



CORRI connections

2014 | Issue 2

Inspiring a spirit of excellence, Nurturing a culture of compassion

CHARACTER & LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

CARITÀ: A LIFE BUILT ON LOVE THROUGH SERVANT LEADERSHIP

The Student Leaders' Investiture was held once again as part of Foundress Day celebrations. This year's theme for Student Leadership is *Carità: A Life Built On Love through Servant Leadership*.



The Student Leadership body comprises the Executive Committee, the Events Council, the Welfare Council, the Class Committee, the CCA Council and the Catholic Student Leaders' Council. The student leaders have undergone a series of training workshops which includes the in-house Public Speaking Workshop, Project Management Workshop and the Leadership Challenge Model Workshop conducted by the Student Leadership Committee teachers. The Student Leaders also took part in The Forest Adventure. In addition, the Catholic Student Leaders took part in the Catholic Leaders' Retreat.

At SACSS, the student leaders are tasked to facilitate the Secondary 1 Orientation Programme and the Secondary 2 Leaders-in-Training Leadership Workshop as well as to organise special school events such as One SAC, the Friend of Singa Project, Green Easter, Catholic Awareness Week, Eat.Pray.Love., Student Dialogue Sessions and Teachers' Day Concert. This year, the Student Leaders collaborated with St Anthony's Canossian Primary School and Opera Estate Primary School to conduct leadership-training workshops for the primary school student leaders through the Peer-to-Peer Programme.



The holistic leadership training programmes serve to imbue the student leaders with the following:

- The ability to self-manage
- The CORRI qualities to lead confidently
- The skills to be an effective team player
- The qualities to be a role model and mentor to the juniors
- The empathy to be a servant leader in the community.

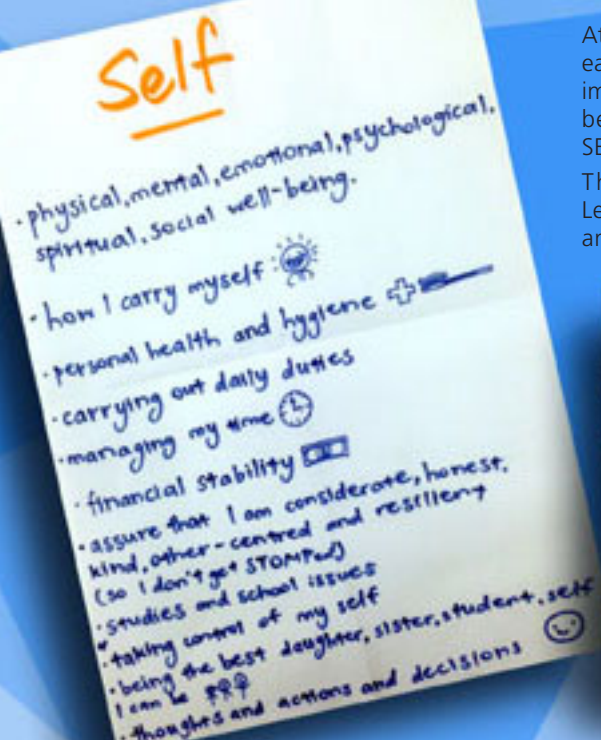
The investiture as an event to celebrate the values of servant leadership was succinctly summed up by Ysabel Tan, the outgoing Head Girl (2013-2014) in her speech...

"...serving the school is an honour and a privilege. Do so with dignity, integrity, compassion and servant leadership. I'm sure this is something all of the leaders, past and present, feel proud about and will cherish."

*By Sr Christina Yeo, Ms Nicole Quek,
Ms Pauline Choy and Ms Sharon Yu*



SERVANT LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP



At the end of the learning journey in SACSS, each Canossian student would have been imbibed with the five CORRI qualities and be an I EXSEL Graduate – an EXcellent SErvant Leader serving God and others.

