

# REACH

Center of excellence for the education of children with hearing loss

February 2023



## CANOSSIAN SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



### OUR MOTTO

#### VIA, VERITAS, VITA (The Way, The Truth, The Life)

Our motto draws its inspiration from Jesus Christ. We take Him as our model and seek to follow in His footsteps.

#### Via (The Way)

We walk confidently and joyfully on the path of life, overcoming all difficulties with fortitude and prayer.

#### Veritas (The Truth)

We are sincere in word, deed and action.  
We are open to truth and knowledge.

#### Vita (The Life)

We live for others, ready to share, serve and sacrifice for others.

### Our Mission

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

### Our Values

The core values that guide the educative process at Canossian School are based on the Canossian values of Charity, Humility, Forgiveness and Faith.



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## From the Principal's Desk

### Dear Parents / Guardians

The months of February, March and April are important dates for Canossians, as we commemorate the feast days or birthdays of the Founding Saints of the order of Canossian Daughters of Charity, St Bakhita and St Magdalene of Canossa. On 8 February, we commemorate the Feast Day of St Josephine Bakhita. She was a Canossian Sister who was born around 1869 in a small village in Darfor, Sudan. Born of a different faith, she was kidnapped as a child and sold into slavery in Sudan. She was traded as a slave to a number of different owners who tortured, beat and branded her. Read more about the deeply inspiring life of St Bakhita at this URL: <http://www.canossians-sg.org/saints.html>.



During the course of her life, she worked with a consul in Venice, Italy. While there, she chanced upon the Canossian Sisters where she discovered God. She was baptized and decided to join the religious order. As a young nun, she was sent to a convent in Schio, where she spent more than 40 years of her life serving the children. She served her convent humbly, cooking, embroidering, and sewing, and was responsible for attending the door of the convent to welcome visitors, where she was

noted for her warm smile and hospitality. She was loved by many in the city and was a bastion of comfort during the trials and bombings of World War II. She was known for her charisma and gentleness and even expressed gratitude that her past horrors had brought her to her current life. The inspiration for two of our school values, Forgiveness and Faith, come from her.

When St. John Paul II, a former pope, canonized St. Josephine, he proclaimed her the "Universal Sister." St. John Paul fought fiercely against tyranny and oppression of all sorts. Slavery, an ancient evil that shackles bodies and souls, destroying the lives of people around the world, it is a "universal injustice." St. Josephine's life reminds us that within the heart of every enslaved person is the divine image yearning to be free, for "the glory of God is a human being fully alive." Having been enslaved herself, it makes natural sense for St Bakhita to become the universal symbol of the Church's commitment against trafficking of persons.

Sadly, human trafficking remains rampant. Indicators in the United States have shown that the Covid-19 pandemic has increased the “business” of trafficking in persons, fostering the opportunities and socio-economic mechanisms behind this scourge: It has exacerbated the situations of vulnerability in which women and girls, those most at risk, already found themselves.

Sensitizing our students about such evils and entrenching them in virtues such as forgiveness and reaching out to those we know are in need are fundamental precepts of Canossian education. We do not allow the minds of our educators and students to be solely occupied by academic competencies such as literacy and numeracy. Our primary focus is on formation of the heart which is developing the character and social-emotional competence in our young. The call to focus on the character of the child is exacerbated in today’s world that is characterized by rapid technological change, an overload of information and disinformation, industry disruption and growing polarization. Anchoring our students in values will not only enable them to handle the overwhelming noise from information overload but also distil the right lessons and find guideposts to move forward.

How do we build self-confidence in our children? Both parents and schools have to help our children recognize their strengths and weaknesses, work with them to identify goals, create an environment where they are encouraged to try, and try again when they fail and provide them with the opportunities and resources to adjust strategies to achieve progress towards their goals. It must always be remembered that schools are not just spaces for academic learning. They are also safe spaces which support the development of a child’s identity and provide opportunities for them to interact with the wider world. In doing so, they grow in understanding of their own personal values and how to respond should they feel stressed, have negative emotions, or face challenging circumstances. Such opportunities are provided through CCAs, camps, involvement in projects and many more. These endeavours are undergirded in the belief that they develop a strong sense of self-identity, confidence and capacity, along with a need to belong and a sense of belonging, providing children with a ballast and strength.

