WHAT’S ON AT MERICI
Term 4 Weeks 2 and 3 (21 October – 3 November)

WHOLE SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Staffing Update
At the end of Term 3 we farewelled Elizabeth Allen, Jennifer Missen and Elizabeth Williams as they left Merici to pursue new positions and commence further study. Therefore I congratulate the following staff as they move into management positions for Term 4: Acting Coordinator of Maths - Philip Coe, Acting Senior Coordinator - Robert Higginbotham, Acting Head of PHABS & Facilitator of Sport - Andrew Blakey and IH Facilitator – Chris Fraser. Due to the above mentioned positions and staff going on and returning from leave there have been changes to some classroom teachers. We would also like to welcome to our Merici Staff, Marcus Amann (Religious Education), Bob LeFebvre (History and IH), Chunhua Liu (Mandarin), Josette Wells (French), and John Thompson (Music).

Catherine Rey Learning Centre: Flexible Learning Space
Recently we have had visitors from ACARA, Dickson College and Hennessey College to view the Catherine Rey Learning Centre to see our flexible learning spaces. Their words below are testament to the innovative and much desired learning space we have created and are using.

“It was such a privilege to come to Merici last week. I was so impressed by the innovation that the staff have enacted across the learning areas. The school had an inviting appeal that emanated in the design and layout of the learning areas. It seemed to be a place of engagement where the learning needs of the girls were the first priority of the teaching staff. I saw how it was possible to enact the Australian Curriculum in an exciting and progressive way. The girls were engaged in their learning and given the opportunity to see the inter-connections and relevance of the curriculum. May I congratulate you on leading the way in 21st Century learning.”
Margaret Bigelow, Senior Project Officer: Mathematics, Curriculum Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority

and

“I just wanted to say thanks for the tour of your impressive facilities. The Flexible Learning Spaces were of real interest to the Senior Leadership Group at Dickson. We may well be back in touch.”
Dr John Clink, Business and Facilities Manager, Dickson College

Traffic Flow
Please note that new traffic islands have been installed in Wise Street to slow down traffic. Please help us to keep our roads safe for your daughter by adhering to the speed limit and signage. Parents are also reminded that when exiting the carpark it is a left-turn only.

Notification of Student Absences
Please be reminded that the telephone contact number for student absences is 6243 4165. Parents are now able to send emails to Student Services to explain student absence at attendance@merici.act.edu.au.

The Homework Centre in the iC
Students have access to homework assistance in the iC from Monday to Thursday 3.30pm - 4.30pm. If you would like more information please contact Helen Maybin on telephone 6243 4153 or email helen.maybin@merici.act.edu.au.

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SRC: Australian Red Cross Blood Service
A reminder to all students and parents that Merici is continuing with its Blood Donation program for 2013 through the organisation of 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/] for further eligibility requirements. Please note this service is available to Merici College students only.

The donor buses booked from Merici College for Term 4 are as follows:
Monday 21 October @ 9:30am & 1pm
Monday 18 November @ 9:30am & 1pm

For further details please contact the SRC Facilitator, Sonia Conte at Sonia.Conte@merici.act.edu.au.

Bridge Restaurant – Wednesday 23 October (12.30pm-1.30pm)
The Bridge Restaurant will be open on Wednesday 23 October from 12.30pm to 1.30pm. If you would like to make a booking please call 6243 4100.

Audrey Fagan Young Women’s Enrichment Grants – Applications close 25 October
The ACT Office for Women currently has the Audrey Fagan Young Women’s Enrichment Grants open and will close COB Friday 25 October 2013. The Enrichment Grants are aimed at supporting young women aged 13 to 18 years who wish to pursue further study or development in their area of interest. Please follow the link [http://tiny.cc/5e404w] to find the Application Form and Guidelines for this grant round.

If you require any further information please contact the Office for Women on telephone 62050215.

Nude Food Day – Friday 1 November
Merici College will hold its first Nude Food Day on Friday 1 November where students not eating lunch at the canteen, bring a waste-free lunch. Nude food has no disposable wrapping which will help to reduce waste at school whilst promoting healthy school lunches, as wrapped foods are often highly processed and unhealthy.

Here is how to do it:
- Parents should ditch paper and plastic bags and pack lunches in reusable, eco-friendly containers that can be used throughout the school year.
- Refillable stainless steel drink bottles or BPA free reusable plastic drink bottles encourage kids to enjoy tap water right throughout the day.
- Cut back on packaging by avoiding individually wrapped snacks such as yoghurt, dried fruit, chips and juices. Buy larger sizes and portion out into reusable containers, saving both resources and money.
- Involve children in preparing meals. Students are more likely to enjoy eating their own creations and less likely to throw away food knowing the work that went into it.
- Eliminate quick fix pre-packaged lunches so that only compostable scraps like apple cores and banana peels remain after eating.

