**Up-Corning Events**

See Merici web page for full calendar and further details

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>27 April</th>
<th>Term 2 begins</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>28 April</td>
<td>PC Phone Day</td>
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<td>ANZAC Assembly</td>
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<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>29 April</td>
<td>Duke of Edinburg Parent Night</td>
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<td>Ningal House Day</td>
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<td>Senior Dance Workshop</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
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<td>Psychology Excursion</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
<td>1 May</td>
<td>Year 9/12 Dance Excursion</td>
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<td>Monday</td>
<td>4 May</td>
<td>Duke of Edinburg Leadership Day</td>
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<td>Tullow Fundraising Week</td>
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<td>Dance Week</td>
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<td>Year 12 English Oral</td>
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<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>5 May</td>
<td>Feeder School visits - Be a Merici Girl Day</td>
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<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>6 May</td>
<td>Open Day</td>
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<td>National Bike to School Day</td>
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<td>Bridge Restaurant (12.30pm-1.30pm and 5.00pm-8.00pm)</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
<td>7 May</td>
<td>Senior Geography Excursion</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
<td>8 May</td>
<td>Senior Geography Excursion</td>
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<td>Year 9 Geography/History Excursion</td>
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<td>Mother’s Day Mass and Breakfast (8.00am-10.00am)</td>
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<td>Monday</td>
<td>11 May</td>
<td>Be a Merici Girl Day</td>
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<td>National Volunteer Week</td>
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<td>Social Justice Assembly (11.30am-12.30pm)</td>
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<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>12 May</td>
<td>Year 7 - 2016 Information Evening (6.00pm)</td>
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<td>NAPLAN Year 7 and Year 9</td>
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<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>13 May</td>
<td>NAPLAN Year 7 and Year 9</td>
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<td>Bridge Restaurant (12.30pm-1.30pm)</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
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<td>NAPLAN Year 7 and Year 9</td>
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<td>Dance Practical Moderation Day</td>
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<td>Year 10 History/Geography Excursion</td>
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<td>Year 11 - 2016 Careers Expo and Information Evening (4.00pm-7.00pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>15 May</td>
<td>NAPLAN Year 7 and 9 Catch-up Day</td>
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<td>Fri/Sat/Sun</td>
<td>15/16/17 May</td>
<td>Duke of Edinburg Introductory Weekend No. 1 (departs 3.30pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>18 May</td>
<td>Be a Merici Girl Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>20 May</td>
<td>Big Science Competition – Years 7-12</td>
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<td>Year 10 Poetry in Action (9.15am-10.15am)</td>
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<td>Year 9 Poetry in Action (11.30am – 12.30pm)</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
<td>21 May</td>
<td>May Music Concert (6.00pm-8.00pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>22 May</td>
<td>Angela Merici Day Mass and Activities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri/Sat/Sun</td>
<td>22/23/24 May</td>
<td>Duke of Edinburg Introductory Weekend No. 2 (departs 3.30pm)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat/Sun</td>
<td>23/24 May</td>
<td>National Eisteddfod</td>
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<td>Monday</td>
<td>25 May</td>
<td>Penola Fundraising Week</td>
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<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>27 May</td>
<td>Da Vinci Decathlon Years 7-8</td>
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<td>Bridge Restaurant (12.30pm-1.30pm)</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
<td>28 May</td>
<td>Year 9 Spirituality Day</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
<td>29 May</td>
<td>Year 10 Luna Park Excursion</td>
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<td>Monday</td>
<td>1 June</td>
<td>Parliament of Youth ANU</td>
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<td>Ningal Fundraising Week</td>
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<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>3 June</td>
<td>Sustainability Assembly (11.00am-12.30pm)</td>
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<td>Bridge Restaurant (6.00pm-7.30pm)</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
<td>4 June</td>
<td>Years 8, 9 and 10 Drama – Storm Boy (11.00am-1.00pm)</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
<td>5 June</td>
<td>United Nations World Environment Day</td>
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<td>Monday</td>
<td>8 June</td>
<td>Queen’s Birthday (Public Holiday)</td>
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<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>9 June</td>
<td>Senior Excursion and Extra Hours Freak Week</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
<td>12 June</td>
<td>Chinese Language Excursion – Year 7, 8 &amp; 9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>15 June</td>
<td>Senior Exam Week</td>
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<td>Year 9 Enrichment Day</td>
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<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>16 June</td>
<td>Year 7 Author’s Visit</td>
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<td>Monday</td>
<td>22 June</td>
<td>Year 8 Enrichment Day</td>
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<td>Year 8 Posm Enrichment Evening (5.00pm-7.30pm)</td>
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<td>Year 10 Exams</td>
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<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>23 June</td>
<td>Year 10 Exams</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>26 June</td>
<td>Music Safari</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>29 June</td>
<td>Year 10 Transition Week</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
<td>30 June</td>
<td>SMS of Maths</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>2 July</td>
<td>Year 7 Immunisations/Year 10 Retreat Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>3 July</td>
<td>NAIDOC Assembly (12.30pm-2.00pm)/Term 2 ends</td>
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**Monthly Morning Merici Mass**

Parents are invited to our Monthly Morning Masses. The next Mass will be held on the 30 April at 8.10am in the College Chapel – celebrated by Father Bony.
Welcome to our current issue of Building Futures. This issue is the first for our Year 10 Technology class in 2015. They have followed the 4Cs of 21st Century Learning: Collaboration, Communication, Critical Thinking and Creativity. Well done and congratulations, ladies, on your first edition of Building Futures. Thank you also to their wonderful teachers and mentors: Virginia McLeod and Tracey Kent. The following pages are filled with the vibrant and rich activities of Term I at Merici College – I hope you enjoy them.

Schools: Bridging Faith and Life

The second week in March marked the start of Catholic Education Week. This is always a great opportunity for schools and the Church to celebrate the outstanding achievements of Catholic Education. On March 13 at St Christopher’s Cathedral in Canberra, Monsignor Woods lead the congregation, which consisted of teachers and staff from across Canberra Goulburn. In his homily Monsignor Woods reminded us about our role as Catholic Educators in the mission of the wider Church. He reminded us that schools change: our buildings, the curriculum, the staff and the students, but what remains is the love of God, of learning and of life that dwells within every College community. Merici College builds on the faith and principles that you have taught to your daughters at home. It seeks to provide the reassuring warmth of God’s love. We are rich and special as a Catholic school because we are part of the Church’s mission to fulfill the Gospel and each member of our community is set apart, called out and consecrated to become more and to be more.

Our source is Jesus Christ. During Lent we are reminded that we are gifted and in return need to give to others in many ways. Our Year 7 students are involved in the Christian Service Learning Program. All students are giving alms for Project Compassion through Caritas Australia through fundraising initiatives and every morning we pray together – sometimes in thanksgiving and other times asking for God’s intercession for the needs of ourselves and the world. During Lent we focus on these virtues that bring us closer to God and are contrary to the temptation of secular society of power, prestige and possession, which are counter to our call.

So many good things happen in our schools each and every day. We must acknowledge, affirm and give thanks as we continue on the journey beyond today. Each day will bring new challenges and choices. Every decision we discern must bring us closer to God and not draw us away from our vision. A vision where Merici College continues to be a place where people know warmth, nurture their spirit and move towards intellectual advancement.

The Australian Curriculum

This year marks the seventh year since the Melbourne Declaration and the establishment of the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) set in motion our nation’s first national curriculum. Since then it has had some transformation and it has been debated and reviewed. While we are still uncertain about the future and timeline around certain subjects, we have learnt that the curriculum is an ever moving, morphing, changing and evolving creature that responds to social and economic conditions.

The Australian Curriculum has been developed in a way that blends three distinctive dimensions. The first dimension represents the learning areas, which are the central pillar of the subjects on offer. They are in the following table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Learning Area</th>
<th>Subject</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>English</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>Mathematics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>Science</td>
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<tr>
<td>Humanities and Social Sciences</td>
<td>History, Geography, Economics and Business, Civics and Citizenship</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Arts</td>
<td>Drama, Dance, Media, Arts, Music, Visual Arts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Technologies</td>
<td>Design and Technologies, Digital Technologies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health and Physical Education</td>
<td>Health, Physical Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>Languages</td>
<td>Chinese, Italian, French, Japanese and other languages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work Studies</td>
<td>Work Studies</td>
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The other priority reform areas in school education are improving the quality of teachers, increasing school autonomy and ensuring the curriculum is robust and relevant. These areas are well in line with the Merici College's Strategic and Improvement Plans. The second dimension represents the seven General Capabilities, which are intended to define the knowledge, skills, behaviours and dispositions needed in a complex, information-rich, globalised world. These are listed as literacy, numeracy, information and communication technology (ICT), critical and creative thinking, personal and social ability, ethical understanding and intercultural understanding.