In order to provide a consistent space for the development of lifelong values in our students, the school works tirelessly with parents to align personal values of families and the school. This is why we are heartened when parents offer their support to school programmes and events. We also encourage parents to attend dialogue sessions with staff from the school at different points of the educational journey of our students.

This edition of Reach provides dates for some of the planned parent engagement sessions. Do ink these dates into your calendars as we look forward to working closely with you over the rest of the year.

God Bless.

**Christina Michael (Ms)**  
Principal



## Pri One First Day of School

Canossian School welcomes 12 students to our Primary One. On 3 January 2023, on their first day of school, they were accompanied by parents for a 2-hours programme. Parents attended the talk by the Principal of Canossa Catholic Primary School (CCPS) while the children had ice-breaker sessions in their respective classrooms to get to know their new friends. Programmes included a parent and child bonding session introducing them to activities which encourages their child for the new school year.



Parent and Child bonding activities on their first day of school

## Canossian Saints Day

The School will be celebrating Canossian Saints Day on **Monday, 27 February 2023**. Students will report to school from **7.00am to 10.30am**



## Chinese New Year Celebration

Canossian School staff and students celebrated the Chinese New Year with exciting activities at CCPS such as Lion Dance, Bian Lian, the magical art of Chinese “Face Changing”, Wushu, exchange of oranges followed by a Thanksgiving Mass, blessings and distribution of oranges at the chapel.



Our Annual School Mass



Receiving blessings from Father

## Prefects' Investiture 2023

The CCPS-CS Prefects' Investiture 2023 was held on 26<sup>th</sup> January (Thursday), via Zoom where the school had witnessed the appointment of the new Prefects Exco and the reciting of their pledge. Our prefects have pledged to be Leaders of Hope and Sowers of Change in the school and to fulfil their duties to the best of their abilities. Together with Sister Janet, the school leaders of CCPS and CS participated in the Investiture onsite. It was indeed a moment to behold as they all looked their best and said their pledge confidently.



We are proud to present to you our newly minted CS prefects for 2023. They are (from left) Choon Yong Kang, Audrey Zeng, Kong Chun Fei, Isabelle Yeo, Ishaan Hitesh Doshi.

## For Your Information

Dates	Events
<b>Tuesday, 7 February 2023</b>	Dialogue with Principal and Form Teachers for <b>P1 parents</b> (Zoom details will be provided later)
<b>Friday, 17 February 2023</b>	Dialogue with Principal and Form Teachers for <b>P2 parents</b> (Zoom details will be provided later)
<b>Thursday, 23 February 2023</b>	Dialogue with Principal and Form Teachers for <b>P3 parents</b> (Zoom details will be provided later)

## School Health Services Check

The School Health Service (SHS) team will be conducting the annual Health Screening for Primary School from **10<sup>th</sup> February to 17<sup>th</sup> February 2023**.

During this visit, age-appropriate health screening and/or immunisation services will be provided for your child as required. These services ensure the protection of your child's health and early detection of health issues.

We appreciate your partnership with HPB to give our children a healthier start in life. Health Screening Services provided for the respective Educational Levels as shown below.

Educational Levels	Services
Primary 1	Vision screening (Eyesight test) 3D vision screening Growth & development assessment Hearing screen Immunisation if required
Primary 2, 3 and 4	Screening (Vision screening) Height and BMI for selected students
Primary 5	Colour vision screening Growth & development assessment Spinal screening for scoliosis <sup>#</sup> (girls only) Immunisation
Primary 6	Spinal screening for scoliosis <sup>#</sup> (girls only) Height and BMI for selected students

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 below:

[https://www.healthhub.sg/live-healthy/365/health\\_screening\\_for\\_primary\\_school](https://www.healthhub.sg/live-healthy/365/health_screening_for_primary_school)

Please access the [Child Consent Portal](#) at <https://childconsent.hpb.gov.sg/ship/process/SHIP/OnlineChildConsentPortal>

To update your child's medical information and provide consent for immunisation.

Please note that immunisation will only be administered to your child if required. *No further action is needed if this has been previously submitted or there is no update.*



## Reminder to Parents

### 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 90% 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 times 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
4. **Communication with bus operator:** Parents are reminded to maintain direct communications with the bus operator for matters related to changes in the normal pick-up and return trips. Should there be times when students have to leave school early / not attending CCA / not attending SC for the day / staying back for enrichment programmes. **Parents should inform the bus driver ahead of time** for such situations. Teachers or the staff in our General Office should not be expected to send messages on behalf of parents.