



C O R R I connections

Inspiring a spirit of excellence, Nurturing a culture of compassion

2016 | Issue 2

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SYNERGIES@SACSS

Perpetuating solidarity, bridging partnerships,
enabling collaborations



CO-EDUCATORS (CCE)



The parent volunteers in SACSS are affectionately known as the Canossian Co-educators (CCE). As the name suggests, they are co-educators who work collaboratively alongside the teachers and play a crucial supporting role in reinforcing the Canossian ethos of education. These parents are often seen assisting tirelessly at school events such as Sports Day, Jogathon or SAC Blaze. They also organise talks for parents and plan the Prom Night event for our graduating students.

Students would have bought crafts which were handmade with love and dedication by the parent volunteers from the CCE retail booths set up during Mother's Day, Father's Day and Teachers' Day celebrations. The amount they make from these sales is not significant, yet the parents believe their hands-on effort will instil in our students the value of other-centredness.

The CCE's role in school is varied – from manning the Ecogarden in the morning and assisting in the SMILE programme in the afternoon to facilitating the NT enrichment programme where life skills such as cooking and sewing are taught. The latter is a programme initiated by the current CCE Chairperson, Ms Sheila Sim, who herself has benefitted from a Canossian education. After being inspired by her own mother who volunteered with the Canossian Alumni, Sheila decided to volunteer as a CCE. She finds joy and motivation in her work as a CCE whenever she sees the smile on the students' faces brought on from having discovered a passion in sewing after attending the NT enrichment or having had a great time at Prom night.

The school is blessed to have a group of reliable partners working together with them.

"By being there to show care and concern, the students will learn and pay it forward in future."

Ms Sheila Sim, Chairperson, CCE

By Mrs Yip Seok Hwee and Ms Sheila Sim



CANOSSIANS CONNECT (CC) 2016

The Canossian Alumni Association (CAA) has chalked up an impressive track record that dates back to the 1960s in organising events to bring ex-students, teachers, principals and nuns together. A decade ago, these annual events were consolidated and rebranded as Canossians Connect (CC) and are usually held in the first half of the year in conjunction with Foundress Day.

The CCs over the years have evolved to party affairs held at restaurants or hotel ballrooms and incorporated themes that are Canossian-based such as

- **Fantasia** – inspired by the portrait of a young Magdalene of Canossa holding a fan
- **Danza Queen** – recapping Magdalene's dance with Napoleon Bonaparte at a ball
- **Africana** – to commemorate the 15th anniversary of St. Bakhita's canonisation

This year, CC 2016 morphed into a refreshing Amazing Race – away from the formal venues to the great outdoors. The transformation expanded the reach to engage with a younger group of participants. The race was planned to offer participants the opportunity to reminisce about the past. The route covered a 2km radius around the previous SAC Middle Road campus with pit stops located at some of Singapore's significant historical sites within the Civic District.

The funds raised from CC16 serve to subsidise the renovation of the Canossa Heritage Gallery at CCPS at 1, Sallim Road – that was how the Canossian Heritage Race for Funds got its name.

What was most heartening was the camaraderie of all the Canossians coming together to help with the fund raising for one of the schools. It is wonderful that everyone sees themselves as One Canossian.

Pre-race preparations 11 June – Recce

- About a month before the Race, two groups from the sub-committee set out to check the route and identify suitable sites for the pit stops for the race. The groups left no stones unturned – from navigating on foot to the various locations and performing the tasks to ensure the time allocated was ample.
- A trail handbook was prepared incorporating prompts accessible via QR codes.

2 July – Briefing for Team leaders

- A briefing to go through the details was conducted for participating team leaders. Held at CCPS, Sr Marilyn was present to personally thank everyone for their support. The Rules and Regulations were summarised by Race Manager, Ms Susan Tham, while Ms Aileen Tan, Race Chief, provided the run down on the mechanics. At the end of the briefing, those present were also given an exclusive preview of the Canossa Heritage Gallery.

Collaborating with all the Canossian Schools for The Canossian Heritage Race for Funds



"I am heartened that we remained in contact with one another and kept the Canossian spirit alive."

Amelia Cheong (2013 cohort)

"It was gratifying to see the participants enjoying themselves. It makes the planning and organisation all worthwhile!"

