WHAT’S ON AT MERICI
Pre-Term 1 2016 Announcements

WHOLE SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Commencement Dates for 2016
First day for Years 7, 11 & 12 students, new students – Monday 1 February 2016
First day for Years 8, 9 & 10 students – Tuesday 2 February 2016

Principal’s Welcome
Please follow the link http://tinyurl.com/hcnq7lb to find Mrs Loretta Wholley’s welcome letter.

2016 Timetable
Please note lesson times have changed to accommodate the new timetable:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MONDAY – FRIDAY</th>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8.46am</td>
<td>Warning Bell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.51 – 9.05am</td>
<td>Pastoral Care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.10 – 10.00am</td>
<td>P 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.05 – 10.55am</td>
<td>P 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.55am – 11.15am</td>
<td>Recess</td>
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<tr>
<td>11.15 -12.05pm</td>
<td>P 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.10 – 1.00pm</td>
<td>P 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.00 – 1.40pm</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.40 – 2.30pm</td>
<td>P5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.35 – 3.25pm</td>
<td>P 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.25pm</td>
<td>End of school day</td>
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</tbody>
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Support for Students and Families in 2016
Two School psychologists are again available to students and families this year. They are a great resource to the community supporting particularly in times of crisis, and providing referrals to appropriate outside professionals.

Our support network continues to support our staff, students and parents/carers and includes: Heads of Junior School, Senior School and Mission & Community, House Coordinators, Pastoral Care teachers. Narelle Patrick continues on as our Defence Transition Mentor and is very keen to meet families, serve as a liaison between home and school and offer any support she can. Antonietta Martiniello is our Aboriginal Contact Teacher and is looking forward to establishing and continuing our links with Indigenous families. Please feel free to contact staff mention about if you have queries or concerns.

Communication
We aim to keep the community informed about key events and day-to-day running of the College through the fortnightly e-newsletter “What’s On” and our magazine “Building Futures”. Parent Alerts are emailed to keep you abreast of new and relevant changes to the calendar, and urgent updates that require your attention.

Follow us on @MericiIC, @MericiSport, @MericiCanberra, @MericiMusic
The Assessment Alert app is also available this year and has been a great source for parents to monitor the assessment requirements.

It is important that the school have a current email address for your family. The Merici website is also an important place to access information about the school, including Policies and Procedures. A reminder that parents can also access their daughter’s Moodle pages to view key information on academic issues. Please ask your daughter for her login and password.

**Staffing: Welcome Back, New Positions, New Staff 2016**

We welcome back Mrs Anne Curran from Semester 2 Long Service Leave, and Mrs Maria Tolfree from a knee reconstruction in Term 4.

We welcome two new teachers: Mrs Robyn De Puit (Mathematics) and Dr Clara Teniswood (Mathematics, Science and Choir).

We congratulate the following staff on their new positions:
- Balgo House Coordinator: Kyla Firman
- Ningil House Coordinator: Vicki Meyers
- Tullow House Coordinator: Laura Withers
- Religious Education Coordinator: Amy Connellan
- Inclusive Education Coordinator: Louise Henderson
- Mathematics Coordinator: Huck Walker

**Junior Electives**

There have been a number of requests for changes in electives. These are all currently being considered and there are subjects with substantial waiting lists. There will be no further changes to electives once students receive their timetable. Please contact Mrs Megan Keogh, Head of Junior School on email megan.keogh@merici.act.edu.au or telephone 6243 4169 if there are any exceptional circumstances and further queries.

**First Day for Year 7 students**

**Starting the Day:**
At 8.40am staff will meet you for registration outside the main entrance to the school in Wise Street. Year 7 students will need to find their House table, sign in and will be given name tags. At 9.00am there will be a short welcoming assembly in the Auditorium which parents are welcome to attend (approximately 15 minutes). They will need to bring their laptop, a pen and one note pad or exercise book. Students will receive a book pack which includes all the requirements for Year 7 except for stationery needed in individual classes. Students are required to bring food and drink for recess or food may be purchased from the Canteen. Lunch will be provided to all Year 7 students on the first day.

