## UP-COMING EVENTS
See Merici web page for full Calendar and further details

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 28 August</td>
<td>School &amp; Specialists Captain Elections</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 30 August</td>
<td>August Athletics Carnival</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 31 August</td>
<td>August School &amp; Specialist Captains Announced</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Tuesday 4 September      | AST Day 1
Y11 & Y12 Accredited Conference                                   |
| Wednesday 5 September    | AST Day 2
Y11 & Y12 Accredited Conference                                     |
| Monday 10 September      | House Captain Nominations Due                                        |
| Tuesday 11 September     | Year 7 – 2013 Information Evening 4.45 to 7.00pm
Cultural Assembly 11.30am to 12.30pm                                  |
| Wednesday/Friday 12 – 14 September | Dance Fest                          |
| Wednesday 12 September   | Bridge Restaurant 12.30pm – 1.30pm
bookings essential - 6243 4100                                      |
| Tuesday 18 September     | House Captains Elections                                              |
| Wednesday 19 September   | Parent/Student/Teacher Interviews 4 – 7.00pm                         |
| Friday 21 September      | Year 10 Social – 5.30pm to 10.00pm
House Captains Announced                                           |
| Tuesday/Thursday 25 - 27 September | Registration – Merici College                                      |
| Wednesday/Friday 26 – 28 September | Ausdance Youth Dance Festival                                      |
| Friday 28 September      | Last Day Term 3                                                       |

In conjunction with the SRC, Year 10 girls and their parents cooked meals for Yellow Van Food Rescue. Each month the Yellow Van Food Rescue Service rescues and delivers over 16 tonnes of good food to more than 70 charities and refuges, allowing them to provide over 50,000 meals to disadvantaged people in the community – an equivalent of 1,800 meals a day. The meals that the Merici community cooked were received with tremendous appreciation.
From Our Principal...

From the Principal

Reflecting on my current studies in Theology, I could not help but be struck by the topic of the week and its relevance to us at Merici. Namely, that the tradition of a community reflects its continuity, identity and unity. Our Pastoral Care system, cited as the most valued aspect of Merici’s Vision and Mission by the 2011 Community Forum, is undeniably central to the identity of the College. The allegiance to, and support of, the Houses by students and staff alike reflects both connection to our founding Sisters and the self-identity of each House group, united under the guiding tenet of our patron, Saint Angela Merici. What particularly struck me was how these ideas of tradition and continuity relate to our current preparations for school Registration.

Every five years, the school opens its doors to a Registration Panel, a group of experts in how schools operate and in curriculum, who explore the core beliefs and mandated processes of the school, and how these are documented and translated into effective teaching and learning. The continuity of the Merici tradition is dependent on the success of this registration process and we are putting considerable and unified effort into ensuring we meet all elements of the review at the highest possible level. Whilst there is a backward-looking element to this connection to our founding Sisters and the self-identity of each House group, united under the guiding tenet of our patron, Saint Angela Merici. What particularly struck me was how these ideas of tradition and continuity relate to our current preparations for school Registration.

Our future directions are firmly grounded in the traditions of Angela Merici – treating each student as an individual with enormous potential. This does not mean, however, that all things stay the same. We do need to take risks, to accept challenges and class structures (see Page 6). Success relies on our preparedness to attempt challenges and learn from our disappointments.

The Awards themselves reflect achievements in subjects reported on the semester reports. It may be timely, given the introduction of Achievement Standards in the Australian Curriculum, to note a few points. The new curricula in Mathematics, Science, English and History have been implemented this year in Merici in Years 7 and 9, and next year this will extend to all junior years. Student achievement in these subjects will be measured against Achievement Standards described by work samples supplied by the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA). Merici is currently participating in a working party convened by the Catholic Education Office. We will develop quality tasks based on the Australian Curriculum, trial these in classes and supply work samples to ACARA to further define the standards of achievement in particular areas of understanding or skill. This is a highly demanding process for our participating staff, but the pay-off is that Merici staff will be leaders in understanding and applying the new standards. The correlation between Standards and Grades is another important area to be explored during the process and we are looking forward to some vigorous debate. We will still allocate a grade (A-E) and, as always, the grade describes a level of achievement for an individual student and is not governed by numerical cut-offs or impacted by the achievement level of other students. This applies equally to senior grades where the grade standards are clearly defined for each subject by the ACT Board of Senior Secondary Studies.

