

YWGS ^{th Anniversary}

Founder's Day

Celebration Night

20th March, 2005

Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre



英
華
雲
裳
懷
舊
夜



校歌

一片朝煙罩 風景殊清秀 高聳半山 英華學校
惟願普天下 皆蒙主拯救 務宜惜寸陰 在茲學校
英華英華 既輝耀於山丘 爾諸生其作光而無休
英華英華 既同學而力修 為爾主使功業之永留

諸生群受教 得恩何豐厚 身遠心莫離 英華學校
惟願我英華 勿徒崇外貌 願為爾作功 由茲學校
英華英華 既輝耀於山丘 爾諸生其作光而無休
英華英華 既同學而力修 為爾主使功業之永留

校詩

建我學校在基督身
即此惠語即此愛忱
此即我禱惟聖靈靠

因將素需向主懇祈
即此善行即此慈意
時將利福賜我學校

吾人同業在主目中
疑惑階級求主疏通
主前我禱惟聖靈靠

吾人同居在主愛裡
天上思想求主開啟
時能顯現於我學校



Programme

Masters of Ceremony: Miss Winsome Tang, Miss Lucina Yu

1. School Song
2. Welcoming remarks Mrs. Ruth Lee
Miss Rebecca Ching
3. AGM Miss Rebecca Ching
4. Prayer Rev. Lee Ching Chee
5. Toast
6. Dinner
7. Choir Performance Ying Wa Girls' School Alumnae Choir
 - * *Sound the Trumpet*
 - * *西班牙姑娘*
 - * *Getting to Know You*
8. Collective Memories of Ying Wa Mrs. Ruth Lee
Miss Rebecca Ching
9. Fashion Show
10. School Hymn



Sound the Trumpet

By Purcell

Sound the trumpet! Sound the trumpet!
Sound, sound, sound the trumpet till around,
You make the list-'ning shores rebound,
the list-'ning shores rebound.
On the sprightly hautboy,
the sprightly hautboy play.
All the instruments of joy, all, all,
all, all the instruments of joy, of joy,
that skilful numbers can employ.
To celebrate, to celebrate the glories of the day,
the glories, the glories, the glories of the day.

西班牙姑娘

奇阿拉曲

有一個西班牙姑娘，生長在美麗家鄉，
她有著明亮的眼睛，充滿了熱情歌唱。
天真活潑能歌善舞，人們都非常讚賞。
她意志堅強身體又健壯，她喜歡自由歌唱。
啊！姑娘姑娘天真的好姑娘，
快快快來跳舞歌唱，快快快來跳舞歌唱，
姑娘姑娘天真的好姑娘，快快快來跳舞歌唱，
不要辜負了好時光。

Getting to Know You

By Richard Rodgers

Getting to know you, getting to know all about you.
Getting to like you, getting to hope you like me.
Getting to know you, putting it my way, but nicely.
You are precisely, my cup of tea!
Getting to know you,
Getting to feel free and easy.
When I am with you, getting to know what to say.
Haven't you noticed? Suddenly I'm bright and breezy
Because of all the beautiful and new things
I'm learning about you, day by day.

Our Alumnae Choir

Conductor: Wong Ka Po

Pianist: Lam King Wai Villie

Coordinator: Leung Ka Man Carmen

Sopranos: Lee Wai Tsun (*Part Leader*)

Chan May May Mimi	Chu Ho Yan Karen	Ho Wing Ki	Ip Yuen Yu
Kam Michelle	Kwan Hiu Wan	Lam Suet Ning	Lau Wai Kwan Olivia
Lee Brenda	Lee Sze Wah Sarah	Leung Ka Man Carmen	Leung Ka Yi Candace
Leung Kar Kei	Leung Lok Sum	Leung Lok Wan Melody	Luk Siu Ping
Mak Wai Lim Rosanna	Ng Ying Ting	Shek Yuk Yu Ruth	Wong Mei Kuen Millie
Yau Shu Ying Josephine	Yeung Hiu Yan Dorcas	Yiu Si In Sianna	

Altos: Lee Yin Linda (*Part Leader*)

Chan Wing Seung Audrey	Ching Kai Ming Rebecca	Chiu Wai Ying	Choy Chak Ngok Rita
Ho Man Yee	Ho Hau Ching	Lai Yuk Fai Rosa	Lam Lai Bing Alison
Lau Suk Yun Ruth	Leung Shing Mei	Low Wai Lun Frances	Ma Pui Kin Katherine
Mo Mun Yu Donna	Ng Suet Leung Ellie	Wong Miu Lan Lorraine	Yung Kit Ting



Ying Wa at the Crossroads: Yesterday, today and tomorrow

For over a century, No.76, Robinson Road has been ‘home’ to Ying Wa Girls’ School and to those who have passed through her doors as young, aspiring students. For the many past students on a ‘home-coming’ visit, it is a joy and a surprise to see that, after all these years, Ying Wa is still standing loftily on the same site, midway up the hills.



