



C O R R I connections

2018 | Issue 2

Inspiring a spirit of excellence, Nurturing a culture of compassion

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ENGAGING PLATFORMS

ENHANCED CAREER GUIDANCE @ SACSS**Our ECG Counsellor**

As an ECG Counsellor, Ms Kathrine Yang plays a critical role in guiding our students in discovering their interests and passion. She also conducts workshops for our Secondary 4 and 5 students who are keen in applying for the Early Admission Exercises (EAE) for entry into the various polytechnics. She also assists the school in sourcing for speakers to talk about the requirements and student life in a Junior College. Ms Yang conducts regular sharing sessions to equip our teachers with the knowledge of how to deliver the segments on VIPS – Values Interest Personality Skills/Strengths. Ms Yang is available every Wednesday and encourages students who are keen to find out more about their post-secondary options to arrange for an appointment at her office on Level 2.

MySkillsFuture Portal

MySkillsFuture is a one-stop platform to empower students for lifelong learning. Students can use the portal through structured classroom learning as well as during discussions with the ECG Counsellor, with parents, or on their own.

As an Education and Career Guidance (ECG) portal, MySkillsFuture helps students explore and provides answers to frequently asked ECG questions such as, *Who Am I?*, *Where Am I Going?* and *How Do I Get There?*

It supports students by enhancing their self awareness and knowledge on the range of education and career pathways available to them and assists them in making informed choices and managing their education and career plans.

Know Yourself helps students discover more about their career interests, skills, work values and learning styles. *World of Work* allows them to explore over 1000 job roles and 31 associated industries, via *Learn About Job Roles* and *Singapore Industry Landscape*. *Education Guide* allows them to explore the many learning options open to them, based on their interests and strengths. These tools enable them to discover different aspects of themselves and facilitate their exploration of job roles, industries and courses.

“The workshop was useful as I now have a better understanding of how the application interview works. For example, if I am interested in a particular course, I can articulate why I want to pursue the course and reinforce my interest.”

– Nury Qaisara (4.4)



Without logging in to MySkillsFuture, students can only browse and search for industry, job and school information. However, after logging in, they have access to more features such as managing the information they have browsed and saving it as *Favourites on My ePortfolio*, using the tools in *Know Yourself* as well as consolidating their results on *My Profile*.

ECG Events

To further support our students, the ECG Team has also planned various activities for the different levels. These include:

- A visit to Kidzania
- The Secondary 2 Career Fest
- The Secondary 3 Work Attachment
- An ECG Learning Journey
- Several Career and Post-Secondary Talks
- The Secondary 4/5 Life-skills workshops (such as résumé writing).

By Ms Sharon Yu, Subject Head – Pastoral Care and Career Education



“The EAE Workshop taught us how to navigate the website and brought us through the relevant resources so it becomes easier for us when we, in turn, guide the students through the portal.”

– Ms Valerie Ong, Teacher

ENGAGING PLATFORMS

NIGHT FESTIVAL 2018: THE VERDICT

“The level of energy, enthusiasm and entrepreneurship was electrifying! What a display of artistic, musical and creative talents from the teachers, Alumni and the girls.” Many of those who came for the Night Festival shared this same sentiment as Ms Martina Wong, an alumna and the Treasurer of the School Management Committee.

To Ms Quek Ying Qi (*wife of Mr Kevan Lee*), the Night Festival was an innovative channel to strengthen the bonds of the school community – bringing teachers, parents, even grandparents of students together.

The Canossian Sisters assembled a choir and performed a medley of songs together with some of the Alumni members. Sr Margaret was filled with pride and a sense of nostalgia during the event. Sr Janet who was also a member of the choir enjoyed herself not only in the joyful singing, but also in witnessing the participative audience joining in with fervour.

Student performers, Raquel Lais Schweigner and Denise Choo Yun Ying were honoured to have contributed at this event.



