

# REACH

Center of excellence for the education of children with hearing loss

March 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.



### In this issue:

- Principal's Desk
- Learning Journey to Paya Lebar Air Base
- Daily Living Skills Programme for Pri 1 & 2
- For your information
- School operating hours during March holidays
- Invitation to World Hearing Day 2023
- Parents' Support Network
- Tips for parents

## From the Principal's Desk

### Dear Parents / Guardians

In March we prepare to end Term 1 while embarking on a year of celebrations to commemorate 250 years of the birth of our Foundress, St Magdalene of Canossa. On 1 March 2024, the Canossian Daughters of Charity, together with the Canossian Sons of Charity, across the world will celebrate her 250<sup>th</sup> birthday. To mark this event, the Canossian Sisters in Singapore launched a year-long calendar of activities on 27 February, Canossian Saints' Day.

Our Foundress, St Magdalene of Canossa, was born in Italy in 1774 into a noble family in Verona, Italy. Her growing years were marked by suffering and trials. At the tender age of five, she lost her father who was killed in an expedition. Soon after that, her mother who was persuaded to remarry, left her to be raised by a governess. Through her grief, St Magdalene found solace in her deep Catholic faith. Her quiet life was short-lived with the onset of the Napoleonic wars (early 18<sup>th</sup> century). As the tragic geopolitical circumstances exposed her to the miseries of war, she was moved by the suffering of the citizens around her home and began offering lodging to poor girls in her district. She soon realized that education was a luxury many did not have access to. She went on to open a "charity school" which cared and provided for the poorest of the poor, the most wretched and abandoned.

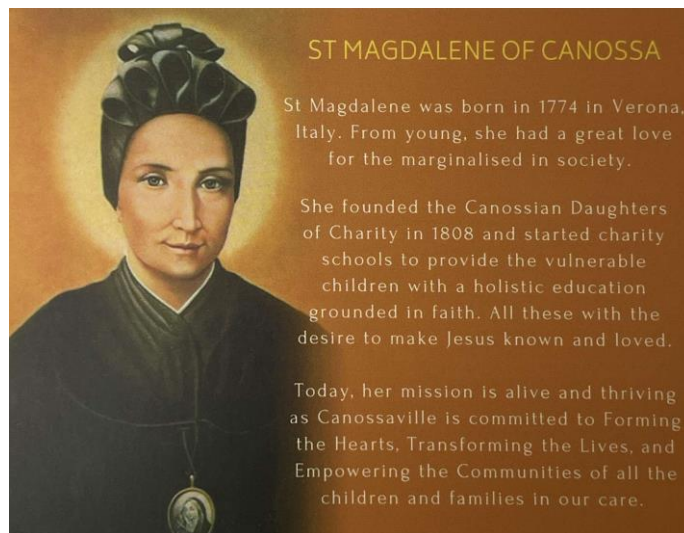
Her desire to serve the poor did not end there. Using her large inheritance, St Magdalene founded the Canossian Order, who ministered to the people living in the slums of Verona. She sought to provide the poor with a holistic education grounded in Christianity and thus set up more charity schools which offered practical training and religious instruction. Over time, she identified different ministries of charity: education, evangelization, pastoral care of the sick and the formation of lay leaders.

In the course of her work, she had an encounter with a deaf child who was playing alone in a garden. Unknown to the child, there was a viper ready to attack him. Although she shouted out to the child, he remained oblivious to the danger. It was only then that she realized that the child could not hear and his inability to protect himself from danger moved her greatly. His vulnerability prompted her to begin her work in setting up schools to educate children with hearing loss, such as Canossian School.

Her mission of serving with charity and humility lives on today. One of St Magdalene's most famous quotes is, "Charity is a fire that spreads and tries to embrace everything in its path." At the mass to celebrate Canossian Saints' Day, each student was given a battery-operated candle. The candle is meant to remind students that each of them can be a light to those around them with their acts of charity and love. This is in keeping with the theme of the year-long celebrations which is "Accendi la vita" meaning Light a Life. As the year progresses, we will provide updates on events to commemorate our lives as lights to the world.

