

A PUBLICATION
FOR OUTRAMIANS,
BY OUTRAMIANS

OUTRAM TIMES

THE SG50 ISSUE

A TIME FOR REMINISCENCE & REFLECTION...

6 AUGUST 2015

HIGHLIGHTS

- **OSS: Small Scale Singapore?**
- **Singas on Outram Hill**
- **A Cemetery in Outram?**
- **Top Traits of Outramians**
- **Sporting Legends, Long Forgotten?**
- **In Conversation: Mr Loh and Mr Singh**
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OUTRAM SECONDARY— A SMALL SCALE SINGAPORE?

By Kristabelle Lau, Vivian Ang and Elizabeth Cai

Have you thought about how similar Singapore and Outram Secondary School really are? Read on to find out the interesting similarities!

SMALL

Compared to other schools Outram Secondary is rather small. Like a tiny village we can bond really fast. It is obvious that Singapore is also tiny, miniscule in fact, compared to other countries. The state Johor is already many times bigger than Singapore (27 times to be exact). Known as The Little Red Dot, we are forced to make the best of what little resources we have. In Outram Secondary School, we may not have a vast land area, but we have built our school to the sky,

Singas on York Hill

By Jayanthi Jacintha and Edith Chin

Over two weeks, Outramians painted lions to commemorate Singapore's fiftieth birthday. Showcasing the following themes – 'Icons of Singapore', 'Work, Live, and Play' and 'Dreams of Singapore', our masterpieces were planted onto the York Hill. It was a rather enjoyable experience as we bonded as a class and got to share our ideas with each other.

making learning and achieving our priority. Hence our school, although small, is still able to leave its mark on Singapore as Singapore leaves her mark on the world.

anyone proud. Just like Singapore, the students of Outram Secondary have worked hard to win awards and have proven that we are a force to be reckoned with.

DIFFERENT

Our differences make us similar. Singapore is extremely different from other countries. Outram Secondary School is extremely different from other schools. With nothing but brains and wits, Singapore turned from third world sewer to first world paradise. Outram Secondary School is also extremely different from other schools. With bonding events that my friends from other schools envy, rather rare CCA's like Enterprise Club, Water Polo and Rock Climbing, we are definitely a special school. Specialising in business, enterprise and accountancy, we have a knack for making money too.

There you have it folks. Have I changed your mind? A school like Outram Secondary School is truly rare to find.



UNDERDOGS

Singapore is one of the smallest countries in the world. Back when Singapore first separated from Malaysia, no one thought we could make it. Now, Singapore is one of the most developed countries in the world. Now that should make



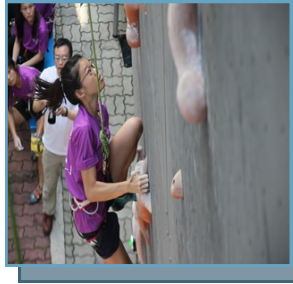
Secondary 3/4's Lion

Secondary 2/4's Lion

Climbing towards our Goals

by Douglas Wong Jun Wen, Do Qi Ern and Bryan Ho Yan Kang

The climber had a fiery determination in his eyes to win the competition. Once they began, he went off, climbing the rock wall nimbly. He and the other climbers were racing furiously. However, the climber was ahead by a few centimetres. Then he missed a step and slipped. His competitor caught up. Without giving up, he immediately regained his footing, and upon seeing his opponent reaching the top of the wall, he started climbing up as quickly as a bullet. He did it! He won as he had not given up!



Singapore did not give up as well.

We were looked down upon as we were small and lacked resources. However, we proved everyone wrong by rising up the rank as one of the world's richest countries.

From a third world country, we became a metropolis.

Our rock climbers like Jada Rose from 2/6 and Nadia Lim from 2/5 emerged as champions at the National Schools Climbing Competition and they have made me appreciate Singapore's struggle to attain success. A renewed desire to live our school's spirit, "Labour Conquers All" has been imbued in me. Hence, it is only apt that one of our many prides is rock climbing as Outramians never look down and keep moving forward.

"Hence, it is only apt that one of our many prides is rock climbing as Outramians never look down and keep moving forward."