Raquel was proud of her CCA-mates who came up with the original piece and their dedication in staging a great performance. The experience has taught Denise to be physically, mentally and emotionally strong throughout the preparation process for the event. Members of the E4 cluster schools were also present at the event. Ms Chang Yuzhen from Damai

Secondary School, as well as Mrs Dianne Ang and Ms Christine Teo from Damai Primary School enjoyed the wide array of performances put up by the CCA groups. They said that they wished they could have watched all the performances rather than make a choice as performances were held concurrently.





"Setting up a craft stall in the Flea and Craft Market at the Night Festival brought back many good memories I had as a child", said Ms Sandra from My Paper. She was impressed particularly by the students' entrepreneurial spirit in presenting their craft at the Flea and Craft Market.



Ms Veronica Tan, President of the Alumni, summed up the multi-dimensional outcomes of the event, "We witnessed the Canossian education moving with the times. The festival showcased the artistic expressions through the performances, exhibitions and entrepreneurship with a heart, with the proceeds going to support students on financial assistance, and collaborations with different stakeholders which reinforces the One Canossian bond."

*By Mdm Yee Whoy Chong – Vice-Principal,
Mdm Goo Lay Hoon, HOD – The Arts and
Ms Kang Chee Hui, SH – Performing Arts
Education*



SAC Heartbeat: Giving students a voice

The school engages with the many stakeholders on the school's progress. One of the ways we connect with stakeholders and keep them in the know of matters in SACSS is through the publications. We currently publish CORRI Connections – produced every semester – to highlight the school's key areas of focus to students, staff, parents and members of the School Management Committee. We also have our monthly Canossian Ties bulletin, which focuses on reflection points pertaining to the Corri Qualities or school values and information on upcoming events.

This term, in addition to these two publications, we are proud to introduce SAC Heartbeat, a termly e-publication for students, by students. Research has shown that in providing students a voice, the school receives useful ideas and perspectives from the students, as well as equips students with skills to provide responsible and well-thought-through feedback.

Each issue will showcase a range of student writings from essays and reflections to poems and stories about their lives as teenagers in SAC and in Singapore. This publication will indeed be an opportunity for creative talents to surface and for us to develop a culture of writing.

The banner mast of SAC Heartbeat was also thoughtfully designed. The mosaic motif is inspired by the façade pattern on our school buildings and graphically depicts the many student voices that fill the pages. The different colours and shades of the mosaic portrays a varied and interesting tapestry of anecdotes that undergirds the diversity of the feature stories from students of different backgrounds and experiences.

*By Mr Andrew Seah
– HOD, English Language*

INSIGHTFUL PROGRAMMES

COLLABORATIONS @ SACSS

Nurturing Entrepreneurial Dare

To nurture the entrepreneurial mindset in our students, the school collaborated with Halogen Foundation to introduce the Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship Education for our Secondary 3 (NT) students. The programme aims to help develop entrepreneurial spirit as well as boost self-confidence and resilience.

The support provided by Halogen Foundation was tremendous. They trained our teachers and provided the resources needed to deliver the programme and co-facilitated part of the programme alongside our teachers.

Halogen Foundation also launched a corporate adoption scheme which allows Deutsche Bank to engage their employees as volunteers to coach students on their business plans. They will also be hosting a visit to their office on 27 July 2018 to deepen the students' understanding of who they are and what they do. These interactions and real-world experiences also enhance the Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship (NFTE) journey for the students.



"I have witnessed many inspiring ideas which I hope will bloom into real businesses one day. Equipped with this skillset, the students can now identify business opportunities and plan for a successful future."

– Ms Nurfaeza Rahmat

The tripartite collaboration involving the school, Deutsche Bank and Halogen Foundation serves to build confidence and trigger the entrepreneurial mindset and empower students.

By Mdm Aznah Hj Kilali,
HOD – Special Projects

CCA Groups Collaborative Projects

To imbue the joy of learning and entrepreneurial dare, the school has embarked on a series of meaningful collaborative projects among the various CCA groups. These projects provide our students with an authentic learning platform where they experience the power of harnessing each other's strengths. The projects also foster a greater sense of unity and togetherness across the different CCA groups as they come together as a Canossian family to learn and grow.