The Greenleaf Centre for Servant Leadership was commissioned to develop and deepen the students' understanding



of Servant Leadership. The programme's materials and resources were fine-tuned and customised using the CORRI qualities as well as the school's existing framework for character development.

The exercise included an intensive workshop conducted by the facilitators from Greenleaf Centre for the teachers to familiarise themselves with the programme prior to conducting the two workshops for the students. The workshops on Other-Centredness and Responsible Individuality were presented using stories based on the experiences in school and at home to engage the students so that they can assimilate the learning points.

Reflection sessions were held to gather feedback. The students felt that the workshops allowed them to understand Servant Leadership in a practical way and they are now more equipped to practise what they have learnt immediately, while the teachers felt that student leaders are better prepared to facilitate the workshops and are ready to promote Servant Leadership.

By Mr He Junhao

HOSTING THE WORLD VISION'S CHILDREN OF THE BLUE SKY CHOIR

A chance meeting with the Head of Partnerships and Communications from World Vision Singapore led to the visit by the Children of the Blue Sky Choir in July. Eight members of the SACSS Choir played host during the visit.

The visiting group comprising students and teachers, hailing from Mongolia, Ethiopia and The Philippines, arrived at daybreak and were ushered backstage to prepare for their performance. They fascinated the Canossian audience with their colourful performance and a repertoire of contemporary tunes, folk songs and evergreen favourites. The visitors also shared how they have benefitted from World Vision's aid and how it motivated them to study hard so that they can improve the living conditions when they return home.

The visitors enjoyed the eye-opening experiences – playing traditional local games, gaining insights into the school life at SACSS and being treated to *Nasi Briyani* for lunch. For the eight students from the SACSS Choir, the interaction made them better appreciate what they have.

The visit also gave the teachers and students at SACSS insights into

the plight of children around the region, which in turn motivated the Mathematics and Humanities departments, and several classes to raise funds and contribute to World Vision's efforts.

By Mr He Junhao



CAMBODIA TRIP 2014

Come 24 October, a group of 60 students and 8 teachers will embark on a learning journey to Cambodia as part of their 5-day Cultural and Social Immersion Programme.

The objectives of the trip are to:

- enhance students' global awareness and cross-cultural skills, and enable them to develop cultural sensitivities;
- nurture in the students a sense of empathy and compassion towards the community through visits to cultural sites and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs); and
- apply technical and life skills as part of the service learning projects so as to build self-confidence, develop character and leadership skills.

There will be opportunities to learn about the rich Cambodian history and culture from visits to sites such as the Cultural Village, Artisan d'Angkor Centre, Angkor Thom, Bayon Temple and the Angkor Wat. Students will broaden their perspective of life in Cambodia as well as deepen their appreciation of their own life in Singapore.

During the trip, the students will be conducting fun lessons in art and craft, English, basic personal hygiene practice and even snazzy dance steps to engage the young children at the local schools and orphanages. The planning and execution of the activities will allow our students to hone their leadership qualities, work together responsibly as a team, cultivate empathy towards the less privileged and most of all – bring cheer to the lives of the children in Cambodia.

By Mdm Aznah Hj Kilali

PEOPLE & PARTNERSHIP

YEAR HEADS – TRACKING THE PULSE OF STUDENTS' DEVELOPMENT

The appointment of HODs as Year Heads and the adoption of structured level meeting times have enhanced the delivery of Character and Citizenship Education (CCE). Besides enhancing links among Form Teachers, the platform also builds capacity and competency in the teaching of CCE. With better-equipped Form Teachers, students stand to benefit amid a challenging period when the foundation of good character is laid.

The school embraces the sacredness of good character and understands that growth does not transpire in a straight line and that the journey of life is not just about the destination but about what one learns and how one grows. To support this, the school's Student Development Team comprising Year Heads and Heads of Level and the Character and Citizenship Education Team comprising subject heads for Character Education programmes and CCA, the school's Discipline and Student Leadership Team, endeavour to create a culture of respect for others, a love for learning and the strive for excellence. Students will then grow to become confident and self-directed learners, concerned citizens and active contributors.



