Up-Coming Events
See Merici web page for full calendar and further details

Monday 12 October Term 4 starts
Tuesday 13 October AST Second Sitting Day 1
Wednesday 14 October AST Second Sitting Day 2
Thursday 15 October Year 10 Geography/History Excursion
Thursday 15 October ASC Athletics
Thursday 15 October SRC Community Sleepout (5.00pm-7.00am Friday 16 October)
Friday 16 October Commissioning Ceremony (11.30am-12.30pm)
Monday 19 October Year 11 English Orals
Monday 19 October Year 8 Retreat (3 Houses)
Tuesday 20 October Year 8 Retreat (3 Houses)
Wednesday 21 October Brescia House Day
Wednesday 21 October Bridge Restaurant (6.00pm-8.00pm)
Friday 23 October Year 7 2016 Induction Day
Friday 23 October Year 9 Geography/History excursion
Saturday 24 October Plant Sale (8.00am)
Saturday 24 October Alumni Soiree (5.00pm-7.00pm)
Monday 26 October Seiwa Fundraising Week
Tuesday 27 October Year 12 End of Year events meeting (11.30am)
Friday 30 October Year 9/10 Badminton
Friday 30 October Music Extravaganza (6.00pm-8.00pm)
Saturday 31 October Dance Troupe perform at St Michael’s Parish Twilight Fair, Kaleen
Monday 2 November GRIP Leadership Conference
Tuesday 3 November Senior Excursion and Extra Hours Free Week
Thursday 5 November ACT 13 Y&O Athletics AIS
Monday 9 November Senior Exam Week
Wednesday 11 November Music Excursion
Tuesday 17 November Sports Awards Night (5.30pm-7.30pm)
Wednesday 18 November Novemver Parade (11.30am-12.30pm)
Thursday 19 November New Captains Leadership Day
Thursday 19 November Year 10 exams
Friday 20 November Year 10 exams
Friday 20 November Chinese Language Excursion – Year 8, 11 and 12
Saturday 21 November Chinese Language Excursion – Year 8, 11 and 12
Monday 23 November Year 10 Service Week
Tuesday 24 November Expressive Arts Exhibition & Fashion Parade Opening Night (5.30pm-8.00pm)
Thursday 26 November Year 7 Immunisations
Friday 27 November Year 10 Reflection Day
Friday 27 November Year 10 Award and Graduation Preparation (12.00pm-2.00pm)
Friday 27 November Year 9 Textiles Incursion (11.30am-3.30pm)
Saturday 28 November ASC Rowing
Monday 30 November Year 12 Graduation Mass and Awards (6.00pm)
Wednesday 2 December Last day for Year 10 students
Thursday 3 December Year 10 Celebration Mass and Awards Ceremony (10.00am-12.00pm)
Friday 11 December Christmas Concert and Disco
Saturday 12 December ASC Volleyball School Cup ends
Wednesday 16 December Distribution of Year 12 Certificates

What’s On

CONTENTS
From Our Principal 3
Gifts from the Community 4
Timetable for 2016 5
Year 12 Retreat 6-7
2016 Leaders 8-9
Year 10 Transitions Week 10
Teen Chef 11
Maths Melee 12
Book Week 12-13
The Little Princess 14-15
Student Achievements 16-17
Brain Day 18
House Days 19
Languages Week 20-21
ASC Hockey 21
STEM Project 22
Merici Master Plan 23
Father Daughter Evening 24-25
Celebrating Success 26
Snow Sports 27
Academic Awards 28-29
Alumni 30-32
City2Surf 33
Feeder Schools 34-35
Gifted and Talented 36
Support Staff 37
Integrated Humanities 38-39
Sustainability 40
Assemblies 41
Excursions 42-43
Merici Moments 44

NEXT ISSUE
As this newsletter went to press the inaugural Bridge Benefit dinner was held. Make sure you look out for the article in the next Building Futures.

Cover L-R
2016 College Captain
Georgia Larsen
Principal - Loretta Wholley,
2016 College Vice Captain
Danielle Bewick

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www.merici.act.edu.au

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Catholic Education in Canberra & Goulburn have 3 important headings of Strategic Intent as part of their plan for 2015-2017. They are Build and Celebrate Catholic Culture, Build Capacity and Build Community. These inspired me as the perfect headings for this issue of Building Futures, plus it captures our magazine title perfectly.

Build and Celebrate Catholic Culture

Faith formation is the one of the many things Catholic schools do that sets us apart to be places where Jesus Christ is at the heart of all educational endeavours. Term 3 has clearly been a time of celebration and reflection, starting from Week 1 when the Year 12 Retreat was held at Warrumbui, an excellent venue for personal reflection and journaling. Grandparents’ Day was a wonderful occasion to welcome the community to share our hospitality with a Liturgy and Devonshire Tea. Father’s Day Mass and Father/Daughter Dinner, celebrated by Fr. Bernie Patterson was a great success and a new exciting addition to our calendar. Along with our monthly masses we have two students preparing to receive the sacrament of confirmation. In addition to our normal morning prayer, Merici College registered for a Prayer Crusade – with the whole school praying each day for a week for the increase of religious vocations in the Defence Force. It has been exciting to watch the Year 7 and 8 students attend the RECHARGE Ministry event at Merici College – facilitated by the Merici and Marist Youth Ministry Team, a group of Year 11 students from both schools. They have been exceptional leaders and committed to answering the call of evangelisation. Many of our students experience a life of great challenge and this term saw the establishment of a support group of girls who are important carers for their parents or siblings. The Group of Loving Supporters, ‘GOLS’, meet at lunchtime once a month to share concerns and challenges.

Our Serviam theme has taken our students to new levels of giving and caring this year. The Year 8 Christian Service-Learning Program – ‘Stewardship’ – called our students to commit to 12 hours of service in their school, homes, neighbourhood and community. The response from the students has been very positive and their enthusiasm has motivated other students to take care of their environment.

The plight of refugees has been across all forms of media over the past year and was highlighted recently with the haunting image of the little Syrian boy, Aylan Kurdi, drowned on a beach in Turkey. Catholic schools are always guided by Catholic Social Teaching. The Australian Catholic Bishops have released a Social Justice Statement that challenges Australians to think again about our national response to asylum seekers, especially those who come to Australia by sea. The title of this document is ‘For Those Who’ve Come Across the Seas’. Taken from the words of our National Anthem. It reminds us that we are a place of welcome and inclusion. Whilst it is heartening to hear that Australia will increase the limit for Syrian refugees this year, policies regarding ‘border protection’ and ‘border force’ surely need to be under review. I ask you to please take time to have a look at the document (just google it) and reflect on the call of Jesus to welcome those in most need and to give comfort to those who come to us in flight from fear and suffering.

Build Capacity

A good Catholic school is first and foremost a ‘good’ school. The pages of this magazine are filled with students and staff who are innovative and strive for excellence every day. An all-girls learning environment celebrates the best practice in teaching and learning. It is a place where girls are not afraid to take healthy risks, to try new things, to celebrate their gifts and talents and to use them to assist others: Book Week, Numeracy and Literacy Week, Brain Day, the College production, Languages Week, Health and Physical Education Week, Sustainability, Snow sports, Public Speaking, Vocational Education & Training, Gifted and Talented Conferences, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths), Hospitality, and Service-Learning. These are the just the ones highlighted in this edition! We live in a complex and changing world and Merici College is responding by providing a quality education.

As we make our way through the College calendar we near the time of thanking our Year 12s for their contribution and pave the way forward for our new leaders. Students who attain formal leadership positions within the College are filling an important public office that reflects the quality of the Merici student body to our community. Synonymous with the privilege attached to leading the student body is the responsibility to represent them in a mature and positive manner within both the school and the broader community. These new student leaders are expected to display exemplary behaviour and sound judgement at all times. They are obliged to meet the expected standard of behaviour required of all our students but should also be aware that as public figures they have an additional level of accountability. They are role models: respectful and gracious at all times. As these girls begin to shadow current leaders and begin training for 2016, we wish them all the best.

Build Community

Merici prides itself on creating, building and sustaining partnerships with parents, families, parishes, industry, Government and other community agencies. Our relationship with Marist has grown strong this year, especially in the area of faith formation, social interaction, sport and social justice. This has been an exciting development and one I am keen to ensure continues.

Our Alumni is continuing to strengthen with ex-students helping us out at the Transition Forum, the Awards Ceremony and the Languages Assembly. School tours have been held with groups celebrating reunions. Contact with our feeder schools has continued, with Art from the He/ART workshops and Big Sister Science Days being very successful. We also welcomed 300 primary students to our musical matinee rehearsal show.

Parent and community networking continues with the Dance Troupe, and Music Bands and Choir performing at Floriade. Other events include the musical, ‘ThinkUKnow’ cyber safety presentation, Fathers/Daughters evening and Bridge Benefit Fundraising Dinner.

Student Achievements include Australian Catholic Young Journalist Winner, 1st and 2nd prize in 4-way Speaking Competition Canberra North Rotary Club, winner of the ACT Powering Our Future Siemens Futuride 2015, ANZAC Days’ School Award State Runner-Up, winning the ACT Teen Chef and most recently winning 1st and 2nd prize in the Cancer Council Bras and Boxers fundraising event. We are proud of our students and the staff and how they support each other, each with their own diverse gifts and talents.

Merici College is a source of inspiration not only in every page, but in every day.

Loretta Wholley
Principal
Year 7 Grandparents’ Day – A time to be thankful

A very special liturgy and morning tea was held on Monday 27 July with Year 7 students and their grandparents. The liturgy was also in celebration of the Feast Days of Saints Joachim and Anne, grandparents of Jesus. This was a wonderful opportunity for students to express their love and appreciation to their grandparents for playing such an important role in their lives. Throughout the liturgy, grandparents and students reflected on the special times that they have shared together. Grandmothers, Loris Tys (nee O’Keefe) and Irene Darby (nee Connor), ex-students of Merici College, also spoke to the students about school at Merici “back in their day”.

After the liturgy, the grandparents were invited to the Jubilee Centre for a special music performance by the College’s Beginners Band. The band performed ‘March of the Romans’ which won the band a Gold Award at the 2015 National Eisteddfod. School tours were also conducted with the Year 7 students proudly showing their classrooms and College facilities to their grandparents, after which a delicious morning tea was enjoyed by all.