The Merici tradition is multifaceted and, while tethered in the past, it is not limited by this history. Registration is a time for reflection, renewal, redirection and celebration of our achievements. We are keen to open our files and classrooms to the panel from Tuesday 25th to Thursday 27th September. We welcome their assurances and recommendations, which will ensure that Merici continues to develop young women who feel fully prepared to meet the challenges of an ever changing world (as elaborated in our revised Mission and Vision Statement). The articles on Year 8 Enlighten Day (Page 4) and Year 10 Transitions Forum (Pages 12-13) show just a few examples of how Merici students prepare for that future. We have also been interviewing next year’s Year 11s and have been impressed with the thought put in to their subject selections and their future directions. As a school we welcome our new Principal, Loretta Wholley, taking up the reigns in 2013. I recommend to you the revealing interview on Page 5.

It is a privilege for me to lead Merici College this semester and through the Registration process. Thank you for your support!

Ann Cleary
Acting Principal
This was the opening statement to year 8 girls who had gathered together to participate in workshops delivered by Danni from enlighten education.

The day was made up of three separate workshops led by Danni Miller, a winner of a 2012 Leadership award. In the morning the girls created journals for reflection that they cheerfully decorated. This is a journal to be filled with happy thoughts and events that can be used to help make their internal self-talk positive. Teenage girls tend to talk to themselves in a negative and self-deprecating manner and over time this helps to erode self-esteem and confidence. To assist with this change of self-talk each girl received a pink wrist band to wear for thirty days as a reminder to be kind and positive about their intelligence and image. The idea behind this is that it takes approximately thirty days to change a habit. It is hoped that at the end of this thirty days many of the girls will be unconsciously telling themselves positive messages.

The students then delved into the complexities of girl world and learned new skills for dealing with friendships and conflict. This workshop gave the girls some insight in to the long lasting effects that hurtful throw away comments can have on another person. They were given strategies to deal with these comments and ways to resolve friendship conflicts in a constructive and mature manner. One simple strategy was to think before reacting, to seek the advice of an older and wiser female and to take some time to calm down before confrontation.

The final workshop explored the negative images and messages that girls receive from the media. Girls are bombarded with hundreds of advertising images every day that often portray an unattainable physical image for women. Danni took the girls through the realities of these images such as photo shopping and other tricks that advertising agencies use to sell products.

The workshop entitled “Girl Essentials” was an overwhelming success with all of the girls. It was a happily noisy and animated year group that walked out of school on Monday August 6.

The day was followed up with an information evening for parents. Danni Miller presented her workshop “wake up sleeping Beauty” to around fifty parents. She gave parents an overview of what she had presented to their daughters both in the year 8 day and also the Year 9 day that was held last semester. This enabled those parents to re-affirm the messages of empowerment, positive self-talk and the negative media to the girls. Parents were given an insight into the often thorny world that teenage girls live in and an understanding of what their daughters are trying to cope with every day. The buzz from parents at the end of the session was that it was extremely worthwhile and educational for them as parents and for their daughters.

Colleen Gallagher
Junior Coordinator
10 questions for our new principal

1. What subject/s do you teach?
I currently teach Year 12 Religion and Life. However, I am trained to teach Business, ICT and Religious Education at all year levels.

2. Have you travelled? If so, where?
I did most of my travelling in my 20s. I have been to: Western Europe (Ireland, UK, France, Spain, Germany, Italy, Switzerland), India, Indonesia, Thailand, The Holy Land, Egypt, Jordan, New Zealand and Canada.

I have been to every state and territory in Australia too.

I would love to see the United States of America and Eastern Europe. My bucket list event would be to walk the Pilgrims Way from France to Santiago de Compostela in Spain (but it takes 3 months, so it is on my list of things to do when I am older).

