

The Gateway



Issue 99
February 2023



A Day of Wellbeing for Filipina Migrant Workers in Hong Kong was held in the newly renovated Lasallian Youth Centre, near the border to China.

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Welcome

A note of gratitude runs through Gateway 99, gratitude for some of those who went before and who contributed so much to the well-being of our Lasallian world. When times were tough and there was a serious shortage of qualified teachers in Hong Kong, in stepped Br Visitor, James Byrne, and he sent a large number of qualified teachers to Hong Kong, to strengthen the staff of both St Joseph's College and La Salle College. These teachers gave sterling service over the years and we pay them tribute.

We are also grateful that the border with mainland China has reopened, allowing access to our cross-border students, especially at our De La Salle Secondary School. They have been away for too long.

Gratitude is also felt with the resumption of the Asia Pacific Lasallian Educators Congress (APLEC) which has been appreciated down through the years since it began in 1994. This year it will be held in Sydney.

Besides gratitude, a note also of 'normality' runs through this issue. So many of the activities we had taken before Covid took them away have happily resumed. School Jubilees can be celebrated; in this case that of the Golden Jubilee of Chan Sui Ki (La Salle) Primary School. Inter-school sports have taken off and soon we will be hearing the sound of music.

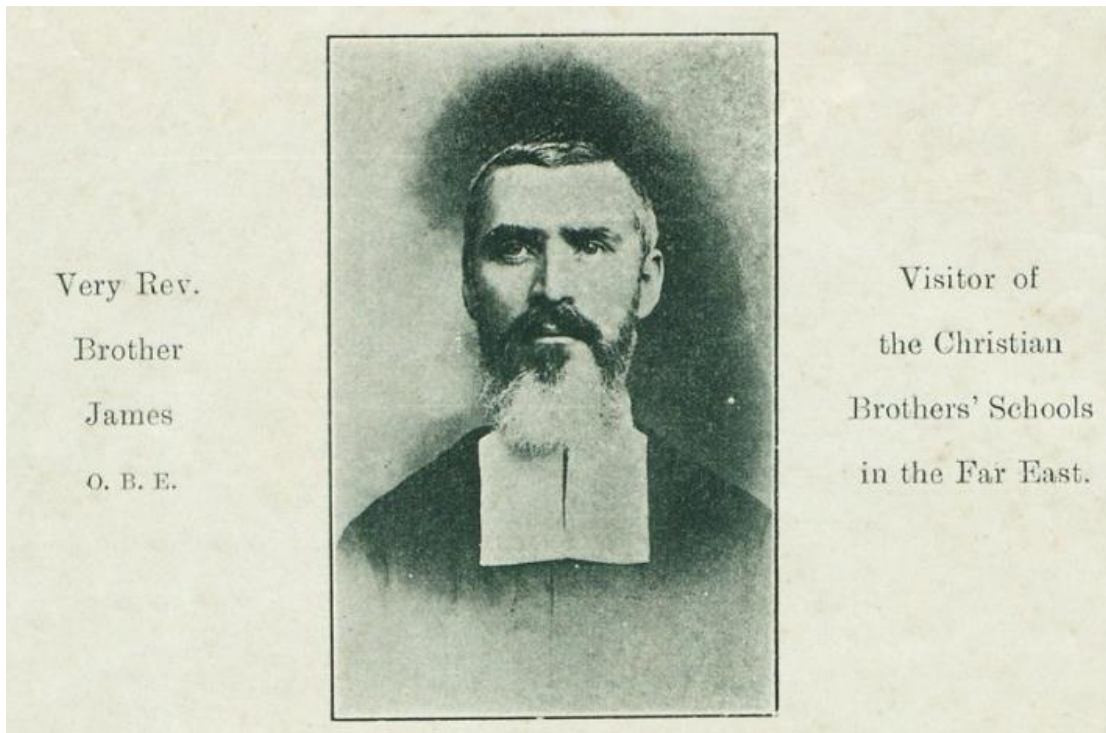
We have reached our 99th issue. The Centenary is beckoning.