Let me take this opportunity to wish all our students, staff and families a restful and peaceful break over the March holidays. God Bless!

**Christina Michael (Ms)**  
Principal



## Learning Journey to Paya Lebar Air Base

The Primary 4 and 5 students went on a Learning Journey to Paya Lebar Air Base (PLAB) on 6 February. As part of the Republic of Singapore Air Force's (RSAF) 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and Total Defence, the programme was specially curated to enhance students' understanding of the need for Defence, the roles and mission of the RSAF and the PLAB under the Military Defence pillar in the defence of Singapore. The students enjoyed themselves tremendously.



Pri 5 Giselle with the search dog



A plane was exhibited at the entrance



The students received a talk from an air base officer

## Daily Living Skills for Primary 1 & 2

Canossian School has been implementing modules of Daily Living Skills (DLS) for all our students. DLS refers to a broad range of functional skills required across everyday settings such as at home, school, community settings and work. These skills include taking care of one's personal hygiene, maintaining a clean and tidy home, and navigating in the community. For Term 1, lessons on the **Leisure, Community and Mobility as well as Home Living** will be conducted.

Week 9 Thursday, 2 March	Leisure	Board games	Understand what leisure means and its importance.  Express personal preferences for leisure activities.	Students will be introduced to games like snap, snakes and ladders and Lego.
Week 10 Tuesday, 7 March	Home Living	Sandwich making	Prepare a simple sandwich	Students will be introduced to healthy food as they assemble their own healthy sandwiches.



## For Your Information

Dates	Events
<b>Thursday, 2 March at 6.00pm.</b> Zoom details will be provided.	Math and Science workshop for Pri 4 and 5 parents
<b>Friday, 10 March</b>	e-Learning Day. There will be <b><i>no school for all levels</i></b>
<b>Friday, 10 March.</b> Zoom details will be provided later.	Interactive Reading workshop for Pri 1 and 2 parents
<b>Sat, 11 March to Friday, 17 March</b>	March School Holidays Students are to report to school on Monday, 20 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**.



## Invitation to World Hearing Day 2023 – Canossian Village is HEAR for you!

The Canossian Village is organising our first ever community outreach event in commemoration of World Hearing Day 2023!


# CANOSSIAN VILLAGE IS HEAR FOR YOU



## WORLD HEARING DAY 2023

**18 MARCH, SATURDAY | 11:00AM TO 2:30PM**  
**MACPHERSON COMMUNITY CLUB**  
400 Paya Lebar Way, Singapore 379131  
*\*Guests to be seated by 10.45am*

Join us as we commemorate  
**World Hearing Day 2023!**  
Scan the QR Code to RSVP by 10 March 2023



### Programme Highlights


- Performances by the Canossian School Choir and Band
- Exhibition booths by our partners
- Sharing by Canossian School Alumni
- Interactive Session on Ear Care by Canossian Child Development Unit

### Hearing Screening


**FREE**

Register for a free comprehensive hearing test by our partners!  
Limited slots available.

*Screening is available for both children up to 12 years old and adults on a first come first serve basis*




Free photobooth, popcorn, candy floss and more!



### ABOUT THE CANOSSIAN VILLAGE

**ORGANISED BY**








The Canossian Village at Sallim Road makes up the Canossian Circle of Care: an eco-system of love that focuses on the well-being and flourishing of the children and their families.

Specific for children diagnosed with hearing loss as their primary disability, the Canossian School is a special education school for students aged 7 - 14 years. Through the satellite partnership with the mainstream Canossa Catholic Primary School, students from both schools learn and play together in an inclusive environment.

Our programmes with a specialisation in hearing loss under Canossaville Children and Community Services consist of an inclusive preschool, an integrated student care, and the Canossian Early Intervention Programme for Infants and Children (EIPIC).

The Canossian Child Development Unit (CCDU) offers specialised support in areas of learning, behaviours, and psychosocial needs for the holistic development of the children and their families.