The Year Heads monitor the well-being of students by getting to know them and looking out for signs that suggest that they may be encountering problems with school work, families and friends. The Year Heads then work with the Character and Citizenship Education Team, Heads of Level, Form and Co-Form teachers, school counsellors, learning support teachers and Instructional Programme Heads, and together they customise individual, level-wide and small group programmes such as Building Relationships In Teens with Empowerment (BRITE) to assist students who are having problems. They also go the extra mile – making home visits to get a better understanding of the well-being and other social and emotional factors that may be the root cause of the student's behaviour in school. And if needed, the Year Heads may also arrange parent conferences to open a partnership channel focused on helping the student.

Year Heads also work closely with the student body to make school a place they can feel at home. Care and concern is extended to students during the GCE 'N' level examination, with the serving of nourishing breakfast beverages. Through dialogues and surveys, students needs and aspirations are surfaced and realised. The increased number of study areas is a result of the engagement. Another possibility that is being explored with the student body is allowing NA students who are coping well with the curriculum to take on an additional subject to help them realise their post-secondary aspirations.

By Ms Pauline Choy and Ms Teo Jin Ling

FAMILYMATTERS!@SCHOOL



To foster and strengthen home-school partnerships, the school adopted the Family Life Education Programme, Family Matters! Supported by Ministry of Social and Family Development, the programme adopts a holistic family learning model to equip parents with effective parenting skills as well as to empower students with lifeskills and values to develop them into responsible adults.

Ms Lorraine Khoo, a School Coordinator, has been appointed to plan and organise family education workshops and bonding sessions for parents and students. These programmes serve to enrich family life, allow parents to become partners in education and lay the foundation for a strong home-school-community partnership. Ms Khoo has more than five-years' experience in coordinating family education programmes for secondary schools.

Some of the programmes lined up for parents include parent-child bonding sessions and parenting workshops such as *Understanding the Teenagers and their Developmental Challenges* and *Helping their Children Cope with Stress*. FamilyMatters!@School also facilitates programmes for students to empower themselves to cope with the challenges ahead and to imbue in them positive values and attitudes towards their family and life.

By Mrs Catherine Yong



“Research has shown that family involvement supports children to succeed in school. Building positive parent-child relationships will have an impact on their attitudes and educational achievement.”

– Ms Lorraine Khoo, School Coordinator – FamilyMatters!@SACSS



COMMEMORATIVE EVENT

CELEBRATING THE 135TH ANNIVERSARY AND THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF ST ANTHONY'S CANOSSIAN SCHOOLS

15 August was a highly anticipated day for staff, students, alumni and stakeholders of both SACPS and SACSS as it marked the official opening of the two schools. It was also a celebration of the 135th anniversary of the schools, and the 120th year of the presence of the Canossian Sisters in Singapore.

Many wondered why the origin of the school predated the Canossian Sisters' presence. Historical records tell us that the Portuguese Missions started a school for the poor in 1879 which was named St Anna's School. The school was renamed St Anthony's Boys and Girls School in 1886. The co-educational school separated in 1893, to become St Anthony's Boys' and St Anthony's Girls' School. The four Canossian Sisters who arrived in 1894 then took over the running of the girls' school.

Throughout the past 135 years, the school has experienced much growth and development. While the Ministry of Education recently funded 95% of the cost for PRIME – the Programme for Rebuilding and IMproving Existing schools – it is important to also recognise and applaud the untiring fundraising efforts and the generosity of the many benefactors.

“ Today we can offer new and expanded premises for sports, performing arts, ICT and all other learning experiences for our students. ”

– Sr Theresa Seow, Provincial Leader of the Canossian Sisters.

The Archbishop in his homily during the Eucharistic celebration of the feast of the Assumption, emphasised that the Catholic Education must equip our students with the capacity to make sound and solid moral choices and decisions in faith. The motto of the school **VIA, VERITAS, VITA – Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life** – should give purpose, direction and hope to our students, inspiring them to become people of integrity and compassion, ready to serve all in society, especially the poor and underprivileged.

