WHAT’S ON AT MERICI
Term 4 Weeks 4 and 5 (4 November – 17 November)

WHOLE SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Wise Street Carpark and Exit
Please be aware that there will be an increase in Parking Inspectors and Police presence on Wise Street during school hours (particularly after school). We would like to remind parents and visitors about their responsibilities in relation to parking legally and following the road rules. A resident living along Wise Street has reported that some vehicles exiting the Wise Street school carpark are turning right (only left hand turn allowed) and are driving over the painted island. The resident has also raised concerns about parents and visitors parking across driveways.

We would also like to remind students to be mindful of cars reversing out of carpark spaces. We have witnessed students walking behind cars as they are reversing out of spaces and as your daughter’s safety is of utmost importance we would ask that students be mindful of road safety at all times.

ICT 2014 and Beyond
We have a long and proud tradition of using technology here at the College. In 2014, parents in all year groups will have the opportunity to purchase a laptop via our supplier ASI Solutions. This was usually reserved for Year 7 students only, but will now be opened to all year groups. Students in Year 11 and 12 will be issued with school laptops for the final time in 2014. More information on ASI’s contact details will follow next week.

In preparation for the future, in 2015 we will be moving towards a BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) initiative. Before implementing this project, 2014 will be spent developing and planning a sound framework. A detailed document will be sent out to families before the end of the year. During 2014 we will be seeking consultation with parents.

ACT Secondary Bursary Scheme
The ACT Secondary Bursary Scheme can provide some financial assistance ($750) to low income earners in the ACT with dependent full-time students in Years 7-10. Applicants must be holders of a Pensioner Concession Car or Health Care Card with means tested payment code.

To ensure all eligible applicants receive this early payment, applications must be lodged with the Directorate by 15 November 2013. Payment of applications received after this date but before 4 July 2014 will be paid as soon as possible. Applications received after 4 July 2014 and before 31 October 2014 will only be eligible for a part year payment of $375.

If you believe you are eligible for assistant, application is direct to the ACT Department of Education and Training. Application forms are available from the College and Centrelink regional offices.

2013 Parent Satisfaction survey – Closes Monday 2 December
As part of our annual evaluation process we conduct a survey of parent satisfaction. This is an important way for us to get feedback from you about how we are performing as a school. The results will be reported in the Annual Report, which will be published in June next year. The results will also inform future planning. This survey relates to the 2013 school year.
A paper version of the survey is available from the school at the Student Services office. The Survey is anonymous and we ask that you do not attach your name to your response. Individual responses will remain confidential. Please follow the link https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/NBWRNJS to go to the survey. From responses already received about the website, we have added maps of the school and increased access to curriculum documents.

**Balgo House Working Bee for Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation – Monday 4 November (3.30pm-4.30pm)**
Balgo House will be holding a working bee to prepare for the fundraiser for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, which Balgo has nominated to support as a one-off event. Balgo will be making fruit icy poles on Monday 4 November from 3.30pm-4.30pm and selling them at recess and lunch on Wednesday 6 November. This event will be supervised by Balgo staff.

**Science Series 2013 – Tuesday 5 November (4.00pm)**
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 5 November Professor Margaret Harding (ANU) will be visiting the College. Professor Harding is the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) at the ANU but started her scientific life as an organic chemist with an interest in biology. For more information please follow the link [http://tiny.cc/mg4e1w](http://tiny.cc/mg4e1w).

**Dance USA 2014 Tour Information Evening – Thursday 7 November (6.00pm)**
An information evening for the Dance USA Tour 2014 will be held on Thursday 7 November in the iC from 6.00pm. Any parents or students considering the tour or just wanting to learn more about it are invited to attend. Any inquiries to Mrs Liza Laird or Mrs Laura Pearce.

**Year 12 House Farewells – Tuesday 12 November**
Year 12 House farewells will be held on Tuesday 12 November. This is a wonderful opportunity for all staff and students in each House to farewell Year 12 students.

**NAPLAN Results Years 7 and 9**
NAPLAN results for students in Years 7 and 9 were posted home on Thursday 17 October. If you have not received your daughter's report, please contact Dr Cleary on email [ann.cleary@merici.act.edu.au](mailto:ann.cleary@merici.act.edu.au)

In addition to the standard NAPLAN tests, students from Merici have been randomly selected by the Australian Council of Educational Research (ACER) to participate in other national testing initiatives. Some students from Year 10 sat the NAP-CC (Civics and Citizenship test) on Friday 25 October and selected Year 8 students will be sitting the NAP-ICILS (International Computer and Information Literacy Study) assessment on Thursday 7 November.

