

CANOSSIAN SCHOOL REACH

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



Center of excellence for the education of children with hearing loss

February 2021

From the Principal's Desk

Dear Parents / Guardians,

We hope you have settled in to a new year at work and home. Your children have settled in well and are getting into the rhythm of longer days with support lessons and CCAs in the afternoon. Even as we resume our normal routines, I would urge you to continue to be vigilant against the threat of the pandemic and comply with guidelines for social interaction.

My message for this month is on social skills needed for social interactions. When children have social interactions in their daily lives, parents and caregivers may observe them to be awkward, shy or hesitant. This is common behaviour pattern among children with hearing loss. They may feel that their speech is not clear so they may not be easily understood. Here's where the old adage applies – Practise makes perfect. Children are not going to get better in their speech unless they continue to practise.

Another reason they are may be socially inept is because they lack social skills. What are social skills? These are skills that we use for communication and interaction with people. Children have to learn the rules of conversation such as turn-taking, responding appropriately, having joint attention and knowing how to begin or end a conversation. When they come across people that they may or may not know, they need to know how to acknowledge and greet them. They have to learn to maintain eye contact and use non-verbal cues throughout the conversation.

We emphasise social skills in school and these should be reinforced by parents ad caregivers in a variety of social settings beyond the school. Make it a point for them to greet people at home or in the neighbourhood. They should do so clearly and confidently. When they are a supermarket or a food court, encourage them to be the first to greet the person behind the counter. Such simple actions are opportunities for them to practise social skills and build language structures. To top this, it's a very simple way of spreading cheer and joy all around. Nurturing these habits in our children is one of the easiest ways of having them demonstrate one of the 4 attributes of Canossian students – the attribute of **cheerfulness** (with compassion, commitment and gratitude being the other 3). As significant adults in their lives, we should role model such behaviour ourselves. After all, "being a role model is the most powerful form of educating" (quote by John Wooden).

God Bless.

Christina Michael (Ms)
Principal

Chinese New Year Celebration

The school will be celebrating Chinese New Year on Thursday, 11 February. Students will report to school from 7 am to 10.00 am. Students are allowed to come to school in any ethnic attire (of appropriate design). Hair accessories and shoes must be in full compliance with the school rules. Those who do not wish to wear ethnic attire must come to school in their formal school uniform. Students will need to bring their Student Planner, thermometer, water bottle and stationery. Please note that **12 February to 14 February are public holidays and 15 February is a school holiday**. Students will return to school on 16 February.

The school would like to take this opportunity to wish all staff, parents and students a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Canossian Saints' Day

The school will be celebrating **Canossian Saints Day on 1st March**. All students will be dismissed at 10.00am.

Co-Curricular Activities (CCA)

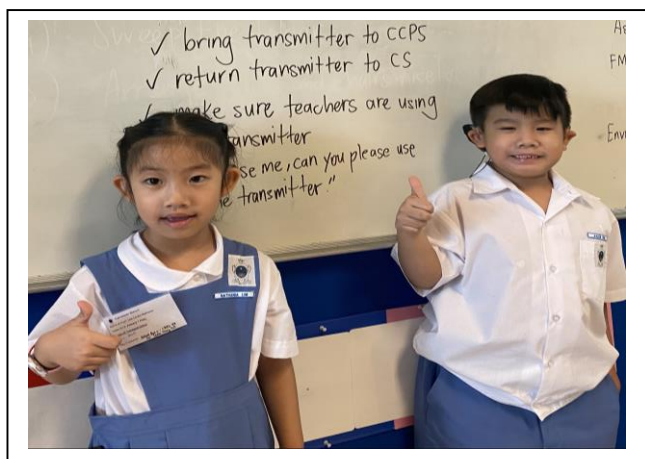
CCAs are a key component of students' holistic education. In CS, students discover and develop their interests and talents through CCA. It is also through CCA that students develop their character, learn values, social emotional competencies and skills to prepare them for future challenges.

For 2021, CS will offer Band, Choir and 'Art in the Garden' as CCA. Band and Choir will remain as the core CCAs. 'Art in the Garden' CCA will be offered to students as an elective.

There will be an inclusive Art CCA on Monday at CCPS. Students can choose to attend it as an elective. Parents have to arrange their own transport. There will 'Art in the Garden' enrichment on Friday for all students. Students will be exposed to different forms of art and nature and will be grouped according to their level to attend the sessions.

Welcome Primary One Students

This year, Canossian School welcomes 5 amazing students to the primary 1 cohort. They are compassionate, joyful, curious and most importantly ever ready to learn.



Health Check

The School Health Service (SHS) team will be conducting the annual Health Screening for Primary School on Thursday, 18 February 2021. In view of the nationwide COVID-19 vaccination programme, many healthcare workers are being deployed to assist in the programme. Hence, the deployment to schools for health screening and immunisation will be revised and screening selected students or levels at this visit. Your child will be informed nearer the date if selected. Other students or levels which are not selected for this visit will be updated if when more information is available.

More information on and consent to Health Screening for Primary School are available on the website of Health Promotion Board with the following web links respectively.

https://www.healthhub.sg/live-healthy/365/health_screening_for_primary_school

<https://childconsent.hpb.gov.sg/ship/process/SHIP/OnlineChildConsentPortal>

Audiological Tips for Parents

Protecting Hearing Devices by Keeping Them Dry

When hearing devices are repeatedly exposed to moisture, corrosion becomes a real concern. In hot, humid, and rainy Singapore, how can we help devices last longer and prevent expensive repairs?

Firstly, use a **hearing aid dryer** every night. Electronic dryboxes (1) use air and heat to dry hearing devices. Simply place the hearing aids inside, close it, and press the start button.



Other dryers (2 & 3) use silica gel to absorb moisture. Check periodically that the silica gel is still active and change it when it is used up.

Secondly, **headbands** can greatly reduce the amount of sweat getting to the hearing devices when your child engages in physical activities. Make sure he/she has a comfortable and clean headband for PE in school, and encourage them to wear one when active outside of school, too

