

Interview with Mrs. Daphne Blomfield

– Headmistress of Diocesan Girls' Junior School (1978 - 1989)

It was a brisk morning in mid-March. We had been really excited at the prospect of meeting Mrs. Daphne Blomfield. When we saw her, we realised she has not changed a bit - a slim petite lady wearing a bright warm smile on her face. We sat down at a coffee shop and began our conversation.

We learned only now that Mrs. Blomfield was born in Shanghai. She was a teacher (for both primary and secondary levels) and thereafter Head-teacher (primary level only) at another well-known co-educational school in Hong Kong. At the invitation of Dr. C.J. Symons, Mrs. Blomfield joined DGJS as headmistress in 1978.

Dr. Symons and Mrs. Blomfield shared the same vision – they wanted to keep DGJS a family school with only a small number of classes, where every student was encouraged and would indeed have the opportunity to participate. Mrs. Blomfield initiated the “Big Sister Program” where each Primary 6 student was paired to take care of a Primary 1 new joiner for the first year. She foresaw the future demand of Putonghua and introduced the language into the curriculum. She encouraged participation in team competitions so that more students could be involved and bond through cooperative efforts and shared goals.

Mrs. Blomfield's memory of DGJS is that it is a happy school. The students respect their parents and teachers and there is mutual trust between parents and teachers. To her, DGS girls are always very collegial and supportive of each other. One of Mrs. Blomfield's most memorable occasions at DGJS was how hard everyone worked to prepare for the farewell concert of Dr. Symons. From both junior and senior schools, the personal touch from parents together with the exceptional efforts from teachers and students contributed to this big, memorable and successful event.

One thing that really impressed us as we continued our conversation was how this cheerful lady has been devoting her entire life to the education of others. Mrs. Blomfield has always been interested in how children learn, and how best to help them to learn. After retiring from DGJS, she volunteered serving on various committees and acting as supervisors of schools and adult training centres at Hong Chi Association, a non-profit organisation targeted at helping people with intellectual disabilities. She resigned three years ago.

For the last 10 years, Mrs. Blomfield has been dedicating more of her time to The Pathways Foundation, a non-profit organisation providing professional help to strengthen the abilities as well as social skills specific to the individual needs of children with Specific Learning Disabilities (SLD) and/or Attention Deficit / Hyperactivity Disorder (AD/HD). Mrs. Blomfield strongly believes that every child has the right to receive proper education to realise his/her full potentials. This is particularly important in the case of students with SLD issues when professional help can address their specific needs and make a difference in building their self-esteem and achieving their individual goals.

As we part with Mrs. Blomfield, we learned that she had driven to Festival Walk in Kowloon Tong all the way from her home in Tai Po. Her independence, kindness and love for education once again illustrate how Mrs. Blomfield is a living example of the DGS motto – Daily Giving Service.

For a full version of the interview, please visit the DOGA website www.doga.org.hk.



*Mrs. Grace Lam ('64),
Mrs. Daphne Blomfield,
Cindy Tong ('90)
and Andrea Lai ('90)*

Past Activities

The Inexplicable Bond – Class of 85 celebrates its 25th Anniversary



“We don’t look it, but can’t deny it, it’s our Silver Jubilee! And it’s time to celebrate!”



Happy 25th Anniversary, Class of 1985

About 45 “85ers” – many of whom travelled from overseas – gathered in a cozy upstairs restaurant in Causeway Bay in January to reignite old friendships and relive the days of 1 Jordan Road. Adorned with beautiful decorations that highlighted our 25th anniversary, the restaurant was filled with laughter and chatter in no time. With our alma mater as our common bond, it was not hard for us to pick up where we left off...even if it had been as long as 25 years.

The night started with an ice breaking game of “People Bingo” that tested our memories (“Who is still a white cap?”), brought us all up-to-date (“Who is now a mother of 3, or more?”), and got us all warmed up. It was followed by a nostalgic slide show that brought us back to our wonderful DGS days. Whether we were posing nicely in our uniforms or basking in the sun during the

school picnic, our youthful faces reminded us that quite a bit of time had indeed passed. But at the same time, we felt as if time had stood still – a few more wrinkles did not diminish our sentiments towards our school and each other.

After a hearty buffet meal, we took turns to answer questions about our schooldays or do a little performance. Among the highlights were a mini-remake of the showgirls dance in our Form 3 production “Bugsy Malone”, and a lively demonstration of the 3 athletic field events – shot put, discus and javelin!

The reunion wrapped up with a special “Hymn Medley”. We all stood and sang with one accord some of our favourite hymns – Dear Lord and Father of Mankind, He, Hymn Habanera, and last but not least, our School Hymn. Overwhelmed with memories and nostalgia, a few of us ended up with tears in our eyes. But they were all happy tears. For we know that we all share an inexplicable bond that ties us together in a very special way, and for that, we shall forever be thankful.



A lively demonstration of the 3 athletic field events – shot put, discus and javelin

“I’m so thankful that I’m firmly rooted in something so wonderful, so pure, and so genuine. And I’m so thankful that I spent 12 years of my life in this place with you all. Happy 25th!” - V.A.

“Love every smile, every laugh and every moment that night!” - C.L.