3. What most excites you about moving to Canberra?
I am very excited about meeting the Merici College community: staff, students and their families and the ex-students. I have to say that I am also excited about being close to many places I would like to visit (Perth is very far away from everywhere!). My daughter and husband are looking forward to seeing snow and I am happy to be on the east coast.

4. What do you think you will miss the most about Perth?
Without a doubt, I will miss my Mum and other family and friends, however, with the wonders of technology I am not too worried about keeping in touch.

The other thing I will miss is the warm weather. My husband and I have been watching the temperature closely the last few weeks. We are lucky in Perth to get 3 days a year that drop below zero and my friends and colleagues have been busy reminding me just how cold Canberra gets in the winter. So I hope the heating is good there.

5. What are your interests/hobbies?
My favourite past-time is cooking. I really enjoy watching cooking shows and cooking for family and friends. I especially do this during school holidays and on the weekends. I have tried lots of other things like sewing and knitting, but I get a bit frustrated because I just want to see the final item!

I love listening to music – all types: from the top 40 to classical and I enjoy reading books and magazines to relax.

6. Are you excited about becoming a principal?
Excited and a little bit nervous is how I am currently feeling about becoming a principal. I have heard such wonderful things about Merici and I am thrilled about being able to be a part of this community and leading it through into the future.

For me, the education of young women is the most powerful influence in our era. So it is a great privilege for me to encourage all young women to be the best they can be.

7. What are your biggest accomplishments?
- I am very proud of what I have achieved in my life. I was the first daughter to go to University and study all the way up to a Masters.
- I am glad that I took the opportunity in my 20s to work, save and travel the world – sometimes by myself and sometimes with friends and family.
- Becoming the Catholic Church representative at the State and National Council of Churches was an amazing experience and one that I still marvel at.
- I have also been fortunate to be nominated and part of 3 different leadership programs for aspiring women.
- My husband and daughter and our relationship is very important to me and I think we do a pretty good job at keeping life balanced.

8. You seem to have done a lot of University study, tell us about your experiences at University. What do you enjoy the most about tertiary learning?
I love learning! Anyone who thinks they will stop learning after they finish school or once they get a job is fibbing. The learning journey never ends. So I consider myself as someone who just joins the journey at every chance I can get.

University is a wonderful place because the majority of people there (just like school) want to learn. The atmosphere makes it conducive to learning and researching and reading and writing.

In saying that though, all learning doesn’t have to be at University level. I have dabbled in courses in cooking, languages, sewing and scrapbooking.

Before I travel I research, research and do more research. I find out the best place to stay, the nicest restaurants, sites to see, tours to take, and I always learn a few words in the local language (I believe it is always a polite thing to do). My husband always thinks I am crazy, but then likes that I know the places to go and the things to see.

Learning never stops! Even my dad, who passed away last year, started a Facebook page at 74 years of age and created a Skype account to talk to family in Italy.

9. Canberra is a very diverse community, what are your family origins?
Both of my parents were born and raised in Sicily, Italy. They came to Perth after the second world war and met over here through mutual friends. I had a very traditional Italian upbringing, if you have ever read “Looking for Alibrandi” you will know what I am talking about.

My husband’s grandparents came from Ireland on one of the first steam boats in the late 1800s to build the railroad from Perth down to the logging region in the South West. They spoke to him in Gaelic (which he unfortunately does not remember any more).

We live in a very multicultural suburb in Perth and many of my daughter’s friends from daycare come from India, Pakistan, China, Uganda and Zambia. This is what I love about Australia.

10. In choosing our college, what is your vision for Merici?
The College vision to “love life, have hope, be faithful and build futures more wondrous than you dare to dream” will play centre stage to my vision. I am committed to providing an environment that encourages students to be lifelong learners who make well informed decisions, respond compassionately to the needs of others and take up their role as leaders in society.

