



# Reunion - Class of 1981



*Thank you for  
the Music!  
Aunties belting  
their lungs out.*



*Looking 30,  
Yay!*





# LOVEMGS 2015



**LOVEMGS** began in the year 2000 with a vision to see MGS girls past and present united in praise and prayer for their alma mater. Over the years, different groups of alumnae have taken up the mantle, continuing to turn this vision into reality.

In line with the nation's SG50 Jubilee celebrations, the theme for LOVEMGS 2015 was "Jubilee". The team behind it wanted to convey the biblical perspective of jubilee as a year of freedom and the cancellation of debts. The speaker, Pastor Raymond Fong, shared the Good News, proclaiming Jesus as our Saviour and Liberator – our Jubilee. We each have our own forms of bondage that prevent us from living in true freedom, but Christ came to redeem and set us free, just as slaves were released in the jubilee year in biblical times. All those present were invited to lay down their lives, allow Jesus to set them free and take hold of the freedom that is theirs when they accept Jesus as their Lord and Saviour.



This year, LOVEMGS continues with the theme "For I Am His" – a reminder that our identity and belonging is found in God.

LOVEMGS will be held on the 5th of July, in the school Auditorium. All are invited to join us! Keep a lookout for updates on the Facebook page: [facebook.com/lovemg2016](https://facebook.com/lovemg2016). If you would like to get in touch with the team, please email them

at [lovemgs@gmail.com](mailto:lovemgs@gmail.com).



by Deborah Wong  
Class of 2006





# Upcoming Calendar of Events

The MGS Alumnae Association works enthusiastically with the school to organise a variety of events for the MGS community. Below is a listing of some upcoming events:

DATE	EVENT	VENUE
Tuesday, July 5th, 2016	LOVEMGS	School
Monday, July 25th, 2016	129th Founders' Day Dinner	At The Shangri La, Singapore*
Saturday, August 20th, 2016	Alumnae Day P6 Homecoming (Class of 2015)	School
Saturday, November 26th, 2016 (tbc)	Heritage Centre Fundraising Dinner	tbc

*\*Forms for booking of tables/seats will be available on the school website and are available at the General Office*

Please do mark these dates in your calendar and join us on these special occasions where fellowship, food and laughter abound.

If you have a little time to spare and would like to lend a hand in organising these and other events for the MGS Community, please drop us a mail at [mgsalumnae@gmail.com](mailto:mgsalumnae@gmail.com).

Thank you!

## More Memories of Founder's Day



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Visit us at  
[www.facebook.com/mgsalumnae](https://www.facebook.com/mgsalumnae)





# DONATION FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Alumnae Member: Yes / No

Class of: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Total donation amount:** \_\_\_\_\_

Cheques should be made out to "MGS Alumnae Association"  
*Please send completed forms to [mgsalumnae@gmail.com](mailto:mgsalumnae@gmail.com)*

## FOR OFFICIAL USE

Collection Date:

Payment Details:

**Method:** Cash / Cheque

**Bank:**

**Receipt No.:**

**Cheque No.:**

Collection Instructions:



METHODIST GIRLS' SCHOOL  
ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION





# MGS HERITAGE CENTRE

We are targeting to raise \$350,000 for the redevelopment of the Heritage Centre, which is scheduled for completion by the 130th Founder's Day celebrations in July 2017.



Minimum donation of \$100

*Limited edition NETS Flashpay card accepted at over 85,000 NETS terminals islandwide*

*Brass reproduction of school badge, presented in a gift box with a writeup of its history*



Minimum donation of \$200



Minimum donation of \$300

*Brass reproduction of classic and current badges, presented in gift box with a writeup of the badges' history*



METHODIST GIRLS' SCHOOL  
ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION





# COMMEMORATIVE SOUVENIRS

All funds raised will go towards the  
development of the MGS Heritage Centre