Guest-of-Honour, Ms Indranee Rajah, the Senior Minister of State for Law and Education, who toured the campus and visited the schools' Heritage Gallery, the two School Libraries, St Francis Garden (Primary section) and the Black Box (Secondary section), also spoke of the support the schools could give to MOE in providing a holistic and integrated education. Ms Rajah highlighted that the strong presence of former SAC students among the teaching staff was testimony to the unique appeal of a Canossian education.

Mrs Fiona Ong Oliveiro, Chairperson of the Parents' Support Group at St Anthony Canossian Secondary School, whose three daughters attended both the Primary and the Secondary sections, also shared how her fervent confidence in the Canossian Education prompted her to allow her youngest





daughter who scored well in her PSLE results and was encouraged to consider other more “prestigious” options to remain in the St Anthony’s Canossian family.



The Dinner Theatre featured an outstanding performance of drama, music and dance. Some 100 students from the Primary and Secondary schools jointly presented a musical, The Canossian Spirit,

which featured snippets of significant people, past and present who have, through their shared philosophy and beliefs, brought to life the Canossian values and impacted the heartbeat of the school.

The milestone event, attended by staff, students, alumni and stakeholders along with the presence of approximately 10 priests and 36 nuns, was a moving one with Archbishop William Goh, the main celebrant, delivering a homily that was poignant and optimistic. It left the congregation feeling uplifted and grateful to have been part of this momentous occasion.

By Ms Chloe Fong, Mr Harvinder Singh and Ms Sri Laxshemy





COMMEMORATIVE EVENT

COMMEMORATING 120 YEARS OF CANOSSIAN SISTERS' PRESENCE IN SINGAPORE



It all began in 1894 when the Canossian Sisters were invited to Singapore by the Portuguese Mission to run the girls' school, St Anthony's Girls' school alongside the St Anthony's Boys' School.

The schools are grateful to the pioneers and unsung heroes among the Sisters, teachers, students, parents and benefactors whose sacrifices made the schools what they are today. There will be a Thanksgiving Eucharistic celebration on Saturday, 27 September at 10.30am in St Joseph's Church, Victoria Street. A seminar will be held in the afternoon at the National Design Centre (the former St Anthony's

Convent School premises) for 120 invited guests.

The theme is One Love, One Mission, One Canossian. The key speaker will be Sr Anne Tan, the Vicar General who will share how the charism came to birth here in Singapore.

With faith and trust in God, the strong tradition of the Canossian brand of education will continue to prevail as the schools celebrate St Magdalene of Canossa, an educator who was ahead of her time.

By Sr Christina Yeo and Ms Sharon Yu

“To succeed well in educating the girls, teachers must study the character and temperament of each student, because what is good for one is not necessarily good for the other.”

– St Magdalene of Canossa, Rules for Schools

TO SIR, WITH LOVE

A Memorial Mass was held at school on Saturday, 2 August, for the late Mr Quah Siew Kow. The remembrance event saw a gathering of over 100 former students, colleagues, friends and family coming together to pray and pay tribute to the beloved PE teacher's 10th Anniversary of his passing.

Mr Quah who joined St Anthony's Convent in 1976 and went on to serve the school for almost three decades. He was the school's first and only male teacher till mid-80s. He was also instrumental in paving the way for the school's Tennis, Track and Field, Basketball, Swimming and Gymnastics teams entry into the National School competitions.



The Mass was celebrated by Mr Quah's classmate and good friend from St Joseph's Institution, Msgr Eugene Vaz. In his homily, Msgr Vaz recounted, "Looking back, we appreciate his dedication. God has used him to mould lives." At the end of the mass was a 3-minute video montage of old photos and dedications that paid tribute to him.

A teacher and a former student of Mr Quah, Ms Tiffany Cheok, remembers him as a man who welcomed outspoken students as long as they were able to make a stand and put forth their ideas politely.

