



2019 | Issue 1

C O R R I connections

Inspiring a spirit of excellence, Nurturing a culture of compassion

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Page 2-4

HONOURING
OUR HERITAGE
*Canossian Schools
140th Anniversary
Celebration*

Page 5

*2018 Prize Winners
of St. Magdalene
and St. Bakhita
Awards*

Page 6

HONOURING
OUR PEOPLE
Canossian Sisters

*Honouring our
Teachers:
President's Award
for Teachers (PAT)
and Outstanding
Youth n Education
Award (OYEA) 2019*

Page 7

*Thank you and
farewell, Mdm Yee*

*Answering the
call to serve*

Page 8

MAKING FRESH
CHANGES
*Refreshing our
Campus*

EXPLORING
FRESH
POSSIBILITIES
*Gearing up for
MOE-OBS:
2019 Cycling
Programme for
Secondary 3
Students*

HONOURING: OUR HERITAGE, OUR PEOPLE

*from Italy and Singapore
...united in service*

*one heart - one mission - one Love
in Singapore*

Honouring Our Heritage

140 YEARS OF CANOSSIAN EDUCATION IN SINGAPORE



It seemed like only yesterday that we launched Carita for the 135th Anniversary in 2014. Time flew by and last year, in 2018, preparations for our 140th Anniversary were well underway. The icing on the cake was that our 140th Anniversary coincides with Singapore's Bicentennial Commemoration. Being amongst the oldest of schools in Singapore, we were invited to submit proposals for a joint project between the National Heritage Board and the Bicentennial Office. In the second half of last year, we received the good news that we were awarded a substantial sum and we began embarking on a major project in 3 parts. The first is the colouring book, *Amore Senza Fine*, which was distributed on Foundress Day; the second was a video production and the third is a collection of essays from both the primary and secondary schools which will be distributed on St. Anthony's Feast Day in July this year. For both our publications, we have decided to tap on the literary and artistic talents of our Canossian community. Student contributors are invited to showcase their art, such as manga drawings, and possibly combine this with their literary talent alongside their teachers, nuns, alumnae and parents.

We worked collaboratively within the departments in our school and also with our primary school. In conjunction with SACPS, our Art Teacher, Ms Fiona Chiu worked with the art students from our Creative Art Programme and our upper secondary art students to create new digital artworks. Students chose one of the four NE thrusts: a sense of belonging, a sense of reality, a sense of hope and the will to act for the theme of their artwork. The themes incorporate phrases such as "pedagogical innovation" and "shared and lively Singapore narrative" to shape the visuals that were depicted in the final digital pieces.

Dione Neo (4.2), chose to illustrate a typical scene from an HDB estate because the architecture of the HDB intrigues her. The process allowed her to learn proper digital illustration techniques, from working with a tablet and a stylus, to learning how to work with different layers within the image file. The Art Department also worked together with the English Language (EL) Department and the Debate and Oratorical Society (DOS) to create a digital art installation using students' self-portraits, their stories and their voices. As part of the Sec 2 Art curriculum, students created digital art portraits using the software, Art Rage. They learnt to apply lighting and filter techniques to enhance their portraits, and to focus on



conveying their personality and character in the portraits. At the start of the year, the EL Department initiated a Storybook Writing Project which prompted the students with a question, "What makes you a Canossian girl?" Ms Valerie Ong, one of the DOS teachers-in-charge, worked with students to record their voices, and the Art Department selected 10 girls to read some of the stories that were written. This collaboration will culminate in an installation involving three wall projections supported by sound recordings of the girls being played in the background. The installation serves to present the many stories the current cohort of Canossian girls have to share through their creative work.

Honouring Our Heritage



Additionally, as part of the 140th anniversary celebrations, we have also assembled a time capsule with six items. These include two articles from newspapers and The Catholic News featuring The Canossian Leadership Symposium with President Halimah Yacob as the guest-of-honour and a milestone event – the inaugural Night Festival at SACSS to celebrate our Performing Arts Education Programme (PfE) niche. We also included two letters, one penned by the current President of our Alumni Association, to record the alumini's hopes for the continued contributions to their alma mater. Another is a letter from the Canossian Sisters to ensure that their unique charism remains the essence of the Canossian education. Three publications, namely Amore Senza Fine, CORRI Connections and the Student Planner 2019 were also added to the time capsule along with Chinese GO!, a Teaching and Learning Innovation platform, which was developed to build students' vocabulary through game dynamics and structured learning content – to demonstrate the changing times. Lastly, four bears, representing the four values – Compassion for Others; Respect for All; Integrity of Character; Passion for Life, which anchor our students to make positive and impactful contributions for society, were also part of the capsule.

