

CANOSSIAN SCHOOL REACH MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



Center of excellence for the education of children with hearing loss Nov 2021

From the Principal's Desk

Dear Parents/Guardians

We have come to the end of another year of uncertainties and opportunities. As we sit back and reflect on the year, we ponder the year ahead. With Christmas upon us and celebrations for the close of the year, many think about gift exchanges and celebrations. Perhaps it is also a time to think about which is of more significance to us – the gift or the giver?

It is in this vein that we have decided to end the year with the theme of “I am Special.... designed by God” for our Thanksgiving 2021. Through this theme, we want our students to remember how special and unique each one is, each handcrafted by God. We want to acknowledge their uniqueness - some have extraordinary gifts and talents such as artistic or musical talents, others may have mathematical prowess or innovative ways of finding solutions in design. While we recognize some may have exceptional talents, some others may appear to be “plain vanilla” and may feel just ordinary. Is being average unimportant or non-spectacular? It's time we have to move away from the tyranny of the average student, the student who is often overlooked despite having his/ her own abilities.

As a faith-based school, we need to be more Christ-like in how we view our students. Each child is not the like another. Each one has his/ her own personality traits, his/her own strengths and ideas as well as his/ her own struggles. Our challenge is to identify and understand these traits within the individual so as to personalize the learning experiences for every student. We need to work towards an education that meets each child where he/ she is and supports them in their journey to reaching their full potential.

In preparation for a new year, we reflect on all that was done over the year so as to improve what can be done for the years ahead. As we reflect, we take a leaf from the spirit of our Founding Saints - St Magdalene of Canossa, St Josephine Bakhita, St Anthony of Padua and St Francis of Assisi. We ponder how we can become rays of hope to all children with hearing loss - the ordinary and the extraordinary as well as those needing greater or lesser support. In this spirit, we close the year thanking God for what was and what will be. We look forward to new beginnings in the new year as we strive to be able to serve our students in the best way possible. We close the year reflecting deeply on how we can aim to be more like Christ-like in what we think, say or do. It leaves me only to wish each of you a Blessed Christmas and a joyous New Year.

God Bless!

Christina Michael (Ms)

Principal

Faith@Work – right in our garden!

On 21 September, a different HBL day, the teachers brought the garden on screen. All P1 to P6 students and staff came together over Zoom, to learn and experience great things that are happening in our garden.

Our garden, also known as Urban Demo Farm, is made possible with the collaboration of Humanity Matters. They set up Faith@Work and brought volunteers from ASEAN, to experiment methods to harvest weather-resistant crops. This is aimed to solve food shortage problem in our ASEAN region.

During the session, our students showed their favourite garden harvest, learnt about the hardship farmers take, to bring food to our tables. They knew how flood and drought affect harvest and food supply. Most of our students and staff pledged to reduce food wastage and play a part in our garden. As Canossians, we believe we are stewards of the earth and have faith that great things will happen right in our garden. Join us, pray for our garden and for people in ASEAN.



Upcoming Programmes for November

Sped Learning Festival (LF) 2021

The theme for this year's LF is "**Learning, Impacting and Leading**". The festival embodies the importance of continuous learning that will enable the SPED sector and its partners to develop new perspectives to be innovative, adaptive and ever changing, to lead the next leap into the future so as to meaningfully impact the SPED fraternity in a Volatile, Uncertain, Complex and Ambiguous (VUCA) world.

Details of Learning Festival 2021

LF 2021 is a two-day event which will take place from 12 -13 November 2021.

Day 1 (12 Nov 2021) - Special Education (SPED) Learning Festival

There will be no school for students on this day

Day 2 (13 Nov 2021) – Parents' Learning Festival

This comprises a virtual exhibition put up by SPED schools and external agencies and concurrent hands-on sessions/presentations. This is open to public and is targeted at existing and prospective parents of children with SEN.

Do save the date and we look forward to welcoming you at Learning Festival on 13 Nov 2021. You may register via the website www.spedlf2021.sg if you wish to attend the event. A personal invitation card has been sent to you through your child.



Thanksgiving Day 2021

In view of the current situation, Canossian School will be going virtual for Thanksgiving on Wednesday, 17 November 2021 at 8.30am. We are pleased to invite distinguished guests and parents to share the joyous moment with us. We look forward to 'seeing' you! Our theme for this year will be "I am Special...designed by God".



POSB Adventure with Smiley: for Upper Primary students (P4 – P6)

Canossian School is partnering with DBS/POSB to bring you an interactive and engaging financial literacy program curated specially for children aged 10-12! Join us for a 60 minutes learning journey with Smiley, find out about budgeting, identify difference between "Needs" and "Wants" and spend wisely with healthy spending habits. Learn to create your savings plan, track your expenditure and how to deposit savings in the bank with our learning material. Be ready for the digital payment world, where you learn different cashless and digital payment modes.

Both parents and students are highly encouraged to join us. See you there!

Register here: <https://forms.gle/nppQsamhMbvvDqA8A>

Zoom details will be provided only upon your registration.

Important Dates to note in November

Dates	Event	Time
Wednesday, 3 November	Mass FM Fitting Exercise for P6 students	9.00am – 10.30am
Tuesday to Tuesday, 9 – 16 November	Meet the parents (P1 to P5) More details will be provided by your class teachers	
Wednesday, 10 November	<p>Dialogue with Principal - P3 parents Topic: Transition to P4 Date / Time: Nov 10, 2021 06:00 PM Singapore</p> <p>Join Zoom Meeting https://moe-singapore.zoom.us/j/89616383791</p> <p>Meeting ID: 896 1638 3791 Passcode: 563559</p>	6.00pm to 7.00pm
Friday, 12 November	SPED Learning Festival 2021	Students do not report to school. There are no lessons for the day.
Wednesday, 17 November	Thanksgiving Day 2021 (Last day of the academic year for students)	Students will report to school from 7.00am to 12.00pm
Thursday, 18 November	First day of school holiday for students. They do not report to school until 4 January 2022	
Thursday, 25 November (Tentative date)	PSLE Results Release	

School Operating Hours during the school holiday:

Please note that the General Office will operating from 7.30am to 3.30pm from Monday to Friday. You are strongly encouraged to make an appointment with the school for any visiting purpose.

