

“Serve with a Big and Generous Heart” – Interview with Phoebe Lam

Phoebe Lam, Class of 2013, is the winner of the prestigious Top 10 Outstanding Youth Award of Hong Kong in 2014 for her outstanding achievements in community services work. She met with Andrea Lai, Audrey Tam and Adeline Cheng of the Editorial Sub-Committee to share and talk about her achievements and dedication to community services work amidst a busy schedule. Phoebe is the youngest winner in the Open Category of the Award for her eight years of participation in community services.

I: Interviewers P: Phoebe

I: DGS’ school motto is Daily Giving Service. What made you become so concerned with helping the needy?

P: I started to be quite active in doing community services work since S1. I even learned sign language so I could help the deaf and dumb. Through my involvement in community services, I saw that there was a lot of inequality in the world, and so many people are less fortunate than I am. I felt that God wanted me to use my abilities to help others and to live a purposeful life.

I: We all know how hectic life at DGS can be with academic studies and extracurricular activities. You were an accomplished pianist, violinist and swimmer during your time at DGS. How did you juggle your time?

P: In order to juggle around so many activities, effective planning is the key to success. Also, you have to acknowledge that you can’t do it all by yourself and you have to learn to delegate certain duties to others.



Phoebe won the Top 10 Outstanding Youth Award of Hong Kong in 2014



Phoebe at Red Cross drilling competition.

I: What was the most memorable experience during your DGS days?

P: S5 at DGS was the year that gave me the most memorable experience. I was the busiest that year, being a prefect, and being actively involved in the Red Cross Club, Humanities Club, the choir, as well as preparing for the DSE examinations the year after. It was very tough to keep up with everything. I kept asking myself why I chose to make myself so busy. I believed that God gave me the gift to wisely manage my time and I was not afraid of hard work. Looking back, I was very amazed that I could survive S5 in one piece with very little sleep or food! I felt that it was truly worthwhile when I found out in S6 that I was awarded Student of the Year in S5.

I also remember a lot about my teachers. There was one time when my exam results were not very satisfactory but the teachers were not disappointed in me. Instead, they consoled me and gave me counseling and tuition. Even though I fell, the teachers were there ready with a helping hand, and had faith that I would soon pick myself up. For that, I am grateful.

I: How do you think girls at DGS now can do more to help the community?

P: The School can help by raising awareness of our community’s needs. The School can encourage the girls to embrace, through action, our school motto – Daily Giving Service – by devoting their time to help those who are less fortunate than we are.

I: What does the future hold after the Award? Any words of wisdom for us?

P: I am grateful for receiving this award as I see it as an affirmation of my services to the community. However, I believe anyone can do the work to receive the award. You don’t need to be born with any particular talent. The most important is to have a big and generous heart to give and to serve. My sincere hope is that many of our readers will be inspired by this interview to start lend a helping hand and contribute to building a better future for our community.



Phoebe with her mom on DGS Speech Day 2012. She was awarded Student of the Year.

The above is an extracted version of Phoebe Lam’s interview. The full version can be found in the DOGA website.

Activities

Class of 1994 – 20th Anniversary Reunion Dinner



Class of 1994 old girls
with our headmistresses and teachers

More than 60 old girls from the Class of 1994, together with our headmistresses Mrs. Daphne Blomfield (DGJS), Mrs. Elim Lau (DGS) and Mrs. Stella Lau (DGS) and 20 teachers, gathered at the Jordan Room of Eaton Hotel on Saturday, 30th August 2014 to celebrate our much-anticipated 20th anniversary reunion.

We reminisced about the good old days when we played chase in the Corner Garden. We laughed about each other's hair styles and fashion sense that looked so cool back in the 1990s. Some exchanged beauty secrets that made them look "exactly the same" as they did 20 years ago. Others shared about their current lives as mothers, while some of the teachers spoke about their lives as grandmothers.

One of the highlights of the evening was a lucky draw, with prizes generously donated by our teachers. Another highlight was a slide show showing the precious moments during our primary and secondary school years and beyond. It was clear that even though we parted ways 20 years ago, the spirit of friendship and sisterhood remains. Many of us are still in close touch with one another and hold regular informal gatherings. We promised each other that we will not wait another 20 years until our next big reunion.



Our MC Robyn Lamsam with
Mrs. Elim Lau



Souvenir umbrella

Easter Service Project with DGS Citizens Club

Community Services Sub-Committee

On 22nd April, the DOGA Community Services Sub-committee held a joint event with volunteers from the DGS Citizens Club at the Henry G Leong Yau Ma Tei Community Centre. We spent a fun-filled afternoon with 30 children from ethnic minorities aged between 6 - 12 years. There were a series of activities including an Easter egg hunt, biscuit decorating, and games to stimulate creativity as well as team work. Our sponsorship of gifts for the children not only helped them financially, but was a good sharing session on good value buys and stockists (<\$19/gift). We are extremely pleased with this collaboration and hope we could continue to seek future opportunities to work together.



