



WHAT'S ON NEWSLETTER

Term 1 Weeks 6 and 7 (8 March - 21 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, to obtain the nomination form and details of the process involved.

Nominations close Monday 13 May 2021.

Jackie Keighery – Board Chair

School Fees (due Friday 5 March)

This is a friendly reminder that Term 1 school fees are due for payment this Friday 5 March 2021. If you haven't already done so we would appreciate if could you please settle your account as soon as possible. This does not apply to those families who have direct debit arrangements in place. If you are experiencing any financial difficulties please contact our Fees Liaison Officer Jodi Wrenford at fees.office@merici.act.edu.au or call 6243 4108 to discuss the options that are available to you.

Public Holiday (Monday 8 March)

Monday 8 March is the Canberra Day Public Holiday.

Bridge Restaurant (Wednesdays 10 March and 24 March 12.30pm)

The Bridge Restaurant will be open for lunch on Wednesday 10 March and 24 March 12.30pm. Please telephone our Hospitality team on 6243 4130 or email bridge@merici.act.edu.au to make your booking.

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.

YEAR 7, 8 AND 9 NEWS

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

We are very much looking forward to the Year 7 Camp which is being 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.

The Camp is supervised by Merici staff and activities are undertaken by fully trained outdoor educators from Coastlife Adventures. Coastlife Adventures is a privately-owned Outdoor Education and Recreational Business established to provide safe, quality experiences to a large range of groups. In addition, a select number of the student Transition Team will accompany the Year 7 students and staff.

Students need to arrive at school at 7:00am on Wednesday for a 7.30am departure. They will assemble in the auditorium. Students will return at approximately 5.30pm on the Friday.

The Parent/information booklet which includes packing list please can be accessed here, <http://merici.college/go/year7-camp-book>. Students will need to supply their own morning tea and a packed lunch, and 2 x 1 litre water bottles for the first day. All other meals will be provided.

Please follow the link <http://merici.college/go/year7-camp> to find the permission for our Year 7 camp. Please return the permission note as soon as possible to Student Services, email student.info@merici.act.edu.au.

2021 Naplan testing:

ACT schools will participate in NAPLAN Online testing from 11-21 May 2021.

ACT schools undertaking NAPLAN Online this year will participate in a practice/familiarisation test between 22 March and 23 April 2021. 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.

NAPLAN Online allows for tailored testing. This means that students are presented with sets of questions based on their performance during the test. This model provides students with the opportunity to better demonstrate their range of literacy and numeracy skills and it is more engaging for students. Further information explaining tailored testing can be found at <https://bit.ly/2PgG7rL>.

If you have any questions or wish to discuss your son or daughter's participation in this event, please contact Kate Durham – Head of Junior School.

YEAR 10, 11 and 12 NEWS

Senior History Excursion to Sydney (Thursday 18 - Friday 19 March)

On Thursday 18 - Friday 19 March, Year 11 and 12 students taking Modern History, Ancient History and Theory of Knowledge will travel to Sydney for an overnight excursion to visit museums and for hands-on learning about archaeology. This promises to be both a fun experience and to help students excel in their assessment tasks. Permission notes have been distributed in class. (PUT PERMISSION NOTE HERE)

CAREERS NEWS

Please follow <http://merici.college/go/careers-newsletter> to find the latest Careers newsletter and information.

IB NEWS



Are you thinking of pursuing the IB Diploma in Years 11 and 12? Find out more at our online information session.



The session will explain the format of the IB Diploma, go through how the courses are structured and how it compares with our local curriculum BSSS model for senior study. There will be a presentation made by Natalie Fairfax, Head of IB and then time at the end for questions.

Zoom Meeting Details:

Merici College is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: IB Diploma Information Session

Time: Mar 23, 2021 06:00 PM Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88281942707?pwd=QWl1V3U5L2w1aVJkR2dhKzVwZ3pyZz09>

Meeting ID: 882 8194 2707

Passcode: 103083

IB DP – Year 12 Students

Key dates:

Event	Date
Stress Better Workshop – Eating for Success - What to eat when studying and preparing for exams	15 March period 2 Library
TOK / History Excursion to Sydney	18 – 19 March
TOK – Intensive Essay Question Workshop	24 March
World Religions IA Draft	11 March
Psychology IA Draft	30 March

MYP Parent Workshop Materials

Thank you to all families who attended the MYP Workshop on Assessment and Reporting last week. Please follow the links <http://merici.college/go/ibmyp-assessment-reporting> and <http://merici.college/go/ibmyp-assessment-booklet> of the materials that were used in the presentation. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Natalie.fairfax@merici.act.edu.au



My Personal Project Workshop

On Friday of Week 3, the Year 10s attended their third MYP Personal Project workshop. Students visited the library to hear Ms McNamara and Mrs Blakey discuss one of the key parts of their project: research. They were reminded about current resources available to them and the importance of collecting research from a wide variety of sources and ensuring they critically evaluate the sources gathered. At this stage of the process students will be conducting both primary and secondary research having determined a project goal. All research is to be documented in their Process Journal.

