WHAT’S ON AT MERICI
TERM 3 WEEKS 6 AND 7 (26 AUGUST-8 SEPTEMBER)

WHOLE SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Uniform
Mrs Wholley asks all students and families to re-familiarise themselves with our Uniform Policy at http://tiny.cc/hm761w. Therefore please ensure that all skirts are below the knee as stated in the policy. As we get closer to Term 4 please check that your daughter’s summer uniform is in good condition and meets the uniform requirements. There are no other changes to the College Junior or Senior winter or summer uniform. However a new sports polo will be available for purchase from 2014.

School Crossing Upgrade
The school crossing on Wise Street will undergo an upgrade sometime in the next two months. Parents need to be aware that these changed traffic conditions will significantly slow the flow of traffic in Wise Street. Please also note the new “NO RIGHT HAND TURN” sign which has been placed in the pick-up zone adjacent to the school oval. We would appreciate it if parents could refrain from turning right from this carpark into Wise Street.

Merici Science Series 2013 – Tuesday 27 August
All interested students, staff, friends and family are welcome to attend Merici’s Science Series talks. The talks are held in the Science flexi learning area. Afternoon tea is served in the restaurant at 3.40pm and the talks begin at 4.00pm.

On Tuesday 27 August Professor Kiaran Kirk will be visiting the College. Professor Kirk is the Director of the Research School of Biology at the ANU and his area of research is the malarial parasite, which is now resistant to most of the drugs we have available. Professor Kirk will talk about the disease and the parasite that causes it, about why pharmaceutical companies are disinterested and about recent work at the ANU on an exciting new class of antimalarial that is now in clinical trials. For further details please follow the link http://tiny.cc/mg4e1w.

Bridge Night Restaurant – Wednesday 28 August 2013 (6.30pm-8.00pm)
The Bridge Restaurant will be open for dinner on Wednesday 28 August from 6.30pm to 8.00pm. If you would like to make a booking please call 6243 4100.

Trivia Night Invitation "A Blast from the Past!” – Friday 30 August
The Merici College community is invited to attend our annual Social Justice Trivia Night which is taking place in the Merici Auditorium at 6:30pm on Friday 30 August. This year’s theme is ‘A Blast from the Past’ and so guests are invited to dress in outfits that reflect past fashions and trends!! We will also be treated to some live entertainment on the night, featuring some of our very own students!

The proceeds will be going towards the ongoing development of 'The Way of Light School' in India which the College has now been supporting for a number of years. Thanks to the money raised at past trivia nights, The Way of Light School is now fully operational, educating 100 local children.
Table bookings for the night can be made through the Finance Office at the College, or you may call 6242 4100. Prices are $80 for a table of 10 OR $10 per person. (There will be the opportunity to pre-purchase answers on the night, so bring along some loose change!) You are also welcome to bring along drinks and snacks for the evening. No alcohol is permitted due to College and Catholic Education Office policies.

Donations: We would greatly appreciate donations for this event from your business. Gift vouchers, goods or services will be used as prizes on the night. Your business will be thanked at the Trivia Night and afterwards will receive a Certificate of Appreciation and will be mentioned on our school website. If you can help out with this, please contact Miss Hannah Carey at the College on 6242 4100 or hannah.carey@merici.act.edu.au.

Round up your friends and come along to support a great cause through an evening of fun and entertainment! We look forward to seeing you there!!

**SRC: Yellow Van Cooking evening - Monday 2 September**

In 2013 the Year 10 SRC students will continue to support their charity, the Yellow Van Food Rescue. This is a non-denominational charity that rescues food which would otherwise be discarded. The food is then distributed to charities supporting the vulnerable in Canberra, Queanbeyan and Yass. This charity is the only food rescue service in Canberra and assists a range of agencies, including domestic violence refuges, disability support services, homeless shelters amongst many others.

