



CANOSSIAN SCHOOL

# REACH

**NEWSLETTER** FEBRUARY 2024

## CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR THE EDUCATION OF CHILDREN WITH HEARING LOSS

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### **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.



## From the Principal's Desk

### Dear Parents / Guardians

This issue comes to you after a very eventful week for Canossian School. In the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the birth of St Magdalene, the 130<sup>th</sup> Year of the Canossian Sisters' arrival in Singapore and the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of a very special relationship between Canossian School (CS) and Canossa Catholic Primary School (CCPS), the Canossian Sisters, in consultation with the Canossian School Management Boards and the Ministry of Education, announced the restructuring of the two schools. From 2 January 2025, CCPS will become a designated mainstream primary school for students with hearing loss using the Oral Approach.



This restructuring will allow the students of the two schools to fully embrace each other as ONE. It will provide hearing children from CCPS and children diagnosed with hearing loss from CS more opportunities to learn and play with one another and strengthen their bonds with one another. This will build a stronger more inclusive community that is in keeping with the Canossian charism.

As a designated mainstream school, CCPS will build on the good work that CS has been doing for 68 years. CCPS will continue to provide focused support for students with hearing loss who take the national curriculum but have higher support needs. The supports offered at the designated school will include specialized support by teachers from CS, audiological support, speech therapy and other therapy supports deemed necessary based on the needs on each child.

This major milestone took many, many months of careful consideration by our Sisters and Boards and was done in close consultation with our key stakeholders. The greatest influence in the decision making was inspiration from our Foundress, St Magdalene of Canossa, who had a deep love for children with hearing loss. Hence, it is no coincidence that the announcement was made during the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of St Magdalene. In her, we trust the transition is made as seamless as possible for students, staff and families of both schools.

We were heartened that our engagement sessions with parents and alumni ended on very positive notes. Our alumni endorse the decision saying that it was forward looking and will create a more inclusive society.



Parents of students from CS encouraged the school community with their well wishes and prayers for the transition. We look forward to the months ahead as we work to concretize our plans and urge your continued support for the school.

Let me take the opportunity to wish our Chinese students, families and staff a prosperous Chinese New Year, the year of the dragon with all its opportunities, changes and challenges.



God Bless.

**Christina Michael (Ms)**  
Principal

## Pri One First Day of School

Canossian School welcomes 12 students to our Primary One. On 2 January 2024, 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.



Parents creating a daily schedule with their child

## School Prefects' Overnight Camp 2024



The school had a combined Student Leadership Overnight Camp for our School Prefects with CCPS. It is our aim to equip our student leaders with leadership knowledge and skills, and imbue in them the Canossian values, modelled after our Mother Foundress St Magdalene and Canossian Sister St Bakhita. Through the training, we aim to prepare our Prefects to be competent student advocates and agents, leading with a high level of responsibility and a heart for others. During the camp, they were taught project leading and facilitation skills. Our prefects had good bonding session while learning along with their peers.

## School Prefects' Investiture 2024

Canossian School along with Canossa Catholic Primary School held our Prefects' Investiture on 25th January, to celebrate the appointment of our Student Leaders, who officially take on the responsibility as Canossians who model the way, leading and inspiring their peers to live out the school values and attributes.

We would like to congratulate our prefects, Zeng Lingxuan Audrey (Pri 5), Ishaan Hitesh Doshi (Pri 6), Kong Chun Fei (Pri 6) and Isabelle Elisha Yeo Kai Ting (Pri 6) and welcome our newly appointed prefects, Tan Huan Yu Barnabas (Pri 3) and Umar Aadil (Pri 4).