All parts of the multi-faceted project complement each other to convey a sense of positive anticipation for a better Singapore. By anchoring the strong forward-looking

foundation that we have built over the years and embracing challenges, we have paved a positive and sustainable pathway for ourselves. Through it all, we also hope to develop, in our students and staff, the dispositions of citizenship through a sense of belonging, a sense of reality and a sense of hope to cultivate the will to act in making a positive difference to the Singapore society.

On 5 June this year, we will look forward to the Istana Open House where we are invited to showcase these projects and invite members of the public to interact with us through our colouring book activities, art installation, and oral narration of what it means to be a Canossian Girl. The projects serve to honour the people who have been responsible in developing the grounding in values and ethos while progressing with the changing times and embracing new initiatives. It is not only a commemoration of the 140th Anniversary of the St. Anthony's Canossian schools, it is also a reminder of the contribution of the Canossian brand of education towards Singapore's nation-building.

We would like to acknowledge what the St. Anthony's Canossian schools represent to the girls who come through our doors – the values, the teaching and learning methodology, and the acknowledgement of the various talents beyond the academic. The Canossian education continues to offer our students the pathway to social mobility, to provide our youth with the impetus and motivation to keep their hopes and aspirations alive so that they may contribute fully to society and to nation-building.



Honouring Our Heritage

2018 PRIZE WINNERS OF ST. MAGDALENE AND ST. BAKHITA AWARDS

The winners of the 2018 St. Bakhita and St. Magdalene awards, just like any other year, were truly very worthy candidates. The two St. Bakhita winners were Fahma Sundari Wong from Secondary 4.1 and Nagalakshmi (right: top and middle photos respectively) from Secondary 4.5, and the winner of the St. Magdalene Award was Ophelia Liew (right: bottom photo) from Secondary 4.7. All the three award winners experienced their fair share of challenges, which taught them to embrace resilience and to strive for excellence.

Things for Fahma took a turn for the worse when her father, the sole breadwinner of the family, suddenly passed away, leaving her Indonesian mother and her to cope on their own. Soon after, her mother was left with no choice but to leave her as well, returning to Indonesia and making a difficult decision to put Fahma in an orphanage here in Singapore. The hardships Fahma faced were daunting, having to adjust to living in the orphanage and suddenly being without both her parents. With maturity beyond her years, Fahma accepted her fate and did not question why her life had suddenly turned out this way. She strengthened her faith, and like St. Bakhita, she learnt the value of forgiveness.

Nagalakshmi's situation at home was not any better. Her father met with a serious accident when she was in primary six, which made him heavily dependent on his family for caregiving. Nagalakshmi's mother's finances were stretched, having to pay for her husband's medical bills and as the sole breadwinner of the family, she had to rely heavily on her children to help look after their father. The family continues to struggle to care for him on daily basis, which includes feeding him, changing him and taking care of him in the night, all of which take up a lot of their time and energy. For Nagalakshmi, this often left her physically unwell due to the lack of sleep. Despite this, Nagalakshmi remained committed to her work when she was in school. Her positive attitude and resilience despite her difficult situation is truly admirable.

Ophelia, like St. Magdalene, has always had the passion to serve and to help others. When Ophelia was younger, she was diagnosed with leukaemia and spent much of her time in the hospital. It was during this difficult time that Ophelia mentioned that she was inspired by the doctors and the nurses constantly around her and decided that she would want to give care to others just like how she was cared for. In SACSS, Ophelia decided to join the St. John Brigade as a co-curricular activity as she wanted to learn more about first aid. It was here that she began to shine, proving to be an outstanding member of her CCA, and a true servant leader.

