

A Nostalgic Farewell: Tea with Tales Celebrates the Legacy of Canossian School

As Canossian School (CS) prepares for the restructuring with Canossa Catholic Primary School, the school community came together for a farewell event, *Tea with Tales*. This special gathering not only celebrated the school's rich history since 1956 but also honoured the legacy of its Foundress, St Magdalene of Canossa, whose commitment to education has guided CS for generations. Held at the school premises, this event marked a significant moment for alumni, staff, and the Canossian Sisters as they reflected on a lifetime of memories and milestones.

The Evolution of a Legacy

The decision to restructure CS comes after careful planning in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, ensuring that students with hearing loss who are ready for the national curriculum will join Canossa Catholic Primary School (CCPS) from January 2025. As CS transitions from operating as a Special Education School, *Tea with Tales* offered the community a final opportunity to honour its profound impact on students' lives and to acknowledge its role in fostering a legacy of inclusion and empowerment.

An Evening to Remember

The evening began with a speech by Sr Anne Tan, former Principal of the school. She revealed that she was heartened to see so many former students and staff at the gathering. While there is bound to be a sentiment of sadness, she reminded the audience that this is a new milestone in the history of Canossian School. She explained, "This milestone marks the arrival of our goal, the vision of the Canossian Sisters to have all our hearing impaired children fully integrated into the mainstream schools; know that all the possibilities are now open to them, to develop their potentials to the fullest as any other child in the mainstream schools."



Sr Anne Tan, Principal (1983 – 1999)

To add to the celebratory mood, there was a concert where current students showcased their musical talents. The CS choir and band performed a series of songs, filling the hall with the spirit and vibrancy that has defined the school for decades.



Canossian School Percussion Band, the flagship of musical talent at the school

After the concert, alumni, former staff, and the Canossian Sisters mingled on the grounds of CS for a delightful tea reception. There, classmates and teachers reunited, sharing stories and reliving the camaraderie that has bound them together over the years. Conversations filled with laughter, hugs, and occasional tears underscored the event's sentimental tone as attendees recalled their favourite moments at CS.

A walk through time in the Heritage Gallery

One of the highlights of the evening was a tour of the Heritage Gallery, a thoughtfully curated exhibit that captured the essence of life at CS across the years. The gallery featured a collection of treasured items, from vintage uniforms to photos of school events, each piece telling a story of tradition, growth, and community. The gallery served as a powerful reminder of the enduring values instilled in each graduate and their shared identity as Canossian students.



Sisters and guests walking down memory lane at the Heritage Gallery

Alumni shared their personal memorabilia like school photos or awards that they received as students of the school. These served as reminders of the values they learned at the school and to continue with the Canossian legacy of service, compassion, and resilience in their own lives.

With *Tea with Tales*, Canossian School commemorated the end of a meaningful era, one defined by the shared values and unity that have shaped the school community. As alumni and staff bid farewell to a beloved institution, they left with renewed pride in their alma mater, vowing to keep the memories and values of CS alive for generations to come.



A keepsake - staff and students from the past and present, together with some of the Canossian Sisters



A blast from the past...the same group of alumni from their years in school (2000) versus an informal gathering in 2018



Wen Lin added 25 new photos to the album **Canossian School**.
6h · 🌐

As the doors of Canossian School prepare to close this year, my heart is filled with both sadness and deep gratitude. This school has been so much more than just a place of learning – it has been a sanctuary where friendships blossomed and where students, especially those of us with hearing loss, received unparalleled support from teachers, principals, audiologists, sisters, volunteers, and parents. The care and attention given to our needs went beyond what words can express.

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For students like me, Canossian School wasn't just about academics—it was a place where we learned to navigate the world with confidence despite our challenges.

The school created an environment where hearing loss was not a barrier but something we worked through together. The tools (etc; FM), encouragement, and guidance we received here were life-changing, and I will always be thankful for that.



A tribute to the school written by an alumna, Ng Wen Lin (extreme right in the picture above), who left the school in 2010