OUR SG50 POEMS

CLEMENT HOW
2/38

A man of passion, A man of pain. Who gave his life, For us to gain.	A man of belief, A man of blood. A man who had stood against history and fought the flood.	The flood of odds, that we would live, the pain of judgement, that others give.
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Singapore 2/4

Thank you Singapore ♥

Singapore, My Home
Small yet full of life
Races and Religions
Live Harmoniously
We overcome our hardship
Even though there aren't many
PH Lee was always there
In times of trouble and despair
Singapore, my homeland
I love her with all my heart
Never doubt this country
This is just our start

Buildings have changed, but have we?

By Felynna Bie Hazlan

"Do you want a packet of tissues?" I asked a couple dejectedly, hoping against hope that they would say yes, unlike the countless other people that ate at the food court.

"No. Thank you," the woman replied politely. I nodded at her and wandered off, looking for new someone else to try and sell my tissue packets to. I did not succeed though. The darkness was eating away at the sun's light, and families were making their way home. I walked over to a curb and counted my earnings. It did not

take long to count. "2.60," I sighed in defeat, feeling my dry throat and cracked lips. The shop owners wouldn't let a seller like me buy even a can of drink for less than six dollars. I sighed, closed my eyes, and leaned back on the tree behind me. I felt its hard bark on my back and the rough, bitter concrete floor below me.

Suddenly, I heard a child's voice, "Mama!" My eyes shot open. A little girl of five was trying to pull away from her mother to walk nearer to me. TO ME. No one had ever wanted to talk to me

before. I leaned forward and offered her a smile which she returned brightly. All of a sudden, she was pulled sharply back by her parents. Her father glared at me, and her mother looked absolutely horrified. "No, my dear, don't talk to it." Then he turned to me. "Filth," he spat at me, before walking on.

I gazed down at myself. My clothes were dirty and wrinkled, true. And my hair messy and unkempt, true. But besides all that and beneath all that, aren't I human too? For years I have seen buildings, technology and every man-made thing changing and being improved. If physical things change, then can't humans change too?

I placed my head in my hands, and wept, for the hope for mankind to be generous and kind was hopeless. Hopeless. Hopeless. Hope - but I stopped short of my self-pity. It was NOT hopeless. That little girl - innocent and pure, not fazed by my state the slightest, did not treat me any different than she would a friend. Maybe things were going to stay the same. Maybe not. Maybe humans, just like the buildings, the skyscrapers, could change too. We could be the kindest, most thoughtful living souls if we wanted. When there's a will, there is undoubtedly a way.

"For years I have seen buildings, technology and every man-made thing changing and being improved. If physical things change, then can't humans change too?"

A Cemetery In Outram?

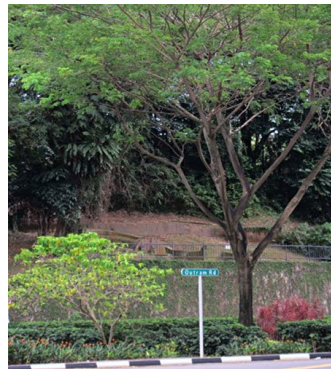
By James Timotius

One evening as I was on my way back from school, something caught my attention - an eerie old road. I stepped forward and realised that a gravestone was staring at me

Curiosity got the better of me so I plodded through the overgrown wild plants to reach the uninhabited area. The place seemed tranquil and peaceful, even the sounds of my heart beat could be heard easily. I was suddenly surrounded by many gravestones, but my eyes seemed to wander back to an area which stood out - the gravestone of our late pioneer, Mr Tan Tock Seng (1798-1850)

I remember reading about his philanthropic ways and his contributions to Singapore, the biggest being the setting up of the Tan Tock Seng Hospital. I paid my respects and decided to leave, satisfied with the discovery I had made .

That night, spurred by my



discovery, I researched more on Mr Tan Tock Seng and found out that he was born in Malacca in 1798 to an immigrant Hokkien father and Peranakan mother. In 1819, Tan Tock Seng moved to Singapore to sell fruits, vegetables and fowls and this is testament to his humble beginnings. His industriousness enabled him to set up a shop in Boat Quay and soon he became a notable businessman. Seeing many poor and sick people, he donated money to build the hospital.

I am really proud of Mr Tan Tock Seng's philanthropic ways and am spurred to do my part for Singapore too.



