



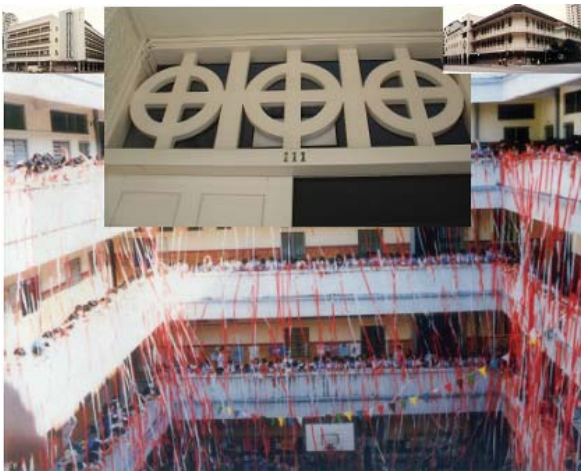
Canossian

Connections

FEATURE

111 Middle Road

Amy Tan reminisces and contemplates the future of the old school building.



The famed quadrangle

111 Middle Road, there she stands. Hardly celebrated now but you can't ignore her.

She was part of my secondary school life in the eighties. Coming from the vast space at Canossa Convent Primary School, I marveled at the limited space that had to accommodate both SAC Primary and Secondary. In time to come, this small area grew on me.

It was here in the open-air quadrangle where celebrations came alive. In any class performances, the quadrangle is the 'live' stage. You would have hundreds of your peers, juniors and seniors looking at and down on you, the Sisters enjoying from the fifth storey and

the canteen uncles and aunties taking a break and watching the performances. One can never forget the many celebrations that have taken place at the quadrangle, the many voices that have sung the perfect hymns, the melodious choral voices that reached for the skies, the dance steps that were choreographed and not forgetting the many push-ups and sit-ups that were meted on those grounds. Bonds of friendships were forged, the sounds of laughter and silence rang through the school quadrangle. The list goes on and I wish that the current incumbents at Bedok North can also experience that warmth.

In a recent article titled Old School, New Ideas in LIFE!

(Straits Times, 8 November 2007), the Arts reporter referred to this site as the former Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts campus instead of properly referencing it as the old SAC. It is a pity that an inadequate reference has been made in the national newspaper but it is still not too late to correct this historical oversight. What is the fate of 111 Middle Road? Do we have the passion to preserve this heritage site, now that the National Arts Council is making the site available for 10 years in a tender exercise? What are your thoughts?

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This Guide Rocks!

Janelene Leong catches up with True Blue Canossian and President's Guide, Sophia Ng.

Canossians Connect (CC): Just how True Blue are you?

Sophia Ng (SN): My mother, who was hospitalized during the period of Primary One registration, got to know of SACPS from the Sister in the bed next to hers. This fitted in well with my own desire to attend an all-girls school and thus began my journey as a Canossian. I graduated from SACSS in 1998, plus the Girl Guide uniform is also blue!

fire starter but using leaves, branches and what-have-you. In fact, the SAC guides were always called upon to start fires for barbecues! (3) Using the axe and saw well. (4) First aid and managing crisis situations.

The Ten Guiding Laws were also instrumental in moulding me as an individual to face the challenges in life. Receiving the President's Guide Award from President Nathan was definitely the "cherry on the cake" in my

2004 and have been working at the Salvation Army's Grace Haven ever since, initially as a social worker and now as a Rehabilitation Coordinator. I handle case management, family work, group work and rehab programmes.

CC: You are also quite the mountaineer! How did you get started?

SN: I joined the NUS Outdoor Activities Club and went on treks on Malaysian mountains, progressing on to Nepal; Everest Base Camp and Annapurna Circuit.

CC: You were the only Girl Guide (amongst 14 Scouts from various countries) to reach the summit of "Lord Baden Powell Peak" in Nepal in September this year to commemorate 100 years of Scouting. What was the

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One tough, rocking gal -
Sophia Ng

CC: Tell us more about being a Girl Guide.

SN: The great thing about Guiding is its 'all-roundedness', which ranges from outdoor activities; like kayaking and camping, to personal, social and community development programmes. Some of my favourite skills are (1) Orienteering and topography.... I'm usually the designated navigator in any group! (2) Setting up a fire quickly and efficiently without using a

final year in SACSS. I was glad to do my Guide Company and school proud in achieving this highest honour.

CC: What has been your journey post SACSS?

SN: The training and experience from Guiding, in planning events and managing people were put to good use as class chairperson and coordinating the carnival in Catholic Junior College. I graduated from NUS Arts and Social Science in

The Canossian Alumni strives to connect our members to our Alma Mater by ensuring the continuity of the Canossian Spirit through strong and vibrant ties.

Canossian Connections
is published by the
**Canossian Alumni
Association**

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For internal circulation only.

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significance of that occasion?

SN: Lord and Lady Baden Powell were the founders of the Scouts and Guides and we were the first expedition team up on the peak. This was also my very first peak ascent on glacier. Amidst worries of acute mountain sickness setting in, one Guide law came to mind: "A Guide has courage and is cheerful in all difficulties" and with that in mind, my fellow Singaporean climber, Kenny and I encouraged each other in the final push to the summit.