The three winners completed their national examinations successfully and have moved on to different tertiary institutions. Fahma is currently pursuing Visual Communication at ITE Collage Central, Nagalakshmi is aiming to pursue her next level of education privately at the Singapore Institute of Management and Ophelia is opting to pursue Nursing at Ngee Ann Polytechnic.

We wish them all the best and may they continue to be an inspiration to others.



A THOUGHTFUL ACT TOWARDS HONOURING OUR HERITAGE

The students of the 2018 cohort raised a total of \$1,072 to express their gratefulness to the school for their learning journey. The money raised was used to purchase a food compost machine as part of the school's initiative to promote environmental sustainability and reduce food wastage in the school.

By Mrs Jannine Kuah

Honouring Our People

CANOSSIAN SISTERS



In November 1894, Canossian Sisters from Hong Kong came to our shores to run a humble school that would later be known as St. Anthony's Canossian Secondary School. The Sisters' firm yet gentle presence imbued a strong Canossian Ethos in staff and students, inspiring everyone to love those who are poor. Their presence in SACSS remains strongly anchored today through the committed service of two Sisters – Sister Jessica and Sister Doreen.

Sister Jessica has been with our school since January 2018. Through engaging in conversations, participating in camps and embarking on an overseas trip to Cambodia, she has formed close relationships with both staff and students. With a deep understanding of the school community, Sister Jessica lends her expertise in Mindfulness by conducting workshops on breathing techniques at Staff Meetings and for the graduating cohort. Her sincere conversations inspire us to be grounded and focused, so that we may offer love, mercy and compassion in our everyday living.

Sister Doreen is cheerful and bubbly, and is often seen mingling with students during recess. She serves in the Legion of Mary, at the library, and conducts Faith Formation sessions with Catholic students. With her wealth of experience working at the Canossian Wellness Centre, she is able to connect well with our students. Through conversations with our girls, she quickly learns about their interests and fears, gently guides them to cultivate good habits and to seek appropriate guidance.

Our two Sisters in SACSS are a blessing and their inspiring presence encourages us to continue our Foundress' charism in making Jesus known and loved!

By Ms Sharon Yu, Ms Nicole Quek and Mr He Junhao

HONOURING OUR TEACHERS: PRESIDENT'S AWARD FOR TEACHERS (PAT) AND OUTSTANDING YOUTH IN EDUCATION AWARD (OYEA) 2019

Our teachers are at the heart of our education system as they devote time and effort to bring out the best in our students. Every year, the President's Award for Teachers (PAT) and the Outstanding Youth in Education Award (OYEA) are two distinguished national awards where teachers are recognised for their professional excellence.



The nomination period for both awards is held during the busiest period for both teachers and students – amidst the year-end examinations. To resolve this issue, a team of English Language teachers, led by Mr Amos Ghui, designed a meaningful e-learning module to guide students in crafting their online nominations as part of a year-end holiday assignment. Students were reminded about techniques to elaborate, substantiate and better explain how their teachers have made a difference in their lives. Using a self-directed learning approach, students were able to apply the writing skills learnt during English Language lessons throughout the past year in this nomination exercise.

After its implementation in 2018, feedback from students was positive as they could relate and apply the skills that they had learnt to craft quality nominations to recognise deserving teachers for their dedication and hard work. Moving forward, there are plans to adopt a similar model to gather nominations from students for all teachers. These nominations will then be compiled by the staff development team before presenting them to the teachers during the Teachers' Day celebration.

"After we got back our exam papers, my teacher encouraged us to improve and do better. The encouraging words reached out to me and convinced me to do better." – Janelle Wong, Secondary 2.7

By Mr Seck Hon Meng and Mr Andrew Seah

THANK YOU AND FAREWELL, MDM YEE

Mdm Yee Whoy Chong joined St. Anthony's Canossian Secondary School (SACSS) in January 2012. She was an experienced Vice-Principal having served in Unity Secondary before joining SACSS. Prior to her appointment as a Vice-Principal, she spent many years as a Physical Education Teacher and also taught Principles of Accounts (POA). In her younger days, Mdm Yee was a National Hockey player.

In her time with us at SACSS, Mdm Yee made a significant impact on the staff and students. She always looked out for the welfare of staff and she even took over lessons in POA when the school was short-handed. These experiences allowed her to keep her eyes and ears close to the ground and enabled her to show empathy to both teachers and students. She constantly emphasised the need to show care and concern for the students and to allow them to be their best selves.

