

# REACH



CANOSSIAN SCHOOL | NEWSLETTER – MAR 2022



*Center of excellence for the education of children with hearing loss*

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Nurturing each in her/his 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,

In the last edition we introduced you to St Bakhita, whose Feast Day was on 8 February. In this edition, we will introduce you to our Foundress, St Magdalene of Canossa, whose birthday we commemorate on 1 March. The Canossian fraternity celebrates **Canossian Saints' Day on 28 February** this day. Throughout the week of 21 – 25 February, students participate in a series of activities to commemorate the occasion.



*St. Magdalene of Canossa*

Born into a rich noble family on 1 March 1774 in Canossa Palace, in the city of Verona, Italy. She experienced a number of events in her younger days including the death of father, her mother's remarriage and her own ill health. As she grew, she took great comfort in her deep love for God and for the poor. In her mid-20s, St Magdalene began offering lodging to poor girls in her own home. She was deeply disturbed as she saw many young children living in the streets as a result of the Napoleonic wars. To reach out to them, she opened a school, which offered practical training and religious instruction. As other women joined her in the work, the new Congregation of the Canossian Daughters of Charity—or Canossian Sisters—emerged.

Members of the new religious congregation focused on the educational and spiritual needs of women. She also felt the need to reach out to the boys, so she founded a smaller congregation for priests and brothers. Both groups continue to this day.

As she continued with her dedication to the poor, one day, St Magdalene met a boy with hearing loss. She realized with great joy that she was able to teach him about God. That led her to starting schools for children with hearing loss in various parts of the world.

From all of us, Canossian School (for Hearing Loss), we wish all parents and guardians a blessed Canossian Saints Day!

God Bless

**Christina Michael (Ms)**  
**Principal**

## ► Lifeskills@CS Programme

We are quickly drawing close to the end of the first term of this academic year. It has been a challenging term, yet your children have settled in very comfortably. With the restrictions in normal schooling life imposed by the pandemic, our students have not been able to enjoy beyond the classroom experiences that make learning a rich experience. Now that there is an easing of measures, the school is keen to embark on offering experiences that will provide them exposure to new learning experiences.

During the last two weeks of this term, Canossa Catholic Primary School (CCPS), will be conducting its Interest Week: Discovering the Unique Me! This programme will be conducted for Pri 3 – 5 students from both CS and CCPS. Students from these levels are strongly encouraged to participate in the activities organized. To facilitate participation, **school will end at 4.00pm for all students** and necessary arrangements have been made with our school buses for transport.

### Lifeskills@CS Schedule

Dates	3 Mar (Thurs)	4 Mar (Fri)	7 Mar (Mon)	8 Mar (Tues)	9 Mar (Wed)
Time	2.00 – 4.00pm				
Level	Pri 1 & 2				
Activities	Daily Living Skills (1)	Normal CCA	Daily Living Skills (2)	Daily Living Skills (3)	Daily Living Skills (4)
Level	Pri 3, 4 & 5				
Activities	Interest Week Programme at CCPS				
Level	Pri 6				
Activities	Revise & Refresh	Normal CCA	Daily Living Skills (1)	Revise & Refresh	Daily Living Skills (2)

More details of the programme will be provided closer to the start. Be assured that your child will have fun learning new skills and possibly discover their talents during the activities

## ► Upcoming Events:

Date	Events
28 Feb	<b>Canossian Saints Day</b> The school will be celebrating Canossian Saints Day, students <b>will be dismissed at 10 am</b>
3-4, 7-9 Mar	<b>Interest Week</b> for P3-P5 and <b>Lifeskills@CS</b> for P1-P2 and P6. Students will report to school from <b>7.00am to 4.00pm</b> . Letters have been provided through your child.
11 Mar	There will be a <b>Meet the Parents (MTP)</b> session and students do not need to report to school. It will be Home Based Learning (HBL) for them. Details will be provided nearer the date.
14 – 18 Mar	March school holidays. Students are to report to school on Monday, 21 March

## School Operating Hours:

During the March **school holidays**, the General Office will be open from **7.30am to 3.30pm**. Parents are advised to contact the school first before coming. The General office contact number is **67498971**.

## ► Chinese New Year Celebration

Canossian School staff and students celebrated the Chinese New Year with a combined programme at CCPS followed by a Thanksgiving Mass, blessings and distribution of oranges at the chapel and classrooms.



