

# Oldies' News

## Message from the President

A new look in a new year. Classrooms in the Ellen Lee Jubilee Building underwent an extensive upgrade last summer to create an environment that facilitates a more interactive learning experience, which supports the movement towards student-directed learning and fosters our students' sense of inspiration and creativity. The renovation was made possible with funds channelled through the St. Stephen's Girls' College Charitable Trust, which were raised during the fundraising initiative featured in the June 2019 issue of the AA Newsletter.



Sports has always been an integral part of life in SSGC. In Alumnae Spotlight, we speak to the Wright sisters who have broken a number of running records recently in Hong Kong. Meanwhile, Emily Pak Ho Yi, a recipient of the Siu Wai Ling Scholarship, talks about her life as a professional dancer.

Classes of 1973, 1978, 1988, 1998 and 2008 celebrated their graduation anniversaries in 2018. Please go to the Friendship Page section of this newsletter to share in the joy of their reunions!

I would like to thank you all for your support in the past two years. Please render your support to the newly elected AA president Wendy Chau Win Chee. Wishing you all a Happy New Year!

*Carmen Wong, President (2017-2019)*



# About Us



SSGCAA Web Site



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## Table of Contents

<b>From the President</b>	1	<b>SSGC Fundraising Events</b>	
		Racket Challenge	13
<b>About Us</b>	2	<b>The Friendship Page</b>	
		50/40/30/20	
<b>Alumnae Spotlight</b>		Class of 1973 Reunion	14-15
The Wright Sisters	3-5	Class of 1978 Reunion	16-17
		Class of 1988 Reunion	18-19
<b>Alumnae News</b>		Class of 1993 Reunion	20-21
Siu Wai Ling Scholarship	6-7	Class of 1998 Reunion	22
Mentorship Programme	8	Class of 2008 Reunion	23
Alumnae Choir	9	<b>Like Mother, Like Daughter</b>	24
Monthly Sports Days	9		
Annual General Meeting and Christmas Lunch	10-11		
<b>AA Excom News</b>	12		

## The Editorial Team



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Elaine June So ('01) Nora Tong Yuet Man ('97) Rosalyn Woo Sau Lum ('97)

# Alumnae Spotlight

## Outstanding SSGC Athletes - the Wright Sisters

Cade, Tallulah and Roxanne Wright have been Hong Kong's leading high school distance runners in the past few years. At last year's Inter-School Athletics Competition, they not only aced a number of races but also broke their personal records, giving the SSGC Athletics Team a great boost of confidence. Cade and Tallulah also represented Hong Kong in overseas championships.



*(From left to right) Cade, Roxanne and Tallulah Wright had a wonderful time at SSGC and would like to visit the school again when they have a chance*

Last summer, the Wright sisters bid farewell to their beloved school and city to return to Scotland - where their family is from - to continue training in distance running and triathlon. Twins Cade and Tallulah are 16 and Roxanne is 14. The AA Newsletter Team spoke with them before they left Hong Kong about their experience of competing on tracks, how they encourage one another and their love for SSGC.

C: Cade  
T: Tallulah  
R: Roxanne

***What has been most challenging for you as an athlete?***

**C:** When I first started running it was really tough. But good results have motivated me to carry on training for even better results. As a triathlete, you need to train every day. You have to train for three individual sports at the same time as you constantly work towards building up your fitness level.

**T:** I quit after just two months. But seeing the joy of running and training in Cade and Roxanne, I was encouraged to have another go and have since improved my game.

**R:** Training is not easy. There was a time when we had to get up at four in the morning, three times a week for training, which lasted about half a year. These days, Cade and Tallulah train up to 18 hours a week, and I at around 16 hours.

# Alumnae Spotlight

## **What is most rewarding about being involved in competitive sports?**

C: I have come to know many friends through sports in addition to having good health! I find sports more fun than studying, and I believe that the skills you develop, such as perseverance, will be beneficial to you for the rest of your life.

T: I like it when I know I can reach my goal and go beyond my boundary. Just two years ago I wouldn't have imagined myself achieving so much and going this far!

R: I have met lots of people through training. I have come to know my best friends through training and I see them every day.

## **How have training and competing with each other affected your sisterly bond?**

C: I think that as the three of us train together we are aware of how well each one of us is doing, and that makes us more competitive. Our coach says we become better athletes because we train with each other.

T: We have strengths of our own and can help each other out in competitions. For example, I am better at swimming and so can help Cade with swimming. She can save time by drafting off me. By training together, we can also motivate and help each other. We are not alone. We are there to offer emotional support.