**iC Merici News**
As the year draws to a close we will be stocktaking the collection. To facilitate this process iC Merici will be closed Monday 9 December - Thursday 12 December during the day but open after school. The iC will re-open Friday 13 December for holiday borrowing during the day but closed after school.

To assist us we are asking students to return their resources by the due dates which are as follows:
- Senior students: 22 November
- Year 10 students: 29 November
- Years 7-9 students 6 December

Please ask your daughters to have a good look for library books at home as we will be sending home overdue notices shortly. If your daughter's books are missing or damaged please contact the iC.

Follow us on [@MericiC], [@MericiSport], [@MericiCanberra].
**YEAR 9 AND 10 NEWS**

**Year 10 Assessment and Attendance**
An email has recently been sent to all Year 10 teachers asking for feedback relating to those students who are behind in assessment and/or attendance. The replies from some teachers indicate the need to address the importance of both of the above mentioned expectations. Assessment and attendance are expectations of both the ACT Government and Merici College. In order to successfully graduate with a Year 10 certificate, students are required to submit all work and attend all classes until the end of the year. This relates to both full day and individual class attendance.

If you have any questions or concerns about this please feel free to contact Robert Higginbotham, Acting Senior Coordinator at robert.higginbotham@merici.act.edu.au to discuss further.

We would hope that as self directed and motivated learners students would be engaging in all classes until the end of this year in preparation for Senior College. It is important that students understand the requirements of both Year 10 certification and BSSS requirements as they transition into Year 11. If students are finding it difficult to meet the expectations set out, they may need to reassess their level of commitment to their studies and/or make an appointment to re-evaluate their senior package choices.

Lastly, if students have changed their minds about returning in 2014 please inform the school as soon as possible as we are trying to finish the timetable for next year. Your decisions do impact the arrangement of the timetable and the availability of class selections for others.

**Year 10 Exams – Thursday 21 November - Monday 25 November**
Please follow the link [http://tiny.cc/ztuq5w](http://tiny.cc/ztuq5w) to find the Semester 2 Exam Timetable for Year 10 students. Students must advise Mr Higginbotham if they know they will be away for an exam and reschedule prior to the date. Any student absent on the day of the exam must have a parent contact the school prior to the exam. Students will be expected to wear full school uniform as exams take only a part of each school day.

**Year 10 Certificate Data Check Forms**
Year 10 students have received data check forms for information which will appear on their Year 10 Certificate. It would be greatly appreciated if these forms could be checked and returned to Lee Henniequin, Curriculum Office or through the roll as soon as possible. Please ensure that academic grades, home address and other details are checked.

**YEAR 11 AND 12 NEWS**

**Senior Exams – Thursday 14 November – Wednesday 20 November**
The 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 Thursday 14 November to Wednesday 20 November. Individual timetables have been distributed to senior students in morning Pastoral Care lessons. Please follow the link [http://tiny.cc/ztuq5w](http://tiny.cc/ztuq5w) to find the Semester 2 Exam timetable.
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 and the Catherine Rey Learning Centre when not used for classes.

**Senior Exam Absences**
Senior students have received the exam timetable for the up and coming exam period. Students are requested to make sure they are aware when their exams are on. Should students have prior knowledge of absences for sporting, performance or other reasons during this exam time you need to see Mr Higginbotham, Acting Senior Coordinator, as soon as possible to arrange an application for leave. A copy of the exam timetable will also be up in the IC Senior Study and can be found on the website at http://tiny.cc/ztuq5w. This will then be considered in time to make appropriate changes if necessary.

If senior students are sick on the day of the exam, parents are asked to call either Mr Robert Higginbotham on 6243 4137 or Dr Ann Cleary on 6243 4103 on the morning of the exam.

**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.

**Voiding of Subjects**
Letters will be sent this week to senior students regarding possible Voiding of subjects. It is the student’s responsibility to ensure that these are followed up and if they are in doubt check absences with Mrs Hennequin. Merici policy states that students with ten Explained absences may be asked to meet with the Assistant Principal Curriculum to discuss impacts causing absences and their effect on learning. Please ensure full attendance for all remaining classes, except for medical and extenuating circumstances.

**ACU Scholarships in Early Childhood and Primary Teaching**
If students are interested in applying for a scholarship for ACU in the area of Early Childhood or Primary Teaching for next year can you see Mr Higginbotham before THIS Friday, 1 November.

**Completion of Registered Units**
Please be aware that registered units need to be completed shortly. Students who have completed a registered unit are required to please fill in the appropriate form from Mrs Hennequin's office and return to Mr Higginbotham as soon as possible once completed.

