



TANJONG KATONG
SECONDARY SCHOOL

Commemoration of 65th Anniversary



**EXCELLENCE ABOUNDS,
ASPIRATIONS NURTURED**



**YOUR POTENTIAL
OUR PURPOSE**



**DILIGENTIA
INGENIUM
DEXTERITAS**

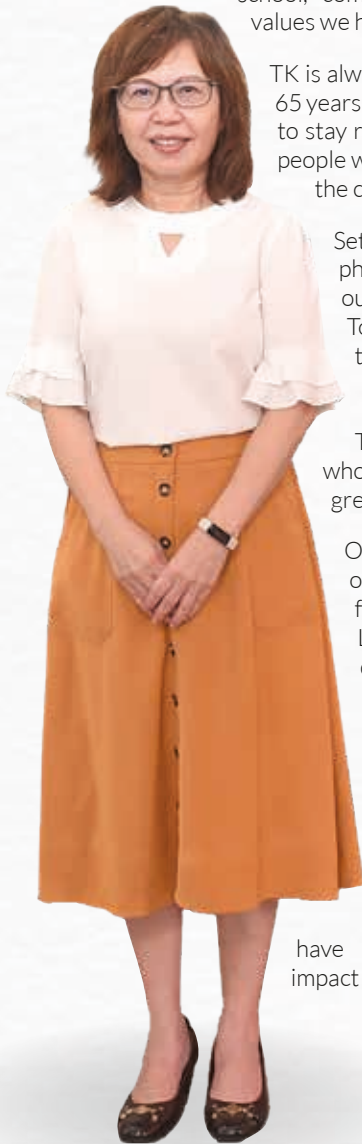


**RESPECT
RESPONSIBILITY
RESILIENCE
INTEGRITY
COMPASSION**

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

This year, we celebrate 65 years of TK in unusual times. Amidst safe management measures, the staff and students look for creative and meaningful ways to commemorate this important milestone in TK history. While celebratory events and activities have been scaled down, they take on a special meaning as we pay tribute to the TK heroes among us.

The theme for our 65th anniversary celebration is 'Honour People, Relationships and Achievements at TK'. It signifies our aspiration to realise our school vision and mission to enable generations of students with their potential and convictions to contribute positively to family, school, community and nation, honouring the school values we hold dearly.



TK is always ready and always relevant. Over the past 65 years, many changes have been made for the school to stay relevant but the school motto, values and the people who have made TK what it is today will remain the cornerstones of TK's growth.

Set up in 1956, TK responded to the 'survival phase' of our education system by preparing our youth with immediate technical capabilities. Today in a VUCA world, made all too clear by the Covid-19 pandemic, TK's emphasis on 'Learning for Life' develops agile future-ready TKsians so that future generations of TKsians follow in the footsteps of their seniors who have and are using their talents to make a great positive impact on the community.

One such illustrious TK graduate is none other than Mr Lawrence Wong, our Minister for Finance. In his various capacities, Mr Lawrence Wong has made improvements in different aspects of Singapore's economy, arts, sports and healthcare. As co-chair of the Multi-ministry taskforce on Covid-19, he leads his team to navigate the murky waters of the global pandemic, working towards the aim of helping Singapore become a Covid-resilient country.

We also honour the contributions of other distinguished TK alumni who have selflessly contributed and left lasting impact on the community. They include former



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minister Dr Yaacob Ibrahim who provided crucial leadership in areas of race and religion, cyber-security and water security; and Mr Cheong Quee Wah who served as Permanent Secretary of Home Affairs and led inter-government agency committees to manage national crises like the collapse of Hotel New World. We also salute the late Mr Subaraj Rajathurai, one of Singapore's greatest nature warriors, who was instrumental in the conservation effort of Singapore's ecosystems such as Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve and Chek Jawa Wetlands.

Mr Lawrence Wong, Dr Yaacob Ibrahim, Mr Cheong Quee Wah and the late Mr Subaraj Rajathurai are four shining examples of how TKsians embody the TK values. The list goes on and to capture the achievements of TKsians who live out the TK values to better the lives of fellow Singaporeans, we have unveiled the TK Wall of Honour as part of our 65th anniversary celebrations. This symbolic wall, which stands proudly outside the school library, serves to inspire our young TKsians to realise the school vision and honour our mission.

Take a trip with us down memory lane in this 65th anniversary publication as selected alumni reminisce the times they had exemplified school values when they were young TKsians and honour those who had made a great difference in their lives.

To TK, Happy 65th anniversary!

Mrs Dolly Ong
Principal

MR LAWRENCE WONG

Minister for Finance, Co-Chair of the Multi-Ministry Taskforce on COVID-19 (current)

Mr Lawrence Wong was a student in *Tanjong Katong Technical School* from 1985 to 1988.

