



FELLOWSHIP

MGS Alumnae Association
Newsletter 2018



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Heritage Centre ✳ 130th Founder's Day ✳ Class of '87 Reunion ✳ LoveMGS ✳ Teachers' Day ✳ P6 Reunion

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Alumnae,
2017 was packed with many events as the school celebrated her 130th Founder's Day. We were especially pleased to unveil our newly revamped Heritage Centre during this milestone year. The Heritage Centre was a true labour of love by the Alumnae Association, and was funded by donations from alumnae, friends, as well as a generous grant from the National Heritage Board. We are grateful to all who helped – whether through monetary donations, giving us your precious photos, books and memorabilia, or simply sharing your memories with us! Our prayer is that the Heritage Centre will bless generations of MGS girls, reminding them of those who worked so hard to establish MGS, and how far our school has come.

The Heritage Centre was officially

opened by Mrs Anna Tham, our longest serving principal, on August 15 – the original date of our school's founding. To mark the occasion, Mrs Tham wrote a math question on the blackboard at the entrance. Her math question has yet to be solved, so if you have a chance, visit the Heritage Centre during our Open Houses throughout this year, and take a crack at Mrs Tham's brainteaser!

We gave up the old Alumnae Room to make space for the Heritage Centre. So we are thankful the school provided us with another room not too far from the old one, which we renovated during the year-end holidays. Though this room is smaller than the one we had, we configured a cozy area for our needs, complete with a little shopfront from which to sell our souvenirs. Come and see for yourself. Do attend our



"We started 2018 with a Praise Service – a time of fellowship and communion with God in the school chapel."



"Come to our new Alumnae Shop, which we modeled after our old bookshop in the basement of the Mt Sophia campus!"



"These beautiful cakes at the Heritage Centre opening came in two delicious flavours: The old badge design was sugee and the current, chocolate!"

AGM on April 14, which will be held for the first time in the Heritage Centre.

This year, my committee will focus on developing our website, which will be a one-stop portal for all things Alumnae-related. We are also exploring an app-based membership card to facilitate access to the MGS Sports Complex, and possibly incorporating other benefits. Membership indeed has its privileges!

Coming up is the annual Love MGS service, on Friday evening, July 6. Planning for Love MGS starts in January each year by the committee of alumnae from the graduating class two years prior. Lo Su Li (Class of 1974) has been faithfully mentoring the Love MGS Committee each year, and we are so grateful for her ministry. Another alumna active since her secondary school days is Ng Shiping (Class of 1997), we also give thanks for her commitment. This outreach ministry continues

to grow, and we give all praise and glory to God for His work amongst the girls. Please keep this special group in your prayers and join in their monthly prayer meeting. This year, Audrey Tang (Class of 1986) will be our speaker for the evening.

I would like to thank my committee for working tirelessly and cheerfully all-year through. You exemplify our motto "To Master, To Grow, To Serve". I thank God for each of you, and all you do to ensure our MGS heritage is preserved and our MGS culture passed on.

A special thank-you, as well, to the School's Senior Management Team, especially Ms Grace Ng and Mrs Corinne Sim, for their gracious partnership and support, and to Ms Joanna Kong, who so efficiently manages a lot of the administrative work for the Committee.

*Mrs Tjio Bee Ann, Class of 1981
President
MGS Alumnae Association*



MGS ALUMNAE COMMITTEE 2017/2018

Front row, from left: Mrs Corinne Sim, Vice-Principal: Barbara Chee, Vice-President; Mrs Tjio Bee Ann, President, and Jean Lee

Back row: Lynn Lee, Olivia Loh Ing, Fang Lum, Claire Tan, Sharmila Nair, Ruth Yam, Angelina Wong, Sng Jen-Hwei, Fock Yin Ling, Dawn Chik, Joy-Marie Toh and Melissa Fam. Not in photo: Deborah Wong



I WILL ENTER HIS COURTS WITH PRAISE

We started 2018 with a cozy Praise Service in the MGS chapel with past and present girls united by a heart of thanksgiving!

