WHAT’S ON AT MERICI
Term 1 Weeks 2 and 3 (10 February – 23 February)

WHOLE SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Principal’s Welcome
Please follow the link http://tiny.cc/fd9tax to find correspondence from our Principal, Mrs Loretta Wholley.

New and Returning Staff 2014
We welcome all new and returning students and families to a new school year. We would also like to welcome our new and returning staff members:

Returning Staff:
Catherine Amesbury (House Co-ordinator Seiwa, PE)
Oliver Barlow (Science)
Vicki Bridge (Science)
Kyla Firman (Maths, IH, RE)
Linda Thomas (Maths)
Sarah McRae (PE)

New Positions:
Lisa Melis (Acting Head of Mathematics)

New Staff:
Alex Acworth (Graphic Design/Photography)
Marcus Amann (RE)
Jen Baines (Mandarin)
Gabrielle Ball (Music/RE)
Mark Chifley (Co-curricular Co-ordinator/PE/Geography)
Amy Connellan (House Co-ordinator Tullow/RE)
Chin Fong (Maths)
Adrian Heim (Business Manager)
Robert Le Febvre (Psychology/History/Geography)
Steve Madsen (IT Facilitator)
Christiana Mickleburgh (IH/History/English)
Desmond Robbie (Maths)
Stephen Powell (English/History)

School Photo Day – Wednesday 12 February
All students will be given a photo envelope for school photos scheduled to be held Wednesday 12 February 2014. Payment details are outlined on the photo envelope. Alternatively, envelopes are given directly to the photographers with either credit card details or cash. Please ensure that student’s 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.

Activities Expo – Thursday 13 February (12.00pm – 1.00pm)
Students from Year 7 – 9 will attend the Expo from 12.00pm to 12.30pm. Years 10 – 12 will attend from 12.30pm to 1.00pm. The Expo provides students with the opportunity to explore Merici’s range of co-curricular activities.

Follow us on @MericiC, @MericiSport, @MericiCanberra, @MericiMusic
Follow Up School Photo Day – Tuesday 18 February
A catch up photo day will be held on Tuesday 18 February for students who did not have their school photo taken on photo day, Wednesday 12 February.

Opening School Mass – Tuesday 18 February (11.30am-12.30pm)
All staff and students will attend the Opening School Mass in the Auditorium on Tuesday 18 February from 11.30am-12.30pm. Parents and friends are invited to attend this special ceremony. The Mass will be celebrated by His Grace, the Most Reverent Archbishop Christopher Prowse. Parents and friends are invited to attend a light lunch at the conclusion of Mass. Please confirm your attendance to Ros Parisi, Public Relations Officer, email ros.parisi@merici.act.edu.au. Please follow the link http://tiny.cc/q09pax to find an invitation.

Student and Medical Information Forms to be updated
Student and Medical information forms have been provided to all students. It would be greatly appreciated if the information on both these forms could be updated by parents and returned to your daughter’s PC teacher AS SOON AS POSSIBLE before Monday 17 February. Only updated forms, signed by a parent/guardian, need to be returned to the College. Please ensure that a mandatory email address is provided.

School Uniform - Incorrect Sports Polo from Lowes
Due to an error, Lowes have been selling the incorrect Sports Polo tops to our students. We request that all students who have purchased the sports top from Lowes, please bring the top to Mrs Ros Parisi, Public Relations Officer, at the Front Office, for exchange with a sales voucher to be used at Macdonalds Childrenswear or Savvy School Wear. Upon presentation of the voucher, Macdonalds or Savvy staff will supply you with a new sports top and invoice the College. We are very sorry about the mix-up and apologise for any inconvenience that this may cause.

Canteen Point of Sale
Please be aware that staff will be available every recess and first half of lunch outside the restaurant for students to upload money on their cards.

Parking/Drop off Areas
Please be aware of the following carparking issues.

Wise Street Carpark and Children’s Crossing
Parents are reminded that there is no stopping at the entrance of the Wise Street carpark and are requested to proceed to the pickup/drop off zone at the back of the carpark. Your assistance with this matter would be greatly appreciated. Please also be aware of the NO STANDING area on the opposite side of Wise Street which needs to be kept clear to maximise visibility of the Children’s Crossing. Please also adhere to the road regulations and stop before entering the Childrens’ Crossing zone, particularly if a student is preparing to cross at the crossing.

