We had been looking forward to it for months – and what a warm, joyous and touching occasion it was when it finally arrived on 17th March!! I’m sure none of us who were there will ever forget it for the rest of our life.

The occasion I’m referring to is, of course, the lunch gathering celebrating the 100th birthday of Hotung Secondary School’s most precious treasure – our Founding Principal Mrs Kitty Cheung! It is
amazing enough for anyone to have lived to such a ripe old age, and it is even more amazing for our beloved trailblazer not just to reach this milestone but to remain as fiercely independent, physically agile and alert, fashionably elegant and endearingly warm-hearted as ever! She is really the envy of every modern woman – and perhaps of every modern man too!

The lunch gathering on 17th March was attended by over 140 former Hotung girls as well as past teachers and four former principals, in addition to me. Mrs Cheung was beaming with joy and smiles from the moment she arrived up to the very end of the party. At one point, she was almost moved to tears as her former students and successors heaped heartfelt accolades and thankful words on her. She said that she never expected this when she started off back in the 1950s heading a ‘small’ school (which she worried might be closed in a few years) and so she felt very ‘blessed’. The unanimous thought, however, is that it is generations of Hotung girls who are truly blessed for having such a fearless, visionary leader who gave her all to lay a firm foundation for this community.

I am thrilled to have the chance to take a photo with Mrs Cheung.

The birthday party draws an enthusiastic response and is well attended.
If there’s still someone who is still puzzled by Hotung girls’ enduring love for Mrs Cheung, the public expression of gratitude by alumna Ms Gloria Chow, graduate of 1964, serves to illuminate the sentiment. She revealed that when she was in junior forms, she was tragically orphaned overnight. When Mrs Cheung found out about her situation, she immediately took her under her wings. As the principal was concerned about her frail health, she arranged for the girl to have lunch with her and the teachers every day! And they also gave Gloria pocket money to spend — out of their own pocket! Thanks to their kindhearted support, she was able to stand on her feet eventually. No wonder Gloria declared passionately, “I owe my life to Mrs Cheung!” — before giving her mentor a warm, tender hug.

Words fail me in my attempt to describe how truly, thoroughly joyous the occasion was. As the saying goes, “A picture tells a thousand words”, so in the following I’d like to present you with lots and lots of pictures taken on that afternoon in order to do justice to the all-permeating happiness engulfing the venue. And needless to say, many Hotung girls are already hard at work behind the scene putting together next year’s 101st birthday party of Mrs Cheung!
We give Mrs Cheung the warmest welcome!!
The party starts off with the taking of a group photo!!

But it's not an easy task!

It's hard but it's finally done!
Ms Maggie Yeong takes up the MC duties.

It is truly a historic moment – six principals of Hotung Secondary School gathering under the same roof!!
Mrs Cheung is presented with lots of birthday gifts!!

Dr Susan Ho Fung-lin presents her beloved mentor with an original Chinese painting.
A Tribute to Mrs Kitty Cheung

A beauty still in her centenary,
A goddess placed from heaven’s dignity,
A principal whose nurtured populate,
She shines as hearts endearing gravitate.

The word “nurtured” refers to the nurtured ones, i.e. the students, where the figure of speech engages an adjective to refer to a collective group. The word “populate” denotes spreading, of messages and of locations.

Dr Carlye Tsui explains the poem to Mrs Cheung and Ms Fung Lin-foon.
Mrs Cheung cuts the lovely birthday cake!!

Happy Birthday

The lovely cake is the creation of Ms Ling Wingesze, graduate of 2007.
Everyone thanks Mrs Cheung for her red packet!!
Everyone has a good time eating and catching up !!
Singing of school song brings the occasion to a perfect ending!!
What a warm, joyous and touching occasion it is!!
What a warm, joyous and touching occasion it is!!

Friends Forever