

REACH



CANOSSIAN SCHOOL | NEWSLETTER – FEB 2022



Center of excellence for the education of children with hearing loss

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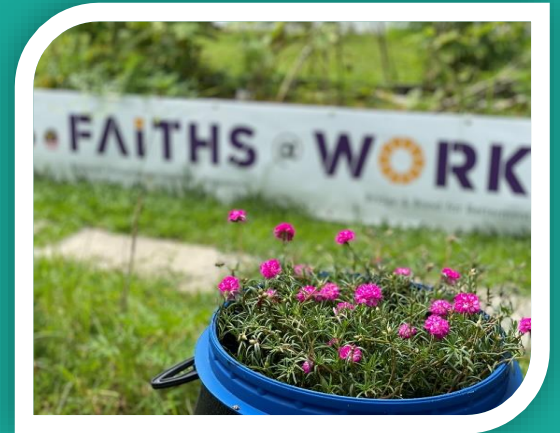


Nurturing each in their own way by forming hearts,
Enlightening minds and empowering spirits to live in
The Way, The Truth and The Life

From the Principal's Desk

Dear Parents / Guardians,

Thank you for attending the recent round of dialogue sessions held in January. These sessions are very important touchpoints between parents and the school to foster a common understanding of how parents play out their role as so-educators of your children.



In this edition of our newsletter, I would like to share the story of St Josephine Bakhita, one of the Founding Saints of the Canossians. Josephine Bakhita was born around 1869 in Sudan. Her exact birthdate is unknown but what is known is that now that she was born in a village near Darfur, Sudan. She had loving parents, brothers and sisters. When Bakhita was seven or eight years old, she was kidnapped by Arab slave traders and sold into slavery. She was sold from slave-trader to slave-trader – six times in all – she was beaten, tortured, punished, and bore the brutal scars on her body. After the years of trauma that she endured, she could not remember the name her parents had given her, so the Arab traders called her Bakhita, Arabic for lucky or fortunate.

She worked in various locations in Africa until an Italian consul bought her and moved his family back to their hometown of Schio, Italy. Bakhita became a nanny for her new family, and she and her young charge lived at the convent run by the Canossian Sisters in Venice. For the rest of her life, Bakhita remained in Italy and lived as a free woman. Bakhita converted to Christianity and was baptized and confirmed in 1890. Josephine was her confirmation name. She became a Canossian nun in December 1896 and remained at the convent for another 42 years.

Despite the terrible things she had endured, Bakhita dedicated the rest of her life to serving God, her fellow sisters, and mankind; she was a much beloved, respected member of her community. Children and adults alike flocked to her, enjoying her good heart, good nature, good works, and her love of people. It is reported that she said, “The whole of my life has been God’s gift.” It is clear why Josephine Bakhita is the patron saint of human trafficking: She was not defined by the abuse that she received, but by the love that she shared.

She died among her Sisters on 8 February which is the Feast Day of St Bakhita. Pope John Paul II canonized Josephine Bakhita in 2000. In 2015, our current pope, Pope Francis, declared her feast day became the first international day for prayer and reflection on human trafficking.

In this day and age, slave trade remains a blight on our society. The International Labour Organisation figures put the trade in people as the second most lucrative business in the world, after arms sales. This international crime against humanity takes many forms. From sex and labour trafficking to domestic slavery, forced begging, petty crime, organ trafficking, child soldiers and forced marriages. Nail-bars and car-washes are prolific in our towns and cities – often the hidden avenues for traffickers.

On 8 February this year, let us take time to stop, to reflect and bring to mind the countless millions of women, men and children who are trapped in this dark world of slavery. Together, we say, "No more Slaves...end the scourge which creates a wound in the side of humanity."



God Bless.