(Image Source: South China Morning Post)

In Grateful Remembrance

Not so long ago we belonged to what was called the “Penang District”, so called because it was in Penang that the first Brothers established a school in 1852. The school is called St Xavier’s Institution. The District comprised Malayasia, Hong Kong and Singapore. For a time, Burma (Myanmar) and Manila were also included.



In 1912, a Brother James Byrne was appointed Brother Visitor of the District and, apart from a short interim period, was to remain at the helm until 1937. He won much renown and much prestige with the authorities, civil and educational, and was instrumental in moulding the character and lives of a vast number of people who became men of eminence, not only in the District of Penang but throughout the world.

The Brothers of Hong Kong (St. Joseph’s and La Salle College) owe a special debt to him for recruiting well-formed teachers trained in the schools of the Brothers in Malaya and the Philippines. He persuaded them to leave their own country and “seek fresh fields and pastures new” to take up a teaching career in Hong Kong.

Good teachers in the 30’s were hard to get in Hong Kong. A good knowledge of English was a premium in those days: openings in a bank or in the big business hong were easy to find. The pay was good and prospects and promotion were bright. Teachers were poorly paid: they were not paid directly by the Education Department, as they are now, but by the school authorities. The Grant-in-Aid Code, as it stands today, was not implemented until after the War. No opportunities for the training of teachers existed: the Colleges of Education came into being after the War.

List of teachers from the Penang District who had served in Hong Kong

Name	From	Serving
Cheang Wye Sum	Penang, St. Xavier's Institution	St. Joseph's College
Boay Kah Seng	Penang, St. Xavier's Institution	St. Joseph's College
Quah Cheow Cheang	Penang, St. Xavier's Institution	St. Joseph's College
Oei Eng Bee	Penang, St. Xavier's Institution	St. Joseph's College
Lim Siang Teik	Penang, St. Xavier's Institution	St. Joseph's College
Chan Ah Fatt Francis	Penang, St. Xavier's Institution	La Salle College
Lim Kim Huan	Penang, St. Xavier's Institution	La Salle College
John Chong Yew Man	Penang, St. Xavier's Institution	La Salle College
Francis X Loo	Penang, St. Xavier's Institution	La Salle College
James Ng Sau Yan	Penang, St. Xavier's Institution	La Salle College
Charlie Dragon	Penang, St. Xavier's Institution	La Salle College
Lim Hoy Lan	Ipoh, St. Michael's College	St. Joseph's College
Roy Pereira	Singapore, St. Joseph's Institution	St. Joseph's College
Benedict Lim Nget Yoon	Singapore, St. Joseph's Institution	La Salle College
Patrick Ho Beng Chong	Teluk Anson	St. Joseph's College
Percy Felix Lim	Malacca, St. Francis' Institution	La Salle College
Chin Sit Chin	Kuala Lumpur	St. Joseph's College
Anthony Lim	Manila	St. Joseph's College
Vincent Chan	Manila	St. Joseph's College

Roy Pereira: He taught in St. Joseph's College, had a wide field of subjects which he taught competently, and a wide scope of interests. He lived out in the New Territories, and built up a reputation as a local naturalist: he wrote a weekly article in the South China Morning Post on the birds and flora of Hong Kong. After the War, the Government, preparing to restore the Colony's food resources, put him in charge of agriculture and fisheries of the New Territories.

Quah Cheow Cheang: Mr Quah had a natural flair for art and music. He was the instructor of St. Joseph's College Orchestra and conductor of the Band of the Hong Kong Regiment. He was a war hero in the Hong Kong Volunteers and was badly wounded (he was left with a permanent limp). He was promoted to Major in the Regiment and represented Hong Kong in the Allied Victory Parade in London after the war.

Lim Hoy Lan: Mr. Lim left St. Joseph's with a group of teachers to found Wah Yan College, which the Jesuit Order eventually took over.