## **How do you balance study and sports?**

C: The key is to minimise the use of mobile phone. I have also mastered the 'skill' of revising during lunchtime!

T: Through sports I have become a very focused person. During exam time, rather than putting training to a halt in order to study more, I assign, say, an hour to revision and focus my mind on it and finish it during that hour.

R: I do my homework in between training and school or after training. I also revise in the morning for a test or an exam.

**How would you describe your experience at SSGC as a whole?**

C: We all love this school. I have come to know many good friends and even learnt to speak Cantonese! I have no regrets. I am especially thankful to the school for supporting our sports pursuits. For example, we can skip class to take part in a competition. This is very lenient; it is not allowed in many other schools. I will also miss training with the school team. I am at my happiest when training with my friends and chatting with them during lunchtime. I hope we will stay in touch!

T: I really appreciate how the school provides a stress-free studying environment to student athletes like us. Our teachers understand when we are not able to finish our homework, and we can take leave of absence on the day of competition. I am also grateful for having built life-long relationships with teachers and friends at SSGPS and SSGC, including the special bonds with members of the Athletics Team. It is a wonderful feeling to strive towards the same goal as a team. I really hope I will come back and visit them one day.

R: Compared with other 'Band One' schools, our school is very accommodating and supportive of our participation in sports. I had such a lovely time at SSGC. Thank you!



*Congratulations to the Wright sisters on their remarkable achievements and we wish them all the best in their future endeavours!*

## Siu Wai Ling Scholarship

**Founded in 2002 on the 90th birthday of former P.E. teacher Miss Siu Wai Ling, the Siu Wai Ling Scholarship supports St. Stephenies who pursue sports studies and carries on Miss Siu's spirit of sportsmanship. This article is part of a series that features recipients of the SWL Scholarship.**

Dancer Emily Pak Ho Yi received the SWL Scholarship in 2007, the year she completed Form 5 at SSGC. Since taking up ballet at the age of four, Emily has developed a passion for dancing and has gone on to become a professional dancer. She obtained an undergraduate degree in dancing from the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts and is now a member of the Konzert und Theater St. Gallen in Switzerland where she takes part in up to 100 ballet performances a year.



*Emily and Ms Y. Lee, one of the P.E. teachers at SSGC, back in the school days*

**Q: What is the significance of being awarded the SWL Scholarship?**

**A: It was nice to be recognised. There aren't many scholarships that support dancers in Hong Kong. It also gave me valuable financial support.**

**Q: What are the challenges of being a dancer? How do you overcome them?**

**A: Dancing is very demanding, both physically and mentally. You need to move your own body while connect with others. You need a high level of concentration and have to be there all the time, taking responsibility and constantly involved in the process. And there's of course the toning of the body and muscles, and the need to build strength, stamina and coordination skills and improve your musicality.**

**As a dancer you need a lot of discipline and dedication. You need to be willing to spend time to reflect on, for example, your steps and the meaning of the piece, and think of what can be done better. You also need to follow the instructions of your teachers and choreographers.**

Q: What keeps you motivated?

A: We all like to dance to begin with. But when it's become a job it's not a hobby anymore. You need to sacrifice. But it is this very challenge that keeps me going and being enthusiastic about what I do.

It is most rewarding when the audience connect with us and enjoy and appreciate our performance. Our hard work pays off.



*Competing in the inter-school dance festival as part of the SSGC Dance Team*

Q: In what ways did SSGC prepare you for your career?

A: As the captain of the Dance Team, I learnt how to lead and take care of people, such as what to do when someone is injured. I was also exposed to different dance styles when I was in the dance team.

Q: Where do you see yourself in five years?

A: I am in a career that is difficult to plan ahead. But I would like to dance longer. After that, maybe I will become a choreographer. There are many possibilities.

Q: What are your tips for your 'See Mui' who want to pursue a career in dancing?

A: To persist and grab every opportunity, and not feel deflated even when the situation is not in your favour.



*Emily practising (left) and performing in her current role as a member of Konzert und Theater St. Gallen in Switzerland*

# Alumnae News

## Mentorship Programme

Now in its 15th year, the SSGC AA Mentorship Programme kicked off in fine fashion on Saturday, 19 October 2019. The programme aims to help mentees make more informed decisions regarding their life and career. Mentors also benefit enormously by giving advice and building a bigger and better SSGC alumnae network.