DEFENCE NEWS

Royal Australian Air Force celebrates 100 years as an independent service

On 31 March 2021, the Royal Australian Air Force will mark 100 years as an independent service. This is an important national milestone.

Air Force has established a public website: <http://airforce2021.airforce.gov.au/>. The website has information pertaining to commemorative events and a historical timeline.

The most significant commemoration event for Air Force will be a fly-past in Canberra by around 50 contemporary and historical aircraft on 31 March 2021. 2021 marks an important time to reflect on Air Force's contribution to Australia's national security.

CREATIVE AND PERFORMING ARTS NEWS

Art from the Heart Family Workshop (Wednesday 24 March 5.30pm-8.00pm FULLY BOOKED)
Additional Night (Wednesday 12 May)

The Art Department to be held on Wednesday 24 March is fully booked. Please note that an additional evening has been organised to be held on Wednesday 12 May. The workshop will commence at 5.30pm and conclude at approximately 8.00pm. Refreshments will be served. Unfortunately, due to limited capacity, siblings are not able to attend.

Please email ros.parisi@merici.act.edu.au by Wednesday 5 May if you would like to participate (please indicate number of people and special dietary requirements). For more information, please contact Laura Pearce, Creative and Performing Arts Coordinator on email laura.pearce@merici.act.edu.au.

'Dare to Dream' Art Display/Competition

Open to all students! Create an artwork that depicts the College theme: 'Dare to Dream'. All artworks will be displayed around the College and one lucky winner will have their work displayed on the wall in Mrs Masters office!



Your artwork can be any size (although Ms Masters does have a large space to fill!) and could be a drawing, painting, collage, photograph, etc etc). You can submit as many entries as you like. You can submit as an individual, PC group, Friendship group etc.

Get creative girls!!

'Art in Butt Out' Competition Year 8 students

'Art In Butt Out' is a competition open to students in Year 8. The competition is conducted by the AMA ACT's Tobacco Task Force.

Entries:

- Entry to the competition is free.
- Entrants must be Year 8 students studying in the ACT.
- **Entrants will design an anti-smoking advertisement targeted at their peers for use on milk bottles.**
- Entries must be the original work of the entrant and must never have been published or self-published in any format, print or electronic, excepting for the purposes of schoolwork or school publications.

Designs must meet the following guidelines:

- Be an original design by a student in Year 8 of secondary schooling.
- Be designed specifically for the Tobacco Task Force Competition. (Designs that are created for school assignments in conjunction with this competition are eligible).
- Send an anti-smoking message.
- Be designed to the following dimensions: 140mm x 60mm.
- Be designed using one colour + black and white.
- Be submitted as hard copy or electronically.
- Be in English or have English translation.

Designs not in accordance with the anti-smoking goals or that are deemed offensive will be disqualified.

Timeline:

- The competition will close on 14 May 2021.
- Winner will be announced in August 2021.
- It is anticipated that the winning advertisement will appear on “Canberra Milk” bottles between September and October 2021.

For further information, students please see Mrs Pearce, Bray or Ms Johnson.

MISSION AND COMMUNITY

Christian Service Learning Program (CSLP)

Earlier in the term, Year 7 students participated in an introduction session to the Merici College Christian Service Learning Program, Service and Action (IB MYP) and the launch of their first project, the *Year 7 Lenten Project*. This service project is to be completed during the period of Lent (Ash Wednesday to Easter), students will spend some time in their RE classes completing aspects of their booklets but will be required to also take these home to complete some activities and for parent / carer verification of completed service hours.

Year 7 Lenten Program

Students have been instructed 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 encouraged to complete these hours in their home, local neighbourhood or Merici College. If your daughter(s) is/are volunteering beyond the home and Merici College, please ensure you are aware of this and we advise parent supervision. We are encouraging your daughter(s) to complete their hours as much within the home as possible due to COVID-19.

Students are reminded to gradually complete their journals over the period of Lent; registering the hours in service and reflecting on the experience through responding to various questions. The completed hardcopy journal needs to be submitted to their relevant RE Teachers **by Tuesday 20 April** (Week 1, Term 2). If students have misplaced their journal they need to contact their Religious Education teacher.