Boay Kah Seng: Mr. Boay had a very good innings in St. Joseph's. In his apostolate in the lower classes he laid the foundations of sincerity, hardwork, dependability and loyalty for thousands of St. Joseph's graduates over the years, pre-war and after. A Josephian who never passed through "Tiger" Boay has missed something.

Vincent Chan: another veteran of pre-war years is Vincent Chan who taught mainly in Forms 4 and 5. An enormous number of graduates, now leaders in all walks of public life, are grateful to him for his untiring efforts which made them successful.

Charlie Dragon: In La Salle College, probably one of the most gifted teachers was Charlie Dragon. He could teach anything at top level: English, Mathematics, even book-keeping, when we opened a Commercial class. Charlie was always a very valuable man to have around. He helped out in sports, scouting, and many extra-curricular activities. He was a born organizer.

Chan Ah Fatt: Mr. Chan was a marvelous mathematics teacher. The old boys still remember him with awe and affection.

Francis X Loo: Mr. Loo was one of the pillars of Form 5 in La Salle. He did much for scouting in La Salle but his first love was "Life-saving" and he was Head of the Hong Kong Life-saving Association for many years. H.M. the Queen awarded him the M.B.E. for public service.

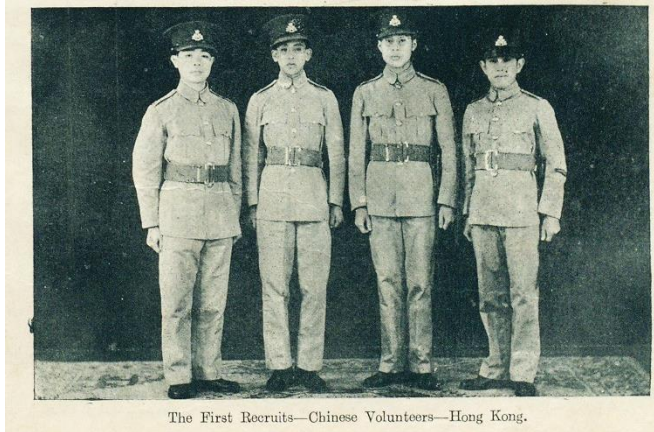
Jimmy Ng Sau Yan: Jimmy Ng did great work pre-war and post-war in the Hong Kong Certificate of Education Classes: his results in the public examinations were always outstanding.

Benedict Lim: Mr. Lim was a valuable member of the staff and made an impact on the life of the school. He was a gifted organist and for many years led "Benedict's Benjamins", as the group was called, on visits singing Christmas carols around the hospitals. He was an excellent athlete and always romped home to hit the tape first in the Teachers' race on Sports Day. He was also a fine footballer and led the goal average many years in Hong Kong the first division Football League, and was selected to represent Hong Kong in several Interport games.

Patrick Ho: Mr. Ho was a very dedicated and enthusiastic teacher. There is a story about a school inspector looking down from the verandah of the old building watching Patrick in awe (he weighed about 200 lbs.), stretched out full length on the playground showing his P.E. class how to do body jerks.

Percy Felix was a young dynamic teacher of great promise.

Oei Eng Bee: Mr. Oei was very seriously inclined. He did great work for Catholic action and conducted quite a correspondence on religious matters in the South China Morning Post newspaper. He survived the initial Japanese military attack on Hong Kong. The circumstances of his eventual death at the hands of the Japanese authorities remain clouded in mystery.