She was firm but fair and had a "no-nonsense" air about her, a skill which is necessary in people management. This enabled her to carry out her projects and portfolio of advising the Canossian Co-educators (CCE) effectively. Mdm Yee has been posted to St. Gabriel's Secondary School as Vice-Principal.

We wish her all the best in her future endeavours.

By Mrs Nancy Phua, Mdm Goo Lay Hoon and Mrs Monica Menon



ANSWERING THE CALL TO SERVE

Mr Kevan Lee (pictured far left), SACSS teacher-in-charge of Badminton CCA had the honour to serve as Head Coach for Badminton for Team Singapore's athletes participating in the Special Olympics World Games 2019 which was held from 14 to 21 March, at Dubai and Abu Dhabi, the United Arab Emirates. The games this year attracted 7,500 athletes with intellectual disabilities from more than 190 nations to compete. This year's meet also marked Singapore's 10th year of participation in the Games. The badminton team garnered a bronze medal for the mixed doubles event.

"Taking on the role of Head Coach for Badminton, my key task was to bring out the best in our Team Singapore's athletes, making sure they surpass not only their opponents, but also themselves. Being able to represent Singapore at this global platform has allowed me to become an ambassador, sharing with the rest of the world about our home, Singapore." – Mr Kevan Lee

Making Fresh Changes**REFRESHING OUR CAMPUS**

As part of MOE's initiative, the school started the General Re-painting and Re-decoration programme or GRR in October 2018. Amongst some of the more significant improvement works is the installation of the air-conditioning system in the Multi-Purpose Hall, which can accommodate the entire school population. The newly air-conditioned hall provides a conducive environment for school and national examinations and events, as well as a sizable assembly or holding area to meet safety needs, particularly during a haze situation. The external façade of the school was also repainted with school colours and a fresh coat of white added to the pristine look.



A few supporting infrastructure features that were added include exhaust fans in the art rooms and the addition of 3 new classrooms to accommodate small student groups. These provisions cater to specific learning needs in light of the roll-out of SBB (subject-based banding). Each room can accommodate between 12 to 20 students at a time.

Finally, the staff room was repainted and the staff pantry was fitted with a new counter-top, sink, ovens and refrigerators. Additionally, a former exam room was converted into a lounge to provide staff with a conducive place to rest and mingle.

All renovation works are expected to be completed by June 2019.

By Ms Grace Chew and Mrs Monica Menon

Exploring Fresh Possibilities**GEARING UP FOR MOE-OBS:**

2019 Cycling Programme for Secondary 3 Students



Come April 2019, the Secondary 3 students will be embarking on the MOE-OBS challenge, a 5-day expeditionary course which aims to develop ruggedness, resilience, and build cohesion amongst youths. As part of the programme, students may have to participate in land/sea/cycling expeditions around Singapore. This led to the first level-wide cycling programme organised for the Secondary 3 students on 3rd January 2019. Students were divided into three levels based on their different abilities. Girls in the Level 3 category who were able to cycle confidently and proficiently went on a mini expedition to Bedok Reservoir Park. The rest stayed in school and practised along the cycling circuits under the watchful eyes of the instructors.

Initially, Joycelyn Tay from Secondary 3.7 feared falling off the bicycle. She overcame her fears through the encouragement she received from her friends and her determination to learn how to cycle. Teng An Tian from Secondary 3.5 was more motivated to cycle when she witnessed the other participants getting the hang of cycling. She shared, "I tried my best throughout the programme, wanting to learn how to cycle and I am happy to have achieved it!"

Mrs Adelene Cheong enjoyed the programme thoroughly, "I feel that the cycling programme is very beneficial in preparing the students for MOE-OBS. It was really a joy to observe how they started by learning to balance or control the bicycle and later progressed to being able to start off and pedal without assistance. By the end of the day, almost all of them were able to cycle!"

We hope that the students will continue to make cycling a part of their lives. As Albert Einstein has rightly put, "Life is like riding a bicycle, to keep your balance you must keep moving."

By Ms Ng Shilin, Ms Fatin Afiqah Abdullah and Ms Pauline Choy

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