

# WHAT'S ON AT MERICI #fidelitas #merici60

Term 1 Weeks 4 and 5 (Monday 25 February – 10 March)



## WHOLE SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

### Tullow House Day (Monday 25 February)

Tullow House will celebrate its House Day on Monday 25 February. For more information please contact Laura Sheehan, House Coordinator, [laura.sheehan@merici.act.edu.au](mailto:laura.sheehan@merici.act.edu.au).

### Opening School Mass (Tuesday 26 February 11.10am)

On Tuesday 26 February we will be celebrating our Opening College Mass commencing at 11.10am in the auditorium. All parents, family members and friends are invited to attend this very special celebration. A light lunch will be provided at the conclusion of the Mass. Please rsvp your attendance to [ros.parisi@merici.act.edu.au](mailto:ros.parisi@merici.act.edu.au) by Friday 22 February.

### Bridge Restaurant (Wednesday 27 February 12.30pm)

The Bridge Restaurant will be open for lunch on Wednesday 27 February from 12.30pm – 1.30pm. Online bookings available at [www.merici.college](http://www.merici.college) or telephone 6243 4110.

### Moderation Day #1 Pupil Free Day (Tuesday 5 March)

Please note that Year 7-10 students will have a Pupil Free Day on Tuesday 5 March. Year 11 and Year 12 students are required to attend an AST Practice.

### Ash Wednesday (Wednesday 6 March)

Ash Wednesday is the first day of the season of Lent. On Wednesday blessed ashes will be marked on our foreheads in the form of a cross. The smudge mark made by the ashes is a visible reminder of the commitment we enter into during Lent and of the forgiveness and strength which is the gift of Jesus to each of us.

During the season of Lent we are challenged to reconcile ourselves to God. But the place to begin is to reconcile ourselves with one another. We need to fast. Perhaps we will be fasting from the hurts and grudges we bear against one another, the anger we allow to simmer away under our false smiles, the rumours we allow to go round and round, the finger-pointing we participate in, the inability to love ourselves and each other with forgiveness. We are encouraged to forgive ourselves, to forgive one another and to accept God's forgiveness in our lives so that we may live peacefully.

As members of the Merici College community we commit to raise money for Caritas Project Compassion and offer hope to the millions of families who fight for justice, peace and survival every single day. It is an ongoing demonstration of the faith, love and generosity of our Catholic congregation, all in the name of justice and peace.

## MERICI COLLEGE

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### Distribution of Ashes:

Staff (parents and students welcome) - Chapel at 8.25am.

Students - PC time House meetings in the morning.

Recess - for all those yet to receive their ashes.

### Co-curricular Activities Expo (Thursday 7 March 12.44pm)

Merici offers a wide range of sporting, cultural, community service, creative and outdoor activities for students. All students are encouraged to become involved in these activities. A program of social and pastoral events is also provided to strengthen the community and house spirit within the college.

An Activities Expo will be held on Thursday 7 March at lunch time which provides students with the opportunity to investigate and enrol in any of the activities. There will be three areas where information stalls will be set up; the Gym, Old Quad and New Quad and activity facilitators will be present to answer any questions that students may have.

This year the following activities are offered at Merici:

Cross Age Tutoring	Sarah Cusack <a href="mailto:Sarah.cusack@merici.act.edu.au">Sarah.cusack@merici.act.edu.au</a>
Debating	Renee Taylor <a href="mailto:Renee.taylor@merici.act.edu.au">Renee.taylor@merici.act.edu.au</a>
Sew for Community	Corinne Preston <a href="mailto:Corinne.preston@merici.act.edu.au">Corinne.preston@merici.act.edu.au</a>
Social Justice	Amy Connellan <a href="mailto:Amy.connellan@merici.act.edu.au">Amy.connellan@merici.act.edu.au</a>
Angela's Angels	Amy Connellan <a href="mailto:Amy.connellan@merici.act.edu.au">Amy.connellan@merici.act.edu.au</a>
SRC	Virginia McLeod <a href="mailto:Virginia.mcleod@merici.act.edu.au">Virginia.mcleod@merici.act.edu.au</a>
Merici Book Club Cosy Café Digital Detox, Chess Club	Ann Blakey <a href="mailto:Ann.blakey@merici.act.edu.au">Ann.blakey@merici.act.edu.au</a>
Gaming Group	Oliver Barlow <a href="mailto:Oliver.barlow@merici.act.edu.au">Oliver.barlow@merici.act.edu.au</a>
Spotlight Crew	Jennifer Wright <a href="mailto:Jennifer.wright@merici.act.edu.au">Jennifer.wright@merici.act.edu.au</a>
Art Club	Liz Igoe-Taylor <a href="mailto:Liz.igoe-taylor@merici.act.edu.au">Liz.igoe-taylor@merici.act.edu.au</a>
Vocal Group	Clare Freeman <a href="mailto:Clare.freeman@merici.act.edu.au">Clare.freeman@merici.act.edu.au</a>
Dance Troupe	Laura Pearce, <a href="mailto:laura.pearce@merici.act.edu.au">laura.pearce@merici.act.edu.au</a>
Music (Beginner Strings, String Ensemble, Jazz Band, Senior Band, Vocal Group, Junior Band)	Beth Way, <a href="mailto:beth.way@merici.act.edu.au">beth.way@merici.act.edu.au</a>
Sustainability at Merici (SAM)	Felicity Maher, <a href="mailto:felicity.maher@merici.act.edu.au">felicity.maher@merici.act.edu.au</a>
Narragunnawali	Jennifer Wright, <a href="mailto:Jennifer.wright@merici.act.edu.au">Jennifer.wright@merici.act.edu.au</a>
Basketball, Netball, Volleyball, Rowing, Hockey, AFL	Andrew Blakey, <a href="mailto:Andrew.blakey@merici.act.edu.au">Andrew.blakey@merici.act.edu.au</a>
Futsal	PC Fothergill, <a href="mailto:Peita-Claire.Fothergill@merici.act.edu.au">Peita-Claire.Fothergill@merici.act.edu.au</a>
Fitness Club	Natalie Fairfax, <a href="mailto:natalie.fairfax@merici.act.edu.au">natalie.fairfax@merici.act.edu.au</a>
Snowsports	Diana Davis/Adrian Heim, <a href="mailto:Diana.davis@merici.act.edu.au">Diana.davis@merici.act.edu.au</a> , <a href="mailto:Adrian.heim@merici.act.edu.au">Adrian.heim@merici.act.edu.au</a>

Duke of Edinburgh	David Rodda, <a href="mailto:dukeofed.merici@gmail.com">dukeofed.merici@gmail.com</a>
Marist/Merici Sailing Club	Jennifer Medd, <a href="mailto:Jennifer.Medd@merici.act.edu.au">Jennifer.Medd@merici.act.edu.au</a>
Equestrian	Susan Anderson, <a href="mailto:susan@merici.act.edu.au">susan@merici.act.edu.au</a>
Mindfulness Circle	Gai Unsworth, <a href="mailto:Gayatri.Unsworth@merici.act.edu.au">Gayatri.Unsworth@merici.act.edu.au</a>

### International Women's Day Cocktail Party (Thursday 7 March 5.00pm-7.00pm)

As part of celebrations for International Women's Day #BalanceForBetter this year, Merici College is hosting a cocktail party with guest speaker Caitlin Figueiredo. Caitlin is a proud multicultural Australian, social entrepreneur, activist, and Merici Alumni. She sits on three United Nations Task Forces with her work spanning five continents. At 20 years old, Caitlin was named one of Australia's 100 Most Influential Women and an Obama White House Changemaker for Gender Equality by the President and Michelle Obama. Caitlin represents 4.3 million young Australians as a Board Director of the Australian Youth Affairs Coalition, and in partnership with UN Women founded Jasiri Australia, a youth led movement on a mission to build a generation of fearless women with the skills, support, and resilience to lead change. Caitlin was included on the Forbes 30 Under 30 list for organising the world's largest Girls Takeover Parliament Program with the Federal Parliament to promote democracy and increase female representation. Most recently Caitlin was named ACT Young Woman of the Year and a 2018 Queen's Young Leader.

The event will be held on Thursday 7 March commencing at 5.00pm, cost \$40 pp (canapes and refreshments) prepared by Hospitality Students.

RSVP and Payment: Friday 1 March, [ros.parisi@merici.act.edu.au](mailto:ros.parisi@merici.act.edu.au), telephone 6243 4178. Please indicate special dietary requirements. PAYMENT ESSENTIAL WITH RSVP - [Credit Card Authority](#) or cash payment to Finance Office. Please follow the link <http://merici.college/go/internat-womens-day> to find an information flyer.

### Parent Online Advice February 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-feb> to find the latest special advice regarding TWITCH and LOOK.

## YEARS 7, 8 AND 9 NEWS

### Years 7 and 8 International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme Assessment and Reporting Workshop (Monday 25 February 6-7pm)

Come and spend an hour with us to find out how the IB trial MYP has changed our approach to assessment at Merici. This session will provide an overview of the MYP philosophy, focusing on concept-based learning and how we are applying the MYP framework at our college, including an explanation of the new rubrics and how assessment tasks will be structured.

You are invited to attend with your daughters and engage with a hands-on workshop and information session commencing at 6.00pm and concluding at 7.00pm to be held in the CRLC.

Please rsvp to Ros Parisi at [ros.parisi@merici.act.edu.au](mailto:ros.parisi@merici.act.edu.au) stating the number of people who will attend. Information will be available via our website after the evening to those families unable to attend.

