

# WHAT'S ON AT MERICI #fidelitas #merici60

Term 1 Weeks 8 and 9 (25 March-7 April)



## WHOLE SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

### New School Bus Transport Network to commence Monday 29 April

The ACT Government is introducing a new integrated public transport network for Canberra for the beginning of Term 2, 2019. This network will include bus and light rail services operating together to give Canberrans more options to use public transport, every day of the week. As part of this change, the way students will get to school by public transport will change from the beginning of Term 2, 2019 – Monday 29 April. Some students will use different routes, make connections between services or use light rail for the first time. Every student who will use public transport needs to be aware of the changes.

- The change to services will include dedicated school services for the commencement of Term 2 on 29 April 2019.
- The new timetable information will be available on line from early March, including an improved online journey planner.
- Information about services for each school is available online at [www.transport.act.gov.au/getting-around/new-network/schools](http://www.transport.act.gov.au/getting-around/new-network/schools) .
- Light rail services are being tested now, and you can find out more about safety for pedestrians, cyclists and drivers around light rail online at [www.canberra-metro.com.au/safety](http://www.canberra-metro.com.au/safety).

We encourage parents to check out the new services at [www.transport.act.gov.au/getting-around/new-network/schools](http://www.transport.act.gov.au/getting-around/new-network/schools) to ensure their daughter/s is aware of the bus/es she will need to catch to and from the College.

For more information about the changes or assistance in explaining the changes, please contact Kylie Smith, Transport Canberra School and Community Liaison Manager, at [kyliea.smith@act.gov.au](mailto:kyliea.smith@act.gov.au).

### Parent-Student-Teacher Interviews - Online Bookings open Tuesday 2 April

Parent-Teacher-Student interviews will be held in Semester 1 on Tuesday, 9 April and Thursday, 11 April 2019 from 4:00pm – 6:30pm in the Auditorium. Each interview has an allocated 6 minutes timeslot. If you need to speak to a teacher on a more in- depth basis, please contact the teacher directly.

This is a mutually beneficial opportunity for parents to discuss their daughter's progress with the class room teachers. Including your daughter in the interview helps promote independent learning.

## MERICI COLLEGE

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[principal@merici.act.edu.au](mailto:principal@merici.act.edu.au)  
[www.merici.act.edu.au](http://www.merici.act.edu.au)

This semester we are also opening bookings for parents to meet with Pastoral Care teachers, so that you have the opportunity to discuss your daughter's overall progress and wellbeing.

If your daughter's teacher is requesting an interview with you, in regard to either Achievement or Application, you will receive an email indicating this. Please note: a teacher may request an interview both to commend a student's performance as well as discuss any concerns about progress. If teachers do not request an interview with you, you are still encouraged to make appointments with any teacher to discuss your daughter's progress.

### Parent Teacher On-Line (PTO) Booking Instructions

You will be using the "Parent Teacher On-Line" (PTO) web-based software for these interviews. This will allow you to book the interview times that suit you from any internet-connected computer or from your smartphone. If you wish to book appointments from your mobile you will need to download the free PTO app from either the apple app store or the google play store. Instructions on how to use this app and the relevant school code are available from the PTO login screen.

You will have access to the Parent Teacher On-Line (PTO) system from Tuesday 2 April 2019. If you currently have an email address lodged with the College you will be able to:

- Go to the school's home page – [www.merici.act.edu.au](http://www.merici.act.edu.au)
- Click the PTO icon as displayed
- You will then be directed to the Merici PTO web site
- Enter your surname and either obtain your PIN/enter your PIN



(NB - First time access will be to obtain your pin. Pins are generated and do not remain the same from the previous semester).

Once you have requested your pin an email will be sent to the nominated family email address. This email contains a secure link that when clicked will log you straight into PTO for you to make your bookings. If you do not receive an email, please contact the College as we may have an incorrect email address for you.

For those families where the College has no current family email address on file, we would appreciate it if you could contact the College and provide a family email contact if at all possible.

Full instructions are provided to you after log in. Please note the following points:

- When you log on, the system displays only your daughter's teachers.
- Every parent/guardian receives a login and pin on request – you can make a booking using one as a family booking or both if you want individual bookings.
- You will only see timeslots that are available at the time you are using the system. As timeslots are booked for your allocated teachers, those timeslots are no longer displayed as available.
- Please leave 6 minutes between appointments to allow for movement time.