Senior Carpark (Henty Street)
Parents are reminded that the Senior Student carpark off Henty Street is not a pickup/drop off zone and are requested to proceed to the pickup/drop off zone in the Wise Street carpark. Your assistance with this matter would be greatly appreciated.

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 (11.15am-11.30am) and lunch time (12.35pm-1.15pm) and we would encourage all parents to contact the School Services Office on telephone 6243 4109 to leave a message for your daughter.
SRC: Merici Blood donations for 2014 - Important changes for 16 and 17 year-olds

In 2014 Merici students will continue to support the Australian Red Cross through regular blood donations. A series of courtesy buses to the Donor Centre in Garran will be organised throughout the year in order to facilitate this. Please note there have been some important changes to the Red Cross Youth Donation Policy.

The Australian Red Cross Blood Service is changing its policy to limit the number of blood donations for 16 and 17 year-olds. From 12 January 2014 donors aged 16 and 17 years will be limited to one donation every 12 months. Previously 16 and 17 year-old donors were able to make a donation as regularly as once every 12 weeks. Recent donor research has shown that youth donors are at increased risk of having low iron stores due primarily to the increased iron requirements which are needed for growth and development at this age.

In order to explain these changes further and to talk about blood donation in general, a representative from the Blood Service will be visiting Merici on Tuesday 18th February between 12.30 and 1pm.

If you are 16 years and over you are eligible to donate. Please check the SRC noticeboard or the Australian Red Cross Blood Service website for further eligibility requirements. [http://www.donateblood.com.au/](http://www.donateblood.com.au/)

The donor buses booked from Merici College for Term 1 are as follows:

- Friday 7th March @ 10.30am-12.30pm
- Monday 24th March @ 1.00pm-3.00pm

For further details or to book a place on the courtesy bus please contact SRC Facilitator, Ms Sonia Conte at Sonia.Conte@merici.act.edu.au. This service is available to students only.

YEAR 7 NEWS

Year 7 Skills Day and Transition Evening - Monday 24 February

Skills Day 2014 will be held on Monday 24 February for all Year 7 students. Throughout this day, students will gain the tips and tricks to surviving high school and ultimately planning for success in both their academic studies and general school life. Also on Monday 24 February, parents and carers are invited to a Year 7 Transition Evening where they will also gain further insight and information about helping their daughters make their first year of high school and beyond, a success! This evening will commence at 5:30pm and conclude at 7:30pm. Further information will follow. Any questions or concerns, please contact the Junior School Coordinator, Mrs Megan Keogh, email megan.keogh@merici.act.edu.au.

Year 7 Camp – Wednesday 19 March – Friday 21 March

Year 7 Camp 2014 will be held from Wednesday 19 March to Friday 21 March. Camp is a compulsory school activity for all Year 7 students. It is a valuable time for students to get to know their peers, learn about the ethos of the school and gain further orientation into high school. The camp also aims to develop leadership qualities, teamwork and respect for one another. Above all – camp is fun!

Information about Camp details will be given out this week to Year 7 and can be found on the College website at [http://tiny.cc/2dttax](http://tiny.cc/2dttax). Permission notes are due to be returned before Monday 3 March in order to allow that planning and subsequent arrangements are completed in a timely manner. Any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the Junior School Coordinator, Mrs Megan Keogh, email megan.keogh@merici.act.edu.au.
YEAR 9 AND 10 NEWS

Success in Years 9 and 10 Information Evening – Monday 17 February (6.00pm refreshments, 6.30pm start – 7.30pm)
More information on the Success in Years 9 and 10 Information Evening will be sent home to parents. Please note that parents of Year 10 students are welcome to attend the Senior Board of Senior Secondary Studies (BSSS) evening which will be held immediately after the Success in Years 9 and 10 Information Evening. Information on the Senior BSSS Evening is outlined below.

YEAR 11 AND 12 NEWS

Senior Board of Senior Secondary Studies (BSSS) Evening – Monday 17 February (5.15pm-6.00pm)
The Senior BSSS evening is held to explain BSSS senior processes, including packages (tertiary and accredited), grades, raw scores, rankings, scaling and their importance in generating a tertiary student ATAR. Parents of students in Year 10 who are interested in finding out more about the senior college system are also welcome to attend.