The Liturgy of the Word – The First Reading



Prayers of the Faithful

## ► Student Leadership in Canossian School



This year, we are officially adding two more leadership roles in Canossian School – CCA Leaders and Peer Support Leaders (PSLs). As CCA Leaders, they have been recognised for being proactive and having a sense of ownership. Their roles will include helping to plan for CCA programmes and mentoring the juniors among them. As PSLs, they have been selected for their friendly and helpful personality. They will be provided handles on how to be good befrienders and help to advocate for mental well-being and cyber safety.

We are proud to present the following student leaders:

CCA Leaders	Peer Support Leaders
<b>Band</b> P6 – Noor Shyrish, Lucas Yap <b>Choir</b> P5 – Avery Ng, Choon Yong Kang <b>Eco Art</b> P6 – Nur Iffah P5 – Sherfyna Puteri	P6 – Ahna Yusri P5 – Avery Ng P4 – Kong Chun Fei P3 – Nur Adriana P2 – Kaleb Eng



## ► Audiological Tips – Motivating your child to wear their devices

Children need to wear their hearing devices! The goal is device use during all waking hours, including outside of school. However, this is not always easy. The strategies outlined below serve to help improve compliance for hearing aid usage, increase hearing aid wear time, and promote positivity surrounding hearing aid usage.

### For younger children:

- 1. Token Economy.** Create a token economy chart! Token economy charts have spaces to place tokens and a reward that the child works toward. You can place it on visible areas (such as the home fridge) or carry them around with you. As your child gets more compliant with wearing their devices, you can extend the amount of time they need to wear it to get a token.



- 2. Positive Reinforcement.** Choose something your child enjoys and associate it with putting on the hearing devices (such as after a bath) or keeping them on for some time (such as until just before bed). You can consider free time, iPad time, food/treats, privileges, praise, tickles, or high fives (each child is different). By associating positive feelings with the hearing devices, the child is likely to be more compliant with wearing them and keeping them on.

### For older children:

3. **Parents' attitude.** Parents who try to hide hearing loss by insisting on the tiniest hearing technology possible or by suggesting that the child not wear their hearing aids in all settings are communicating that they do not accept the hearing loss as part of their child's life. The child can grow to believe that to be more acceptable to family and others they need to hide their hearing loss and 'pretend' to be normal hearing. These attitudes almost always result in the child refusing to wear the hearing aids.
4. **An opportunity for individuality.** Discovering individual style is part of what older children do. They can be fit with the smallest hearing aids or choose hearing aid cases the same colour as their hair hoping that the hearing aids and hearing loss will be invisible. Or they can pick bright coloured cases and accessories, and even hearing aid decals and stickers. The more your child has a say in the look of their devices, the more likely they are to wear them – if only just to show them off to their friends!



## ► Parent Support Network

A Message from: Mr Yap Vong Hin

Chairman, Parent Support Network.

Canossian School (2019-2022)

Father to Lucas Yap (P6 Peace, 2022)



Hello everyone,

I hope this finds you all well after our recent Christmas, 2021, New Year Celebrations, 2022 and Chinese New Year Festivities. Isn't it wonderful that we live in a multi-cultural society like Singapore where such events allow us to gather and celebrate all the best parts of our diverse cultural heritage? We are all enriched and stronger by coming together.

It is in this spirit of "togetherness makes us better", that the Parent Support Network (PSN) has started in 2019 as a channel for parents to partner with Canossian School in making the children's learning journey a richer, more holistic experience. Individual parents have been approached, or they may volunteer, to be a member of this committee to work alongside the school administration to organize or promote activities that benefit not only the students but also the families through fun celebrations, education, and being introduced to various resources. Of course, much of these activities have been very much scaled back due to the public health concerns during COVID-19. Nevertheless, pandemic or not, our lives and our children's education goes on. The school continues to work diligently under MOE's guidelines, needing now more than ever the participation of parents to make our children's learning journey as impactful and fun as possible. Thus, we would urge all parents to consider volunteering with the PSN and talk to our principal, Ms Christina Michael or Ms Doris Ang about your possible involvement. No contribution is too small or insignificant.