- When you have made your booking please print a record of it. You can also log in and change your booking at a later date.
- Please note that bookings cannot be made after 8:00am on the day of the interview.
- If there are no timeslots available for an interview, please use the option requesting the teacher to contact you or contact them directly.
- If you encounter any problems using PTO, please notify the College on 6243 4100.

*"Because we are using an online service for the booking of these interviews we will disclose the student's name, parent's name and teacher's name to the service provider. The information will be provided to the service provider in an encrypted and secure manner and will only be used to arrange the booking of these student/parent/teacher interviews. If you have any queries about this matter, please feel free to contact the Principal."*

### Bridge Restaurant (Wednesday 3 April)

The Bridge Restaurant will be open for lunch on Wednesday 3 April from 12.30pm – 1.30pm. Online bookings available at [www.merici.college](http://www.merici.college) or telephone 6243 4110.

### School Photos (Friday 3 May, Wednesday 15 May)

School photos will take place on Friday 3 May and Wednesday 15 May 2019.

- Friday 3 May: Individual portraits, family/siblings, PC classes, Student Leadership Team.
- Wednesday 15 May: Year 12 class photo, House photos, absentee Day 1 individual portrait photos.

Students are required to wear full Winter uniform, including blazers for Senior students. Please see below regarding information from AdvancedLife Photography:

**Merici College School Photography Date: 3/05/2019**

**ONLINE ORDER CODE: NKP 6M5 G73**

**Online Order link:**

<https://www.advancedimage.com.au/keycode/keycodefinder.aspx?keycode=NKP6M5G73>

Group and portrait photographs can be purchased by following the link above or by using the envelope. Important Information:

- School photos purchased online DO NOT require envelopes returned to school\*
- Don't forget to order your sibling photos now
- **Late fees/additional charges will be applied for purchases after photo day**
- Photos will be returned to your school for distribution approximately six weeks after photos are taken
- Past years' photographs including sports, co-curricular and representative groups available at school's *advancedlife* & your *advancedyou* photo sites (follow the link above)

\*Sibling photographs must be ordered either online or by order envelope prior to the day of photography. A photograph will not be taken without an order. Sibling photographs only apply to children enrolled at the school.

*advancedlife* would like to express our appreciation to MERICI COLLEGE for placing your trust in us. Please remember we offer a 100% money back guarantee on our products to ensure your peace of mind. We would also love to receive your feedback or resolve any issues you may experience as fast as possible, to ensure your satisfaction. If you have any questions, comments or feedback relating to your advancedlife experience please contact us at [enquiries@advancedlife.com.au](mailto:enquiries@advancedlife.com.au).

### **Parent Online Advice March Newsletter**

The *Perimeter Guardian Parent Advice Online Safety* information newsletter focuses on technology issues that concern parents. Please follow the link <http://merici.college/go/parent-online-march> to find the latest special advice regarding Wishbone and Tellonym.

### **Canberra Metro Update**

Please visit [www.canberra-metro.com.au](http://www.canberra-metro.com.au) to find the latest news on road closures and diversions.

## **YEARS 7, 8 AND 9 NEWS**

### **Year 9 Geography and History Excursions (Wednesday 27 March)**

All Year 9 Geography and History students will be out on excursions on Wednesday 27 March.

### **Year 7 and 9 NAPLAN (14-24 May)**

ACT schools will participate in NAPLAN Online testing from 14-24 May 2019. All students participating in NAPLAN Online 2019 are expected to have done a practice/familiarisation test prior to the May NAPLAN tests. ACT schools undertaking NAPLAN Online this year will participate in a practice/familiarisation test between 25 March and 12 April 2019. The practice test does not assess student performance and has been developed to replace one of the familiarisation activities that schools have traditionally undertaken.

As a parent, you can become familiar with NAPLAN Online tests by visiting the public demonstration site, <http://bit.ly/naplanonline>. The purpose of the site is to familiarise students with the type of items they will see on NAPLAN Online and related functionalities. This level of familiarisation is worthwhile to help students understand and be comfortable with the format of the test.

For additional information please contact the Head of Junior School Virginia McLeod [virginia.mcleod@merici.act.edu.au](mailto:virginia.mcleod@merici.act.edu.au). Further information on NAPLAN Online, including the public demonstration site, is available at [www.nap.edu.au/online-assessment/naplan-online](http://www.nap.edu.au/online-assessment/naplan-online).

## YEARS 10, 11 AND 12 NEWS

### Senior History Excursion (Friday 29 March)

All year 11 and 12 History students will travel to Sydney for an excursion on Friday 29 March. The classes will do educational programs relating to their current units of study, at the Sydney Jewish Museum and the Nicholson Antiquities Museum at the University of Sydney. Permission notes were due by Friday 15 March to Dr Powell, Mr Baines or Miss Passchier.