Year 11 Conference – Wednesday 19 February – Friday 21 February
The Year 11 Conference will be held at Greenhills Camp and Conference Centre from Wednesday 19 February to Friday 21 February. The Conference is compulsory for all Year 11 students to attend. It is a formal program designed by the pastoral and academic staff at Merici to ensure your daughter is fully inducted into the senior college and it is designed to ensure she understands all Board of Senior Secondary Studies requirements and the responsibilities she has to herself, her family and the College whilst she is with us for the next two years. Please follow the link http://tiny.cc/n0hsax to find all correspondence regarding the Conference. For further information in relation to the Conference please contact your daughter’s House Coordinator.

QCS Trial – Thursday 20 February (1.00pm – 3.00pm)
A reminder that all Tertiary Year 12 students will be undertaking the Queensland Skills Test Trial on Thursday 20 February. This is an important part of their AST preparation and is compulsory. Allowed materials are pencils, eraser, sharpener, ruler and highlighter.

ANU Extension Program 2014
From 2014 ANU will accept senior secondary students into a new program called ANU Extension. ANU extension students will enrol in an ANU academic award program and will be able to undertake courses in science, engineering, mathematics and languages. Students who successfully undertake studies in ANU Extension will be able to articulate into an ANU bachelor degree program and receive credit towards the bachelor degree for the studies successfully completed. Please follow the link http://tiny.cc/frutax to find more information. Please note that online applications close at midnight next Friday 14 February.

Parking Permits
Senior students need to apply for a parking permit and need to provide a copy of their Provisional Driver’s Licence and Vehicle Registration details to the Front Office to obtain a parking permit to be placed on their dashboard.

SPORT NEWS

Merici College invites all students to participate in our co-curricular sporting activities. We currently offer netball, volleyball and basketball.
Registration for netball and volleyball is now open. Forms are available on the website, the Sport moodle page and from the school gym. Please note that due to very short lead in times for these sports that registration for netball is due by Friday 14 February and volleyball by 28 February. Should you have any questions please feel free to contact Mr Andrew Blakey, the Merici College Sports Facilitator, on 6243 4168 or via e-mail andrew.blakey@merici.act.edu.au, and follow us on Twitter @MericiSport.

Netball 2014 – Registration forms due Friday 14 February
Students interested in representing Merici College in the Canberra Netball Association Netball Competition 2014 are required to register by Friday 14 February 2014. Please return registration forms to Andrew Blakey, Sport Facilitator. Please follow the link http://tiny.cc/mweqax to find registration information.

Volleyball 2014 – Registration forms due Friday 28 February
Students interested in representing Merici College in co-curricular Volleyball are required to register by Friday 28 February 2014. Registration fees are payable to Christine Collins at the Front Office. School and Volleyball ACT registration forms are to be completed and provided back to the school to Andrew Blakey, Sport Facilitator. For more information please follow link http://tiny.cc/yveqax to the College’s website.

Year 7 Inter School Sport
Year 7 Students have the ability to represent the ACT in a multitude of sports, however, access to these teams depends on the students’ date of birth.

Students born in 2002 will need to attend North Gungahlin district trials and compete in the district team at the ACT 12 and Under carnival to be available for an ACT School Sport team for National Championships.

Students born July 1 2001 to December 31 2001 have a special age dispensation to represent the ACT in the 12 and Under National Championships and those students interested will be invited to trials specifically for them. Older students will be eligible for different teams.

All students will be notified of various trials for these events and teams. Should you have any questions please contact Andrew Blakey via e-mail at andrew.blakey@merici.act.edu.au.

Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award Hike – Friday 21 February – Monday 24 February
The Duke of Edinburgh program will be Bronze Award hike to Kosciuszko National Park from Friday 21 to Sunday 23 February. If you are interested in attending please collect and return a permission note. Please follow the link http://tiny.cc/4gjqax to find the permission note. If you have any questions please contact David Rodda, email david.rodda@merici.act.edu.au.

