

# ESF The First 50 Years



Island School in 1967

**1967** — The English Schools Foundation (ESF) was founded in response to the Hong Kong government's recognition of growing demand for English-language education during a period of rapid economic development. Beacon Hill School and Island School were the first ESF schools to admit students.



ESF's first set of accounts in 1968

**1975** — Bradbury School opened as Causeway Bay School on Eastern Hospital Road. The school moved to its present site at Stubbs Road in 1980.



**1977** — South Island School started as a nucleus of additional classes to Island School. The school moved to its present site at Nam Fung Road in 1983.

**1978** — Following a government review, it was determined that English-language grant-aided schools were no longer viable. These schools were subsequently handed over to ESF.

Glenealy School, Kennedy School, Kowloon Junior School, Peak School and Quarry Bay School became ESF schools in 1979, followed by King George V School in 1981.

**1982** — Sha Tin College, with about 50 students and six teaching staff, opened on the premises of KGV School, where it was known as Sha Tin Annexe. The school was renamed Sha Tin College in 1983, and moved to its current location in 1985.



**1988** — Sha Tin Junior School opened in Fo Tan.



**1994** — Jockey Club Sarah Roe School (JCSRS) was established with support from the Hong Kong Jockey Club, originally having just two classrooms and six students in the ESF Therapy Centre. It was named after well-known occupational therapist Sarah Roe, who established the forerunner of JCSRS.

**1991** — With 60 students and four members of staff, West Island School (WIS) opened on the site of the Old Military Hospital in Mid-Levels. In 1994, the school moved to Pok Fu Lam.

**1992** — Clearwater Bay School opened at its permanent site in Clearwater Bay. Previously known as Boundary Junior School, it had been operating at a temporary site near Boundary Road in Kowloon since 1975.

**1994** — ESF Educational Services Ltd (ESL) was established with a view to offering a broad range of extra-curricular and after-school activities including sports, language and learning activities.





**Cathy Lee**  
South Island School (Class of 2001)

## Learning How to Give Back

Cathy Lee is immensely grateful for her time at South Island School (SIS) and for everything she was able to learn. The great learning environment not only helped her fulfil her potential, but also taught her respect, organisation and self-discipline.

“All my friends, classmates and teachers were so supportive, and played a huge role in shaping who I am today,” says Cathy. “We learnt to accept different points of view, and students were constantly encouraged to not only focus on academics but on other extracurricular activities.” Some of her fondest memories include performing at weekly assemblies, running game booths at the annual school fair and spending three days on a boat during an adventurous school camp.

“ESF gave me a wonderful education,” she adds. “An important part of growing up was having students that had special educational needs as peers. We were taught to care, respect and help one another. The spirit of empathy and compassion was embodied by everyone at the school.”

This experience, Cathy explains, made her realise

how important it is for every child, irrespective of circumstance, to get a good education. Today, Cathy supports both local and international charities with a mission to help underprivileged children go to school.

Cathy became the first Asian patron of Save the Children Hong Kong in 2016, a year after the Nepal earthquake which destroyed more than 600,000 homes.

She recalls visiting Nepal’s worst earthquake-stricken areas and being shocked to see that three million families were still without permanent shelter. And while over 500 temporary schools have been built by Save the Children since the tragedy, there’s still much that needs to be done. Therefore, she set up the Children’s Emergency Fund to help the children in disaster-stricken areas from Nepal to Ecuador and Ethiopia.



Locally, she set up the Glamour To Give Charity with her husband, Martin Lee, to alleviate the sufferings of the needy with a focus on providing much needed support for underprivileged children. She is also an Honorary Patron of Summerbridge Hong Kong, which allows underprivileged youths to participate in summer camps within an immersive English language environment.

"Summerbridge is a wonderful programme," explains Cathy. "It's not just about learning English, it's also about building confidence, teamwork, and helping each other learn. It feels like a big family!"

In addition, as a goodwill ambassador of the Chi Heng Foundation since 2007, Cathy is determined to help orphans whose parents have fallen victim to the HIV virus. "Most of these children live in poverty, but do not have HIV themselves. So they have very long and bright futures ahead of them. Unfortunately, because their parents died from the virus, they face discrimination," she says. "We try to put them into local schools as we don't want these children to be stigmatised as 'AIDS impacted'. Hopefully, education can give them a chance at a brighter future." The results thus far have been promising – previous beneficiaries have grown up, graduated from university and returned to work with Chi Heng, helping children in similar positions.