We would like to thank all our grandparents for coming along and celebrating this special occasion with our school community.

Maria Tolfree - Head of Mission
Ros Parisi - Public Relations Officer

Dear Father in heaven, thank you for the gift of our devoted grandparents. Thank you for their wisdom, love and generosity. Thank you for the time they are willing to spend with us in a world where many adults are in a hurry. Thank you for making them a rock where our families find security in a world of turmoil and change. Thank you for their faith which acts as a strong foundation for our families. Help them when they face the difficulties of old age and when the “golden years” are not so golden. When their strength fails, be the strength of their heart. As they have been a refuge to many, be their refuge in life’s difficult times. Help us to learn from their wisdom which inspires us to reach our goals in life.

Amen.

ANZAC Day School Awards 2015

On Tuesday 25 August, Senator Zed Seselja presented the staff and students of Merici College an award for Secondary School Category State Runner Up in the ANZAC Day Schools’ Awards 2015. The award recognised the outstanding achievement in commemorating the service and sacrifice of Australia’s servicemen and women. We extend our thanks and appreciation to Senator Seselja and the Department of Veterans’ Affairs for this award.

Senator Zed Seselja presents Loretta Wholley with a certificate and a cheque to recognise Merici College’s outstanding achievement in commemorating the hundredth anniversary of the ANZAC day landings at Gallipoli. Certificates were also presented to Narelle Patrick, Gabby Ball, Ros Parisi and Maria Tolfree to recognise their impressive contribution to the event.

A Tabernacle for our Chapel

Recently, Paul Maher and Don Blundell installed the new tabernacle in our College Chapel. The tabernacle was bought by the MSC Order in 1989. An unknown woman bought it from the MSC Monastery in Kensington in 2000 for a small Church in Wollumla. The little Church in Wollumla was deconsecrated recently and it now takes its place in our College Chapel due to the dedication of Paul. Our little Chapel was in desperate need of a tabernacle. When Paul heard our need, he sought out a solution. Paul travelled to Wollumla to collect the tabernacle. Both Paul and Don happily installed the tabernacle in its new home. Paul Maher is the grandfather of Lisa Murphy in Year 11. She is very proud of her grandfather’s enthusiasm and spirit. He is a valued member of our Merici Community. We would like to sincerely thank both Paul and Don for this wonderful generosity.

Gifts from the Community

Paul Maher and Don Blundell installing the new tabernacle in our College Chapel.

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We would like to thank all our grandparents for coming along and celebrating this special occasion with our school community.

Maria Tolfree - Head of Mission
Ros Parisi - Public Relations Officer
It is an exciting time of renewal at Merici College and next year sees the introduction of a new school timetable, changing both the structure of the day and the way subjects are offered within this structure. This change, effective from the start of the 2016 school year, sits within the existing constraints of the timing for the school day; meaning there is no change to the start and end times. Changing the internal structure of the day and not having to negotiate with bus companies to change route timing is a significant positive outcome!

Students have 5 minutes to move from PC to Period 1, and between Period 1 to Period 2, Period 3 to Period 4 and Period 5 to Period 6.

The need for re-visioning the timetable has come from a number of pressures, both internal and external. Identifying key constraints and exploring alternate models was the focus of a special project run through 2014.

In summary:

- There are specific requirements of the senior secondary system that all ACT Colleges (Years 11 and 12) are required to adhere to. Parents of senior students, past and present, know that we run additional learning activities outside regular school hours in order to meet the requirement of 55 hours of learning in each subject for accreditation by the Board of Senior Secondary Studies (BSSS).

- Teachers and students alike are equally disrupted by the loss of curriculum teaching time to whole school and year group activities that are nevertheless understood to be essential to the ethos and culture of Merici College.

- We need to incorporate new teaching areas from 2016 and beyond, in response to the ACT implementation schedule for the Australian Curriculum. Subjects that are now (English, Maths, Science, History, Physical Education - Years 7-10), or will become compulsory (Geography, Civics & Citizenship, Economics & Business and Digital Technologies – Years 7 & 8), need to be allowed for, as well as opportunities for students in Years 9 and 10 to continue the study of subjects under the Humanities and Social Sciences banner, and Design and Technologies, Languages and The Arts covered currently covered within our elective structure.

[www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/curriculum/overview]

These key factors have driven the need to review and revise the Merici timetable. Having determined the structure, we have been working on the allocation of time to curriculum areas and now on actually creating the fully staffed, working timetable for 2016.

**Desired outcomes and real strengths achieved with our new structure are:**

- Retention of the current Pastoral Care structure and time allocation
- Increased time allocation to Australian Curriculum core subjects delivering numeracy and literacy within the curriculum.
- Introduction of a new Year 7 program to strengthen the development of essential study skills and the development of General Capabilities identified in the Australian Curriculum (Numeracy, Literacy, Critical and Creative Thinking and Information and Communication Technologies – critically important in maximising the benefits of Merici’s technology rich BYOD environment and beyond). [www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/generalcapabilities/overview/general-capabilities-in-the-australian-curriculum]
- Incorporation of a ‘flexi-lesson’ into the timetable, which will be the time allocated to school assemblies and special celebrations, as well as year group pastoral and curriculum activities.
- The requirement for 55 hours of study in each semester in all senior subjects meet within the timetable.
- No ‘senior long lessons’. All teaching of seniors is within the time allocated to school assemblies and special celebrations, so that all ACT Colleges (Years 11 and 12) are required to adhere to. Parents of senior students, past and present, know that we run additional learning activities outside regular school hours in order to meet the requirement of 55 hours of learning in each subject for accreditation by the Board of Senior Secondary Studies (BSSS).
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We are well on the way with our student subject selections and staffing for 2016. There are definitely challenges encountered in developing and bringing to life a new timetable and we deeply appreciate the collegiality of staff in discussing and negotiating our way forward, and our thanks to the Merici College Board for their support. We are excited by the new possibilities offered by the timetable and look forward to seeing the vision in action.

Ann Cleary
Deputy Principal Learning
The Year 12 Retreat is an opportunity for the Year 12 students to come together as group to reflect on their time at Merici. It is held at Warrambui, near Murrumbateman, which is conducive to reflection, meditation, spiritual journaling and drawing. The Retreat has a very strong spiritual focus to allow students to reflect deeply, as their journey at Merici comes to an end. Students are encouraged to discuss their own hopes and dreams for Year 12 and for the years ahead, and to reflect on the potential for the transformation that exists in the obstacles and difficulties they will encounter in their future. Students will be led to a deeper awareness of the values and beliefs necessary to achieve their dreams through an exploration of the questions – who am I, where have I come from and where am I called to?

Maria Tolfree
Head of Mission and Community

Wednesday:
Despite the normal trepidation and excitement of a school trip, we were excited to be coming together with friends to celebrate the bonds that we have developed as a group. The Friday sessions enabled us all to focus on ourselves and our own personal and spiritual development but also provided an opportunity to reflect on the bigger picture and our place in it. We had time for personal journaling as well as some fun ice-breakers and games throughout the day.

Thursday:
On Thursday we looked back on our time as group, sharing memories from the past. We also had an important session that allowed us to approach people in a safe way to discuss concerns from the past. Personally, I was able to apologise for a situation that occurred in Year 10 between myself and a friend; something that we both had been hanging on to. It was so nice to put these things behind us. We also looked forward, preparing some things for our graduation in December. In the evening we had a fun skit session, where students and staff put on some short entertaining skits that allowed us all to laugh.

Friday:
On our final day, we continued with our affirmation of each other. We made outlines of ourselves on large pieces of paper and were then given time to write nice things with the ‘bodies’ of others in the year group. It was so nice to read the comments on my own body at the end. We all also received a personal letter from a Merici staff member, that had been prepared prior to the retreat. It was a lovely surprise and made us all feel valued. We finished with a lovely liturgy before returning home on the buses. We appreciate the effort that Ms Tolfree & Mr Coe put in to make it such a great experience.
Each of us must make our own unique inner journey. Your journey will be different from mine, but we belong to one another, whether we are aware of it or not. I do not want anyone to follow my route, but I hope they find their own direction. The signpost to follow is appreciation of our own worth… On the inner journey we find our own signpost, which points beyond ourselves and beyond our false values. The heart recognises the signpost; it reads: “You are precious in my eyes. You are honoured and I love you” (Isaiah 43:4).
2016 Leaders
School and Specialist Captains are elected

COLLEGE CAPTAINS
L - R: Georgia Larsen - College Captain,
Danielle Bewick - College Vice Captain.

SPECIALIST CAPTAINS
L - R: Lily Sidorko, Zoe Haseler, Adrienne Cox, Natasha Nguyen,
Kiah Marshall. Inset: Julia Angove, Nicola Ellis

COLLEGE CAPTAINS
Georgia Larsen
Danielle Bewick
SPIRITUALITY CAPTAIN
Lily Sidorko
SRC CAPTAIN
Julia Angove
SOCIAL JUSTICE CAPTAIN
Adrienne Cox
SUSTAINABILITY CAPTAIN
Natasha Nguyen
SPORTS CAPTAIN
Zoe Haseler
EXPRESSIVE ARTS / CULTURE CAPTAIN
Nicola Ellis
NARRAGUNAWALI CAPTAIN
Kiah Marshall

TRANSITION CAPTAINS
L - R: Belle Holmes, Diana Radulescu, Casey Bellicanta,
Ashleigh Redpath, Cassandra Nguyen. Inset Madaleine Cameron

TRANSITION CAPTAINS
L - R: Belle Holmes, Diana Radulescu, Casey Bellicanta,
Ashleigh Redpath, Cassandra Nguyen. Inset Madaleine Cameron
2016 Leaders House Captains

Balgo
Captain: Mercedo Bowers
Vice Captain: Sophie Macken

Brescia
Captain: Neala Johnsen
Vice Captain: Ashleigh Rams

Ningil
Captain: Riley McDonald
Vice Captain: Georgia Berman

Penola
Captain: Emily Kahanen
Vice Captain: Chelsea Maxwell

Seiwa
Captain: Alice Cargan
Vice Captain: Helena Hodges

Tullow
Captain: Hannah Robertson
Vice Captain: Breanna Cogman
“It’s better to set your goals in the sky and hit a tree than aiming for a tree and hitting a rock.”

We can’t all be astronauts! Aim high but always have a Plan B!