## For Your Information

Dates	Events
Friday, 2 February 2024	CCAs will begin and students will be dismissed at <b>3.30pm</b>
Friday, 9 February 2024	The school will celebrate Chinese New Year on <b>9 Feb</b> . Students will report to school as usual from <b>7.00 am to 10.30 am</b> .
Saturday, 10 February to 13 February 2024	Chinese New Year Celebration <b>There will be no school</b> Students will <b>return to school on Wednesday, 14 February</b>
Monday, 19 February 2024	Dialogue with Principal and Form Teachers for <b>Pri 3 parents at 6.30pm</b> <i>(Zoom details will be provided later)</i>
Thursday, 22 February 2024	Dialogue with Principal and Form Teachers for <b>Pri 4 and Pri 5 parents at 6.30pm</b> <i>(Zoom details will be provided later)</i>

## School Health Services Check

The School Health Service (SHS) team will be conducting the annual Health Screening for Primary School from **19<sup>th</sup> February to 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2024**.



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

For P1 and P5 will be having medical examination and immunization parents to submit online consent using their sing pass, the new URL (<https://go.gov.sg/hpbccp>). Please note that immunization will only be administered to students if required. Kindly note that students can resume normal activities in school after injection if they are well.

Refer to the guide on how to submit the online consent below:

User	Web links	QR code
New Parent User	<a href="https://go.gov.sg/hpbcp-video-newparent">https://go.gov.sg/hpbcp-video-newparent</a>	
Returning Parent User	<a href="https://go.gov.sg/hpbcp-video-returningparent">https://go.gov.sg/hpbcp-video-returningparent</a>	

All consent needs to be submitted online using parents sing pass no issuing of hardcopy consent. We will not be able to proceed with health screening, medical examination and immunization if there is no online consent.

## 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 7.00am – 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:** Some communication from the school on specific programmes or events might be via emails. This is an environment-friendly initiative and to help make sure that the information is accessible on mobile devices.
3. **My Canossian App:** 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
  - Our monthly newsletter, REACH, is sent out to parents via this app. 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.

**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.



## Ways to Improve Your Child's Social Skills

Children typically acquire social skills effortlessly from a young age. Social skills are primarily acquired through observation, feedback, and imitation of others. Children with hearing loss may struggle due to a limited awareness of subtle cues like facial expressions and body language.

Research suggests that children with hearing loss tend to learn pragmatic information, which supports social communication, at a slower pace. By the age of 7, these children may not exhibit the same level of skills as their peers with typical hearing at the age of 4. The accompanying table lists the fundamental social communication skills, often identified as areas of weakness in children with hearing loss, when compared to their hearing counterparts of the same age. These are all skills that families can demonstrate for children, have them repeat, and slowly shape appropriate use of this language.

Pragmatic Skill Areas of Weakness
Provides information on request
Interjects
Makes promises
Retells a story
Repairs incomplete sentences
Apologizes
Ask questions to problem solve
Tells 4-6 picture story in right order
Ends conversations
Request clarification
Asks questions to make predictions
Creates original story
Compares and contrasts



### Social skills include:

- Responding to social cues
- Saying hello and goodbye
- Making eye contact, smiling, being polite
- Having interesting things to say
- Cooperating by taking turns
- Acknowledging other's comments
- Responding appropriately to questions
- Being sensitive to the feelings of others
- Problem solving
- Controlling aggression and other inappropriate behaviours
- Knowing the rules of conversation

### Tips to improve your child's social skills

- Families, by acknowledging their child's learning challenges, can actively contribute to skill development and turning potential weaknesses into strengths. A key support strategy involves helping the child form meaningful connections with peers who also have hearing challenges. This sense of shared experience fosters a supportive environment, enhancing the child's self-esteem and resilience. This, in turn, equips them to handle questions and comments from individuals with typical hearing more effectively
- Pay attention to how your child interacts with others
- Reinforce good social behaviours – be specific about what s/he did well! Praise level of EFFORT!
- When your child has a social mis-step:
  - immediately model what s/he should have said/done
  - use words to describe what s/he should have said/done (You mean....)
  - explain how it made you feel (ignored, angry)
  - describe how your child actions can be interpreted by others in a way he didn't mean (i.e., by not answering someone may think you don't care about them or what they say)

\*REF: <https://successforkidswithhearingloss.com/social-skill/>