“I’m back in London after a brilliant month in Hong Kong, and I’m feeling so grateful for having the best family and friends. Everyone is so interesting, accomplished, loyal, generous, genuine and fun. I can’t ask for more.” - V.L.



The organising committee



Testing our memories with a game of People Bingo



Food Labelling Lunch Seminar – January 2011 Social Sub-Committee

With the increasing concern on packed food and drinks, the Social Sub-Committee organised a "Food Labelling" lunch seminar on 7th January, 2011. Irma Kong ('85), a registered dietitian in U.K. and Hong Kong, shared with the audience on the reading and interpretation of nutritional information of food labels. We learned how to eat healthily, make appropriate and informed choices in our daily lives.



Shirley Chan of Social Sub-Committee and Irma Kong

"Versatility" -10th Anniversary Concert of the Diocesan Graduate Singers Choir

On 15th January 2011, the Diocesan Graduate Singers held the 10th Anniversary Concert at the Youth Square in Chai Wan. Over the past ten years, the choir has matured in musicianship.

Under the leadership of Mrs. Christina Chiang, we performed Vivaldi's "Gloria", excerpts from "Fiddler on the Roof" as well as Andrew Lloyd Webber's "Jesus Christ Superstar". Nicolette Wong, the evening's guest piano performer, showcased her brilliant technique and played three pieces from Gershwin and Ginastera.



The Diocesan Graduate Singers



"Fiddler on the Roof" performed at the concert



Mrs. Christina Chiang

Recycle Bag Painting Session – February 2011 Art Club

The Art Club hosted a Recycle Bag Painting session where mums and kids expressed their artistic talents and creativity in designing and painting their own recycle bags. It was a great Saturday get together for old girls and a wonderful mother-child bonding experience. We all brought home our brilliantly-colored personalised bags.



Health Advice for Ladies Lunch Seminar – March 2011 Social Sub-Committee

On 18th March, 2011, the Social Sub-Committee invited Dr. Wong Tak Yu Louisa to share her tips and studies on how women can stay youthful and lead a healthy lifestyle. Dr. Wong, a certified Chinese medicine practitioner and former television anchor, also clarified some general myths on what a healthy lifestyle is. The lunch seminar was well attended with 63 old girls and friends.



Shirley Chan of Social Sub-Committee presented a souvenir to Dr. Wong Tak Yu Louisa

Clay Craft for Mother's Day – May 2011 Art Club

Our members gathered in the cozy Junior School art room and created beautiful Mother's Day presents. Artistic old girls fashioned exquisite flower petals and buds using different shapes and colours of clay models. This family event highlighted the ingenuity of our children - with their nimble little fingers, they kneaded, moulded and shaped the clay into creative homemade gifts for their moms.



Mother and child at Art Club Clay Craft session



Colourful roses made from clay

Sub-Committee Focus - Membership

The Membership Sub-Committee maintains and updates the Classrep system (with representatives spanning over 5 decades from Class of 1958 to Class of 2010), which is instrumental to the dissemination of information regarding DOGA and School activities to all alumnae. We also organise activities for members from different generations to mingle and strengthen the bond of sisterhood.

Our Mentorship Program was launched in 2005. With increasing success and popularity of the program, we now have a large pool of mentors in a wide range of fields including Legal, Medicine, Banking, Property Development, Information Technology, Entrepreneurship, Architecture, Human Resources, Education, Film/Media and Journalism, etc. 26 pairs of mentors and mentees were matched for this year's program.



Program coordinator Carmen Law spoke at the Mentoring Program Seminar last December

In addition, the Membership Sub-Committee hosts an Annual Tea Gathering for all members. This year, the tea gathering on 5th March attracted members spanning from Class of 1961 to Class of 2006, including Mrs. Emily Dai, General Committee and Sub-Committee members, mentors and mentees. DOGA members enjoyed a slide show on the school's redevelopment project and were updated on the status of donations and gift opportunities.



Welcome Speech by Membership Co-chairpersons Helen Wong and Sherlynn Chan



DOGA Vice Chairman Sheilah Chatjaval gave an update of the School's redevelopment project



Members from Class of 1961 to Class of 2006 attended the Annual Tea gathering

We are also excited and proud to announce that, with the assistance of Helen Shen and Helen Wong, the DOGA-HKUST Alumni Chapter was formed in December 2010. A cozy hotpot gathering was held to celebrate the event.



First gathering of DOGA-HKUST Chapter at Prof Helen Shen's residence. Helen is the Residence Master of Hall 7 at HKUST.

Upcoming Events

July, 2011	DGS Careers Talk
October, 2011	Hong Kong Adventure Corps Flag Day
28th October, 2011	DOGA Annual Dinner
December, 2011	DGS Mini-Bazaar
December, 2011	DGS Careers Talks
December, 2011	Community Service - Elderly Home Visit

Details of the events will be updated periodically. Please visit www.doga.org.hk to obtain the latest information.

DOGA Office

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Joining DOGA

Any old girl of DGS or DGJS (whether resident or abroad) who has completed at least one academic year at DGS or DGJS is eligible to apply for membership of DOGA Ltd. Details of the application can be found at www.doga.org.hk.

Class Reunion Gathering

Alumnae who are interested in organising their class reunion gathering at the School, please contact DOGA office for further information.