Lynn Lee, Class of 1987



The Alumnae's Praise service on Saturday January 27, 2018 was a blessed morning of thanksgiving. Dr Sammi Si-hoe (Class of 1987) with Selena Lai (Class of 1981) accompanying on piano, led song worship, with many familiar chapel hymns like "Be Thou My Vision", "All The Way My Saviour Leads Me" and our perennial favourite, "To God Be The Glory". As we lifted our voices to God in song, so were our spirits lifted! We were reminded to ask ourselves what it

means to be a follower of Jesus through Pastor Ian Lee's message, "The Call To Follow" based on Mark 1:14-20, that to follow Jesus is to give up not one thing, but everything. Class of 1986 alumna, Audrey Tang rounded up the service by leading us to sing our school song together.

Indeed, may our Lord in heaven ever bless our dear MGS, as He has done so abundantly, for generations of MGS girls to come.



FUN FARE

Last year's MGS Carnival proved that once again, we put the "fun" in "fun fair"!

Lynn Lee, Class of 1987

As part of our 130th year celebrations, MGS organised a mega fund-raising event to primarily raise funds for the MGS Sports Complex as well as to give thanks for God's blessings upon our school. On Saturday July 1, our school grounds were transformed into a fun-filled Carnival, with current students, parents, staff and alumnae working together to run the many stalls and activities. We had all the favourites like Uncle Ringo rides and bouncy castles, to a whole cornucopia of F&B offerings from Japanese curry rice to gourmet burgers as well as retail options at The Marketplace and of course, our MGS Alumnae Association shoppes.

The Alumnae's stalls, collectively known as "Bakes, Bags, Barang Barang and Balloons" got crowded quickly, with our signature T-shirts like the 美以美 reprint and special-edition carnival yellow selling out within hours! Our ever-popular bakes, pre-loved designer bags and fun balloons were also well-received. Here's a shout out to all who dropped by our stalls to spend your coupons (and some of you even stayed on to help out!). It was a crazy, busy, happy time to meet up with old friends and behave like, well, MGS girls at our school fun fair all over again.



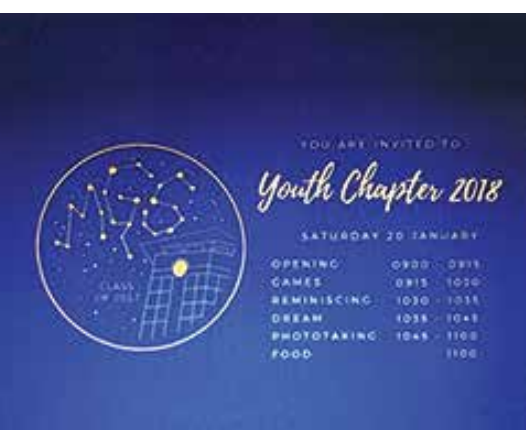
LIVE WHILE WE'RE YOUNG

The “babies” of the Alumnae, the Class of 2017 returned to MGS for the annual Youth Chapter in January, and it felt like they never left!

Hannah Kwok, Class of 2017

On January 20, 2017, a bright Saturday morning, the Class of 2017 reunited in the ME Lau Hall in MGS for the annual “homecoming” known as “Youth Chapter”. We opened with a session of worship, which we will always remember as a backbone of our school life in MGS. This was followed by four grueling sessions of Kahoot! Trivia, an interclass dance battle, as well as the Chubby Bunny and the Spicy Noodle Challenge!

Then the mood turned more contemplative when the lights were dimmed and a school video was played. We quietly reminisced about the past four years that seemed to have passed by so quickly. Yet, even as we fondly remembered the past, this year is one where we journey forth past our school gates into a new era of our lives. To capture this moment, each of us wrote our well-wishes for our friends on little glass jars, each a palm-sized time capsule. Come what may, down through the years our memories in MGS will always leave a loving place!



WE ARE THE CHAMPS!

Lynn Lee, Class of 1987

At the Past vs Present games on Alumnae Day on August 19, the alumnae clinched the Anna Tham challenge shield. MGS girls, like wine, just get better with age!

Think you have what it takes to help us retain our championship title? Come join us for some good old fun-and-games at our annual Alumnae Day in August. Check your email and our FB page for more details!

**MGS
ALUMNAE
DAY**



GOLDEN GIRLS REUNION

These lovely ladies have kept in contact since graduating from MGS in 1961!

