WHAT’S ON AT MERICI
Term 1 Weeks 2 and 3 (Monday 8 February – Sunday 21 February)

WHOLE SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Welcome from the Merici College School Board
It is with great pleasure that we welcome all new students and staff, along with the returning members of community for 2016 school year. The Merici College School Board performs a dual role; Governance of the College as well as the Parents & Friends Association of Merici.

This year there will be 1 position made available on the Board. The appointment is for a 2 year period, with the option to re-nominate for a further 2 periods, 6 years in total. Existing members of the Board are eligible to re-nominate, within the guidelines above.

We encourage any interested parent, who has the desire to commit to becoming part of the Merici College School Board, to contact the Returning Officer – Ms Trish Ryan, trish.ryan@merici.act.edu.au to obtain the nominations forms and details of the process involved. Nominations close Wednesday 17 February.

John Brennan - Board Chair and Loretta Wholley - Principal, of Merici College

Student Absences
Please contact Student Services in the first instance if your daughter is absent at (email student.services@merici.act.edu.au) or reply to SMS notification. A note on your daughter’s return to school is only required if you do not use electronic forms.

N.B. Senior students have only 5 days after their return to college to confirm their absences in accordance with the BSSS. Details are passed onto teaching staff and House Coordinators through the internal procedures. Parents are most welcome to email Pastoral Care teachers on any information you wish to share if there are more complex issues that may need to be addressed at school.

Tullow House Feast Day – Tuesday 9 February
Tullow House will celebrate their ‘House Day’ on 9 February 2016. This is an opportunity to acknowledge and observe and explore the Brigidine Order on which Tullow House is founded. The Feast of St Brigid is commemorated on 1 February annually and is very important to the formation of the Brigidine Sisters. It is hoped the Brigidine Sisters located in Canberra will be able to join us during the day.

Students will be required to attend normal classes during the day and will be involved in Tullow House activities during morning PC, PC Long lesson and recess. Tullow students are required to wear green clothing and accessories on the day and will celebrate together with a Tullow cake at recess.

Guidelines for Tullow House Day dress
To ensure the Tullow House Day is as successful as possible, students are required to follow the dress guidelines below.

Follow us on @MericiC, @MericiSport, @MericiCanberra, @MericiMusic
• Wear green accessories with your full school uniform (green ribbon, nail polish, green socks).
• Please bring your full PE uniform for PE classes.

We are looking forward to a very successful Tullow House Day and appreciate your support of this special celebration. If you have any questions or require any further information, please contact either your daughter’s PC Teacher or Laura Withers, House Coordinator.

**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 will be notified through their Pastoral Care groups and correspondence will be sent home to parents in Week 1. 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.

**Opening School Mass – Monday 15 February (11.15am – 12.45pm)**
On Monday 15 February we will be celebrating our Opening College Mass. The Mass will be celebrated by Fr Bernie Patterson and will commence at 11.15am in the Auditorium. All parents, carers and friends are invited to attend this special celebration. Refreshments will be served in our restaurant at the conclusion of Mass.

Please contact Ros Parisi on telephone 6243 4178 or email ros.parisi@merici.act.edu.au by Thursday 11 February to advise your attendance and assist with catering.

**Merici: Leading Students to Successful Futures Information Session—Tuesday 16 February (6.00pm)**
An information session will be held for all parents and students in all Year groups, particularly Year 10, 11 and 12. The session will be held on Tuesday 16 February in the Catherine Rey Learning Centre from 6.00pm to 7.15pm and will cover:

• Important aspects of the Senior Secondary System in the ACT
• Merici’s success in preparing students for their chosen career pathways
• Questions and concerns raised by parents. Questions and concerns are required to be sent to Ros Parisi, email ros.parisi@merici.act.edu.au by Wednesday 10 February. These will be embedded in the presentation and a fact sheet will be made available.

To assist with catering, please rsvp your attendance to Ros by Friday 12 February. Please follow the link http://tinyurl.com/j69qyg8 to find the invitation.