The school canteen (which serves healthy nude food everyday) will be open as usual.

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YEAR 7 AND 8 NEWS

Year 7 Immunisations – Monday 21 October
The final round of Year 7 immunisations will be held on Monday 21 October. For more information please visit http://www.health.act.gov.au.

Year 7 Integrated Humanities National Museum Excursion – Tuesday 22 October and Wednesday 23 October (10.00am – 12.00pm)
A visit to the National Museum of Australia has been arranged for Year 7 Integrated Humanities (IH) students on Tuesday 22 October and Wednesday 23 October. In Australia’s Migration Stories students investigate some of the ten million migration stories from 1788 to today, and reflect on Australia's changing attitudes towards migration.

Students will meet their IH teacher in the New Quad at the start of Period 1 and have their attendance recorded. They will then catch a bus to the Museum. The program begins at 10.00 am and concludes at 12.00 pm. Students will then catch the bus back to Merici in order to have a lunch. The rest of the day will be normal classes. Students will be required to wear full school uniform.

Year 7 Retreat – Friday 25 October
The Year 7 Retreat is a whole day session on campus next Friday 25 October. During the Retreat, the students will learn more about the Merici story. They will be encouraged to reflect on their talents and gifts and discover how they can share these talents with the Merici community. The girls will deepen their understanding of their relationship with themselves and a God of love. They are required to wear their full PE uniform. Recess and lunch will be at the normal times so the girls may use the canteen facilities or bring their own food.

Year 7 2014 Induction Day – Friday 25 October
We are thrilled to welcome our new Year 7 students for 2014 for their first experience of life in high school.

YEAR 9 AND 10 NEWS

Year 9 History Incursion - Friday 25 October
On Friday 25 October all Year 9 History students will participate in an incursion related to their recent studies of WWI. Some of the activities students will do include examining primary sources from the War Memorials WWI Memorial box, reading WWI poetry and listening to WWI music, baking ANZAC biscuits and learning about more about WWI food, making poppies and learning about the tradition of remembering those who fought in war.

Year 9 Geography Fieldtrip – Friday 25 October
In Geography this semester Year 9 students are studying Geographies of Interconnections, a unit which explores the issues of fragile environments, food security and global connections. As an integral part of the curriculum, students participate in a fieldtrip to Kosciuszko National Park which will be held on Friday 25 October.

Students are required to be at school before 6.40am and are asked to meet staff at the sheltered area on the oval. Students will return at approximately 6.45pm. The contact mobile telephone numbers during the day are 0408482480 and 0409482483.
YEAR 11 AND 12 NEWS

Senior Absences
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. This could result in students voiding their subjects which will impact their Year 12 Certificate.

DEFENCE NEWS

Years 8, 9 and 10 Defence Students Activity Day – Tuesday 29 October
Years 8, 9 and 10 Defence students will attend an excursion to the Australian War Memorial on Tuesday 29 October. The program involves an educational presentation by War Memorial staff and tours of the current exhibitions, including the Anzac Hall. During the afternoon students will take part in simple but challenging outdoor games and activities which will encourage cooperation and leadership skills.

MUSIC NEWS

Music Excursion – Thursday 31 October-Friday 1 November
An overnight excursion to Sydney has been arranged for Year 9 -12 Music Students and Students in Year 9 -12 who participate in an extra-curricular music activity (Band, Choir or Strings). Music students will have the opportunity to attend a performance from the Sydney Symphony of Dvorak’s New World Symphony and Britten’s Four Seas Interlude and Peter Grimes and pre-concert talk at the Sydney Opera House. A guided tour of the Opera House and view an exhibition at the Powerhouse Museum about The Beatles will also occur. The exhibition looks at how Australians responded to The Beatles and the tour’s lasting impact on Australian music and culture.

Students are required to bring their own snacks, drinks and lunch for the first day (Thursday 31 October), and spending money for their evening meal on Thursday and lunch on Friday (Friday 1 November). Students are also required to bring $5.00 for catching public transport back to the accommodation after the concert at the Opera House on Thursday 31 October. Students will depart from Merici College at 9.00am on Thursday 31 October and return at approximately 4.00pm on Friday 1 November.

DANCE NEWS

Reminder: ‘Spin’ Centenary Event – Saturday 19 October
Families are invited to attend the ‘Spin’ Centenary Event from 12.00pm to 5.00pm The event is held at the TAMS Depot at 255 Canberra Avenue which turns into the showroom for SPIN Saturday and comes alive with a day of wheel-inspired family fun, an afternoon of art, culture and cars as only Canberra can do. Each decade of Canberra will be reflected in an automotive dance-odyssey called The Wheel History of Canberra. Riffing off a car per decade, dance groups, including Swing Cats, Legs and Kokoloco, reveal and celebrate important icons and events in our history. Our Dance students will be representing the 1970’s and performing a disco beach themed dance. The vehicle is the panel van. Students will be performing at approximately 4.00pm. The show starts at 2.15pm and ends at 4.40pm.