**EVENT PARTNERS**



Featured Art Work: World Peace

By: Toh Kai Jie, Canossian School

The event will take place on **18 March 2023, Saturday** at MacPherson Community Club. All guests to be seated by 10.55am. Do come down with your family and friends and spend the morning, learning more about ear care, performances from Canossian Band and Choir and receive complimentary hearing screening for children and adults (on-site registration only).

Please RSVP at the link: <https://forms.office.com/r/xdTZkvxceA>

Contact [Hello@canossaville.org.sg](mailto:Hello@canossaville.org.sg) for queries or group registration by **10 March 2023**  
**See you there!**



## Parents' Support Network

Greetings Parents!

We had just begun 2023 and I am sure all of you have hopes and visions for your child in this brand new year, especially parents of the Primary One who always look forward to your child sharing with you about their days in school. Just like the past years, parents of the Primary Six are gearing up themselves up to

brave through the preparations for the PSLE. Of course, parents of the other levels are also providing support and encouragements continuously to their child during their primary school journey.



Many parents, including myself, were initially at a loss when we received our child's hearing-impaired diagnosis and often, they would hope that there would be someone, or somebody to guide or share with them on the journey ahead. Hearing-impaired children also require additional support during their growing years and parents often find themselves looking around for information/advice like a headless bee. Subsequently, I realized that despite the availability of resources, the connections to these resources were lacking. I also came to realized that there were only a handful of parents who are willing to share their experience.

As such, I did not hesitate to join the Parents Support Network (PSN). I would share my journey and experience with parents and always, they would feedback that the sharing sessions were very encouraging and useful. I find solace to know that my sharing sessions had provided guidance and if not, some comfort to other parents who are in similar situation. Within social circles, I act as a proponent on behalf of our children, as I want to advocate that although hearing-impairment is a disability, our children are not disabled by it.

Throughout these few years, I have witnessed the school's efforts to create an inclusive environment for our children to ensure a solid and fruitful primary school journey. Children who graduated from CS were equipped with the necessary skill sets to interact and blend in the mainstream environment which would later pave way for them to transit into the society.

I am very honored to be part of this supportive group that not only bridge the communication between CS and parents, but also act as a supporting partner with CS. Although it was unfortunate that we had a rough and limited start in 2019 due to COVID, I am confident that 2023 would be the year that we will bring PSN to a greater height.

Yours sincerely,

Debbie Huang (Ms)  
Chairperson of PSN



## Our first Parent Support Network meeting for 2023

### *Canossian School Parent Support Network Committee (2022-2023)*

#### **Chairperson**

Mdm Debbie HUANG  
Alaric Tee, P6

#### **Co-Vice-Chairperson**

Mr Eddie ENG  
Kaleb Eng, P3

#### **Secretary**

Mr Vong YAP  
Former student Lucas Yap

#### **Treasurer**

Ms Doris ANG  
Canossian School, Senior Manager

Quick link: <https://canossian.edu.sg/parents-partners/parent-support-network/>



Chairperson leading the team on planning for the year



Members discussing activities for 2023

## TIPS FOR PARENTS

Parenting tips for supporting children with hearing loss and listening fatigue

Below are some tips to help children with hearing loss with listening fatigue:

- 1) Use visual supports: Visual supports such as pictures, diagrams, and written instructions can help children with hearing loss understand and remember information, reducing the need to rely solely on auditory input.
- 2) Teach self-advocacy skills: Teaching children with hearing loss how to advocate for themselves in the classroom and other settings can help reduce listening fatigue and increase their overall independence.
- 3) Consider assistive technology: Assistive technology such as FM systems or personal amplification devices can help children with hearing loss hear better in noisy environments, reducing listening effort and fatigue.
- 4) Encourage breaks: Regular breaks can help reduce listening fatigue and improve concentration. Parents can encourage their child to take short breaks when they feel tired or overwhelmed.
- 5) Promote healthy habits: Encouraging healthy habits such as regular exercise, good sleep hygiene, and healthy eating can help reduce fatigue and improve overall well-being, which can in turn reduce listening fatigue.



Reference:

Supporting Success for Children with Hearing Loss.