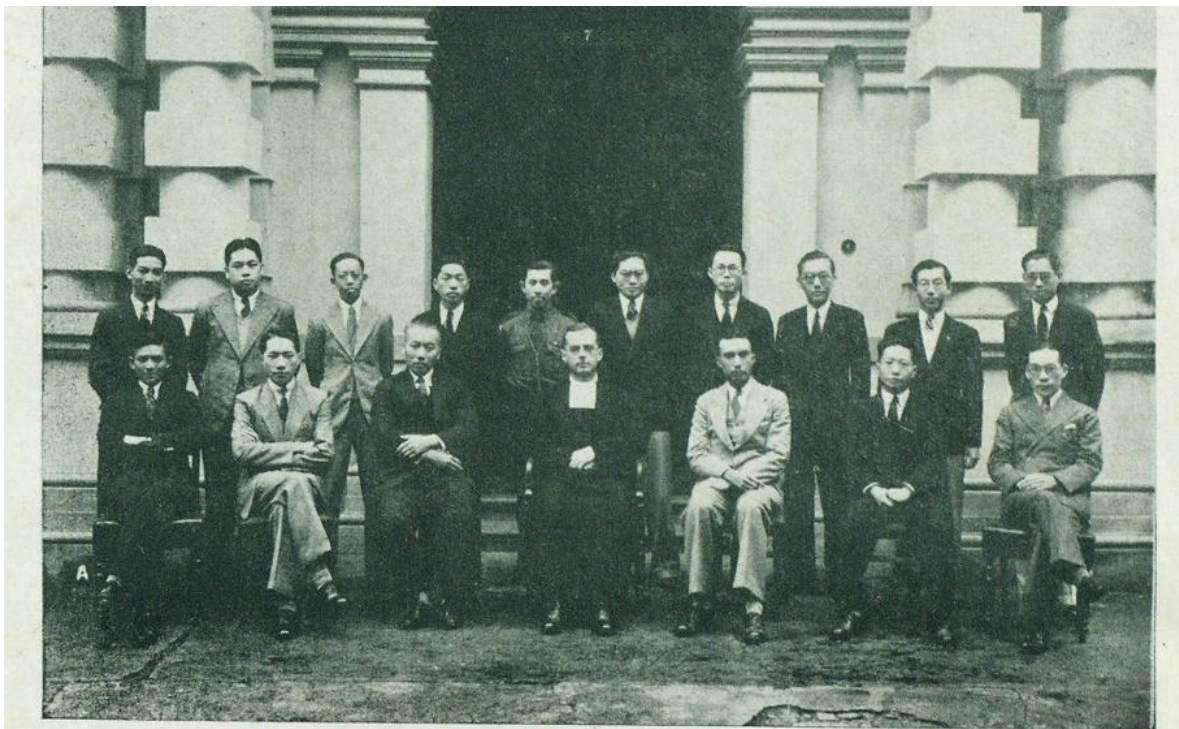


The First Recruits—Chinese Volunteers—Hong Kong.

Many teachers belonged to the Hong Kong Volunteers (Hong Kong Regiment). This was a unit formed by teachers, people working in banks, business offices (both local and expatriate) who were trained at week-ends in defence of the Colony. During the attack on Hong Kong, they served mainly in the machine-gun emplacements guarding the seashore of the island. Casualties were high as the Japanese assault troops took no prisoners. Among the victims

were Lim Siang Teik (SJC), Anthony Lim (SJC), Lim Kim Huan (LSC) and Percy Felix Lim (LSC).

Very few institutions are given the consoling opportunities of looking back over such an extended period of noble service of a group of dedicated men who left their homes and country spending their whole life teaching in a foreign land. This article attempts to show, rather belatedly, the marks of esteem and appreciation of their worth and work, by the Brothers of Hong Kong. We hope in a small way to keep alive and perpetuate their memory in the annals of the District.



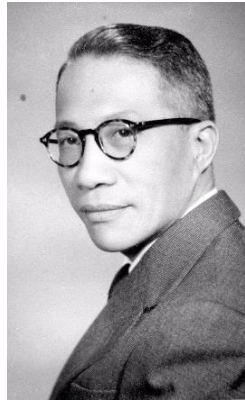
LAY STAFF OF ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE, 1935-1936.

From Left to Right.