Mr. Tan Tock Seng's Grave

Fresh Insights from New Additions to the Outram Family

By Kristabelle Lau, Vivian Ang, Elizabeth Cai, Xu Jia He and Nurul Farzana



INTERVIEW WITH MDM WANI

What do you think makes Outram Secondary unique?

I think Outram is different because of its niche programs. I do not think many schools offer Business & Enterprise as a subject and they do not have snooker or Chinese Orchestra as a CCA. And I also feel that the character of the building itself is so different. Many schools are what I would say flat but Outram is on a hill. The building itself is so characteristic of the direction it can go - upwards.

INTERVIEW WITH MR. DAN KOH

What is your impression of Outramians?

Outram is a good school with a rich history. Outram teachers are caring and dedicated and the students are respectful and lovely.

What is your wish for Outram Secondary?

My wish is that Outram Secondary will continue to nurture champions for sports and life.

INTERVIEW WITH MR KOH CHUAN SENG

What is your impressions of the staff in Outram Secondary?

The staff are very cooperative and friendly. They are committed to their work and their dedication lies in bringing out the best in their students.



“Many schools are what I would say flat but Outram is on a hill. The building itself is so characteristic of the direction it can go - upwards.”

OUR SG50 POEMS

Verse 1

It all started as a small red dot,
a peaceful country it was not.
World War Two and racial riots,
left many people ragged and tired.
The economy crashed and
the housing were slums,
the British did nothing and
told us to 'be calm'.
Then YEW came,
and saved us all!

Begining
with Yew



Verse 2

Times were hard but YEW prevailed
thru' it all,
HDBs were built and economy soared.
The Singapore River was like
a garbage bin,
ten years later it was sparkling
clean.
Plant by plant were planted
by Mr LEE,
now SINGAPORE is
a nice green city.
These are all by MR LEE.

Then EE YUAN
214



By Justin Lim

Teachers complain relentlessly about us. I know that most of us Outramians would beg to differ with their complaints and today I am going to prove that we are indeed full of goodness.

1) Outramians are physically fit. (Ahem PE teachers)

How did I go about reaching this conclusion? In the morning, most of us have to climb the hill to reach our school and this is followed by us scaling the spiral staircase. To top it off after school, we have to walk quite a bit to reach the bus stop or the MRT. With all that rigorous activity, we would have burnt about 83 calories or so. That should allow us to drink the artificially colored and flavored drinks without guilt.

2) Outramians are inquisitive.

Our will to learn is so strong that sometimes our teachers are left speechless. We never fail to learn about the secret age of our teachers, their marital status and other personal information.

The ability to get our teachers to divulge these well-kept information is something we are highly skilled at. Test us on our knowledge of our teachers and we will not fail you!



Our beloved spiral staircase which always promises to give us a good workout!

3) Outramians are creative.

In addition to the many artworks displayed all over the school, one can find art in our respective classes. Every table has its own story. We, Outramians, have made it our duty to take our dull, mundane, grey-topped tables and turn them into our own diary. When we are bored, happy or sad, we will pour all our emotions, which come in the form of anime

eyes, stars, quotes and sketches, onto these lonely tables. So, can anyone deny that there is real creativity in us? (Caution: The table is not yours and though drawing on your table is creative, I highly recommend that you don't do so as it is vandalism and vandalism is a criminal offence.)

4) Outramians are musically inclined.

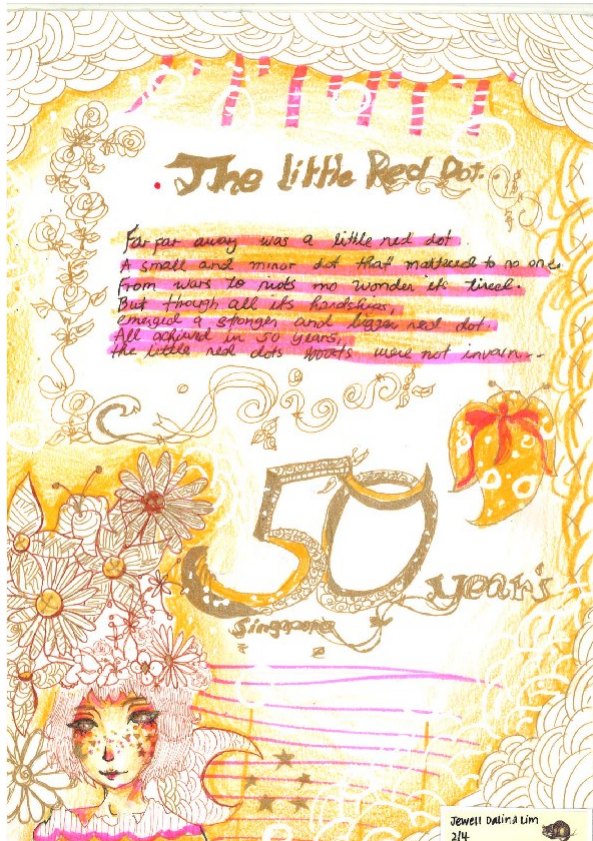
In class or not, we will always try to make some music. Tunes include Lion Dance beats, hit songs or random concoctions of our mentally made music. This, however, annoys our teachers very much so most of the time we do it when they are not around.