Completed Projects

Production and sale of Upcycled Necklaces by the Drama Cub, Library, St. Magdalene's Club and Girl Guides for SACSS Night Festival

Members of the non-performing arts CCA groups such as Girl Guides, the Library and the St. Magdalene's Club also actively participated in the Night Festival. They were guided by Mr Dwayne Lau, our resident Drama Coach and Ms Charlene Lee, our Drama Club teacher, to make handwoven necklaces using upcycled yams. This meaningful collaboration with the Drama Club allowed students the chance to build teamwork, showcase their innovative craft skills as well as imbue the value of service to others through raising funds for needy students.



Percussion Band and Indian Dance Collaboration for Awards Ceremony

The collaboration of Indian Dance with Percussion Band was a novel experience which brought about a unique performance, allowing the girls to realise that different forms of music and dance can be brought together. It also allowed them to enhance their teamwork and technical skills while synchronising their dance moves to the beat of the percussionists' drums. The fusion of the pattering of dancing feet to the rhythmic beat of the percussion drums created a vibrant atmosphere.

"The opportunity to put up a combined performance between Percussion Band and Indian Dance was one that will be treasured. We are thankful for the experience to grow as performers, the opportunity to explore different styles and techniques of percussion and to realise how percussion can support dance to create an amazing performance!"

– Chan Ting Wen, Sec 3.6 – President of Percussion Band CCA



Upcoming Projects

National Civil Defence Cadet Corps (NCDCC) and Drama Club's performance on Champions Day

The combination of a Uniformed Group and a Performing Arts CCA is an interesting hybrid. Drama Club and NCDCC students will work together to put up a drama performance that will develop greater awareness of civil defence and the new CCA. The skit will be focusing on the functions and duties performed by cadets in the fledgling NCDCC unit. The Drama Club and NCDCC are looking forward to this collaboration to devise an original script and perform it together under the guidance of our Drama Coach.

Choir and Angklung

The musical traditions of the east and west meet to culminate in a performance featuring the voices of the SACSS choir accompanied by the music from the Angklung Band. The performance will feature three familiar pieces – *Edelweiss*, from the musical, *The Sound of Music*; an upbeat version of *Burung Kakatua*, an Indonesian folksong; and *Mamma Mia*, an ABBA hit song. The novel combination and repertoire is definitely one that the conductors, teachers-in-charge, the performers and the audience are looking forward to.

By Ms Kang Chee Hui,
SH – Performing Arts Education



Sharing of Contemporary Issues

From the 2016 National Youth Survey, 78% of the youth respondents claimed to have relied on social media to get news on current affairs. However, the information garnered from friends or fed through social media is often incomplete, biased, or worse still, fake! They are eager to find out what's happening, but lack suitable platforms where they can have meaningful conversations to process this information. To create such a platform, our school has taken several approaches to share and discuss current and contemporary issues with our students.



Contemporary issues are present-day issues of significance that are relevant to students' and teachers' life experiences. Since 2017, teachers have been taking the stage during morning assembly to highlight various topics such as Conservation, Poverty and Cyberwellness. During these weekly sessions, students from the Debating and Oratorical Society (DOS) are also given the opportunity to share their views on contemporary issues of their choice.

Complex issues analysed include immigration and its impact on society, the importance of an educated voter before they are allowed to vote in elections, the impact of performance-enhancing drugs in the sporting fraternity, the moral obligations society has towards charity work. On a lighter vein, topics such as the impact of fairy tales on young children or the value of traditional and contemporary art are also discussed. As such, DOS members are exposed to a wide range of topics that cover the many facets of life, hence building their knowledge of each issue and in the process, enabling them to form opinions backed by extensive research and in-depth discussions. As a result, DOS members' world views stretch beyond the casual teenage chatter to include more mature and contemplative angles and standpoints – an important asset in today's world where perspective is so very valuable in a more inclusive world that we all wish to build.