This year's event drew 57 mentors and 71 mentees representing approximately over 10 industries. Participants were drawn from various fields of endeavour and different walks of life to provide mentees with extensive breadth and depth of exposure. Activities included introductions, presentations overviewing various sectors, and group activities. Finally, a group photo was taken to commemorate the event. We hope that this kick-off event has been the catalyst for mentors and mentees to engage in enriching discussions for the remainder of the programme!



## Alumnae Choir

On 14 July 2019, the SSGC Music Committee organised a concert titled 'Mid Summer Dream' at the JC Hall. The Alumnae Choir was honoured to be invited to participate at this concert with students, parents and alumni in the audience. With Robyn Lo as conductor and Karen Lok as pianist, 32 alumnae performed three songs– 'A Gaelic Blessing', 'Look At The World' and 'I Remember'. The performance was a success and the concert was very enjoyable for both performers and audience.



## Monthly Sports Days

Since 2017, alumnae have been gathering once every month to play some sports at SSGC. Matches of 'See Tse' vs 'See Mui' were filled with laughter and energy. We hope to continue these wonderful homecoming Sports Days and that more of you will join us!



# Alumnae News

## Annual General Meeting and Christmas Lunch

The Annual General Meeting of SSGC Alumnae Association was held at the Hong Kong Football Club on 7 December 2019, followed by our Christmas lunch.

Christmas lunch was filled with joy and laughter. Angelic voices from our Alumnae Choir, a Christmas flower workshop, and lucky draw marked a perfect beginning of the festive season!





# AA Excom News

Three members of the SSGC Alumnae Association Executive Committee gave birth this past year. Congratulations to the families and welcome these lovely bundles of joy! Wishing all of you health, joy and peace!



*Ada Pat (2001) and baby Gira Fai*



*Fiona So with her husband and their three children - Kathleen, Edward and David*



*Elaine So, her husband and their daughters Leanne and baby Larissa*

# SSGC Fundraising Events

## Racket Challenge 2019

The second Racket Challenge Tournament and the Parent-child Heptathlon (親子七項全能同樂日) was successfully held on 23 June 2019. Badminton and table tennis enthusiasts gathered in the Primary School Hall, the Gymnasium and the JC Hall for exciting matches and games. It was encouraging to see not only students from our Kindergarten, Primary and Secondary sections competing, but also alumnae and parents. The total number of participants was close to 800. The fun-filled day not only offered an opportunity for participants to hone their sports skills, but also strengthened the unity of the SSGC community. We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to all who came to the event as well as the volunteer helpers for their support and participation. We look forward to welcoming you again at our future events.



# The Friendship Page

50/40/30/20

## Class of 1973 – The 45th Anniversary Reunion

2018 was a special year for our Class of 1973, marking the 50th anniversary of the commencement of our secondary education at SSGC. We grew up together during the vulnerable adolescent years in this warm, caring and nurturing school. Many of our laughter and tears, happiness and disappointments, achievements and struggles - all in all, the components of growing up - took place at every corner of our heritage school ground.



For this special anniversary, two reunion activities were held in November 2018. We were delighted that some dear teachers were able to join - Mrs Angela Cheung, Mrs Judy Chua, Mrs Anna Lee and Mrs Maria Poon. Quite a few classmates living overseas for years also flew back specially to attend these reunion activities:

- (a) A day trip to our classmate's eco farm in Taipo - Apart from a sumptuous vegetarian buffet with all the fresh produce direct from the farm, we also enjoyed hand-picking fresh vegetables by ourselves to bring home.
- (b) A three-day tour to Danxia Mountain in China - In addition to a visit to the world heritage natural scenery in an exclusive package tour, we had lots of fun, sharing and pillow talk with our good old mates over these few days.



It is inevitable that many of us now exhibit physical signs of ageing, but our laughter and love towards one another have not changed at all. Most precious of all, our respected teachers found it timely to reveal their secret formula for remaining young and beautiful, as encoded in SSGC:

- S** - Skin (to look after our skin by sleeping early and staying calm)
- S** - Service (to serve the community and the needy)
- G** - God (to believe in God and that His grace is sufficient)
- C** - Cheerful (to be happy irrespective of what situations we are facing)

Whilst we were so happy to meet our good old friends and teachers, some of whom had not seen each other for 45 years, we are sad to realise that our reunion last year was unexpectedly the last occasion for some of us to catch up with our good classmate, Joyce Li, who passed away three months after our reunion. A special tribute to Joyce who had been very active in bringing all the SSGC alumni news to our class!