He delivered a truly inspiring full day session on ‘Day of Hope’.

Glen Gerreyn challenged the girls to take that first step and start moving, not just stand still and let opportunities pass them by.

It was a great start for the week.

We focussed on life as a senior student. What is an ATAR? Why do universities have prerequisites for some courses and not others? What does it take to be a Merici leader?

We had a huge number of Experts on Tap come into the College and discuss their own career pathway. The students were able to choose from a very wide range of careers; law, nursing, science, health, fitness and sport, business and politics and trades to name a few. The experience came from past students and parents who gave up their own time to just talk about their careers.

The last session for the week gave all the students the opportunity to take a tour and once again the students had a huge range to choose from; Australian National University, University of Canberra, Australian Catholic University, Canberra Institute of Technology and Australian Defence Force Academy.

Overall, the students stepped up to the life of a senior student. They dressed according to workplace requirements, acted in a manner that did Merici proud and interacted in a mature and responsive way to all the guests who attended during the week.

Many thanks must go to all the parents and members of the Business community who gave up their valuable time to talk to the girls about their own life experiences.

“I was impressed with the composure and maturity of these young women, as well as their ambition and vigour. They were excellent ambassadors for Merici.

This group was also the first I have addressed over the last several years that have a clear and almost unanimous conviction about their abilities and do not confess a belief in any gender-based stereotype threat. The College has done a marvellous job in instilling confidence in these students, which fills me with optimism for the future.” Louise Morris, Director Morris Property Group

Kerry McDonnell
Vocational Education and Further Education Coordinator
Teen Chef Win for Year 10 Girls
Eleanor, Paige, Kaitlyn and Olivia feel the pressure

Three schools came together to vie for the ACT Teen Chef of the Year award. Merici was joined in the finals by Amaroo and St Clare’s College.

The budget for Teen Chef was $80 to produce a four-course menu for two people. All the food had to be purchased at the Belconnen Markets before the competition began at 9 am. Each menu had to incorporate the three seasonal ingredients, marjoram, celeriac and grapefruit. One of the courses was a mystery dish.

Points were awarded for technical skill, hygiene, use of time, teamwork, cooking techniques and clean work spaces. Judges also constantly questioned the students throughout the competition to test their knowledge of produce and technique. Teachers were not allowed to give advice or coaching at any time during the cook-off.

The event was stressful for all, especially Annie Daley and the parents of the girls who watched the day unfold. Ms Daley, the girls Hospitality teacher, said the judges were particularly impressed with their menu and the way they incorporated the three mandatory ingredients creatively throughout it. Ms Daley was also surprised to discover the mystery dish was a celeriac soufflé which just happened to be one of Merici’s chosen recipes. The standout dish of the competition was Kaitlyn Towner’s dessert.

Even though the girls were indescribably nervous the judges commented on their calm demeanour and the obvious level of their preparedness. The girls won a tablet each. The school won $1500 and a signed copy of Matt Moran’s latest cookbook.

We would like to thank Maria Efkarpidis, the Belconnen Fresh Food Markets, the Good Guys and partners along with Foodish for providing the venue.

Virginia McLeod
Assistant Coordinator Global Studies

The Menu

Celeriac, leek and goats cheese raviolo with walnut pesto topped with a tumble of fresh apple, fennel and celeriac.

Marjoram and grapefruit gremolata crusted lamb rump with celeriac soufflé and balsamic beetroot glaze.

Grapefruit jelly cheesecake with marjoram crumb

I found it hard when the judges came up to us mid comp and started throwing questions at us. A lot of the time they weren’t yes or no answers, usually they were questions you have really think about. That really put me off.

Eleanor Rhodes

I found it challenging working in a high intensity environment, especially when we only had a few minutes left and we had to plate up. Luckily we finished in time and went really well.

Paige Campbell

I found it challenging to stay focused when the judges were all standing around my bench talking to each other and asking me questions. It was also a bit of a challenge to work in a new kitchen which was unfamiliar.

Olivia Svager

When we walked into the kitchen it was unfamiliar to me and hard to find things. I overcame this challenge as I started to cook. I found it really hard to concentrate when the judges kept telling me how long we had left. It was extremely intense and I finished plating up with just 30 seconds to go.

Kaitlyn Towner
As part of National Literacy and Numeracy Week, Merici hosted a Maths Melee involving Merici and Marist students, as well as parents and siblings. Ten teams competed in three rounds and the afternoon was noisy, energetic and enjoyable.

Kathryn White
Numeracy Coordinator

‘Books Light Up Our World’ was this year’s Book Week Theme. To celebrate the 70th anniversary of Book Week students were invited to come to school dressed as a character from their favourite book or graphic novel. There were also accompanying art and writing competitions. The event was coordinated by two Year 10 students, Natalie Martyniak and Madeline O’Neill. The girls were professional, reliable and organised. The success of the event was a credit to them both.

The student response was amazing with over 100 entries. The photos, both on the next page and the back cover of Building Futures, show the originality and creativity of our students.

The Winners were:

Art Competition: Madeleine Cooke
Writing Competition: Emma Holland
Best Costume: Single: Ainsley O’Malley
Duo: Paris Pentreath & Zara Noake
Group: Jade Howe, Miranda Watts & Farah Almashawren

Pairs of teams faced off in the Swiss round, competing to spot the pattern in a series of numbers.

Teams worked together in the Creative round to investigate and solve open-ended problems.

Pairs of teams faced off in the Swiss round, competing to spot the pattern in a series of numbers.

Teams competed in the Relay round to solve as many problems as possible in a short amount of time.
Clockwise from above - Ainsley - Miranda, Jade & Farah - Madeleine, receiving prize from Tracey Kent - Emma receiving prize - Zara & Paris - Maddi and Natalie the organisers of the event.

The winning entry in the Art Competition is a digital drawing of Guess who? by Madeleine Cook Year 12 Penola 4

Winning Short Story

I would be stupid to assume that it would be me flashing before his eyes. I would be stupid to assume that anyone at all would be flashing before his eyes. Probably shiny objects that would supposed to give him more happiness than any living thing would. I’m generally curious as to know what it was that did flash before his eyes as his heart gave way. Would it be his shiny car that would take the place of simple walking? No, no of course not, it would be his obsessive infatuation for just the feel of the $50 notes that he somehow managed to cram a mass amount into his tiny wallet.

No he wouldn’t see me before his eyes as he fell to the floor in a withering mess. He’d see something more important than any living thing. He’d see money. I guess that’s just society’s way of corrupting our morals.

Emma Holland
Year 9 Penola 6
The Merici College school community recently enjoyed the 2015 musical production A LITTLE PRINCESS which was performed by Merici students on Friday 21 August and Saturday 22 August 2015.

A LITTLE PRINCESS was written by Andrew Lippa (music) and Brian Crawley (book and lyrics). It is a modern musical inspired by the literature of Frances Hodgson Burnett, renowned author of the novel, The Secret Garden. A Little Princess was originally produced by TheatreWorks, when the musical premiered at the Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts in Mountain View, California in 2004. In 2005, A LITTLE PRINCESS was featured in National Alliance for Musical Theatre's 17th Annual Festival of New Musicals, held off-Broadway at Dodger Stages in New York City and a new version of the musical was performed in a concert in October 2011 by the Texas State University, San Marcos, Texas, musical department, and was conducted by Andrew Lippa.

On Thursday 20 August Merici invited primary schools to attend the matinee show. This performance was enjoyed by over 300 primary school students from St Gregory’s, St Thomas More’s, St Thomas Aquinas and St Matthew’s Primary. The primary students thoroughly enjoyed the show embracing the story of Sara Crewe with enthusiasm and interest. A Year 6 student from St Matthew’s summarised her experience as “On a scale of 1 - 10 of how awesome it was: 9. The day’s been great today. A great play was what we watched at Merici College. It was enjoyable and entertaining. I was lucky enough to sit in the front row! And some of the actors came to our bus at the end of the show to take a photo with us.” (Hayley, Year 5 student)

The evening performance on Friday and two shows on Saturday were well-attended and provided first-class entertainment to all the guests. Special thanks to Merici’s Hospitality staff for preparing delicious refreshments for our guests and pre-performance meals to our cast and crew.

Ms Alison Bogg, Stage Director, noted that the production of A LITTLE PRINCESS has given students the opportunity to immerse themselves in a different time in history through contrasting cultures. “This production has given students the opportunity to go back in time to the worlds of Victorian England and nineteenth century Africa. They are all part of the story that portrays the journey of Sara Crewe through the trials and tribulations of life. We see her adjust to being in a small boarding school for young ladies in London, while keeping the connections to her father, Captain Crewe, close to her heart as she fondly reminiscences and dreams about life in Africa and the spirit of the people there”. Ms Bogg thanked the students for their enthusiasm and dedication, “A LITTLE PRINCESS has been a demanding production to realise across all facets of the show, from choreography to costumes and music to makeup. To the entire cast, crew, band and production team, thank you for being a delight to work with”, concluded Ms Bogg.

Miss Beth Way, Musical Director also noted that over the last three months, the students have attended rehearsals with a smile, ready for whatever comes their way, “I have watched them grow and I have seen certain individuals take on leadership roles within the cast and this has been a very fulfilling process, and a pleasure to observe. If it doesn't challenge you, it won't change you, and these girls have definitely endured many challenges along the way” Miss Way.

The Merici College school community extends its congratulations to all the participating students and staff members for their commitment and dedication in bringing excellent entertainment to Merici College. Appreciation and gratitude is also extended to the many families and friends who came along to the musical.
Being involved with the Merici school production of “A Little Princess” was a fantastic new experience for me!! It was the first time I went from being in front of the bright lights to behind them. In the production, I was a part of the ‘tech crew’, in charge of sound, and the very important role of reminding the audience to turn their phones off. It was so different to what I usually experience in a production, and I gained such an appreciation for all the hard work and concentration that goes on behind the scenes! I was incredibly proud of the performers and what everyone achieved.

Holly Ross
Expressive Arts Captain
When I was 13 months old, my dad returned from a Naval deployment to the Gulf and over the next 3 months I spent most weekends watching the planes. Dad got his licence and the fun began! Strapped into my car seat in the back of the plane. Most weekends thereafter, our Sundays were spent flying.

I’ve been lucky enough to have lived overseas for 6 years of my life - 3 years in Asia and 3 in Tonga. I decided at a very early age that I would be an International Commercial Pilot.

