



# WHAT'S ON NEWSLETTER

## Term 1 Weeks 4 and 5 (22 February-7 March)

### WHOLE SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

#### Nominations for the Merici College Board

The Merici College School Board performs a dual role: Governance of the College as well as the Parents & Friends Association of Merici. Due to a resignation, a position is now available on the Board. The appointment is for a 2-year period with an option to re-nominate for a further 2 periods, 6 years in total. For the Board to act in an effective manner we would especially like parents with experience in the Law to apply, although all parents are encouraged to nominate.

Any interested parent, who has the desire to commit to becoming part of the Merici College School Board, should contact the Returning Officer [lauren.frankham@merici.act.edu.au](mailto:lauren.frankham@merici.act.edu.au), to obtain the nomination form and details of the process involved.

Nominations close Monday 13 May 2021.

*Jackie Keighery – Board Chair*

#### Academic Awards (Monday 22 February)

Academic Awards for Semester 2, 2020 will be presented to students on Monday 22 February. The ceremony commences at 10am for students in Balgo, Brescia and Ningil. A second ceremony will commence at 12.15pm for students in Penola, Seiwa and Tullow. Parents of students receiving awards will be notified by email. Current Year 11 students received their awards at the Year 10 Awards Ceremony in late 2020. We look forward to seeing awardees from current Year 8, 9, 10 and 12 groups. This is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate your daughter's achievements from 2020. Year 7 students will receive awards for Semester 1 achievements at the beginning of Semester 2.

Car parking for the event is available in the car park next to the oval and the student car park off Henty Street. Parents need to follow parking signage on Wise Street, Henty Street and Helemon Street. Parents are urged NOT to park on nature strips, school crossing zones or in a dangerous position (i.e. too close to intersections) as parking inspectors may be out and about and parking infringements will be issued for any vehicle that does not comply with the above.

Light refreshments will be served after each ceremony in the New Quad at the conclusion of award ceremonies. RSVP essential to [ros.parisi@merici.act.edu.au](mailto:ros.parisi@merici.act.edu.au) as soon as possible.

#### Canteen Closure (Monday 22 February)

Please note that the Canteen will be closed all day on Monday due to catering demands for the Academic Awards.

### **Families New to the IB - International Baccalaureate (IB) Middle Years (MYP) Assessment and Reporting Workshop and Information Session (Tuesday 23 February 6pm-7:15pm)**

This workshop will be held in the auditorium on Tuesday 23rd February 6pm-7:15pm.

This session is aimed at families in Years 7-10 who are new to Merici College and would like to learn about the MYP and assessment criteria. This is a hands-on workshop and you are invited to attend with your daughters to engage in some activities that explain the MYP Assessment criteria, provide a brief overview of the MYP philosophy and explore how assessment tasks are used to make evidence-based judgements of learning.

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 or for more information about the IB at Merici please contact [natalie.fairfax@merici.act.edu.au](mailto:natalie.fairfax@merici.act.edu.au).

### **Bridge Restaurant (Wednesday 24 February 12.30pm)**

The Bridge Restaurant will be open for lunch on Wednesday 24 February 12.30pm. Please telephone our Hospitality team on 6243 4130 or email [bridge@merici.act.edu.au](mailto:bridge@merici.act.edu.au) to make your booking.

### **Art from the Heart Family Workshop (Wednesday 24 March 5.30pm-8.00pm)**

The Art Department will be holding a family 'Art from the Heart' workshop to give our families an opportunity to make a lasting memento of their year at Merici. The event will run on Wednesday 24 March commencing at 5.30pm in our Art Rooms. The workshop will conclude at approximately 8.00pm. Refreshments will be served. Siblings are most welcome to attend, as well as all staff members.

Please email [ros.parisi@merici.act.edu.au](mailto:ros.parisi@merici.act.edu.au) by Wednesday 17 March if you would like to participate (please indicate number of people and special dietary requirements). As numbers are limited, a confirmation email will be sent to you.

For more information, please contact Laura Pearce, Creative and Performing Arts Coordinator on email [laura.pearce@merici.act.edu.au](mailto:laura.pearce@merici.act.edu.au).

### **Moderation Day #1 (Tuesday 2 March)**

Please note that Year 7-10 students will have a Pupil Free Day on Tuesday 2 March. Year 11 and Year 12 students are required to attend an AST Practice.

### **International Women's Day Cocktail Party (Thursday 4 March 5-7pm)**

Please click [here](#) to find an invitation to our International Women's Day Celebration to be held at the College on Thursday 4 March 5pm-7pm. This year we are delighted to welcome Tara McClelland, ACT Young Australian of the Year 2021, as our guest speaker. We look forward to meeting Tara as she shares her story with our community.

This year's IWD theme is #ChooseToChallenge. A challenged world is an alert world. Individually, we're all responsible for our own thoughts and actions - all day, every day.