Ms Aileen Tan

The Key People Behind the Scene

- Canossian Alumni and Educator, Ms Aileen Tan, from SACSS was the Race Chief, and she roped in her ex-students from the 2010 to 2015 cohorts to assist. The tech-savvy girls contributed in the planning process – from plotting the routes and creating the hints and codes to marshalling the pit stops during the race.
- The Race Manager, Ms Susan Tham, Canossian Alumni and Educator was the former secretary of the CAA Exco 2005/6 and a key organising member of the SK Quah Run for Fund in 2009.
- Together with SACSS teacher, Mrs Catherine Yong as CAA treasurer and CAA President, Ms Veronica Tan, the four formed the core management of the sub-committee.

Sub-Committee

Ms Veronica Tan	President
Mrs Catherine Yong	Treasurer
Ms Aileen Tan	Race Chief
Ms Susan Tham	Race Manager

Youth Members

Phylicia Lim	(2010)
Sabrina Quek	(2013)
Amelia Cheong	(2013)
Leandra Lee	(2014)
Navneet Kaur	(2014)
Germaine Teh	(2015)
Deborah Peh	(2015)
Lock Hui Ying	(2015)
Julia Kee	(2015)

- To win, teams would have to cover 10 pit stops on foot or using public transport (excluding cabs) and complete various tasks indicated in the instructions accessed through QR codes imprinted in the race handbooks. Some of the tasks included approaching tourists to take photos with them at the Merlion Park, capturing creative photo images at the War Memorial, climbing the steep flights of stairs at Fort Canning to getting to the peak and having a go at the Zero point – Yay Yay game, getting a henna tattoo in Little India and performing a Bollywood dance, kicking the Chapteh and singing the school song loudly outside Victoria Concert Hall – all these would have to be transmitted back via video streaming and the teams would need to complete the race and return by 12 noon.

9 July – The Race Day

- At 8:00 am everyone gathered at the St. Joseph's Church Parish Hall (aka The Parochial House) – Laptops, prizes, the specially designed woven bags with supplies of energy drinks inside and duty marshals – all checked and ready.
- Ten teams made up the graduates from 1972 to 2015 – including inter-generational ones. The youngest participant was 11-year old Janelle Wong, a student at CCPS and daughter of Alumni member, Rebecca Chin. Just like in other reunions, excitement filled the air with photo taking moments and catching up with teachers, nuns and friends.

- Gracing the event were Sr Theresa Seow, Sr Christina Yeo, Miss Grace Tan, Principal of CCPS and Mrs Eugenie Tan, Principal of SACPS. Following the opening prayer led by Sr Theresa, Sr Christina flagged off the race at precisely 9:00 am.

- The winning team, Intergenerational, led by Georgina Chay completed the race at noon. The prize giving was officiated by Sr Louisa Lim. The event culminated in a group photo of participants, sub-committee members and Sisters at the Church porch.


- The event yielded \$5,000 from participation fees as well as cash donations from well wishers for the Canossa Heritage Gallery.

By Ms Veronica Tan, President, CAA and Sr Christina Yeo

HERITAGE GALLERY: Connecting with the past

Towards the end of 2015, we completed Phase 1 of the refurbishment of the Heritage Gallery at SACSS. We were fortunate to have the support of the National Heritage Board and the National Arts Council. It was indeed a milestone being the year of SG50.

This year, we proceed with Phase 2 and intend to enhance the Gallery with new images of our CCAs and some anecdotes and stories of the past.



Every month, the Sisters would distribute provisions to the poor and needy from one of the school entrances that was affectionately called the "poor door". There would be long lines of grateful people waiting to receive those generous donations from the Sisters. I marvelled at their patience, compassion and humility, even when sometimes anxious recipients would hurl abuse at them.

Mrs Mary Ann Joseph

The objective is to collaborate with Canossians and incorporate the voices of alumni, teachers, principals and nuns who have been touched by the Canossian spirit. Through the stories and narratives, it is hoped that we will continue to live the ethos and vision of St. Magdalene of Canossa.

By Mrs Monica Menon

HUMANITIES AND CREATIVE ARTS WEEK 2016



The theme for this year's Humanities Week was "Space and Time". For History, the focus was on changing landscapes over time and for Geography, there was a presentation on the new Cross Island Line and how it could possibly cut through the Central Catchment Nature Reserve. Teachers and students debated on the environmental concerns and convenience issues and later were asked to cast their vote. For Social Studies, the issues of common spaces were highlighted to students and they discussed how common spaces were not restricted to physical spaces.