The third dimension represents the three cross-curriculum Priorities: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island histories and cultures, Asia and Australia's engagement with Asia and Sustainability. These priorities must be embedded in all years across all subject areas and were the most contentious dimension of the review.

Only time will tell if we are required to fulfil every dimension and while debate continues we will ensure that we remain well-informed and up-to-date on all activities and reforms.

Messages from the Minister for Education

At the end of 2014, in his Ministerial Statement to Parliament, Education Minister Christopher Pyne confirmed that one of the four priority areas in the Government’s Students First framework for improving outcomes of school education was Parent Engagement. Research shows that the following activities at home and with schools can have the biggest impact for children:

- Believe in your child's potential
- Read together
- Talk with your child
- Create a good homework environment
- Support good relationships
- Learn about the world together

Open Day and Enrolment Week are coming up in May and we look forward to seeing as many people as possible enter the door and come on tours. Details are on the flyer opposite.

Loretta Wholley
Principal

Merici College staff members who were recognised for their leadership to Catholic Education at the Catholic Schools Week Mass were: Dr Kathryn White, Mr Gerard Ryan and Mr Megan Keogh.
The Merici College Christian Service Learning Program is a new initiative that started at the end of last year which has been investigated, formalised and will be in full swing within the next two years. It supports this year’s College theme of Serviam – I will serve.

The purpose of the program is in line with the thoughts of Pope Francis who suggests that “school is one of the educational environments in which we develop through learning how to live….it helps you not only in developing your intellectual dimension but also your human one.” He goes on to say “I would like to reflect on two fundamental values: freedom and service. …In our schools you take in various activities to accustom you to not retreating into yourselves or into your own small world, but rather to being open to others, especially the poorest and neediest.” Pope Francis 2014

So I’m asking our girls to break down the fear and prejudice that they may have. I want them to reduce the impact they may have of stereotypical images and I want them to bring a human face of those in our community that are not normally seen.

So each year group is assigned a particular Service Learning Project to complete. As part of the Project, they all complete a journal which asks them to reflect on the deeper meaning of the experience. They may like to write a song, write a prayer, or just journal as a response to their experience of the Service Project and they may consider how the experience may change their choices and actions in the future.

In the Junior school, the girls will be asked to focus on the experiences of being ‘for others’ while the girls in the Senior school will be challenged to find ways of being ‘with others.’

Year 7

The Christian Service Project occurs during Lent and the theme is ‘selflessness’ and it involves completing jobs and community service in their homes, their neighbourhood, their parish and their school. They complete 10 hours over the period of Lent.

Year 8

The Christian Service Project explores the issues of caring for creation particularly in relationship to the environment and the original inhabitants of Australia through various activities within and outside of the school environment. They participate in ongoing projects where they assist and become involved in taking some personal responsibility for restoring relationships with the land and indigenous people.

Achieving justice in this area involves taking action at a local level such as establishing a Reconciliation Action Plan at Merici College - using the program resources provided by Caritas Australia: ‘Walk As One: The Path to Justice.’ Students will also be involved in initiatives in partnership with the sustainability program at Merici College. They are required to complete 12 hours of service.

Year 9

The Christian Service Project encourages the students to reach out to and come to respect and appreciate the experience and gifts that elderly people in the community have to offer. They will complete their hours in aged care facilities, hospitals or respond to the needs and develop relationships with their elderly neighbours. This project involves a minimum of 15 hours of service over 12 months.

Year 10

The Christian Service Project will be completed during their Service Week. This is a one week program inspired by the theme of compassion based on St. John’s Gospel. The students are placed in various agencies for the final week of Term 4, to care for people in need in some way. Through journaling and seminar activities students explore the significance of developing relationships with people who may not be considered the most important members of our community but who nevertheless have much to offer. They are required to complete 25 hours of service during this particular week.

Year 11 and 12

Our girls have already dedicated many hours to Christian service this year. These activities included the St. Vincent de Paul Door Knock Appeal, the St Vinnies Kids Camp, Donate Life Walk and the Vinnies Monster Sale. The Year 11 service project will involve an immersion initiative next year. It will be a life changing experience and there are already very passionate staff who have expressed interest in such a project. So there will be more information on that to come. Senior students will be asked to complete 30 hours of service over 2 years.

Angel Affect

The students will be able to access their Moodle page to see the amount of hours they have completed. There are three distinct levels of awards to be achieved.

• For 50 hours of service the students will gain a Blue Angel Award
• For 100 hours of service they gain a Red Angel Award
• For 150 hours of dedicated service they gain a Gold Angel Award

The most prestigious award at Merici College will be the St. Angela Merici Award. This Award can be achieved at any time during the six years of attendance at Merici College. It will be presented to the outstanding student at the conclusion of the St. Angela Merici Day Mass. In addition, the recipient must have attended major Liturgical events and community days.

The award will be given to the student who has achieved 150 hours of service as well as 150 points in one other area of the school – either in sport, co-curricula, academic excellence or cultural.

Many of our girls are already involved in service activities but this is the way that it can be recognized and appreciated. It is a way we can outwardly express what we are all about – a way we can express the virtues of St. Angela Merici and the Ursuline tradition. The Merici College Christian Service Learning Program is an authentic action that is faithful to the Gospel and resonant with the world’s needs. It is a way to formalize and encourage what the girls already do. Through the lens of this program the essence of this Catholic school will become clear, ‘The heart of our education is the education of the heart’.

Maria Tolfree
Head of Mission and Community

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday is a very important day in our Church and a great opportunity for our school community to engage and reflect on their own lives and their relationship with one another. The thematic material used through the Rite of Ashes included renewal, compassion for ourselves and others, listening to our hearts and strengthening our spirituality. Each Pastoral Care class received the Ashes in the morning and the Year 11 girls received the Ashes during a special ceremony as part of the Year 11 Conference.
Maria Tolfree
Head of Mission and Community

St. Vincent de Paul Door Knock Appeal

On Thursday, 26 February, 97 Merici senior girls volunteered their time to knock on doors in Reid, Ainslie and Braddon to collect money for the St Vincent de Paul Door Knock appeal. In one afternoon, the girls raised a total of $3596.75! All the girls had an interesting experience and now have a greater understanding of the difficulties that people in our community face.

$3,000 helps St. Vincent de Paul Society to:
- Feed 20 families for a week
- Send 6 young carers on a holiday camp
- Prevent 3 families from being evicted from their homes
- Provide 60 children in need with a set of clothes

Well done girls – SERVIAM!

Year 7 - LENTEN PROGRAM – ‘SELFLESSNESS’

All Year 7 students are introduced to the concept of The Christian Service Learning Program through completing 10 hours of service in their homes, neighbourhood, parish or school - focusing on how they may help others in need by giving of their time or resources. They complete a workbook and write reflections on the experience in the journal section of their workbook. Some of the reflections on the experience include:

I really enjoyed the Lenten Project because it was very new to me because I went to a public primary school and I am really proud of myself for completing the project.

Paris Earley Balgo 3

I think the Service Project is a great idea because it is a way I can help the community and serve others in need and feel proud of myself.

Isabella Quan Brescia 5

The Lenten Project was an interesting experience for me as I did not do anything like this in primary school. As part of the Project I cooked for my whole family of 6 once a week. I felt very proud doing this and it gave my Mother a chance to relax. ‘I know I am just a small part of this world, but I know I can make a difference. I know I can!’

Charlotte Ryan Brescia 6

I thought that the Project was a good experience – not only for me, but for the whole community. Completing the hours was a lot of fun and I felt great helping those people in my community, especially the elderly.

Jessica De Olim Balgo 1

Opening Mass

The women of Merici put great preparation into the one of the biggest events of the year – our Opening Mass. The Merici Community really look forward to the Opening Mass each year because it is a great opportunity for us to celebrate our mission and vision of building a loving community that is strong in faith. It is also an opportunity to welcome the newest members of our Merici family. This year Archbishop Christopher Prowse celebrated the Mass for us. Other Priests concelebrating the Mass included Fr. Croker, Fr. Tonkin, Fr. Brannelly and Fr. Adams. We were very fortunate and grateful to them to take the time from their parish to share this special day with Merici College.

The theme was ‘Serviam’ – I will Serve! The girls were reminded that by serving others, the students are given an increased awareness of justice in the world and encourages them to actively seek to transform it. This was supported by an engaging homily from Archbishop Christopher. The way the girls all participated in the Liturgy, especially the beauty and enthusiasm expressed through the singing, showed great respect, displayed pride in their school and strength in their faith.