In the year 2000, Ying Wa celebrated her centenary. In a series of activities, both the School and the Alumnae Association recounted past achievements and attributed her blessings to the timeless Christian values of love, faith and humility. The noble motto of ‘to serve and not to be served’ became, once again, a constant reflection and reminder of the Ying Wa spirit and identity.

Now, five years on, Ying Wa celebrates her 105th anniversary. While she proudly boasts her past vision in education and vows to remain true to the fine traditions set by her founder and the succession of dedicated principals and teachers, Ying Wa is also set on a future course that aims to meet the challenges of educating the young for the 21st century.

‘A transition from the traditional to the modern’ is how Mrs Ruth Lee, the current Principal, describes the new mission which has first been put on track by her predecessor, Mrs Katherine Chau. Mrs Lee also hopes that - ‘To Serve and to Shine’ – a catch phrase coined by some enthusiastic, diehard ‘old girls’, will become a recognized mission statement for a new generation of Ying Wa girls.

In all, standing on the foundation made firm by more than a hundred years of history, hard work and goodwill, Ying Wa is poised to embrace new challenges for yet another hundred years.

Testimony to Change

A walk through today’s Ying Wa is bound to impress. Old, familiar sights and sounds still greet the nostalgic visitor. But gone are the cobwebs and grey bare walls and floors. In just about every nook and cranny, some ingenious attempt has been made to brighten up the school and make it a better place to learn. And the two grand old ladies - the 1967 Robinson Block and the 1953 Low Block - look pretty well-preserved for their age.

A sense of vitality and modernity now seems to permeate the air. It is as if the entire school has been given a make-over and Ying Wa has been catapulted, over the short span of a few years, into a new era.



Where 'hearts and minds' meet

So, what has enabled all these changes? Who empowered these changes?

First, the changes have largely been the vision and hard work of the two principals - Mrs Chau who retired after 29 years' at the helm and Mrs Lee who succeeded Mrs Chau in 2001- and their teachers and general staff.



Second, the changes - without exaggeration - owe much to the acumen and quiet generosity of our alumnae. Without their support, some of the changes may never have taken place.

Two renovation projects stand out as fine examples of the close link between the School and our alumnae. These renovations also prove how physical improvements in facilities can lead to significant changes in the everyday life of the school in general.

In 2001, a new staffroom and staff common room, occupying the entire space on the fifth floor of the Robinson Block, were completed with funds from the government's 'School Improvement Programme'. The new arrangement offers the 60-odd staff much improved facilities.

However, the money from the government covered only the cost of the new rooms. There were no funds left for the long, dark corridor wedged between the staffroom and the retaining wall next to Robinson Road. So, it was left bare and unlit.

Help was, fortunately, at hand. Without too much prompting, three groups of alumnae from the classes of '71, '76 and '83 rallied together and started fund-raising. Other alumnae also chipped in. In no time, \$300,000 was collected. But the school purse was still a long way off the target of \$800,000 needed. With a stroke of luck, Leong Pui Yee, who attended Ying Wa in the 1930s, heard of the shortfall and single-handedly made up the half a million for the project. And the renovation work went ahead.

The long corridor is now transformed, with furniture, plants and soft lighting, into an inviting place where teachers and students can meet outside the restrictive confines of the classroom or staffroom. 'A meeting place for hearts and minds,' enthused the generous donors who were instrumental in bringing about the project.



Another shining example of generosity among our alumnae is the mural project, code-named 'The Sky'. This project was part of a programme to promote the visual arts and to have the artworks on display in public areas. At the same time, the retaining wall opposite the gymnasium in the Low Block needed a facelift. So, it seemed like a good idea to put this old wall to use.

When graduates from the class of '68 got wind of this worthwhile idea in late 2003, they quickly answered the call for cash. The girls had earlier initiated a 'Miss Pilkington Memorial Fund'. Out of the \$100,000 eventually collected, half of it was assigned to the \$130,000 project.



A giant modernistic, metallic mural now graces the north wall. Reflecting the piece of sky above, the mural's silvery surface helps light up what used to be the dark, dank dungeon-like courtyard and turns it into a secluded haven for students and teachers. Colourful outdoor furniture painted by the students themselves added to the cozy, alfresco atmosphere. Indeed, this is another meeting place not only for 'hearts and minds' but also for the artistic and the creative.

But what really did the trick was not just the cold cash. It was the artistic concept and design, created - *pro bono* - by a past student and artist, Man Fung Yi, and her artist husband, Mok Yat Sun, that gave life to this project.

We care and we share

By tradition, fund-raising has never been a priority on Ying Wa's agenda. Such high profile activities as celebrity concerts, naming facilities after benefactors, fashion extravaganzas etc. are not Ying Wa's style. This may be in keeping with the fact that Ying Wa girls are generally known for their sincerity, steadfastness and quiet dignity. In the more sophisticated world of the 21st century, perhaps a slightly bolder approach to fund-raising needs to be considered.

