**WHAT’S ON AT MERICI**

**TERM 2 WEEK 10 TERM 3 WEEK 1 (1 JULY – 28 JULY)**

**WHOLE SCHOOL ACTIVITIES**

**Elite Competitors Policy – Student applications due Friday 2 August**

Important changes have been made to the Elite Competitors Policy following an annual review this semester. Merici College recognises the efforts and time commitments that Elite Competitors have, and aims to support students in finding a balance between their academic responsibilities and their area of competitive expertise.

Should parents/carers feel that their child requires or would benefit from such consideration, they are encouraged to apply for consideration under the Elite Competitors Policy. Applications will need to be submitted to Megan Keogh, Junior School Coordinator, during the first two weeks of the semester. Participants already receiving a level of consideration under this policy are reminded that they must also re-apply for the second semester. **The final date for acceptance of applications is Friday 2 August 2013.** A copy of the updated policy and application form can be found at [http://tiny.cc/nln9yw](http://tiny.cc/nln9yw).

**Sparkle Day Success**

Thursday 13 June was Sparkle Day at Merici College. The aim of this day was to put a ‘sparkle’ in our sponsor children’s lives. For a gold coin donation, students were able to wear sparkly accessories, nail polish and eye shadow and they also had the opportunity of being ‘glitterfied’ at our Sparkle Salon at recess and lunch. Overall, we raised $500 which will help provide valuable resources, food and education for the College’s sponsor children, Alina from Bolivia and Juana Isabel from Ecuador. The Social Justice Group would like to thank students and staff for their generous contributions on the day!

**Carparking on Wise Street**

Please be aware that the College has very high concerns for student safety on Wise Street in regard to parents dropping off their daughters and parking illegally in bus zones and near the school crossing in No Standing Zones. To correct this habit by parents we have unfortunately have had to request the help of Parking Inspectors to be present to enforce correct parking.

**IT Support – Cracked Laptop Screens**

IT Support has seen an increase in the number of student laptops that have cracked screens. There are three simple things that parents and students can do to make sure to reduce the likelihood of this happening:

1. Do not pack anything extra into the laptop compartment in the bag. Having extra books and items puts pressure on the lid which transfers to the screen when being transported
2. Make sure there is nothing on the keyboard when closing the lid. Small items like pens, earnings and cables will crack the screen if left on the keyboard when closing the lid
3. Do not leave or use your laptop on the floor. We have a number of students reporting that the laptop was stepped on by a member of the family.

Follow us on [@MericiC](https://twitter.com/MericiC), [@MericiSport](https://twitter.com/MericiSport), [@MericiCanberra](https://twitter.com/MericiCanberra).
iC Homework Centre closed from Monday 1 July
The Homework Centre in the iC will be go into early recess this term as Mrs Williams, Learning Support Assistant will be away in Week 10. iC Homework Club will resume in Week 1 of Term 3. The iC will still be open and students can still stay after-school to read and study. Please contact Helen Maybin on email helen.maybin@merici.act.edu.au for more information.

iC closed – Tuesday 2 July
The iC will be closed after school on Tuesday 2 July.

NAIDOC Assembly – Friday 5 July (1.30pm-2.30pm)
The NAIDOC Assembly will be held on Friday 5 July from 1.30pm to 2.30pm. The theme is 'We Value the Vision' and is a celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Presentation of the Yirrkala Bark Petitions to the Australian Parliament. Anne Martin, a member of the NAIDOC Committee will be speaking at the Assembly. At the conclusion of the Assembly in Period 5, the students will be entertained by the Beatie Clan who are Indigenous entertainers from Bie Dance Company.

Semester 1 Reports – Friday 5 July
Semester 1 Reports will be mailed home to students on Friday 5 July.

Term 2 Ends – Friday 5 July

Police Appeal for Vigilance over July School Holidays
Unfortunately the approaching school holiday period means school grounds in your area will be empty between 8 July 2013 and 22 July 2013 making them easily accessible to would-be offenders. ACT Policing will be increasing pro-active patrols around schools during the holidays, but we are also asking you, the community, to assist us in ensuring all of our schools remain secure. Anyone who observes anti-social behaviour or suspicious activity around schools is urged to report this to police immediately on 131 444. This includes suspicious persons or vehicles seen at odd hours of the night, and any signs of potential criminal activity such as the sound of breaking glass, spray cans or electrical equipment being used at odd hours. By working together with police you can help to ensure that our schools remain secure over the holidays, allowing our children to get the education they deserve.