As part of the offertory procession, the 17 sets of twins in the College were invited to bring the gifts to the Altar in preparation for Communion. The procession was very moving and emphasised the sacred significance of the Liturgy of the Eucharist. At the conclusion of the Mass, the girls expressed their renewed faith and pride in their School.
Catholic Schools Week (CSW) was held from 8 to 14 March with the theme ‘Educating for Today and Tomorrow’, to tie in with the 50th anniversary of Gravissimum Educationis. Gravissimum Educationis, the Declaration on Christian Education, is a document of the Second Vatican Council and was created by the Synod Fathers in 1965. The document recognised the continuing need for the Church to support parents in the education of their children so that they might be better equipped to participate professionally in the social, political and economic life of their communities. With this in mind, Merici College organised an array of activities that supports the importance of building partnerships with the Merici parent community.

The CSW theme this year also complements the College’s Pastoral Care theme ‘Serviam’ and its focus on helping the community within Australia and worldwide. The week tied in with International Women’s Day which was celebrated on Sunday 8 March with the theme ‘Make it Happen’ and represented an opportunity to celebrate the achievements of women while calling for greater equality. To serve our community by initiating community-based activities and ‘making things happen’, will ultimately raise awareness of the strengths and uniqueness of Catholic schools, in particular Merici College. The compassion, commitment and dedication that Merici College students hold for their community is outstanding and as such this commitment was celebrated throughout the week.

During the week many wonderful activities were held that supported the College’s commitment to academic excellence and the holistic development of every child. Catholic education respects the uniqueness of each individual and their worth and Merici seeks for their students to grow, learn and be confident young adults who contribute to the society through action and service.

On Wednesday 11 March and Thursday 12 March, music students participated in the Combined Catholic Schools Music Festival at St. Francis Xavier College. This was a wonderful opportunity for Merici students to interact and form relationships with other College students and celebrate their music achievements within the community.

The College also offered a Year 9 and 10 Success Evening which incorporated seminars for parents and their daughters in Year 9 and 10 to achieve their maximum potential socially and academically. The Success Evening was held on Wednesday 11 March and included hands-on interactive sessions on Planning for Success, What You Do Now Counts, Merici Online and Use Your Brain.

On Friday 13 March, Merici College presented their Year 7 Transition program at the 2015 Catholic Education Schools Expo at Hedley Beare Centre in Stirling. The expo provided teachers working in Catholic schools with an opportunity to share information and resources with teachers working in the ACT and NSW schools. This year Merici showcased the work that they do in preparing Year 7 students as they transition into high school.

As a final celebration of the achievements of Catholic schools, a Mass celebrating Catholic Education was held at St. Christopher’s Cathedral on Friday 13 March, where three Merici Staff members: Mrs Megan Keogh, Mr Gerard Ryan and Dr Kathryn White were recognised for their contribution to Teacher Quality, Leadership and Numeracy along with other recipients from the Archdiocese. At the conclusion of Mass the College hosted the Catholic Education Office Recognition and Awards Ceremony with Year 12 School Leaders serving canapes at the office of Catholic Education in Manuka. Following this, Year 11 and 12 Hospitality students prepared and served an amazing two course meal, in addition to members of the Combined Catholic Schools Music Festival Counts, Merici Online and Use Your Brain.

On Tuesday 10 March in Pastoral Care, all students and staff will receive a commemorative gold lapel pin with the College’s 2015 theme of Serviam – I Will Serve. Students and staff were also invited to display a purple item to show their support of International Women’s Day. A Parent Forum was also held on the College’s Master Plan. The forum addressed big picture ideas for the Merici College Master Plan and invited parents to be a part of the Parent Consultation Group. The forum was led by William Ross Architects and themes included ICT, Sustainability, Pedagogy/Flexible Learning Spaces, Outdoor Spaces, Circulation and Movement, Social and Community Life, Student and Staff Experience.

Mrs Loretta Wholley
Principal
Hospitality students prepared a superb meal that many commented surpassed many fine dining restaurants in Canberra.

Above: Junior Students Unite
Left: Senior students served canapes to over 400 guests after the Catholic School Week Mass
Below: Members of the Advanced String Ensemble entertained guests with talent and skill
In October 2014 the College Board engaged in a process to decide on the most appropriate architects to move Merici College forward in regards to its future building and Master Plan. A Master Plan takes into account how the space in the College is used, how it incorporates 21st century learning trends, how it considers environmental sustainability and how it suggests development for a 5-15 year plan.

Williams Ross Architects, a Victorian based company won the creative hearts and minds of the Board. In December they began the process of working with the College to create its Master Plan. The Format and Scope of Deliverables is described below:

Phase A – Master Plan Brief – which will include drafting existing conditions site plans with opportunities and constraints analysis, consultation summary and draft Return Brief/Area Schedule for College review and discussion.

Phase B – Master Design & Planning Scenarios – plans of development options for the College, undertake preliminary assessment of authority regulations, prepare design briefs

Phase C – Final Master Plan – We prepare a full master plan report summarising existing conditions, consultation process and inputs, Return Brief, opportunities and constraints and final master plan. The Master Plan report also collates any external input from other consultants.

Term 1, Phase A = Consultation Summary and Master Plan Brief

This term we have spent time in consultation with Tammy Beck and Virigina Ross. They both met with 8 small staff groups, 2 groups of students, and the entire staff and conducted a parent’s forum.

Prior to the Consultation Staff and students were asked to consider the following themes and questions –

Sustainability
What sustainability practices occur and can these be improved / broadened?

ICT
How does ICT support teaching and learning and how will BYOD affect this?

Pedagogy / Flexible Learning Spaces
Comment on the best flexible teaching spaces in the College, and how could these be improved?

Outdoor Spaces
How do you use outdoor learning spaces currently and how could you use outdoor learning spaces if access was improved?

Circulation and Movement
Where are the ‘pinch points’ in the College? Are there any facilities that are in the wrong location ie. too far from other similar facilities?

Social and Community Life
Describe the events (social, presentation, spiritual) that occur in the College including location, audience size, activities. Which spaces in the College are used for large gatherings and events?

Student Experience
Describe the facilities and amenities that directly affect the student experience at the College, eg. lockers, amenities, social spaces, outdoor spaces. How can this be improved?

Staff Experience
Describe the facilities and amenities that directly affect the spaces, meeting/breakout spaces, amenities, social spaces, outdoor spaces. How can this be improved?

Williams Ross Architects are now working through the information they gathered at the consultations to develop a Consultation Summary for our review. During the consultations the desire for the master plan to address the current traffic issues was clear. They are also completing an analysis of the timetable and updating the existing conditions plans. Out of this work there will be a few new, key questions about the College’s future direction and key focus and learning areas that will need to be addressed.

These are very exciting times and I am happy that staff, students and parents were able to share this time with the architects, as they had valuable experiences and insights to share. Stay tuned for future updates.

Loretta Wholley
Principal
CHOICES ARE ENDLESS

There is more to school life than sitting in a classroom and reading textbooks. Belonging to a community and being actively involved brings a whole lot of benefits not only to the individual but also enriches the community.

On Friday 20 February Merici College showcased all the wonderful co-curricular activities that students could become involved in through the Activities Expo. The activities on show ranged from cultural activities such as music, to sporting activities, our environment, the Lunch Bunch – Book Club and debating. This year we have introduced lots of new activities, such as rowing, hockey, football (soccer) and the Merici Dance Troupe. Sign-up sheets quickly filled up for the College’s musical this year, as well as many other activities.

A full list of the activities offered at Merici are listed below and we very much encourage your daughters to become involved in at least one co-curricular activity. If any student missed out on signing up at the Expo, it’s not too late. Messages are placed in the Daily notices inviting students to participate in activities as they occur.

CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES 2015

**Sport:**
- Basketball
- Netball
- Volleyball
- Snowsports
- Rowing
- Fitness Club
- Hockey
- Football (Soccer)
- Futsal
- Waterpolo

**Music:**
- Year 7 Beginner Band
- Choir
- Jazz Band
- Orchestra
- Junior Band
- Senior Band
- String Ensemble
- Advance String Ensemble
- College Musical 2015

**Other Interest Groups:**
- Film and Anime Club
- Cross-Age Tutoring
- Narragunnawali
- Duke of Edinburgh
- Merici Mentors
- Social Justice
- Student Representative Council (SRC)
- Sustainability Group
- Writers Club
- Debating
- College Musical 2015
- Dance Troupe
- Cosy Cafe
- The Lunch Bunch – Student Book Club

We would like to extend our thanks to all our Co-Curricular Facilitators and students for supporting the Expo and hope they have a great year. We also thank Ms Amanda Amodio, Youth Liaison Officer from St Vincent de Paul for volunteering her time to come to Merici and talk to students about St Vinnies and the wonderful work they do in our community.
This term the Duke of Edinburgh program has run two Bronze Award hikes in Koscuizsko Park, NSW. Over two weekends 30 Merici girls from Years 10, 11 and 12 travelled to the Coolamine Range. They completed a 19km hike over two days that took them off the beaten track, navigating using a map and compass on a route that took them up hills, across the Coolamine plains and through vast gullies.