In August 2014, my mum was at a market where there was a cupcake stand and suggested that I could do something similar. I booked a market stall and baked 150 cupcakes. A little nervous, we headed off to set up my first stall. Unfortunately things didn’t go quite as planned and the market owners wouldn’t let me sell my cupcakes as “they had an exclusive arrangement” with another cupcake provider.

The following month I tried again, but this time at a different market - the Fash ‘n’ Treasure Markets at EPIC. I first contacted them to confirm that I could sell the cupcakes there, and thankfully they agreed. So, this time I set off with a little more confidence. The owners of the market were incredibly impressed with my cupcakes, and said I could sell at every single one of their markets going forward.

‘The Sugar Bite’ is now a registered business. I now have 3 markets per month, several coffee shops that I cater for weekly and a regular flow of catering orders.

Since then almost everything I earn from The Sugar Bite goes towards my flying lessons. I now have 13 hours of flying lessons under my belt and have completed all of the theory exams required to obtain a Recreational Pilot Licence (RPL) - which I can’t obtain until my 16th birthday.

A typical flying lesson begins with a briefing and a ‘walk around’ the plane to check such things as the fuel, the oil, and the spark plugs and so on. I then hop into the cockpit to do all of the start-up checks. This involves tuning the radio to the Aerodrome Weather Information Services (AWIS) station, and making sure the engine and propellers do everything I need them to do. I then taxi over to the runway, make the necessary radio calls and proceed to take off. Most of the time I do circuits around the local flying area as this involves a lot of take-off and landings. With each lesson my instructor will focus on a slightly different skill. In addition to the flying lessons, there is significant theory work to complete and several exams to pass.

Where to from here? On the 17 June next year (my 15th birthday) I will officially become a pilot when I fly solo for the first time. This will make me the (at least equal) youngest pilot in Australia. I will then obtain my restricted pilots licence on my 16th birthday, my Private Pilot’s Licence (PPL) on my 17th, and my commercial pilot’s licence on my 18th birthday. I already have made arrangements to work as a flying instructor to put myself through university, after which I hope to obtain employment with a commercial airline.

Jade Esler
Year 9 Student
I have been face painting since the age of 10. I started teaching myself off YouTube then at the end of 2010 I had my first proper lesson. At the coast I saw an amazing face painter, Susan, at a New Year's Eve festival. She taught me all the proper techniques and introduced me to a whole new area of face painting.

In 2013 (age 12) I received a ‘Commendation Award for Arts and Multimedia’ at the Young Canberra Citizen of the Year Awards after being nominated by a customer.

Later in 2013 (now 13) I was featured in the magazine ‘illusion’, the largest international face painting and body art magazine’. It was a two page spread and a personal highlight and achievement.

At the beginning 2014 I went to the Australian Face Painting and Body Art Convention in Melbourne. It was 5 days of lessons from international and the best face painters in Australia. It was an amazing learning experience where I got to make valuable international connections. Being the youngest with everyone else in their 30s or older, people quickly recognized me from my magazine article, I even got to sign autographs.

Since then I have been privileged enough to have many more lessons and workshops to expand my skills. I received an accreditation as a Level 2 certified Professional Painter (Level 1 is instructor classification). I am also a member of the Australian Body Art Association (ABAA). My work has been shown in newspapers for events such as ‘The Black and White ball for domestic violence Canberra.

Last year I started my YouTube channel ‘Natasha Silver Face Painting’. I also began subcontracting with another Canberra face painting company and now paint for them and myself.

This year I travelled to Brisbane for another Body Art and Face Painting Convention. It was again a great experience and I meet amazing painters such as Mark Reid and Christy Lewis. I am looking forward to possibly teaching at the next convention I attend as well as competing in the face painting and body art competition.

This year I also started an Instagram account @nvs.makeup for makeup/face painting. As well as that I embarked on another learning experience where I did work experience at the beauty salon Beauty at Nikkei’s. I now also work for the modelling agency ‘The Lizzie Wagner group‘ as their makeup artist.

Now with my business I work every weekend doing parties and events. I am lucky enough to be Westfield’s face painter and a lot of work comes from them. Lately I have been doing more and more corporate gigs and am looking forward to face painting for a major fashion show coming up.

Natasha Silver
Year 9 Student

http://natashaysilver.wix.com/face-paint-artist
Merici Student awarded Young Journalist Winner

Congratulations to our Young Journalist Winner student Sophie Holland. Sophie entered the Australian Catholics Young Journalist Competition in the intermediate section and has received first prize. Please follow the link http://tinyurl.com/ohuy42r to find her winning article.

Ros Parisi
Public Relations Officer

There’s money in Arguing

Recently, Alice Carstens and Avneet Bakshi competed in the 4 Way Speaking Competition hosted by the Canberra North Rotary Club. They both presented engaging and stimulating arguments on environmental issues. They joined two other male competitors from Daramalan College. The atmosphere was electric as the judges deliberated over who deserved first prize. The winner was our very talented Year 11 student, Avneet Bakshi! As well as the honour of moving forward to the semifinals, she was awarded $100 in prize money. Alice Carstens came second in the competition, winning $50 and displaying great pride in her College. Congratulations girls!

Ros Parisi
Public Relations Officer

Year 8 students explore the human brain

What do brain dissections, a magician, life-long learning and neuroplasticity all have in common? Year 8 Brain Day. On the 1st of August Year 8 took a break from their usual Friday lessons to spend the day exploring their ‘brain’. Although run by the Science Department the day did not only focus on science; it endeavoured to give the students an insight into how remarkable the brain is to collect and store information or ‘learn’ and how this process will continue for a life time if the brain remains healthy and uninjured. This serious message disguised amongst a day of light-hearted activities aimed to inspire students to recognise their learning potential, as the old adage ‘use it or lose it’, really does apply to the human brain.

“I enjoyed Brain Day, learning about the different parts of the brain was fun.” Zoe

“I loved the magic show and the guest speaker because I learnt a lot about the brain.” Lauren

Joanne Aboud
Science Coordinator
SEIWA

On Tuesday 28 July, the Seiwa community came together to celebrate our House Day; a day which coincides with St Benedict’s Day. We chose to celebrate on this day due to Seiwa’s connection with the Good Samaritan Sisters. The Good Samaritan Sisters of the Order of Saint Benedict were the first Australian congregation of Catholic Religious women, who provided great assistance in providing education and healing to the people of Japan after the atomic bombs were dropped on both Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945. Seiwa is connected to this group as our House motto is ‘peace and compassion’ and The Good Samaritan Sisters strive to work for God in spreading peace and compassion world-wide.

The day commenced with a group reflection in which we shared some of Seiwa’s history, our House poem and House prayer, which were written by Seiwa PCs along with a photo montage of all the memories collected over the years. We were also very privileged that the Marist Captains of our Brother House, McMahon, were able to join us during this reflection. The day then concluded with a staff vs Seiwa netball game which was free for all to enjoy during lunchtime. Unfortunately the staff came out on top; however, the Seiwa Year 12s are already planning a rematch to redeem themselves.

Catherine Amesbury
Seiwa Coordinator

PENOLA

The girls from Penola House can be rightly proud of their efforts in raising money, awareness and goods for their House charity, Marymead. Marymead is a Canberra-based service which provides support to families and young people in need. Their services are many and varied.

This year, Penola focussed on donations of books and money. The books were donated by Penola families and will be used as part of the Marymead “At Home With Books” Program, which encourages the language and literacy development of children in out of home care, and children in vulnerable families. These children typically have higher rates of learning difficulties and poorer outcomes educationally than other children. The program aims every month to give each child connected to Marymead a brand new quality book as a gift. This is intended to encourage listening, speaking, reading and writing.

The Penola House Captains, Laura Ting and Jemma Chilver organised a highly successful “Penola’s Pantry” bake stall and this raised over $800. Both the funds raised and books were presented to Jeff from Marymead at a recent House Assembly and he thanked the Penola students for their generosity and shared some stories of the lives which are touched by the work of Marymead.

On 7 August, Penola House celebrated its House Day with white and black accessories, a school-wide prayer and a special Penola cake at recess. It was a fitting way to wrap up most of the events on the Penola calendar, whilst not forgetting that we still have the Athletics Carnival to come. Penola intends to defend its Spirit Cup win from 2014, when they will appear at this year’s carnival as Penola Jail Break.

Liza Laird
Penola Coordinator
During the week Monday 3 August to Friday 7 August, the College community celebrated Languages Week. This year’s theme was ‘Passion for Culture’ which was celebrated at both a Languages assembly and a multicultural fair. This was a wonderful opportunity for all our students, parents, staff and invited guests to come together as a community and celebrate the wonderful diverse cultural backgrounds here at the College.

Languages Week is a recognition and celebration of all cultures that are represented at Merici and also in the wider ACT community. It aims to celebrate diversity and to promote that different cultures can all contribute and live together peacefully in understanding of each other. The 2011 Census showed that one quarter of the ACT’s usual residents were born overseas. The ACT is enriched by these communities that were added to the previous settlers after WW2, and is also enriched by the presence and contribution of its Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders residents. Canberrans come from over 200 different countries and our city is among one of the most culturally diverse cities in the world today.

I would invite you to embrace the theme and share your ‘Passion for Culture’ - more information on the activity to come later. But first, let’s take a brief look at the cultures represented within our school.

As a part of Languages Day last year Merici staff and students were invited to respond to a heritage survey where we could map the composition of our school population. The graphic, designed by Bronte-Leigh McIntosh, shows the staff and students as a percentage on the world map.

**THE WORLD HERITAGE OF Merici College**

As you can see just over half come from the United Kingdom, with 53 % but that all the world’s continents are represented including the students of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage. It’s a wonderful thing to consider that we have the opportunity to grow up in such a melting pot of culture and that we have the opportunity to share, enjoy and be enriched not only by languages but by food, dance and traditions from all the world’s cultures.

On Tuesday 4 August, a special Assembly for students in the gymnasium. The assembly commenced with a very special Welcome to Country presented by Ngunnawal elder, Aunty Janette Phillips. The students also welcomed special guest speaker Miss Carina Zeccola, a former student (Class of 2007) who spoke to students about her journey since graduating from Merici. While at Merici, Carina studied Italian from Year 7 through to Year 12 and travelled to Italy in 2006 with the Merici Italian Study Tour. Carina spoke about her university studies and career path and reiterated the importance of the study of languages which she believes has helped her to travel to different continents and build relationships with people of different heritages.