Loretta has been appointed as the new Principal of Merici and will begin her time with us in January 2013.
DESTRUCTION PROGRESSES

New Learning Spaces

To get students thinking outside the box, we sometimes need to expose them to learning outside of the box – literally, removing the four walls of the classroom. The new learning spaces being constructed in the upstairs Balgo and Ningil/Science Corridors will convert a number of traditional classroom spaces, and a few not very practical nooks, into a number of unique learning spaces. The Balgo area will be an open plan area equivalent to four class spaces, fully equipped with Interactive Whiteboards, desktop computers and display areas. The space will be large enough for a House or Year group to comfortably meet together for social and learning opportunities, such as carnival preparations and guest speakers, removing the pressure put on our other large spaces. This area will also be the focus for curriculum delivery with multiple classes being able to work collaboratively, have flexibility in class arrangements and share resources. We will be able to visually break the space with acoustic partitions and display boards when smaller areas are needed. Around the corner, there will be a breakout space for students and teachers to work in small groups, including a small glass-walled meeting room. The old 208/TU7 will be transformed into a multipurpose classroom, mainly for Science activities. Given the transformations in teaching and learning we have already seen in our other flexible spaces, we are very excited by the possibilities offered by these latest innovations.

Ann Cleary
Acting Principal

Merici College Moves Forward With Building Plans

Throughout 2012 the College’s building renovations and refurbishments have continued to progress. During terms one and two there were many meetings with staff and architects to come up with innovative designs for the different spaces. At the end of this process a final concept and plans were decided on.

At the start of the school holidays end of term two activities has been at an all-time high. The Assistant Principal, House Coordinators, Senior and Junior Coordinators, Curriculum Support Staff and Support Staff Administration have been relocated temporarily so that the pastoral care/House Coordinator’s areas and staff room can be transformed into new areas.

The builders during the two weeks of the holidays completely gutted the area which starts upstairs where the front door of the school is, down the corridor and into the Science corridor stopping at Room 208. The main staff room and photocopy rooms will be gutted from 30 July 2012. The textbook room was upgraded in the school holidays to enable the large photocopier to be relocated there. During term four student and staff toilets in the school will be gutted and refurbished. The renovations are expected to be fully completed for use for the new school year commencing 4 February 2013.

The teaching areas will be an open plan concept promoting team teaching and learning.

Keith Vardanega
Bursar/Business Manager
Recently we performed ‘Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat’ with music by Andrew Lloyd Webber and words by Tim Rice. This was the first musical ever staged at Merici College. This musical has been delighting audiences for over 40 years since its first performance in 1968. It is based on the story of Joseph from the Book of Genesis 37-45.

It may seem an odd choice for an all-girls school to perform a musical which consists of mainly male roles but we chose it because the song styles are very varied and range from ballads to calypso, country and western to disco, thus providing a real learning experience for the students. The lyrics are very witty and the religious aspect was also very appealing of course.

‘Joseph’ has a large cast of singers, dancers and musicians; consequently we were able to offer this unique learning opportunity to a great many students. There were over 50 students performing on stage and many more assisting backstage and in front of house. We had students from every year group involved in some capacity and it has been wonderful to witness the sense of community among the students during the rehearsal process. They have all been very supportive of one another and have offered encouragement and developed new friendships.

It has been a truly awe inspiring, challenging and enjoyable task to stage this musical and to work with such a talented and enthusiastic cast. I am so proud of the achievements of everyone involved. It has been a pleasure to work with such dedicated professionals and I would like to acknowledge the hard work of Mr Thompson with the brilliant band, Ms Williams with the stunning singers, Ms Carey and Mrs Laird with the fabulous dancers, Ms Bogg with the fantastic costume designs and Ms Parisi for marketing and publicity. Staging a full length production involves a great many people and I extend my heartfelt thanks and appreciation to all the staff members who have supervised classes and especially the Executive staff for their help and support.

I hope you enjoyed the performance as much as we have enjoyed putting it together.

Laura Pearce
Director
Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat

Merici Boys steal the Show
POWERSFUL LEARNING

Students engage with the Constitutional Convention

Legal Studies engagement with the Merici Principles of Powerful Learning was evident in the attendance by seven Year 11 students in the ACT Constitutional Convention 2012. This reinforced the Principle of culture of Dynamic Learning by utilising diverse learning opportunities through our close links with agencies in the wider community.