Mr Wong served in the Public Service before he embarked on his political career. He was motivated to serve the country upon seeing the depth of conviction of the political leaders he had worked with to make Singapore better.

He was elected in the *2011 General Election*. Since then, he has held various portfolios in the government.

“There is a saying by Lao Tzu I like: that the best leaders are the ones whose existence people do not know of. When work is done, the people think, we did it ourselves. Servant leadership is about that. It’s about helping them achieve their aspirations, helping them do better.”

Mr. Lawrence Wong, *The Straits Times*, 22 April 2011

Mr Wong’s desire to serve was evident even before he started his political career. His work in the Public Service saw him make improvements in various areas from the aspects of economy, the arts, sports, education and healthcare.

As the *Chief Executive of the Energy Market Authority (2009–2011)*, he was instrumental in paving the way for a more sustainable energy future in Singapore.

He made museum entry free for Singaporeans and strengthened our culture of sporting excellence when he served as *Minister for Culture, Community and Youth (2012–2014)*.

He also led the bid for the Singapore Botanic Gardens to be recognised as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

As *Minister for National Development (2015–2020)*, he made public housing more affordable, and expanded Singapore’s green spaces.

As *Minister for Education (2020–2021)*, Mr Wong implemented initiatives to instil digital and inter-disciplinary learning, and helped to set up a new University of Arts.



Mr Wong taking a wefe with TKsians at our Heritage Centre in 2014



I spent four wonderful years in TK and still have very fond memories of my time there. I encourage all TKsians to make full use of the opportunities you will have in school. Take time to discover your passions and convictions. Put your heart and soul in everything you do. Build lasting friendships with the people around you. Most of all, ground yourself in sound values, and continue to find ways to reach out to others, and give back to the community. I am confident you will all excel and have a bright future ahead of you!



Mr. Lawrence Wong, Minister for Education, 24 January 2021

Mr Wong also took on the portfolio of Co-Chair of the Multi-Ministry Taskforce on COVID-19 in 2020. He and his team has since been coordinating and steering the whole-of-government response to the pandemic.

DR YAACOB IBRAHIM

Former Minister for Communication and Information & the Arts (2011 - 2018)

Dr Yaacob Ibrahim studied at Tanjong Katong Technical Secondary School from 1969 to 1972.

Dr Yaacob Ibrahim entered politics in 1997 and served for 23 years before stepping down in 2020. He was a Member of Parliament for Jalan Besar GRC until 2020 and helmed various ministries from 2002 to 2018.

As the Minister for Community Development and Sports (2002-2004), Dr Yaacob was responsible for initiating policies and programmes that helped to strengthen the social services sector so as to protect vulnerable individuals, care for seniors and strengthen family networks. In addition, he oversaw the setting up of the Singapore Sports School in 2004, an institution which has gone on to produce many champion athletes for Team Singapore.

As the Minister for Environment and Water Resources (2004-2011), Dr Yaacob oversaw multiple projects under Singapore's Four National Taps strategy, including the building of our country's first desalination plant in 2005. The Marina, Punggol and Serangoon reservoirs were also completed during his time at the ministry which helped to increase our country's total water catchment area, further diversifying our water supply and reducing Singapore's reliance on imported water. He was instrumental in developing the PUB's Active, Beautiful and Clean (ABC) Waters program. Under this programme many canals and water bodies are turned into recreational spaces for all to enjoy. He played a key role in getting ASEAN to set up the Sub-Regional Ministerial Steering Committee on Transboundary Haze Pollution in 2006.

As the Minister for Communication, Information and the Arts (2011-2018), Dr Yaacob pushed for investment in the country's telecommunications infrastructure. As a result of his visionary thinking, we get to enjoy one of the highest broadband speeds and internet penetration rates in the world. As the country moved forward in keeping up with technological growth and reliance, Dr Yaacob ensured that appropriate programmes were implemented to help seniors develop their digital skills, promote adoption of digital technologies among small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and also provide aid to low-income families to ensure they received digital TV and connection to the Internet, leaving no one behind.

As Minister-in-charge of Muslim Affairs, Dr Yaacob worked tirelessly with the Malay/Muslim community and religious leaders to look after the needs of Singapore Muslims and lift up the Malay community. He actively promoted the progress of Malay Singaporeans and galvanised the Malay/



On sensitive issues of race and religion, Yaacob always took a principled and sensitive approach. This called for courage and conviction, a willingness to take flak and not just to do the easy thing. I have no doubt that Yaacob's firmness exposed him to criticism, and came at some cost to his personal popularity but Yaacob held firm, and in doing so he made a vital contribution to maintaining our racial and religious harmony.



Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong at an appreciation dinner for ministers stepping down from the Cabinet in 2018



Dr Yaacob inspecting the parade contingent during Speech Day in 2004

Muslim community and religious leaders to tackle social problems and render assistance to those in need. He emphasised the importance of education and training, which led to a larger number of Malay students qualifying for university and post-secondary education each year and more Malays holding PMET jobs in the workforce. Where sensitive issues involving race and religion were concerned, Dr Yaacob was instrumental in bridging the gap between our Government and the community, and hence contributed greatly to maintaining racial and religious harmony in Singapore.

MR CHEONG QUEE WAH

Former Permanent Secretary in Public Service

Mr Cheong Quee Wah was a student in Tanjong Katong Technical School from 1958 to 1961.

Mr Cheong served as the Permanent Secretary in various ministries for 15 years: at the Ministry of Defence (1977 – 1981), Ministry of Home Affairs (1981-1986), Ministry of Environment (1986-1992) and Ministry of Law (1989-1992).

As Permanent Secretary of Home Affairs (1981-1986), he served as the first chairman of the Executive Group (EG). This was Singapore's first inter-governmental agency committee that coordinated efforts to cope with national crises.

On 15 March 1986, the seven-storey Hotel New World in Serangoon Road suddenly collapsed, leaving many trapped beneath the debris. Mr Cheong and his Executive Group set up the command post on site to coordinate the multi-agency rescue efforts in this crisis.

As Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Environment (1986 – 1992), Mr Cheong played a vital role in ensuring food safety and protecting public health. He was also involved in balancing Singapore's environmental and developmental needs under the Singapore Green Plan.

Mr Cheong firmly believes that when one joins the Public Service, his or her dedication and contributions are to the country, to the people, for generations to see. It may not always be tangible, but the impact is long lasting, and he or she will feel proud."

Mr Cheong was awarded the Public Administration Medal (Gold) by the Singapore Government in 1975 for his contributions to the country. He was also awarded the Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (CBE) by the British Government in 2001 to recognise his prominent contributions towards bilateral business cooperations between Singapore and UK. His work also spearheaded various business ventures between Singapore/UK with the regional countries such as Vietnam and China.

An epitome of lifelong learning, Mr Cheong continues to acquire knowledge in Chinese Traditional Herbal Medicine, Chinese Philosophy as well as in Life Sciences and Neuroscience. He is also a master of Qigong.



Mr Cheong (second from right) attending a school event at TK

“

Just do whatever you believe in. Don't ever break under pressure or challenges. Never expect things to be smooth sailing all the way. Just take a positive attitude. Learn from your mistakes and failures. Adjust and improve yourself. You have to be adaptable, and be willing to change. Nothing is static.

”

Mr Cheong Quee Wah during a personal interview, 2020

MR SUBARAJ RAJATHURAI

Self-taught naturalist, veteran wildlife consultant

The late Mr Subaraj Rajathurai was a student in Tanjong Katong Secondary Technical School from 1976 to 1979.

As a self-taught wildlife specialist, Mr Subaraj's journey in the area of conservation and wildlife consultancy first began in Bukit Timah Nature Reserve decades ago when he was just a teenager. He became Singapore's first professional tourist guide licensed by Singapore Tourism Board (STB) in 1990. Specialising in eco-tourism, he designed and ran more than 50 nature tours.

Mr Subaraj founded Strix Wildlife Consultancy in 1996, which involved detailed projects on nature, wildlife research as well as educational outreach with tours to wetlands and wildlife sanctuaries in Singapore and Malaysia.

Since the establishment of NParks in 1990, Mr Subaraj was also invited to sit on a few committees, including the Nature Reserves Committee and the Conserving Nature Committee. In 2017, he was featured in the Government's branding exercise - Passion Made Possible; aimed at marketing Singapore internationally for tourism and business.

Mr Subaraj was someone who truly personified what it meant to pursue one's passion and dream and turning it into a lifetime commitment. For more than three decades, he contributed significantly to the conservation efforts of Singapore's ecosystems.

As an advocate of Singapore's wildlife, Mr Subaraj was involved in numerous development projects which he worked tirelessly on, seeking to protect nature in the face of urbanisation.

In 1988, he was part of a group who drafted a proposal to save Sungei Buloh which was initially slated for redevelopment. He was also part of a research team that helped save 123.8 hectares of forest at Lower Peirce Reservoir in 1992. He was also credited for playing a key role in the successful conservation of Chek Jawa on Pulau Ubin in the early 2000s which was initially planned for land reclamation works.

Among Mr Subaraj's other achievements were his roles in drafting the Master Plan for the Conservation of Nature in Singapore and spearheading the Nature Reserve comprehensive survey in 1993.



Subaraj wanted to educate the next generation. He wanted to teach them about conservation and the natural beauty of the environment that had to be preserved. He loved Singapore, a patriot who wanted to help create a balance between development and preservation.