The hike groups experienced some beautiful views of the Kosciuszko plains, saw herds of wild brumbies, explored the natural spring at Blue Waterholes and walked through Coolamine Homestead, built in the early 1900s. The Bronze Award hike is a challenging experience for students, but everyone finished with a smile on their face and a sense of accomplishment.

**Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award Presentations**

Three Merici graduates were presented with the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award by General Sir Peter John Cosgrove, AK, MC, at a ceremony at Government House on 12 March. Skye Temby, Emma Turner and Kate Turner have worked extremely hard over the last few years to complete all of the requirements for their awards. To achieve their awards they each took part in a sporting activity, completed a community service project, organised their own expeditions and embarked on an immersive residential project. Highlights of their combined awards include hikes in Nadgi, Great Otway and Lake St Clare national parks. As well as volunteering with the St Vincent de Paul Society, RSPCA, and an Elephant Nature Park in Thailand. Kate Turner graduated from Merici in 2011 and Skye Temby and Emma Turner and graduated in 2013, and all three have continued their involvement with the Duke of Edinburgh Program and regularly volunteer their time to assist in camps and other activities. I would like to congratulate these young ladies on their achievement and I hope they inspire many others to follow in their footsteps.

David Rodda
Duke of Edinburgh Award Leader
Semester 1 Sport and Recreation camp at Broulee Beach was an amazing and enriching experience for all students involved. We participated in activities such as surfing, stand-up-paddle boarding (SUP), kayaking and other team building activities. These activities provided us with new practical skills and helped us to build new and sustain relationships with peers. The camp was a valuable experience which taught us different aspects of recreational life. We had an fantastic time we can’t wait to use our new skills in a classroom environment.

Highlights of our experiences on the 2015 Sport & Recreation camp were

• The Soldier crabs on the island
• Watching the sting rays swim beneath us while stand up paddle boarding
• Having free time to spend with my friends swimming
• Participating in team building activities to get more comfortable with everyone
• The assistance we had from the instructors while surfing
• The variety of activities and leadership skills we developed

Julia Heather, Chelsea Schippers and Paige Campbell
Year 10 Sport and Recreation 2015
On Tuesday 24 February the Merici College school community celebrated the Semester 2 2014 academic achievements of students in Years 8, 9, 10 and 12. Mrs Wholley welcomed all parents, carers, students and staff to the ceremony. She spoke to the community about the importance of recognising the academic achievements of all students. “They deserve this recognition and praise. They have worked hard, persevered during times of trial and displayed great resilience in their studies”, said Mrs Wholley.

Mrs Wholley offered her support and advice to students as they settle into Term 1. “You, your teachers and parents are all on the same page. If you can dream it, you can be it – so long as you are prepared to do all you can do make it happen – it won’t come easy, but you can make it come true.” She concluded by acknowledging the commitment that the students and their parents and guardians have towards the College. “Merici College provides you with the environment necessary to enrich your life and gain the tools, education and confidence to go out into the world and be who you want to be – knowing that you are not alone for you have the support from your family, friends and God”.

The school community welcomed Alexandra Howard to the ceremony. Alexandra Howard graduated in 2006 and during her schooling at Merici, Alexandra discovered her passion for acting and since graduating, moved to Sydney to attend Sydney Theatre School. She has been a part of numerous stage, film and television shows as well as starting her own production company, Lexx Productions.

Alexandra spoke to the community about her journey since leaving Merici. She congratulated award recipients on their outstanding efforts and also acknowledged the efforts of all students in working hard to achieve the best that they can. “Education is a gift no matter what you want to do with your life. The real rewards come from overcoming the challenges that you face. When you achieve something the majority of the world tells you that you can’t, or when you continue despite a serious illness or survive an emotional pain you felt you would never be able to survive through, well that is success. It is those moments that build character, build strength, create priorities and shape you”.

We would like to thank Alexandra for her time and wish all our students a wonderful academic year.

Ros Parisi
Public Relations Officer
The Extra Things We Do

SRC Cook for the Yellow Van.

Top to Bottom: Mothers chop vegetables in readiness for cooking.
Students in production line packaging the meals.
Enjoying the fruits of our labours.

SRC in Action

Merici College participated in the DonateLife Walk with over 300 students, teachers, parents and pets participating. This is the highest number of participants the College has ever had. Proudly sporting their DonateLife shirts, the students completed the walk with enthusiasm and enjoyed a delicious breakfast provided by the Lions Club. The DonateLife Walk has been successfully promoting organ donation for five years now. In 2015, the walk focused on promoting and facilitating conversations about organ donation and what an impact these conversations can have on the lives of those who are on donation waiting lists. The effort of the Merici College community was recognised through the Jenny Deck Award for School’s Participation. Furthermore, Meh-Ara Taseer (Social Justice Captain) and Tahlia Low (SRC Captain) were interviewed live on ABC Radio.

In the same week as the DonateLife walk, the annual Vinnies Doorknock took place with 97 girls door-knocking in various suburbs within North Canberra, once again raising much-needed funds for Canberra’s needy and homeless.

The Yellow Van is a community service organisation in Canberra. They are a perishable food rescue charity who collect and deliver excess food every day. An SRC initiative is the preparation and packaging of meals for the Yellow Van. The Merici Community come together four times a year to work as a team in the school kitchens. The team includes students, staff and parents who spend about 3 hours, under the guidance of the Hospitality staff to prepare the meals. It is a fun, team-building exercise which culminates in everyone joining together for a meal to celebrate and be thankful for what we have. The end result is an impressive number of packaged, labelled, tasty meals for those in our community less fortunate than ourselves and a sense of achievement for all involved.

Meh-Ara Taseer - Social Justice Captain, Year 12
Julia Angove - SRC Year 11

ACT Legislative Assembly
Interschool Parliamentary Debating

On Friday 6 March, four Year 12 Legal Studies students participated in the Parliamentary Debate at the ACT Legislative Assembly. The students were Pavana Suwanmuk, Elizabeth Drew, Cherie Rojas and Elisabet Berg who had to prepare a five minute presentation supporting the motion Does the media have too much political influence and prepare to respond to three written submitted questions from another College (Canberra Girls Grammar) and be prepared for a number of questions from the floor from any other of the eleven teams on this issue.

They were also required to prepare three written questions on the topic Deregulation of university fees discriminates against students and put the questions orally on the day.

The Merici students all participated and asked questions from the floor on a variety of topics presented by other colleges both Government and Private.

There was also an opportunity at the end of the day to ask questions of a range of ACT politicians and get insights into the life of political representatives.

It was a challenging and rewarding experience for all the students who participated and they were happy to walk away certificates recognising their participation in the day.

Mr John Cave
Global Studies Coordinator

Meh-Ara Taseer - Social Justice Captain, Year 12
Julia Angove - SRC Year 11
An important part of the transition from Year 10 to Year 11 at Merici College is the Year 11 Conference. Each year students in Year 11 spend three days outside of the school environment to focus on the skills, knowledge and attitude needed to effectively move into senior life and to succeed. Though students have differing views on success, the conference allowed them to set effective goals and create pathways for themselves. While there was a strong focus on academic success and the senior system in the ACT, at the conference other sessions concentrated on the success of the whole person.

Below are students comments on some of the sessions over the three days

The ACT Senior System of Education - Phil Coe

“This session gave us an understanding of how the Board of Senior Secondary Studies (BSSS) runs the senior system in the ACT. It covered requirements for successfully achieving a Year 12 Certificate as well as the method that is used to calculate a student’s Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank (ATAR). Mr Coe also explained potential pathways for all students including Vocational and other post-school opportunities.”

Brain Based Learning - Ann Cleary

“Dr Cleary spoke to us about how the brain actually works from a chemical and neurons point of view. She then linked this to our learning and discussed the impact that sleep has on a teenage brain and body. Dr Cleary also reminded us to have a growth mindset not a fixed mindset.”

Sports Physical Challenge - AROC Sport

“During this session we were given a map and a set of instructions which saw us completing 18 physical and mental challenges. Most challenges involved problem solving as well as working in a team. It was a really fun, but exhausting afternoon.”

Spiritual Focus - Maria Tolfree

“Throughout the conference Ms Tolfree took us for a number of sessions that had a spiritual focus. These included liturgies, meditations and a Rite of Ashes for Ash Wednesday. These sessions allowed us to clear our minds, reflect and focus.”

Resilience Focus - Robyn Moore

“Robyn Moore, who was the voice of Blinky Bill and does the female voices for ‘How Green was my Cactus’ on the radio, spoke to us all about resilience. She talked about some of the challenges that she had faced in her life and gave us some strategies and ways to think about solving problems that may occur. It made us really reflect on ourselves.”