Term 3 Begins – Monday 22 July

SRC and Social Justice Volunteers for Zonta Clubs of Canberra – Saturday 27 July
As part of the SRC and Social Justice groups for 2013, Merici students have been asked to volunteer their time to support Zonta Clubs of Canberra and Australia’s Birthing Kit Foundation by packing birthing kits for distribution to women in developing countries. The kits, which are packed in zip-locked bags, contain soap and surgical gloves, a sterile scalpel and sterile gauze. A black plastic sheet provides a clean surface protecting mother and child from the bacteria C.tetani that lives in the earthen floor and causes tetanus.

This year Zonta Clubs of Canberra will pack 3000 kits on Saturday 27th July at the Church of Latter Day Saints Hall in Lyneham. The assembly day will run from between 10am-12pm and 1pm-3pm with a break for lunch in between the two sessions. Your daughter can attend some or all of the event – any help she can offer would be gratefully appreciated.
If your daughter would like to be involved with this initiative please contact Sonia Conte (SRC Facilitator) at Sonia.Conte@merici.act.edu.au.

**Powerful Learning Workshops**

Powerful Learning Workshops will be run in Weeks 1 and 2 of Term Three in the students’ Mathematics classes. The workshops will be about the Term 3 Powerful Learning focus of deep understanding and connectedness.

**YEAR 7 NEWS**

**Year 7 World of Maths – Monday 1 July**

Year 7 students will be participating in World of Maths Day on Monday 1 July. World of Maths is a presentation of fun and educational, hands-on, problem solving activities. Some of the activities involve strands of number, space, measurement, algebra, chance and data and patterns. For more information please contact Carolyn Stanhope on email carolyn.stanhope@merici.act.edu.au.

**YEAR 8 NEWS**

**Financial Literacy Program Presentation – Tuesday 2 July**

On Tuesday 2 July, Olga De Reeper from Westpac Bank will be giving a presentation to all Year 8 Geography students in their Geography classes. The presentation has a focus on financial and internet scams and how to protect yourself against them. This is part of a Financial Literacy Program run in Year 8 and 9 Geography classes.

**YEAR 10 NEWS**

**Year 10 Transitions Forum – Monday 1 July – Friday 5 July**

The Transitions Forum is a most important week in Year 10. During the forum your daughters will consider how to make decisions, reflect on what is important in life, hear about a few different careers, learn about the job market, prepare for senior study and much, much more. Please follow the link [http://tiny.cc/v4v5yw](http://tiny.cc/v4v5yw) to find the program of events.

The days have been specifically organised into different areas:

**Monday** – a full day presentation, “Day of Hope” with Glenn Gerryn from the Oxygen Factory, Sydney. He concentrates on goals and motivation and in the past he has had our students on the edge of their seats with his inspirational words.

**Tuesday** - Lucas Walker from the Australian Business Academy discusses resumes and interview techniques. Victoria’s Models will provide sessions on motivation, interview behaviour and dressing for interviews.

**Wednesday** - the day begins with some of our senior students share their insights into life as a senior student at Merici College in an informal chat session. Our ‘Experts on Tap’ sessions, provided by parents of Merici will provide their own insight into their pathways. The afternoon session is all about subject choices for Year 11 and 12 and Trazel Scott will explain the online subject choice program. All students will rotate through faculty presentations so that they begin to hear about the range of
opportunities available to them. During this time, the students will have a paper copy of subject choices so they can begin to highlight the ones that interest them. Students will only have Wednesday night to make their subject choice online prior to interviews on Thursday.

**Thursday** - the day concentrates on academic skills in the morning, covering introduction to senior study, senior grade descriptors and university course prerequisites. After recess, the process of Student/Parent Interviews begin. This will be explained further in the newsletter. When your daughter has finished the interviews, she will be working on obtaining her Certificate I in Information, Digital Media and Communication. It is the aim that every Year 10 student successfully achieves the Certificate by the end of the year. Students will also complete during this session an online personality profile that helps them to work identify their goals and employability skills. This information then is used to create their own resume.

**Friday** - students choose two institutions that they would like to visit. They can choose between Canberra Institute of Technology, Australian National University, University of Canberra, Australian Catholic University, Hyatt Hotel, WIN TV, Magistrates Court and Australian Defence Force Academy.

**CHANGES TO YEAR 10 INTERVIEWS FOR SENIOR COLLEGE**

We are trialling a system where the interviews are integrated into the Year 10 Transitions Forum. The subject selection online system is now active and can be accessed. Pin number and log details have now been supplied to your daughters to facilitate subject choice selections online. Your daughters are now able to choose their subjects any time between now and Wednesday 3 July in preparation for your interview with senior College staff here at Merici on Thursday 4 July.

Parents who are unable to meet the timeslot provided will be able to reschedule their appointment on this day via Trish Ryan on telephone 6243 102 or email patricia.ryan@merici.act.edu.au. At the interview we will discuss with you and your daughter, her choices and facilitate the best subject selection for her senior years.

