



ST. ANTHONY'S CANOSSIAN
SECONDARY SCHOOL

VOCI CANOSSIANE

ISSUE 1 | 2021

Inspiring a spirit of excellence, Nurturing a culture of compassion

TRANSFORMING EDUCATION IN FAITH WITH LOVE

HONOURING CULTURE

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VOICES OF A NEW GENERATION

When CORRI Connections was launched in 2014, we would never have imagined the changes we'd see over the 7 years. While we are all now caught up with the various impacts of COVID-19, the 2010s bore witness to a nation grieving the death of its founding prime minister in 2015, to an awe-inspiring Singapore's first Olympic gold in 2016 and the swearing in of the first woman president in 2017. Our connection with technology has also grown more intimate with many more online apps for services, finance, retail and social media. Learning in recent years has also gone online with home-based learning and students receiving a personal learning device.

Focusing on our mission

Given the numerous changes that are taking place, we, as a school, have to be clearer than ever about our identity and our vision ahead. In 2020, we were blessed with the opportunity to dig deep to try to articulate the heart and spirit of St. Anthony's Canossian Secondary School (SACSS). In one voice, we want to become *Canossians of Influence, who are ready to lead with Compassion and Competence and serve with Cheerfulness and Commitment*. We also arrived at a common mission statement amongst the Canossian schools *to nurture each student in her own way by forming hearts, enlightening minds and empowering spirits to live in The Way, The Truth and The Life*. The school's values were also refreshed to mirror more closely the Canossian Saints' virtues of *Faith, Humility, Charity and Forgiveness*.

Keeping the community connected

In our quest to deepen our Canossian roots and capture the voices of the new generation of Canossians at SACSS, CORRI Connections has been retitled and redesigned as Voci Canossiane*, a digital

newsletter. Our aim is to inspire readers with new ways of thinking; promote greater awareness of events affecting staff and students; and capture issues that empower and resonate with our girls.

It gives me great joy to meet you all through this digital newsletter - to communicate and be creative. Be assured that despite COVID-19, the school management, teaching and non-teaching faculty of the school continue to strive towards making learning meaningful and fruitful at SACSS. We will not leave any stone unturned in educating our Canossian family and I want to thank all the staff who continue to contribute to this endeavor!

May our Canossian spirit, which ingrains love, instills faith and inspires hope, be revealed through Voci Canossiane.

**We would like to acknowledge and thank Sr Cecily Pavri, who was Principal of SACSS for 16 years and is also an alumna of the school, for providing a befitting title to this newsletter in Italian that signifies the Canossian Voices of our students, staff and stakeholders.*

By Ms Fiona Koh (Principal)



Artwork by Imany Azzahra from Secondary 3.8

Celebrating Hope

WELCOMING 2021 IN FAITH, WITH INSPIRATION

SACSS celebrated our Beginning of School Year Mass on 29 January 2021 to usher in the new academic year. This year, the Mass was intentionally held at the end of January, to coincide with the Feast of St. Bakhita (8 February), giving us a poignant reminder at the start of the year, to emulate St. Bakhita's virtues of Faith and Forgiveness. In his homily, Father Gabriel Wong, our Celebrant, also reminded us to journey through the year In Faith, With Love.

Inspiring virtues and gratitude

SACSS also officially introduced the Thio Ying Ying Bursary Award at this event. The late Mrs Thio was an alumna of the school. In honour of Mrs Thio's legacy that reflected that of St Bakhita's warmth and kindness in reaching out to the people around her, her family has generously set up our school's first bursary award in memory of her. We are deeply honoured to be chosen to extend Mrs Thio's legacy of love and faith. Unlike typical bursary awards that focus on academic achievements, this bursary aims to inspire more SACians to live their life like Mrs Thio, to give to the community and to become Canossians of Influence. This award has been designed to dignify and encourage active volunteerism in students from low-income families. Through this award, the school hopes to instill a

sense of gratitude in our students and to inspire them to strive for greater achievements benefiting themselves and the community.

We pray for each and everyone of us as we journey together to embrace a blessed and meaningful 2021 In Faith, With Love!

By Ms Sharon Yu (Subject Head, Pastoral Care & Career Education)



OVER THE MOON ABOUT LUNAR NEW YEAR CELEBRATIONS

Our annual Chinese New Year (CNY) celebrations were no less festive this year! An array of varied and lively performances were lined up for the CNY concert. In addition to pre-recorded performance items from students, we also had guest performers and even a special teachers' item. There was the lively performance of Chinese Wind and percussion musicians, the vigorous Wushu performance, and a Malay song performance, just to name a few items. The concert culminated with some of our teachers serenading.