### Year 12 Retreat Rescheduled

Please be advised that Year 12 Retreat dates have been revised due to a clash with the 2019 ACT-Southern NSW Interschools Snow Sports Championship. The Year 12 Retreat will now take place 29 July – 31 July, 2019.

## MISSION AND COMMUNITY

### Harmony Day (Thursday 21 March)

#### Thursday 21 March is National Harmony Day

Harmony Day celebrates Australia's cultural diversity. It's about inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone. Check out this link if you are interested <http://www.harmony.gov.au/about/>

**Staff and students are invited to wear orange accessories on Thursday e.g. hair ribbon, socks, nail polish, hat.**

Why orange? Orange is the colour chosen to represent Harmony Day. Traditionally, orange signifies social communication and meaningful conversations. It also relates to the freedom of ideas and encouragement of mutual respect.

### Current Years 9-11 2020 Immersion to Cambodia (Parent Information Night – Wednesday 27 March 6.00pm)

This term Merici College will be offering students the chance to sign up to a life-changing experience to travel to Cambodia with Camps International in April 2020. This will be an amazing experience for all students currently in Years 9, 10 and 11 to combine travel with service learning and a meaningful impact in a place that is rich in history and culture... Cambodia. A parent information night will be held on Wednesday 27 March, 6.00pm-7.00pm in the CRLC.

### Smith Family Saver Plus

The Smith Family *Saver Plus* is a 10 month financial education and matched savings program that assists families to gain financial skills, establish a savings goal and develop long term saving habits.



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OF OUR DIFFERENCES  
MAKE AUSTRALIA A  
GREAT PLACE TO LIVE!

HARMONY.GOV.AU



As an incentive to save, participants receive up to \$500 in matched savings when they complete the program which can be used for educational costs such as computers and tablets, text books and uniforms. Please follow the link <http://merici.college/go/saver-plus> to find more information on the program.

### Social Justice - Project Compassion - supporting Caritas

*"Millions of Australians come together in solidarity with the world's poor to help end poverty, promote justice and uphold dignity". (Caritas Australia, 2019).*



Merici College is once again supporting Caritas Australia's Project Compassion Lenten fundraising and awareness-raising appeal. Starting on Ash Wednesday, students have been asked to donate their spare change to their Pastoral class Project Compassion collection box. Each Friday afternoon for four weeks, and the final Thursday of Term 1, House tallies are being recorded. College Cup points will be awarded after the final collection on Thursday 11 April.

### Share the Dignity

Can you assist to **Share the dignity?** Many women in Australia have little access to sanitary items due to homelessness or poverty/ Members of our Merici College community are invited to **donate sanitary items** between **29 April - 10 May** (Weeks 1-2, Term 2). Please place any donations in the **collection box near Student Services**.

Interested in finding out more? Visit <https://www.sharethedignity.com.au/>

**#fidelitas #dignitydrive**

*Ms Connellan and the Social Justice Group*



## CHRISTIAN SERVICE

### Christian Service Learning Program (CSLP) - Year 7 Lenten Program

Year 7 students are currently participating in their Christian Service Program called the Lenten Project during the period of Lent. They are expected to commit to volunteering for 10 hours serving people in need and learn from the experience about the gift of caring for others. Students are reminded to gradually complete the journal over the period of Lent; registering the hours in service and reflecting on the experience through responding to various questions. The hardcopy journal needs to be submitted to their relevant RE Teachers by Monday 29 April. If students have misplaced their journal they need to contact their Religious Education teacher. Please contact Ms Amy Connellan, Head of Mission and Community [amy.connellan@merici.act.edu.au](mailto:amy.connellan@merici.act.edu.au) if you have any questions.

### St Vincent's Primary School Service opportunity – Years 7 to 12

St Vincent's Primary School community is seeking volunteers for an event. The St Vincent's Country Carnival is on Sunday 24 March and the committee is seeking Yr 7-12 volunteers to assist. If your daughter is interested, please contact Ms Amanda Phillips, Fundraising community coordinator and Deputy Chair St Vincent's Primary School Community Council at [amandagailphillips@gmail.com](mailto:amandagailphillips@gmail.com) and complete the sign-up sheet <https://volunteersignup.org/XQX9W>. Please note that this event is not a Merici College organised or supervised and parent/guardian attendance is recommended.