Christina Michael (Ms)
Principal

Events and Announcements

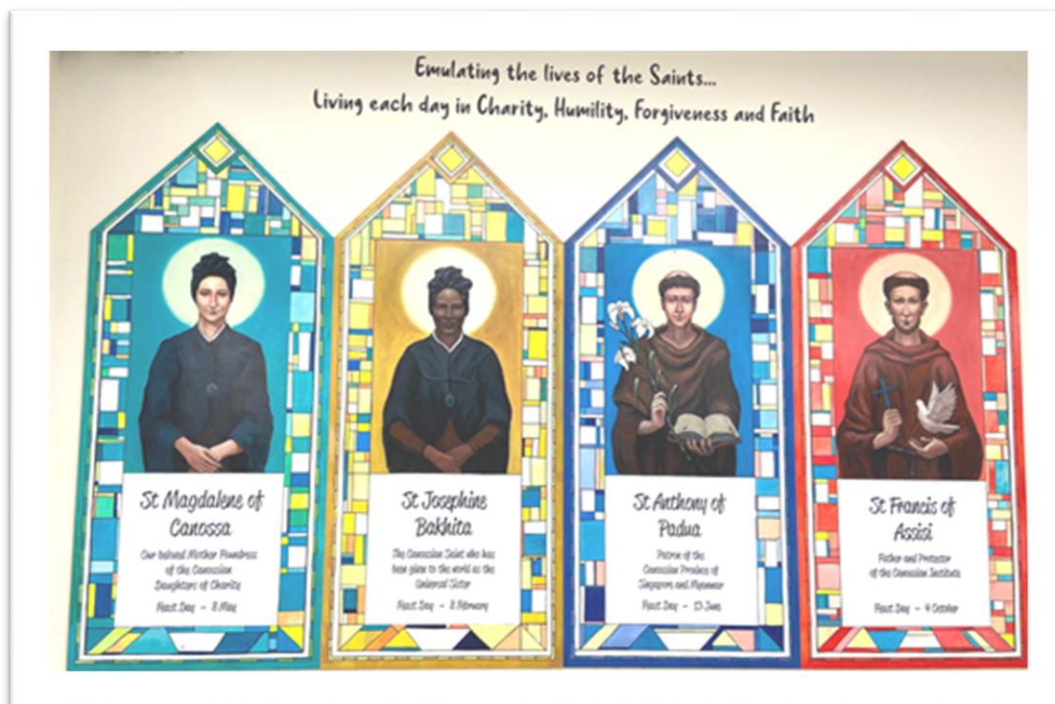
► Chinese New Year Celebration

The school will be celebrating Chinese New Year on Monday, 31 January. Students will report to school from 7 am to 10.00 am. More details will be provided by the Form Teachers. Please note that **1 February to 2 February are public holidays**. Students will return to school on 3 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 Monday, 28th February**. Students will report to school from 7am to 10.00am.



► School Health Services Check

The School Health Service (SHS) team will be conducting the annual Health Screening for Primary School from 25th February to 1st March 2022. 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. The team will be screening selected students or levels at this visit. Your child will be informed nearer the date if selected. Other students or levels who 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>

► Vaccination (2nd dose) Day

1. On Wednesday, **9 February 2022**, students will not report to school.
2. Students who have opted for the vaccination will come to school with only one parent according to schedule.
3. Students taking the vaccination should take note of the advice on proper attire given in the letter with the schedule.
4. Students who have opted out of the vaccination exercise will stay home to complete the assignments given.

► Meet the Parents – P2 to P6

There will be IEP meetings from **10 Feb to 15 Feb**. Form Teachers will inform parents accordingly.



Tips for Parents

Parents' Role in Language Intervention

(Extracted from an article written by Lauren Lowry Hanen, SLP & Clinical Writer

Three Keys to Helping Your Child Learn Language (hanen.org))

Language intervention for young children nowadays often focuses on teaching parents' strategies to use with their child in everyday situations that help their child develop improved language skills. You don't need a speech therapy degree to help your child. The speech language pathologist can help you learn what you need to know. You are well qualified to help your child because:

- you are your child's first and best teacher
- you are a constant in your child's everyday life
- you spend more time talking to and interacting with your child than a speech-language pathologist ever can
- your child is most comfortable communicating and interacting with you
- you know your child best and know what makes him or her "tick"

"Any daily activity is a great opportunity to build your child's communication and language skills."

Ways parents can get involved in intervention

There are many ways that you can play an active role in your child's intervention, such as:

- helping set goals for your child with the speech language pathologist
- describing your daily activities and routines
- learning strategies that you can use at home that will build your child's communication skills
- reporting changes and progress you see in your child
- determining next steps with the speech-language pathologist

Allow your child to lead the interaction. All of us tend to talk when we have something to say, and that usually happens when we are interested in the topic or something captures our attention in the moment. It's the same for children – they are most likely to try to communicate about their interests.

When you watch your child closely to see what he does, you will see what he's interested in.

Use words and sentences just slightly above your child's level. In using language that is one step ahead of your child's level. If you are one small step ahead, you will give your child an example of how to move to the next level of language development.

To do this, you need to **be aware of the ways your child is communicating right now**. For example, he might send messages by:

- Looking at you
- Making sounds
- Using gestures (reaching for or giving you things, pointing, waving, etc.)
- Using single words (one at a time)
- Combining two or three words together
- Using sentences

The final key to helping your child is to **talk about things that get him thinking** and build his understanding. The things you talk about will depend on your child's interests as well as on his stage of language development.