

The Trust Fund Concept

What is Ying Wa's dream list? And how then can we 'old girls' help?

The latest thinking on funding being explored is the concept of a Trust Fund. Once set up, any donations can be put into the fund and managed by a committee. The committee will in turn decide on how the funds can be judiciously used. The advantage of this set-up is that funds called for and collected need not be tied to one single project. This will lend flexibility to long-term planning and development. And Ying Wa can have her 'dream choices'.

While the Trust will ensure that the school has the freedom to utilise the funds, donors too are, in fact, given choices. This is because under the Trust fund concept, the school has identified some areas that need priority funding. And donors are encouraged to indicate their preference. Basically, there are two choices:

- *Providing opportunities for learning beyond the classroom and school walls*

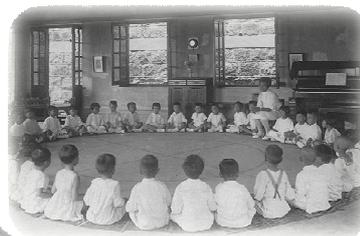


This is a people-related project. As far as memory goes, Ying Wa has always adopted the broader education goal of preparing her students for the wider world beyond. It is envisaged that with sufficient funding, both students and teachers can be sent to take overseas enhancement courses. It is also hoped that needy students will be given subsidies for extra-curricular lessons and activities in arts and sports.



- *Preserving the past and creating space for the future*

Space is a precious commodity in Ying Wa. The hilly terrain on which the school site sits offers little room for extension. Nearly every possible square foot has been put to use - with the exception of the tiny cottage at the far end of what used to be the tennis court. Built in 1926, the cottage once housed the kindergarten, a ground-breaking service for young children in those far-off days. Miraculously, this one-storey structure has to-date escaped the wrecking ball. While it has remained the only historic architectural asset on the school site, it is also the only space that is under-utilised.



Currently, the School Council and Alumnae Association are debating its fate. Demolishing this cottage may provide an extra piece of land for another extension to house much-needed modern facilities. Preserving this last vestige of the past may mean saving a part of heritage for future generations.

Whichever is the outcome of the debate, funds will be needed before any informed decisions can be made.

The First Donor

Work on establishing the Trust Fund has already been set in motion. While it will take some time to complete the formalities, the good news is that we have already had a donor.

Rev. C.C. Lee – past student, teacher, vice-principal, school chaplain, school council member and school supervisor has kindly agreed to donate 1,000 copies of her latest book to Ying Wa. The total revenue from the sale will go directly to the new Trust.



Any more brave souls to follow suit?

Remember: while you contribute to the Trust, and whether or not you have indicated your choice of how the contribution is to be spent, you are in fact giving Ying Wa a choice – a choice on how to make the right move in the right direction.



Ying Wa is indeed at the crossroads. But for those of us who have passed through her doors, it is both a privilege and a duty that we share in the process of change and to ensure that our *Alma Mater* is able to make a smooth and successful transition from the past to the future and from the traditional to the modern.