Peggy Tan Swee Keng, Class of 1961

Out of 35 of our classmates, 25 have kept in contact since we left school at the end of 1961. Some of us entered the same professions after graduation or worshipped in the same church. We also attended the weddings of each other's children and other significant life events like our milestone birthday celebrations. But the main ties that bind us are having our daughters and granddaughters schooled in MGS.

Our first formal reunion after 20 years saw a dozen of us gathering in one of our homes. A list of names and contacts was formalized and that started the organised group meetings over buffets, particularly to welcome classmates who had migrated

overseas and returned home for holidays.

We call ourselves the "Golden Girls" now that most of us are happily retired, with some helping out with our grandchildren's needs in between traveling and pursuing our hobbies.

We are blessed to receive moral support from one another, and a daily dose of spiritual food via WhatsApp from one of our sisters, who also opens up her home for our gatherings!

We thank the Lord for His blessings on us and our families, and hope to stay connected, active and healthy for many more years to come!





JUST FOR US

The P6 Class of 2016 rediscovered the pleasures shared and friendships made in primary school at their Reunion.

Sheralyn Tan, P6 Class of 2016

Themed "Strength Of Our Hearts", the P6 Reunion on Saturday, August 19 last year was much awaited by the P6 Class of 2016. The concourse was filled with laughter and chatter even before our programme started! We were thrilled to see each other again, especially those of us who are now in different secondary schools and personally, I was overwhelmed by a deep sense of nostalgia.

We started the day, fittingly in the chapel, for a heartwarming session of worship and prayer. Our principal, Ms Grace Ng and the president of the MGS Alumnae Association warmly welcomed us back to school and offered words of encouragement.

We had a wonderful time around the school playing station games like captain's ball, H2O and even an obstacle course! Not only did the games stir up fond memories of growing up in MGS, we also had a chance to create new

memories with our teachers and friends. A simple prize-giving ceremony was held at the chapel and everyone received a gift of a mini school badge collar pin and an MGS sticky-notepad. The festivities continued at the Bamboo Courtyard where a delicious lunch buffet was served, and it even included a crepe station!

All too soon, it was time for farewells. Friends embraced and promised to visit again in the near future.

MGS is a special place where we learned and played for the past six years. Even as we go our separate ways, we will forever remember the friendships made and pleasures shared in MGS. The reunion was truly memorable for all of us and we are thankful to the school for bringing us all together again. Once an MG girl, always an MG girl!



"My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever."

Psalms 73:26

HAPPY TOGETHER

Our 130th Founder's Day dinner was one full of thanksgiving, nostalgia and laughter in equal measure.

Angelina Wong, Class of 1986

We celebrated 130 years of God's love, grace and faithfulness to MGS at our Founder's Day Dinner on Tuesday, July 25, 2017 at the Island Ballroom of the Shangri-La Hotel.

For us old girls, coming back together with our friends and teachers and brought us right back to when we were when we were carefree 16-year-olds. It was also a wonderful time for the present girls, represented by the graduating Secondary 4 and Primary 6 classes, to let their hair down and celebrate the friendships made and the milestones they have crossed together.

Various awards were presented throughout the night, including the Mrs Margaret Goh Service Award to the MGS Heritage Centre Project Committee; the Service to Education Award to Barbara Chee and Eddie Koh; and Long Service Awards to Christopher Goh, Henry Liow and Monica Bong for 20 years of service, and Chan Keng Seng,

Tsien Jiuan Jiuan and Tong Mei Jit for 25 years of service.

A special item during Dinner was presented by P5 student, Sasha Suhandinata who sang Eleanor Wong's "To MGS" accompanied by class of 1987 alumna, Mrs Valarie Wilson on keyboard. She was joined by her mum Tania Hoahing on stage as well as two other friends from the Class of 1987 and their daughters, who are current MGS girls.

When the evening came to a close, Ms Kon Mei Leen led us in a rousing rendition of the school song, perfectly reflecting the sentiment and love we hold for our dear MGS.

Our 131st Founder's Day Dinner will be held on Wednesday, July 25, 2018 at the Shangri-La Hotel and we really hope that you will be able to join us there. Booking forms are available on the school website or at the school office.





THE BIG THREE-OH!

It was the big 3-0 Reunion for the Class of 1987 at last year's 130th Founder's Day dinner with 92 of us in attendance!

