



WHAT'S ON NEWSLETTER

Term 3 Weeks 6 and 7 (Monday 24 August – Sunday 6 September)

WHOLE SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

COVID-19 Update

To ensure quick access to up to date COVID-19 information for Catholic school families, please visit Catholic Education webpage at <https://cg.catholic.edu.au/covid-19-information-and-updates/>.

Bridge Restaurant (Friday 28 August 6.00pm)

The Bridge Restaurant will be open for dinner on Friday 28 August from 6.00pm. Please telephone our Hospitality team on 6243 4130 to make your booking. Book early as seating is limited.

Bridge Benefit Dinner (Saturday 5 September)

This year our Bridge Benefit Fundraising Dinner will be held in memory of Hannah Sowry with all proceeds being donated to OzHarvest. The dinner will be held on Saturday 5 September. Hospitality students are currently finalising arrangements and booking information will be advised shortly.

School Fees

This is a friendly reminder that Term 3 school fees are due for payment this Friday 21 August 2020. If you haven't already done so, could you please settle your account as soon as possible. This does not apply to those families who have direct debit arrangements in place.

As advised earlier this month, Catholic Education is committed to continuing financial assistance into Term 3 to support families who have been financially impacted as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. 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 for assistance.

Lost Property

Students are asked to check lost property at Student Services if they have misplaced an item. There is an increasing number of items being handed in and we ask that all uniform items are clearly labelled with your daughter's name

Online Advice Newsletter

The Perimeter Guardian Parent Advice Online Safety information newsletter focuses on technology issues that concern parents. Please follow the link <http://merici.college/go/august-online> to find the latest newsletter covering hi25 – Snap Messenger and VSCO.

YEAR 7, 8 AND 9 NEWS

Year 7 Immunisations Round 2 (Monday 14 September)

Year 7 immunisations (HPV Dose 2 and dTpa) will be held on Monday 14 September. Please visit <https://www.health.act.gov.au/services-and-programs/immunisation/adolescents/year-7-students> for more information.

YEAR 10, 11 and 12 NEWS

Year 12 AST (Tuesday 1 September and Wednesday 2 September)

Year 12 Tertiary students will be undertaking the AST on Tuesday 1 September and Wednesday 2 September (Week 7). This is an exciting and important series of tests for them which they have been preparing for over the past 18 months of senior school.

Schedule of exams is below:

Day 1: Tuesday 1 September

- 8:00am: Breakfast provided to the students in the Canteen
- 9:00am: Students enter Auditorium
- 9:30am: Multiple Choice Test begins
- 11:45am: Test Concludes
- 1:05pm: Student enter Auditorium
- 1:30pm: Short Response Test begins
- 3:15pm: Test concludes

Day 2: Wednesday 2 September

- 8:00am: Breakfast provided to the students in the Canteen
- 9:15am: Students enter Auditorium
- 9:30am: Writing Test begins
- 12:00pm: Test Concludes

Students do not need to wear uniform and are encouraged to wear comfortable clothing. Further specific details about the test can be found on the BSSS website. (Students have been provided with a physical copy of the Student Information Booklet).

Please remember that it is very important to attend- illness or misadventure that prevents you sitting the exam on either, or both, days must be explained with a medical certificate 24 hours after the sitting date, and you will be rescheduled for the second sitting of the test on the 13th and 14th October. Sleeping in, or having a driving lesson that day, for instance are not valid reasons for missing the AST.

Students who are not able to attend the AST on either day must contact Mr Gerard Ryan (AST Coordinator) on gerard.ryan@merici.act.edu.au as soon as possible on the day. Please contact Mr Ryan if you have any other queries.

Classes for Year 12 Accredited Students during AST

Year 12 Accredited students are to attend their normal classes all day on Tuesday 1 September and until lunch time on Wednesday 2 September. They may then go home at lunch time.

Year 10 High Tea (Friday 18 September)

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the Year 10 Social has been cancelled. However, the Leadership Team, along with House Coordinators and Year 11 and 12 Hospitality Students, would like to announce that we have been able to adjust the originally planned event to become the Year 10 High Tea.

The High Tea will be held on Friday 18 September (same as the original date). Students will arrive at school at 12.30pm and will need to be picked up at 3.30pm. Students will not be expected to attend school in the morning before the new event starting time. An official invitation will be sent out soon.