**Photo Day – Wednesday 17 February**
All students will receive a photo envelope for school photos scheduled to be held on Wednesday 17 February. On-line payment details are outlined on the photo envelope; parents are encouraged to pay online. Alternatively, envelopes are given directly to the photographers with either credit card details or the correct cash amount. Please ensure that student details printed on the top of the envelope are correct. If you have not received an envelope please contact the Student Services Office on 6243 4109.

Follow us on @MericiC, @MericiSport, @MericiCanberra, @MericiMusic
Study Skills Handbook
In 2016, the Pastoral Care program will have three key focus areas:
1. Love and Mercy
2. Mindfulness
3. Academic Welfare Tracking
During the Academic Welfare Tracking sessions students will have the opportunity to access an online study skills handbook at www.studyskillshandbook.com.au.
   Username: mericicollege
   Password: achieve24
This handbook contains a number of units one of which is the benefits of mindfulness for student which links two of our key focus areas for Pastoral care in 2016. We encourage both students and parents to access this wonderful resource throughout the year. Please follow the link http://tinyurl.com/j4lbjp to find the latest newsletter.

ANU Department of Psychology Survey Years 7-12
Merici has been asked to assist the ANU and the Department of Psychology with their research into improving outcomes for young people and their mental health. They have asked us to participate in the following survey. We would encourage your daughters to participate in this valuable research and encourage you to assist them with their responses as it may open up some meaningful dialogue between you. There is no obligation to complete the survey. However we do thank you for your willingness to participate. Please follow the link https://anupsych.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9YOwEta0rVbCkt.

Elite Competitors Program (Years 7-10) – Applications due Friday 19 February
All students wishing to apply for the Elite Competitors Program are reminded to download and submit their applications and supporting documents to Mrs Megan Keogh, Head of Junior School by Friday 19 February. Applications and scanned documents can also be emailed directly to megan.keogh@merici.act.edu.au Please follow the link http://tinyurl.com/j2pyqti to find the application form.

International Women’s Day Dinner – Wednesday 9 March (6.00pm)
A special dinner to celebrate International Women’s Day. The dinner will be held on Wednesday 9 March in the restaurant with guest keynote speaker, Amy Coombe. Please follow the link http://tinyurl.com/jywac74 to find more information and an invitation extended to all our community members.

Claim the Date – Annual Community BBQ– Wednesday 24 February (5.00pm-6.30pm)
In Week 4 we will gather as a full school community for the new Annual College BBQ (this will replace the House Soirees of past years) on Wednesday 24 February. Please advise Ros Parisi, email ros.parisi@merici.act.edu.au or telephone 6243 4178 by Friday 19 February if you are attending to assist with catering.

YEAR 7, 8 and 9 NEWS

Year 7 Camp
The Year 7 camp will run for 3 days and two nights, with one night staying at Kianinny Cabins, Tathra, and the other night in tents in the Mimosa Rocks National Park. The camp will take place from Wednesday, 16 March until Friday 18 March. Please follow the link http://tinyurl.com/gnj4sxr to find more information and the consent form. Please note that the consent form needs to be returned ASAP before Monday 29 February.

Camp T-shirts: Students are also reminded to try on the sample size t-shirts in Student Services also before Friday 29 February to ensure the correct size is ordered for camp.

Follow us on @MericiC, @MericiSport, @MericiCanberra, @MericiMusic
YEAR 11 AND 12 NEWS

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 your 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/zzaw5nh to find all relative information.

ANU Extension Programme – Applications due Sunday 14 February
Attached is some information about the ANU Extension Programme. The programme allows students to study a course from a selection at the ANU throughout years 11 and 12. They usual run in the afternoon/evening once a week on the ANU campus.

Results achieved the ANU extension course can count as a minor towards an ATAR for those students undertaking a tertiary package. Our expectation is that if you choose to study an ANU extension course it is in addition to your normal package of study at Merici.

