WHOLE SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

World Environment Day Dinner Success
The culinary skills of Merici College students were a huge success at the Conservation Council ACT Region’s annual fundraising dinner for World Environment Day on Saturday 1 June 2013. Over 100 people enjoyed the gourmet four course meal that was cooked and served by Merici students and Conservation Council volunteers. Diners not only enjoyed the food, but also speeches from the inspirational forest campaigner Miranda Gibson, the environmental campaigner and founder of Planet Ark Jon Dee and songs from the talented local Canberra duo Yes/No.

The Conservation Council is a non-government organisation that is the voice for the environment in the ACT region. We engage the community and government on environmental issues and rely on fundraising activities like the dinner to help us continue our activities. Thanks to the outstanding efforts of Merici College we were able to raise over $10,000. A special thanks to Merici staff, Tookie Capezio, Fabrice Boone and Virginia McLeod, who helped make this partnership happen and kept the night running smoothly.

Merici College, the Conservation Council says a big thank you with this video acknowledging your efforts and support – check it out http://youtu.be/IByjfTh1DiO.

Opening Night - Musical Theater Performances – Thursday 20 June (1.30pm)
On Thursday 20 June music and dance students from Year 9 and 10 will be performing excerpts from musical theater in the Drama Room. The performance will be held at 1:30pm with refreshments to be served in the restaurant at the end of the performance. For more information please follow the link http://tiny.cc/geuhyw or contact Liz Williams on email elizabeth.williams@merici.act.edu.au.

Student Attendance and Participation in PE Classes
As the days get colder and the wind turns to a brisk chill, PHABS (Physical Education, Health and Behavioural Science) teaching staff seem to be getting an increase in notes excusing students’ participation from practical activities. We appreciate there are one-off cases where students are unable to participate due to illness, however, we would also ask that students are encouraged to participate to whatever means are possible. When injury presents itself as it often does, as professionals in Physical Education, teachers can modify and alter activities to suit different situations. Whether it be running a warm-up or skill session, or light participation, one of our aims is to involve students as much as practically possible.

Please do not hesitate to contact Robert Higginbotham, PHABS Coordinator on email Robert.higginbotham@merici.act.edu.au if you wish to discuss this matter further.
**Health – Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease**

We have one confirmed case of hand, foot and mouth disease in the school. Hand, foot and mouth disease is a common viral infection which is easily passed from person to person. It usually causes a mild illness. Please follow the link http://www0.health.nsw.gov.au/factsheets/infectious/handfootmouth.html to find more information on the disease and ways to treat and prevent the spread of the virus.

**YEAR 7 NEWS**

**Author Visit – Simon Higgins – Wednesday 26 June**

On Wednesday 26 June popular author, Simon Higgins, will visit the Information Centre. Simon will speak to all Year 7 students over periods one and two and will also run a workshop for Writers’ Club members during period 4.

**YEAR 8 NEWS**

**Year 8 Brain Day – Wednesday 26 June**

Please note that the Year 8 Brain Day will not be held on Wednesday 26 June but will occur on Friday 2 August (Week 2, Term 3).

**YEAR 9 NEWS**

**Year 9 Enlighten Day - Monday 17 June**

As part of Pastoral Care at Merici, a Year 9 Enlighten Day has been organised for students on Monday 17 June 2013. All Year 9 students will be participating and the day will be presented by Enlighten Education. The purpose of this day is to inform and educate girls about important issues that affect them as young women and empower them to make appropriate decisions as they move through adolescence. In previous years this program has been very successful. The day will consist of an introductory sessions and four workshops. The workshops will recognise the diverse interests of your daughter and present them with content that is non-commercial, age appropriate and most importantly, empowering. All Year 9 students are expected to attend. Your daughter is required to attend morning Pastoral Care to have her name marked off then immediately go to the Catherine Rey Learning Centre. The girls are permitted to wear neat casual clothes suitable for participating in a variety of activities. They are required to bring their pencil case, a small cushion or pillow to sit on, their morning tea and lunch; canteen facilities will be available.

On Monday 5 August 2013 parents are invited to a Parent seminar lead by Enlighten Education. This seminar aims to provide information, strategies and support to parents and guardians raising girls in a very complex world. More details of this event will be forthcoming towards the end of July. Please follow the link http://tiny.cc/ewu4xw to find more information.

**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.
The days have been specifically organised into different areas:

**Monday** – a full day presentation, “Day of Hope” with Glenn Gerryn for 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. If there is any interest in the Australian Academy of Interactive Entertainment, we will be able to arrange a tour.

**CHANGES TO YEAR 10 INTERVIEWS FOR SENIOR COLLEGE**
As mentioned above, the process of senior interviews for Year 10 parents and students has been streamlined this year. 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. Should your daughter have lost her hard copy pin number and password it will be emailed to her as well.