5) Outramians are optimistic.

Whenever someone drops a chair during recess, someone will start saying, "Ooooooh" and soon others will follow after. We always turn negative things into positive things. For an instance, during the fire drill this year, someone from the Secondary 4 cohort started singing the Happy Birthday Song. And then, it spread like wild fire. In no time, the Secondary 1 students were also joining in the singing.

There it goes; I have proven that Outramians have good traits.

OUR SG50 POEMS



Jewel Dalina Lim 2/4

Forisante 2/4



Sporting Legends, Long Forgotten?

By Sacchin Daris

- I. Wong Peng Soon
- II. Tan Howe Liang
- III. Neo Chwee Kok
- IV. Patricia Chan
- V. Ang Peng Siong
- VI. Fandi Ahmad
- VII. Junie Sng
- VIII. C Kunalan
- IX. Joscelin Yeo



Do you know at least half of the people on this list? Well, neither did I. But after some extensive research, I present to you the top 10 sporting legends from Singapore to sportify Singapore's golden jubilee celebration.

BEN TAN

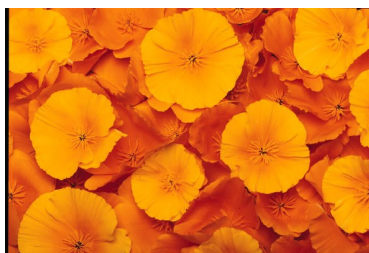
To kick start things, we have none other than Dr Ben Tan himself. That's right, he has a PhD and he is the Medical Director and Senior Consultant at Singapore Sports Medical Centre. Dr Ben Tan bagged four Gold medals in the SEA Games for the laser standard, and has achieved the Sportsman of the Year title three times. That's a lot of awards already for one person, yet we are only at number 10.

JOSCELIN YEO

Joscelin Yeo Wei Ling was a member of parliament from November 2006 to April 2011. At 35 years, she has a whopping 40 medals. Yes, forty not fourteen. She started her career at the tender age of 11. She ended this 16 year swimming career in early 2007.

C KUNALAN

Now, this is a name that you should probably know unless you live in a cave in Singapore. Yes, there are caves in Singapore. Let's get back to the topic at hand. C Kunalan is a retired sprinter who used to play football, however his coach told him to go into track and field. With five Asian Games medals and a national record which lasted for 33 years in the 1968 Olympics in a 100m event, to his name, it is no surprise he



Caption describing picture or graphic.

remains a prominent sporting hero in Singapore.

JUNIE SNG

Junie Sng Poh Leng is aged 51 as Singapore marks her golden jubilee. She is a former swimmer and a three-time double winner of the Singapore Olympic Sports Council Sportswoman from the years 1978 to 1980. At the age of 11, she first represented Singapore at the 1975 SEA Peninsular Games, where she won a gold and silver medal. She definitely deserves her position as the 7th at the table.

FANDHI AHMAD

It appears we have finally arrived at the part of this article where we talk about the retired football legend who is currently the head coach of Lions XII. With the Singapore

National Football Team, he won 101 games internationally and scored 55 goals and clinched three SEA Games silver medals. He is the first Singaporean footballer to play in Europe, the first millionaire sportsman and the first Singaporean to have his biography published, making him a national legend.

ANG PENG SIONG

Halfway through the board we have none other than a swimmer who was born on the 22nd October 1967. He was once crowned the world's number one in the 50m freestyle. Since 2012, he has been Singapore's Swimming National Team's head coach. After reading all that, I believe his countless other achievements need no further embellishments.