At Merici, the SRC runs Yellow Van cooking classes for students and their parents. Once a term, six Year 10 students and their parents will be shown how to make a delicious, healthy meal which they will then cook in bulk. Parents, students and teachers will then sit down to enjoy a meal together. The next day, the Yellow Van Food Rescue will come to Merici, collect the food and distribute it around Canberra. This is a great chance bond with parents, teachers and friends but also make a great contribution to the community.

This term's Yellow Van class will take place on Monday 2 September between 6 and 9pm and there will be a $20 contribution for each family towards the cost of the food. If you and your daughter are interested in taking part in this event please contact Ms Sonia Conte (SRC Facilitator) at sonia.conte@merici.act.edu.au or sign up on the SRC noticeboard.

**SRC: Australian Red Cross Blood Service**

Just a reminder to all students and parents that Merici is continuing with its Blood Donation program for 2013 through organising a series of Blood Donor courtesy buses to the Donor Centre in Garran. 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 [http://www.donateblood.com.au/](http://www.donateblood.com.au/) for further eligibility requirements.

The donor buses booked from Merici College for Terms 3 and 4 are as follows:

- **Monday 2 September @ 9:30am & 1pm**
- **Monday 16 September @ 9:30am & 1pm**
- **Monday 21 October @ 9:30am & 1pm**
- **Monday 18 November @ 9:30am & 1pm**

For further details please contact your Red Cross Youth Ambassadors, Rachel Donohoe and Audrey McGahey or the SRC Facilitator, Ms Sonia Conte at sonia.conte@merici.act.edu.au.
YEAR 8 NEWS

Year 8 Retreat Day – Friday 6 September
The Year 8 Retreat is a whole day session on campus. During the Retreat, the girls will be encouraged to reflect on their relationships with their family and friends and the way they treat one another as a result of our belief in a God of love. They will experience a liturgy which will enable them to deepen their understanding of themselves and they will discover ways in which they can share their gifts with the Merici community. A letter will sent out to parents closer to the event which will outline the finer details of the Retreat program.

YEAR 10 NEWS

Year 10 Social – Friday 20 September
The 2013 Year 10 Social will be held on Friday 20 September at Merici College from 6.30pm to 10.30pm. The theme of this year’s event is ‘Developing Wisdom’. Students are encouraged to dress to the theme: Wisdom is knowing the difference between right and wrong and having the self-discipline to act on this knowledge. It is gained by experience, reflection and learning from those wiser than ourselves! For more information please follow the link http://tiny.cc/zqz61w.

YEAR 11 AND 12 NEWS

Year 12 Formal Date Change to Thursday 5 December
Please be aware that the date of the Year 12 Formal has been changed to Thursday 5 December. More information to follow.

AST Testing – Tuesday 3 September - Wednesday 4 September
Tertiary Year 12 Students will be undertaking the ACT-wide AST on Tuesday 3 September and Wednesday 4 September.

The testing consists of 3 separate sessions at the following times:
3 September 9:30am-11:45am - Multiple Choice
3 September 1:30am-3:15pm - Short Response
4 September 9:30am-12:00pm - Writing Task

Breakfast will be provided for the students from 8:00am each morning, which will be followed by a short liturgy prior to beginning. Students are expected to be at school by 8:30am at the latest.

Years 11 and 12 Accredited ‘The Edge’ Conference– Tuesday 3 September
The Senior Business Administration class has been organizing the Year 11 and 12 Accredited EDGE Conference for Tuesday 3 September. The Conference is a compulsory requirement for all senior Accredited students. The venue for this year is the Novotel on Northbourne Avenue.

The day is aimed at providing information on future pathways and career options after school. The organizations presenting at the Conference are: Australian Business Academy, Canberra Institute of Technology, McArthur Recruitment Agency and STA Travel. We also have a panel of past students who are keen to talk about their career experiences.
The day will begin at Merici with a breakfast at 8.00am in the Canteen/Restaurant and then move to the Novotel to start proceedings at approximately 9.30am. Morning tea, afternoon tea and dinner will be provided. The College has heavily subsidised the cost for the whole event and the cost to the student for the day is $10.00 which can be paid at the front office.