Fitness Club 2014
Interested in keeping fit and healthy? Like training with a group? Why not join the Merici College Fitness Club? Training sessions will be held on Wednesday mornings from 7:30am-8:30am and students will meet outside the school gym. Sessions may include short and long distance running, interval training, circuits, boxing, cross fit, cardio and strength training with the aim to improve overall health and fitness. Everyone is welcome. Sessions start Week 3, Wednesday February 19th! Any interested students should collect a permission form from the school gym near the notice boards, or see the Junior School Coordinator, Mrs Megan Keogh, for further information. Everyone is welcome!

Elite Competitors Program Semester 1 2014
Merici College recognises the efforts and time commitments that Elite Competitors have and aims to support them in finding a balance between their academic responsibilities and their areas of competitive
expertise. If you or your daughter are interested in applying to be part of the Merici College Elite Competitors Program for Semester 1 2014 please follow the link http://tiny.cc/d1stax to access the policy and application form. Applications will be accepted on or before Monday 17 February and should be submitted to the Junior School Coordinator, Mrs Megan Keogh, email megan.keogh@merici.act.edu.au.

MUSIC NEWS

Welcome back for another exciting year playing music! This year we will continue our wonderful Ensembles Program, as well as continue to offer private tuition on many instruments. We welcome a new teacher to the Music Department, Ms Gabby Ball. Our rehearsal schedule for our Ensembles is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ensemble</th>
<th>Days</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Week</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Junior Band</td>
<td>Thursdays</td>
<td>3:30-4:45pm</td>
<td>Music Room (220 – Balgo corridor)</td>
<td>Week 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Band</td>
<td>Thursdays</td>
<td>3:30-4:45pm</td>
<td>Jubilee Centre</td>
<td>Week 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jazz Band</td>
<td>Tuesdays</td>
<td>8:00-8:45am</td>
<td>Jubilee Centre</td>
<td>Week 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>String Ensemble</td>
<td>Thursdays</td>
<td>8:00-8:45am</td>
<td>Jubilee Centre</td>
<td>Week 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brass Ensemble</td>
<td>Thursday lunchtime</td>
<td></td>
<td>Music Room (220 – Balgo corridor)</td>
<td>Week 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orchestra <em>NEW</em></td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>3:30-4:30pm</td>
<td>Jubilee Centre</td>
<td>Week 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chamber Strings</td>
<td>Thursday lunchtime</td>
<td></td>
<td>Jubilee Centre</td>
<td>Week 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>String Quartet <em>NEW</em></td>
<td>Tuesday lunchtime</td>
<td></td>
<td>Jubilee Centre</td>
<td>Week 3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All students are welcome to join our Ensembles Program at any time, the exception being the Chamber Strings and String Quartet which are auditioned groups.

This year we will be running our annual Music Camp in May, which will be including the String program for the first time. We will also have many of our groups performing at the National Eisteddfod, as well as concerts throughout the year.

If your daughter is interested in learning an instrument at school, please fill in the form available on our website at the following link http://tiny.cc/gkbqax. We continue to welcome many new tutors to the school, and the number of instruments we offer tuition in continues to expand.

If you have any questions about the music program at Merici, please contact Naomi Barber, email naomi.barber@merici.act.edu.au.

OTHER NEWS

Belnorth Football Club Registration 2014 - Saturday 8 February
Play the beautiful game with Belnorth Football Club in 2014. Register to play with Belnorth now. You can register online at http://www.myfootballclub.com.au/ or attend one of our registration days:
Saturday 8 February – Belconnen Soccer Club, McKellar 10.00am – 1.00pm, Saturday 1 March – Rebel Sport, Westfield Belconnen 10.00am - 1pm

There are many levels of competition, with children as young as 4 (turning 5 in 2014) (Pee Wees) participating in weekly games and skills sessions. Grading for players U10 to U17 starts Monday 24 February, players must be registered to participate. Sign up now as registrations will close soon! For more information about the club and registration visit www.belnorth.org or email us at admin@belnorth.org.

Ainslie Juniors and Gungahlin Lakes Giants Football Clubs
2014 Junior AFL Registration – 16 February
Registrations are now open. ‘Get Your Gear & Get Informed’ Day will be held on Sunday 16 February 11:00am – 2:00pm at Ainslie Oval, 52 Wakefield Ave, Ainslie. Registration fees for the following teams
are: Auskick Rookies (Under 5-7) $75; Auskick Pro (Under 8s and 9s) and U10s $110; Under 11s -U17s and Youth Girls $130.