We can choose to challenge and call out gender bias and inequality. We can choose to seek out and celebrate women's achievements. Collectively, we can all help create an inclusive world. From challenge comes change.

Tickets can be purchased at <https://www.trybooking.com/BOUBD>.

Cost: \$20 Adults, \$12 students (canapes and drinks). Please pass this invitation onto your family and friends, all are welcome to attend.

### **Community BBQ (Thursday 18 March 5-7.30pm)**

An invitation is extended to all our community to come along to our Community BBQ on Thursday 18 March 2021 at 5pm-7.30pm. The BBQ is a great opportunity for our whole community to gather, parents to meet PC Teachers and for us to welcome new families to the College. Our six individual Houses will be very vibrant in their presence with House Coordinators, House Captains and Vice Captains coming along to meet and greet new families, welcoming them to our community.

Please note that for catering purposes, RSVPs are essential for this event before Wednesday 10 March. Unfortunately, no late RSVPs will be accepted. Please follow the link <https://www.trybooking.com/BOXHV> to let us know if you are available to join us.

### **Semester 1 2021 Assessment Calendars**

Please see the links below to find your daughter's assessment calendar for Semester 1. Students should use these calendars for planning out the due dates for all of their tasks. Tasks are identified by subject, task type and teacher. It is important to identify which subjects your daughter is studying as not all scheduled tasks will apply to her.

These tasks should be reflected in your daughters Unit Outlines for each subject, which are available on their course Moodle page.

If you have any questions, please contact your daughter's teacher or the Studies Coordinator of the subject.

[Year 12 IB Assessment Calendar Semester 1](#)

[Year 12 BSSS Assessment Calendar Semester 1](#)

[Year 11 BSSS Assessment Calendar Semester 1](#)

[Year 10 Assessment Calendar Semester 1](#)

[Year 9 Assessment Calendar Semester 1](#)

[Year 8 Assessment Calendar Semester 1](#)

[Year 7 Assessment Calendar Semester 1](#)

Calendars can also be found on our website [here](#).

### **Bike and Personal Belongings - Security**

If you ride a bicycle to school, a friendly reminder to ensure it is well secured with a good quality lock. Being a rather open, inner city site, whilst overall it is rare, sometimes we are visited by thieves and other unfriendly types. During the week, a staff member had occasion to escort a stranger off the property. Bicycles in particular are an easy target if not locked down. And please, definitely do not leave them here overnight. Recently a bike was stolen and unfortunately our insurance does not cover loss of personal items lost or stolen due to petty theft.

If you see a stranger on site, please notify a teacher or other staff member immediately.

## **Carparking**

Please be reminded that the staff carpark (first entry from Ipima Street into Wise Street) is for staff only and parents are requested to park in the carpark nearest to the oval on Wise Street.

## **Attendance Notification**

Please note that our preferred method of communication for student absence is email or SMS reply. A telephone call is no longer sufficient as all attendance must be stored digitally. Please contact **Student Services in the first instance** if your daughter is absent by email to [attendance@merici.act.edu.au](mailto:attendance@merici.act.edu.au) or reply to the SMS notification sent to you should your daughter be marked absent in Pastoral Care. If you do not use these electronic methods, a note explaining your daughter's absence is required upon your daughter's return to school.

Extended absences should be addressed to Kate Durham, Head of Junior School at [kate.durham@merici.act.edu.au](mailto:kate.durham@merici.act.edu.au) or Damien Nemeth, Head of Senior School at [damien.nemeth@merici.act.edu.au](mailto:damien.nemeth@merici.act.edu.au), please copy Student Services ([attendance@merici.act.edu.au](mailto:attendance@merici.act.edu.au)) in the email. Do not hesitate to copy Pastoral Care teachers or House Coordinators into email correspondence and any other information you wish to share about your child.

Absentee reports are periodically emailed to families to help ensure our records are accurate and up to date.

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

### **Year 7 Camp (Wednesday 10 March – Friday 12 March)**

The 2021 Merici College Year 7 Camp will be held in Tathra on the Far South Coast of New South Wales. The venue is Hobart Beach Campground, Bournda National Park. The camp will take place from Wednesday 10 – Friday 12 March, three days, and two nights. Please follow the link <http://merici.college/go/year7-camp> to find the permission for our Year 7 camp. Please return the permission note by Wednesday 24 February to Student Services, email [student.info@merici.act.edu.au](mailto:student.info@merici.act.edu.au).

### **Year 7s: Da Vinci Decathlon**

Each year, Merici College selects teams – one for each year group from Y7 to Y10 – to compete in the Da Vinci Decathlon. This is a day-long academic competition for teams of eight students, who work together to complete ten challenges, in English, Maths, Science, Engineering, Art&Poetry, Cartography, Codebreaking, General Knowledge, Creative Producers (drama) and a new historical challenge for this year, known as 'Legacy'.