**YEAR 11 AND 12 NEWS**

**End of Semester Result Checks by Students**

It is the responsibility of each senior student to check her results according to the publicised timeline below:

1. **Thursday 27 June** – Final marks for senior assessment tasks will be displayed in Faculty areas for each subject at 12.00pm. Queries regarding marks are to be directed to the class teacher and relevant studies coordinator in the first instance.
2. **Wednesday 3 July** – Unit scores will be publicised by the Assistant Principal Curriculum for students to check at 11.00am. Students will be required to sign to say they have checked their results.

**Year 12 Retreat 2013 – Wednesday 24 July – Friday 26 July**

The retreat for Year 12 students this year will be held in the first week of Term 3 from Wednesday 24 July to Friday 26 July. All Year 12 students will be participating in the retreat which is an integral part of our Pastoral Care program for the senior year. The retreat will be held at Warrambui Retreat and Conference Centre. For more information please follow [http://tiny.cc/i469xw](http://tiny.cc/i469xw).
Senior Absences
Senior students are reminded that all absences must be explained with a note signed by the student’s parent/s. A single senior lesson missed can be signed off by the teacher of the class or another teacher who can verify the student’s reason for missing the lesson.

DANCE NEWS

Extravadancer coming soon… (Friday 16 August – Saturday 17 August)
Students have been busily preparing for the 2013 EXTRAVADANCER which will be held on Friday 16 August and Saturday 17 August (end of week 4) in the Merici College Auditorium.

This year’s production will showcase dance items based on the theme ‘100 years of dance in film’. Students in Years 10, 11 and 12 are choreographing the production which features over 80 students from Years 7-12 and includes dance styles such as Musical Theatre, Contemporary, Classical Ballet, Hip Hop, Jazz, Tap, Irish and more!

We are holding two shows starting at 7.00pm on Friday 16 August and Saturday 17 August, with the option of a Saturday matinee at 2.00pm if the demand is great. Tickets will be on sale at the College from the start of Week 1, Term 3. More details to come soon. We look forward to seeing you there!

CURRICULUM NEWS

Australian Curriculum Update
It is a pleasure to inform parents of three Merici staff members, Mrs Jennifer Missen, Dr Kathryn White and Mrs Louise Martingale who have been selected by the Board of Senior Secondary Studies (BSSS) to be part of a system wide cross-sectoral project to integrate the Australian Curriculum into Senior Secondary Mathematics, Chemistry and English Courses. This is a very prestigious appointment for our staff and we congratulate them on their participation in this phase of implementation of the Australian Curriculum.

For further information about the Australian Curriculum and how it relates to your daughter go to http://www.australiancurriculum.edu.au/ or www.acara.edu.au.

SPORT NEWS

2013 NSW Winterfest Cheerleading Competition – June 2013
Three Merici Girls travelled to Sydney on 16-17 June 2013 to compete in the 2013 NSW Winterfest Cheerleading competition. Tahlia Langdown, Ciara Goldie and Megan Elphick performed for Sirens Cheerleading Canberra bringing home a 2nd place for their team routine. The girls also performed in the stunt section with Tahlia’s team coming 1st in Level 3 and Ciara and Megan coming 3rd for Level 2.

Congratulations to Megan Elphick for being invited to attend the Battle Competition in the Gold Coast in August with the Senior team. All girls will travel to Melbourne in November for the cheerleading Nationals. Well done Girls! A link to the AASCF cheerleading so you can see how competitive cheerleading is http://www.aascf.com.au/.
ACT School Sport Australia Netball Championships - July/August 2013
Congratulations to our students Jessie Reynolds, Megan Caroline, Britney Reynolds, Jacoba Clough and Zoe Haseler who have been selected to participate in the 2013 School Sport Australian Netball Championships in Tasmania from 27 July to 2 August. We wish our students well as they prepare for the Championships.

ACT PSSA Hockey – National Hockey Championships – August 2013
Congratulations to Rhianne Dingley who has been selected to participate in the ACT 12 Years and Under Hockey Team to compete at the School Sport Australia 12 Years and Under Hockey Championships in Canberra from Monday 19 August to Friday 23 August, 2013. We congratulate Rhianne on her achievement and wish her well at the Championships.

ACT PSSA Netball – National 2013 Netball Championships – August/September
Congratulations to Alexandria (Alex) Pryor and Olivia Straker who have been selected in the ACT PSSA Netball team, to participate at the National 2013 12 and Under Netball Championship in Maitland, New South Wales from 31 August to 6 September 2013. We wish Alexandria and Olivia lots of success at the Championship.