Concurrently, that week, the English Language and Literature Department held Creative Arts Week incorporating the theme "Ignite. Inspire. Keeping the Flame Alive."

The 3-day programme kick-started with the lively Lunchtime Concert which featured energising performances by students from different levels and streams. Besides the song and dance acts, the students also showcased their virtuosity playing the guitar and keyboards. Following that, a novel activity to provide students an opportunity to experience a CCA in the Performing Arts was also organised. CCA Swap was a collaborative effort involving the teachers-in-charge and the CCA leaders to cater to

the overwhelming interest and to ensure that the participants had an enjoyable experience.

The second day saw a larger collaborative effort. Supported by ETHOS Books and St. Andrew's Junior College, the students participated in language-based activities such as the Amazing Race and the Unseen Workshop. Every level of students was highly engaged that afternoon – decoding clues, guessing song lyrics, analysing poetry and telling stories.

On the final day, the department worked with the Visual Arts teachers to conduct two workshops namely Trick Photography and Decoupage Your Bag. The workshops were popular and both were held with full house capacity. This year's collaboration also involved an art exhibition at the library showcasing students' creative work.

Also featured was the screening of the sci-fi film, "The Giver". The 3-day Creative Arts Week culminated in the Performance Evening, a 2-hour concert which opened with performances by our students. This was followed by SCAPE Invasion local acts, Take Two and Tim De Cotta which brought the Creative Arts Week to a rapturous climax.



By Mrs Jannine Kuah and Mdm Eileen Ee

Cyberwellness Ambassadors – Championing cyberwellness



The emerging instances of internet-related misdeeds such as cyber-bullying, fraud and harassment have made students in particular a vulnerable group. To combat cyber misconduct and foster cyberwellness, two students from each of the Secondary 2 classes were selected to become Cyberwellness Ambassadors (CWAs). CWAs serve to promote a positive online culture by raising awareness of the risks of harmful online behaviours and sharing of best practices to protect oneself and others when they are logged on.

Recently, our CWAs collaborated with their counterparts from Pasir Ris Secondary School (PRSS) to jointly organise a Cyberwellness Festival for the Secondary one students. With the mentorship from the Senior CWAs of PRSS, our girls took on a leadership role, guiding participants through the various checkpoints and game stations. The collaboration with PRSS was an eye-opener for our CWAs. Qi Xuan (2.8) shared how she gained deeper insights into the significant role that CWAs play and looks forward to more of such collaborations.



By Mr Kevan Lee

PEER TUTORING



The programme was first initiated by a group of students in Secondary 2.8 last year to help the Primary 6 students in SACPS prepare for their PSLE Mathematics paper. Feedback from both the SACPS and the SACSS students was positive. This paved the way to expand this year's Peer Tutoring to cover both Mathematics and Science.

SACSS students who did well overall for Science and Mathematics were recruited to become Peer Tutors. Before the first session, the Peer Tutors were briefed on what to expect during the sessions as well as on classroom strategies and approaches they could use. All the sessions were conducted in two designated classrooms in SACPS where each tutor was assigned up to two students. Each session comprised two 45-minute sessions, one for each subject.

The programme serves to offer students who may prefer to turn to a senior for help versus approaching their teacher. For the Peer Tutors, the programme gave them the opportunity to be involved in a meaningful task.



"I learnt that each student has different needs and was reminded of the relevance of the CORRI qualities especially Responsible Individuality when I engaged with the students."

Kelly Tan (2.8)

By Mr Eugene Quek

Peer to Peer Leadership Workshop



This year's leadership workshop, conducted by SACSS Student Councillors for the SACPS Prefects, marks the 5th year of our annual collaboration with the primary school. The 2-day workshop programme covered the core fundamentals of leadership over four key modules, namely:

- **Encourage the Heart** – relating to motivating each other.
- **Challenge the Process** – making use of innovative ways to perform our tasks better.
- **Communication** – enhancing the performance of tasks.
- **Model the Way** – leading by example to get everyone to do the right thing.