PATRICIA CHAN

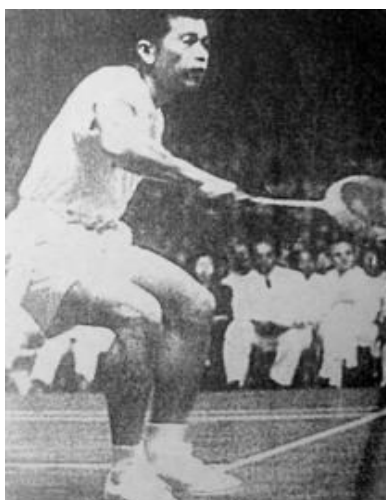
Born on 12th April 1954, Patricia Chan was quite the achiever for a Singaporean athlete until 2005. Popularly known as Pat Chan, she started her career for swimming at the age of 11. Between the ages 12 and 20, she received 39 medals, set a national record which lasted for 23 years and was the flag bearer during one of the Olympics.

NEO CHWEE KOK

Neo Chwee Kok, also known as Flying Fish, received the first gold medal in the very first Asian Games in New Delhi and won 4 medals altogether. Although he started at the age of 18, he was the first to participate in the Olympics. After retiring, he coached the new talents of the sporting scene for quite some time.

TAN HOWE LIANG

Tan Howe Liang was born into a less fortunate family of seven. As he had to support his family, he could not focus on sports. When the Second World War was over, he decided to focus on weightlifting and managed to win quite a few awards here and there. But life was not a stroll in the park for him. As he worked as a store clerk, he had barely enough money to support himself, let alone train to participate in the Olympics. Fortunately for him, people were thoughtful enough to subsidise his training fees with money from their own pockets. After a gruelling 10 hours, he clinched the only medal for Singapore in Rome.



Wong Peng Soon in action.

Finally, we have arrived at the top of the table. At the age of 32, he was the first Asian to win the All-England Championships and he won the title 3 more times after that. He was also a member of the triumphant Malayan Thomas Cup team for three years. He even coached the Thai King to play badminton and this makes his position at the top of the table self-explanatory.

As he worked as a store clerk, he had barely enough money to support himself, let alone train to participate in the Olympics.

IN CONVERSATION WITH MR LOH AND MR SINGH

By Mai Yuzi and Joshua Zhang, Vivian Ang and Elizabeth Cai

We are very proud to have principals like Mr Loh and Mr Singh because they truly care for us.

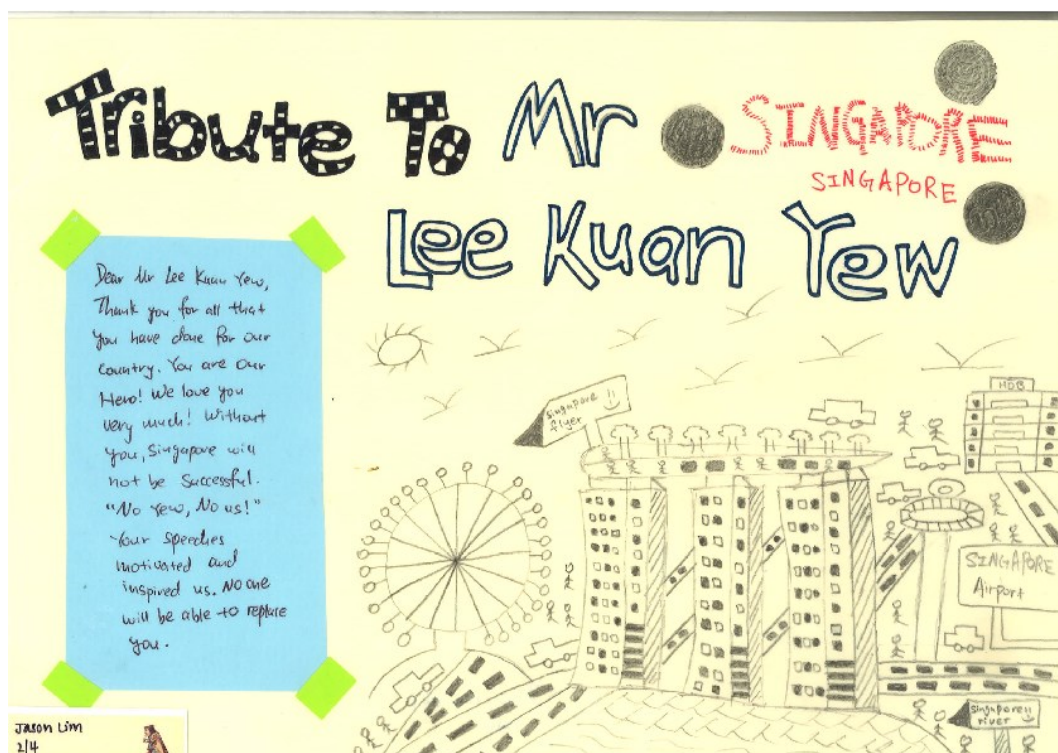
In our interview with Mr Loh, he skilfully used an analogy to show how he makes a difference in the lives of his students. He said, if one were to see an injured bird, one could either squeeze it to death with his pair of hands to prevent it from suffering even more or nurture it until it heals sufficiently to be released back into the wild. Mr Loh asserted that he will always choose the latter - nurture his students no matter what and make them independent learners so that they too can survive when they spread their wings after they graduate from Outram Secondary. His main aim is to see his students grow happily through an effective curriculum.