**Home-time:**
For the first week/Year 7 students are taken by the Period 5 teachers to the Auditorium at 3.00pm, grouped in bus groups and taken to the buses. It is helpful if students know their bus number prior to their first day at school. All students will be required to do this, even if parents are picking up students on their first day so that they become familiar with their bus. Students should be picked up by parents in the designated pickup/drop-off area in the car park adjacent to the oval. Student will be waiting with a supervising teacher under the shade structure beside the carpark from 3.25pm.

**First Day for Year 11 and 12 Students**

All members of the College Student Leadership team are required to be at school from 8.30am to assist with the orientation of the Year 7 students.

Day 1 2016 for Years 7, 11 and 12 students will be Monday 1 February 2016. Years 11 and 12 students will be required to be at school from 9.50am, however they are most welcome to arrive at 9.00am to support the new Year 7 students.
As a member of the senior cohort, your daughter will play an important role in assisting the new Year 7 students in her House. College leaders will help with the serving of lunch to the Year 7 students. Please note that there will be canteen facilities on this day.

**Opening Assembly – Tuesday 2 February (9.20am)**
An Opening Assembly will be held on Tuesday 2 February for all staff and students.

**Year 11 Conference – Monday 8 February – Tuesday 9 February**
Each year we hold a Year 11 Conference to induct Year 11 students into Year 11 and life as a senior. The Conference is a compulsory, formal program designed by the pastoral and academic staff at Merici to ensure you daughter is fully aware of her responsibilities as a senior.

The Conference will be held at Warrumbui Retreat and Conference Centre from Monday 8 February to Tuesday 9 February 2016. Please follow the link [http://tinyurl.com/zzaw5nb](http://tinyurl.com/zzaw5nb) to find all relative information.

**Ash Wednesday – Wednesday 10 February**
Rite of Ashes will be distributed to staff at 8.25am in the Chapel and to students during an extended PC.

**2015 Semester 2 Academic Awards Ceremony – Friday 12 February**
Academic Awards for Semester 2, 2015 will be presented to students on Friday 12 February in the Auditorium. Please note that students receiving awards have been notified through their Pastoral Care groups and correspondence has been sent home to parents. Parents of students receiving an award are welcome to attend the Awards Ceremony. The ceremony for Balgo, Brescia and Ningil commences at 10.05am. Penola, Seiwa and Tullow awards will commence at 11.20am.

Could parents of students receiving an award in the second session (11.20am) please be seated for the commencement of the ceremony by 11.15am. Please keep in mind that parking may be difficult as parents attending the first session (10.05am) may still be at school on your arrival.

Light refreshments will be served after the ceremony in the restaurant. To assist with catering, please contact Ros Parisi on 6243 4178 or email ros.parisi@merici.act.edu.au if you are attending the ceremony.

**Contacting your daughter during school hours**
Parents are reminded students are not able to access their mobile phones during class time. Please refrain from sending them text messages during class time as it is distracting to both the student and teacher. Students are able to communicate with you at recess (10.55am-11.15 am) and lunch time (1.00pm-1.40pm) and we would encourage all parents to contact the Student Services Office on telephone 6243 4109 to leave a message for your daughter.

**Welcome from the Business Manager**
Thank you for trusting Merici College for the education of your daughter. We realise with that trust comes a significant financial commitment which we are confident will prove a very good long-term investment in the education of your daughter – it certainly is an important one.

Fees for term 1 will be issued over the coming few weeks.

At Merici College we have an excellent Finance Office team with our Finance Manager Christine Collins, our Fees Liaison Officer Mary Kingsford and myself. We are dedicated to helping you through the process of paying College fees, whether by direct debit, credit card, BPAY or if you prefer to visit our College office we still even accept cash – whether you call, email or visit, you will always feel welcome.

And, if cash flows get tight we understand that too and can offer assistance in devising a payment plan to suit your current and future financial situation.
Whether it is to discuss which payment method suits you best, sibling discount, extended payment plans or if you think you may qualify for a fees reduction due to financial hardship, staying in contact with us in the Finance Office is the key in a partnership that can last for many years of your daughter’s educational journey through College with us here at Merici.

Please call 6243 4100 between the hours of 8.00am – 4:30pm or email anytime on fees.office@merici.act.edu.au if ever you have any queries or concerns about your College fees.

Adrian Heim, Business Manager