



CANOSSIAN SCHOOL

# REACH

**NEWSLETTER** JANUARY 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

Welcome to the start of a new year! As we end one year and begin a new one, there are the usual musings on lofty resolutions that ought to be made. For this year, perhaps this quote from Nick Frederickson can remind us that for 2024, perhaps we should let us hearts guide our actions for the year: "So I close my eyes to old ends. And open my heart to new beginnings."



The past year was unmistakably an incredible time marked by growth and changes. Our new beginning starts with welcoming our new Primary 1 students. We are happy that they join us on our journey of raising girls and boys in the tradition of Canossian education. In this tradition, we continue to do "whatever it takes" to help our students achieve their academic goals while nurturing self-directedness and social awareness. With Catholic education, we endeavor to create a community of lifelong learners who are confident, self-reliant and resilient. They will grow to use their God-given talents and gifts to live the Way, the Truth and the Life. They will learn to uphold principles of Dignity of the Person and of Common Good in their interactions with adults and peers.

We saw the graduation of our Primary 6 cohort of students, all whom did well at their PSLE. We bade farewell to two teaching staff, Ms Suzanna Lim and Ms Koh Hin Ann. Ms Lim retires after 19 years of dedicated service to the school, while Ms Koh leaves the school to pursue a new career. On that note, we welcome two new teachers, Mdm Zaila and Ms Amirah, who will be attached to Pri 3 and 2 classes, respectively.

Regardless of changes in staff and student composition, our parents will always key members of the community. At our school, we are committed to a learning partnership with our families. Parents should be actively involved in their child's educational journey but should avoid helicopter parenting. Aspire to be parents who check in daily with their children on what they learned in school, their interactions with friends and homework for the day. Your child's teacher will keep you updated, but you can reach out to share if you notice your child struggling with the content or to discuss strategies for practicing at home. Be the supportive parent who understands the importance of regular attendance.

Your child's Form Teacher will communicate directly with you via the MyCanossian app. The school connects with you via email and our monthly newsletter (Reach). Do take time to read and clarify information provided through these channels. When communicating with our staff, we appreciate parents who are respectful and considerate in their interactions, reminding themselves that communication should take place during office hours.

Over the month of January, teachers will reach out to parents for discussions on goals for learning for their children. These mutually agreed goals are captured in their child's Individual Education Plans (IEP). Both parents and teachers share the responsibility of monitoring attainment of these goals. Teachers may meet parents with therapists to discuss certain goals. While determining goals for your child remind yourself that your child is unique and special. We love them for who they are. Comparisons with peers or siblings are unjust and unreasonable.

There will be dialogue sessions organized by level for parents. In the meanwhile, we look forward to you continued support, patience, and compassion as we work together to realise the full potential of your children.

God Bless.

**Christina Michael (Ms)**  
Principal

## Thanksgiving Day 2023

CS Thanksgiving 2023 was yet another memorable day as the event started with the heavens blessing us with a heavy downpour as it cooled the big hall we were in. We had a packed event schedule with our Band starting the show for the first time. Our parents and students were also encouraged by the heartfelt sharing by our special guests – Ms Sharifah Yokoyama and her daughter, Naomi.



Special guests – Ms Sharifah Yokoyama and her daughter, Naomi



Drayden Ng from Pri 4 was recognized as one of the recipients of the Canossian Spirit Award



with all the cameras whipped out. It was truly a spectacular scene to behold. Lastly, we would like to thank everyone for your support to the school by purchasing from our mini sales booth. Thanksgiving 2023 was truly a memorable and meaningful one.

Accendi La Vita, may we continue to shine our light forth in this new year!



## For Your Information

### Afternoon Support Classes and CCAs

- Afternoon classes will begin on 16 January
- CCAs will begin on 2 February
- Information will be provided to parents nearer the date.

### School Operating Hours

The General Office will operate from 6.30am – 5.00pm on Monday to Thursday and 6.30am to 4.30pm on Friday. We appreciate that your child is fetched timely after his/her after school activities.

## School Terms for 2024

Semester 1	
Term 1	Tuesday 2 Jan <sup>1</sup> to Friday 8 March
Term 2	Monday 18 March to Friday 24 May
Semester 2	
Term 3	Monday 24 June to Friday 30 August
Term 4	Monday 9 September to Friday 15 November

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<sup>1</sup> Primary 1 and Kindergarten 1 will start school on Tuesday, 2 January 2024. Primary 2 to 6 and Kindergarten 2 will start school on Wednesday, 3 January 2024.

## Scheduled School Holidays for 2024

Holiday	Date
Youth Day	*Sunday 30 June (The following Monday, 1 Jul 2024 will be a school holiday)
Teachers' Day	Friday 30 August
Children's Day (for primary schools and primary sections of full schools only)	Friday 4 October

## Public Holidays for 2024

Holiday	Date
New Year's Day	Monday 1 January
Chinese New Year	Saturday 10 February
	Sunday 11 February <sup>2</sup>
Good Friday	Friday 29 March
Hari Raya Puasa	Wednesday 10 April
Labour Day	Wednesday 1 May
Vesak Day	Wednesday 22 May
Hari Raya Haji	Monday 17 June
National Day	Friday 9 August
Deepavali	Thursday 31 October
Christmas Day	Wednesday 25 December

<sup>2</sup> Monday 12 February will be a public holiday and Tuesday 13 February will be a school holiday and a designated off-in-lieu. Schools will be closed, including the General Office, Student Care Centres and Kindergarten Care(KCare) Centres



## Starting the School Year Right

Our children's primary school journey will be a unique experience.

Let's cheer them on and support them in adjusting well.

Do try out the following tips and enjoy the experiences and memories formed together.

### Tip 1: Guide our children to develop good habits and skills

In primary school, our children will experience new subjects, a new timetable and longer school hours.

- Put in place bedtime routines to support our children to get enough sleep (at least 9 hours). Guide them to pack their bags and set the alarm clock the night before.



- Encourage our children to learn and complete tasks independently. This will help them to be responsible and confident over time.

- Encourage our children to be friendly by saying "Hello", greeting "Good Morning" and smiling at their new friends and teachers.



### Tip 2: Work with the school to support our children

- Support our children's learning by knowing their strengths, interests and needs.
- Visit the school with our children to familiarise them with the environment. Talk about experiences they may have in school and how they can cope with them, especially the ones they may feel worried or anxious about.



- Work with the school if they should be aware of our children's triggers or medical history. Connect school personnel with our children's pre-school educators and medical/early intervention professionals.

### Practising Cyber Wellness



- In school, our children may experience learning through devices, and we can start building good digital habits from home.
- Based on [MOH's Guidance on Screen Use for 7-12 year old](#), parents are encouraged to:
  - Use parental control settings to monitor and ensure children's access to age-appropriate content.
  - Develop a timetable or screen use agreement to balance screen time and family bonding.
  - Avoid screen use during mealtimes and one hour before bedtime.
- Co-viewing with our children is also important. Knowing what our children are viewing will create more opportunities for conversations.

\*Article adapted from Communications & Engagement Group, Ministry of Education