Mrs Shamla Subaraj (wife of the late Mr Subaraj), 2020



Mr Subaraj immersed in nature which he loved dearly

During an interview that Mr Subaraj gave in 2006 for the school's 50th anniversary, he shared that the greatest thing he had learnt in TK was to build his independence and self-confidence and that made him feel that he could go after what he was really passionate in.

HONOURING SCHOOL VALUES



MR LEE KAI HUNG

Class of 1981

My fondest memories of Tanjong Katong are of my times in NCC (Land), especially during the drill competitions. Apart from our regular Saturday trainings, we spent at least another two to three weekdays practising our drills. It was truly a test of our resilience. Imagine marching for hours, rain or shine, in the No. 4 uniform!

While the trainings were tough, it was also during these periods that great friendships were fostered and we grew much closer to our Secondary Four seniors, who were also part of the contingent.

All that hard work was rewarded when we became champions in the East District Drill competition and clinched the third place at the national level. As a Unit, we also did extremely well, under the leadership of Mr Tng Hia Seng, in areas such as shooting and administration. In 1980, we emerged as the Best Unit in Singapore, an achievement that many of my fellow cadets are still immensely proud of after all these years.

The bonds built are so strong that 40 years later, we still meet regularly for dinner, drinks, golf, and even overseas travel.

I'm proud to be an old boy from TK. With the help of VP Koh Tong Seah, Alumni Chairman Wee, TK61 Mr Kan, TK69 Siew Meng, SAC Mr James Sim, Satish and Neo Ah Chee, I'm also happy that we have continued to foster strong friendships across cohorts by organising our annual TK Golf meets since 2006.

As the African proverb goes, "If you want to go quickly, go alone; if you want to go far, go together."

'We work together and we play together. It's one for all and all for one!'



Pictures (from top): NCC (Land) cadets getting ready for the gruelling drills; Mr Lee Kai Hung and his squad mates; TK friends for life!

MR TEO HONG LIM

Class of 1982

Throughout Tanjong Katong Secondary School's history, it has produced an illustrious list of alumni, including Mr Teo Hong Lim, the school's current Chairman of the School Advisory Board.

Mr Teo, the Executive Chairman and CEO, Roxy-Pacific Holdings Limited, holds fond memories of his secondary days. He remembers learning essential life lessons and has this to say of his time in TK:

"Besides the friendship, I've found the education in TK especially useful in the later part of my life. I used to detest technical classes – the drilling, the use of the hammer, filing and other workshop activities. Little did I know

that these are so useful in the various parts of our daily lives. I am now able to do minor repairs at home and be the home handyman, skills which are especially useful during this COVID-19 period, when construction or repair workers are in shortage."

His strongest recollection is learning the importance of writing legibly. His Secondary 3 Form Teacher pointed out his indecipherable handwriting and advised him to write each letter clearly, rather than continue with his cursive scrawl. Mr Teo believes that it is really such simple life skills that his teachers had imparted which have made him the accomplished man that he is today.



A student working in the technical workshop in the 1980s



Mr Teo Hong Lim, our SAC Chairman giving out awards during the Prize Giving Day in 2018

DR JAZLAN JOOSOPH

Class of 1987

My journey in Tanjong Katong Secondary Technical School from 1984 to 1987 was memorable, life-changing and life-defining. I spent some of the best years of my life in this amazing school.

The TK school motto in Latin 'Diligentia Ingenium Dexteritas' has moulded me to be the person that I am today.

In TK, I was in the triple pure science stream. This was a tough subject combination with long hours and sessions in the classroom and the science laboratories, in addition to the various Science projects. The long hours and a strong foundation built in TK's nurturing and conducive learning environment not only helped me to achieve academic excellence, but also prepared me for my tertiary, undergraduate and postgraduate education and training.

I continued to read triple science in junior college and coped well, having acquired resilience during my years in TK. Likewise, I was well-prepared to face the hardship and long hours in medical school. While studying to be a doctor, I had to make many sacrifices. It was a long hard road and there were those who could not last this arduous journey. But the TK school motto which emphasises on diligence helped me endure through these challenges to achieve my dream of becoming a doctor. I am now an obstetrician and gynaecologist at Raffles Hospital.

In my profession, I need to be dexterous with my hands, as well as have mental and emotional adaptability and agility. I developed these qualities as a TK student. My first-ever dissection was carried out during a biology experiment in TK. It made me discover that I had the dexterity to build a profession using my hands. When I took part in Science projects, I learned to be nimble and flexible in my thinking to find solutions to problems. This also helped me to develop the ingenuity – an essential quality in my job – to provide the best and safest evidence-based treatment and management for my patients. I am glad to be able to use my dexterity and ingenuity to save and bring lives into this world.

I was a percussionist in TK Band and I developed dexterity with my hands to create beats and rhythms with my instruments. I also became the drum major of the band. I developed even more dexterity by twirling, tossing and throwing the mace through rigorous training to achieve perfection in my drills. As a leader of the band, I learned to be disciplined and started to discover my leadership potential, leading by example. I commanded respect and earned trust from my fellow band members.