When Stassia Martin of SACPS presented her seniors with crafted gifts to express her appreciation for their guidance when the workshop concluded, it encouraged the Student Councillors from SACSS and reinforced the extent of what the collaboration has achieved.

By Anna Lau (3.8) and Trina Tan (3.8)

BAND EXCHANGES



The month of July was overwhelming for the SACSS Concert Band. The Common Tests were around the corner and we were also participating in the National Band Competition (NBC). Although it wasn't easy to cope with the increased responsibilities, the band still strove to do their best in whatever task they were given. To help us improve our musicality and widen our understanding of our pieces, we conducted a few exchange programmes with bands from around the world.

On 5 July, we had the opportunity to have a band exchange with an Australian band, Chisholm College. Through this exchange programme, we learnt a lot from each other, forged new friendships and learnt more about the Australian culture as well. This partnership was truly an eye-opener to many of our members as it allowed us to learn more about their style of music.

Prior to the band exchange with Chisholm College, we were also invited by St. Anthony's Canossian Primary School to carry out a band exchange with their concert band. Other than our band, two other bands including one from Taiwan were also invited. It was a great learning experience for our band as we worked together to deepen our understanding and exchange different viewpoints of the pieces we were going to play for our competition.

Last but not least, we had our final exchange with a band from Thailand, Suranaree Girls Wind Symphony. At first, the level of excitement and tension rose as we did not know what to expect. However, the girls made us feel comfortable with their welcoming smiles and tried to engage us in conversation, even though we did not speak the same language. During this exchange, we learnt how to improve on our weaknesses through pointers and tips given by the students and conductor of Suranaree Wind Symphony.

To sum up, the band exchanges form a platform for the band to continuously learn new and useful skills. The benefits are plentiful and we hope to continue to have more of such exchanges in the future.



By Cheyanne Dana Dorai (2.7) and Foo Yan Ling Petrina (2.8)

WE ARE FAMILY

On 26 July, SACSS hosted a visit by an entourage from SMK Canossa Convent, Malacca. Led by the Principal, the group comprised 6 staff and 34 students. Both schools share the rich Canossian heritage – both were founded in the 1900s by the Canossian sisters to serve the poor and needy by providing them with an education and to give them a strong, spiritual foundation.



The visitors soaked up the warm reception and went on a conducted tour around the campus. This was followed by 2 hours of lesson immersion that included a special segment on Art and Physical Education.

During the course of the visit, the SACSS students were surprised to discover the vast differences in the educational experience of their counterparts from a school that is located just across the causeway. They also found that they shared common interests, challenges and purpose in pursuing their studies. Most of all, they found joy in knowing that they are part of a big family of schools anchored by Canossian values.



By Mr He Junhao

CANOSSIAN LEARNING JOURNEY 2016

A renewed sense of the Canossian spirit



When we were first asked whether we would like to go on the Canossian Learning Journey to Italy, we were elated for the opportunity to visit Italy and gain a deeper understanding of the vision that drives Canossian education.

Over the course of the two weeks of the learning journey, our visit to Schio struck a chord with us. The stories about St. Bakhita which always seemed to be rather distant became vivid during our stopover at the convent in Schio where St. Bakhita had lived. Insights about the wit, humility and intelligence of St. Bakhita were conveyed so passionately through anecdotes by our guide, that we were half expecting St. Bakhita to walk through the door! We learnt that she was an extraordinary woman who believed faithfully in being of service to others and that she lived a life of grace, humility and sacrifice. We could relate to the relevance of her deeds especially today when there is a need for greater forgiveness in the world.

Likewise only when we were in Verona and had the privilege of visiting Canossa Palace and St. Magdalene's summer home in Grezzano, did we realise the extent of what she had accomplished during her lifetime. Our colleague, Ms Kang Chee Hui, commented that to be born into a family of such wealth and influence and to give it all up for the purpose of service to others, surely meant that St. Magdalene must have lived such a spirited life.

Even today with Grezzano a pale existence of its former glory, we could still visualise the enormity of the sacrifice that St. Magdalene made because she felt a calling to be of service and a responsibility to better the life of others less fortunate.

The lives of these two exceeding special women truly inspires. By the end of the 2-week journey, we were renewed with a sense that having been blest, it is good to give back in whatever small way we can.

By Ms Kamala Kausikan, Ms Valerie Ong and Ms Justina Foo

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