- Sitting** Mr. H. G. Acome, Mr. V. A. Chan Wai, Mr. Benedict Cheung, Rev. Bro. Matthias (Director), Mr. R. A. Pereira, Mr. Mark Kei Fun, Mr. Jos. B. Lam.
- Standing:** Mr. Chow Dick Cheung, Mr. J. Sim Tze Young, Mr. Lim Kim Huan, Mr. Anthony Lim, Mr. Quah Cheow Cheang, Mr. Patrick Ho, Mr. Yan Shu Fan, Mr. Pang Cheuk, Mr. F. Ooi Eng Bee, Mr. F. J. Boay.



Mr. Quah Cheow Cheang



Mr. Vincent Chan



Mr. Lim Hoy Lan



Mr. Lim Kim Huan



Mr. Benedict Lim



Mr. Francis X Loo



Mr. James Ng



Mr. Charles Dragon



Mr. Chan Ah Faat



Mr. Lim Siang Teik



Mr. Patrick Ho



Mr. Boey Kah Seng

Family Updates

Golden Jubilee

The latest Lasallian school to celebrate its Golden Jubilee is Chan Sui Ki (La Salle) Primary School. It has come a long way since its founder, Br Herman Fenton, took the initial steps. The Golden Jubilee kicked off with a Thanksgiving Mass in the school Hall celebrated by Bishop Stephen Chow. He energetically persuaded the attending students to prepare for a life of service, a life that will bring hope to others. It was noted that the Choir sang beautifully. After the Mass and the picture-taking, there was a preview of exhibitions for the forthcoming Open Day to be held on the 11th February.



Open Day



Two days after the Thanksgiving Mass, the school hosted an Open Day. The opening ceremony was held in the school hall with Brothers and representatives of various stakeholders. The founder of the school, Br Herman, received due tribute and the amazing growth of the school was quickly traced. Mr Eric Ku, Supervisor, and Ms Brenda Wu, Principal, gave short and meaningful speeches. Much emphasis is placed on STEM in the school and

we were treated to a STEM-style show of dancing lanterns, aesthetically spelling out the name of the school. Tours of the school campus began after the ceremony.

Congratulations and best wishes to the school as it moves towards its Diamond Jubilee.

SJC Rising

St Joseph's College sportsmen have struck a rich vein of form this academic year. Some time back they beat La Salle in Rugby, followed by success in both Football and Basketball at Inter-school level. More recently, they have emerged as champions in the all Hong Kong Jing Ying Basketball competition, a feat not achieved since year 2000. Congratulations to the school, the players, the coaches and supporters.



CBSSA

Yet another sign of the return to normality was the holding of the Lasallian Inter-Collegiate Athletics Meet on the 8th of February 2023. The venue, as usual, was the Wanchai Sports Ground. A pleasant day though the sun did not shine which was probably a blessing to the athletes. The Guest of Honour was Br Dennis Magbanua. In his speech, he introduced all seven attending Brothers, which may have set a record. Another record was the participation of the girls from De La Salle Secondary School and those of Chong Gene Hang College. A highlight of the meet was the performance of Lin Mingfu of Chan Sui Ki (La Salle) College who jumped to a magnificent 7.38 in the A Grade Long Jump. Next year will see the Golden Jubilee of the CBSSA, another milestone.



Uncle Ray R.I.P.



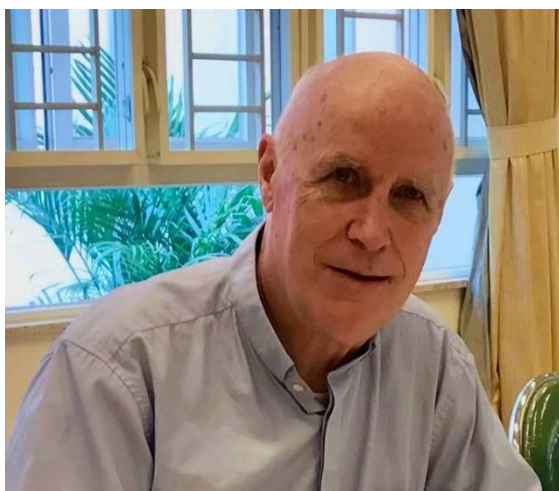
Uncle Ray was a legendary DJ in Hong Kong. His broadcasting career spanned 7 decades and “The World’s Most Durable DJ” accolade was awarded to him by the Guinness World Records. In his day, he met and interviewed many celebrities, including the Beatles, the Bee-Gees, Frank Sinatra etc.