We battled through competitions. We performed in national events and had a very strong sense of camaraderie. Even now, I remember the pride I felt when I won the best drum major award in the national display band competition in my graduating year.



Dr Jazlan leading the band as the drum major

MR IAN TAN ENG KEONG

Class of 1991

My formative years in Tanjong Katong Band shaped my identity, and anchored in me the values that I continue to espouse today. Throughout long and tough band practices, there were many challenges that my fellow band members and I faced. There were times when the music just sounded dissonant. There were times when the marching was out of sync. Even after getting those components right, putting them together required even more practices as a band. And practise we did. We seized every opportunity to perform, continuing to sharpen our saw in our desire for the perfect display. And we always kept our eye on the prize. Motivating ourselves with the 'Why' and persevering, we clinched Gold Awards for the Singapore Youth Festival Outdoor Band Competition in both 1989 and 1991.

While it seemed that what we did was only for those moments in time, unbeknownst to me then, the trials and tribulations that we overcame have inculcated in us many life lessons that prepared us for the future – teamwork, camaraderie, responsibility, grit, resilience, diligence and gratitude. TK Band is not just any extra-curricular activity. The TK Band experience has developed the finest graduates of TKSS, and the nation's leaders of tomorrow.

Today, the legacy of Belphegor marches on.



Mr Ian Tan and his band mates at a half-time performance at the Padang for a soccer match



Mr Nicholas Ow in New Zealand for an outdoor experiential learning journey in 2006

MR NICHOLAS OW

Class of 2007

I was a student councillor in TK. I believe that being a part of the Student Council developed my confidence in public speaking, fostered the value of teamwork, and challenged my way of thinking. It also provided me room to fail and grow as a leader. I look back fondly on the vibrant school experiences such as leading cheers at the National Stadium to support TK Band during the Singapore Youth Festival, planning school events like Open House and reciting the National Pledge in different languages.

Another significant memory I have is the outdoor experiential learning journey to New Zealand together with other student leaders. It was a time of growth as I had to step out of my comfort zone. One activity involved navigating in a pitch-dark cave which developed trust and teamwork. My experience in TK prepared me to undertake bigger projects later in my schooling years. I am also grateful for the friendships I had forged in TK and the belief that my teachers placed in me. My teachers were generous with their time, patient and understanding. As an educator, I hope to pay it forward to my students and will continue to see the best in all my students and nurture them to their full potential.

HONOURING SCHOOL VALUES



The TK Choir outside the Victoria Concert Hall during their SYF

MS ALYSSA THAM

Class of 2008

There are many unforgettable memories during my four years in TK, from wearing bright teal-green PE shorts to assembly checks, learning to say the National Pledge in four languages, and making lifelong friends.

If I have to pick the most impactful event of my time in TK, it would have to be my participation in the Singapore Youth Festival (SYF) Choir Presentation in 2007. We had worked so hard and overcome many hurdles that year. Since the SYF took place only once every two years and most of the students only had one opportunity to participate in it during their time in TK, I can still remember sitting in the concert hall and waiting for the results during one moment, and then shouting and jumping for joy the next moment. Our resilience and determination had paid off!

That year, we brought back the Gold with Honours award.



TK 'C' Division Floorball girls clinching the national champion for their fourth consecutive time!

MS TRICIA PHUA

Class of 2019

If I have to pick the most memorable event for me in TK, it would have to be the incredibly tough semi-finals during the 'B' Division Floorball in 2019 where I was the goal-keeper. There were no supporters cheering for us and nervous energy was palpable in the court as we were down by a point for most parts of the game. As the goalkeeper, this was extremely nerve-wrecking till the very end. We had to win the game to advance to the finals to defend our title and clinch our fourth championship.

"The game doesn't end until the final whistle," our coach's words echoed in our minds as my teammates and I doggedly played on. Our resilience never cracked, and we eventually went into a penalty shoot-out where a goal from our captain sealed our place in the finals. We could not believe it: we, Team TK, had a chance to carry the championship trophy again! That was a worthwhile moment that validated our sweat, tears, blood, and broken sticks. Subsequently, my teammates and I made history as the first cohort to win the championship title in all our four consecutive years of competing.

It is moments like this with the TK family that still make me smile today.

MS JESSIE ARWEN PATTY

Class of 2021

TK turns 65 this year, older than Singapore herself. I was awed by this piece of information and decided to rally my peers to do something meaningful to commemorate this milestone. Realising that many of us did not know much about TK's history, we conceived the idea to design a Scavenger Hunt activity based on TK's history for this year's Secondary 4 Cohort Bonding activity.