There will be no cost to the students and their families. Unfortunately we are not in a position to allow guests to attend, but the girls can still get dressed up, eat, share memories and enjoy each other's company.

Canberra Academy of Languages

The Academy is recognised as a Specialist Education Provider by the ACT Board of Senior Secondary Studies and this year they are providing courses in French, German, Spanish and Tamil, as well as run programs for Arabic, Indonesian, Italian, Japanese and Korean in 2021, if there are sufficient students interested and if qualified teachers are available.

The next Academy information session will be held as a Google Meet teleconference on Thursday 24 September, from 6.00pm. Those who would like to participate are invited to contact the Academy via info@cal.act.edu.au to receive the link for the online meeting.

Families interested in possible places in our programs for 2021, as well as being encouraged to participate in our information evening, should send us their expressions of interest (EOI) preferably by the end of this term. For further information please follow the link <http://merici.college/go/cal>.

CAREERS NEWS

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

BUSINESS SERVICE DIRECTORY

Supporting our Merici Business Community

We are currently compiling a Merici business service directory and would welcome the inclusion of your business name, short business description, website and contact details. Please send your information to ros.parisi@merici.act.edu.au. Thank you to our families who have submitted their business information!

Click [Business Directory](#) to find our current directory.

iC NEWS

We have had a few worried souls wondering why there is no Book Week Parade this year, but the answer is... "there will be!" Due to the COVID situation, nationally, we are celebrating Book Week on 17-23 October, which will be Term 4, Week 2. The theme is Curious Creatures, Wild Minds. Be on the lookout for more information as the Book Week Committee get busy organising.

This week we are celebrating National Science Week 2020, the theme of which is Deep Blue: innovations for the future of our oceans. The theme embraces the innovative technologies, capabilities and skills needed to achieve economic, environmental, and social sustainability of our oceans.

Please encourage your daughter to borrow from our display of easy-to-read science books and information on how to become a scientist.

Happy scientific reading!
iC Staff



SUSTAINABILITY NEWS

FutureFilm Festival

During the recent visit by Maddie Diamond (2020 ACT Young Australian of the Year) to our school, we were able to hear about her role as Executive Officer at See Change - an organisation working with Canberrans to empower them to live more sustainable lives. Maddie mentioned that SEE-CHANGE is currently running a film festival called FutureFilm open to all students with some great prizes up for grabs. The deadline is Friday 25 September and the film can be anywhere from 2-7 min in length. Please click on the link <https://www.see-change.org.au/futurefilm> for further information and resources and start creating!

Green Tip #25 - How to make your household sponge better for your wallet and the environment...

Please follow the link <http://merici.college/go/green-tip> to find our latest Green Tip.

OTHER NEWS

ACT Public Advocate and Children and Young People Commissioner (PACYPC), ACT Human Rights Commission – Young Thinker Forum

The [Young Thinker Forum](#) is an opportunity for any child or young person under the age of 25 years old to get involved and tell me what they think about any community or social issue that they feel strongly about. Given recent events, I am particularly interested in knowing how COVID-19 is impacting the children and young people of the ACT. But children and young people can tell me about anything, even if it's not related to COVID-19.



The ACT Government is hosting an [inquiry](#) into its response to Covid-19, and would like to provide a submission informed by the voices of children and young people, and especially by those who have experienced specific impacts. [If you have any children or young people you think would be interested, please check out the \[Young Thinker Page\]\(#\) and all the different creative ways they can have their input!](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

We have been recently informed that social events that invite persons from outside of the school (such as parents, siblings or friends) are not considered 'Normal School Business'.

With such tight restrictions on social distancing, limited numbers on excursions, capped numbers in venues, modified catering arrangements, and due to the absence of certainty in the ACT with respect to relaxing COVID 19 restrictions and in order to ensure that appropriate planning can take place, the College has made the difficult decision to cancel the events listed below.

We are open to reviewing this list if advice alters in any way.

- Year 8 Catch the Wave retreat
- Year 9 Marist-Merici days
- Father / Daughter Mass and Dinner
- Year 10 Social (now Year 10 high Tea)
- Year 9 Urban Challenge Camp

Two other events scheduled this term that we are monitoring closely are:

- School Photos
- St Angela Merici Day

We will keep you posted on new information and updates.