"I fondly reminisce about my time back at school," says Cathy. "I hope all ESF students appreciate how lucky they are to receive an education that combines so many areas of experience. Don't be afraid to say yes to as many opportunities as possible, it is only through trial and error that you may unexpectedly discover where your true passions lie."





King George V School 2017



Christmas performance



Peak School 2017



# TSING YI INTERNATIONAL KINDERGARTEN



ESF Tsing Yi International Kindergarten 2017

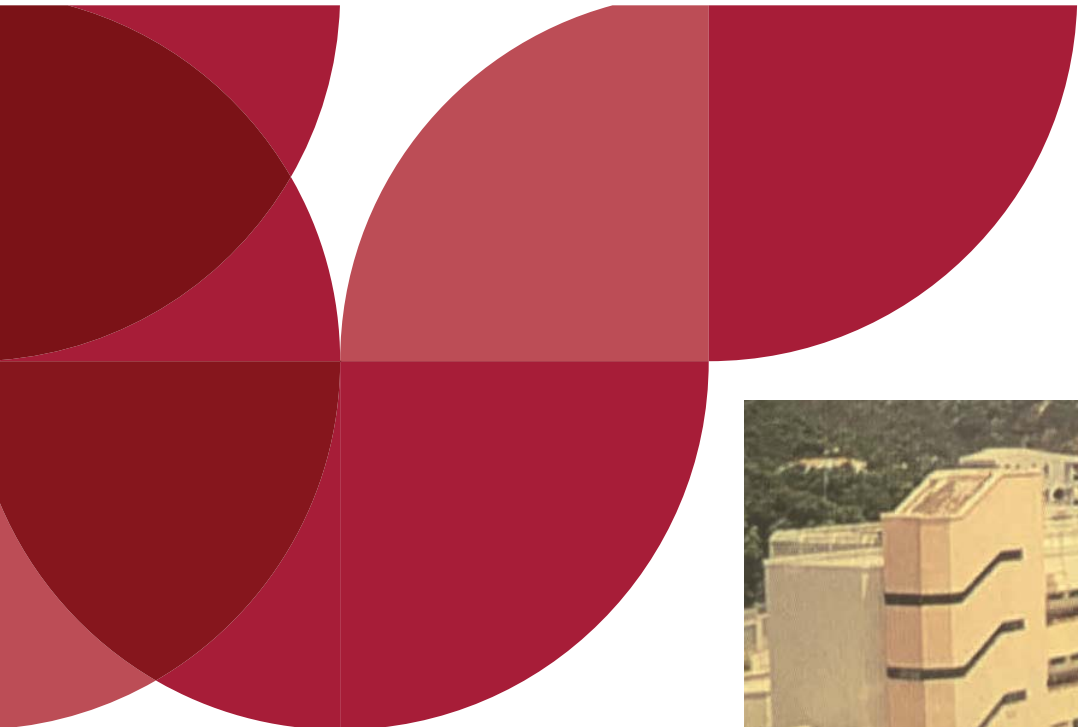
to participate in both the community's sporting and cultural events, as well as the international opportunities afforded as an ESF school.

As with the rest of ESF's schools, SJS is reliant on its parent body to help maintain the school's energetic community. "Our parents are very supportive of fundraising activities," says Perry. Recently, the school's hardworking PTA helped renovated the ICT specialist suite, and have even upgraded the sound and lighting capabilities in the school hall.



## Milestones

- 1988 SJS opened its doors for the first time, led by founding Principal Gordon Lewis.
- 1991 School visit by well-known actor Jackie Chan.
- 1992 School visit by HK Governor Chris Patten.
- 2004 Principal Lewis retired and was later awarded an OBE for his services to education in Hong Kong. The leadership of the school was passed to Dr. Allan Weston.
- 2005 A major building extension was opened and the school expanded to 900 students.
- 2008 Daily Mandarin lessons were added to the teaching programme.
- 2009 Current Principal Perry Tunesi arrived at the school. SJS was authorised by the International Baccalaureate organisation to run the Primary Years Programme.
- 2011 SJS was awarded full accreditation by the Council of International Schools.
- 2012 A Learning Support facility was opened at SJS. Initially catering for seven children, with the capacity to support a maximum of 21 students.
- 2013 25 Years Anniversary Celebrations – Time Capsule opened.
- 2015 The commencement of a three-year school refurbishment programme.
- 2017 Rooftop Mindfulness Garden Opened. Brett Fairweather, Founder of Jump Jam visits SJS.



SJS in 1997



First Principal Gordon Lewis awarded OBE



Maths lesson 30 years ago



SJS staff in 1997