The Secondary 4 Peer Support Leaders, as well as the Student Councillors, were given the opportunity to plan the event. Working hand in hand, we planned the activities for the special day with much enthusiasm. We wanted to help the graduating cohort learn more about the school's history, especially since it was going to be our last year in TK.

What we discovered was how the school's history could be found almost in every corner of the school, yet we never bothered to just stop and take it in. Tasked with the responsibility to help Tksians learn our school's history, we organised a Scavenger Hunt and came up with clues which required them to visit these special corners to find answers to the clues, leading them to puzzle pieces. This event was organised to commemorate TK's 65th anniversary. There were 65 pieces of a jigsaw puzzle which formed the TK65 logo. The Scavenger Hunt helped the 2021 graduating cohort achieve a place in the Singapore Book of Records.

It was a challenging experience as students had to find the answers to the clues first before they could find the puzzle pieces. It was a simple plan, but there were many obstacles, the biggest one being that the auditorium was not available on the day itself. Five pieces of the puzzle were hidden there and it was only thirty minutes before the start of the Cohort Bonding activity. However, we remained calm and resilient. Within half an hour, we changed the placement of the five puzzle pieces, coming up with new clues for them. We did not let this hurdle derail our plans.

As the saying goes, 'After a storm comes the calm'. After overcoming the stumbling block, the event ran swimmingly. We could tell the event was a success from the echoes of laughter and the buzz from the Secondary 4 participants. At the end of the day, they took home a newfound sense of respect and appreciation for the school's rich history.



Pictures (from top left, clockwise): Sec 4 students playing Jenga; Racking their brains to solve the clues; the student organisers in front of the completed puzzle; Earning a place in the Singapore Book of Records; Piecing the puzzle together

DR LIM KENG HUA

Class of 1990

My four years in TK were impactful as they have shaped me to be who I am today.

On my first day of school, I realised I was all alone as I didn't see any of my friends from primary school. Nevertheless, I quickly accepted this fact and assimilated into my new school environment. TK provided a great nurturing ground and I had wonderful classmates and passionate teachers. The learning environment also inspired me to work hard and discover myself.

One of the most instrumental developments was a change in a school policy that led me to become the person I am today. When it was time for my Secondary 2 cohort to opt for the subject combination we wished to take at upper secondary, we realised that there was only one Humanities subject offered together with the triple Science subject combination, which was Literature. Many of my peers wanted the triple Science combination, but strongly preferred Geography as the Humanities subject, rather than Literature. Hence, a group of us approached the then Principal, Mr Tan Thiam Hock, to express our desire. He was open to our proposal, provided that half the class were agreeable. We managed to convince two-thirds of the class to opt for Geography instead of Literature as our Humanities subject. We became the first batch of graduating students to take this subject combination! As the pioneer batch, we put in extraordinary efforts in the study of our only Humanities subject and most of us did well.

As a result of Mr Tan's unprecedented decision, I went on to read three Sciences in junior college and then Medicine in university. Despite being the Principal, Mr Tan was willing and patient to listen to a batch of Secondary 2 students' appeal and fulfil our dreams. Rejecting our request would have been an easier option but he didn't. Mr Tan always put students' interest first and he set the stage for the nurturing culture of the school. His decision had shaped my path.

At the age of 14, I walked away from the Principal's office that day, strengthened by the knowledge that one should never let circumstances limit one's potential or dreams. When we face our challenges and persevere to prove our worth, we will be heard.

Thank you, Mr Tan and thank you, TK, for all the opportunities.



Pictures (from top): Mr Tan Thiam Hock officiating at the opening of the Prefect Room in 1990; Mr Tan Thiam Hock attending the Prime Minister's Book Prize ceremony with a TK awardee in 1990; Dr Lim Keng Hua (first from right) outside his formal Sec 4 classroom before TK moved to Haig Road

DR NG KENG SIN

Class of 1990

My journey started at Tanjong Katong Secondary Technical School (TKSTS) in 1987. The school gave me many opportunities to grow at my own pace and shine. It was not just a journey of learning I embarked on, but it was also a place where an important relationship blossomed. I met my wife, Susan, when we were merely 15 years old. In 2013, our eldest son joined the TK family, and matured into the fine young man he is today, under the wings of the renamed Tanjong Katong Secondary School.

TKSTS gave me invaluable leadership opportunities that had shaped me into who I am today. Mr Koh Tong Seah and Mr Yeo Kuerk Heng, both my Mathematics teacher and NCC (Land) teachers-in-charge respectively, were my mentors. They placed generous trust in me and helped build my confidence as a young lad. I was honoured to win the Best Cadet Award, where I had the opportunity to go on a memorable hiking trip to Mount Ophir in 1989. That was my first overseas trip, having come from a less privileged background.

One other unforgettable memory was the massive support the students showed for our renowned TK Band during their competitions. The school's spirit ran high whenever we watched the band compete at the National Stadium. That formed my early days of camaraderie with my schoolmates and those events made us proud to be part of the TK Family.