The ACT Constitutional Convention gives the opportunity for Year 11 students to engage with their peers from a range of colleges in research, debate and role plays into the question of whether the Australian Constitution should be changed to give the Federal Government head of government powers over the environment. A number of agencies including National Archives of Australia, Old Parliament House, ACT Legislative Assembly and ACT Electoral Commission provided resources and opportunities for the students to engage in the topic.

It was especially pleasing to see the level of engagement by all the students and that the program’s involvement of Merici College Year 12 student Stacey Waring, who attended the National Convention earlier this year, as a facilitator and also one of Merici ex students from 2004 Pauline Thai, who was MC for the afternoon session as representative of the Law Faculty of ANU.

John Cave
Global Studies Coordinator

Geographers investigate and interpret the world

Geographers investigate and interpret the places that make up our world. Geography’s distinct contribution to the school curriculum is that it teaches students essential knowledge about the world they live in, contributes to their personal development, equips them with a range of specialised skills, develops a geographical way of understanding and examines important questions and issues that are essential for informed citizenship.

The teaching of Geography incorporates all the Effective Teaching and Learning Processes outlined in the College’s Principles of Powerful Learning. In particular field work including the south coast of NSW, the Cotter Precinct, Kosciuszko National Park and settlements around the ACT, team teaching in the new flexible spaces and a focussed use of technology embrace varied, stimulating and engaging experiences. Also, the diverse Geography units encourage independent and collaborative work through varied class tasks and group activities.

The teaching of Geography facilitates a Culture of Dynamic Learning through pursuing a relevant, meaningful and appropriate curriculum. The case studies used in Geography teaching in the classroom are real world examples of places, patterns and processes, while field work enables the student to see and investigate the reality of what they learn in the classroom. Geography teaching explores real world and topical matters and issues which affect all.

In conclusion, Geography contributes to the whole person in understanding the world in which we live and recognises the responsibility each person has to our fragile environment.

Ann Curran
Geography Teacher

Pauline Thai (second from right) was a graduate of Merici College in 2004. She participated as barrister in a Mock trial competition and won the Sneddon Hall and Gallop Scholarship Prize for Legal studies students in her senior years. At ANU she studied a Joint degree in Law and Economics where she achieved a first class Honours degree. She then worked for a year as an associate to a High Court judge before returning to ANU where she is currently an Assistant Lecturer in the Law faculty.
There’s a Face on My Toast, A Ghost on the Stairs and Socks in the Fridge.

Our brains are amazing. It is how we interpret smells, sight and sounds. It is how we reason and dream. It is the organic computer that runs our body, but sometimes it has a few glitches.

Year 8 spent the day last semester discovering all things brainy. By understanding its structure through dissection, modelling, movement and guest speakers, Year 8 students learned how they learn.

Mike McRae, a former Merici teacher and author of the book ‘Tribal Science – Brains, Beliefs and Bad Ideas’ showed the students how these brain glitches are used by the gambling industry, magicians and psychics to make us believe that something supernatural is happening. Mike explained that it’s just our brains looking for patterns and applying what it knows, a hangover from the evolutionary process of surviving in the era of the mammoth.

Dr Kristin Pammer took the girls through how the brain works. She was able to explain the physiology of the brain and the research that has shown which parts of the brain are responsible for all the different jobs it needs to do. She also explained what happens when different parts of the brain are damaged or diseased, such as the woman who could no longer use her left and right side of the body as one. Her special interest is synaesthesia. This is a condition where there is a mingling of the senses, it is thought that this occurs due to cross wiring in the brain. People with this condition can see different colours for different musical notes or smell numbers.

The students then found out just how ‘squishy’ the brain actually is. The dissection of a lamb’s brain allowed them to see the different parts and identify the areas responsible for reasoning, emotions and memory. All things that may seem to be extreme or in the case of reasoning, absent in the teenage brain. The girls learned about how their own brain is still developing and that their ability to reason really is lagging behind at this stage of their growth. They were also told that the teenage brain is a mass of neurons with nowhere to go and if they aren’t used to make connections then those unused neurons get pruned.

