

School Leaders' Updates [July & August 2021]

Celebrating Our Blessings

Student Leaders' Investiture 2021

On 6 July 2021, we held our investiture to officially appoint a new batch of student leaders to assume the responsibility of leading their peers in the school. The speeches by the Principal and incoming Head Councillor, Nathaniel Tang of Sec 3E were live-streamed to the students in the classrooms. After that, the student leaders received their appointment letters, ties and badges in a simple ceremony in the classrooms.

In my speech, I challenged the students to reflect on what it means to be a 100% pure and honest Fairsian leader. Being a leader is not about holding a position or even accomplishing a task. It begins with who we are as persons. Being a leader starts with who we are, what we believe in and what values will guide our decisions, words and actions. This year's theme verse from 1 Timothy 4:12 reminds us that even young leaders can be an example to the people they lead in speech and conduct, in love, faith and purity. Among the 5 leadership practices, the first one is Model the Way. Leaders are asking others to follow them, so they need to be mindful of what they are modelling for their followers. Leaders do not need to be perfect, but their hearts have to be in the right place. Fairsian leaders need to be committed to their community and have a heart of service.


133rd Founder's Day

Due to the tightened measures for Phase 2 (Heightened Alert), we were not able to invite any external guests to be present for our Founder's Day Thanksgiving Service on 4 August. Nevertheless, many joined us virtually through our live-streamed service. Our Guest of Honour was Prof Koh Woon Puay, Assistant Dean of the Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, National University of Singapore. She was our Head Prefect from the Class of 1984 and the Carrie Kenyon Award recipient for her cohort.

Prof Koh shared the account of Eric Liddell at the 1924 Paris Olympics to illustrate what it means to be a student who honours God:

- Committed student – committed to developing his/her talent to honour God, for his service and glory;
- Conscientious student – obeying God's command to work hard and do one's work well;
- Christ-like student – doing the right thing to honour God

Christ-like Student: Doing the right thing to honor God



He refused to run on a Sunday

"Those who honor Me, I will honor."

1 Samuel 2:30

"It has been a wonderful experience to compete in the Olympic Games and to bring home a gold medal. But since I have been a young lad, I have had my eyes on a different prize. You see, each one of us is in a greater race than any I have run in Paris, and **this race ends when God gives out the medals."**

- Eric Liddell

For Prof Koh, being 100% pure and honest Fairsian means being pure and honest in all things, big and small. She suggested that in fact, it might be easier to be pure and honest in the big things than in the small things in life, where we might be able to rationalise our little lies and dishonesty. She challenged students to be honest to admit it when they have done wrong instead of making excuses. Sometimes, choosing to do the right thing might make us look like fools. Nevertheless, we should not try to impress people, but rather to glorify God in all we do.

After the service, our students also had fun with their class-based games and activities. The Sec 2 classes designed a poster depicting their favourite memories of their Fairfield experience. The winning entry from Sec 2B is shown below.



This year's prize-giving ceremony took place in the classrooms as we were not able to gather large groups in the Hall (please click [here](#) for the full list of prize-winners). As we were not able to invite our graduands back for Founder's Day, we uploaded a pre-recorded video that they could watch in their own time. The Year Head and form teachers shared special messages for their students.

National Day Celebrations 2021

On 6 Aug 2021, we celebrated National Day in the classrooms with live-streaming of pre-recorded videos which were meaningful and touching. Students from the uniformed groups shared their reflections on their experience and hopes for the future. We were treated to two different renditions of our favourite National Day song, Home, by the Fairfield Symphonic Band and our teachers' band, the latter reminding us of all our precious memories in Fairfield, our second home. The Dancers energised us with their safely distanced dance in the school field, and we ended the day's celebrations with a rousing finale item featuring our students and staff in a dance workout to this year's National Day Parade theme song, The Road Ahead.



In view of the impact of COVID-19 on the activities that uniformed groups could engage in, there were no unit awards given out for the groups in 2020. Nevertheless, outstanding students in the uniformed groups were still eligible for individual awards. We would like to congratulate the following students who received the highest award for their group:

Boys' Brigade	Founder's Award SSG Ong Shern Wen Benjamin (4A)
Girls' Brigade	Pioneer Brigadier Brooch Award MSG Tan Ern-Ning Felicity (4B) MSG Lee Tian En Gwendolyn (4F)
Red Cross Youth	Director's Award WO Yang Xin Lei Rae (4B)
NCC (Sea)	NCC Outstanding Cadet Award MSG Rayner Wan Yu Hoy (4E)
NCC (Land)	NCC Outstanding Cadet Award MSG Muhammad Fayze Bin Muhammad Faddly (4E)

So much to be thankful for

Even though we had to place the Sec 1 classes on home-based learning for 3 days because of a confirmed COVID-19 case, and the close contacts had to be quarantined for 10 days, I am very grateful for all the people who stepped up to encourage the students and keep their spirits up. Our Partners-in-Education quickly mobilised to put together care packs that our volunteers distributed to the staff and students in quarantine. The Sec 2 students made a video to encourage their juniors. One parent shared that the parents in quarantine appreciated the one-on-one bonding time with their children, as well as the support and camaraderie among the group of parents who shared tips and stayed connected virtually.

We thank God for watching over our school and keeping everyone safe, bringing all the students and staff on quarantine back to us for lessons this week. Even in the midst of adversity, there is so much to be thankful for. Indeed, we are stronger together as a Fairfield family!