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 12 NEWS

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 the link http://tiny.cc/i469xw.

CURRICULUM NEWS

Semester 1 Senior and Year 10 Exams – Monday 17 June – Tuesday 25 June
The formal end of semester exam period is quickly approaching. While the thought of exams might be intimidating, they are just another assessment task where the teacher is asking students what they know about their learning. Preparing well for exams reduces stress and anxiety on the day, but requires additional effort in the weeks leading up to the exams. It is most important that students continue to get sufficient sleep, exercise and good food throughout the exam period. It would be helpful if students reduced any paid work commitments during the lead up to exams and during the exam period itself. Employers will need due notice, so plan early.

Exams will be held from Monday 17 June to Tuesday 25 June. Individual timetables have been distributed to senior students in morning Pastoral Care lessons. Please follow the link http://tiny.cc/d0dtxw to find the Semester 1 Exam timetable. Formal classes are scheduled until Friday the 14th June.

Students are expected to be in the New Quad 10 minutes prior to the scheduled start time of the exam. They should wear casual clothes appropriate for the workplace including closed shoes, taking into account the cold mornings, and sitting for long periods.

When senior students are not in scheduled exams, they are encouraged to undertake private study at the College. The Senior Study and the hUb are available for quiet study and group study space is available in the hUb (Wednesday-Friday) and the Penola Flexi-Learning Centre when not used for classes.

If senior and/or Year 10 students are sick on the day of the exam, parents are asked to call either Mr Phil Coe on 6243 4137 or Mrs Trazel Scott on 6243 4105 on the morning of the exam.

DEFENCE NEWS

Year 9 and 10 ADFA Excursion – Wednesday 19 June
The Defence Transition Mentors in the ACT have organised an activities and barbecue for students of Defence families in Years 9 and 10 to be held on Wednesday 19 June. This is a wonderful opportunity for the children of Defence personnel to meet new friends. Students from schools across the ACT will be able to participate in a variety of activities. Teams will be made up of boys and girls from different schools. The venue for the event is The Australian War Memorial. Students will arrive at 9.30 am and the morning will consist of a tour of the Military and University facilities, participate in a variety of

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physical games and activities which will encourage cooperation and leadership skills. Following the

games, a barbecue will be held at midday.

The Merici school bus will transport the students. Students are to assemble at the bus at 8.45 am and
will depart at 8.50am sharp; returning by 1.00 pm. Students will be expected to attend classes in
the afternoon. Dress is school sports uniform. Please ensure you wear appropriate footwear.

For more information please contact Narelle Patrick, Defence Transitions Mentor on telephone 6243
4100 or email narelle.patrick@merici.act.edu.au.

SPORT NEWS

ACT Cross Country Championships - Monday 3 June

The ACT Cross Country Championships were held on Monday 3 June at Stromlo Forest Park. Fifteen
students from Merici College participated in the Championships. Top ten results were achieved by:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>12 years girls:</th>
<th>13 years girls:</th>
<th>14 years girls:</th>
<th>16 years girls:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Karly Roestbakken 3rd</td>
<td>Ellie Hoitink 3rd</td>
<td>Lucy Chilver 9th</td>
<td>Elizabeth Drew 1st</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caitlin Brady 9th</td>
<td>Jasmine Genevossi 5th</td>
<td></td>
<td>Grace Hoitink 2nd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Elizabeth Henderson 6th</td>
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<td>Ashley Goodwin 7th</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Merici students selected for the Cross Country Nationals to be held in Launceston in August are:
Karly Roestbakken, Ellie Hoitink, Jasmine Genevossi, Elizabeth Drew and Grace Hoitink. We
congratulate all our students for their achievements and wish them well in their future endeavours.

CONGRATULATIONS

ACT School Sport Australia Netball Championships – July/August 2013

Congratulations to our students Jessie Reynolds, Megan Sokic, Brittney 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 School Sport Australia Football Championships – August 2013

Congratulations to our students Georgia Whitney, Kaitlyn Dobing, Tayah Mott, Shanae Paine and
Courtney Petty who have been selected to participate in the 2013 School Sport Australian Football
Championships in Darwin from 10 August to 18 August. We wish our students well as they prepare
for the Championships.

ACT School Sport Australia Swimming Championships – September 2013

Congratulations to our students 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.

FFA Girls National Youth Championships (Soccer) – 8-12 July

Congratulations to Grace Basser Silk (Year 8) on her selection in the U15 squad. Grace will be
representing ACT in Coffs Harbour from 8 July to 12 July at the FFA Soccer National Youth Championships. This is Grace’s second year of representing the ACT at this tournament. We wish Grace lots of success as she prepares for the championships.