Learning is vital for developing young brains. This is called neuro-plasticity. Research now suggests that this plasticity lasts well into adulthood, meaning it is never too late to learn or change our brains.

Colleen Gallagher
Junior Coordinator

Recommended Reading on Neuro-Plasticity

The Women Who Changed Her Brain- Barbara Arrowsmith-Young

The Brain That Changes Itself- Norman Doidge MD
Day One

Inspiring teens to follow their yellow brick road, to find their purpose in life and build their dreams bigger than believable is not an easy job. However this is how Glen Gerreyn kicked off the Year 10 transitions forum for 2012. His inspirational story of turning $2 from his disability pension into a highly successful youth and community centre gave us hope that “no-one is born empty”, we are all here with a purpose and a worth. We were encouraged to plant our seeds of greatness in good soil, water them with hard work, pull out the weeds of negativity and not

to let the clouds tell us that the sun isn’t shining. Glen invigorated our dreams, telling of how they must be big enough to motivate us, because after all “if it’s going to be, it’s up to me”. However, we were not lead us to think that we can ‘do whatever we want’, but that our dreams have a price, a price of how much we are willing to sacrifice and work for. A quote that will always stick in my mind is that “hard work beats talent, when talent doesn’t work hard”. We were given permission to fail but not to quit, because “it’s better to aim for the stars and hit a tree, than aim for a tree and hit a rock”. If we don’t learn to fall down, then we may never learn to get back up. Overall the day was inspirational for all, his passion and gifts to motivate us were uplifting and enriching. I hope that many Merici girls to come will get to experience Glen’s wisdom.

Claire Smart
Yr 10 student

Day Two

On the second day of the transitions forum, we were told that we had to dress in good clothes. We all came to school in our very best business attire, not really knowing what to expect. The week before we all chose sessions we wanted to go to, to talk to professionals about their jobs and the industry they work in. There were a wide variety of topics to choose from and it was hard to select just three. I chose ‘Working with kids’, ‘Defence’ and ‘Nursing’. All three of the talks were really interesting. The professionals that came in were really informative. They gave us a lot of information about their jobs, they told us the best thing and the hardest part about working in their industries. All of the girls that were in my groups were really interested in what the professionals had to say about their work, and we all asked a lot of questions which were answered expertly. After talking to the other people in our year, I found that everyone enjoyed the sessions that they went to and were very happy with what the professionals had to say. I am very thankful that I had to opportunity to talk to these people and it was very interesting to learn about different professions that are out there.

Sophie Bunnett
Yr 10 student

Day Three

Reflection Day began with an opening liturgy which commenced what would be a relaxed, fun and educational day. We were lucky enough to have Khao Do as our guest speaker and he shared his remarkable story with us. He told us how when he was just one, he and his family came to Australia as Vietnamese refugees. Khao volunteered to work with young people in Cabramatta and they made a short film together called “Delivery Day” which was later nominated for an AFI Award. He went onto make many more short films and received the Young Australian of the Year Award in 2005. He made us laugh and his story was definitely inspirational.

In the afternoon we learnt about cyber bullying, its impact and how we should be careful what we send to people through social media. This built on the knowledge we gained during PC classes throughout the past few years.

The Catholic life team came to talk to us about the importance of relationships, the problems we could come across and how communication is a vital tool in dealing with these problems.

There were a number of activities we could choose from at the end of the day, including rice paintings, meditation with Father Bony and family trees. We all met back in the auditorium where we joined in a closing prayer which ended a fantastic day.

Lauren Abraham
Yr 10 student
Day Four

The fourth day of transition week had an academic focus. We attended seminars about the Senior rules and requirements, grade descriptors for year 11 and year 12, how to improve our oral presentations as well as talks from senior school teachers about the subjects that are available for us to choose for next year. We also had an opportunity to ask questions to some current year 12 students about how they have found their time at Merici in years 11 and 12, they were kind enough to share their wisdom with us. Thursday was an important day as we are now considering the subjects to choose as we move into our final years of school.