A letter and an invitation will be sent to all students very soon.

**CURRICULUM NEWS**

**Junior Electives**
The time is approaching for junior students in Years 7, 8 and 9 to choose their electives for next year. There will be a junior electives afternoon held in Week 7 where students have the opportunity to hear about the electives on offer for their year level and to ask questions.

Students will make their selection online through Subject Selection Online (SSO) and each student will have a secure login. Students must seriously consider all their choices, as class size limits and popularity of electives can impact the allocation of students to classes. We do guarantee that students will get either choice 1 or 2.

Students going in to Year 10 must ensure they meet the ACT curriculum requirements of an arts and a technology subject over the course of Years 9 and 10. Any requests for special consideration must be documented on the SSO form. The Electives handbook is available on the College website: [http://tiny.cc/f3c31w](http://tiny.cc/f3c31w). SSO will be available to students from 6 September to 16 September inclusive. Failure to enter preferences by the deadline may result in automatic allocation of electives.

**Seniors**
A reminder that senior absences need to be explained within a 5 working day period or students risk those absences remaining as unexplained for the purposes of senior attendance with the BSSS.

**Interim reports & Parent Teacher Student Interviews**
From discussion at our recent Parent Forum it was clear that the interim reports in their current form are not overly helpful. In response, we are trialling a new method of providing parents with an indication of their daughter’s progress to date.

If your daughter’s teacher is requesting an interview with you, in regard to either Achievement or Application, this will be indicated in a letter to be posted home on 6 September, which will also have the login details for booking interviews on Parent Teacher Online (PTO). This replaces the separate “Interim Report” that has been sent in previous semesters. Please note: a teacher may request an interview both to commend a student’s performance as well as discuss any concerns about progress. If no teacher requests an interview with you, you are still encouraged to make appointments with any teacher to discuss your daughter’s progress.

PTO will be open from 6.00am 10 September until 8.30am 18 September. Parent-Teacher-Student interviews will be held on Wednesday, 18 September 2013 from 4:00pm – 7:00pm in the Auditorium. Interviews will be extended to 6 minutes duration and it is recommended that parents leave 6 minutes between interview bookings. If you need to speak to a teacher on a more in-depth basis, please contact the teacher directly.
DEFENCE NEWS

2013 Battle for Australia Commemoration Ceremony – Wednesday 4 September
Students from Defence families will attend the 2013 Battle for Australia Commemoration Ceremony at the Australian War Memorial on Wednesday 4 September at 11:00am. Before the ceremony students will partake in the construction of a large wattle wreath which they will lay at the Inauguration Stone during the Ceremony.

Birrigai Excursion - Friday 6 September
An excursion for Defence students from Year 7 across several ACT schools has been organised at Birrigai on Friday 6 September. The purpose of this excursion is to encourage integration and a sense of community for Defence students in the ACT. Students will leave promptly at 9:00am and return at 3:00pm. Students are required to supply their own lunch and morning tea. Dress is neat casual clothes with covered shoes.

MUSIC NEWS

Combined St Clare’s and St Edmund’s College Musical – Pirates of Penzance
A combined St Clare’s and St Edmund’s Colleges musical will be held from Thursday 29 August – Saturday 31 August. A group of strings students from Merici College will be participating in the musical. The performances will be at St Clare’s College on Thursday 29, Friday 30 and Saturday 31 August at 7:30pm and tickets are available from St Clare’s (enquiries telephone 6260 9400) Adults $25 Concession $15. It will be an amazing show and all their ticketing information/further information can be found at http://www.stclaresc.act.edu.au/.