Setting the mood

While we kept to the Safe Management Measures, the CNY concert and festivities were no less lively and energetic than they were before, and everyone definitely enjoyed the activities in school. During the lead up to the concert, we also had a CNY Décor competition where students were encouraged to decorate the classrooms to reflect the spirit of the annual holiday. This was definitely the highlight of the celebration as students and teachers put in much time and effort in decorating for their classes to win. Many teachers were pleasantly surprised by the creativity and artistic talent displayed by the students at this competition. In addition to fostering class bonding, this event generated much hype and excitement for everyone.

Creating the feeling of home with food

In the midst of the CNY festive season, teachers from our International Relations and Partnership Committee organised a Reunion Lunch and a Pineapple Tart-making session here at SACSS for our international students. During these events, foreign students learnt how to bake their own pineapple tarts and create their very own fortune cookies. Through activities like these, we hope to create an inclusive and welcoming environment for them at SACSS, and provide a home away from home for these students from abroad, especially for those who may not have seen their families for a while.

By Mdm Tay Hui Cheng (Head of Department, Mother Tongue Language)



Moving Ahead

HONING NEW SKILLS IN BROADCASTING

In March this year, the SACSS Malay Language Unit, comprising Ms Nurfaeza Rahmat, Mdm Suzana M Nor, Mdm Norliza Ali & Ms Nurul Huda M Yassin, organised a Podcast-Making Workshop for our Malay Language students in collaboration with Berita Harian Singapura.

The 2-hour podcast-making workshop, held over 2 days was well-planned and highly interactive. Our students were fully engaged and immersed in the programme. One of our students, Anniq Quintessa, related how this workshop gave her an in-depth opportunity to experience making a podcast, including recording their own podcasts and selecting appropriate jingles as recommended by the trainers. In essence, the workshop was truly beneficial for our students in building their public-speaking and oratorical skills. We were glad that the students had a great time learning something truly beneficial in an uplifting way.

A taste of fame on air

Another activity that the girls participated in was the DJ experience with Mediacorp Radio Ria 89.7FM. Two of our students, Irlia Hanisah from Secondary 4.5 and Nur Aniqah Auni from Secondary 3.5, were given the opportunity to be able to experience what it's like to be a radio broadcaster for an hour during the 'Oh Hello Skoolz' segment.

This programme was jointly organised by National Heritage Board (NHB) in their annual *Rakan Bahasa* (Friends of Bahasa) programme. Irlia and Aniqah submitted a video recording of their audition in 2020, which was selected early this year.

Entertaining Singapore

Students were given an opportunity to share their hobbies and interests, and try out DJ voicing. They also attempted to introduce an upcoming song during the segment. Towards the end of the segment, the students had a question and answer segment with the main DJ. They prepared a few questions beforehand and asked the DJ helming the segment. All this was done live via Mediacorp Radio Ria's Facebook page as well as the radio channel 89.7FM.

This opportunity was a great platform for the students to practice their oratorical skills in an authentic environment. They really enjoyed their experience and valued the opportunity given to them. Ultimately, this was an invaluable opportunity for the students to put what they've learnt into practice, gain confidence and further hone their Malay Language oratory skills.

By Mdm Nurul Huda (Malay Language Teacher)



Honouring Culture

PRESERVING TRADITIONS, CHERISHING MEMORIES



In conjunction with St Magdalene's Feast Day, the St Anthony's Canossian Schools re-opened the newly refurbished Heritage Gallery, Nostalgie Canossiane. Provincial Leader, Sr Christina Yeo, and Superintendent of East 4 Cluster, Mr Justin Pierre, officiated the gallery opening and Father Eugene Lee blessed the gallery.

Also present at the opening were a number of Sisters, members of the Canossian Alumni Association, School Management Committee and staff. These guests were guided by student docents from both SACPS and SACSS through the galleries, the chapel and the walkway. They reminisced the past as they relived their memories from their young school days in the classroom, the quadrangle, and other experiences through the interactive exhibits, replicas and artefacts.

The concept of this gallery was built upon the words of the school song which serve as a constant reminder of the schools' educational aims.

Preserving traditions and memories

We hope that through the documentation and archiving of our traditions and achievements, more visitors and stakeholders will be reminded of the charism of the Canossian education as espoused by our Foundress, St Magdalene of Canossa.



Together with the Official Opening Ceremony of St. Anthony's Canossian Schools' heritage gallery, Nostalgie Canossiane, the school celebrated the Feast Day of St Magdalene of Canossa with a Mass and the annual Canossian Awards Ceremony on 5 March 2021. The Mass was attended by staff and students of both St Anthony's Canossian Schools, Sisters and members of the alumni.