Let's treasure every precious opportunity to stay connected with our classmates and teachers.

SSGC hurrah!



# The Friendship Page

## Class of 1978 – The 40th Anniversary Reunion

After the diligent planning of over 18 months, Class 1978 joyfully celebrated the 40th anniversary of graduation on 20 and 21 October 2018.

In the morning of 20 October, 30 classmates joined the home-coming visit. Ms Maggie Chau, Principal of our school, and two other teachers kindly greeted us before the tour began. We were then divided into three groups, each of which was guided by three student ambassadors who are most lovely and impressive. We took a lot of photos in the Main Building, the Ellen Lee Jubilee Building, the Garden and some new facilities too. We really felt 'at home' and recalled many good memories from our school days.



In the evening, we held a reunion dinner with 70 classmates (17 from overseas) and 12 lovely teachers joining us. We prepared two balloon figures in SSGC uniforms and our classmates were keen to take photos with the figures. We took a big group photo with all teachers and classmates before the dinner started and a hard copy photo was printed and given to all attendees. During the dinner, two interesting games were held adding to the highlights in the evening:



(1) 'Unchanged 40 years' and (2) 'How much you know about the school'. In the first game, eight classmates were nominated to compete to be most 'unchanged' after 40 years. In the second game, we asked 10 questions about SSGC and each table was asked to answer them in a group. The questions were kindly suggested by Miss Jora Ma, our history guru in

the school. The competition was very keen with two tables getting the same scores in the first 10 questions and the final winner was decided after answering three more questions. At the very end, we presented hand-made gifts to our 12 adorable teachers. The gift is a framed poem showing our heartfelt thanks and gratitude to our teachers.



Soon after the exciting evening on the 20th, we went on a day trip to Shenzhen the next morning with 31 classmates joining. We had such a great time visiting two newest and most popular shopping malls in Shenzhen. We also tried the famous HEYTEA (喜茶) and watched the wonderful Light Show in the evening. Our stomachs were all filled with good food amidst incessant laughter and chatting throughout the day.



Since some teachers were unable to join the reunion dinner on the 20th, we arranged a lunch a few days later to present the special gifts to them and they were very impressed by our arrangement.

In the reunion dinner, Mrs Angela Cheung, on behalf of all the teachers, spoke to us and gave us a lot of encouragement and very kind words. When she said 'Well Done Girls', all at once it brought us back to our teenagers' time and tears were just filling our eyes! After so many years, our Class of 1978 is still intact and most importantly, we still care for each other. It is so amazing and we are really blessed!

Our Class of 1978 feels very grateful to our Heavenly Father who has been watching over us in the past years and we pray that His love will continue to hold us together in the many more years to come. Let's 'In Faith Go Forward'.

# The Friendship Page



## Class of 1988 – The 30th Anniversary Reunion

For some of us, it had been 30 years since we saw each other after graduating from SSGC. 2018 was a special year and we wanted to catch up and reminisce about those high school days! We had two big reunion activities - class photo shooting in January and reunion dinner in June, and many smaller reunion activities throughout the year.

### 88 久別多年重聚，同窗情懷依舊

88 踴躍參加了母校舉辦 walkathon 活動，並意想不到地獲得了一份極具意義的大獎 - 免費回母校拍攝相片一輯。在過去的週末，我們藉此難得的機會，在母校聚首一堂。

由於我們離開了校園已有一段相當的日子，因此活動當天大家表現異常興奮，一見面即擁作一團，互相寒暄問候，郭少流堂、班房、校園走廊，一下子喧嘩聲嬉笑聲交錯，一幕幕昔日校園的回憶片片襲來，勾起了大家的快樂回憶。這時，攝影師 Tracy 已被我們的真情流露感染，不再呼喚我們排位拍攝，却不斷按下快門，將這幅美好畫面記錄！在此，88 多謝舊生會各種活動，使我們有機會聚首一堂，重溫舊夢。我們更要感謝母校提供優良學習環境、老師們循循善誘的關懷教誨，讓我們立身處世、本信而進前。

Where did the time go? The class of 1988 celebrated their 30th graduation anniversary in Central on 16 June 2018.



Many graduates attended. Some of them had not seen each other for years, but no ice breaking was needed. The room was instantly filled with lots of greetings, joyful screams and loving hugs as everyone arrived. It felt like recess time back in the days when classes P, R, S, T all mingled together. The once little girls in their blue *cheong sam* are all radiating and leading in their own ways now. Some are dedicated mothers and home managers with 'super powers', some are teachers and professors, some are professional career women... all of them carry the love and fond memories of their alma mater with them and go forward in faith every day.

