

President's Report (2008 – 2009)



With the current Principal (Mrs. Ruth Lee) and six advisors, the Council met regularly to discuss alumnae affairs. Four Council meetings have been held since our last AGM. Alumnae assistants were invited to sit in and they contributed their fair share of ideas.

During the past year, we devoted our resources to the following major areas:

(I) Activities

1. Welcoming Party for Secondary 5 Graduates on 11 July 2008

To recruit new members, we organized a S5 Welcoming Party in July 2008. Apart from introducing our Alumnae Association, about 40 alumnae who were studying in the local universities or S6-S7 in our school or other local or overseas secondary schools were invited to have small-group sharing with the S5 students. A total of 123 students got enrolled as members.

2. Homecoming Day on 29 November 2008

Around 50 alumnae and relatives enjoyed a relaxing Saturday afternoon in YW during the function. Programme included meeting former principal and teachers, getting acquainted with the school campus again, and putting on school uniform.

3. Founder's Day Dinner

The Founder's Day Service, AGM and Annual Dinner will be held on 27 March 2009 (Friday).

(II) Liaison

1. YWGSAA Newsletter

Two issues (October 2008 & Feb 2009) were printed and dispatched to members via post. Over 238 alumnae, who responded to our Go-Electronic appeal, received an email message and read the online version. A print copy was displayed in each classroom at school. On-line version of past issues is available from our homepage.

2. YWGSAA Homepage (<http://www.ywgsaa.org.hk>)

Local and overseas alumnae could keep in touch with Alumnae Association and obtain our latest news through the Internet and email (alumnae@ywgs.edu.hk). Revamping of our website is still in progress.

3. Year Coordinators Network

We have about 331 year/class coordinators representing graduates from 1951 to 2008. They serve as bridges and networks among thousands of YW graduates residing in Hong Kong and overseas.

(III) Interest Group

Alumnae Choir

The Alumnae Choir had regular practices in the Music Room on Saturday afternoons with a summer break. They will sing at the forthcoming Founder's Day Service.

(IV) Projects

1. Mentorship Programme

The Mentorship Programme is run to facilitate the all-round development of YW girls by establishing a supportive relationship between alumnae (mentors) and students in the senior forms (mentees) and encouraging positive communication between the mentors and mentees in areas of mutual interest to broaden the latter's horizon. Apart from regular contacts between individual mentors and mentees, group activities are organized to foster communication and continuous learning. Around 100 mentors and mentees attended a group activity on 4 July 2008, and enjoyed a talk on peer-group communication. A promotion was carried out on 16 October 2008 during the class assembly to recruit new mentees. As a result, 141 S4 and S6 students registered as mentees while 82 alumnae enrolled as mentors. They met for the first time at an orientation on 15 November 2008 in the gym. To improve the effectiveness of the mentorship programme, two training sessions were conducted for the mentors and mentees respectively as part of the orientation. On 10 January 2009, over 110 of them participated in the first group activity in the year – a visit to an apparel factory and a handbag factory (the latter is owned by our alumna) in Dongguan.

2. Bible Giving

At the beginning of the school year, each S1 student received a Bible as a welcoming gift from the Alumnae Association. The names of the students were hand-written on the Bible to add a personal touch.

3. YWGS Heritage DVD

Preparatory work for the second DVD on YW Heritage is in progress. The theme will be on Ying Wa's contribution to the education of young women in Hong Kong. This DVD will be released to commemorate the 110th anniversary of YWGS in March 2010.

4. Alumnae Database

Efforts have been made to upkeep and update the alumnae records in our database.

5. School Archives Collection

Many memoirs were collected over the years. We are improving the methods and procedures to better preserve, maintain and manage the thousands of records entrusted to us.

(V) Charity Trust Fund Activities

1. Leadership Training Programme

We sponsored 68 S4 students to participate in a 5-day personal growth training programme from late March to early April 2008. Participants experienced and learnt a lot from the courses organized by the Outward Bound Hong Kong. In addition, the Trust Fund supported an exchange programme co-organized by Ying Wa and a secondary school in Macau. The programme aims to enrich participants' understanding about the Central & Western District in Hong Kong and sharpen their skill in problem solving and leadership.

2. Scholarships

The Alumnae Association Scholarships for academic merit and good conduct were awarded to 11 S1-S7 students on the Speech Day in July 2008.

3. CD production project

In 2008, we sponsored the production of a CD to keep a record of students' performance. Around 200 members of the school choir took part. Copies of the CD were distributed to staff, students, parents and alumnae.

4. Exchange Tour: Seekapore

We sponsored 30 S4 & S6 students and 3 teachers to visit Singapore in July 2008 to widen the students' vision, raise their awareness to issues like cultural diversity, heritage preservation and environmental protection.

5. S3 Exploring physics concepts at Disney project

We sponsored 82 S3 students and 10 teachers/parents to visit Hongkong Disneyland in December 2008. During the visit, they explored the physics concepts of the basic properties of force, motion, gravity and sound at selected attractions.

6. End-term activities

In summer 2008, over 20 short-term courses were organized for students after the final examination. Over 450 students had joined the programmes ranging from horse racing, tennis, rugby, ice-skating, bowling to cake-making, foreign languages first-aid, Chinese calligraphy, knitting etc. Each student received a maximum of \$100 subsidy upon the completion of the course.

7. Long-distance Running Team

The team was formed by a group of teachers who are passionate towards running. Over 30 students have joined the team. Beside routine practice on every Wednesday's afternoon on Bowen Road, some of its members also joined the Standard Chartered Hong Kong Marathon 2009. The Trust Fund has fully supported them in the arrangement of weekly transport to Bowen Road as well as their entry fees to the Standard Chartered Marathon.

8. Installation of new equipment

Supported by the Trust Fund, four pieces of rowing equipment were installed in the Gymnasium last summer to enhance the physical fitness of students. A new aquarium was installed in the Integrated Science Laboratory to enhance students' understanding of scientific processes and method of exploration of fresh water aquarium ecosystem

(VI) Others

New Trustee of the Charity Trust Fund

Ms Priscilla LEUNG Man Ping was appointed a member of the Trustee Board on 6 June 2008 to replace Rev LEE Ching Chee who had resigned.

May I express my most sincere gratitude towards all the advisors, teachers and school staff, Council members, year/class coordinators and student assistants who contributed their time and effort in the past year? Also, on behalf of the YWGSAAL, I would like to thank the alumnae who gave us your feedback, participated in the alumnae functions or supported us in many other ways.

*Dr Huen Kwai Fun
President, Council of YWGSAAL
27 February 2009*