House Focus

“The conference allowed us to unite within our House groups during a number of the sessions. Each of the House coordinators worked with us to discuss the pastoral theme and focus for the year and equipped us to support the younger students in PC every morning”

Phil Coe
Head of Senior School

SCIENCE SERIES 1. BRIAN SCHMIDT

On Wednesday 18th March, Merici hosted Professor Brian Schmidt, Australia’s most recent Nobel Laureate, as part of the Merici Science Series. Brian is based at the Mt Stromlo Observatory, and also lectures as part of the ANU’s School of Physics and Astronomy. In the late 1990s, he and his colleagues made ground-breaking observations at Mt Stromlo that led to their discovery that the universe is expanding at an accelerating rate. In 2011, this work was recognised with the Nobel Prize for Physics.

Brian talked engagingly about how his work led to our current understanding of dark matter and dark energy, and of his ongoing work searching for exoplanets – planets orbiting stars other than our own. We had a large and enthusiastic turnout of parents, teachers and senior and junior students, and plenty of discussion was generated after the talk. If you have an interest in cutting-edge science, we strongly encourage you to come along to other talks in the Merici Science Series.

Thursday 7 May: Dr Niraj Lal (ANU): the cutting edge of solar photovoltaics

Monday 25 May: Dr Alisha Anderson (CSIRO): the Cybernose project
Our 2015 graduating cohort have begun their final year of school well-focused on achieving their best. Whilst it may seem a long way off, an outcome of the 2014 BSSS review of the Year 12 certificate is that from now on students will receive a testamur called the Australian Capital Territory Senior Secondary Certificate, in addition to a formal record of results called the Australian Capital Territory Senior Secondary Record of Achievement. The names have changed, but the expectations remain the same – high.

Congratulations to all our graduates. We are very proud of them all, wish them every success in their future endeavours and we look forward to hearing of their life adventures. All past students are welcome to become a member of the Merici Alumni.

The Merici community recognised and celebrated the achievements of our graduating cohort at the various celebrations at the end of 2014. The Graduation Mass and Awards Ceremony are always a beautiful way to celebrate the personal and academic growth and accomplishments of our students, the majority of whom journeyed with us from Year 7. We, in union with our parent body, are always extremely proud of the achievements of our Year 12 students.

The final academic results are released by the Board of Senior Secondary Studies (BSSS) after the academic year has concluded for students. We now take the opportunity to congratulate our 2014 graduates on their successes in the ACT College system and their entry into tertiary study and employment.

Of our Year 12 cohort, 100% of students (all 129) successfully completed the requirements for, and were awarded, an ACT Year 12 certificate. 78% of students completed a Tertiary package and received a Tertiary Entrance Statement, which results in an ATAR (Australian Tertiary Admissions Ranking); 7 students received an ATAR of 90 or above. In total, 23% of our Tertiary cohort received an ATAR of 80 or above, and 70% achieved above 60. Students completing Accredited packages were primarily responsible for also achieving vocational qualifications: 7 Certificate I, 52 Certificate II and 9 Certificate III. These certificates are nationally recognised qualifications that represent significant effort and achievement by our students. In addition, Year 12 students also gained 262 Statements of Attainment, which recognise progress towards a certificate that can be completed post-school.

Our graduates have taken pathways directly to further study (65%), traineeships (3%), full-time work (9%) and a GAP year (23%; all planning further study in 2016). Of those undertaking study, 87% chose to stay in the ACT (17% ANU, 17% ACU, 43% UC, 10% CIT), but students have also spread their wings to Sydney, Wollongong, Melbourne and New Zealand! All families and students are encouraged to walk past the Destination Boards, in the walkway between the Auditorium and the New Quad, to see the destination and course selections of each of our students.

### Field of Study

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Field of Study</th>
<th>No. of students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sciences</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication/Media/Public Relations</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Design</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary Education</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary Education</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineering</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical Science</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Child Care</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sport Sciences</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business/Management &amp; Finance</td>
<td>17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nursing</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Work</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Animal Science</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Physiotherapy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aeronautical Engineering</td>
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<tr>
<td>International Relations</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theatre/Dance</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beauty Therapy</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pharmacy</td>
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Dr Ann Cleary
Deputy Principal Learning
Each year Merici College hosts a Year 7 Skills Day which aims to provide our new Year 7 students with the ‘Tips and Tricks’ necessary for ensuring that the transition to High School is as smooth as possible. Throughout the day, a variety of sessions are planned on a variety of topics relevant to guiding students through areas such as assessment planning, time management, how to set effective goals and how to manage the workload associated with the High School years.

In the weeks leading up to Skills Day, Year 12 Senior Transition Leaders were trained on how to deliver effective lessons and worked with staff to plan, prepare and lead 3 sessions to Year 7 girls in House groups. These Senior Leaders ensured that students were engaged in important topics, enjoyed a series of team building activities and were given the opportunity to work with and bond with other girls in their House group. Different from previous years, this year’s Senior Transition Leaders worked with the same House groups they were organised to help lead at Year 7 Camp.

Session topics throughout the day included ‘Planning for Success’ which involved academic and assessment planning, personal organisation and tips for using time wisely as well as ‘Who can help me?’, a session exploring all the avenues of support available for our girls here at Merici. Students also took part in a team building activity led by their House Coordinators and enjoyed a shared House morning tea, offering the opportunity to discuss concerns or questions as a House group.

Students finished the day by attending a split session with an ‘Introduction to the IC’ activity as well as a concluding evaluation session where they were also sized for their Camp T-shirts! This created a bit of excitement as the 2015 Year 7 cohort are the first to receive House colour coded Camp T-shirts!

I cannot express the sense I feel during each Skills Day that takes place here at Merici College. Watching Merici girls of different age groups, working together to discover a sense of achievement and belonging, to celebrate the strengths of new friendships and to gain an increased confidence in how to approach the demands of High School life, is one of the most rewarding aspects of my role.

Megan Keogh
Head of Junior School
To believe in myself

to get the most out of every day

To make some of my dreams a reality

To make life-long friends
House Soirees
Parents meet teachers and students

Seiwa

Brescia

Balgo
BYOD Strategy

The Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) strategy used at Merici College included only laptops because overall they have the greatest flexibility and the latest research states that students need/want a physical keyboard for the likes of word processing.

Preparation

Over the past 12 months, Merici has spent money on upgrading the fibre optic cabling of the network, servers and wireless access points to handle hundreds of portable devices. The wireless network has handled the traffic from web activities most admirably. Our internal IT personnel are to be thanked for their planning and implementation of the new infrastructure.

Implementation

The successful implementation of the BYOD is now a few weeks old where around 500 devices login to the wireless from 8:30 – 9:00am each morning. Each subject area is making use of the laptops in the classroom where students mostly carry out research on the web and word process assignments.

In Class

Mathematics students are making use of Manga High which is an online maths site which gives instant feedback to students when they get a problem incorrect. Not only that, it chooses a pathway that is less difficult until such time they master a specific concept. Because it is an online site, it does not matter which type of laptop is being used. Other subjects will be making use of online sites designed specifically for their subject in the near future.

Students are making use of ‘the Cloud’ through the use of OneDrive where students can save files safely to ‘the Cloud’ and the files are always there. There is little or no need for thumb drives currently. In addition, online applications such as online Word and online Excel are available through OneDrive and they are surprisingly good. In addition, OneDrive offers an excellent blogging service which can only be seen by students at Merici.

The educators at Merici are upgrading their skills with several professional development sessions per semester on applications that can be used in the classroom to encourage higher order thinking skills that include applying a concept, analysing a concept, evaluating a concept and creating an end product. Many of these activities make use of collaboration which has been identified as a future requirement for those entering the workforce or continuing with further schooling.

In education, we have always had focus on English literacy and Mathematics literacy. For the 21st Century student, there is now digital literacy which is vital for any future job for our students.

Steve Madsen
ICT Facilitator
What is LibGuides?

‘LibGuides is an easy to use Content Management System used by many thousands of libraries worldwide. Librarians use it to curate knowledge and share information by creating online Guides on any topic, subject, course, or any process, on any thing.’ (Springshare, 2015)

iC Merici’s mission statement is Enriching Learning and with this in mind we created an online library using LibGuides. Our guide highlights library resources and services available to the Merici community for research and study which can be accessed from home, and from anywhere in the world, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Why LibGuides?

Using LibGuides ensures an experienced information specialist – Teacher Librarian is steering students in the right direction. Students can access reliable information faster, get background material on their topic, and be more successful in their research tasks.

Where can we find LibGuides?