Thus, by way of introduction, we wanted to begin a series of biographic introductions to show that committee members are no different than any other parent. We are regular people just like yourself doing whatever we can wherever we're needed to lend a helping hand.

I am Vong YAP, a stay-at-home father for the last 15 years. My wife and I grew up in Malaysia and moved to Singapore in 2003 as permanent residents with our three children. Our two sons and daughter grew up in the local schools and are now all off to universities. My wife and I would be empty nesters now except that we adopted Lucas in 2018. He started at Canossian in Primary 2 and is now in Primary 6.



Throughout all our children's schooling, I have found it very helpful to be involved with all their schools as a parent volunteer. All the different schools our children attended have been wonderful nurturing environments and being a volunteer is a small way that we as parents are able to give back and assist the schools in their missions to give all our children as good a learning experience as possible. I can honestly say that all my involvements have been rewarding and enriching not only for me as a parent – to see all that the teachers and administration do to teach and impart life skills – but also for our children to know that their parents are fully invested in their education through their involvement.

I hope you too will volunteer your time and talents to make Canossian an even better environment than it already is. I am certain you and your child(ren) will be glad you do.



**Mr Vong Yap – Chairman**  
(Lucas – P6)



**Ms Anne – Vice Chairman**  
(Valantina – P3)



**Ms Debbie – Secretary**  
(Alaric – P5)

## ► Reminders to Parents:

### **Additional Precautionary Measures in response to Covid-19 Safe Management Measure**

Students and members in the same household who test positive for COVID-19 on their self-administered ART, and have no or mild symptoms should book an appointment at the Combined Test Centres (CTCs) and Quick Test Centres (QTCs) to do a supervised self-administered ART test instead of seeing a doctor.

If Ag+, they will be placed under Protocol 2 and can collect 3 ART kits from vending machines. The ART test results would be updated in MOH's records. This will also facilitate the issuance of a Health Risk Notice (HRN) to close contacts for their self-monitoring

From 18 February 2022, the self-monitoring period will be reduced from 7 days to 5 days and the HRW (an order) will be replaced by HRN (an advisory). Do note that as measures are eased, we have to remain more vigilant to prevent further transmission of the virus.

Parents should **promptly update Form Teachers** if **they or members within the household test positive**. Parents are also advised to refer to the MOH website at <https://www.covid.gov.sg/> to get the latest updates when anyone in the household is positive.

### Attendance at school

Students are expected to attend school every school day to ensure full benefits of the curriculum. If a student is unable to attend school or any school-related event, a medical certificate is required to be submitted to your child's Form Teacher the next school day. Students are also expected to arrive school punctually every school day at 7am.

The school requires an attendance and punctuality rate of 95% and above as a pre-requisite for students for consideration of school awards.

Parents are requested to inform their child's class teachers between 7.00 – 7.15am should a student be unwell or additional days of rest, beyond the period indicated on the medical certificate. A letter from parents is expected under such circumstances.

Percentage of Days Present	Grade
91 - 100	Excellent
81 - 90	Very Good
71 - 80	Good
0 - 49	Irregular

### Mode of Communication

The school encourages open and regular communication with parents/guardians. There are 3 main channels of communication between the school and parents. These channels are:

1. **Hard copy letters** are used only to communicate matters that would require a written acknowledgement from parents / guardians. Letters would also be used for events or activities are organized only for our school and not in collaboration with CCPS.

2. **Emails:** Most communication from the school on specific programmes or events would be via emails. This is an environment-friendly initiative and to help make sure that the information is accessible on mobile devices.

Our monthly newsletter, REACH, is sent out to parents via emails. Please take note of its contents, especially where there is a forecast of the events for the month. We provide this information ahead of time so that families can make necessary arrangements when dismissal times are different from the norm.

3. **Remind:** This is the **only mode** of communication used by Form Teachers with parents / guardians on daily schooling matters. To ensure that important information from the school is not missed, all teachers will use this. Please do cooperate with the school and understand that managing varying multiple messaging systems is an additional load on teachers.
  - Communication with teachers:
    - Do not expect an immediate reply as teachers are in class teaching
    - Be respectful of timers when you text teachers; they have families themselves
    - No text messages after 8.00pm
    - When a child is not coming to school, please inform FTs by 7.00am
  - Parents are to read letters and REACH, keep up with messages coming out via Remind.