Michaela O’Meara
Yr 10 student

Day Five

The Friday of Transitions Forum gave the Year 10 students an opportunity to visit educational institutions around the ACT, including the Australian National University, University of Canberra, Australian Defence Force Academy, Canberra Institute of Technology, Academy of Interactive Education, the National Library and the Magistrates Court. Students were able to undertake tours and ask questions in order to gain an understanding of what was offered at each organisation as they begin to think about their future direction.

Emma Johnston
Yr 10 student
The introduction of the POS system has enabled Hospitality students to experience the realities of the Industry whilst studying at Merici. The system is the same as that used all around Australia in cafes and restaurants. The waitresses now take orders using palm pilots. The food orders go straight to the kitchen where the head chef awaits, the drink orders go to the staff in the beverage area and orders are dealt with quickly and efficiently. There is no double handling. The skills learnt are transferable and real and make our students even more employable.

We put money on cards every morning before school as well as every recess and lunch on Mondays and Thursdays. We can also put money on cards when there is no line up at the canteen, which is generally the second half of lunch.

Students who do not have their cards or who need to put money on them are asked to go to the back of the line as these transactions are quite time consuming and stop the flow of service. We will take cash if the students have the correct money as we do not have change at food dispensing registers.

We encourage students to use their own cards (a number of students borrow other girls cards, we always check that they have permission and this is also time consuming). We also encourage students to put minimum amounts of $10 on cards. Amazingly we have seen some students line up three times a day to put $1 on their card.

On another note, we cannot lend knives, forks or spoons to students who bring their own food. If students can bring food, they can bring forks. So far this year we have had over 200 stainless steel forks go missing. We find ceramic crockery and stainless steel cutlery actually in the garbage bins. We no longer have enough of either to complete our own food service.
EXCHANGE STUDENTS MAKE NEW INTERCULTURAL FRIENDS

Around Week 7 of last term the first two of seven exchange students began to make their way from the other side of the world to join us here at Merici.

The first to arrive were 17 year old French students Adelaide Degain and Capucine Senguine. Closely followed by Chiara and Melissa Martinelli – both 14 years – and later Irene Migliori, Illaria Mancini and Isabella Tribbiani, all 17 years also followed.

The students have been accommodated in Years 8, 10, 11 and 12.

We will hear from our exchange students in the next Building Futures issue, but we would like to take this opportunity to thank all the families for opening their lives to these students. We also thank the Merici host sisters and host buddies and the wider community for your inclusion of these students.

Personally, I had always heard how rewarding participating in an exchange could be but had never experienced it first hand, until this year. Other Merici parents who have experienced both sending and hosting students are the parents of Skye Temby in Year 11. They share their thoughts on the experience below. Many thanks to Rochelle and Daniel for their time in contributing this article.

If you are interested in hosting a student from Italy, please register your interest by emailing antonietta.prosperi@merici.act.edu.au

Italian students in Year 11 are eligible for our exchange program to Italy which runs 28 Nov – 28 Jan each year. Speak to your Italian teacher for details.

Antonietta Prosperi and Sonia Conte
Exchange Program Contact Teachers

Challenging, Changing and Succeeding

Sophie Macken, Eliza Baker, Lucy Chilver, Caitlin Manning and Stephanie Pang

Merici had a great representation at the Cross country championships held on the 4th June at the fantastic Stromlo Forest Park course. The day was cool and windy and all the girls ran well. The following results were achieved with Emily Ryan and Elizabeth Drew being selected to represent the ACT at the Nationals in August in Adelaide. This will be Emily’s last year at Nationals and her 9th year selected in a row.

12 years
18th Taylor-Jane McIntosh

13 years
14th Eliza Baker
16th Caitlin Manning
21st Lucy Chilver
23rd Stephanie Pang

14 years
6th Danielle Bewick
18th Sophie Macken

15 years
6th Elizabeth Drew
14th Ashleigh Goodwin
17th Daisy Hurford
18th Sabine Hamilton

16 years
18th Maddison McGarry
17th Celia Cossetto
19th Teagan Garnett

18 years
1st Emily Ryan