

# REACH

Center of excellence for the education of children with hearing loss

October 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 Faith, Charity, Humility and Forgiveness.



### In this issue:

- Principal's Desk
- Supporting our Students  
- Compensatory Skills Curriculum
- Teacher Work Attachment
- Audiological Workshops for teachers at Canossaville Preschool and EIPIIC
- Staff Appreciation Day
- Qoqolo
- Important Dates
- SPED Learning Festival

## From the Principal's Desk

### Dear Parents / Guardians

In the month of October, we commemorate two events of significance at the school. The first is the anniversary of the canonization of St Magdalene of Canossa on 2 October. This is followed closely by the Feast Day of St Francis of Assisi on 4 October. St Magdalene is our Mother Foundress and is venerated with St Josephine Bakhita, also a Canossian saint. St Francis, alongside his trusted compatriot, St Anthony of Padua are our two patron saints.



St Magdalene of Canossa was born in Verona (Italy) as the daughter of a wealthy marquis. At the age of five, having lost her father and her mother having remarried, it was her Uncle Jerome who raised her. From her early childhood she felt a profound sense of loss when this happened and turned to Our Lady, the Mother of Sorrows for solace. She felt that she needed to make Jesus Christ known and loved and did so through works of charity, primarily through catechesis, and also among delinquent and abandoned girls and in running hospitals.



St Francis of Assisi, founder of the Franciscan Order, was born at Assisi in Umbria (Italy) in 1181, many years before St Magdalene. As she devoted more time to prayer, she was drawn to the teachings of St Francis and frequented his Church which was close to her home at the Canossa Palace. Over time, she was moved to take him as her advocate and she prayed for him to be her spiritual father. She felt that Francis, as father and advocate, would be able to plead her cause with God. She, in turn, would be his spiritual daughter because of her love for Christ and poverty, which St Francis espoused. For the Canossians, poverty is taken as a spiritual journey towards inner detachment, as a constant awareness of the transitory nature of life and for deep union with God alone.

He is also known as the patron saint of all creatures, plant and animal. He believed that nature and what it represented was the “mirror of God.” Most representations we see of Francis have animals with him and surrounding him. In this age of climate chaos, our students need to embrace a love for nature and realise that a key dimension of our existence is to be stewards of the earth. Schools and families have to teach their children to protect our earth’s environment – we only have one earth to pass on to our children and to theirs.

What else can we learn from both these saints? St Magdalene observed the tacit truth that charity is like a blazing fire! This fire should burn in the hearts of our students to always be gentle and helpful with their families, peers, school staff, neighbours and those in their community. They should lead in devoting their time and energies to being the best versions of themselves.

An often-used quote from St Francis that would be prudent for our students to adopt, “Start by doing what's necessary; then do what's possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible.” If guided by the spirits of both saints, our students will be well on their way to achieving the aspirations and dreams, especially as we draw closer to final year assessments and the close of another academic year.

God Bless.

Christina Michael (Ms)  
**Principal**



## Supporting our Students - Compensatory Skills Curriculum

Canossian School offers a curriculum that caters specifically to students with hearing loss. A unique offering is the Compensatory Skills curriculum that is taught by our audiologists. As part of this curriculum, our students learn about the ear, the mechanism of hearing, different types of hearing loss, and the various hearing devices. Importantly, they also learn about themselves, their own hearing loss, and their amplification devices. Simple maintenance of the devices and some communication strategies in the classroom are also taught to initiate independence and self-advocacy for their young minds.

These concepts are presented in a simple manner and vocabulary that their age group would be able to understand. These lessons allow our students to understand and communicate their needs to others confidently. What they learn in these lessons help them cope and excel in society even after they leave the school.



Our Pri 2 and Pri 3 students having their compensatory lessons conducted by our audiologists





## Teacher Work Attachment

This year, the school hosted 4 educators from 31 July to 4 August. The visitors included 2 teachers from the Japan Oral School for the Deaf, a School Leader from Mayflower Primary School and a Special Needs Officer from Gan Eng Seng Primary School. The aims of the attachment were to study the inclusive model of education offered as well as the supports provided for the students for their audiological, social-emotional and learning needs.

The visitors attended sharing sessions by the Principals from both Canossian School and Canossa Catholic School. They had the opportunity to observe lessons at both schools as well as at Canossaville Preschool. In addition to classroom teaching, the visitors learned about the work of our therapists and watched them in action with our students. Discussions with various staff were a part of the programme to allow them to appreciate the full extent of provisions required to support learners accessing a mainstream education.



Pri 1 classroom observation by our visitors



Our visitor from Japan, sharing about their educational experience



## Audiological Workshops for teachers at Canossaville Preschool and EIPIC

On 18 and 25 Sept, our Audiological team conducted 2 workshops for the teachers of Canossaville Preschool and Canossian EIPIC. The objective of the workshop was to equip teachers with the basic audiological knowledge required to support students with hearing loss.

During the workshop, teachers learned about:

- How hearing loss is classified by the severity: mild, moderate, severe and profound
- The different types of hearing loss: conductive, sensorineural and mixed.
- The different types of hearing devices: hearing aids, BAHA (Bone-Anchored Hearing Aids) and cochlear implants
- The use of Assistive Technology in classrooms

They also had opportunities to experience listening through the hearing devices and the Roger system.



## Staff Appreciation Day



We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to our Parent Support Network group for the delicious lunch you provided on Staff Appreciation Day. Your thoughtful gesture filled our hearts and stomachs with warmth and joy!

The meal was not only incredibly tasty but also a delightful surprise that truly brightened our day. It was a fantastic way to remind us that our hard work is appreciated and valued by parents like you who make up such a crucial part of our school community.