Community Services Food for Charity Events

Community Services Sub-Committee



Jamie Oliver's Food Revolution Day

On 16th May, we joined hands with DGS in Jamie Oliver's Food Revolution Day "one million people cooking on one day" challenge as part of a health and food awareness programme. Over 25 alumnae together with their family made rainbow salad wraps. The school provided complimentary tea and drinks while participants savour their wrap as afternoon tea.



萬糰同心為公益2014

In May, over 20 old girls and their children attended the annual Rice Dumpling Making event (萬糰同心為公益2014) in aid of the Community Chest. It was a lovely afternoon where old girls learnt dumpling wrapping skills from DGS Technology and Living teachers. Hope to see many of you again next year!

Membership Sub-Committee Events

Membership Sub-Committee

Around 33 new members, class reps, DOGA General Committee members, mentors and mentees spanning across from years of 1958 to 2013, gathered at the DOGA Room on 26th April for a wonderful time of sharing and fellowship. Helen Wong and Sherlynn Chan, co-chairs of the Membership Sub-Committee, welcomed new members to the DOGA family. Pastries were served while old (and newer old) girls had a great time catching up with one another and mentees meeting other mentors and vice versa!

In June, we set up a reception table at the S6 graduation dinner and recruited a record number of 71 members that night.

In order to enable S6 graduates to continue the DGS bond as they enter university, gatherings were hosted in August and September to assist S6 girls to get the best out of university life, and to network with fellow DGS alumnae in the various universities.



Members Tea Gathering in April



CU x DOGA Dinner on 18th September



HKUST x DOGA Dinner on 19th September



S6 Graduation Dinner recruitment on 18th June



Lantern Decoration Workshop

Lantern Decoration Workshop

Art Club

The Art Club hosted a lantern decoration workshop for old girls and their family to demonstrate their artistic talents and creativity in decorating their own lanterns with colorful paper cut-outs and handmade tissue paper flowers. The event was a great get-together for our alumnae and a wonderful parent-child activity. Everyone brought home a lovely and uniquely decorated lantern to celebrate Mid-Autumn Festival.



Make-up demonstration

Grooming Workshop

Social Sub-Committee

On 13th September, Ms. Iris Lim, the renowned Grooming and Uniform Counselor of Cathay Pacific Airways, shared with us expert techniques on how to create a radiant and youthful look. It was an interactive workshop with full demonstrations on make-up and facial advice. Attendees were enthusiastic to learn about skin care solutions for long haul flights and the latest information on skin care products. Each of us also took home a lovely pack of skin care souvenir.

DOGA Annual Dinner 2014

Social Sub-Committee

The DOGA Annual Dinner 2014 was a tribute to the centennial musical drama "House of Wonders" and the five school houses. More than 580 old girls, ranging from the class of 1951 to 2014, dressed up in their house colors and gathered at a new venue for the evening. The DOGA souvenir sales corner was extremely popular where attendees rummaged through the selection of cashmere shawls, tumblers, hoodies, fleece scarves, bags, and heritage sets. The Best Turnout Class with 59 girls from the Class of 1994 broke the attendance record. The first-ever Best Dressed House Competition was held at the dinner where ten winners with two representatives from each house were selected. The overwhelming alumnae participation and their creative styling made the selection a difficult task for our panel of judges. The evening was joyfully wrapped up with the presentation of 118 lucky draw prizes.



Best Dressed – Symons



Best Dressed – Hurrell



Best Turnout Class – Class of 1994



Best Dressed – Skipton



Best Dressed – Gibbins



Best Dressed – Sawyer



Prize presentation at DOGA Annual Dinner by DOGA President Yvonne Chan to Carly Fan

Congratulations

DOGA is happy to announce that Fan Ka Lee Carly has been awarded the Dr. Symons Scholarship for 2014. The scholarship, which amounts to HKD \$160,000 will go towards her study in LLB at the University of Hong Kong. Congratulations to Carly and all the best to her studies!

Upcoming Events

January	Diocesan Graduate Singers Annual Concert
February	Interhouse Netball Tournament; UST University Group Gathering; Art Club Chinese New Year Event
March	Introduction of DOGA to S6 graduates; Art Club Easter Event
April	Social Seminar; Class Rep & New Members Tea Gathering
May	DOGA Netball Team and DGJS Netball Club in Festival of Sports; Charity Rice Dumplings Event; Art Club Event
June	DOGA AGM; Social Seminar; DGJS Netball Club in Development Tournament; Dr. Symons Scholarship Interview; Art Club Summer Event
July	Launch of Job Shadowing Programme (S5); Tea with Scholarship Recipients

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

DOGA Office: 1 Jordan Road. Tel: 2771 5881, Email: doga.info@gmail.com

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.