Strengthening the community with love

Later that morning, in her address to the school during the Canossian Awards Ceremony, our Principal, Ms Fiona Koh, conveyed how the theme In Faith With Love: My Sister, My Friend has touched her deeply since the beginning of this year, especially during these challenging times. SACSS first saw the intergenerational sisterly love through the introduction of the Thio Ying Ying Bursary Award in January and during the Canossian Awards Ceremony, the school saw the inauguration of the Canossian Good Progress Award as generously donated by alumna, Ms Ng Wee Chew.



Ms Koh spoke against bullying and expressed how privileged we are as Canossians to have the values of our Canossian Saints to guide us in our sisterly love for one another. So, she encouraged all to be humble in the face of unkind words to explore whether there are some truths; to be charitable, so that we can be patient, and to exercise forgiveness, so we can be free from the pain. Most importantly, Ms Koh encouraged students to have faith in the good of others so that we can choose to build ties that bind us together with sisterly love as SACians and Canossians.

By Mr Andrew Seah (Head of Department, English Language)



Moving Ahead

STRENGTHENING BONDS AND BUILDING LEADERSHIP SKILLS

The new school year began with the launch of our school theme "In Faith with Love: My Sister, My Friend". Our Principal highlighted the importance of connecting with each other and supporting one another through 2021 as we emerge from the many disruptions and stressors caused by COVID-19.

The school embarked on a 3-day Orientation Programme for all students, with customised activities for each level, so that each student experiences unique activities tailored to the stage of her education journey.

Together as One

Our Secondary 1 students received a warm welcome to SACSS with a structured bonding time with their Form Teachers and classmates. They were also inducted into our school's rich history through school tours and the signature SAC Roots programme, where members of the Canossian Alumni Association came back to share their stories and connect with the new cohort of students. The Secondary 2 cohort strengthened their friendship bonds through activities that built up their leadership skills and helped them to recognise and harness each other's strengths.

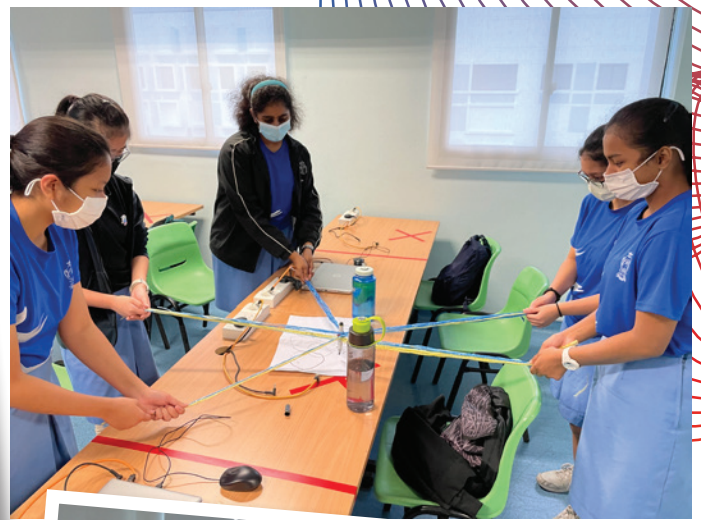
Adventures of the Mind and Body

Our Secondary 3 students experienced an 'Inquiry-Based Team building Programme' that helped them identify common class goals and set the stage for a meaningful journey as they enter into Upper Secondary. Having missed OBS and camps last year, the Secondary 4 and 5 seniors had the opportunity for an outdoor adventure experience at Forest Adventure in Bedok Reservoir. Through high elements and flying fox activities, they started the year overcoming personal fears and cheering each other on to complete the various challenges.

Shortly after the March term break, students were once again involved in day-camp activities. Secondary 1 students tried their hand at team games, archery, outdoor activities and even first aid. Through these experiences, our students learnt problem-solving skills, resilience and how to show care and respect their friends.



On the same theme of solving problems, persevering through challenges and looking out for one another, our Secondary 2 students made trips out of school to enjoy the sun and the sand as part of their level camp this year. Their most well-loved activity was Kayaking. Apart from it being the first time for many students; they also learnt the importance of working together and trusting each other when out in the water.



Developing Future-Ready Students

At the upper-secondary levels, the programme focused on preparing students for post-secondary life. Our Secondary 3 students experienced a taste of work in industries like Beauty Services, Hospitality, Engineering, and Media, Marketing and Design. During the sessions, students had hands-on experiences working with the 'tools of the trade' under the watchful eye of industry professionals. Another highlight of the Secondary 3 Camp was a trip to the Singapore Chinese Cultural Centre where students learnt more about the unique Chinese culture in Singapore.