Our libGuides page can be access from the College web page in the Quick Links section and on Moodle in the services section. We are constantly updating LibGuides and there are opportunities for feedback via surveys and polls in the guide we would appreciate your comments.

Tracey Kent
Information Services Coordinator.
Dance and Drama students enjoyed their recent experience on their overnight excursion to Sydney. Dancers were taken into the world of the Broadway musical and other dance styles, in their classes at Brent Street Studios and Sydney Dance Company. The students were really challenged to extend themselves, were subject to extreme strength exercises, and some explained that they were stretched within an inch of their life! Let’s just say, their cores were certainly activated (dance speak for ‘it hurt’).

The girls really appreciated their guest teachers’ pearls of wisdom, which included:

“Take what you CAN do and build on that. Next time, work on those parts you aren’t so good at.”

“This is a safe space. Don’t be scared.”

“You guys had a lot of craziness and energy, which was fun.”

Merci Dance teachers, Mrs Pearce and Mrs Laird, congratulated the students on their enthusiasm and effort in the Dance workshops and the consideration which they showed for each other. The Dance and Drama groups combined in the evening to see the show ‘Thriller’, which was a concert style performance celebrating the music and energy of Michael Jackson. What a hit! The Drama students were even lucky enough to meet one of the stars of ‘Thriller’ at the Sydney Opera House the following day.

The Drama students attended a class at Australian Theatre for Young People (ATYP) where they workshopped how to create a piece of theatre for young audiences. Merci Drama teacher, Ms Bogg was delighted with the way the students were able to work so intensively to develop short plays which incorporated theatre elements, such as tableaus and script writing. The students explored several different themes and tales, being highly creative in their works, which were inspired by their surroundings The Rocks and Sydney Harbour.

The following day, the Drama group was fortunate enough to see the Sydney Theatre Company production of the Tennessee Williams play, ‘Suddenly Last Summer’. The show allowed the girls to see a different style of theatre performance, as it blended the use of live film and stage craft, something most of the Drama students had never seen before.

The girls would like to say a huge thank you to Drama teacher, Ms Bogg and Dance teachers, Mrs Pearce and Mrs Laird, who helped make the trip a wonderful experience!

Holly Ross
Expressive Arts Captain
Beth Way
Where were you before you came to Merici?
Before I came to Merici, I spent two years at Melba Copland secondary school, and prior to that, five years at Lyneham High School.
What are you passionate about?
Music! I’m involved in four bands outside of Merici - two that I direct, and two that I play in. I play the flute, piano, saxophone and guitar. Apart from being insanely in love with music, I also love fitness.
What do you think you can bring to Merici?
I hope to bring a thriving music program to Merici and show the school an alternative take to music education.

Alexander Gorrying
Where were you before you came to Merici?
I have spent the last two years relief teaching and before that, I was living in Queensland.
What are you passionate about?
Mathematics! I enjoy reading and I have my own library at home. I enjoy board games, camping, acting and singing.
What do you think you can bring to Merici?
Madness!

Terry Brady
Where were you before you came to Merici?
I was at SFX before Merici and St Edmunds’ before that. I returned to teaching after flying.
What are you passionate about?
I am passionate about people learning to think, rather than just learning.
What do you think you can bring to Merici?
I like to think I bring to Merici experience of life outside teaching. Life is about more than school.

Huckleberry Walker
Where were you before you came to Merici?
Before I came to Merici, I was at the Boorowa Central school, in New South Wales where I was head of the Mathematics department.
What are you passionate about?
Besides being madly passionate about maths, I like to produce art. I am also a writer and like video games. I would say that I enjoy gardening and sustainability too.
What do you think you can bring to Merici?
Lots of smiles and the love of mathematics… hopefully!

Teena Zorzi
Where were you before you came to Merici?
I was studying to become a teacher at the Australian Catholic University.
What are you passionate about?
I would say that I am passionate about tennis - I love watching the tennis! I’m also very passionate about making learning as much fun as possible.
What do you think you can bring to Merici?
I would hope to bring kindness, enthusiasm and energy to the Merici community.
Merici House Captains

Balgo

What has inspired you to take on your role?
Throughout my years at Merici, I watched many captains have so much fun with their role of House Captain. Since I was a younger student at Merici I had always hoped to one day be able to be the House Captain of Balgo and try and make the year as fun as possible, just as other captains had done for me in the past.

What do you do?
In my role I attend weekly meetings with my House Coordinator as well as additional meetings with the house executive. I also get to meet lots of students from different years and get to know them which is great!

What are your goals for the year?
My main goal for this year is not only to lead Balgo to success at both the swimming and athletics carnival but to make sure that every girl in Balgo has a great year and gets involved as much as they can! I want the Balgo girls to have to have the best year yet!

Eden Garrety
House Captain

Seiwa

What has inspired you to take on your role?
I have mostly been inspired by the previous Seiwa House Captains who have left a legacy that I would love to continue. This legacy inspires me to work harder, and be a better leader.

What do you do?
As Seiwa House Captain I have many jobs. My first job is to be the leader of the House. This requires responsibility as well as determination. Being House Captain also means I have to prepare the House for important school events such as the swimming and athletics carnivals. A lot of time and commitment goes into the preparation for such events. I also run House activities including the weekly assemblies, working bees, soirees, interhouse events and fundraisers.

I would say that my biggest role as Seiwa House Captain is to be a good role model for younger students to look up to.

What are your goals for the year?
My main goals for 2015 include:
Continuing our success in the College, whether it be the swimming or athletics carnival, or academically. It is a major goal to win the swimming and athletics carnivals as well as backing up our success from 2014 and being the first House the win the College Cup two years in a row.

To build our House spirit. Whether it be through learning about our House history, or supporting the fundraising events we have in place for 2015. I would love for all the girls in Seiwa House to ‘have a go’ and support one another.

Lastly, I would just love to get through the year and achieve my own academic and sporting goals.

Brittney Reynolds
House Captain
Penola

What has inspired you to take on your role a house captains?

I really wanted to make a difference in the school and show girls that they can achieve their goals if they try hard enough. I want to strive to make my mark on the school.

What do you do?

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What makes your House different from all the other Houses?

Our House is a lot smaller than the other Houses so it is easier for us to bond as a whole which is a definite plus for our Penola community. We haven’t had the best winning streak so people don’t expect us to win or have a lot of spirit. But contrary to belief we are very organised and have so much spirit.

L-R Natalie Taylor, Vice Captain and Brittney Reynolds House Captain

Penola

What has inspired you to take on your role a house captains?

I chose to take on this role as for my last year at Merici I wanted to try and make a difference and participate in as much things as possible, I wanted to make my last year memorable. I also had a lot of encouragement from my friends and they made me realise that if I did not even attempt to go for a captain, I would regret it.

What do you do?

As a House Captain you mainly do things for your House. Both Britt and I have been pretty busy lately planning for the swimming carnival, however, after that, we will most likely begin planning social events between not only our House and other Houses as well across both Merici and Marist. For carnivals, you have to figure out what props you need along with writing your cheers. Also, each House has something known as a ‘charity week’ where they raise money for their house charity, so we also have to plan fundraising events for that, luckily, Seiwa’s is not until October so we still have plenty of time to plan.

What are your goals for the year?

All the captains have a goal of trying to get more people in each of the Houses more involved this year, whether that be at carnivals or at House events. We also want to raise more money for Canteen than we have in previous years. Another goal is that we want to continue doing well as a House in sporting and academic activities.

Laura Ting and Jemma Chilver

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Laura Ting and Jemma Chilver

House Captain and Vice Captain
Ningil
What has inspired you to take on your role?
The positive and high-spirited legacy left by previous captains is what inspired me to take on the role of Ningil House Captain. Ningil House members have a real sense of pride and belonging that has been built up over previous years. I wanted to be a part of the leadership team and continue to develop and build on the enthusiasm I have seen coming from Ningil girls in the past. I wanted to encourage Ningil girls to get in and have a go and to continually strive for their best in everything they do.

What do you do?
As House Captain I am a leader of a team who is responsible for motivating and encouraging everyone to come together, support each other, and become involved in the House activities and community. This role requires persistence, patience, determination, and commitment, and not to mention large amounts of time and effort being put into talking with people, organizing groups and preparing the House for upcoming events. I see one of the most important parts of being House Captain as being a good role model, showing others that no matter what your skills or level of ability, everyone can contribute positively and be part of the team.

What are your goals for the year?
The main goal for Ningil House in 2015 is to continue our success not only in carnivals and house events, but academically as well. As part of the leadership team for Ningil we want to get as many people involved in the House as possible, to build on our House spirit and support and encourage each another in all that we do. I want everyone to feel like they can contribute and that they have House friends looking out for them and reassuring them in everything they do. And of course I want to have a lot of fun along the way.