The community also welcomed Dr Jane Golley from the Australian National University. Dr Golley is currently the Associate Director of the Australian Centre on China in the World at the Australian National University’s College of Asia and the Pacific. She is an economist focused on a range of Chinese transition and development issues. She is an head of the China Numbers research team. Her career has taken her from the Asia Section of the Australian Commonwealth Treasury to the World Bank in Washington DC, and the United Nations Universities, UNU, World Institute for Development Economics Research in Helsinki. Jane spent eight years studying and teaching at the University of Oxford, where her thesis was on ‘The Dynamics of Chinese Regional Development’. Dr Golley also speaks Chinese and Japanese.

We would like to thank our guest speakers for their attendance. In addition, our current exchange students from Italy and France spoke to the students about their experiences while on exchange in Australia. These students infuse our community with rich cultural and linguistic influences that greatly assist and motivate our language students and have a positive effect on the intercultural perspectives of all members of the Merici community.

On Thursday, 6 August, a multicultural fair, ‘Passion for Culture!’ was held at lunchtime in the College’s Indigenous Garden. Activities included dance performances, street mime, Food in the Garden, henna tattoos, Indigenous art, Japanese calligraphy, sidewalk chalk activities, and lots more. Particular thanks are extended to Mr Fabrice Boone, teachers and parents who provided home-made international food and cakes for the Food in the Garden stall. We would also like to thank Jade Esler for her International cupcakes. We greatly appreciate everyone’s time and effort on making our stall such a success! We hope that all our students and staff enjoyed a week of ‘Passion for Culture’.

Antonietta Martiniello
Languages Facilitator
ASC Hockey Carnival Report

Held on Monday 10 August, the weather was kind for the most part, although the wind chill factor increased as the day wore on. Despite a lot of sitting around waiting for games, the girls were exceptionally well-behaved, proud Merici representatives/Ambassadors.

Merici fronted 3 teams this year. The Year 7/8 team, coached by Annie Daley, was comprised of many of the newly established Merici Hockey team, as well as other experienced players. With such a strong team it is not surprising that they held their own with 1 draw and 2 close losses to some very competitive teams. CGGS triumphed in the 7/8 pool overall.

The 9/10 team, coached by Brooke Woods, was short a couple of players so the 7/8 team kindly offered up a couple of (ACT Rep players mind you!) girls to assist them. To quote Ms Wood they were a team of “rock stars” with 1 draw and a couple of losses. The overall shared winners were St Mary MacKillop College and Daramalan.

The senior team, coached by Mark Chifley, sported some very experienced competitive players, however, were short on numbers, so borrowed from the 9/10 team. What a sharing caring school we are! They lost 2 and drew 1. Tied winners were Trinity and CGGS.

Overall a day of good sportsmanship and camaraderie and, best of all, no serious injuries.

Annie Daley
Hockey Coach and Global Studies Teacher
In Semester 1, Merici was one of thirteen schools to take part in a national initiative by the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) to build capacity and develop new ideas in integrated STEM teaching. STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, and represents the area in which the majority of new careers are appearing. STEM education is therefore a hot topic at the moment, and a lot of energy is going into finding new ways to develop students’ understanding of how the four STEM areas link with and support one another in the real world.

Merici’s STEM project was run with two Year 9 classes over 14 weeks, under the overall theme of solar photovoltaics. Students completed tasks in Maths, Science and IT, including developing a proposal to power their house or suburb with solar; investigating trigonometry and the link between solar panel angle and the amount of light it catches; building a light-seeking robot; and developing an extended investigation of factors that affect the power output of a solar panel.

The Maths, Science and IT teachers involved – Oliver Barlow, Terry Brady, Steve Madsen, Gerard Ryan, Giles Thomson and Kathryn White – worked together to integrate the concepts across subjects and were impressed with the levels of engagement and analytical thinking displayed by the students. ACARA sent a film crew to document the project, and the resulting video will be available on the ACARA website later this year.

Kathryn White
Science Teacher and Numeracy Officer
Master planning provides an opportunity for an organisation to ‘think big’ and consider opportunities for the future. Merici College engaged the services of Williams Ross and Associates to lead us through a consultation process. This consultation process encouraged broad participation from the school community: including, teachers, parents, staff and students. Drivers for the master plan were identified as: the Merici College Strategic Plan, under review in 2015, the desire to upgrade aged learning areas to meet the needs of 21st century teaching and learning and the need to address the poor physical presence of the College to Limestone Avenue in particular.

A site analysis of existing conditions was conducted and a group consultation was undertaken with students, parents and staff. The structure of these sessions was fairly informal with some common themes addressed across all consultation groups including:

∞ Catholic identity and practice
∞ Pedagogy / Flexible Learning Spaces and Team Teaching Practices
∞ Pastoral Care
∞ Sustainability
∞ ICT and Bring Your Own Devices (BYOD)
∞ Outdoor spaces and outdoor learning
∞ Circulation and movement across the campus - pedestrian and vehicular
∞ Faculty distribution across the College
∞ Social and community life
∞ Student and staff experience

There was a notable degree of consistency in responses across the consultation groups.

The following areas were identified for major refurbishment works and new facilities.

1. Indoor and Outdoor Learning Spaces: upgrading the outdoor access and internal workings of the 32 general purpose classrooms
2. Student Common areas: for each House with the provision of lockers
3. Student Access Hub: bringing together a range of student support services such as the Deputy Principals, Serviam Centre, VET & Careers, Defence Liaison Office, IT Office and Text Book office
4. Pastoral Care & Counselling: together in proximity.
5. A new Chapel: to seat up to 60 people
6. Sports and Environment Centre: co-locating sports activities in one area, with a kitchen and meeting room attached to enhance the sustainability program and for local community hire
7. Visual Arts Facility: Design and Digital Technology
8. Performing Arts Facility: for Music, Dance and Drama
9. Food Technology and Hospitality: relocating kitchens to the Canteen Restaurant area
10. Faculty & Staff Rooms: re-arranging staff rooms across the campus
11. Traffic & Car Parking: ensuring Wise Street abides by new traffic requirements
12. Sustainability: For teaching and learning, to ensure all buildings are developed and updated to meet new targets.

The new site concept has been guided by the following planning principles:

∞ create a stronger built-form identity for the College
∞ create connection between indoor and outdoor spaces wherever possible
∞ maintain the integrity of the campus structure
∞ improve pedestrian and vehicular safety through upgrade of car park and bus parking arrangements
∞ upgrade aging facilities or build new facilities to meet the needs of current teaching and learning philosophies
∞ incorporate sustainable practice and design in all projects
∞ improve building connections and accessibility to upper floors
∞ improve functionality of car parking and separate pedestrian / vehicle interface wherever possible.
Merici College held its very first Father/Daughter evening in our Restaurant and Canteen just before Fathers’ Day. The evening was well attended with over 80 fathers and daughters coming together to share this special event.

The evening commenced with a moving Mass celebrated by Father Bernie Patterson. Father Bernie spoke about the sacredness of the love that a father and daughter share. At the end of the Mass, fathers and daughters were given the opportunity to write an affirmation to each other. They shared their response with each other. What a wonderful opportunity for them to experience the love they have for one another! This was followed by a two-course meal prepared by the Year 11 Hospitality class. We extend our appreciation to both the students and staff who prepared this wonderful meal.

The keynote speaker for the night was Glen Gerrey who offered five important tips for effective parenting. Glen reiterated the importance of embracing the privileged relationship a father and daughter have.

All the fathers were appreciative of this special time with their daughters, a time to confirm the love they feel. We would like to thank our fathers and daughters for coming along and supporting this wonderful event. We are looking forward to celebrating this again in 2016.

Maria Tolfree
Head of Mission and Community
Fourteen members of the Merici Community enjoyed a meal at Hotel Realm to celebrate Merici’s success in reaching the finals of the ACT Excellence in VET awards. Kerry McDonnell, the Vocational Education and Training (VET) coordinator, supported our applications and was extremely proud to reach the finals in two categories.

Virginia McLeod, Trish Young, Annie Daley, Tookie Capezio, Brookie Wood and Emma Kennedy proudly represented Merici in the ACT VET in Schools Excellence Awards for our Hospitality and Sport and Recreation programs.

Tiffany Gardiner was supported by parents Melissa and Simon along with twin sister Rhiannon. Tiffany a Year 12 student studying Cert II in Creative Industries & a Cert IV in Music (Business), was a finalist in the ACT Vocational School Student of the Year section.

Although we did not win either section, all present, including Loretta Wholley, Adrian Heim and Kerry McDonnell were delighted to congratulate ex-student Hannah Darmody on her success in winning the ACT Vocational Student of the Year award.

We would like to acknowledge the dedication and hard work of all the staff and students involved in these wonderful programs as well as the continued support of the entire school, who respect and value all that we do.

Virginia McLeod
Assistant Global Studies Coordinator
It was very impressive to see seventeen enthusiastic Merici girls participating in the Subaru ACT-Southern NSW Snowsports Championships this year. It was a three-day event held in the Perisher Ski Resort, and we were very lucky to be blessed with excellent skiing and boarding conditions. The girls demonstrated a positive attitude throughout the entire competition and they were very supportive of one another. Their efforts were outstanding and there was a real sense of accomplishment present amongst the girls. We would also like to mention that the parental involvement made a significant difference to our successful participation in the events and that we were very grateful for their presence. It was a very enriching experience for all those involved and it was pleasing to see the girls represent Merici College with such pride.

Congratulations to all of our skiers and boarders who participated with the right spirit and attitude and to the following girls who have qualified for Australian Interschool’s National Championships to be held at Mt Buller in September.

**Individual Events**
Charlotte Thompson – qualified in Division 2 Female – Snowboard (finished 5th) and Snowboard X (4th)
Annabel Paven – qualified for Nationals in Division 1 Female – Snowboard (finished 8th)

**Team Events**
Charlotte Thompson, Nicole Lolicato, Olivia Fabrizio – (finished 4th behind skiers from Jindabyne Central School and Snowy Mountains Grammar)

Adrian Heim & Diana Davis
Snow Sports Coordinators
On Tuesday 11 August the Merici College school community celebrated the Semester 1 2015 academic achievements of students in Years 7 through to Year 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. “We are proud of you and of the promising young women you are becoming. You are becoming so confident in your own ability to try your best, make a difference, celebrate what you believe, respect each other, enjoy your learning, challenge yourself and set personal and academic goals”, said Mrs Wholley.