They spent the evening catching up and reconnecting, laughing at old jokes and making new ones too. They sang all the 'oldies' and danced to all their favourites. Pictures and selfies were non-stop throughout the evening. They talked and talked and nearly forgot to enjoy the lovely buffet dinner especially prepared for this memorable occasion.



The biggest surprise came when each of the graduates was presented with a gift, a framed stitched art with everyone's initial, hand sewn and custom-designed by Anna Ho. Everyone was deeply touched by the time, thoughtfulness and heartfelt love she had put into each gift.

The waiters of the evening commented that none of the attendants looked a day over 30! Indeed, the Class of 1988 is forever young! They are tightly bonded with positive energy, incomparable wit and humour and most importantly, the deepest friendship and love for each other.



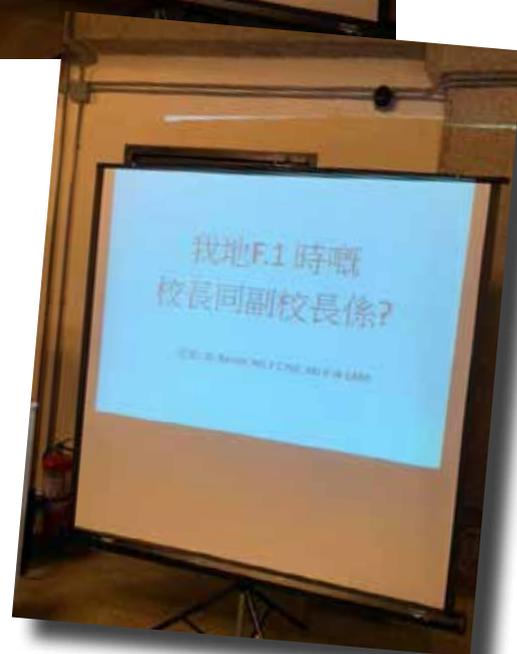
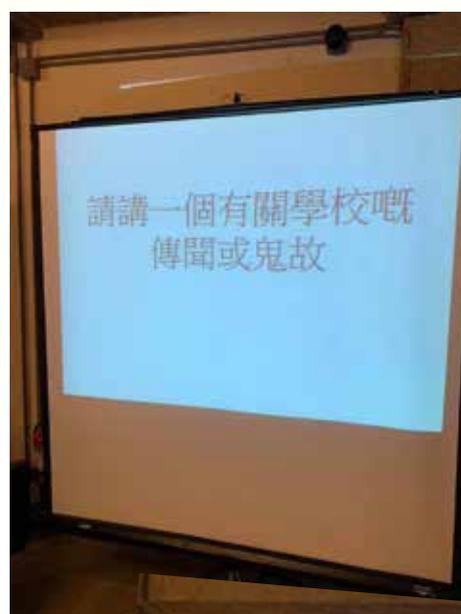
# The Friendship Page

## Class of 1993 – 25th Anniversary Reunion

The class of 1993 celebrated our 25th graduation anniversary at HC: Bistro, a restaurant run by Hong Chi Association situated in Tai Kwun in December 2018.

It was a night full of non-stop laughters, with good food and precious company of each other.

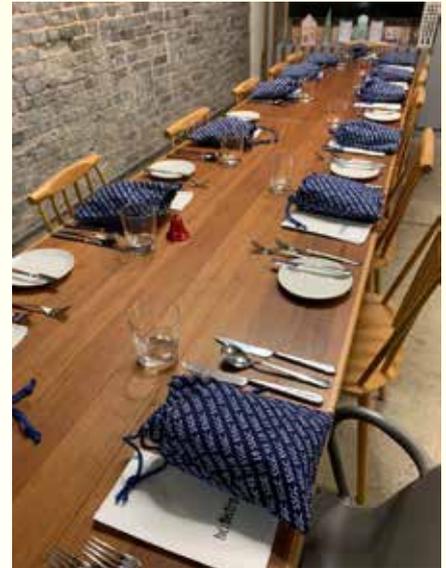
Besides catching up with one another of our latest, the highlight of the night was a group game organised by the organising committee. We were split by class and competed in a crazy quiz, 「**那些年問答比賽**」. Questions were around the good old days at school including: how much was a small chicken wing at tuck shop at our times? Who were the Head Girls during our times (name all of the 7)? Name a ghost story that is related to our school. There were also questions by subject too: Economics, Geography, Physics etc.! Everyone had soooo much fun and we couldn't stop laughing!