Mr Singh spoke about Outram's uniqueness and how he hopes our Business and Enterprise Programme will continue many years down the road so that Outramians can be equipped with life skills that the programme offers. His happiness at students being given an opportunity to write for the school newsletter was evident as he spoke about the benefits students can reap from such an experience such as them being more confident and honing their thinking skills. He ended the conversation by remarking, "When you graduate, you will remember the experience of having a dialogue with the school leaders, so I hope that Outramians will get more opportunities like this."



"When you graduate, you will remember the experience of having a dialogue with the school leaders, so I hope that Outramians will get more opportunities like this."

OUR SG50 POEMS



OUTRAMIANS TALK



What do you miss about Singapore when you are overseas?

“The food, mainly chicken rice which I always long to eat when overseas as there is nothing as good as a good plate of chicken rice.”

Shawn from Secondary 3

“I will miss Singlish the most as well as Singapore food.”

Mr Jason Ooi

“For me it is the culture and the food that I would miss the most. I would also miss the vibe of having like-minded people like how we are known for speaking Singlish and being ‘Kiasu’.”

Kalista from Secondary 4

What about Singapore are you most impressed with?

“I am most impressed with the clean and green environment that we live in, namely the clean beaches, lovely playgrounds and wonderful clear blue sky.”

Mrs Fan

“Mainly it is the sense of security, which is unique to Singapore and this can hardly be found in any other country. Not having to worry about our own safety even when coming home late at night is what I am most impressed with in Singapore.”

Ms Serene Cheong



“The green gardens because our late Prime Minister, Mr Lee Kwan Yew, said that trees are important, and made Singapore a green city! The food is also outstanding.”

Natrah from Secondary 3

“It means 50 years of independence in Singapore and how she has changed dramatically in these 50 years. 50 years ago, Singapore was a village but now it is a modern city.”

Li Ting from Secondary 3

What does SG50 mean to you?