Mrs Wholley spoke about her friend’s mother who had recently passed away, the late Mrs Hubery. “Mrs Hubery was a forward-thinking individual, a ground-breaker and a role model of Catholic faith and service in action. She has left a great legacy of achievements, being awarded the Order of Australia for her service to nursing and community service in Western Australia. She was a woman of firsts in WA, the first woman on many health care Boards and the first woman chair and president of aged care facilities. Her faith was faith in action, which embodies our theme of Serviam”. Mrs Wholley went on to say that she hoped that Mrs Hubery’s life journey would serve as an inspiration to the students, “You may sometimes feel pressure from your teachers and your parents and carers. The pressure we put on you to excel is not a case of us asking you to do something that you are not capable of doing, but rather our expectations represent what we know you have the preparation, support and intelligence to handle, to achieve, to be a woman of firsts, like Mrs Hubery”.

The school community welcomed Dr Claire O’Brien to the ceremony. A full biography of Dr O’Brien’s journey is included on page 30 of this publication, Alumni.

Claire spoke to the students about her own experiences while at Merici College. Not having achieved good ATAR academic results, but excelling in sport as an elite athlete in Basketball, Dr O’Brien graduated with feelings of regret for not being able to balance her academic life with her sporting life. After her graduation, through hard work and dedication, Claire has become a very accomplished and successful woman in her chosen career of Science. She concluded her speech by offering advice to the students, “What I would like to tell you young women today is that you can change paths, when you make mistakes, forgive yourself and others, learn from these mistakes and get straight back on your horse, work hard, don’t let your grades, a disability or others opinions define you, you can do anything!

We would like to thank Dr O’Brien for attending the Awards Ceremony and congratulate all our students on their wonderful academic achievements.

Loretta Wholley
Principal

Karen and Darcy Graham with Dr Claire O’Brien, ex Merici student and guest speaker at the Awards Ceremony.
Over the last couple of months, the College has enjoyed interactions with our ex-students who have assisted in the facilitation of various College events.

**Year 10 Transition Forum**

During Transition Week 2015, which was held from Monday 29 June to Friday 3 July, Year 10 students enjoyed a full program of events. The forum helped students to consider how to make decisions, reflect on what is important in their lives, try out a few different careers, learn about the job market, prepare for senior study and much more. Each day of the week had a different theme and on Wednesday 1 July, ‘Career Experts on Tap’ was held with the College drawing on the experience of parents and past students to provide a totally engaging and entertaining series of expert sessions relating to a number of career fields. These included law, nursing, media, design, health, Defence, police, child-care and beauty.

This year we were overwhelmed with the support shown by members of our Alumni. We would like to express our gratitude to the ex-students for making time in their busy schedules to come along and support our students in their career learning experiences. It was very much a family affair at Merici!

**Academic Awards**

On Tuesday 11 August, students’ academic achievements in Semester 1 were celebrated at our Awards Ceremony. The community welcomed Dr Claire O’Brien to the ceremony. Dr Claire O’Brien graduated from Merici College in 1994. Claire was House Captain for Gould (now Tallow), after which she spent two years working in hospitality and retail. She then started a primary teaching degree, which she discontinued after two years to pursue a Science degree at the ANU. Claire went on to do Honours in Science, and then a PhD in Medical Research. She currently runs her own laboratory at the Canberra Hospital, and her main research interest is the gut microbiome. She is also a Lecturer in Microbiology at the ANU Medical School.

Claire spoke to the students about her own experiences while at Merici College and her life journey since her graduation. She offered the students advice on reaching their full potential, noting that when you make mistakes, forgive yourself and others, learn from these mistakes and get straight back on your horse, work hard, don’t let your grades, a disability or others opinions define you, you can do anything!

Claire also spoke to Year 10 students at the Year 10 Transition Forum - Experts on Tap at a Question/Answer session where she provided information to students on her career.

We would like to thank Claire for making time to come to the College to talk to our school community and wish her continued success.
Meet Our Newest Members

Irene Darby (nee Connor) – Graduated 1967

My name is Irene Darby (nee Connor). I attended Merici College (then called Catholic Girls High, Braddon) completing my studies in 1967. I enjoyed school life and was an active participant in my House, Carmel, playing netball, tennis and a very brief sojourn into hockey - far too physical for me! Following my time at Merici, I undertook a Secretarial course at Reid TAFE before commencing work at the Commonwealth Bureau of Statistics here in Canberra where I worked until I married my husband John and we commenced our family. My husband and I had three sons and one daughter and we now enjoy spending lots of time with our 9 grandchildren who all live in Canberra. My granddaughter, Bridget, is currently in Year 7 at Merici.

I re-entered the workforce, joining the Department of Employment and Youth Affairs, once my children were all at school. In that Department I spent some time in the Commonwealth Employment Service, primarily working as a Youth Officer and then as a Disability Officer, implementing the government’s youth and disability training programs. This was a very busy but rewarding time for me with youth unemployment peaking at around 18 to 20 per cent at that time.

I moved to the Department of Health and Ageing for a couple of years, working on the Aged Care program. My focus in aged care was to provide support to the network of Aged Care Assessment Teams around Australia. My most interesting work was with the Aboriginal health providers in central and northern Australia, working with them to ensure that aged care was delivered in an appropriate and culturally sensitive way.

In 1991 I moved to the Department of Immigration working on the Skilled Migration Program before being posted for the first time to the Australian Embassy in Bangkok, Thailand, as the Principal Migration Officer (PMO). In Thailand I was responsible for providing an immigration service to South East Asia including Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Burma and Bangladesh. A large and very challenging part of our work in the region at that time was to participate in resettlement programs of Burmese and Vietnamese refugees staying in camps located in South East Asia. Unfortunately this problem continues today.

My second posting with Immigration was to the Australian High Commission in New Delhi, India. This region covered India, Nepal and Bhutan. Apart from large programs of skilled migration and family reunion out of the region, the Immigration Office was heavily involved in delivering Australia’s largest student visa program for the Australian education industry. The high client numbers and the diversity of the client groups in the Indian sub-continent presented unique problems impacting on the delivery of the migration program. My time working, living and travelling in India will remain with me for ever. Perhaps my favourite posting? but then... In 2001 I was cross-posted, for my final posting before retirement, from India to the Australian Embassy in Santiago, Chile. This post was responsible for delivering Australia’s migration program in South and Central America, Mexico and Cuba. The greatest challenge here was the size of the region covered and the amount of time spent in servicing such a large number of clients living in many different countries. The large area covered by this Post was perhaps our greatest challenge here with officers travelling all day just to get from one end of the region to the other in order to carry out their interview programs! I must acknowledge that this posting provided me with many wonderful opportunities to travel and experience life in this culturally diverse and historically significant part of the world.

I would be the first to admit that I have been very lucky with all of the positions I have held over my working life. They have all been rewarding in one way or another. I had wonderful opportunities to travel around Australia and to live and work in countries not on the usual tourist routes. I would not have swapped my working life for any other. I now enjoy travelling for pleasure as I have more time to sit, contemplate, interact and take it all in.

Lori Tys (nee O’Keefe) – Graduated 1963

I completed my Leaving Certificate from Canberra Catholic Girls High School in 1963. After leaving school I joined the Public Service as a Clerk, as so many did in those days. I had the choice of going to University, but I decided instead to follow my brother’s footsteps and get a good job with a good income stream. My first job was in the Public Service, in the Motor Registry.

During this time I met and married my husband Paul, who was attending the Royal Military College. Soon after our first child was born, Paul was posted to Vietnam where he served for 12 months. I returned to the work force in the Department of Housing in Canberra.

After his return, we then embarked on an exciting journey that took us to many interesting and exciting postings, including England, and an attachment to Germany, Papua New Guinea and New Zealand. Both the Papua New Guinea and New Zealand postings were Diplomatic postings. Paul was the Chief of Defence Staff and Defence Attache, in PNG, and the Australian Defence Attache in NZ. During this time I gained employment with the Australian High Commissions in both those countries.

Our final postings were back in Canberra where both of our extended families lived. Over the course of fifteen years we had five children. We now have 6 grandchildren. Two of our children live here in Canberra. My daughter Megan attended Merici, and now her two daughters are also students at Merici!

Having a life where there were many postings, including overseas postings, along with the pressures of bringing up five children, kept me rather busy! In hindsight, I would have chosen to go to University first, to get a degree to enable a re-entry to the work force later. However, I can honestly say I have had an extremely interesting and varied life and really would not change anything! Life really is to choose your own adventure...and I wish I knew then, what I know now! I am enjoying life more than ever at this stage in my life!
Languages Assembly

Our school community welcomed ex-student Ms Carina Zeccola as guest speaker at the Languages Assembly held on Tuesday 4 August. Carina attended Merici College from Year 7 to Year 12 and graduated in 2007. After graduating from Merici, Carina studied at the Australian National University and graduated with a Bachelor of Laws and Bachelor of Actuarial Studies in 2012. She subsequently completed her Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice in 2013. Carina is currently an Associate at Griffin Legal specialising in commercial property and commercial law. Carina is presently the Treasurer of Canberra Women in Business. Carina is also a scribe for Lifeline Canberra.

While at Merici, Carina studied Italian from Year 7 through to Year 12 and travelled to Italy in 2006 with the Merici Italian Study Tour. Carina thoroughly enjoyed studying a language, which she believes has allowed her to travel through 3 different continents, as well as around Australia and build relationships and bonds with people of different heritages and backgrounds both in Australia and over the world. One of Carina's favourite quotes is that of Federico Fellini, an Italian film and script writer who said: “a different language is a different vision of life”.

Year 7 Grandparent’s Day

At our Grandparents’ Day held on Monday 27 July, it was a pleasure to meet Mrs Irene Darby (nee Connor) and Mrs Lori Tys nee O’Keefe), two ex-students who are grandparents of students attending Merici College. At the liturgy they spoke to the students about school at Merici “back in their day”, the uniform they wore, the subjects they studied and activities they participated in. A short biography is included on both these ladies elsewhere in this edition. We would like to thank Mrs Tys and Mrs Darby for their time and look forward to our future association at other events.