### **Years 7 Parents "Girl Talk with Patricia Falcetta (Monday 4 March 5.30pm-6.30pm)**

Year 7 parents and carers are invited to a "Girl Talk - Positive Menstrual Health" presented by Patricia Falcetta. As a Positive Menstrual Health Educator, Patricia guides children and families through the challenges of life. She works with both the parent and the child to achieve the best possible outcomes for the child within an educational and family. Patricia has a Diploma in Positive Psychology and recognises how important it is to empower our young women, and the communities that support them, to feel comfortable, happy and vibrant in their own skin.

The presentation will be held on Monday 4 March 5.30pm-6.30pm in the auditorium. Please note that this presentation is for parents/carers only. Please rsvp to [ros.parisi@merici.act.edu.au](mailto:ros.parisi@merici.act.edu.au) by Friday 1 March.

For more information on the presentation,  
<https://sociallivingsolutions.com.au/services/celebration-day-for-girls/>.

## **YEARS 10, 11 AND 12 NEWS**

### **Merici School Counsellors 2019**

The student school counsellors for this year are Maddison and Fiona Spencer. Maddison is a social worker and Fiona is a registered Psychologist. Fiona has worked with children and young people for many years over her career with more recent work in the ACT Education Department, Canberra Psychology Centre for Children and Families and more her own private practice.

Maddison is entering her second year working at Merici and is excited to be back and working with the students, family, carers and staff of the Merici community. Prior to this Maddison worked in roles in adult and youth mental health and working with family units in need of support.

Both Maddison and Fiona are here to help students with mental health concerns including anxiety, depression, relationships and stress. If any student would like to make an appointment or for any more information please send an email to [counsellors@merici.act.edu.au](mailto:counsellors@merici.act.edu.au). Maddison and Fiona are at the school Monday – Friday, 9:00am – 3:30pm and are located at the end of the Penola corridors, at the top of the stairs and near a set of lockers.

## MATHEMATICS

### STEM @ Merici Semester 1

We are very excited to provide students with a wide range of support and enrichment activities this Semester, as well as an exciting competition. Please follow the link <https://merici.news/news/stem-merici-semester-1> to find lots of wonderful activities and a great competition that students can sign up for.

## MISSION AND COMMUNITY

### Vinnies Doorknock Appeal (Thursday 28 February 4pm-6.45pm)

The Vinnies Doorknock Appeal will be held on Thursday 28 February from 4,00pm until 6.45pm. Students participating in the doorknock are required to wear full school uniform and will meet at 4:00pm in the New Quad. They will be provided with afternoon tea. The Doorknock will take place in Campbell and South Ainslie and senior students will be paired with junior students. Students will be transported by school bus to Campbell or walk to South Ainslie.

It would be greatly appreciated if you could please arrange to collect your daughter from the front of the College at 6:45pm. Please follow the link <http://merici.college/go/vinnies-doorknock> to find the permission note which needs to be returned to Ms Amy Connellan by Monday 25 February in the Serviam Centre.

### 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.

### 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.

**From Camps International:**

*“Cambodia is a spectacular natural beauty, filled with cultural sites and captivating people. Visit ancient historic sites such as the iconic Angkor Wat temple – the largest religious monument in the world, and the spectacular jungle temple of Ta Prohm. During your life-enhancing school expedition you’ll experience the energetic hustle and bustle of the Siem Reap Night Markets and gain a new perspective on life as you explore the recent history of Cambodia at the Killing Fields and S21 Prison. It’s not just about exploring – it’s about making an impact which is achieved through community development initiatives; from building schools facilities, to helping individual families building a house or a pumping water well. You will become a local tradesman - cement mixing, brick laying, form work or even finishing off the structure with some colourful and bright paint!”*

*We also get involved with environmental and conservation projects, you could find yourselves gardening in the community jungle garden, to planting flowers at a local school! We wouldn’t want you to miss out on playing with the children, so we help out with afterschool initiatives from reading books, helping complete homework or playing games and sports. This will certainly be an experience you will never forget and a chance for students to develop their own skills and confidence, whilst helping others.”*



We are excited to be welcoming our Queensland representative, Sheriece from Camps International to present this amazing opportunity to the students at assembly and at the Parent’s Presentation Evening on Wednesday 27 March at 6.00pm, so save the date!

**Year 11 and 12 CSYMA YMES (Youth Ministry Equipping School)**

Year 11 and 12 students interested in leadership and Youth Ministry have an opportunity to attend the YMES (Youth Ministry Equipping School) and LEAD Conference (one event this year instead of two). This is a great opportunity for student leaders from our Archdiocese to come together for a key Archdiocesan Youth Ministry event celebrating faith. The cost will be covered by Merici College and the Archdiocese. Please note that this is not a Merici College organised activity and will not be supervised by Merici College staff.