The Secondary 4 and 5 students had a more customised programme to meet the different interests of the various groups. The range of activities ranged from elective modules at ITE, to social-emotional wellbeing and resume writing workshops.



“ I loved the extended time together with my new classmates exploring the Singapore Chinese Cultural Centre. I hardly talked to my classmate Sarah before, but at the Learning Journey, we found we had a few things in common. That sparked off so many more conversations and we are great friends now!”

- Priya Dharsini Selvaraj, 3.8

“ During lesson time we don't get to interact much at all, and during our free time, we usually only hang around with our cliques. At our day camp, we were grouped together with classmates that we were unfamiliar with. But we had so much fun at the day camp building the trebuchet, firing arrows at each other, chatting and bonding! We really got to know each other's special talents and funny behaviours. Now, as we take our WA2, we will wish each other well, and if our classmate is weak in a subject, we will make a special effort to help her and give her moral support!”

Group Interview – 1 Charity
 Ayesha Suhana Binte Sirajudeen
 Santos Rachel Louise Palileo
 Tan Yu Xuan, Geon
 Wong En Xin Samantha
 Zahin Afia Idnat

By Mr He Junhao (Head, Character & Citizenship Education),
 Ms Teo Jin Ling (Year Head, Lower Secondary),
 Mr Roland Lim (Assistant Year Head, Lower Secondary)
 and Ms Pauline Choy (Year Head, Upper Secondary)

PRESSING ON IN THE NEW NORMAL

The Singapore Youth Festival (SYF) and the National School Games (NSG) took an interesting turn this year due to Safe Management Measures (SMM). Some CCA groups, such as Choir and Track and Field, were not able to participate in SYF & NSG due to SMM constraints. We also sent more teams for SYF Adjudication this year as the organisers had limited the number of participants for each group due to SMM.

The groups that continued to press on had to grapple with many constraints and challenges. We are proud of our SACians who demonstrated resilience as they journeyed *In Faith, with Love*, to navigate uncharted waters and conquer seemingly insurmountable challenges posed by various constraints.

Sharing by Chloe Siow (3.6) from the Drama Club

"Due to covid-19, various restrictions and guidelines had to be followed during the performance. ...many of us were extremely busy and stressed, trying to adapt to the new changes and also dealing with the pressure of wanting to do our best ...many of us got overwhelmed at times, but we learnt to push ourselves to perform and put in our best efforts to make each rehearsal count. We had our fair share of tears and frustrations, but it was all worth it in the end. Although it was not always easy with the challenges faced, we all had tremendous fun performing and working on the piece as a club and team. Most importantly, we believed, trusted and worked hard together."

Our creative team of teachers, students and instructors also banded together to brainstorm ideas to keep training going and team spirit strong in spite of all the challenges. What kept SACians going beyond our passion for the Sports and the Performing Arts, is the deep level of commitment to do their best to support each other and help each other grow.

Sharing by Ms Charlene Lee (Teacher in charge) from the Percussion Band

"The percussion band leaders as well as the sectional leaders played a key role in ensuring the team's growth, both musically and emotionally. They were supportive and encouraged each other throughout the practices. The leaders also ensured that everyone progresses together despite the challenges faced due to the safety management measures."

Sharing by Vanessa Lee (3.9) from the Badminton Team

As summed up by our Badminton CCA student, Vanessa Lee Jia En, from 3.9, *"...the determination was what got us through this obstacle. We encouraged each other during each training, telling ourselves to 'never give up'. During the competition itself, I watched my friends compete against the other schools and their willpower was unlike any other. Even when they fell or were losing to the opponent, they stood back up on their feet and persevered."*

Our students did well in the NSG and SYF in spite of all the challenges.

Results for 2021

	Performing Arts CCA Group	Adjudication Result
1	Angklung Band	Distinction
2	Drama	Distinction
3	Guitar	Distinction
4	Indian Dance	Distinction
5	Modern Dance Team A	Accomplishment
6	Modern Dance Team B	Accomplishment
7	Concert Band Team A	Accomplishment
8	Concert Band Team B	Accomplishment
9	Percussion Band	Commendation

	Sports CCA Group	
1	Badminton East Zone "B" Division	East Zone Quarter-Final
2	Tennis National "B" Division	Preliminary Round
3	Taekwondo National	Pending Results

By Mr Jimmy Choo (Subject Head, Co-Curricular Activities)
and Ms Kang Chee Hui (Subject Head, Performing Arts Education)



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