Sharon Reutens, Class of 1987

We first received the call on the Class of 1987 FB page (yes, we come are the generation that still uses Facebook to connect) on July 9, 2016 – more than a year in advance – to pen July 25, 2017 in our calendars for our 30th Anniversary Reunion.

In the months after, our FB page started to ping with snippets of our school life – cross-stitched handiwork, old class photographs from yearbooks and even William Wordsworth's "Daffodils"!

The walk down memory lane came with photos of hilarious class antics, CCAs and snippets of life at our old school at Mount Sophia – performances in the hall, meals at the tuck shop, clowning around in classrooms and hanging from the monkey bars, to name a few.

Founder's Day finally arrived and nostalgia hit me as soon as I entered the foyer, which was filled with the familiar sounds of what MGS girls are well known: Incessant chattering! Surprisingly, I could recall many names of school mates from 30 years ago! Some, who were now living in Hawaii, New York and Australia, had even specially made their way back for this family reunion.

The highlights of the night included

a video montage that was lovingly put together, and MGS mamas performing Eleanor Wong's nostalgic number "To MGS", with their daughters. This beautiful song has been a familiar tune since we heard it on cassette tape in primary school!

I learnt much that night about how we have lived our school motto since our fledgling days, having flown the protective MGS nest:

To Master...

We are constantly learning. Some have switched careers or mastered a new craft, reinventing ourselves and charting new waters in our life journeys.

To Grow...

For me, it's been a kilogram for every year! But seriously, we have grown in immeasurable ways – in knowledge, experience, wisdom and in appreciation for life, in spite of all its challenges.

To Serve...

I am humbled by the many who have chosen to serve as educators, healthcare professionals, and those in the service industry, as social entrepreneurs, as missionaries, and in the most important of roles in our families as mothers and daughters.



As the euphoria of my class of 1987's reunion quietened down, I am reminded of the sprouting of wings of the new graduating class of 2017, of which my own daughter is a part.

I pray that, as with the friendships I have made and the lessons that I have learnt, my daughter will also learn to face the trials of life with faith and hope, and nobly run the race!





AMAZING LOVE

LoveMGS 2017 "Love Poured Out" was a memorable night for past and present MGS girls alike, as we returned to our alma mater to worship the Lord together.

Stella Png, Class of 2015



Since the launch of LoveMGS in 1999, this annual prayer-and-praise event has always been spearheaded by alumnae, specifically 19-year-old young ladies who graduated two years earlier. This year was no exception, with the Class of 2014 at the helm. Held at the Kwa Geok Choo Auditorium in MGS on May 26, 2017 the theme, "Love Poured Out", was prayerfully decided by the organising committee. It is a proclamation of God's deep and overflowing love that restores and revives. As believers, we love because He first loved us and this love overflows to those people around us so that we can lead them to salvation and know of His love as well.

"For me, the most memorable moment in organising LoveMGS was the process of seeking God with every step we take. When we were in doubt or weary, we were reminded to fix our eyes upon Him and allow His love to first pour into the committee so that we were rejuvenated to serve Him through the planning process

of LoveMGS," says Josephine Chan (Class of 2014). Kellerine Quah (Class of 2014), member of the organising committee, also shared during LoveMGS how God has been ever-present and loving during difficult stages of her life.

Our invited speaker Ms Jennifer Heng's message, "For Such a Time as This" was an amazing testimony of God's overflowing love and grace as a force of restoration in the midst of brokenness. Moved by the Spirit, many stepped forward to accept Christ for the first time, or to rededicate their lives to Jesus during the altar call. The presence of our Father truly filled the room and the hearts of those who attended the event.

We pray that MGS will always be a beacon of light to the girls who come through her gates, that they may know of God and His grace, and will never cease to seek and love Him all of their days. To God be the Glory, may LoveMGS continue to touch the lives of many more in the years to come!



"...Because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us..."

HAPPILY EVER AFTER (SCHOOL)

This year's Teachers' Day luncheon honoured our staff's contribution to the MGS story. It was a day to let their hair down and have a fee-fi-fo-fun time!

Lynn Lee, Class of 1987

On August 30, 2017, the Grand Ballroom at the Singapore Island Country Club was transformed into "a land far, far away" when the Alumnae hosted the annual Teachers' Day luncheon for our dear MGS staff.