Upcoming Events

Year 12 Class of 1985 | Year 10 Class of 1983 Reunion
Friday 2 October – Sunday 4 October
Catchup drinks, Dinner/Dance, Family BBQ and lots more.
School Tour 2.30pm Saturday 3 October
Enquiries: bernadette.mihaljevic@hotmail.com

Class of 1995 Reunion
Friday 9 October – Sunday 11 October
Join us for a school tour, dinner and more!
For details contact: teale.moyers@gmail.com

Alumni Soiree
Saturday 24 October
5-7pm, Merici College
School Tours 4pm
Enquiries and RSVP: ros.parisi@merici.act.edu.au

What are you up to now? We would love to print your story! Email your story to alumni@merici.act.edu.au

Do you have a network of old school friends? We are always looking for new members! Email details to alumni@merici.act.edu.au
With an early morning arrival at the school by the students, and a delayed arrival of the teachers, we headed to Sydney at about 9am, arriving at 1pm with the mandatory stop at the Sutton Forest McDonalds. Once in Sydney, we headed to the City2Surf Expo, where we collected our racing bibs, and looked around the stalls, shops and promotional activities, supporting the City2Surf cause.

Arriving at the Central YHA accommodation in Sydney, we were given a short amount of time to get ready before heading to dinner at Il Puntino, an Italian restaurant on Bondi Beach where we shared a variety of Italian pastas, pizzas, and home-made ravioli. We walked to the Ben and Jerry's ice-cream parlour, choosing which sugary flavour we wanted to give a short-lived boost of energy before the next day. We walked with our ice-cream along the finishing stretch of the City2Surf run, crossing the finish line hours before we were due to, and taking in the view of the beach and waves of Bondi Beach. We walked back to the bus and drove the 14 km running course in reverse, going down Heart-break hill, making it look like a relatively easy run (boy, were we wrong). We arrived back at the hotel, ready for an early bed before an early departure the next morning.

After a snappy breakfast, and quick pack-up we walked to the starting point, being swamped by the thousands of people who had arrived to race. The running pace started slow, as everyone was squished together, and it took nearly ten minutes of walking before we were able to start slowly jogging and dodging the walkers in the race. Slowly we all split up, running at our own pace, though still representing Merici College. The theme and sponsor for this year's event was ‘Run out Loud’ a fitness and music organisation that encouraged the runners not to bring their headphones because there were several music stations and live entertainment along the way. These checkpoints made running a lot easier as it distracted you, and made you look forward to making it to the next booth, to see what entertainment was coming up next. There were people cheering on balconies, and coming out of their houses to cheer you on from their front steps, offering homemade lemonade and sausage rolls along the run. People were playing their own music through speakers out the front of their shops, and children with streamers yelling and singing at you to keep going. The atmosphere was amazing and the people were all so encouraging, congratulating you on how far you’ve gone, and telling you there’s not long to go. Running over the top of the last hill, and seeing the beach and the finishing banner was such a relieving feeling, knowing that you were nearly finished. As we got closer and closer to the finishing line, we were running back into the more populated areas of Sydney, and crowds of people surged into the streets screaming and cheering for you, and it encouraged you to pick up the pace to finish, being cheered on by so many supportive people.

Once crossing the finishing line, and receiving a medal, we made our way to the pre-arranged meeting spot, being carried off by the throngs of people just finishing and re-hydrated before waiting for buses to take us back to the hotel. We waited for close to an hour in lines before getting to board a bus, and then a train, before walking the remaining few blocks to have showers and finally pack up all belongings. We were given free time for a late lunch and a walk through Paddies markets before finally getting on the bus to take us back home. Everyone was exhausted, and the bus was quiet to begin with though after our second McDonalds stop on the way back, we were all singing to the music of Mr Higginbotham’s iPod and yelling the lyrics as we drove back to Canberra. Arriving back at school we unloaded bags, said farewells, and drove home to the warm beds and good night’s sleeps awaiting us.

Casey Bellicanta
Year 11 Student
Art from the HeART Workshops

This year Merici College has introduced ‘Art from the HeART’ workshops. The idea of the workshops was to assist primary schools with their Expressive Arts programs by utilising the resources available at Merici College. The programs were designed in discussion with the teachers to complement the curriculum at each school and materials that they wished to use.

On Monday 29 June and Thursday 2 July, our Art rooms were opened to Year 5 and 6 students from St Thomas More’s Primary School for our very first workshops. Teachers from St Thomas More’s and our Art teacher, Mrs Sue Birch-Marston, worked out a program for suitable art activities which complemented the primary students’ History unit on Government. At the College, students completed two-colour printing of their individual drawings of Parliament House. This involved students cutting out shapes in their drawings for the second colour application.

Further workshops were held on Thursday 27 August and 3 September with Year 5 and 6 students from St Joseph’s Primary School. The students made tiles to incorporate into their new learning spaces. The tiles were designed and made during their sessions at the College.

In addition, Mrs Birch-Marston visited St Vincent’s Primary School on Wednesday 5 August to assist students with the Ceramics programme. Mrs Birch-Marston provided a demonstration to the teachers so that they were better equipped to facilitate a ceramics class. All ceramic artworks were transported to Merici and fired using our kiln.

Thanks and appreciation are extended to Mrs Sue Birch-Marston for her initiative in developing this most worthwhile program and for facilitating this very successful program at the College.

Big Sister Science Days

Last year saw the introduction of Big Sister Science Days which proved to be invaluable to primary teachers in delivering the Science curriculum in primary schools. On Friday 14 August and Monday 17 August, we welcomed students from St Michael’s Primary School in Kaleen to the College. Through the utilisation of the resources available at Merici College, teachers from St Michael’s and Merici College devised a program for suitable science experiments which complemented the primary students’ study of light.

Students started their day by joining the College’s Year 10 Sustainability elective class in the College glasshouse where they planted lettuce and silverbeet seeds into punnets to take back to school and plant in their own kitchen garden. They also spent time in the kitchen garden and assisted in the collection of produce and eggs for use in the College’s canteen; produce harvested included rocket, mizuna, fennel, spring onions, beetroot and baby carrots.

After enjoying refreshments provided by our Canteen staff, the students moved to Science classes where they joined Merici’s Year 9 Science students to investigate reflection and refraction of light. Dressed with lab coats and safety goggles, the students commenced work on their first experiment which was to investigate that light is a mixture of colours. This was followed by a computer simulation activity were the students explored for themselves the concept of reflection and refraction through different media. In the final experiment, students enjoyed the hands on experience of using light boxes, mirrors and different lenses to experiment with angles of refraction and reflection. The Big Sister Science Days were very successful with all students thoroughly enjoying the opportunity of working together on the experiments.

The College looks forward to extending this support to other primary schools.
Treeplanting

To support our valuable work at the College and in the community in raising awareness of environmental issues, fifteen Year 10 Sustainability students visited St Joseph’s Primary School on Friday 31 July, National Tree Day, to plant trees with children from the Early Learning Centre. St Joseph’s also celebrated Grandparents’ Day on the same day, which gave grandparents the opportunity to plant trees with their grandchild. In total, 46 native shrubs were planted in the grounds of the Early Learning Centre. Merici students also helped students from the primary school plant seeds of Hardenbergia, known as the happy wanderer, in pots which will be grown at St Joseph’s.

“I loved the Science experiments the most. They were interesting and we don’t get to do that kind of experiment at school.”

Hannah, Year 6 student

2015 Musical
A LITTLE PRINCESS
Matinee Performance

On Thursday 20 August Merici College welcomed primary students from St Thomas Aquinas, St Matthew’s and St Gregory’s Primary Schools to the matinee performance of this year’s musical, A LITTLE PRINCESS. The students thoroughly enjoyed the show and thanked Merici College for inviting them to this special event. We would like to thank all the students and staff for their tireless efforts in preparing for this production and their commitment and dedication in bringing excellent entertainment to Merici.

Ros Parisi
Public Relations Officer
On 5 August, a group of senior students from Years 10, 11 and 12 made their way to Daramalan College to participate in the Gifted and Talented Conference titled “All great empires fall”. Schools from all across Canberra gathered there to join in with the conference. For the day we had two guest lecturers, Julie Arliss and Jeffrey Hodges.

The day started with the first session called “The Death of Individuality” run by Julie Arliss, where she talked to us about Big Data and Technology. This was then followed by the second session entitled “Thinking about thinking” run by Jeffrey Hodges.

We then had a short break for morning tea and then came back for the third session called Oxbridge Question: ‘How would you break the news to a farmer that his cow has died?’ We discussed how one would answer this question and used our imagination to think about different scenarios. We then had another break for lunch where we got to talk with the students from other schools before going back for another session.

Our next session was presented by Julie Arliss who talked about Sexual Ethics and Civilisation. We then finished the day with a debate between Julie Arliss and Jeffrey Hodges on whether this house believes that without science, civilisation would disintegrate into barbarism. After both speakers had made their arguments they invited students to come to the front and share their own views on the topic. The students then cast a vote, and we voted against the belief that without science civilisation would disintegrate into barbarism. We then left to go back to Merici. It was an interesting day.

Jayde East and Chantelle Boehme
Year 10 Students
What is your role at Merici College?
I am the Public Relations Officer at Merici College.

What is your favourite part of your job?
My favourite part of my job is working with the students particularly the seniors. Through my role I am able to make sure that student achievements are recognised and appreciated by the school community and the wider audience.

What are you passionate about?
As an ex-student of Merici College I am passionate about the ethos of the college and how it has remained unchanged since I was here. I love the sense of community and good will at the college. Outside the college I am passionate about my family and friends because I enjoy spending time with them.

Ros Parisi
Public Relations Officer

What is your role at Merici College?
Defence Transition Mentor (DTM). The DTM is part of the Defence School Transition Program and supports young people from Australian Defence Force (ADF) families in secondary schools throughout Australia. The purpose of the program is to facilitate the best possible educational outcome for ADF students through onsite, direct and flexible assistance to children, parents, teachers and other support services.

What is your favourite part of your job?
The enjoyment of meeting prospective students and their families as this gives me the chance to pass on my enthusiasm for Merici and inform them about the many opportunities that present themselves within the school community.

What are you passionate about?
I am passionate about being the best person I can be and living a good healthy lifestyle that encompasses a variety of activities. Also when involved in project or activity I strive to do my best to achieve success.