Mr SK Quah had shaped and inspired generations of Canossian students who continue to live his spirit of resilience, faith, integrity and commitment.

By Mrs Catherine Yong

“I remember Mr Quah as someone whose reputation preceded him. He had the ability to silence the student population with his sheer presence. But most of all, I remember him as a kind and generous person with a great sense of humour.”

*– A dedication by SACCS teacher,
Mr Hamzah Mohamed*

SPECIAL PROGRAMMES

LANGUAGE ARTS WEEK



Planned and facilitated by the English Language and Literature Department, the Language Arts Week this year was held over 6 days for all students from the Secondary 1 to 3 levels. The theme this year was, "Love to Learn, Learn to Love Language" and the focus was on exposure to grammar and the appreciation of Literature.

Students were given the opportunity to attend the movie screening of *Mona Lisa's Smile* while being served popcorn and candy floss. In the mornings that week, the whole school was entertained by the Queen of Grammar series of short videos put together by the Speak

Good English Movement, starring local artiste Kumar. The videos touched on the rules of grammar and were followed by a short quiz put together by the English and Literature teachers. On two afternoons, the students from Secondary 3 participated in PESA, the school's Public Speaking competition and Grammar Games while the Lower Secondary students were engaged in the Spelling Bee and watched their peers perform their Readers' Theatre pieces and Literature Movie Trailers and Dramatisation, which were part of their Exploratory Assignment exercise.

To further enhance students' appreciation of Literature, talks were held. Two guest speakers, local playwright Haresh Sharma and Dr Patricia Wong from the National Institute of Education shared their insights on writer's craft and writer's intent. Students from St Andrew's Junior College shared with the graduating cohort at SACSS how to tackle the Unseen Component of the Literature paper better.

This year's Language Arts Week saw strong support from the students and allowed the staff of the English and Literature Department to collaborate closely, thereby ensuring that the students enjoyed the engaging activities.

By Mrs Jannine Kuah

THE READING PROGRAMME

The Reading Programme was introduced to provide an integrated school-wide approach to promote an active reading culture and community at SACSS. The school collaborates with National Library Board (NLB) to facilitate workshops, book review competitions, talks by local and international authors and mass lending of books. The school has also initiated an early bird reading programme which aims to encourage students who arrive early before morning assembly to read articles that are availed to them. Popular general interest magazines are also subscribed to provide students with authentic reading resources that are being used in the teaching of the English Language.



To further support a reading culture, the school library has been upgraded to offer students a conducive place to read and study. The comic section is a new addition in the library while more comics in English, Chinese and Malay are being acquired. On the second level of the library is a versatile space fitted with a raised platform which may be used for workshops and small group performances. The same space can also be converted into a study area when needed.

By Ms Justina Foo and Ms Kamala Kausikan

HARMONY FROM THE HEART



Racial Harmony Day was commemorated on 29 July at SACSS this year with the theme, Harmony from the Heart. The concept of Taste, See and Do was adopted for the carnival-like booths to encourage the students and staff to participate in the activities. The craft stations manned by parent volunteers, known as the Canossian Co-Educators, were extremely popular. The students made a beeline for the henna hand painting station to get their hands adorned with intricate designs. Some students challenged themselves by making decorative *bunga manggar* and tying Chinese knots to form dragonflies. Parent volunteers also conducted afternoon cooking classes for

selected students who later prepared tantalising pies and *kueh pie tee*. In the hall, a music video on racial harmony was screened and entries of inter-ethnic costumes made from recycled materials for the class competitions were reviewed.

By Ms Aileen Tan



WHAT'S NEW

THE REVITALISED CHINESE CULTURAL SOCIETY (CCS)



To broaden Canossian students' understanding and appreciation of Chinese Culture, the Chinese Cultural Society organised a series of interesting hands-on activities to promote the Chinese art, music and literature. CCS members were exposed to a wide variety of Chinese cultural activities such as the making of Chinese handicrafts, Chinese calligraphy and traditional Chinese painting. Outstanding pieces by CCS members have constantly been selected for submission at international calligraphy competitions and exhibitions. The artworks of three CSS students were selected and exhibited in the 2014 series.