To extend the parameters for students and teachers to discuss contemporary issues in the classroom, Mrs Natalie Lian initiated a Current Affairs notice board in her Secondary 4.4 classroom (pictured above). By putting up relevant and engaging news clippings covering a variety of topics, Mrs Lian has created a lively discussion space at the back of her classroom, where students have the opportunity to share their opinions and perspectives on post-its.

By Mr He Junhao, HOD – Citizenship and Character Education,
Mrs Natalie Lian – Teacher and Ms Valerie Ong – Teacher

DYNAMIC PEOPLE

A FAN OF SAC INDEED...

Mr Charles Fan is no stranger to the Canossian Schools. His daughter, Nicole, was a student in the primary school from 2000 to 2005. Sometime after she graduated, in 2008, he was asked to help out as a member of the School Management Committee of the Canossian School. At that time, he was approached by Sister Elizabeth Tham to help some needy students with a contribution. He was also involved in various fund-raising and school charity events and interacted with staff and students mainly in the capacity as a member of the School Management Committee.

Ten years on, he is still a very active member of the School Management Committee with Canossian School. Mr Fan continues to donate monthly to the Canossian Schools including SACPS, SACSS and CCPS. SACSS has tapped on his donation to



Photos: Mr Fan contributing his skills in creating freshly baked kueh lapis during a fund raising event.



provide academic and financial assistance for students in need as well as to purchase book vouchers as prizes. When asked why he continues to contribute regularly after so many years, he replied, "I don't see any reason to stop as I'm still working and I can still help in a small way. Education is important and if my contribution has helped a student in any way, then I am gratified."

Mr Fan has always been impressed by the wholesome and inclusive education provided by the Canossians. Of the ethos and philosophy of the school, he says, "It is about building leadership and lifelong character for all the students that pass through the schools' way of education."

By Mrs Monica Menon

NEWSFLASH

Distinguished Star Manager Award

Congratulations to Mdm Tay Hui Cheng who was recently conferred the Distinguished Star Manager Award as part of the Public Sector Transformation Awards 2018.

Team Spirit Exemplified

Handball as a 2nd CCA was launched in 2011 to engage the netball girls after the East Zone Netball Competition. It was an alternative activity to keep the girls fit and to provide them an opportunity to participate in another sport. Fast forward to 2018, the CCA is no longer made up of students from the netball CCA and is now included in the Secondary 2 PE curriculum.



The current B Division team is made up of students from at least 10 different CCAs! With the capable leadership of the captains, Ning and Sonia, the girls overcame the differences and bonded as a team for the competition.

During the Inter-school competition, the fighting spirit of the team emerged because the girls faced a tough team comprising seasoned basketball players. They experienced what it was like to be leading, losing the lead and then fighting back to win by 2 points.

5-Day Cultural Immersion Trip to Brunei

The 5-day Cultural Immersion trip is scheduled to commence on 27 August 2018. The students will be visiting Sekolah Menengah Pengiran Anak Puteri Hajah Masna. Mdm Rasheada Begam (HOD Humanities), Mr Roland Lim (Assistant Year Head), Ms Nurfaeza (MTL Teacher) are the 3 teachers accompanying the 12 Secondary 2 students on the trip. The programme aims to nurture in our students global awareness and cross-cultural skills, develop in them a sense of

empathy towards the needs of others and allow them to interact with their peers from a different culture.

7th Cultural and Art Exchange Week of International Youth in Beijing

The Modern Dance Group will be participating in the 7th Cultural and Art Exchange Week of International Youth in Beijing, China from 9 to 19 August 2018. The event is jointly organised by Foreign Affairs Office of the People's Government of Beijing Municipality and Beijing People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries.

During the trip, the group will be presenting two performances at Beijing University and Beijing Museum of Natural History. The group will also be attending a gathering of Chinese and international youth art troupes from countries worldwide at the Beijing National Stadium (Bird's Nest), the opening and closing ceremonies of "Joy Dancing Beijing-Star Shining Dalian" in Dalian as well as the opening ceremony of the 2nd Panjin Red Beach International Youth Art Festival.

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