Themed "Once Upon A Time...", this red-letter event cast a spell, on and off-stage, as teams vied for "Best-Dressed" individual and group prizes. The parade of storybook characters come to life would have warmed the heart of any English teacher! These included Puss-in-Boots, Snow White, Prince Charming, several dwarves, three (yes, three!) Little Red Riding Hood's as well as a winged Cupid resplendent in gold (no fairytale is complete without love!) We have to give a special shout-out to the teachers who came as a compilation of pivotal plot elements in various classics. The group, "Important But Forgotten" had come dressed as, among other details, The Spindle in "Sleeping Beauty", The Rose in "Beauty And The Beast", and The Broken Chair in "Goldilocks". We all had a grand time guessing from their costumes which "important-but-forgotten" detail each was! There was also no lack of entertainment with skits by the Staff Welfare Committee as well as a hilarious Hokkien duet by an unlikely pair. Our all Alumnae band, The MGS Mei Nü had the

crowd singing along to Disney ditties.

It was indeed a magical afternoon spent honoring the everyday heroes of MGS, the teachers and staff who give their best so that our girls will learn to make their own Happily-Ever-After's in life.



LIVING A LEGACY

The love we hold for our dear MGS was palpable at the official opening of our Heritage Centre. To God be the glory, great things He has done!

Lynn Lee, Class of 1987

On August 15, 2017, with a snip from a pair of golden scissors and a flutter of blue ribbon, Mrs Anna Tham officially opened the MGS Heritage Centre before staff, students, alumnae and guests. It was a moving ceremony as the renovation was a labour of love for our all-alumna Heritage Centre committee members who spent nearly two years on the project. As a nod to our school's contribution to Singapore's educational landscape historically, the local news covered the official opening both in print and online.

We were led into a spirit of thanksgiving with an introit "Sing Of The Lord's Goodness", by a small choir from the Class of 1987 with alum Mrs Valarie Wilson accompanying on keyboard. Our MGS chaplain, Reverend Malcolm Tan spoke of God's hand in leading Ms Sophia Blackmore to our shores to start a Methodist school for girls – which she did

with nine girls in Short Street 130 years ago – reminding us of His special mission for MGS.

After closing with a benediction, "Now Unto Him", guests toured the Centre with young docents guiding them at each station. Outside, an elegant buffet – replete with MGS-girl cookies and two-bite tea cakes topped with fondant replicas of our school badges awaited. There were also delicious coconut candy squares, rock buns and delicate finger sandwiches straight from Ellice Handy's classic recipes!

Our school is blessed with a heritage that goes beyond the classrooms. Our beloved MGS has not only shaped the academic lives of the many generations of girls who have passed through her halls but also empowered us "To Master, To Grow, To Serve" with heart. May we continue to lift high her banner!



WEAR IT THREE WAYS

Our Alumnae tee isn't just high on comfort, but as our fashionista alum, health coach Swee Lin Lim, Class of 1987 shows us, when mixed and matched with wardrobe staples, it is also high in style!

LOOK 1



Black Collegiate Tee, \$20

Layered over a long-sleeved tee and paired with loose trousers, (instead of jeans) for a comfy, dressy look, this combi is flight-friendly, so you can emerge from a 12-hour red-eye looking effortlessly stylish.

LOOK 2



White Collegiate Tee, \$20

The classic combi of a white T-shirt and jeans doesn't have to look sloppy. Take it up a notch with accessories: Killer heels, belt and a dramatic clutch for a pop of colour. Pair it with a jacket for an unexpected lift!

LOOK 3



Heather Grey Collegiate Tee, \$20

Wear our Alumnae tee to the office? Why not? When worn with a classic black pencil skirt and a matching black blazer, this outfit is a lesson in work style!

You may also like...

The MGS Alumnae Association sells a range of MGS Alumnae merchandise is available at our shop and at selected school events. These are the hot favourites and the latest:



Wooden souvenir bookmark



Collegiate T-shirts in 100% organic cotton



MGS baseball caps, available in silver or gold embossing



Miniature badge collar pins

We are in the midst of updating our shopping pages on the school website, but you can download the order form from mgs.moe.edu.sg

MGS Alumnae Shop

OPEN

Exclusive MGS Alumnae merchandise available at our shop during Heritage Centre Open House and special events.

Check our FB page for details or download an order from MGS' school website.