The deadline for applying is very tight with applications due on Sunday 14 February, 2016. There is more information in the flyer at http://tinyurl.com/jeff6mq. (Please note that the ANU have not updated 2015 to 2016 in some places in the flyer.)

Year 12 QCS Testing – Thursday 18 February
As part of the preparation for the ACT Skills Test (AST) in September 2016, the Year 12 tertiary cohort will be undertaking a Queensland Core Skills Test trial (QCS) on Thursday 18 February. The Queensland and ACT senior secondary systems use similar tests to scale and moderation across schools. The two states use each other’s school to trial these tests under exam conditions. The QCS Test is an opportunity for Merici’s tertiary students to undertake a formal trial prior to the AST.

CAREERS NEWS
Please follow the link http://tinyurl.com/ocmazvk to find the latest Careers Newsletter and information on CIT Information and Enrolment sessions and Charles Sturt University My Day.

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

Co-curricular Sporting Teams and Events
Merici College offers many opportunities for our girls to participate in co-curricular sporting teams and events outside of school hours. These include:

Marist/Merici Sailing Club – this club sails every Monday afternoon from 4-7pm at the YMCA sailing club in Yarralumla during terms 1 and 4.

Merici College Snowsports – this club competes in the Southern NSW / ACT schools events. For more information please contact diana.davis@merici.act.edu.au

Merici College Waterpolo – this club plays on Friday nights at the AIS in the winter competition during terms 2 and 3. Contact gerard.ryan@merici.act.edu.au for more information.

Merici College Rowing – Merici girls have the chance to row with Capital Lakes Rowing club. New girls join once they have completed a learn-to-row course which are usually held in term 3.
Contact [catherine.bowyer@gmail.com](mailto:catherine.bowyer@gmail.com) for further information.

Merici College Futsal – Merici girls have formed teams that play in the North Canberra Futsal competition on Friday nights in terms 4 and 1. More information will come from [peita.claire.fothergill@merici.act.edu.au](mailto:peita.claire.fothergill@merici.act.edu.au) in term 3.

Merici College Fitness Club – runs sessions at the College on Wednesday mornings from 7.30am starting March 2. More information will be sent to the girls as this approaches.

Merici College Basketball Club – currently the club is inactive but we would love to have teams play in the Basketball ACT competitions played on Sundays at Belconnen and Tuggeranong stadiums. The next competition begins term 2 but we need to have expressions of interest well in advance to see if this is going to be viable. If your daughter would like to play send me an email at [andrew.blakey@merici.act.edu.au](mailto:andrew.blakey@merici.act.edu.au)

Merici College Volleyball Club – this club participates in the Volleyball ACT Open League played Tuesday nights at Lyneham Indoor Hockey centre. More information is on the sport page of Moodle as are the registration forms for the upcoming season. Contact [andrew.blakey@merici.act.edu.au](mailto:andrew.blakey@merici.act.edu.au) for more information.

Merici College Hockey Club – this club participates in the Hockey ACT winter competition on Friday nights for Under 15s and Saturday morning for Under 18s during terms 2 and 3 at Lyneham and Tuggeranong hockey centres. More information is available from Mr Mark Chifley at [mark.chifley@merici.act.edu.au](mailto:mark.chifley@merici.act.edu.au)

Merici College Netball Club – this club participates in the North Canberra Netball competition on Saturdays at Lyneham and Charnwood netball courts. More information is on the sport page of Moodle as are the registration forms for the upcoming season. Contact the Netball Committee at [mericinnetball@gmail.com](mailto:mericinnetball@gmail.com) for further information.


Please contact Andrew Blakey, Merici College Sports Facilitator on telephone 6243 4118 or 0427 176 534, [andrew.blakey@merici.act.edu.au](mailto:andrew.blakey@merici.act.edu.au) for any further queries.

For all other co-curricular College activities, stay tuned for details of the Activities Expo which will be held in Week 4.