Uncle Ray Cordeiro was a student at our St Joseph’s College and kept in touch through the years. Brother Thomas Favier would sometimes send in song requests and Uncle Ray invariably obliged.

The world’s most durable DJ died on Friday 13th January 2023 at the age of 98.



Father Tommy Murphy R.I.P.



Father Tommy, former superior general of the Columban Missionaries, died on the 6th January 2023 at their community house in Kowloon. He had been ill for some time.

He was a good friend of the Brothers in Hong Kong. He had, in fact, attended the same Lasallian school as Br Patrick in their home town of Castlebar, Co. Mayo, Ireland. In recent months he had concelebrated Mass for the 90th anniversary of La Salle College. He had also said Mass in the Brother’s chapel for the repose of the soul of Paul Tierney, Br Patrick’s brother. Fr Tommy was a cheerful and obliging man. May he rest in the heart of God.

Tagpuan 1.0: A Day of Wellbeing for Filipina Migrant Workers in Hong Kong

On Sunday (5 February 2023), from 9:30 AM to 4:00 PM, at the Lasallian Youth Centre in Kam Tsin Village, Sheung Shui, New Territories, the De La Salle Brothers led by Brother Dennis Magbanua FSC and the De La Salle Alumni Association - One La Salle Hong Kong led by Ms Jaerey Velasco - Glanville hosted a day dedicated to the mental, physical, and spiritual wellbeing of Filipina domestic workers in Hong Kong. There were around 40 participants, mostly coming from Fan Ling and Sheung Shui and 10 organizers.

The first activity was a Mass celebrated by Father Jay Flandez at 10:00AM. After that, Ms. Dee Oh and her friend led the group in an upbeat and enjoyable session of Zumba. At the strike of 12:00, a sumptuous meal was served to all. Brother Edmon Viroomal's Pinoy Henyo game in the early afternoon was a lot of fun and a great way to win some prizes. Ms. Katherine De Guzman, a representative of the Philippine National Bank, presented a quick course on financial literacy that provided useful information to all attendees. The day wrapped off with a review and strategy discussion to ensure that upcoming events will continue to meet the needs of the participants.

The De La Salle Brothers and the De La Salle Alumni Association - One La Salle Hong Kong put on this event because they care about the welfare of Filipina domestic workers in Hong Kong.

Br Dennis Magbanua FSC



Cross Border students return

After a 3 year gap, De La Salle Secondary School welcomed back its Cross Border students on 8th of February. Altogether, there were over 100 students able to return to the school for face to face teaching. This was a longed-for occasion for the students, staff and parents. The school made sure that the returning students were made to feel at home. Some of them enrolled in our school for 3 years and it was their first time setting foot on the school and meeting their fellow schoolmates.

It is keenly hoped that there will be no such ‘virus’ disruption to school life again.

According to South China Morning Post, there are currently nearly 21,000 cross-border students in Hong Kong, comprising 7000 in the secondary schools, 13000 in primary and 900 in kindergartens.



APLEC 11

As another sign of the return to normality, we are happy to see the return of the Asia Pacific Lasallian Educators Congress (APLEC). APLEC is an Educational Conference open to all educators in the Pacific Asia Regional Conference (PARC) region and beyond. This year it will be held in Sydney from 10th to 14th April 2023 and the theme chosen is “A New Legacy for a New Time.”

Each day of the conference will have a focus for the keynotes and workshops that help un-pack the overarching theme.

We are fortunate to have excellent keynote speakers in Br Armin Luistro, Superior General, Bishop Danny Meagher, Auxiliary Bishop of Sydney, Lana Turvey-Collins, Australian Plenary Council Facilitator and Kathryn Mandla, Head of Advocacy & Research.