Drama and Textiles teacher Alison Bogg, has designed and made some unique and creative wearable art pieces/costumes for ‘Spin’ event ‘Spinwear’. The theme of the festival revolves around cars and wheels and the costumes, which were made using car parts, are a key feature of the performance on the ‘Spin’ Saturday evening show. The creation of the costumes involved research, development and design phases in January and February, through to the making and finalising of costumes for the big night on 19 October. Alison also acted as Costume Coordinator for the event and featured in a short film funded by Screen ACT which documented her creative processes. This film will be available for viewing on the F

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Centenary of Canberra website later in October. Alison hopes to screen this film and present some of her costumes to interested students and staff next term.

For more information on the event: [www.spinweekend.com.au](http://www.spinweekend.com.au). ‘Spin’ Saturday evening show 19 October at 7pm TAMS building precinct 255 Canberra Avenue Fyshwick. $25 for tickets with the proceeds going to the Dili charity.

**SPORT NEWS**

**ACT Cricket Milo T20 Blast School Cup (Super8’s) – Tuesday 29 October**

The ACT Cricket Milo T20 Blast School Cup (Super8’s) will be held on Tuesday 29 October at the Deakin Ovals, Makin Place Deakin. Participating students will need to make their own way to and from the venue. Students will need to be there before 8.45am and collected at the conclusion of the competition at 2pm. The school will not be able to supply transport to, or from, the venue and no supervision will be possible after 2.00 pm on the day at the venue.

Students are required to wear her white Physical Education polo shirt, navy blue shorts, white socks and runners to the event. Whilst competing your daughter needs to ensure that she is adequately equipped for the carnival (e.g.: sufficient fluids, lunch, hat, mouth guards, Sunscreen, etc.).

**CONGRATULATIONS**

**Australian Junior Squash Championships**

Congratulations to Sarah Keen, Year 10 student who is currently ranked Number 1 in ACT 17s Girls Squash. She was selected in the ACT representative team to play in the Australian Junior Squash Championships which were held during the October school holidays and was also chosen as the team’s Captain. We congratulate Sarah on her achievements and look forward to hearing more about results from the championships.

**Questacon Schools Volunteer Trainer Program**

On Thursday 26 September 2013 students Abbey Smith, Alison Taylor, Michaela O’Meara, Hannah Hudson, Ali Carrerra and Rowan Tyszkiewicz all graduated from the Questacon Schools Volunteer Trainer Program. This program for Year 11 and 12 students involves 2 hours/week training (including designing/making exhibits) in Semester 1, followed by 40 hours of volunteer work on the floor at Questacon (usually during the busiest time - holidays). For most students this association with Questacon continues and can lead to paid employment. This program is also a registered unit.

The Merici students that have been involved in the past have always represented Merici proudly and this year was no different. The program coordinator spoke very highly of our girls and personally thanked staff for their support of the program as the College consistently has more students involved (and who graduate), than any other college. We congratulate our students on this wonderful achievement.

**ALUMNI NEWS**

**50th Anniversary Reunion (1959-1963) – Canberra Catholic Girls’ High School (Merici) - Friday 25 October (12.30pm)**

It is 50 years since the first group of students who started in First Year in 1959 graduated in 1963. To celebrate this milestone a luncheon will be held at Merici College on Friday 25 October 2013. If you were part of that Year group at any time during the period 1959-1963 you are cordially invited to attend. Lunch will be prepared by the Merici College Hospitality students. The lunch will be held on Friday 25
October (12 noon for 12.30pm). The cost is $35.00 for a two course meal and refreshments. RSVP 11 October to Margaret Sleigh (Hodgson) mmsleigh@tpg.com.au or Elaine Laycock (Shine) layhawk@bigpond.com. For more information and payment details please follow the link http://tiny.cc/o5vu2w.

St Clare’s College Class of 1983 Reunion (1978-1983) – Saturday 26 October (3.00pm)
St Clare’s College Class of 1983 Reunion will be held on Saturday 26 October at the East Hotel, Canberra Avenue, Kingston from 3.00pm-6.00pm. Please follow the link http://tiny.cc/n0wu2w to find more information.