### Menslink Service Opportunity – Year 11 and 12 Students

Please find below a Service opportunity from Menslink. Please note that direct contact with Menslink (details below) is required if your daughter is interested. This is not a Merici College organised activity or supervised by Merici College staff.

*Menslink is looking for up to twenty seniors to assist from 5:30pm to 11:00pm on Friday 29 March for the Menslink Big Night Out at the Realm Hotel in Barton. Menslink provide totally free counselling, mentoring and education sessions to young men aged 10-25 and their families right across the Canberra region. We deal with family violence, bullying and even suicide and get young guys through tough times with the least amount of harm to themselves or those around them. This is our major fundraiser for the year - money raised at the Big Night Out will help over a hundred families who otherwise would not be able to get support.*

*Here is a link to our event page with pictures from last year's event (including our wonderful Merici volunteers!) <https://menslink.org.au/event/menslink-big-night-out/>. We would love Senior students to help with:*

- Briefing on duties and how the evening will run 5:30pm
- Room setup from 5:30-6:30pm (maybe have a meal too?)
- Greeting guests (500 of them) and showing them where they're sitting 6:30-7:00pm
- Walking around tables promoting raffle ticket sales and collecting tickets and money (6:30pm - 10pm approx.)
- We will have meals for volunteers in a separate room (time TBA - maybe not all at once)
- Spotting bids for the live auction from 10-10:30pm
- Collecting final raffle tickets and money from 10:30pm (if girls need to go early they can after the auction is closed, as long as we know, or they can stay and have a dance if they want)
- Helping all our guests (and themselves!) have a great time in the name of a great cause

*We'll give each volunteer a Menslink tee shirt to wear on the evening (will need sizes in advance please). We won't be able to transport the Senior student volunteers to and from the event so transport will have to be the responsibility of the girls and their parents. We'll be happy to reimburse taxi/Uber fares if a receipt can be provided. **Please contact Jacinta at Menslink by Friday 22 March** if interested at [jacinta@menslink.org.au](mailto:jacinta@menslink.org.au) or 0437 375 689."*

### **Dickson Vinnies – Helpers Desperately Needed**

Vinnies Dickson is really in need of volunteers. The store is also now open Friday evenings. Please read below from the Manager, Isla Smith at Vinnies Dickson:

*“Are you interested in retail experience, meeting new people and assisting your local community at the same time? Do you have a warm smile and a big heart? Dickson Vinnies is in urgent need of volunteers every day of the week including Friday evening and Saturday until 4pm. Shifts can be tailored to suit students’ needs and after school slots are available. Volunteer roles include register work, customer service and other varied and interesting retail related tasks. Training will be provided. Please contact Dickson Centre manager Isla Smith on (02) 6234 7495 or 0407 959 359 for further information.”*

Please contact Isla as soon as possible if you are able to help out.

### **Curtin Autumn Fair – Years 7-12**

Curtin Residents Association are seeking volunteers at their Curtin Autumn Fair from 10.00am to 12noon on Saturday 6th April. From the organisers:

*We have a well co-ordinated program of enjoyable activities for children and our volunteers seem to enjoy them too. Please follow the link <http://merici.college/go/curtin-autumn-fair> to find a flyer with contact information and we will be happy to respond to any queries.*

Please note that this is not a Merici College organised or supervised activity so parent/guardian supervision is advised.

### **St Monica’s Primary School Fete - Years 7-12**

The St Monica’s Primary School Fete Committee is seeking volunteers for Thursday 21 March - Saturday 23 March for the annual school fete. Volunteers are required on Thursday 4.00pm-5.00pm and Friday after school, to set up the fete, and on Saturday 9.30am – 4.30pm to help run the fete.

Student volunteers are requested to wear Merici College PE uniform and must sign in and sign out when volunteering. If your daughter(s) is/are interested, please email the St Monica’s Primary School Fete Committee at [Stmfete@gmail.com](mailto:Stmfete@gmail.com) or call Natalie on 0438 822 550. Students who volunteer will be given a certificate of appreciation with the hours contributed.

Please note that this is not a Merici College organised or supervised activity so parent/guardian supervision is advised.