Narelle Patrick
Defence Transition Mentor

What is your role at Merici College?
I like working with Databases and Mail merge. I also enjoy creating the certificates for the students.

How long have you worked at Merici College?
I have worked at Merici for 20 years.

What are you passionate about?
Inside the school I am passionate about my colleagues and Maria’s coffee which I get every morning except on the weekend. In my free time I am learning Polish at language school, I watch movies and read.

Irene O’Donnell
Executive Support Officer

What is your favourite part of your job?
My favourite part of my job is interacting with the parents and students at Merici College.

Where have you worked before Merici College?
Before Merici College I lived in Ireland where I worked for the Irish National Energy Company. I have now lived in Australia for 4 years.

What are you passionate about?
I am passionate about travel because I get to see new places and experience new cultures. At Merici I am passionate about the people I get to interact with on a day to day basis.

Ruth Cummins
Front Office
Integrated Humanities

Ancient Civilisations’ Banquets and Mini-Ancient Olympics

In Term 2, two classes of IH students studied the ancient civilisations of Rome and Egypt, and three classes studied Ancient Greece. One of the formative tasks that all the students completed was to prepare a banquet based on the civilisation they were studying. So how do students learn about life in an ancient civilisation by dressing up, eating and having fun?

Working in the flexible learning area, students formed groups of 8 – 10 with other students studying the same civilisation. They were provided with a list of tasks to be completed within their group. These tasks included: designing a poster to entice people to visit their civilisation; providing a map showing towns, cities, rivers and other important landmarks; organising costumes; preparing food and table decorations; making up a song about the main features of the civilisation; making an artwork symbolising the civilisation; and developing a quiz. The Ancient Greek groups were divided into city-states and also prepared to participate in a modified Ancient Olympics.

The students had to elect group leaders, allocate roles within their groups, prepare a timeline for the completion of tasks and provide feedback within their groups. Careful research had to be carried out; for example, to prepare a menu for the banquet students researched the crops grown, food imported, how food was prepared, and eating customs. Students were required to work collaboratively as well as individually and they completed the tasks with a healthy spirit of competition with other groups.

A high degree of knowledge and creativity was shown by all of the groups. There was no junk food in sight at the banquets and each group presented food which would not have looked out of place in the ancient civilisation they studied. The IH teachers were particularly impressed with the songs presented by each group, which not only demonstrated a thorough understanding of their civilisation but were, in many cases, accompanied by backing music, instruments and actions. If you asked the students what they enjoyed the most, it would probably be eating the food. They may not have realised how much they had learnt about their ancient civilisation in preparation for the banquet.

Chris Fraser
Integrated Humanities Facilitator

Electronic Chat – Author, Frances Watts.

As part of their studies of Ancient Rome, two Year 7 Integrated Humanities classes participated in a 45 minute electronic chat with Frances Watts, the Australian author of their class novel, The Raven’s Wing. The chat was using the new technology Polycom Real Presence which was set up on 2 screens in the IC. Being a newly published novel (2014) the girls were excited to ask Frances questions about her inspiration for writing and tips for their own creative writing. Not only were the girls able to tap more into the authors motives behind the creation of her characters, they were also able to see images that she displayed of historical venues on the second display screen. An added bonus for all was to also get a sneak peak of the cover of her new book, The Peony Lantern, to be published in August. It sounds fantastic and many of the girls are keen to read it.

IH Competitions

Many students have been actively involved in a number of extra-curricular competitions that have been on offer this year. These range from the Chief Minister’s Reading Challenge, the MS-Readathon, the Dorothea MacKellar Poetry Awards, and The National History Competition. We congratulate all the students who have participated and look forward to hearing the results of their efforts.

Fiona Bowen
Integrated Humanities Teacher
Students from the co-curricular sustainability group recently attended the annual Target Kids Teaching Kids week ACT conference. Now in its fifth year in the ACT, Kids Teaching Kids is a valuable and unique learning experience for students of all ages from across the ACT. This year the conference was held at the National Zoo & Aquarium. Canberra’s long-awaited spring put on a beautiful sunny morning for us as we attended lessons taught by other schools. All lessons are based on sustainability in some way, and we got to see a diverse range of presentations from students. Farrer Primary School taught us how to maintain and repair bikes, Maribyrnong Primary School taught us about how renewable energies work, and Mawson Primary School taught us about wick beds (self-watering garden beds). As the weather turned breezy we had our lunch and walked around the zoo looking at the animals. In the afternoon, we gave our presentation about Waste and Recycling to students from other schools. Brooke, Cassandra, Olivia, Alice, Steph, Bec, Natasha and Sam taught students about how to recycle by playing a game where they had to guess which of three bins (general waste, paper, recycling) lots of different items should go in. By the end of the day we were rosy-cheeked from the sunny morning and exhausted from so much learning. All in all it was a fantastic day!

Rebecca DeCourcy
Sustainability Officer

Siemens FutuRide Competition

The Siemens’ Futuride competition for 2015 asked students across Australia to answer the question:

‘How will you use science and technology to power your future?’

Year 10 Sustainability elective students Catherine Bui, Sascha Harrison, Savanna-Rose Reale, Billie Miles, Alexandria Fleet, Tayla-Jane McIntosh, Alice Austin and Juliet Forward along with the support of the Sustainability Officer Rebecca DeCourcy submitted a video entry into the competition. Our video showed the ideas the girls had to generate electricity in a sustainable way. The ideas included using compost and food waste to create biofuels, harnessing the hydropower of flushing a toilet, and trapping wasted heat energy from cars and even from people! Mainly, our submission focused on the importance of empowering girls to get involved in science and technology.

As a result of the hard work of the girls, our entry won the People’s Choice Award (Secondary category) for the ACT. As a prize Merici wins 4 energy-generating bikes valued at over $4000! The bikes will be a unique teaching and learning device, an awesome resource for special events, a fun way for students to engage in sustainable lifestyles and will practically reduce the amount of electricity Merici uses from coal-fired power sources.

Rebecca DeCourcy
Sustainability Officer
The Languages Assembly was held for all junior students and senior language students on Tuesday 4th of August. It was an opportunity for the community to hear about the ways in which studying a language can help you throughout your life, to grow and live in a more complete way by being aware and informed of other cultures and places in the world. We heard from Ms Carina Zeccola, a Merici Alumni who was able to share her experiences of growing up in her own culture and the context learning Italian played in her own growth as an individual. Next we heard from Dr Jane Golley from the ANU, who treated us with her own perspective of travel and experience of new languages and cultures, as well as her personal career journey that has been largely driven by her ability and interest in the languages she speaks. We also met the students who have travelled to Merici from overseas on exchange this year – two students from France and four students from Italy. The Languages Assembly was part of Languages Week in the College.

Antonietta Martiniello
Language Facilitator

Students in the co-curricular sustainability group introduced their campaign ‘Flick the Switch’, which seeks to enlighten and empower Merici students and staff about reducing their electricity usage. At the assembly, we learned that Merici has used an enormous amount of energy in the first half of this year alone, equating to around 95x the ACT household average. We heard about the environmental ramifications of coal-powered electricity, such as the extinction of some Australian animals, sea level rise, and extreme weather events. The girls then explained easy ways of reducing electricity use, like turning off computers, lights and heating when not in use. All students involved put in a lot of effort to prepare and present such a successful assembly. Special mentions to Brooke, Alana, Avneet, Natasha, Steph, Alice, Sam, Bee and Olivia for being sustainability stars on the day. Keep your eyes peeled for more on this student initiative, and remember - Flick the Switch!

Rebecca DeCourcy
Sustainability Officer

On Tuesday 18th of August the NAIDOC assembly was held for all students and staff. During the assembly we heard about the experiences of Layla Phillips as Junior Narrungunnawal Captain and Kiah Marshall as the Senior Captain. They were able to give a very personal perspective on the larger celebration of NAIDOC and what being of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heritage means to them. In addition, they outlined significant events and achievements that have been undertaken by the indigenous group – Narrungunnawali (aka Merici Mob) during this year and their aims and desires for the future of the group. All Merici Students are warmly invited to be a part of this group – the only cultural group in the College. Through the assembly we also learned about the Recognise and Close the Gap campaigns and about NAIDOC Week and the significance all these events play in the lives of all Australians and the lives of Merici students. For information on joining the Merici Mob, speak to Layla Phillips (Year 10), Kiah Marshall (Year 11) or Ms Martiniello in the Languages Staffroom.

Antonietta Martinielli
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Contact Teacher
As part of our Year 8 Consumer Education unit ‘Money, Money, Money’ we are investigating the history and production of money. In order to learn more about this we visited the Royal Australian Mint in Deakin on Friday 28 August.

We received a 15 minute theatre presentation, a guided tour of the National Coin Collection and a view of the factory from the observation windows. We also had the opportunity to make our own coin at a cost of $3 per coin.

Whilst on the tour we completed a handout addressing, amongst other facts, the history of coins in Australia and the benefits of technology to production at the Mint.

Annie Daley
Consumer Education Teacher

“The stairs were pretty cool, because they had 25000 five cent blanks in them.”

Kaitlyn Bingley

“The Royal Australian Mint melted and recycled one and two cent coins after they were abolished, to make bronze medals for the 2000 Sydney Olympics.”

Jemma Ho

“We made our own commemorative coins for 2015. It was a great day and I can’t wait to go back”.

Alisha Hopf

“To summarise the educational trip, I would say that visiting the Royal Australian Mint is one of the best ways to travel through the history of currency in Australia.”

Shabnam Mohamad Shafiq

“We saw factory and production rooms, where coins are stamped to become legal tender.”

Nicola Keir
Year 9 Textiles students attended the Craft and Quilt Fair in August to gain inspiration and technical expertise to create their own quilts. The students spent time identifying the various quilt blocks and looking at how these blocks were put together to create many different quilts. The students enjoyed seeing the Challenge Quilts, (quilts that required the interpretation of various themes) and in particular how fabric can be embellished and manipulated to create works of art.

At the Australian War Memorial the students were shown quilts from World War two including quilts from Changi Prison. The students gained insight into the history of quilting during the war years, including the recycling of clothing and threads used to make the quilts.

The girls were inspired by all that they saw and I look forward to seeing the quilts the girls create.

Corinne Preston
Textiles Teacher