CC: SACSS is very fortunate to have you and other alumni to continue helping the present Guides.

There is so much that I have gained from my years in the school. It was thus natural that after graduation, I wanted to stay connected and to dedicate my time and service to the Guides in SACSS and share all that I have learnt.

CC: How do you de-stress, maintain work-life balance, amidst so many activities and commitments?

SN: I find my quiet moments before God. He provides me the direction and answers whenever I am at a loss. Family, friends and Kenny (my Significant Other) are also a great source of support and always available for a cuppa.

CC: Do you still have your Guide uniform?

SN: Oh yes, and my SAC uniform too! It is valuable since the present students don't wear a pinafore anymore.

CC: Any parting words to our readers before you proceed to your next adventure?

SN: Do your best in everything and be prepared for whatever Life throws at you. And anyone keen on scaling more mountain peaks, call me along!

CC: We'll certainly keep that in mind Sophia! Thank you for letting us share in your experiences and here's to all your future endeavours.

SN: Thank you too for giving me a chance to connect with more Canossians in this way!



Sophia looking very glamorous, off a mountain.

coming up ...
alumni events to
participate in

Canossians Connect 2008 - Our Open House

1 March 2008, 1-5 pm
St Anthony's Canossian Primary and Secondary Schools

Come and see how our schools have evolved through the years. The Canossian Alumni will be organising an open house at our primary and secondary schools in Bedok for CC08. Come with your husbands, boyfriends and girlfriends, kids, parents and ex-schoolmates and reminisce those good old-days.

The Open House may be your last opportunity to see the schools in Bedok as plans are underway to have the schools upgraded through the PRIME scheme (see related article on page 4). The alumni will put together a guided tour of the school grounds for all ex-students. Stay tuned to more information for Canossians Connect 2008 - Open House which will be held in conjunction with Canossians Saints' Day. Tickets at affordable price will be on sale soon.

Movement of Spiritual Director

With effect January 2008, Sr Angela Ng will be travelling extensively in and out of Myanmar setting up a mission station. She remains contactable at Canossa Convent 1 Sallim Road Singapore 387621. Please pray for her and the team.

Have a class event to share?
Write to us at
info@canossialumni.com.

Update of Email Addresses

To save on mailing cost, **Canossian Connections** will be emailed to members with email addresses. Please update changes in email addresses by writing to
info@canossialumni.com.

St Anthony's Canossian Primary School

Programme for Rebuilding and Improving Existing Schools (PRIME)

SACPS has been identified by MOE to undergo PRIME and will be upgraded from January 2011 to December 2012. The objective of PRIME is to equip schools with up-to-date physical infrastructure and facilities to provide a physical environment conducive to teaching and learning.

During PRIME, the school will hold at the former Fengshan Primary site located at 305 Bedok North Road.

Due to PRIME, SACPS needs to continue to organize fund raising events annually so that we will reach our target amount. This will be revealed once we meet up with the architects in 2009. We hope the Alumni will continue to render support in our upcoming fund raising projects.

Those who wish to assist us in our projects or make a donation can email Mrs Corinna Foo, our co-ordinator for Canossian Co-Educators at chua_chin_corinna@moe.edu.sg or contact the Principal, Miss Agnes Chew or Vice-Principal, Mrs Julia Chia at 64492239.

We hope that our concerted effort to raise funds to improve our school facilities will further enhance our Canossian brand of education and provide quality education to more young girls.

Thank you.

In the Spirit of Canossa,

Agnes Chew
Principal

EDITORIAL

Dear Alumni

The new year always brings renewed commitment to be a better person and to make a difference. If you are looking for ideas, how about considering God's little ones? They need our love, support and compassion. If you wish to share a gift in support of our Scholarship Fund, kindly make your crossed cheque payable to **Canossian Alumni Association** and mail it to 1600 Bedok North Avenue 4 Singapore 469700. Thank you for your generosity.

Blessings of love, peace and joy be with you in 2008!

Sr Angela Ng

Canossa Convent Primary School

Welcome

We like to welcome on board to the Canossian family at Canossa Convent Primary School; Vice-Principal, Mdm Lynette Fernandez.

Canossa Truly Shines

Even the toilets shine at Canossa! We were awarded a Toilet of Excellence (GOLD) Award. CCPS embarked on the "Happy Toilets Schools Education Programme" earlier this year to reinforce awareness of toilet etiquette amongst CCPS pupils.

In Appreciation

We would like to thank all parents and friends of CCPS who have helped and supported us in one way or another before and during "Canossa Shines 2007". Thank you for helping to make the event such a success!

Request for Tennis Balls

If you have used tennis balls, please donate them to the school. The school uses the balls to muffle the sound of chairs and tables scraping the floor. This has been most welcomed by teachers and our hearing-impaired pupils. You can leave the items to the school's General Office.

"Changing direction in life is not tragic. Losing passion in life is"

Max Lucado