## YOUTH MINISTRY

### A Message from our Youth Minister

My name is Neve Tually, and this year I am excited to be working at Merici College as the Youth Minister. This year we celebrate the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the College and it will be a big year of 'Fidelitas' (faithfulness) in the school community. I would love to make involvement in youth ministry this year as exciting and inclusive as possible and give the students opportunities for leadership and to be a part of their faith journeys. I will be working with Merici's Youth Ministry group, Angela's Angels throughout the year. [Full article here.](#)



## iC NEWS

Sora by Overdrive is a digital library of eBooks and audio-books for students of all year levels, as well as adults. The collection includes fiction, as well as non-fiction titles related to the Australian curriculum topics. The current collection includes over 10,000 eBooks and audiobooks, including 'Read-a-long' books.

The collection is available 24/7 from any device. It can be accessed through the [Merici Moodle/iC Services](#) site or by downloading the Sora app onto your IOS or Android device. Books can also be read off line on a laptop accessing Sora through [soraapp.com](http://soraapp.com).



1. Down load the Sora app (free from the App store)
2. Search for a school: ACEN Member Collection
3. Choose our school from the drop-down menu: Merici College
4. It will redirect you back to the Merici Login
5. You can then borrow three items at any one time

We have been showing the collection to the students during their English WIDE reading lessons. Encourage them to come and see us or send me an email: [ann.blakey@merici.act.edu.au](mailto:ann.blakey@merici.act.edu.au) if they are having trouble accessing the service.

Happy reading!  
iC staff

## CAREERS NEWS

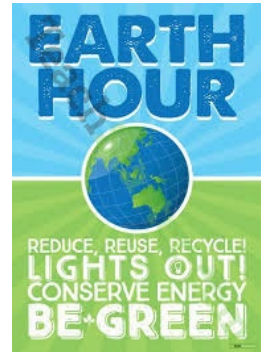
To find the latest Careers Newsletter, please visit <http://merici.college/go/careers-mid-march>.

## SUSTAINABILITY NEWS

### Earth Hour (Friday 29 March)

Earth Hour is the largest global movement for the environment. Intended to highlight the threats associated with global warming, Merici College will be observing Earth Hour on **Friday 29 March**. ACTsmart schools will be coming to Merici beforehand to speak about Earth Hour with the sustainability students on Tuesday 12 March at 1.00pm.

Further information can be found at <https://www.earthhour.org.au/>



## CO-CURRICULAR

### Snow Sports – Information Evening Thursday 21 March

An information evening will be held for parents and their daughter(s) at the College for those interested in attending the Snow-Sports excursion in 2019. Merici College ski team is made up of around 25 students – both skiers and boarders. Together with staff members, Ms Davis and Mr Heim, the students compete in ACT and southern NSW Interschools Snow-Sports competition held at Perisher Valley 24, 25 and 26 July. The team departs on the Merici College Bus on Tuesday 23 July and stays 3 nights at the Station Resort in Jindabyne and participates in four days of competition as well as free-skiing and snow-boarding.

If you would like to learn more about what this wonderful opportunity looks like for your daughter, including itinerary, competition, accommodation, costs etc, you are warmly invited to attend our information session – we'd love to see you there:

When: Thursday 21 March

Time: 4:45pm

Where: Catherine Rey Learning Centre

How long: 15-30mins

Note: Minimum standard of skiing ability is beginner to intermediate (as a guide - usually about 5 days of skiing). This event is not suitable for first time skiers.

## SPORT

To stay updated on all sporting activities, please ensure your daughter checks our Sports Moodle page and/or Twitter @MericiSport.

## OTHER NEWS

### **St Gregory's Parish, Queanbeyan Bush Dance (Saturday 23 March)**

Get your dancing shoes on! Dancing lessons available on the night. Bring your family and friends! Paverty Bush Band at St Gregory's School Hall, Molonglo Street, Queanbeyan

TIME 7-10pm

School Community Council gold coin BBQ or BYO picnic & drinks.

Tickets \$25/family or \$10/single.

Call St Gregory's parish office to purchase your tickets 6299 4611 or email

[queanbeyan@cg.org.au](mailto:queanbeyan@cg.org.au).

## UPCOMING EVENTS (Term 1 Week 10 and Term 2 Week 1)

Parent/Student/Teacher Meetings (Tuesday 9 April 4.00pm)

Secondary Combined Region Swimming AIS (Wednesday 10 April)

Parent/Student/Teacher Meetings (Thursday 11 April 4.00pm)

Easter Liturgy (Friday 12 April)

End Term 1 (Friday 12 April)

Term 2 begins (Monday 29 April)

ANZAC Day Assembly (Tuesday 30 April 12.00pm)

Be a Merici Girl for a Day (Thursday 2 May)

School Photos Day 1 (Friday 3 May)

Talk and Tour (Saturday 4 May 9.30am)