Fast forward to present day, the skills and experiences that I had acquired in TKSTS have helped me in many life battles. I owe much of my success to the formative years in TK and for that I am extremely thankful.



Dr Ng Keng Sin with his wife, Susan whom he met at TK, celebrating the birthday of their son



Mr Koh Tong Seah (current TK Vice Principal) at a Meet the Parents session in 1990 when he was a young teacher



Mr Yeo Kuerk Heng in his NCC (Land) uniform in 1990

MR ROGER LOO

Class of 1989

My time in TK was full of challenges – I was not performing academically and struggled in my journey to the GCE O-Level examinations. However, I found a source of strength in Mr Mah Kin Kwee.

Mr Mah went out of his way to mentor me, teaching me that it did not matter how many times I failed, it mattered that I picked myself up and moved forward. Through my interactions with Mr Mah, I was inspired by his wise message that: “The world can give up on you, but you can never give up on yourself.” Even today, it still serves as a reminder that my life has purpose and that my life story matters.

Even though I did not achieve my goals at Secondary 4, I honour what I have learnt from Mr Mah and continue to pursue excellence. Today, I stand proud as an Executive Director of a reputable management organisation and am even pursuing my second doctorate degree. Mr Mah had planted the seeds of knowledge and wisdom that would last me a lifetime.



Mr Mah Kin Kwee receiving his National Day Efficiency Medal from President Wee Kim Wee in 1989

MR RAYMOND LOW

Class of 1981

‘No sweat, no success!’ was the class motto of Secondary 4MB (Class of ‘81). It was coined by our then Form Teacher, Mr Lum Kum Tong at the start of our final academic year in order to motivate us for the upcoming GCE ‘O’ Levels examinations.

Mr. Lum taught my class English Language and Literature. When he first introduced his motto, we had a good laugh about it. Some of us thought that it was clichéd, while others probably figured they did not need such encouragement. Mr Lum was not deterred. Whenever he could, he would say to us, “Please remember, no sweat, no success!” He believed that without hard work and perseverance, we would not be able to do well for our national exams.

Over time, the class started to grow fond of the phrase. There were days when Mr. Lum reminded us, “Remember, no sweat...” but before he could even complete the phrase, the entire class would chorus loudly, “... no success!”

On Teachers’ Day that year, we ordered a cake to celebrate with our teachers and the words on the cake were, you guessed it, “No sweat, no success!”

We are forever grateful to Mr Lum and every teacher who had taught us at TK.



Mr Lum Kum Tong speaking to the class during the Teachers’ Day celebration in 1981



Mdm Halilah (first from right) enjoying a staff wellness activity in 2012

MR REEZE TAN MING JIANG

Class of 2006

During my upper secondary time in TK, I was posted to the second last class in the cohort based on my Secondary 2 academic performance. It was a class that took only seven subjects. My then Form Teacher, Madam Halilah, was the one who ignited my motivation as she continuously gave me much encouragement and hope that I could achieve good grades.

My motivation developed from my desire to make it to the achievement list of obtaining five A1s. I developed the resolve to put in hard work and overcome all odds to excel for the O Levels, realising my goal. Besides Mdm Halilah's encouragement and the hours of Additional Mathematics consultations with her, I also have to thank all my other subject teachers, who tirelessly gave me consultations, whether it was before or after school hours. Without the hours spent on clarifying and reinforcing my understanding, I wouldn't have been able to achieve my academic goals.

My journey in TK has taught me that nothing is impossible – it is only how much one wants to reach the goal and how strategically one thinks to achieve his or her goals. I learnt the value of resilience which has helped me in my life journey post TK and allowed me to persevere through my A Levels, graduate from NUS and thereafter embark on my career. I have been able to overcome obstacles and achieve excellence in my field.

To express my gratitude to the school, I have returned to TK to conduct inspirational talks to graduating students to spark their determination and encourage them. I hope that my sharing has given them the much needed motivation, just as how Madam Halilah had ignited the fire to succeed in me.

MR MUHAMMAD HAKIM B IDRIS

Class of 2012

My time in TK was extremely memorable and valuable!

Though I was not the most academically inclined TKsian, I did enjoy being very involved in my co-curricular activities and school-wide programmes. I was fortunate to have had very supportive school management as well as teachers to ensure that I strive for academic excellence despite being heavily involved with TK Football and the Student Council.

I had to juggle between training for an overseas combined school competition, Student Council duties and examinations. One teacher who had made a difference in my life was Mdm Halilah, my Student Council teacher in-charge back then.

Despite her (friendly!) nagging to improve my Additional Maths, she was always a nurturing figure who provided guidance where needed and trusted her students to work smart and hard for the best possible outcome for our future. It was tough and hectic back then, but Mdm Halilah never failed to check in on how I was coping and how well I was doing in the multitude of activities that I was involved in. She was firm most of the time, but she also knew when to soften her approach.