SPORT NEWS

ASC Netball – Tuesday 27 August
The ASC Netball Carnival will be held on Tuesday 27 August at the Lynham Netball Courts. Please contact Laura Withers for more information on email laura.withers@merici.act.edu.au.

Athletics Carnival – Thursday 29 August
The Annual Merici Athletics Carnival is an integral day in the life of the College as it provides an opportunity for the greater development of your daughter in areas such as social relationships, sporting and creative talents and life skills. It encourages a sense of belonging and continuity as students and staff cultivate loyalty and commitment to their particular House and hence the College. It is also an opportunity to promote the health and fitness of your daughter. All parents are also very welcome and encouraged to attend.

The carnival will be held on Thursday 29 August at the Australian Institute of Sport Athletics Track (Battye Street, Bruce). Chartered buses will depart Merici at 9.15am and return at 2.30pm. It is expected that all students will travel to and from the AIS by bus from Merici College.

All students are expected to attend the athletics carnival, as it is a compulsory school day.
If your daughter does not attend you will be asked to explain her absence in writing to her PC Teacher. Your daughter is encouraged to enter at least one track and one field event. If your daughter is unable to

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participate due to injury or health concerns, she is encouraged to bring a note written and signed by you so they can then assist officials and contribute to the House spirit so proudly displayed on these days.

Please follow the link http://tiny.cc/bkjf1w to find more information on the carnival, the permission note and carnival program.

**Basketball Registration due Friday 6 September**

Please follow the link http://tiny.cc/h3ut1w to find registration forms and other information on the upcoming Basketball season. Any interested players need to have the forms completed and returned by Friday 6 September. Please contact Mr Andrew Blakey on 6243 4118 or andrew.blakey@merici.act.edu.au if you require more information.

**Duke of Edinburgh Bush Skills #1 – Saturday 7 September – Sunday 8 September**

The Duke of Edinburgh program will be running a Bush Skills weekend on 7-8 September. The camp teaches bush-craft, survival skills and navigation and are necessary training for hikes that will be held later in the year. If you are interested in attending please come to the weekly meeting held each Wednesday at Recess in Room 208. It is not too late to sign up, even if you missed out on the Introductory Weekends you are able to join now. If you have any further questions please contact david.rodda@merici.act.edu.au.

**OTHER NEWS**

**RAP – P: The Journey through Adolescence – A Tour Guide through Adolescence for Parents**

The program is called The Resourceful Adolescent Program for Parents (RAP-P). This program is suitable for parents and carers of children attending primary school Years 5 and 6 and secondary school students attending Years 7 to 12. RAP-P will help you to help your teenager to develop a healthy self-esteem, gain independence while still feeling safe and part of the family, manage your stress so you can do your best job as a parent, prevent and manage conflict with your teenager, promote harmony in your family.

This course is offered 3 hours per week over a 3-week period commencing on Wednesday 4 September from 6.00pm to 9.00pm. The course will be held at 57 Hicks Street (Cnr Nuyts and Hicks Streets) Red Hill at a cost of $50 (includes all materials). Concessions available. Please contact Gayle on telephone 61626122 at CatholicCare for more information.

**Alzheimer’s Australia – Memory Walk and Jog : The Race Against Dementia – Saturday**

To celebrate Dementia Awareness Week 16 – 22 September 2013 Alzheimer’s Australia ACT is holding its very first Memory Walk and Jog, approximately 6km walk/jog from Aspen Island to Commonwealth Bridge and back. Memory Walk and Jog is a fundraising event to support Alzheimer’s Australia. It’s all about coming together with your friends and family to raise vital funds to support people living with dementia and their carers. You don’t need to be a fitness fanatic to be a part of the Walk and Jog – it has something for everyone! You can run, walk, skip, dance or even dress up for the event. So whether you are 8 or 80, a pro-athlete or just looking for a fun morning out, join us to support the work of Alzheimer’s ACT. Free water and fresh fruit at the finish line for all participants.
After your walk/jog join us for a BBQ with the Rotary Club of Canberra North or you can bring your own picnic lunch. The walk/jog commences at 10.00am – 1.30pm opposite Aspen Island, Kings Park. Entry Fee: $15 pp, children under 16 free (all proceeds to the Alzheimer’s Australia ACT). To register please go to www.fightdementia.org.au or call 6255 0722.

