

Yesterday, Margaret and I attended the Gratitude Dinner held to celebrate the 85th and 90th anniversaries of WYK & WYHK at the Grand Hall of Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre. It was a really big event of grand scale with well over one thousand people attending. It was quite a long walk from the entrance of the Convention Centre to the Grand Hall. On the way, I was greeted by many WYK old boys. By the time we were approaching the Grand Hall, the place was getting more crowded as people were queuing up for signing their attendance and buying souvenirs such as school ties, letter holders, Wah Yan anniversary mugs and so on, while others were drinking and socializing. Just at that moment, Siu Kin Wai (1972 grad) came up and told me that I needed not sign up at the desk because I was a guest of honour that evening. Next to Siu were Chow Tak Hau and Chang Yun Por. All three are medical specialists. When I stood among them taking a photo, I do feel I was well protected

When we moved towards the dining area, we were greeted by more former WYK grads of different years. Among them were the group of 1969 grads, Yang Yat Hong, Ng Tin Hoi and others. The Grand Hall is indeed very big. 120 tables were not able to fill it up. Once inside the hall, I came across many more familiar faces with more photos taken. Among those Wah Yan teachers I know were Mr Wong Chin Wah, Mr Leung Kin Ping, Mr Yu Boon Leung, and Mr Chiu Hay Kau, as well as Dr Tan Kang, Rev Fr Naylor, and Rev Fr Deignan. Yang Yat Hong very kindly offered to guide us to the head table and helped us to look for our seats, as the head table was a very large round one, enough to seat 24 and more people and all the seats were labelled. It came to my notice that among those sitting right in front of me were Dr Tan Kang, Principal of WYK, ... Rev Fr Stephen Chow, ... Rev Fr Naylor ... , further to their right were Mr Norman So, ... Mr Leung Kar Kit. I also noticed Fr Coghlan at the other head table. There were too many of them for me to mention.

The evening's programme began with the school songs, followed by welcoming speeches by the School Supervisor, the two School Principals and the Dinner Chairman. Then there was the cutting of the birthday cake, toasting and saying the grace before the actual dinner began. It was a Chinese dinner with elegant, tasty and healthy dishes accompanied by a series of well planned and most entertaining and captivating programmes, including stage performance by famous singer Hacken Lee and Raymond Yu (Ex. Assistant Principal, WYHK), souvenirs/prizes presentation, auctioning of specially meaningful items, (including artist prints by Knox Martin and Ben Lau, an old desk top carved with the badge of WYK, etc.), performance by WYK old Boys Choir and Group 281, raffle tickets draw, and "Wah Yan Millionaire". I found the very last event Wah Yan Millionaire most interesting and captivating. All the questions leading to the million-dollar one were on the history of Wah Yan College. They were so set as to test one's knowledge, common sense and intelligence.

All in all, it was a great evening. I enjoyed the food, the company, the atmosphere, the friendship, and, above all, the remarkable memory of my days at Wah Yan was brought back to life for me again.