Despite her mounting responsibilities, she was adept in managing her students and work while displaying a great deal of altruism. She has inspired me to be resilient and strive for excellence while being aware to help those around me.

Thank you, Mdm Halilah!



Mr Hakim, President of the Student Council (2011-2012) at the Student Council Investiture in 2011

HONOURING TK THROUGH POETRY

Umbrella

My TK senior,
Is dependable
Teaching me to be responsible
Shields me from the blaze of the sun
To grow and have CCA fun.

My TK senior,
Is protective
Caring for me, always sensitive
Provides me shelter from the rain,
Knowledge and confidence from him, I gain.

My TK senior
Is colourful
Makes my school experience fruitful
Bright and joyous, full of life
With his guidance, I shall thrive.

My TK senior,
Is patient
A true TKsian
Waits quietly till my time of need
Always taking the initiative to lead.

By Secondary 1A



The Ray That Makes Our Day

She is like a ray
Of sunlight in late dawn
Her smile ignites a flame
That spreads on a backyard lawn

Mornings as gloomy as night
Flood our sleepy brains
As we drag our heavy feet
To experience energy drains

Then came the beaming
Lady dressed in pink
One who motivates us
With our class, she is always in sync

What would gain one's attention
Is her long, silky hair
But what would earn one's trust
Is her tender loving care

She is also a great communicator
Together with Mr Ngoi
They run lessons for CCE
For the entire class to enjoy

Her presence is always great
Never fails to brighten our day
She will always be remembered
As 1B's Ms Foo Wen Hui

By Secondary 1B

A Glorious TK Moment

The History test
Brought an unfamiliar grade
I had never been so close to failing
I needed a band-aid.

The alien grade scorched my pride
Making me feel scalded beyond repair
The high flying bird
Brought down to the earth.

Fearing that my plans to excel would be foiled
I looked up, shook my head and thought
Now it's time to toil
I must rid myself of the fear.

I studied and I persevered
I felt that it was time
To remove all that grime
That had made me feel small.

Fruition came
My heart burst in pride.
The glorious moment had come
Bringing the trophy I had eyed.

On my History test paper was an A grade -
The grade I felt that I deserved
I was no longer afraid
A victor I had emerged.

By Secondary 1C



HONOURING TK THROUGH POETRY



1 Delightful Friend 1ndeed

Thank you for lifting me up when I am down
Thank you for making a smile out of my frown
Being by my side when I go through the flame
Being by my side when I don't feel the same

You are the one I can always count on
You are the one whose words I act upon
I share my dreams, I share my thoughts,
You smile and nod, you judge me not.

Dark days are gone when I dragged my feet
Great days are here with a lively beat
Like the lucky four-leaf clover which is hard to find

Is this true friendship that calls you to mind.

By Secondary 1D

TK, Here I Come

Training for PSLE, assessment books in stacks
Are the typical primary school student's hacks
Nerves a-quiver, staring at the phone screen
Jumping, waiting, can my results be seen?
Our fate for secondary school is due
Neck leaned forward, right on cue
Got my results, burst with pride

Keen and eager to start a new ride
Against the odds, I did not succumb
Tanjong Katong Secondary School here I come
Outstanding future, together we will make
New adventures to undertake
Green and white, determination in my wake

By Secondary 1E



g1Fted

We thought that we were good in the game
In no time at all we would be The Name
But with little time left, we were losing
Time became a thief, we were yelling!

We were drowning in sorrow;
Our opponents were shouting bravo.

Suddenly
We were filled with confidence.

Perfectly
We were playing with assurance.

We scored the goal.
We won the gold.

With the cheers our spirits were lifted
It is no lie that we are gifted

That by far is
Our moment of glory in TK
Our moment of glory for TK.

By Secondary 1F

TK WALL OF HONOUR



G. RAJARAJASEKARAN
 Head of School
 1988-1992



G. S. ANANDARAMAN
 Head of School
 1992-1996



Career
 Mr. Anandaraman was appointed as the acting headmaster of the school in 1992. He was the first headmaster to be appointed from the ranks of the school staff. He was a dedicated and hardworking headmaster who led the school to achieve a number of milestones. He was also a member of the Singapore Teachers' Union and the Singapore Education Union.



Legacy
 An anniversary of Singapore's independence, the school had been celebrating its 50th anniversary. The school had been celebrating its 50th anniversary. The school had been celebrating its 50th anniversary. The school had been celebrating its 50th anniversary.



TANJONG KATONG SECONDARY SCHOOL
 130, Haig Road, Singapore 438796
Tel (65) 63443471
Fax (65) 64409624
Email tkss@moe.edu.sg
Website www.tanjongkatongsec.moe.edu.sg