Please contact Ms Amy Connellan, Head of Mission and Community at amy.connellan@merici.act.edu.au if you have any questions.

CHRISTIAN SERVICE LEARNING PROGRAM

Volunteering opportunity - Vinnies Dickson, Years 9-12

Vinnies is urgently seeking volunteers at the Dickson store, particularly during the week (this includes after school), Friday evenings and weekends.. Please contact Isla Smith, Dickson Centre Manager (Ph: 02 6234 7495 or email: dickson@svdp-cg.org.au | www.vinnies.org.au) if your daughter(s) is/are interested in volunteering. Volunteers must be 15 years or older. *This is not a Merici College organised or supervised activity. Please make an informed decision as parents / guardians regarding your daughter(s) volunteering in the community which considers ACT Health and other government advice in relation to COVID-19.*

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Donate Life – Gift of Life Walk

We would like to thank all our community for supporting the Gift of Life Inc. DonateLife Walk 2021. Please follow the link <https://youtu.be/D1GaGTxXWrc> to find our short video.

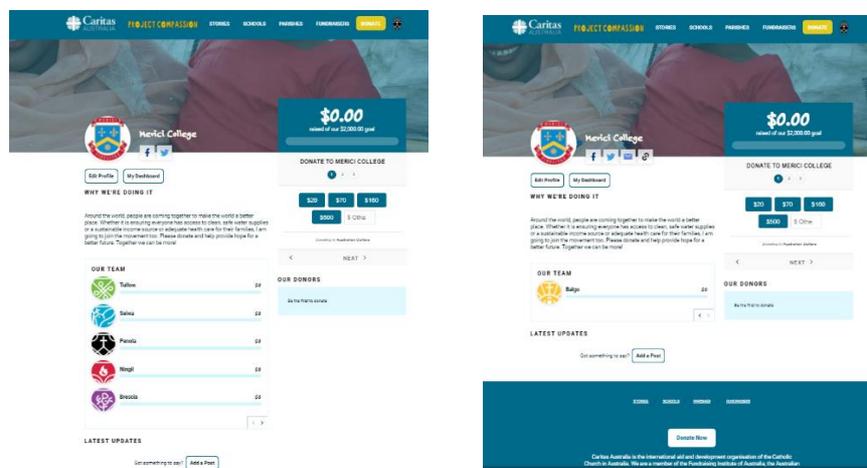
Project Compassion - supporting Caritas

"Aspire not to have more, but to be more." – Saint Oscar Romero

'This lent, join millions of Australians who want to end poverty and injustice in our world.' (Caritas Australia, 2021).

Merici College is once again supporting Caritas Australia's Project Compassion Lenten fundraising and awareness-raising appeal (Wednesday 17 Feb. - Wednesday 31 March). Starting on Ash Wednesday, students have been asked to donate their spare change.

This year, Merici College has its own fundraising page on Caritas website where students and families are invited to donate to their individual Houses <https://lent.caritas.org.au/t/mericicollege> (click on the arrow under the House at the bottom of the first page to take you to the next page). Students can also access QR codes for their individual House collections and are also invited to contribute cash to their individual Pastoral class Project Compassion collection box. Various activities and stalls will run during the period of Lent to also support Project Compassion. The Teachers vs Yr 12 Students Netball match this week saw the teachers take out the first win!!



Each Friday, ongoing House tallies will be displayed to students. College Cup points will be awarded after the final collection on Wednesday 31 March. The overall aim is for Merici College to support Caritas Australia's initiatives. Students are also viewing the weekly Project Compassion feature stories in RE lessons which raise awareness about the issues faced and highlight how Caritas Australia is supporting vulnerable people to develop their strengths and create change in their own communities.

Further information regarding Project Compassion can be found at: <https://www.caritas.org.au/> . If you have any questions regarding the Merici College Project Compassion campaign, please contact Amy Connellan, Head of Mission and Community at amy.connellan@merici.act.edu.au .

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 as soon as possible. The form can be printed and returned to Student Services, student.info!@merici.act.edu.au.

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

Merici College 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 or contact Jackie.males@merici.act.edu.au

iC NEWS

Week 6 will see the introduction of the lunchtime co-curricular activities. Book Club for Years 7 and 8 Thursday will be digital detox day where students are encouraged to get off devices and play board games, cards, puzzles, or colouring in. Chess Club will run weekly Tuesday even weeks and Wednesday.

The last few weeks, we have been working with classes to assist in research skills and searching tips. Students are encouraged to access the LearnPath's in Oliver, these are pathways to reliable and relevant information.