**Merici Netball Club**

It is time again to think about being involved in Merici Netball. For all students interested in playing/umpiring or coaching for the Merici Netball Club this year there is a new registration process. Netball Australia has launched a [NEW online system](https://moodle.merici.act.edu.au/course/view.php?id=1235) – mynetball for all netball registrations, **Merici Netball players/umpires/coaches registrations** need to be completed through this [ONLINE system](https://moodle.merici.act.edu.au/course/view.php?id=1235). Registrations for Merici will be open Monday 8th February.


Merici Netball Grading dates are:
- Saturday 20th February 12noon till 5pm in the College Gym (Year 7-9)
- Tuesday 23rd February 3.30pm-5.30pm in the College Gym (Years 7-9)
- Thursday 25th February 3.30-5.30pm in the Gym (TBC) (Year 10-12 only)

It is highly recommended to attend all the relevant grading days.
2016 Winter Netball season
The North Canberra Netball Association (NCNA) season commences on 19 March, 2016 with three weeks of compulsory grading matches. The grading dates are:

- 19 March, 2016
- 2 April, 2016
- 9 April, 2016

Courts at both Lyneham and Charnwood will be used for grading. Cadets (Years 10-12) will be graded at Charnwood, Intermediate (Years 7-9) teams will be graded at Lyneham.

Round 1 commences the first week back for Term 2 on Saturday 30th April. The competition involves 14 rounds to be played over 12 weeks. Matches will be played across both the Lyneham and Charnwood venues and nominated divisions will play rounds consecutively at the same venue for half a season and swap venues for the second half of the season.

If you have any questions please contact the Merici Netball Committee on mericinetball@gmail.com

MUSIC NEWS

C4 Combined Catholic Colleges Concert – Thursday 10 March
The C4 Combined Catholic Colleges Concert will be held in Catholic Schools Week on Thursday 10 March 2016. This year the performance will be held at the Canberra Theatre. Merici will be hosting this event. In previous years, the concert has featured a jazz band, concert band, and concert choir. In 2016 dance will also be represented at the concert. In addition to dance being added to the concert, there will be a commissioned work that draws together the combined talents of the musicians, singers and dancers.

Rehearsals for the concert will be held on the following dates:
- Tuesday 16 February - All Day Rehearsal at Merici College
- Wednesday 9 March - All day Rehearsal at Merici College
- Thursday 10 March - Tech Run & Dress Rehearsal - Canberra Theatre
- Thursday 10 March - Performance - 7:00pm

More information will be distributed to families on ticketing as arrangements are finalised.

DEFENCE NEWS

Australian Air Force Cadets 2016 Enrolments
The Australian Air Force Cadets is one of the premier youth organisations in Australia with a focus on Aviation. At 315SQN we are now taking enrolments for our first intake of 2016 for students between the ages of 13-17 years of age who have an interest in Aviation. Recruiting sessions are being held at the Squadron which is situated at HMAS Harman on the following dates:
- 9 February and 16 February commencing at 6.30pm; and
- 13 February commencing at 8.30am.

Any interested persons should send their details to the following email 315sqnaafc@gmail.com. Please follow the link http://tinyurl.com/z7c7k8d to find more information.

MERICI IT NEWS Q AND A

Question: Is it okay for my daughter’s laptop to use more than one web browser?
Response: Yes, in fact we are finding that just one browser will not run everything on all websites. When a student goes to a website that won’t display properly, it is easiest to use the second web browser. Some of the more popular web browsers include Internet Explorer, Safari, Fire Fox and Chrome.
iC NEWS
Welcome to 2016. We are open and ready for students new and returning to come and borrow resources. We are open Monday – Thursday 8.30am – 5.00pm (closed Monday recess) and Friday 8.30 to 4.00pm. Students are welcome in the iC before and after school for quiet reading and study. Students can borrow up to ten books at a time and the loan period for books is two weeks, we do appreciate the prompt return of resources. We look forward to seeing the students in the iC in the coming weeks.
Happy Reading!
iC Staff

SRC AND SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS

St Vincent de Paul Door Knock Appeal – Wednesday 17 February (4.30pm-5.30pm)
If you would like to take part in the Doorknock this year, please come to a short Expression of Interest meeting in the Penola Flexi this Friday 5 February at recess.