The YMES is going to have over 120 young Catholic leaders and youth ministers attend from the Oceania region as well as *Cardinal Soane Paita Mafi from Tonga* (one of the youngest Cardinals ever appointed by Pope Francis). This school launches the Youth Academy (ACU accredited) program which gives you an option of attaining 5 bonus ATAR points towards an ACU degree (contact Ms Connellan for more details)

The YMES begins on Thursday 28 February at 5.00pm and concludes on Sunday 3 March with a Mass. If students can attend for the majority of the weekend but not its entirety, this may still be ok, please ask your daughter(s) to contact Ms Connellan.

Please follow the link <http://merici.college/go/csyma-flyer> to find a flyer. Students have already received this information and have been asked to let Ms Connellan know by Friday 22 February if they are interested.

## CAREERS NEWS

To find the latest Careers Newsletter, please visit <https://www.mericicareers.com/>.

## SPORT

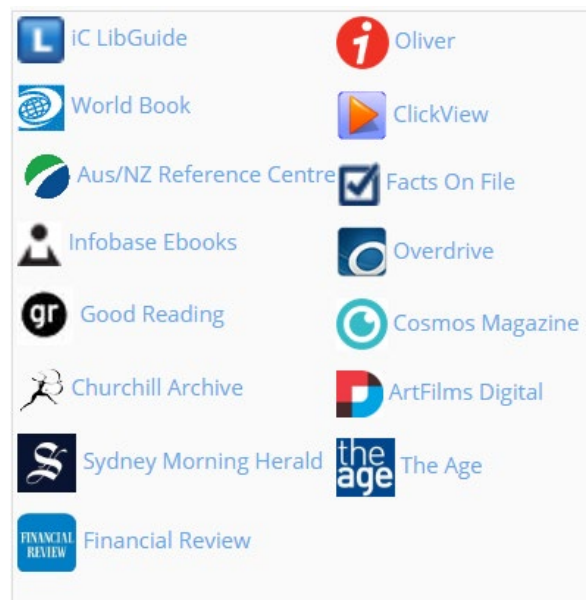
To stay updated on all sporting activities, please ensure your daughter checks our Sports Moodle page and/or Twitter @MericiSport.

## iC NEWS

During the upcoming weeks students will begin their assessments. It is not unusual for students to feel a little overwhelmed, not knowing how to start the task or where to find relevant and reliable information. The Information Centre (iC) has a wealth of quality information that can be accessed through books and online. Encourage your daughter to visit the iC to browse the shelves, as well as accessing the iC services online through Moodle for database access. The databases available include; the catalogue *Oliver*, Facts on File, World Book, ANZ Reference Centre and ClickView.

The iC staff are available before school, lunch and after school to assist individual students to find the best information to meet their research needs.

Yours in research,  
iC staff



## OTHER NEWS

### Young Music Society 50 Years Gala Afternoon (Sunday 17 March from 1.00pm)

YMS turns 50 this year and to celebrate they are having a gala afternoon full of music from a variety of ensembles. A gala afternoon has been organised to be held on Sunday 17 March from 1.00pm with concerts commencing at 2.00pm. The event will be held at the Albert Hall, Canberra. All welcome to attend.



### Girls' Brigade (gb)

**gb** is for girls in Primary and High School.

**gb** (Girls' Brigade) is an organisation for girls giving them the opportunity to have fun, learn skills and make friends while empowering them to become future leaders in Girls' Brigade, their local community and the world.

**gb** Companies meet weekly during school terms, and are each supported by a local church.



Local **gb** companies meet at:

- St Andrew's Presbyterian, Forrest on Tuesday nights
- Tuggeranong Uniting Church, Wanniasa on Tuesday nights
- Westminster Presbyterian Church, Belconnen on Tuesdays nights
- Northside Salvos, Gungahlin on Wednesday nights
- Tuggeranong Baptist Church, Kambah on Thursday nights
- Hughes Baptist Church, Hughes on Friday nights

For more information see <https://girlsbrigade.org.au/> or contact Elizabeth on 0457 517 524

## UPCOMING EVENTS (Term 1 Weeks 6 and 7)

- Canberra Day Public Holiday (Monday 11 March)
- Bridge Restaurant (Wednesday 13 March)
- Years 9-12 Leading Students to Successful Futures (Thursday 14 March)
- House Working Bees (Friday 15 March)
- Harmony Day – Hope Choir (Monday 18 March)
- Athletics Carnival (Tuesday 19 March)
- Talk and Tour (Wednesday 20 March)
- Year 12 English Orals (Thursday 21 March)
- Merici Community BBQ (Thursday 21 March 5.00pm)
- ACT Secondary Schools Squash (Friday 22 March)