ACT School Sport Australia Swimming Championships - September 2013
Congratulations to our students Harriet Rocks, Alexandra Ashley, Ebony Norris, Andrea Forshaw and Claire Molineux who have been selected to participate in the 2013 School Sport Australian Swimming Championships in Adelaide from 8 September to 14 September. We wish our students well as they prepare for the Championships.

ACT School Sport Australia Cross Country Championships – August 2013
Congratulations to Elizabeth Drew, Grace Hoitink and Ellie Hoitink who will be representing the ACT in Launceston, Tasmania in August. We wish the girls well as they prepare for the Championships.

CONGRATULATIONS

Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze and Silver Award Presentation
On Monday 3 June, Duke of Edinburgh students attended a Duke of Edinburgh Bronze and Silver Award presentation night held at the Legislative Assembly.

We congratulate the following twelve Merici current and past students on receiving their Bronze and Silver awards at the event: Monica Canning, Emily Evans, Mikaela Gaarde, Tully Jocumsen, Naomi Lee, Brooklyn Perrin, Courtney Petty, Laura Ting, Lillian Wetherspoon, Clare Ries, Skye Temby, Emma Turner and Hayley Waring.

We also extend our congratulations to Mr David Rodda who has received an Award in recognition of his exemplary dedication to the Duke of Edinburgh's Award in the ACT. Since attaining his Gold Award in 2006 Mr Rodda has been actively involved in passing on his experience, knowledge and skills to others being an inspiration to those participants aspiring to achieve their respective level of the Award. Mr Rodda has given his time each year as a volunteer in support of the Duke of Edinburgh's Group in the ACT.
We congratulate Mr Rodda on his achievements and thank him for his dedication to coordinating and actively participating in the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme here at Merici College.

**Year 7 and 8 da Vinci Decathlon – Tuesday 18 June**

Congratulations to our Year 7 and 8 students who participated in the da Vinci Decathlon on Tuesday 18 June 2013. The Year 7 students were Evie Gibbon, Liz Henderson, Emma Holt, Chloe Jones, Emily King, Arman Sidhu and Talitha Thompson. Ramneek Cheema was also part of the team, but was unfortunately ill on the day. The Year 7 students won the Art and Poetry challenge and the Code Breaking challenge, and placed 6th overall. The Year 8 Merici students were Hannah Black, Chantelle Boehme, Jayde East, Cameron Jackson, Isabella Kettle, Ashleigh Lawrence, Emalee Rimlinger and Dana Ryan. They won the English and Philosophy challenges and placed 4th overall.

Approximately 30 schools and 50 teams from Years 7 and 8 participated in the ACT event, which was organised and hosted by Canberra Grammar School. The ten academic events are Science, Creative Producers (Drama), English, Philosophy, Mathematics, Engineering, Art and Poetry, Cartography, Code Breaking and General Knowledge. We congratulate our students on their excellent achievements.

**OTHER NEWS**

**Experienced Private Tutor Available for all year groups**

Sarah is an experienced private tutor, an ANU Graduate currently studying post-graduate Secondary Education. Sarah specialises in English, Humanities subjects and essay writing. Please contact Sarah on telephone 0451 234 614 for more information.

**John Bennett Tennis Coaching Term 3 2013**

Tennis coaching for next term commences on Monday 15 July 2013 and concludes on Saturday 21 September 2013. For further information please follow the [http://tiny.cc/q4uuyw](http://tiny.cc/q4uuyw).

**UPCOMING EVENTS (TERM 3 WEEKS 2 AND 3)**

- Sustainability Assembly – Wednesday 31 July (11.30am-12.30pm)
- Bridge Restaurant – Wednesday 31 July (12.30pm-1.30pm)
- ACT Schools Constitutional Convention 2013 (Year 11 Legal Studies) – Thursday 1 - Friday 2 August
- Quantum Leap Performance – Wednesday 31 July – Saturday 3 August
- Year 8 Brain Day – Friday 2 August
- Year 8 Enlighten Day and Parent Information Evening – Monday 5 August
- Year 7 IH Excursion – Monday 5 August
- Semester 1 2013 Awards Ceremony – Tuesday 6 August
- North Gungahlin 12 Years and Under Athletics – Tuesday 6 August
- Bridge Restaurant – Wednesday 7 August (12.30pm-1.30pm)
- ASC Girls Hockey – Wednesday 7 August
- Languages Assembly – Thursday 8 August (10.15am-11.15am)
- Senior Fashion and Year 9 Textile students to attend Craft and Quilt Fair – Thursday 8 August (11.30am-2.00pm)
- Certificate of Language Competence – Senior Languages - Thursday 8 August
- Year 10 Science Excursion to Luna Park – Friday 9 August