We are blessed to have such a supportive and caring Parent Support Network Group, and your dedication to our school and staff doesn't go unnoticed. Your kindness goes a long way in motivating and energizing us to continue giving our best to our students.



## Qoqolo



We are excited to present Qoqolo, a School Management System that offers a comprehensive platform for storing, arranging, and retrieving student data from any location at any time. This system is strategically crafted to enhance communication and interaction between educators and parents. Parents can look forward to receiving updates from teachers and important announcements from the school via this portal.

This app replaces the currently used Remind app and will be operational from 2 Oct 2023. As of this date, the Qoqolo supercedes Remind for all communication between school and home. Text messages sent via Remind will no longer be accessed.

The app can be downloaded using the instructions below.

Instructions on accessing Qoqolo:

1) Download the **MyCanossian** app from Apple App Store / Google Play Store.



2) Login at the URL <https://canossian.qoqolo.com> on a web browser.

There are video guides have been specially prepared for you to assist in navigating the various features of the app:

Video Guide links for IOS and Android:

1. Qoqolo App **MyCanossian** Parent Video Guide -IOS  
Click the link below or scan the QRcode

<https://youtu.be/nPFx8lAek>



2. Qoqolo App **MyCanossian** Parent Video Guide -Android  
Click the link below or scan the QRcode

<https://youtu.be/lxl0iRu5yE>




## Important Dates to note

| Dates  | Events   |
|--|--|
| <b>SA2 Dates for Pri 3 to Pri 5 Students</b>   |  |
| <b>Tuesday, October 10</b><br><b>Tuesday, October 24</b><br><b>Wednesday, October 25</b><br><b>Thursday, October 26</b>                    | English Paper 1 & Listening Comprehension<br>Science<br>English Language Paper 2<br>Mathematics                                  |
| <b>PSLE Dates for Primary 6</b>  |  |
| <b>Thursday, 28 September</b><br><b>Friday, 29 September</b><br><b>Tuesday, 3 October</b><br><b>Monday, 2 October and Wednesday, 4 Oct</b> | PSLE English Paper 1 and 2<br>PSLE Mathematics<br>PSLE Science<br>PSLE MT and HMT (respectively) – P6s need not report to school |
| <b>Tuesday, 3 October</b>  | Last day of afternoon support  |
| <b>Thursday, 5 October</b>   | Children's Day Celebration- Students report to school from 7.00 am to 10.30 am   |
| <b>Friday, 6 October</b>   | Scheduled School Holiday - Children's Day  |
| <b>PSLE Marking Days</b>   |  |
| <b>Monday, 16 Oct</b>  | Pri 1 - Pri 5 will report to school from 7.00am - 1.30pm   |
| <b>Tuesday, 17 Oct</b>   | Pri 1 - Pri 6 will report to school from 7.00 am-1.30 pm   |
| <b>Wednesday, 18 Oct</b>   | E-Learning for Pri 1 – Pri 5. P6 will not report to school   |
| <b>Thursday, 19 Oct</b>  | All students will report to school from 7.00am – 1.30pm  |
| <b>Friday, 3 Nov</b>   | <b>SPED Learning Festival</b><br>Students do not need to report to school  |





# SPED Learning Festival



**SPED  
LEARNING  
FESTIVAL**  
3-4 NOVEMBER 2023

See Possibilities, Inspire Community, Empower Dreams

Organised by Special Education Branch,  
Special Educational Needs Division, MOE

**COME JOIN US ON 4 NOV (SAT) IN ONLINE SESSIONS TO  
LEARN ABOUT HOW YOU CAN IMPACT THE LIFE OF YOUR  
CHILD IN A SPECIAL EDUCATION SCHOOL, THROUGH THE  
THINGS THAT YOU DO AS A PARENT AND CAREGIVER!**

**SIGN UP TODAY!**

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| <b>0900<br/>-<br/>0950</b> | <b>Concurrent Session 1A</b><br><b>Never Ever Give Up! Be Passionate, Be Courageous!</b><br>by Ms Penny Chong, Lighthouse School alumna   |
|                            | <b>Concurrent Session 1B</b><br><b>Empowering Siblings of Persons with Special Needs</b><br>by MINDSibs at MINDS  |
| <b>1010<br/>-<br/>1100</b> | <b>Concurrent Session 2A</b><br><b>Navigating the Digital World: Empowering Families and Youth</b><br>by Mr Shem Yoo, Manager from Touch Community Services,<br>Digital Wellness  |
|                            | <b>Concurrent Session 2B</b><br><b>Managing Caregiver Stress - Self-care for Caregivers of<br/>Children with Special Needs</b><br>by Ms Elizabeth Ragen, Senior Psychologist and Ms Pang Lee<br>Yien, Senior Medical Social Worker, Child Development Unit (CDU),<br>Khoo Teck Puat - National University Children's Medical Institute<br>(KTP-NUCMI) at the National University Hospital (NUH) |
| <b>1110<br/>-<br/>1200</b> | <b>Concurrent Session 3A</b><br><b>When the Child's Behaviour 'Rules' the Home</b><br>by Ms Faridah Ali Chong, Principal Psychologist, Family<br>Empowerment Programme, Rainbow Centre Training and<br>Consultancy  |
|                            | <b>Concurrent Session 3B</b><br><b>Safeguard Your Family's Future: The Why and How of LPA, Will,<br/>and Deputyship</b><br>by Mr Benjamin Foo, author of the book titled Safeguard Your<br>Family's Future and Former Executive Vice President at<br>Singapore Exchange   |

Visit [www.SPEDLF2023.sg](http://www.SPEDLF2023.sg) or scan the QR code to  
register for the SPED Learning Festival and  
sign up for the online sessions.

Registration and sign ups open on 29 Sep and  
close on 30 Oct.