ANU Maths Day
On Friday 31 May, four Year 12 students represented the College in a Maths competition held at ANU. The event has been held for over 20 years. This year the students were placed 17th out of 32, a good effort considering some schools have over 100 students doing Specialist Maths whereas we only have 14 this year. Our best round was when establishing the missing 'rule' between pairs of numbers, e.g. square the number and subtract 1, or change the number into base 9. In this round we finished in the first 6 schools. We congratulate our team of students Katelyn Wilson, Skye Temby, Ashleigh Meers and Karmen Walia on their achievements.

OTHER NEWS

APFACTS Interactive Anti-Bullying and Youth Leadership Workshops
Monday 17 June – 21 June
APFACTS “Project Rockit” workshops for parents, students and teachers will be held from Monday 17 June to Friday 21 June at various locations. For more information please follow the link http://www.merici.act.edu.au/node/561.

NRMA “Keep School Zones Safe” Survey
NRMA Motoring & Services has just launched its “Keep School Zones Safe” survey. The purpose of this survey is to obtain information on the number of 40 km/h school zone signs and road markings that are faded or obscured by trees or poles. Parents and students are encouraged to participate in this short internet based survey to help NRMA to improve safety around schools. Last month NRMA advised the Roads and Maritime Services (former RTA) of a number of faded school zone signs and these have already been replaced. The survey contains just six questions and allows respondents to upload photos of the signs and other safety features at their school zone. The survey will remain open until Monday 29 July and taking part is easy, all you have to do is click on the link http://tiny.cc/75v4xw. If you have any queries about this survey, please contact Jonathan Hennessy, Policy Advisor – Traffic Projects, NRMA Motoring & Services on 02-92767219.

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 0451 234 614 for more information.

Marymead Foster Care Information Seminar
Over 600 children are currently in out of home care in Canberra and many more need a home CAN YOU HELP JUST ONE? Come along and learn more about becoming a Foster Carer with Marymead at the Information Seminar to be held on Saturday 29 June from 11.00am to 4.00pm at Marymead 255 Goyder Street, Narrabundah. For more information call Amy Tulloh on 6162 5800 or email Amy on amy.tulloh@marymead.org.au.

Capital Spirit DrillDance – Seeking new members
Capital Spirit DrillDance is looking for new members to join our Canberra teams. DrillDance is a
vibrant new sport combining traditional marching and freestyle drill and will be representing Canberra in competitions across N.S.W, as well as at the DrillDance Australia National Titles in Brisbane in May 2014. For details email us at: canberradrilldanceclub@outlook.com, look us up on Facebook at Capital Spirit DrillDance or contact Ali on 0439 710 988.

Creative Young Stars Program
Applications for the Gillard Government’s Creative Young Stars program officially opened on Saturday 1 June. Young Australians aged 25 years and under could share in $8 million to help them realise their dreams in creative and performing arts, cultural activities, school and community service and academia. Grants of $500 are available for individuals and grants of $3,000 are available for groups of six or more members. For more information on the program please visit www.youth.gov.au/sites/youth/news/pages/creative-young-stars.

Wing Chun Open Day – Saturday 22 June (2.00pm-4.00pm)
Chengs Wing Chun Wu Shu Academy provides instruction in the art of Wing Chun. Our accredited instructors provide a safe and friendly environment for students of any skill level. Beginners and new students of all ages are welcome at any of the classes and encouraged to attend the Open Day making it easier to find out more about the instructors and classes and observe group demonstrations. The Open Day will be held on Saturday 22 June from 2.00pm to 4.00pm at the O’Donnell Youth Centre in Braddon. Please bring a bottle of water and wear comfortable clothing to train in. The first class is free of charge. For more information please visit the website www.chengswingchun.com.au.

Sydney Soccer Football Academy – Las Vegas Mayor’s Cup 2014
The Las Vegas Mayor’s Cup is one of America’s finest international soccer tournaments and the Sydney Soccer Football Academy will be selecting a number of Australian teams to participate in the tournament in 2014 and will be sending a Canberra Women's U19 football team. Trials will be held on 12 July at ANU Willows (synthetic) Oval. For costs, preliminary itinerary and more details please visit http://www.puresportstravel.com.au/package/las-vegas-mayors-cup or contact John Cook on email j_mcook@hotmail.com.au or telephone 0405 978819.

UPCOMING EVENTS (WEEK 10)
Year 10 Transition Forum – Monday 1 July – Friday 5 July
Principles of Powerful Learning Workshops – Monday 1 July – 5 July
Year 7 World of Maths – Monday 1 July
Year 10 Retreat Day – Tuesday 2 July
NAIDOC Assembly – Friday 5 July (1.30pm-2.30pm)
Term 2 ends – Friday 5 July
Term 3 begins – Monday 22 July

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