Information for Parents

Designated Secondary Schools Open Houses

Below is the information on Open Houses available in Designated Secondary Schools for all our Primary 6 students to consider. These designated schools will be able to provide the necessary support to our Canossian students.

School	Dates	Links
St Anthony's Canossian Secondary School	Saturday, 20 November 2021 e-Open House Briefing by Principal to parents	https://stanthonyscanossiansec.moe.edu.sg/
Beatty Secondary School	Tuesday, 16 November 2021 Virtual Outreach Programme for P6 students	https://beattysec.moe.edu.sg/

Regular ART Testing for students

To inculcate social responsibility amongst our students and keep schools safe for learning, primary/junior students will perform an ART swab once every two weeks for the rest of Term 4. They would have received a pack of 10 additional Antigen Rapid Test (ART) kits and parents need not purchase kits for their children.

Regular ART Testing Each student is required to perform one ART swab by the end of each of the following weeks:

- Term 4, Week 7: test on either Thursday 28 or Friday 29 October 2021 by 8pm.
- Term 4, Week 9: test on either Thursday 11 or Friday 12 November 2021 by 8pm

We seek parents' assistance to supervise or help your child do the ART. Please submit your child's ART result through using the link below: <https://formfaca.de/sm/RN5kArRiK>

If the ART result is positive, please inform the school immediately and take the following actions:

- If your child is well, your child should self-isolate for 72 hours. Thereafter, take another ART. End isolation when result is negative.
- If your child is unwell, please send him/her to a Swab and Send Home (SASH) Public Health Preparedness Clinic (PHPC) for a confirmatory Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test.

We urge all students and staff to continue practising good personal hygiene and exercising social responsibility through regular testing.

End of Year Holiday Travel Declaration

All students who are Singapore Citizens (SC) or Singapore Permanent Residents (PR) are strongly discouraged against travelling to overseas against the MOH advisory in the end of year school vacation. Your child must submit a travel declaration before travelling.

Administrative Information on School Books and Uniform Purchases

Information sheet on purchase of school textbooks and uniform will be distributed to all students before the school term ends.

Due to the COVID-19 situation, if all possible, we advise parents to consider making online orders for the following items: -

Items	Link for Online Purchases
School textbooks and stationery	www.thecontinental.sg/canossian
Uniform and PE Attire	For Boys: https://www.intrenduniforms.com/canossa-convent For Girls: https://www.intrenduniforms.com/canossa-female

However, if online purchases are not possible, you may arrange a trip to the school bookshop to make the purchases of the respective items when dates are available.

SPED Financial Assistance Scheme (SPED-FAS) 2022

For families of Singapore students needing financial assistance, applications will be available and distributed this month. All forms must be duly completed with required accompanying documents stated in the forms by Wednesday, 10 November 2021. All applications that are qualified by the criteria and approved will be notified by the school before Term 4 ends. Approved applicants will be notified for the collection of the school items provided under the scheme.

Parenting Tips

Easy ways to Support Writing at Home

1. Take pictures of an activity that is especially interesting to your child. Use them to write a story together.
2. Bring writing materials with you whenever you go out to the grocery store, doctor's office, or a restaurant.
3. Encourage your child to write, even if she's scribbling. Give your child opportunities to practice writing by helping her sign birthday cards, write stories, and make lists.
4. Hang a family message board in the kitchen. Offer to write notes there for your child. Be sure that she /he finds notes left there for her/him.
5. Make sure your child sees you writing. She/He will learn about writing by watching you write. Talk with her/him about your writing so that she/he begins to understand why writing is important and the many ways it can be used.
6. Encourage your child to read her/his stories out loud. As your child gets older, ask her/him to share her/his stories with you. Listen carefully without interrupting and give her/him positive feedback about her/his ideas and her/his writing!
7. Encourage copying. If your child likes a particular song, suggest that she/he learns the words by writing them down. Also encourage copying favorite poems or quotations from books and plays.
8. Help your child write letters and emails to relatives and friends. These may include thank you notes or just a special note to say hello. Be sure to send your child a letter or card occasionally too so that she/he is reminded of how special it is to get a letter in the mail. Consider finding a pen pal for your child.
9. Suggest notetaking. Encourage your child to take notes on trips or outings, and to describe what she/he saw. This could include a description of nature walks, a boat ride, a car trip, or other events that lend themselves to note-taking.
10. As your child gets older, write together. Have your child help you with the writing you do, including writing letters, shopping lists, and messages.
11. Encourage keeping a journal. This is excellent writing practice as well as a good outlet for venting feelings. Encourage your child to write about things that happen at home and school, about people she/he likes or dislikes and why, and about things she wants to remember and do. If she/he wants to share the journal with you, read the entries and discuss them together.
12. Keep a portfolio of your child's writing attempts. At different times in the year, show your child her/his writing samples and comment on her / his progress.
13. Celebrate your child's writing by prominently hanging her/his work in places where it is visible to all. Knowing that writing is important will go a long way toward motivating her / him to write more.

References:

Scholastic Parents

Colorin Colorado