What makes Ningil better than the other Houses?
Ningil girls support, encourage, motivate, become involved and work together as a team, and this is why we are better than all the other Houses. We show great enthusiasm and pride within our House and this contributes to the great successes that Ningil continues to have. In addition the colour red represents love, passion, strength, determination, and energy. With all these strong and positive symbols to empower its members, how could Ningil not be the best House?

Georgia Stephinson
House Captain

Tullow
What has inspired you to take on your role?
I was always really interested in working with other people and believed that by applying for the role of Tullow House Captain, I could make a change. I also saw the position as a challenge and being the driven person that I am, I really wanted to take on the challenge. My family was also really supportive and inspired me to take a chance and apply for the role.

What do you do?
My role as Tullow House Captain is to serve the girls in Tullow House. I work with them both indirectly and directly. There is a lot of work to be done behind the scenes to ensure that the year runs smoothly. This hard work often involves the Tullow Steering Committee and Ms Connellan. However, I wouldn't be able to do any of this without my partner, Ceara McGown. We prepare for events, fundraisers, carnivals and more together and work as an equal team. It is hard work but the outcome is always worth it.

What are your goals for the year?
My personal goal is to ensure that the girls find comfort in the Tullow House, younger student often approach me for help and to discuss ideas for the house. My goal is to make sure I can help all these girls in the House to the best of my abilities. Along with this, Georgia and I are aiming to keep the House pride at an all-time high.

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Gabrielle Markulin
Vice Captain

Gabrielle Markulin, Vice Captain and Georgia Stephinson, House Captain

L - R Gabrielle Markulin, Vice Captain and Georgia Stephinson, House Captain

Merici House Captains Interviews
Community. I aim to create a stronger connection between Tullow House and our charities – The Brigidine Sisters and Street Swags. However, Ceara and I have decided that our main goal for this year is to get the girls involved. We would like them to participate in more events so to further deepen their relationships in the wider community. Hopefully, this will also spread the Tullow Spirit.

Elizabeth Drew
House Captain

What has inspired you to take on your role?
Right from Year 7 I have always been proud to be part of Tullow. Not just because I am surrounded by the loveliest girls in the school, but also because there is such a strong sense of community and enthusiasm in everything we do as a House. I was always excited to help out wherever possible and I could tell from the previous Tullow Captains that being a Tullow Captain was truly a rewarding role. Further, what inspired me to apply was the fact that I could spread my passion and enthusiasm to the girls and be some one they could rely on.

What do you do?
As Tullow Vice Captain I work closely with Elizabeth and our house coordinator, Ms Connellan. We run weekly assemblies as well as organise and lead House events. At the moment we are preparing for the upcoming swimming carnival where our theme is 'Tullow Turns Wild'. Additionally, coming up Tullow has their charity week where activities are run to raise money for the organisation Street Swags. During the year we also will be holding many other events such as our social ones with Tullow’s brother House, Darlinghurst.

What are your goals for this year?
My goal for this year is to really encourage all the girls in the House to be really enthusiastic and get involved in anything and everything we do as a House. The way in which Elizabeth and I are doing this is by having year representatives for each grade level in Tullow included in our Tullow Steering Committee, so that we increase the House spirit throughout all of Tullow. Furthermore, I hope to inspire any Year 11 students who are thinking of applying for captains next year and to make Tullow the best it can possibly be.

Ceara McGown
Vice Captain

Brescia

What has inspired you to take on your role?
I was inspired to take on the role of Brescia House Captain because I saw the opportunity to be a leader within Brescia. This interested me, as I want to be a good influence and role model on the younger girls in my House. Since I was in Year 7, I knew I wanted to be Captain because I wanted to help Brescia succeed and be a fun House to be a part of.

What do you do?
As a Captain, it is my role to prepare my House for the swimming and athletics carnival. I run Brescia assemblies and make sure I know all the students. I work along-side the other Captains and my Brescia Executive team as well as House Coordinators with events around the school, such as charity events.

What are your goals for the year?
My goal for this year is to make sure Brescia has a fun year. I want to make sure that the students in the House work together with myself and Meg to make Brescia one of the best houses in the school.

Being a Captain is not all about winning carnivals, its about House sprit and being proud to be a part of Brescia.

Isobel Pardoe
House Captain

Above: L-R Meg Wilson, Vice Captain and Isobel Pardoe, House Captain
Left: L-R Ceara McGown, Vice Captain and Elizabeth Drew, House Captain
Year 7 IH History Excursion
Having fun while learning

Year 7 Integrated Humanities students visited the National Museum of Australia on Wednesday, 4th March, 2015. The purpose of the excursion was to enable students to investigate and interpret historical sources of evidence. Students attended a workshop run by the museum education staff, where they were able to examine and classify historical sources. They also spent time in the Gallery of First Australians completing an information booklet as part of their first assessment task. The most popular activity of the day was when groups of students were given an IPad and asked to photograph their own exhibit based on a theme they chose in their group. This activity generated many creative responses.

The students had an interesting and informative day and there were many positive comments about the excursion:

The excursion was interesting and everyone learnt so much. Even the assessment task we had to do was interesting and will help me a lot in class.

Chloe

The tour guides taught us a lot and were really enthusiastic.

Taneisha

I learnt a lot about taking an artefact and seeing everything we could learn from that object.

Annie

I liked how we got to study the displays and how we got to walk around the museum having fun but learning at the same time.

Emily

I liked the Circa movie. It was really informative and eye-opening.

Tamsyn

What I liked about the museum was all the interactive parts. I think it is good to interact because it helps me understand more. I learnt you can tell what it was like in the past by looking at a painting or picture.

Kristi

I loved the exhibits and how clear everything was. I learnt so many new things and now understand much more about what life was like for Indigenous Australians.

Stella

Chris Fraser
Integrated Humanities Facilitator

Having fun while learning
Tennis

Merici College students achieved some outstanding results in the ACT Schools Championships held at Lyneham on the 3rd of March. Unfortunately, due to a clash with Moderation Day, numbers were well down on previous years. Nevertheless, the standard of tennis was high and our representatives, Sarah Godwin, Juliette Hoffman and Georgia Peables acquitted themselves admirably.

For the second year in a row, Sarah reached the finals of the Open B Division. Last year she won the Consolation Event; this year she came runner-up in the main draw. The final featured many long rallies and the result was a lot closer than the 6-3 score line would indicate.

Both Juliette and Georgia reached the quarter finals of the main draw in the 14 and Under Division, losing in closely-contested matches. The girls then played in a round robin challenge.

Sarah, Georgia and Juliette are to be congratulated on their strong work ethic and the good sportsmanship they displayed during the event. Hopefully next year there will be some more entries to continue the strong tennis tradition at Merici College.

Chris Fraser
Tennis Coordinator

Water Polo

The Merici High School waterpolo team played in the ACT Championships on March 11 at Civic Pool. We had missed the 2014 Championships due to a clash with the school swimming carnival so it was exciting to be back again with basically a new team. We had a small number of preparation sessions and went in with a core group of Year 7s and 8s along with one student each from Year 9 and 10. The team gelled quickly and after going to down to defending champions St Clare’s in the first match 4-1, we eventually finished second in our group. We played the undefeated Daramalan in the semi-final and in an exciting match after being 2-0 down, eventually won 3-2 in extra time. We thus came to the Grand Final against St Clare’s and after a hard fought battle, lost 6-2. The future for the team is bright with a core group of young players. This was Merici’s 9th Grand Final in a row. The team was co-coached by Natalie Taylor from Year 12 and Mr. Ryan

Back L-R: Natalie Taylor, Charlotte Gates, Imogen Hicks, Eleanor Rhodes, Emily Treble, Poppy Rhodes, Gerard Ryan
Front L-R: Alice Cossetto, Caitlin Treble, Elle Haseker, Angelina Tozer

Autumn Activity

Sustainability students have been busy harvesting produce from the garden, including sweet corn, striped zucchini, Tasman beans, many varieties of tomatoes, Bullhorn and Alice capsicums, Lebanese eggplants, Italian parsley, basil by the bucketful and a large crop of our first Satsuma and Elephant Heart blood plums. The canteen have finished using the garlic from last year and are preparing for creating delightful dishes with pumpkin! Whilst it is sad to come to the end of the bountiful fruits of summer, it is exciting to prepare the beds, renewing the fertility by applying the compost made from the kitchen scraps and planting out new seedlings.

Both Sustainability students, and Year 7 Religious Education students, have been propagating seedlings in the glasshouse and planting them out. This Autumn students have planted: kale, broccoli, cauliflower, rocket, Swiss rainbow chard, flashy trout back lettuce, red and green oak leaf lettuce, Florence fennel, spring onions, tatooi, mizuna, radicchio, garlic, Amsterdam and Cosmic Purple carrots and Detroit and Cylindrica beetroot. As winter approaches we may complain of the cold, however, the frosts sweeten the root crops and kale!