Why give to your mother school - whether it be in the form of time, effort or money? This is indeed a good question when we are bombarded by appeals for funds for China orphans, Tsunami disaster victims, numerous charities (both local and overseas, known and unknown) etc. All these appeals drain our pockets and tug at our conscience.

Giving to the mother school is somehow different. It is not exactly about charity or social conscience. It's more about connecting. It's about connecting the present to the past. It's about remembering one's roots, minds enlightened, knowledge gained, and friends made. It's also about gratitude. And the mere fact that one had once belonged. For those who are far away, we can still be staying close to Ying Wa (身遠心莫離).

Or simply, we share because we care.

'We felt loved. So we loved ourselves and we loved others,' said Rosanna, an old girl from the class of '68, 'we were made to feel that somehow we were special.' Her sentiments may well be an encapsulation of the sentiments of many of our 'old girls'



Dream Choices and Donor's Choices

Ying Wa walks on a tightrope when she comes to realizing her mission goals. Sustaining the academic, religious and moral fibre of the quality education she has traditionally offered needs funds. Providing a diversity of education opportunities for students with differing abilities needs funds. Creating space and facilities for a more sophisticated, technology-based learning environment needs funds. Smaller classes and better student-teacher ratio needs funds...The list is endless.



Educational zeal and vision alone will not achieve any one of the above goals, not to say all. Depending only on government subsidy makes it a difficult balancing act to maintain the present momentum of change. Occasional project-based donations from alumnae certainly help. But strong, sustained funding with a long view is not only desirable but a necessity.

In recent years, an increasing number of schools with a long tradition have opted into the Direct Subsidy Scheme. With the autonomy to charge fees and the likely support of powerful past students' and parents' associations, many of these schools will be able to offer students a more stimulating learning environment and curriculum.



Admittedly, Ying Wa has been intent in implementing innovative changes since the centenary. But without the assurance of solid financial backing to upgrade continually and to pursue higher and broader goals, Ying Wa is likely to lose her competitive edge amidst the well-established schools in Hong Kong.

The need for a large infusion of funds in the near future is, therefore, crucial. Otherwise, Ying Wa's dreams to offer the best possible education will remain only dreams.



The Trust Fund Concept

What is Ying Wa's dream list? And how then can we 'old girls' help?

The latest thinking on funding being explored is the concept of a Trust Fund. Once set up, any donations can be put into the fund and managed by a committee. The committee will in turn decide on how the funds can be judiciously used. The advantage of this set-up is that funds called for and collected need not be tied to one single project. This will lend flexibility to long-term planning and development. And Ying Wa can have her 'dream choices'.

While the Trust will ensure that the school has the freedom to utilise the funds, donors too are, in fact, given choices. This is because under the Trust fund concept, the school has identified some areas that need priority funding. And donors are encouraged to indicate their preference. Basically, there are two choices:

- *Providing opportunities for learning beyond the classroom and school walls*

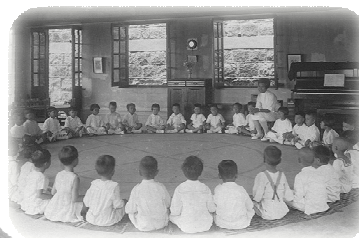


This is a people-related project. As far as memory goes, Ying Wa has always adopted the broader education goal of preparing her students for the wider world beyond. It is envisaged that with sufficient funding, both students and teachers can be sent to take overseas enhancement courses. It is also hoped that needy students will be given subsidies for extra-curricular lessons and activities in arts and sports.



- *Preserving the past and creating space for the future*

Space is a precious commodity in Ying Wa. The hilly terrain on which the school site sits offers little room for extension. Nearly every possible square foot has been put to use - with the exception of the tiny cottage at the far end of what used to be the tennis court. Built in 1926, the cottage once housed the kindergarten, a ground-breaking service for young children in those far-off days. Miraculously, this one-storey structure has to-date escaped the wrecking ball. While it has remained the only historic architectural asset on the school site, it is also the only space that is under-utilised.



Currently, the School Council and Alumnae Association are debating its fate. Demolishing this cottage may provide an extra piece of land for another extension to house much-needed modern facilities. Preserving this last vestige of the past may mean saving a part of heritage for future generations.

Whichever is the outcome of the debate, funds will be needed before any informed decisions can be made.

The First Donor

Work on establishing the Trust Fund has already been set in motion. While it will take some time to complete the formalities, the good news is that we have already had a donor.

Rev. C.C. Lee – past student, teacher, vice-principal, school chaplain, school council member and school supervisor has kindly agreed to donate 1,000 copies of her latest book to Ying Wa. The total revenue from the sale will go directly to the new Trust.



Any more brave souls to follow suit?

Remember: while you contribute to the Trust, and whether or not you have indicated your choice of how the contribution is to be spent, you are in fact giving Ying Wa a choice – a choice on how to make the right move in the right direction.



Ying Wa is indeed at the crossroads. But for those of us who have passed through her doors, it is both a privilege and a duty that we share in the process of change and to ensure that our *Alma Mater* is able to make a smooth and successful transition from the past to the future and from the traditional to the modern.