Social Justice: DonateLife Walk: Wednesday 24 February
On Wednesday 24 February students and their families are invited to take part in the DonateLife Walk which is being held for the tenth year here in Canberra. The purpose of the walk is to promote increased organ and tissue donation. One donor can transform the lives of up to 10 people and significantly improve the lives of many more.

This event is organised by Gift of Life and sponsored by the Australian Government’s Organ and Tissue Authority which promotes the national reform program in this sector.

Event Details:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Wednesday 24 February 2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Location and time</td>
<td>6:30am - 8:30am at Regatta Point, Lake Burley Griffin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transport</td>
<td>Students are expected to arrange their own transport to and from the event.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost</td>
<td>FREE with a complimentary breakfast and t-shirt, to be provided on the morning of the event.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Who’s invited</td>
<td>Students and their families, friends and pets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact</td>
<td>Sonia Conte 0428 661507</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Participants are asked to meet at 6.30am under the flagpole on Regatta Point Hill. The bridge-to-bridge walk begins at 7.00am sharp and will be followed by a free breakfast organised by the Lions Club of Belconnen. Students will then be expected to make their own way back to school by 8.30am.

If you are interested in attending this event, please come to a meeting on Wednesday 10 February (Week 2) in the Penola Flexi at 1.05 pm to sign up and get a permission note. For more information please contact SRC and Social Justice Facilitator, Sonia Conte (Sonia.Conte@merici.act.edu.au).

CO-CURRICULAR NEWS

Activities Expo – Friday 26 February (1.00pm-1.40pm)
The Activities Expo which will be held in Week 4 on Friday 26 February at lunch time for all students. The Expo provides students with the opportunity to explore and sign up for Merici’s range of co-curricular activities. The activities on show range from cultural activities such as music, Book Club to sporting activities. More information will be emailed to parents in the coming week.
Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award Hikes #1 – Friday 19 February – Sunday 21 February
The Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award Hikes will be held on 19-21 February and 4-6 March. This hike in Kosciuszko National Park is for students in years 10-12 who are completing their Bronze or Silver awards. We leave from school on Friday afternoon and return to Merici at 5:00pm on Sunday afternoon. If you are interested in attending please complete the permission note at http://tinyurl.com/zl8vxhm and return to Mr Rodda. If you have any questions please contact David Rodda, email david.rodda@merici.act.edu.au.

Merici Dance Troupe – Saturday 13 February (10.30am)
Our Dance Troupe will be performing at the Multicultural Festival on Saturday 13 February at 10.30am at Stage 2 (Petrie/Bunda Streets). All welcome to come along and support our dancers.

CONGRATULATIONS

Australian Figure Skating Championships 2015
Congratulations to Monique Lawrence who competed in the 2015 Australian Figure Skating Championships held at the Penrith Ice Palace in December 2015. Monique was placed 18th in her division; this made her 18th in Australia and New Zealand. Monique has also been invited to skate in Singapore at their Nationals in April 23-24 and Monique hopes to place in the top 5. We wish Monique all the best as she prepares for her next competition.

WANT TO SHARE?
We love to hear about your amazing daughters and their achievements. Feel free to connect with us to share any good news by sending an email to Ros Parisi, ros.parisi@merici.act.edu.au.

UPCOMING EVENTS (Term 1 Week 4)

Sport and Recreation Camp – Monday 22 February
DonateLife Walk – Tuesday 23 February (6.30am)
Catch up Photo Day – Wednesday 24 February
Senior Fashion Excursion – Wednesday 24 February – Friday 26 February
College Community Welcome BBQ – Wednesday 24 February
College Beach Volleyball – Friday 26 February
Activities Expo – Friday 26 February (1.00pm-1.40pm)