Emails will be sent to Year 12 students who have not been recorded as completing their Community Service hours (in lieu of completing Year 12 Religious Studies). Students may need to volunteer at the College after the exams if hours are not completed. Please contact Dr Ann Cleary, ann.cleary@merici.act.edu.au for further information.

**CURRICULUM NEWS**

**Assessment Alerts**
We have had a fabulous response to the online assessment calendar and Assessment Alert App. A number of parents have contacted Assessment Alert for further information on how to set up the App for their daughter’s classes on iPhone and Android devices.
Assessment Alert have provided us with additional help guides, which we have made available on the school website (http://tiny.cc/6xoo5w). Please let us know if you have any feedback on the calendar or App, or other suggestions on how we may assist you further in supporting your daughter’s academic planning. For further information please contact ann.cleary@merici.act.edu.au or megan.keogh@merici.act.edu.au.

STUDENT WELFARE NEWS

Student Wellbeing during Exams and Assessment Time
With assessments and exams fast approaching, parents will be all too aware of how stressful a time this can be for teenagers. Research has shown that students may experience symptoms of depression, anxiety and stress. Useful information and advice on supporting your daughter through this busy period can be found at the following link, http://www.generationnext.com.au/2013/10/put-books-get-active/.

EXPRESSIVE ARTS NEWS

Arts Exhibition – Tuesday 26 November – Friday 29 November
The 2013 Expressive Arts Exhibition will be held in the Catherine Rey Learning Centre from Tuesday 26 November to Friday 29 November. The Exhibition will be officially opened on Tuesday 26 November from 5.00pm with refreshments. A fashion parade will commence at 6.00pm with students from Year 7 to Year 12 showcasing their work.

Merici’s Vinnies Vogue Fashion Competition
A fashion competition will be held in conjunction with the Art Exhibition’s fashion parade and all students (whether you are undertaking Textiles or not) are invited to participate in the Merici Vinnies Vogue Fashion Competition. Students are required to use clothing from a second-hand store or from their wardrobe and recreate it into an outfit or garment that represents this season’s fashion trends. There are great prizes in the categories of: Best use of recycled clothing; Most creative; Most outrageous; and Best interpretation of this season’s trends. Students will have the opportunity to showcase their creations at the Art Exhibition’s fashion parade on Tuesday 26 November.

DRAMA NEWS

Drama Production 2014
Drum roll please...! Merici College is pleased to announce our 2014 Drama Production: 'HATING ALISON ASHLEY' by Robin Klein. The production will be held at the College in Week 4, Term 2 of next year. Auditions are open to ALL students and will be taking place at selected lunchtimes in the Drama Room during Weeks 4 and 5 this term. Interested students should see the Performing Arts Noticeboard for more details.

DEFENCE NEWS

Remembrance Day Ceremony – Monday 11 November
On Monday 11 November students from Defence families have been invited to participate in this year’s Remembrance Day Ceremony at the Australian War Memorial. Some Defence students will lay a poppy at the Stone of Remembrance during the televised ceremony.
SPORT NEWS

Duke of Edinburgh Report Night – Tuesday 5 November
The Duke of Edinburgh Report Night will be held at Merici College on Tuesday 5 November at 6.00 pm. Parents, families and friends are welcome with tea and coffee available from 5.30 pm. We look forward to seeing you there.

Sports Awards – Monday 11 November (5.00pm-6.30pm)
The 2013 Sports Awards will be held on Monday 11 November commencing at 5.00pm in the canteen for nibbles and then 5.45pm in the gym for award presentations. The night will be a celebration of sporting success for all participating and representative students throughout 2013. Dress casually. RSVP to andrew.blakey@merici.act.edu.au or by phone 62434118. Please follow the link http://tiny.cc/829t5w to find more information.

CONGRATULATIONS

Year 7 and 8 ACT Interschool Badminton Competition – Monday 28 October
Monday 28 October saw the first ever combined Merici/Marist Badminton team enter the ACT Interschool Badminton Competition. Representing Merici were 4 very enthusiastic students consisting of: Zamela Gina, Dana Ryan, Alexandra Pryor and Caitlin Hanna.

After meeting the boys from Marist briefly and getting a few pointers they were ready for their first game against Lyneham High’s Number 2 team. To some of the girls’ astonishment they could actually play Badminton and with great skill, winning the Match 9 games to Nil. They then managed to hold out winning the rest of the matches in their pool only losing a number of games to finish on top of the ladder. They then faced a skilful Canberra High in the semi-finals showing composure and quick thinking winning the match 8 games to 1.