Merici College Class of 2003 Reunion – Saturday 2 November
A 10 year reunion will be held for the Merici College Class of 2003 on Saturday 2 November. A school tour will be held at 4.00pm and ex-students are asked to meet at the school entrance on Wise Street. The reunion celebration will be held at the Ox Eatery, East Hotel, 69 Canberra Avenue, Kingston commencing at 7.00pm. Please follow the link http://tiny.cc/n2xi3w to find more information.

OTHER NEWS

Celia Lashlie Presentation – St Edmund’s College – Thursday 24 October
On Thursday, 24 October from 7.00pm to 9.00pm researcher and social commentator Celia Lashlie will be presenting on "Growing Gorgeous Boys Into Good Men". The presentation will be held at St Edmund’s College. All welcome to attend. Admission is by gold coin donation.

Bringing Up Great Kids Program – Wednesday 30 October
Parents and Carers are invited to Bringing Up Great Kids a parenting program developed by the Australian Childhood Foundation for parents and carers of children aged 2-10 years.

This course will give you insights and skills needed to promote positive and nurturing relationships between parents and children, explore the management of stress in your parenting role, encourage the development of your child’s positive self-identity, develop the ability to contain strong emotions and to think through the responses to your child, rather than give ‘knee-jerk’ reactions, overcome some of the obstacles that are getting in the way of being the kind of parent you would like to be, and create opportunities for positive exchanges with your children.

The course is offered 3 hours per week over a 4 week period commencing on Wednesday 30 October, 6.00pm-9.00pm at 57 Hicks Street (Cnr Hicks and Nuys Streets), Red Hill. The cost for the program is $60.00 which includes course materials and supper, concessions available. Bookings essential. Please contact Gayle at CatholicCare on telephone 61626122.

CIT Fit and Well Coaches Conference – Wednesday 30 October (5.00pm-8.00pm)
This Coaches Conference is for all sports coaches to learn new techniques and knowledge of coaching. A networking opportunity will be provided along with light refreshments. Limited seating, so book early to avoid disappointment.

For more information contact: coachesconference2013@gmail.com. Coaches cost $15.00, register online at http://www.amiando.com/coachesconference.html. Free for students, register online at http://www.amiando.com/coachesconference.html-CITSTUDENT.html, or register on the night.

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The Resourceful Adolescent Program for Parents (RAP-P) – Thursday 31 October
This program is suitable for parents and carers of children attending primary school years 5 & 6 and secondary school students attending Years 7 to 12. RAP-P will help you help your teenager to develop a healthy self-esteem, help your teenager to 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, and promote harmony in your family. This course is offered 3 hours per week over a 3 week period from Thursday 31 October 2013, 6.00pm-9.00pm at 57 Hicks Street (Cnr Hicks and Nuyts Streets), Red Hill. The cost for the program is $50.00 which includes course materials, concessions available. Bookings essential. Please contact Gayle at CatholicCare on telephone 61626122.

Best day ever @ SJV Fete – Saturday 2 November (10.00am-2.00pm)
All invited to attend the St John Vianney’s Fete for their Best Day Ever”. Giant Waterballs, Jungle Slide, Jumping Castles, Lazer Maze, Kids Corner, Awesome Cakes & Food, our Famous Plant Stall, White Elephant, Books, Toys, Clothes, Secret Nail Salon, Fab Photobooth for all your BFF shots and Sideshow Alley where EVERYONE WINS A PRIZE…. come and check a Fire Engine….. the list of attractions is endless. Don't miss all the action on Centre Stage featuring Zumba, Tae kwon-do, Dance troupes, Brumby Jack, Gymnastics, Choirs, Kenny Koala, Irish Dancing and more!

The fete will be held on Saturday 2 November 10am - 2pm at St John Vianney’s Primary School, Namatjira Drive, Waramanga.

STS Student Exchange – Bring cultural exchange into your home!
STS Student Exchange are seeking families who are busy, friendly, interested in other cultures and willing to welcome an STS exchange student into their family. Australian families come from all walks of life and all cultural backgrounds, that’s what makes up our country. Our volunteer host families provide room and board and treat their host son or daughter as a member of their own family. Exchange students have their own spending money and medical insurance. While your exchange student is learning about Australian culture, your family members will learn about theirs. What a great way for your children to learn about another country!

Our next students will arrive from Europe, Canada and South America late January 2014.

Call STS today to start your adventure! 1800 263 964 or email stsf@people.net.au. For more information please visit the website www.sts-edfucation.com.au.

UPCOMING EVENTS (Term 4 Week 4)

Excursion Free Week Years 10-12 – Monday 4 November – Friday 8 November
Duke of Edinburgh Report Night – Tuesday 5 November
Years 9/10 Badminton – Tuesday 5 November
ACT 12 Years and Under Gymnastics – Thursday 7 November
Year 7/8 Badminton – Thursday 7 November

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