Competition is hot among the Canberra schools, and Merici usually places well. The Canberra competition is hosted by Canberra Grammar, and this year will be held quite early – in Week 9 of Term 1.

We are now looking for keen Year 7s to form this year's team. You may be a good team member if you are talented in a couple of the challenge areas, are willing to learn new skills, are self-motivated and hard-working, and – importantly – work well in a team. You will also need to be available for some after-school training sessions in Weeks 5-8 of this term.

Please check your email for a message from Dr White, Science Teacher, with information on how to apply. You or your parents can also contact Dr White directly for more information, on [kathryn.white@merici.act.edu.au](mailto:kathryn.white@merici.act.edu.au) .

### **Year 7 Integrated Humanities Excursion to the National Museum of Australia (Wednesday 3 March)**

A visit to the National Museum has been arranged for Year 7 Integrated Humanities students on Wednesday 3 March 2021. The purpose of the excursion is to enable students to investigate and interpret historical sources of evidence, museum displays and Australian Indigenous history. Work completed on the day will inform the first assessment task for Integrated Humanities. Please click [here](#) to find the permission notes.

## **YEAR 10, 11 and 12 NEWS**

### **AST Practice (Tuesday 2 March)**

Please note that Year 11 and Year 12 students are required to attend an AST Practice on Tuesday 2 March (Moderation Day for Years 7-10).

## **CAREERS NEWS**

Please visit <https://www.mericicareers.com/> to find the latest Careers newsletter and information.

## **IB NEWS**

### **IB Diploma (Year 11 and 12) Key Dates**

<b>Year 11</b>	
EE and CAS Information Session	16 March
<b>Year 12</b>	
World Religion Paper 1 IB Exam	30 April
World Religion Paper 2 IB Exam	3 May

## **LANGUAGE NEWS**

### **Language Buddies Program (2021 Semester 1)**

The aim of the Language Buddies Programme is to provide extra assistance for students who are finding learning French, Italian or Chinese challenging. The program is available from students in Years 9, 10, 11 and 12 for students in the junior years. Language Buddies sessions take place on the following days:

- Mondays: Italian
- Tuesdays: French
- Fridays: Chinese

Students may meet at the above **lunch time (12:54pm-1:24pm) at Penola Flex**. If the above time does not work, students can work out alternative meeting time. Tutoring takes place ONCE a week. **The program will begin in Term 1, Week 4.**

If you would like your daughter to receive tutoring, please complete the following form together with your daughter, [Receive Language Tutoring Form](#)

If your daughter would like to become a tutor, please complete the form here, [Application to be a Language Tutor](#).

Please indicate on the form if you are open to your daughter having language tutoring on Microsoft Teams.

Please email Mrs Jen Baines ([jen.baines@merici.act.edu.au](mailto:jen.baines@merici.act.edu.au)) should you need more information or clarification.

## MISSION AND COMMUNITY NEWS

### DonateLife Walk 2021 (Wednesday 24 February 7.15am-8.30am)

On Wednesday 24 February Merici College students and staff will participate in our DonateLife Walk (<https://www.giftoflife.asn.au/>) at the College as part of the virtual walk being held this year due to COVID-19 restrictions. Please follow the link <http://merici.college/go/donatelife-permission> to find the permission note. Additional information can be found [here](#). Register now and join us, together with Canberra FM's Hit 104.7 Ned and Josh who will be broadcasting their breakfast live from Merici College.

## SPORT NEWS

### Swimming and Athletics Carnivals

Please click [here](#) to find the permission note for both the Swimming and Athletics Carnivals, and their respective working bees. The carnivals are compulsory community events and all students are expected to attend. Please return the permission form by **Friday 26 February**. The form can be printed and returned to Student Services, [student.info@merici.act.edu.au](mailto:student.info@merici.act.edu.au).

Please follow the link <http://merici.college/go/covid-safety-plan> to find our COVID Safety Plan.

### Merici Netball

Registrations for the winter netball season close at midday on Friday 19 February. Once you have registered you will receive a link asking you to register for grading. You will need to complete this before attending the grading sessions scheduled for Saturday 20 and Wednesday 24 February. For further details, please refer to the notice that has been emailed to parents and students, or email [mericinetball@gmail.com](mailto:mericinetball@gmail.com).