After a nervous wait to find out the results of the other matches we were informed that they in fact would be playing off for the championship against Lyneham High’s Number 1 team. An exhausted Merici/Marist team took to the courts where some absolutely outstanding skill and technique were on display from both teams. Each point was a fight to get and after each game being neck to neck and the competition running late due to the length of some of the rallies the Merici/Marist team were victorious!! The Merici girls only lost 1 game out of the 4 they played in the match which was a sensational effort.

The girls represented the college with great pride and dignity in not only the way they conducted themselves on the court but off as well. We look forward to teaming up with Marist again next year to defend the title!

Year 7 and 8 Super 8 Cricket Teams – Tuesday 29 October
Congratulations to the Year 7 and 8 Super 8 Cricket teams who participated in a competition on Tuesday 29 October at Deakin Oval. Both teams won 4 of their 5 games and received the Runners Up Medals on the day. They represented Merici College with distinction.

Penola House present fundraising cheque to Marymead
Congratulations to Penola House who recently presented a cheque to their charity, Marymead. Penola 2013 Captains, Dana Milde and Taylor Jankuloski presented a cheque of monies raised this year, to Marymead representative, Joanne Dean-Ritchie. Ms Dean-Ritchie informed the girls of the wonderful work Marymead does to support vulnerable children and families in Canberra and expressed Marymead’s appreciation for the efforts of Penola House to raise much needed funds for the organisation.

Follow us on @MericiC, @MericiSport, @MericiCanberra.
Gymnastics NSW Country Championships – Friday 27 September
Congratulations to students Kayla Murray, Porsche Foster and Kayla Cragg who recently participated in the Gymnastics NSW Country Championships. Kayla Murray came 1st in Level 8, Porsche Foster won Level 5 junior and Kayla Cragg performed extremely well in Level 7. We wish these students well in their future sporting endeavours. For more information please follow the link http://tiny.cc/1ulf5w.

OTHER NEWS

School Uniform Suppliers
Please follow the link http://tiny.cc/f54m5w to find information on school uniform price lists from our suppliers.

Marymead/Jim Murphy Annual Wine Dinner – Saturday 2 November
The Marymead/Jim Murphy Annual Wine Dinner will be held on Saturday 2 November at ‘The Tradies’ Woden – this year it’s ‘A Canberra Centennial Celebration’! Only local wines will be served on the night and two local wine makers will be presenting a talk about their wines, O’Leary’s and Mt Majura. Tickets are $110.00 each or a table of 10 for $1,000.00. Tickets include a delicious three course meal and accompanying wines. Please contact events@marymead.org.au for further information, or telephone 6162 5828.

Marymead Annual Fete – Saturday 9 November
On Saturday 9 November from 9.00am – 1.30pm, Marymead is holding its annual fete at 255 Goyder Street, Narrabundah. Several Penola students will be helping at the fete. There will be face painting, a petting zoo, craft, food, clothes, plants, a sausage sizzle, toys and much much more! All welcome to attend.

Radford College Institute Seminar – Tuesday 12 November
The Radford College Institute is an initiative of Radford College. It is intended to be an open forum for the exploration and propagation of “great educational practice”. For more information visit the Radford Institute page on the Radford College website www.radford.act.edu.au.

An Occasional Seminar on “Why too many Australian students struggle with reading and what we should do about it: Insights from the latest in research on reading acquisition and dyslexia” will be held on Tuesday 12 November. The seminar will be presented by Dr Bartek Rajkowski, Director of Adelaide Speech Pathology Services and developer of ReadingDoctor specialist literacy improvement software. The seminar will be held in the New Senior School Lecture Theatre, Radford College, College Street, Bruce, Canberra and commences at 5.30pm for 6.30pm. Please rsvp your attendance to Mr Peter Dodd, institute@radford.act.edu.au. This event is free and is open to anyone who is interested in attending. Please confirm your attendance by Friday 9 November 2013.

UPCOMING EVENTS (Term 4 Weeks 6 and 7)

Senior Exams – Thursday 14 November – Wednesday 20 November
AST Trial – Year 11 only – Thursday 21 November (morning only)
Year 10 Exams – Thursday 21 November – Monday 25 November
AST Year 10 practice – Monday 25 November (afternoon only)
Arts Exhibition – Tuesday 26 November – Friday 29 November
Year 12 Breakfast – Wednesday 27 November (8.00am – 9.00am)
Year 12 Farewell Assembly- Wednesday 27 November (11.30am-12.30pm)
Year 12 Graduation Mass Preparation – Wednesday 27 November (1.30pm – 3.30pm) and Thursday 28 November (1.30pm – 3.30pm)