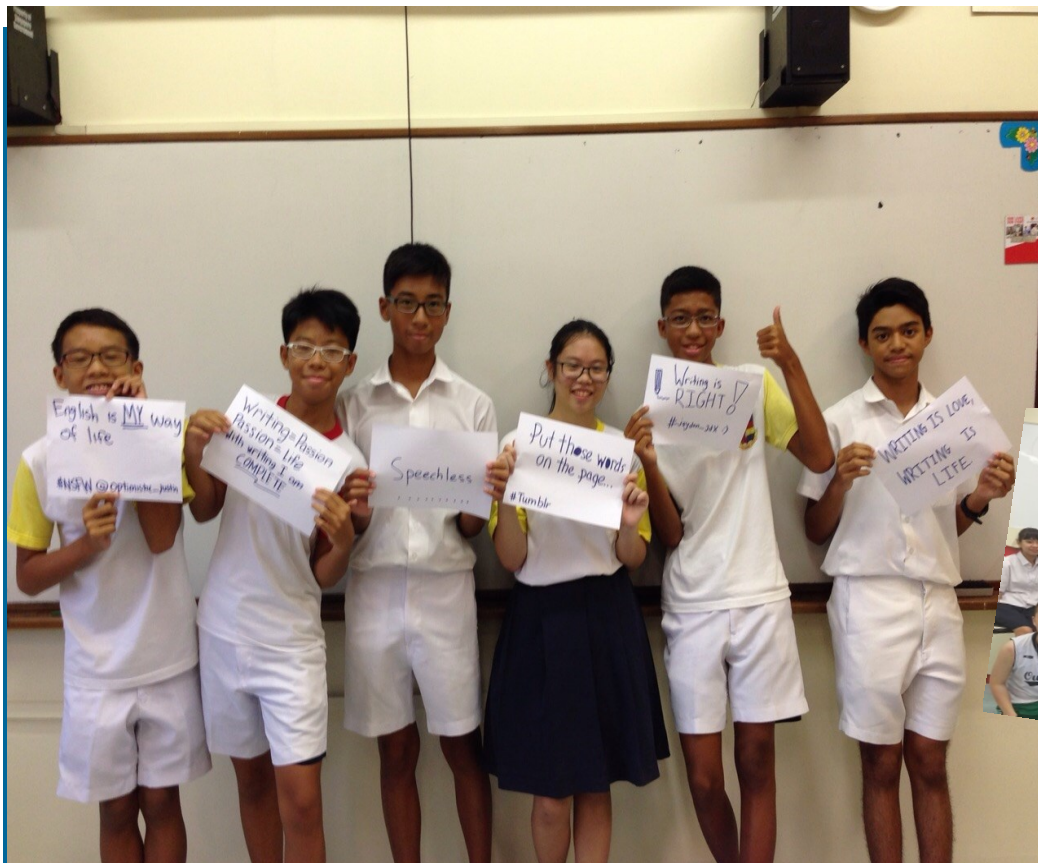
“It means that Singapore’s independence is not to be taken for granted, as our pioneer generation has overcome many challenges to enable Singapore to be where it is today.”

Chloe Hoo from Secondary 3



“It is a celebration to mark Singapore’s milestones since gaining independence in 1965. Singapore has travelled a long way from being a 3rd world nation to one of the most prosperous and strongest city-state in the whole of Asia.”

Mr Eugene Khoo



“It was a great experience. I learnt a lot from it, not just writing but also skills like interviewing. It was cool to do things you can’t normally do like interview the vice principal. It is an experience I will never forget.”
Elizabeth Cai

OUTRAM SECONDARY WRITERS

OUR REFLECTIONS ON BEING PART OF SG50 ISSUE

“Engaging”

James Timotius

“grateful to be given the chance...” **Felynna**

“As an editor of the SG50 issue, I learnt that there are many amazing writers in our school who are able to make their articles come alive. I also learnt that the SG50 celebration is very significant to Outramians.”
Jada Rose

“My experience in the STRETCH programme has been fun and enjoyable. I learnt many writing skills and techniques. The course also enabled me to look at articles from other writers to get some inspiration for my writing.”
Do Qi Ern

“I am very glad that I was picked to do the SG50 newsletter. Although I was unsure of what to do at first, I really like my end product.”
Sacchin Daris

“It was a magnificent experience. It might sound boring but trust me, it’s fun.”
Vivian Ang



“It was an awesome experience. It is my honour to write for the school’s newsletter.”
Kristabelle Lau

“This is the first time I’m writing an article so I did not know what to do, but soon I got to know the process of writing one. I am glad I was introduced to this course.”
Douglas Wong

“I set the writers a challenge of creating an SG50 Edition. I’m very glad and proud to say that our writers have lived up to my expectations and beyond. Well done guys!”

Ms Eunice Lee

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The English Language and Literature Department is extremely thankful to their Head of Department, Ms Eunice Lee for her constant advice and encouragement in the production of the SG50 issue.

We would also like to express our heartfelt gratitude to our principals, teachers and Outramians who kindly gave our team an opportunity to hone their interviewing skills. Your valuable input has definitely given the issue a distinct Outram Secondary flavour.

Our appreciation also goes out to the students who contributed their SG50 poems. Truly, your poems have given us much to reminisce and reflect about.

Lastly, we would like to thank the writers and editors of the SG50 issue who have worked hard and enjoyed working hard to make the commemoration of our nation's birthday very special.