During the Mother Tongue Fortnight this year, CCS members organised a Chinese Cultural Exhibition to showcase their works and set up booths to demonstrate Chinese painting and calligraphy. Even non-Chinese students participated in the painting and writing of Chinese calligraphy during the event. With the encouraging success, more interesting and fun activities are underway for next year.

*By Mdm Gu Yuan Yuan and
Mdm Tay Hui Cheng*

AROUND THE CAMPUS

A PLACE FOR A TOTAL WORKOUT

The school's fitness room is well equipped with cardio machines, pulley systems, free weights and exercise machines that will provide users with a full body workout. To offer a more comfortable environment for a workout, an air-conditioning unit was recently installed.

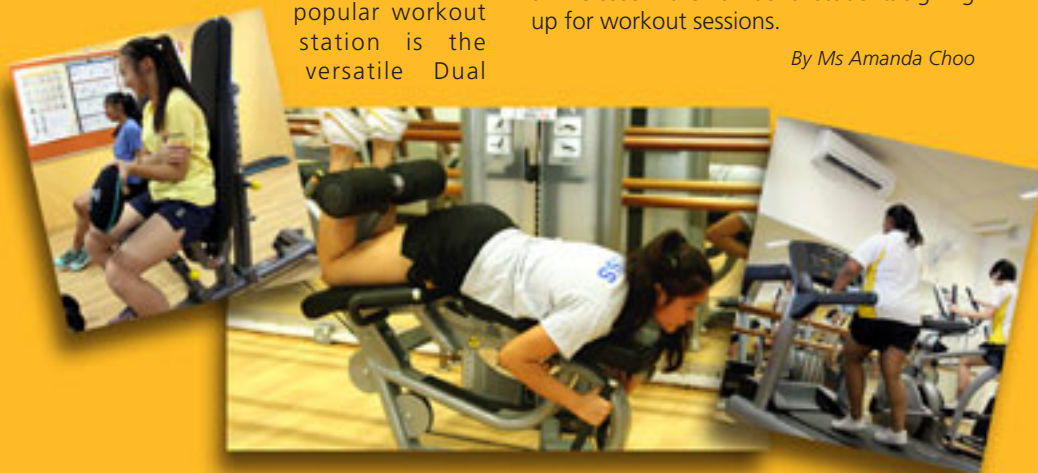
A popular exercise station is the leg exercise apparatus which prevents muscle imbalance whilst it tones up the legs by building up the hamstring and quadriceps. Another popular workout station is the versatile Dual

Pulley System which can be adjusted to cater to different exercises and can accommodate multiple users and exercises simultaneously.

The latest Sand Bells essentially use specifically weighted sand bags and function just like dumb bells – albeit, a much safer and softer option.

The Fitness Room has created more buzz among the school community and has seen an increase in the number of students signing up for workout sessions.

By Ms Amanda Choo



SCIENCE RESEARCH LABORATORY (SRL)

The setting up of the Science Research Laboratory serves to provide a space with well-equipped facilities for the school-based Science Research Programme that encourages new initiatives in order to cultivate in students at all levels a spirit of inquiry as well as to develop attitudes and values for the proper conduct of sciences, beyond the syllabuses.

To nurture students' passions for specific subject areas and to cater to students with special talents and interests in Science, the SRL paves the way to support self-directed

research projects where students gain first-hand experience and a better understanding of their interests, aspirations and skills, and to see how these match up with their desired career choices in future.

In addition, SRL can also be seen as a step taken to support professional development, for the teachers and laboratory staff as well as a move to cultivate an environment for sharing and learning among the staff and to equip them with the essential knowledge and skills to prepare for the future.

By Dr Yap Ann Teck



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