**ACT Junior Talent Squad for Athletes with a Disability (JTS)**

Do you have any child with a disability interested in athletics? The ACT Junior Talent Squad for Athletes with a Disability (JTS) is recruiting. The athletes range in age from 7 to mid-20s and have a physical and/or intellectual disability. Training is at the AIS Track and Field Facility at Bruce on Monday afternoons. Secondary School athletes also train there on Thursday afternoons.

Many of the athletes compete at local and national competitions and some go on to compete at international level. JTS is affiliated with ACT Athletics.

For further information please contact Head Coach Chris Timpson on 0403 564 296 or at chris.timpson@grapevine.com.au or JTS President Jenny Price on 0408 714 378 or at jenny.price@iinet.net.au.

**2013 Menslink Business Breakfast – Tuesday 24 September (7.00am)**

The Menslink Business Breakfast will be held at the National Press Club of Australia, 16 National Circuit, Barton on Tuesday 24 September (7.00am for a 7.30am start, concludes at 9.30am). The Menslink Business Breakfast is a great opportunity for leading Canberrans to show their support for a truly local charity and a good cause. Now in its seventh year, the breakfast is an ideal networking event for anyone interested in supporting young men across our region.

Over the past eleven years, Menslink has supported over a thousand young men through their adolescence to become contributing, productive members of society. Yet the statistics are still stacked against young men and we need your assistance to help turn them around. Young men are overwhelmingly represented in adverse violence, crime and school drop out statistics, while suicide remains the leading cause of death among young males aged from 15 right through to 45.

The goal at Menslink is to provide positive role models and support for young men as they go through the turbulence of their teenage years. With one in five teenagers no longer living with their father, the need for Menslink’s services are greater than ever. Buying a ticket – or even signing your organisation up for a table of ten – is a great way to hear firsthand about the work we do and from these interesting speakers.

Tickets are $70 each (inc GST). Alternatively, if your organisation wants to sponsor Menslink at the breakfast, corporate branded tables of ten are available from $1,250. Please RSVP and book your tickets online direct from the National Press Club. Book online via credit card: http://tiny.cc/qg061w (processing fee applies). For queries or alternative payment methods, please contact Fiona Brammall on 6239 4699 or fiona@menslink.org.au.

**Touch Football**

The 2013 Touch Football ACT Junior Competition will commence the week of the 14 October 2013 and finish with semi finals/finals the week commencing 16 December 2013. The competition will be run at six different locations across ACT. Please follow the link http://tiny.cc/w4e11w to find more information.
All information, including registration forms can be found on our website: www.acttouch.com.au. For all other enquiries please contact TFACT office via email: mark.moro@acttouch.com.au or telephone: 02 6212 2880.

**UPCOMING EVENTS (TERM 3 WEEKS 8 AND 9)**

House Captains Nominations Due – Monday 9 September  
ASC Girls Basketball – Monday 9 September  
Year 7 2014 Information Evening – Tuesday 10 September (4.45pm-7.00pm)  
ACT 13 Years and Over Netball Finals – Wednesday 11 September  
House Captains Shortlist Period – Friday 13 September  
ACT 13 Years & Over Football Finals (Soccer) – Friday 13 September  
House Captains Election – Tuesday 17 September  
Parent/Student/Teacher Night – Wednesday 18 September (4.00pm-7.00pm)  
Dancefest – Wednesday 18 September – Friday 20 September  
Year 8 Geography Fieldtrip – Friday 20 September  
Year 10 Social – Friday 20 September  
Year 12 Religion through the Arts – Friday 20 September