We have also recreated the F.5 graduation dinner souvenir we made back in 1993 as a special keepsake for everyone. Also a new tote bag that matches the theme. The set was very well sought after as photos of them appear on social media!

We are super grateful that we met and grew up with each other in SSGC sharing the special moments along the way. Thanks to all the teachers, supporting staff and principals who have been with us throughout, the love and care you have given us, making us who we are today !

Looking forward to our big 30th anniversary celebration in a few years!!



# The Friendship Page

## Class of 1998 – The 20th Anniversary Reunion

1998 was a great year! What happened in 1998? Well, some of the highlights included:

- ◆ The 1998 Winter Olympics was held in Nagano, Japan; and the 1998 FIFA World Cup was held in France
- ◆ Titanic became the highest grossing film of all time, surpassing US\$1 billion in tickets sales – a record at that time
- ◆ Google was founded in Menlo Park, California, U.S.
- ◆ The new Hong Kong International Airport at Chek Lap Kok opened and the old Kai Tak Airport closed...

**... and this group of beautiful ladies graduated from St. Stephen's Girls' College!**

In 1998, we were all shy girls looking to the future. Twenty years later we met at Ho Tung Hall to reminisce over all the highlights and low-lights (mostly highlights...) of the last two decades. Many of us have changed in so many ways – mostly, we are louder and prouder of our time at SSGC. Discussion was boisterous over what was supposed to be a "casual afternoon tea", which ran into night time.

We discussed our careers, families, travels and future plans. We took plenty of photos and had lots of fun!

However, as we looked back, we realised that the more we change, the more we stay the same. Our time at SSGC stays and our mischievous innocence stays with us forever... It's always wonderful to catch up with old friends from SSGC!



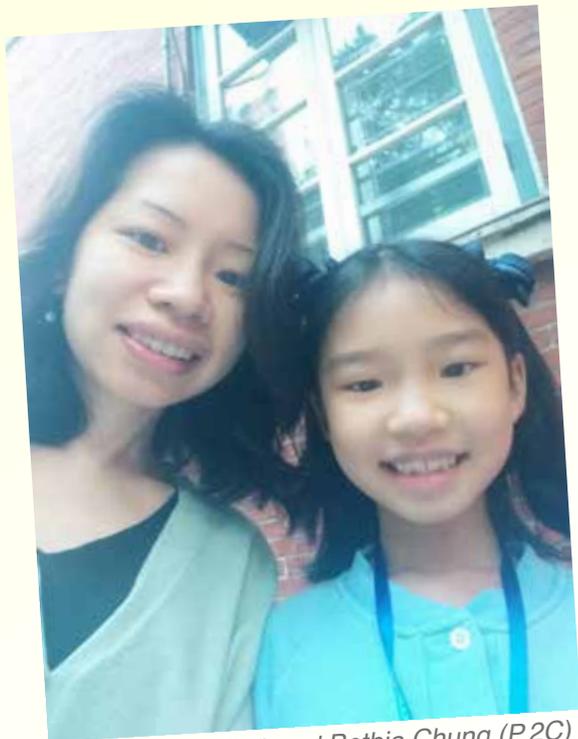
## Class of 2008 – The 10th Anniversary Reunion

In an evening of November 2018, the 5E class of 2008 gathered to celebrate their 10th graduation year. Around 20 members of the class reunited at one of the alumnae's home. This was the second time that the big group reunited; the class gathers every five years to share their recent lives. Just like when we were in secondary school, we sat in a circle and shared pizza with lots of laughter. Some of us opted for traditional careers such as doctors and lawyers, while a few were involved in more interesting jobs such as being a start-up app developer or a chemical engineer for a Middle Eastern oil company. A few were going to get married soon, too.

One highlight of the night was the opening of our time capsule. On the last day of F.5 in SSGC, every one of us wrote a letter to our future self. We added another letter five years ago in our first reunion. We made guesses to questions such as who was the first to have kids and start her own business. It was lots of fun to read our answers and check if our predictions were correct. We all enjoyed the noisy, amazing night and we certainly look forward to our next reunion!



# *Like Mother, Like Daughter*



*Jessie Chau ('97) and Bethia Chung (P.2C)*



*Madeline Kwok ('96), Elsa Lee ('67) and Ashley Lo (P.1A)*



*Quennie Cheng ('95) and Amber Lee (P.1B)*



*Too Lai Chong ('93) and Chang Nim Hang Eunice (K3)*