Hong Kong will be sending 13 delegates to the Congress. They are:

Brother Patrick Tierney

Brother Dennis Magbanua

Brother Paolo Mata

Mr. Alan Li

Mr. Paul Tam

Mr. Godwin Szeto (St. Joseph's College)

Miss Joyce Lui (St. Joseph's Primary School)

Mr. Eric Kuk (La Salle College)

Mrs. Alice Poon (La Salle Primary School)

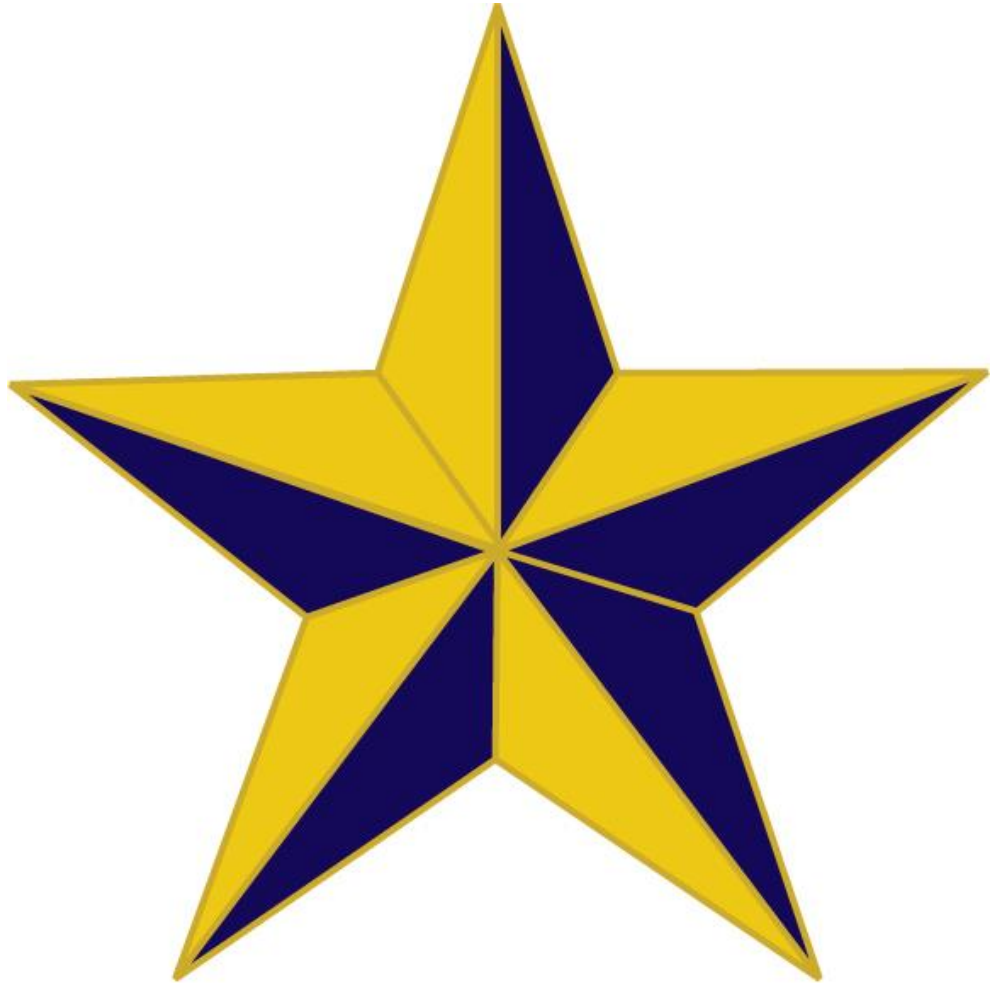
Miss Natalie Wong (Chan Sui Ki College)

Mr. Sherman Lau (Chan Sui Ki Primary School)

Mr. Robin Shum (De La Salle Secondary School)

Mr. Bosco Cheng (Chong Gene Hang College)





Great Things Are Possible



We are one, and we are many.....