The Kids' Lit Quiz Canberra Heat will be held on the 7th May. This is a fun competition for students who love reading. Students must be 13 years old at 1 June, so only open to Years 7 and 8. They work in a team of four to answer quiz questions about authors, books and all things literature. Encourage your daughter to register their interest in being part of a team with Mrs Blakey.

Yours in all things library,
iC Staff

CO-CURRICULAR NEWS

2021 Da Vinci Decathlon

The final teams have been chosen for Merici's shot at the 2021 Da Vinci Decathlon. A massive thank you to all the students who applied – though applications were slow at the start, we ended up with many more students than we could fit in the teams, and it was very difficult to choose.

If you applied and were not selected, please don't lose heart. The teams are usually reselected each year and I would love to hear from you again in 2022 with another year's experience under your belt.

The teams are as follows:

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10
Eliza Bell	Grace Barber	Merryn Culhane	Keely Balind
Kashvi Budakoti	Zoe Crick	Hannah David-Hoole	Adele Choy
Alice Cobbin	Lucy Dunstan	Caelan Edghill	Matilda Hanley
Tamsin Gloag	Mellae Faber	Aryana Niyakan-Safy	Bella Loxley
Elizabeth Goldsworthy	Cate O'Rourke	Grace O'Mahoney	Rachael McKinnon
Tara Holmes	Rebecca Price	Olivia Scholten	Isabel Mercado
Hannah Morrison	Hannah Scott	Gabi Shoebridge	Emerson Whipp
Charlotte Price	Abby van Ballegooyen	Sofia White	Remy Yan

Please contact Dr White for further information, email Kathryn.white@merici.act.edu.au.

World Film Club

Starting in Week 6 this term, we will be opening a World Film Club. The purpose of this club is to give students the opportunity to watch films in a language other than English, with an emphasis (but not exclusively on) films in the languages we study in Merici College (Spanish, Chinese, Italian and French). These films will all be rated PG and, in general, available on Clickview, an online resource all students have access to.

The club will convene in C1/C2 lunch times every Friday. We will watch a film over two weeks at this time. We generally will not have enough time to complete the film, so students will be able to watch the end of the film at home on Clickview. This will enable us to show more films over the school term. All films will be PG rated, and we will advertise to parents the fortnights film in advance.

If your daughter is interested in this club, please email your permission to Mr Baines at gregory.baines@merici.act.edu.au.

OTHER NEWS

New food and farmers market in Braddon - Haig Park Village Markets

Canberra's newest community farmers and food market is now up and running not too far from our school in Braddon's beautiful Haig Park.

With a growing list of quality, local farmers and producers signed up to attend, the market is already hosting some of the region's best stallholders at the weekly event.

It's a lovely place to enjoy a picnic while picking up some fresh produce for the week and there is usually live music, face painting and giant bubbles among other exciting sights for children and adults alike so is a nice option to keep in mind for a family day out in our local area.

The new market launched on 7 February 2021 and is an ongoing weekly Sunday market open from 8am-2pm.

For further information, you can visit the website: www.haigparkvillagemarkets.com.au or, follow the market on social media: @haigparkvillagemarkets.

If you would like to ask specific questions or enquire about a stall, please contact organisers at Haig Park Village Markets directly via email: info@haigparkvillagemarkets.com.au.

Parentline

Parentline ACT continues to provide free telephone and face-to-face/Zoom counselling services and support to parents and caregivers despite difficulties in securing funding. Please save the date, Tuesday 9 March for the Hands Up for CBR Giving Day.

International Sports Camps

Please visit www.iscamps.com.au to find out more about great school holiday sports coaching camps.



SAVE THE DATE
CANBERRA!
Tuesday, March 9

parent line

Did you know that Parentline relies on the time of volunteers and successful fundraising to keep our doors open? You can support our free service that supports parents and carers of children of all ages through the Hands Up for CBR Giving Day on Tuesday March 9. Support our campaign at <https://giving.handsacrosscanberra.org.au/.../parentline-act>. Call us on 6287 3833 for free counselling and support.



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ACT 3 DAY CAMPS

NETBALL, SOCCER
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MERICI COLLEGE, BRADDON

AFL, BASKETBALL, RUGBY UNION
APRIL 12, 13, 14
RADFORD COLLEGE, BRUCE

Featuring special guests: Abby Cubillo and many more!

Call 1300 418 204 or visit iscamps.com.au for details

UPCOMING EVENTS (Weeks 8 and 9)

Bridge Restaurant (Wednesday 24 March 12.30pm)

Parent/Teacher/Student interviews (Monday 29 March and Wednesday 31 March)

Term 1 ends (Thursday 1 April)