### Merici Basketball

Registrations for the Winter Basketball season close on Friday 19 February. Please refer to the information sheet that was emailed to parents and students, or email [Jackie.males@merici.act.edu.au](mailto:Jackie.males@merici.act.edu.au)

### Merici and Canberra School of Tennis

A free Tennis Open Day will be held at Merici College from 3.30pm onwards on Friday 26 March. All levels of experience or inexperience welcome. Please refer to the link [here](#) for further details. Register your interest by emailing [info@csot.com.au](mailto:info@csot.com.au) or contact [Jackie.males@merici.act.edu.au](mailto:Jackie.males@merici.act.edu.au)

## Soccer

Weston Molonglo are seeking additional players to join their soccer team, which includes several Year 9 Merici girls. To express interest, or for more details, please contact Kelley Teagle [kelly\\_teagle@icloud.com](mailto:kelly_teagle@icloud.com).

## Interschool Gala Days

Interschool Gala days will be held in the next few weeks for Touch Football (4 March) and College Beach Volleyball (5 March). Please refer to Daily Notices for further details.

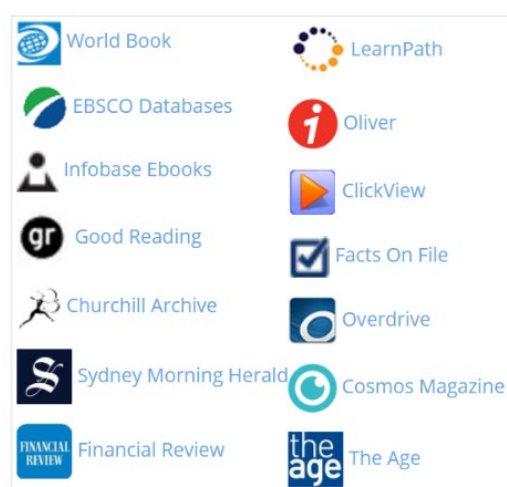
## iC NEWS

### Merici Moodle

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. Also, to access the iC services online through Moodle for the task specific LearnPath and database access. The databases available include; the catalogue *Oliver*, Facts on File, World Book, EBSCO Databases, 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

### Questacon – The National Science and Technology Centre

Questacon will be running the Student Training Program from March to September 2021. This Program provides students in year 11 and 12 with firsthand experience in various roles throughout Questacon, from developing science activities and making public presentations.

Who? Seeking Year 11 and 12 students in the ACT and surrounding regions, with varying backgrounds and interests in science and science communication.

Why? Successful completion of the Program counts as an 'R' unit for Year 12 certificate, students are eligible to be Volunteer Explainers at Questacon, and students receive professional guidance and training from Questacon staff.

How? Complete the attached nomination form, students then complete 12 weeks of training, learning and exploration of science communication, followed by 40 hours in Questacon galleries as science explainers.

Please click [here](#) to find an overview of the 2021 Student Training Program, which will run from March to September (Note: The order of evening session topics are still to be confirmed). Activities are held out of school hours and during school holidays. Students will complete a series of training modules in the first part of the Program, and in the second part, spend time in the galleries as science explainers.

### Free Webinars To Help You Protect Children Online – Council of Catholic School Parents

In partnership with the eSafety Commissioner, the Council of Catholic School Parents will be holding two free webinars to provide parents and carers with strategies to establish a safe online environment for their children.

The sessions will be presented by Greg Gebhart, one of Australia's leading online safety presenters. Greg has provided presentations to more than 800,000 participants at state, national and international events. For more information please visit <https://www.ccsp.catholic.edu.au/webinar> or contact Clare Dunstan [clare.dunstan@ccsp.catholic.edu.au](mailto:clare.dunstan@ccsp.catholic.edu.au).

### Girls Programming Network (GPN) event (Sunday 21 March)

What is GPN?

- The Girls Programming Network is a workshop series aimed at girls in Year 4-12.
- The GPN is a community of women and girls who are interested in computer science, programming and information technology.
- Workshops are run by GPN tutors - local women studying or working in IT in industry, academia and government. are topic based and tutors teach the girls how to solve fun programming projects. There is also food to eat, friends to make and other fun activities to be had!
- ASD has had a long-standing relationship with the Girls' Programming Network and supports the Canberra node of this fantastic program.
- The workshops are free and no prior coding experience is necessary!



**Girls' Programming Network**

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**Girls teaching girls how to code!**

GPN is a community of women and girls who are interested in computer science, programming and IT.  
Workshops are held for girls in Year 4-12, they are free and no prior coding experience is necessary!

**SUNDAY 21 MARCH**

Register here for more info and to find out when applications open: [canberragpn.github.io](http://canberragpn.github.io)

**ASD**  



## **UPCOMING EVENTS (Weeks 6 and 7)**

Canberra Day Public Holiday (Monday 8 March)

Swimming Carnival (Tuesday 8 March)

Bridge Restaurant (Wednesday 10 March 12.30pm)

Year 7 Camp (Wednesday 10 March-Friday 12 March)

Maths Pi Day (Monday 15 March – Tuesday 16 March)

Community BBQ (Thursday 18 March 5-7.30pm)