**St Edmund’s College Canberra 60th Anniversary Opening Mass – 26 February**

Mr Peter Fullagar, Principal of St Edmund’s College Canberra, invites all members of the community, particularly past students to the St Edmund’s College 60th Anniversary Opening Mass to be held on Wednesday, 26 February 2014 at 7:15 pm at Manuka Oval, Griffith. A Reception will follow Mass. For catering purposes, please RSVP to Arlene Grey (02) 6295 3598 by Friday 21 February 2014.

**Parent Effectiveness Training (P.E.T.)**

P.E.T. is supported by Parentline ACT and

- helps you yell less - stop those arguments before they start!
- enhances your relationship with your children, to last a lifetime
- offers you an alternative to using rewards and punishment - to help your child develop inner discipline.
- helps you raise confident, considerate children in an atmosphere of mutual respect
- offers you the “how to” of helping your child become resilient and emotionally intelligent.
- is evidence based and extensively researched

The course consists of three-hour sessions, once per week, for eight weeks. Booking is essential. $290 per person for the course (investment includes a workbook and textbook). The course begins on Tuesday, 11 February, 2014 at 6.30 pm to 9.45 pm at Weston, ACT. For more information, phone Canberra’s most experienced accredited P.E.T. instructor: Larissa on 0413 451 607 or email info@parentskills.com.au.

**School Immunisation Program 2014**

Please follow the link [http://tiny.cc/2zaqax](http://tiny.cc/2zaqax) to find information on the ACT Health’s School Immunisation Program.

**Traditional Tae Kwon Do**

Start a new activity with your family in 2014! Taught to adults and children as a traditional, self-defence oriented martial art – not as a competitive sport. Classes are held in the O’Donnell Youth Centre, Limestone Avenue, Braddon (next to Merici College) on Wednesday nights from 6.30pm to 7.30pm.

Instructor: Ms Narelle Davis, 2nd Dan Black Belt, telephone 0418 869 964, email nellyree@bigpond.net.au. The Beginners Pack includes registration fees, one month tuition and free uniform. Saturday morning classes are taught at Daramalan College by Canberra’s highest-ranking instructor, Mr Rodney Lee Walsh, Master Walsh holds 7th Dan Black Belts in Hapkido and TaeKwonDo (37 years experience). If you are interested in learning more, call, drop in and watch one of the lessons or visit the website at [www.walshtkd.com](http://www.walshtkd.com).

**UPCOMING EVENTS (Week 4 and 5)**

Year 7 Skills Day – Monday 24 February
Year 7 Transition Evening – Monday 24 February
Soiree Tullow and Seiwa – Tuesday 25 February (5.00pm-6.30pm)
Social Justice Assembly – Wednesday 26 February (11.30am-12.30pm)
Bridge Restaurant- Wednesday 26 February (12.30pm-1.30pm)
Soiree Penola and Ningil – Wednesday 26 February (5.00pm-6.30pm)
ACT 13 Years and Over Girls Softball – Wednesday 26 February
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Soiree Brescia and Balgo</td>
<td>Thursday 27 February (5.00pm-6.30pm)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior and Year 10 Visual Art Excursion</td>
<td>Monday 3 March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACT 13 Years and Over Tennis Singles</td>
<td>Monday 3 March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderation Day Number 1</td>
<td>Tuesday 4 March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior AST Prep</td>
<td>Tuesday 4 March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACT 13 Years and Over Tennis Singles</td>
<td>Tuesday 4 March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ash Wednesday</td>
<td>Wednesday 5 March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridge Restaurant</td>
<td>Wednesday 5 March (12.30pm-1.30pm)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swimming Carnival</td>
<td>Thursday 6 March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACT 13 Years and Over Girls Water Polo</td>
<td>Thursday 6 March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duke of Edinburgh Silver Prac Hike</td>
<td>Friday 7 March – Sunday 9 March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catholic Schools Week</td>
<td>Sunday 9 March – Saturday 15 March</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>