Fiona Buining
Sustainability Teacher
Our school community has been very fortunate to have reconnected with a few of our Alumni members in the past few months. We welcome the opportunity of inviting alumni members to share their achievements and accomplishments with our school community and also of conducting school tours if you are celebrating a class reunion.

Year 11 Conference

Our Year 11 students and staff were privileged to meet Tomasina Purcell (pictured right) who attended Day 3 of their Year 11 Conference at the Greenhills Centre, Cotter Road, Stromlo on Wednesday 18 February 2015.

Tomasina graduated in 2010 and is currently undertaking a nursing degree which she will complete at the end of 2015. Her goal is to specialise in mental health and to gain experience in this field, she participates in workplace practice specifically related to mental illness. Tomasina spoke to the students about de-stigmatising mental health in order to enable our girls to identify emerging mental health issues and seek help for themselves and their friends. Our appreciation is extended to Tomasina for making time to attend the Year 11 Conference. The experiences that she shared with the students have been invaluable to our students learning.

Academic Awards

We recently welcomed back ex-student Alexandra Howard (pictured left) who was our guest speaker at the Academic Awards on Tuesday 24 February. Alexandra spoke to the students about her life since graduating in 2006. Alexandra has attended the Sydney Theatre School and has been a part of numerous stage, film and television shows as well as starting her own production company, Lexx Productions. Alexandra also works at the Australian Bureau of Statistics and is currently studying a Psychology and Arts degree at the University of Canberra.

Alexandra spoke to the students about her own experiences on facing challenges and building her own opportunities, urging the students not to be afraid of risks, mistakes, saying ‘no’ or saying ‘yes’. Alexandra offered the following advice, “If it scares you, push through that fear and do it anyway. You will be surprised on what you can achieve. It is so easy to teeter on the edge of a decision. We spend so much time looking to the future we forget about the now and miss the opportunities offered to us. In my experience, this is a sure way to stop progression, and progression is necessary for success.”

We would like to thank Alexandra for making time to come to the College to talk to our school community and wish her continued success.

Creative Workshop for Senior Art Students

The Senior Art students welcomed ex-student Shannon McGrath (pictured right) to their classes on Tuesday 24 February and Wednesday 25 February. Shannon graduated from Merici in 2009, during the Year of the Silver Jubilee, and since then has completed a Bachelor of Arts in Architecture at the University of Canberra. This year Shannon has started the first year of her Postgraduate Master of Architecture. The Year 11 and 12 Arts students welcomed Shannon back to the College so that she could speak to them about her degree, as well as participate in a creative workshop. Over two days, the students and Shannon experimented with paper and clay, moulding abstract structures and manipulating and exploring the spaces articulated by the different materials. Shannon concluded her workshop by thanking the students for their participation and interest, “It was a thoroughly enjoyable experience and I look forward to the possibility of returning and participating in similar activities in the future”. We would like to express our appreciation and gratitude to Shannon for spending time with our students and facilitating the workshop.
Where are they now?

Erin McCullagh (pictured left) graduated in 2011 and went straight into a Bachelor of International Relations at ANU in Canberra which she has enjoyed immensely. She has also been continuing her study of the Japanese language extensively over her time at ANU. Last year Erin spent six weeks in Tokyo doing an intensive course in Japanese at Tokyo University of Foreign Studies. Upon her arrival back in Australia, Erin changed her degree to a double degree in International Relations and Languages. In January 2014, Erin studied in northern Japan at Akita International University for a period of 8 months. During her time in Japan she studied Japanese and reached a near fluent level, in addition to learning about herself and gaining valuable life experience. Erin hopes to continue learning Japanese until she finishes her degree and then hopefully plans to live and work in Japan.

Jacqueline Knight (pictured right) lives in the USA now having moved there to undertake her MFA in Glass Sculpture at Alfred University, New York State. Jacqueline received a full scholarship and stipend to attend the University from 2006-2008. Having taken part in Art classes at Merici, from Year 7 to Year 10 (1988-1992), Jacqueline’s interest in art developed. After graduation Jacqueline attended the ANU Canberra School of art and completed a BFA in Glass in 2002. Following that she was a Design Associate in Glass at the Jamfactory Contemporary Craft and Design Centre in Adelaide, SA (graduated in 2004). Jacqueline to her credit has completed a further 8 years of schooling after Year 12! Jacqueline is married and she and her husband enjoy a busy life with two young sons. She also owns her own business making contemporary hand blown glass tableware, www.sodalimestudio.com and is based in Providence, Rhode Island.
On Tuesday 10 February, the Tullow House girls and staff celebrated the first ever House Day at Merici College. The girls across Tullow dressed in green or wore green ribbons and accessories to represent our ‘green’ House. It was also an opportunity to acknowledge, observe and explore the Brigidine Order on which Tullow House is founded. The Feast of St Brigid is commemorated on 1 February annually and is very important to the formation of the Brigidine Sisters. Our first Tullow Day came at a perfect time allowing new students in Tullow to learn more about our House charism and to be fully welcomed into our community.

The day started with a House assembly where we received our green ribbons which we wore to show the school our Tullow spirit. We then prayed as a House under Ms Connellan and Mrs Tolfree’s direction in recognition and memory of St Brigid, the founder of the Brigidine Sisters.

At the start of Period 3 Tullow had a House photo with Sister Lorraine to remember the day. Following this, Sister Lorraine addressed Tullow House about her work in Tullow as well as her work assisting other Sisters in helping organisations which address current issues women are facing. Her talk was very educational, informative and inspiring.

During lunch Tullow had a shared House lunch within their Pastoral Care groups near the sustainability garden. It was decorated with green ribbons and ornaments to make the area fit for Tullow.

Once lunch was over the students resumed normal classes. It was a great day which allowed us to bond as a whole House group and a community and allowed us to celebrate the Brigidine charism.

Merran McAlister and Catherine Moggach
Year 12, Tullow Steering Committee Representatives
The Canberra show has showcased an array of quality products in the craft sections this year and our students have been recognised for their textiles skills. Year 9 students entered the sleepwear section and quilts. The quilts take a semester to complete and students learn a variety of patchwork and quilting techniques. The effort required to complete each patchwork block at a high quality and then assemble them is a credit to student's consistent effort and persistence. Year 10 students entered a variety of cushions which they designed then printed and dyed with spectacular results in creativity. A variety of other garments from Year 10, 11 and 12 students were entered and exhibited skills in construction with quality techniques. Well done to all students and their teachers.

Children's wear
1st Lauren Morrison and Marjorie Southwell Memorial Award
2nd Tabitha Schollum

Dresses
1st Madeline Holst and Student Reserved Champion
2nd Britt Stufenbiel
3rd Mercedes Bowers

Shirts
2nd Ashleigh Harris
3rd Mercedes Bowers
Encouragement Award - Madeline Holst

Sleepwear
1st Bianca Craig and Capital Stitches Award
2nd Ashlee Jakim and Marjorie Southwell Memorial Award
3rd Alyssa Coulston

Printed and Dyed Pillows
1st Emily Kalthofen
2nd Emily King
3rd Ashleigh Harris

Costume and Performance
1st Anna Sergi
3rd Isabelle Clark

Evening wear
2nd Lauren Morrison

Sewing
1st Courtney Dobing
2nd Anna Sergi

Quilts
1st Ally Howe and Student Champion
2nd Ashlee Jakim and Reserved Champion
Encouragement Award - Lily Coleman
Encouragement Award - Ellen Court
Encouragement Award - Bianca Craig
Encouragement Award - Ashleigh Davis
Encouragement Award - Eva Farrell-Glover
Encouragement Award - Isabella Kettle
Encouragement Award - Lauren Hawkins

Corinne Preston
Textiles Teacher
Championship Trophy
1 – Seiwa
2 – Ningil
3 – Brescia

Spirit Cup
1 - Seiwa
2 - Penola
3 - Brescia

Age Champions
12yrs – Anita Manning
13yrs – Alexandra Rushton
14yrs – Andrew Forshaw
15yrs – Tayla-Jame McIntosh
16yrs – Caitlin Manning
20 yrs – Alexandra Ashley

Records
Andrea Forshaw
Ningil 14 Yrs: 50 Freestyle, 50 Butterfly, 100 Freestyle
Claire Molineux
Seiwa 14 Yrs: 50m Backstroke
Tayla-Jane McIntosh
Seiwa 15 Yrs: 50m Backstroke
Alexandra Ashley
Seiwa 20 Yrs: 50m Breastroke, 50m butterfly, 50m breastroke, 100m freestyle
Ningil:
4 x 50m Freestyle Relay 15 Yrs
Seiwa:
4 x 50m Freestyle Relay 20 Yrs