



WHAT'S ON NEWSLETTER

Term 4 Weeks 2 and 3 (10 October – 24 October)

IMPORTANT NOTICES

Transport Canberra Dedicated school buses

Transport Canberra's dedicated school bus services will recommence on Monday 25 October 2021. This includes 'S' trips that divert into schools.

Timings have changed for dedicated school services and the regular timetable. We are strongly encouraging families to check their [school pack](#) and plan ahead.

Special Needs Transport continues to run for those families that need this service.

A range of COVID Safe measures are in place to help keep students safe on public transport. Please remind families to familiarise themselves with [these measures](#) and talk to their children about them prior to the return to school.

From Monday 25 October 2021 buses will run to a [revised interim timetable](#). This timetable is a similar frequency to the timetable that has been running over the past two months, but with some changes to timings to allow better connections for school students.

Light rail is continuing to run to its regular frequency but will see an increase in frequency from Monday 1 November 2021. This will assist with physical distancing on board. Customers will benefit from extended afternoon peak frequency on weekdays and increased frequency on Sunday mornings.

Consider walking or riding to school – or using a Part way point

Parents and carers may also consider alternative ways to get their children to school. If they live close by they can take advantage of the warmer spring weather and walk, ride or scoot to school!

Part way points are also a great way to get some exercise into children's days for families that live a little further away and this also helps to ease congestion around schools. Parents or carers can simply drop their child at a point, or park and walk the rest of the way with them.

Park safely and legally

All 40km/h school zones are in place between 8am and 4pm Monday to Friday. Speed limits in school zones are there to ensure the safety of children by allowing motorists extra time to stop in an unexpected situation. Parking across pedestrian crossings, corners, verges and double parking can block kids seeing the road.

School packs and timetable information

The [revised interim timetables](#) and [school packs](#) are now available online.

For enquiries customers are encouraged to visit www.transport.act.gov.au or call 13 17 10.

Qcity Transit Bus Services Changes effective Monday 25 October

Qcity Transit wishes to advise changes to school bus services in the mornings for Merici College that will commence on Monday 25 October 2021.

- From Monday 25 October 2021 students who previously caught school service S206 to Merici College will now need to catch school service SI 97 which departs the Queanbeyan Interchange at 8:20am. This service will then deliver students to Merici College arriving at approximately 8:45am. The decision to remove school service S206 has been made due to significant underuse of this service over the past number of years, particularly given that there are alternative services available for students.
- From Monday 25th October 2021 school service S133 will depart from Jerrabomberra at 7:27am, 8 minutes earlier than the current departure time of 7:35am. This change has been determined to ensure that students from the Jerrabomberra area are able to arrive at Merici College at 8:39am, prior to the school bell time in the mornings.

Please follow the link <https://qcitytransit.com.au/school-services/school-listings/school/merici-college> to find all other bus information. If you require further information regarding these changes, please do not hesitate to contact our SSTS team on 6299 3722 or www.qcitytransit.com.au.

Merici Dedicated South Canberra Bus Service

Please be advised that the dedicated South Canberra bus service to/from Merici College will resume operation on Monday 25 October. Please note that no refunds will be issued for Term 3 Weeks 5-10, however there will be no charge in Term 4 to families.

WHOLE SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Brescia House Day (Monday 1 November)

Brescia House Day will be held on Monday 1 November during Long PC. Students are encouraged to wear a splash of purple to engage in House Spirit for the day– hair ties, socks, small accessories etc. COVID safe activities will be arranged in PC classes in addition to a liturgy to commemorate the Feast Day of St Ursula.

Seiwa House Day (Monday 1 November)

In celebration of Seiwa House Day, students are asked to bring in a pillow case, t-shirt or something to dye, Shibori style – a Japanese art form using indigo dye and various folding techniques. Students are encouraged to wear blue accessories, masks, ribbons, etc.

Twilight Christmas Family Picnic

Our P&F Committee is very excited to extend an invitation to all our Merici family and friends to attend the Merici College Twilight Christmas Family Picnic to be held on Friday 26 November 5pm-8pm.



TWILIGHT CHRISTMAS FAMILY PICNIC
NOVEMBER 26 5PM-8PM
MERICI COLLEGE OVAL AND INDIGENOUS GARDEN

BYO FOOD AND DRINKS
BRIDGE RESTAURANT CLICK & COLLECT PICNIC MENU AVAILABLE
Ordering link to follow

ENTERTAINMENT
Dance Troupe, Senior Band, Senior Dance, San Trails (Staff Band) and lots more

CHRISTMAS HAMPER RAFFLES
All proceeds to Vinnies Christmas Appeal

RSVP: pfcommittee@merici.act.edu.au by November 24



Join a Live NASA Tour at Johnson Space Center, Houston!

CASE Space Academy is on again for the next school holidays and every course includes a guided and interactive Live NASA Tour. Curious and imaginative kids in years 5 to 8 will get excited for STEM through the thrill of authentic space courses.

- build and test your own Mars rover and helicopter model to discover flight and motion
- create a galactic farm, water filter and solar energy model to explore sustainability
- collaborate with your team to design your own space missions
- Join an interactive expedition to the USA with our Live NASA Tour

Knowledgeable and enthusiastic course leaders guide students with live coaching in an inspiring and interactive environment, all supported by NASA experts through loads of:

- hands-on STEM activities
- engineering design challenges
- science experiments, and
- exciting team missions



Program dates:

- 13-17 December 2021, mornings.
- 10-14 January 2022, mornings or afternoons.
- 17-21 January 2022, mornings or afternoons.

Bookings close soon!

Use our promo code **CSAMERACT** to receive course discounts!

- \$20 off one course
- \$50 cashback when you group purchase three or more courses with friends

RECRUITING SPACE CADETS NOW!

YEAR 7, 8 AND 9 NEWS

Year 7 Immunisation Program

The COVID-19 lockdown has seen the Year 7 vaccination program, scheduled for Term 4 2021, placed on hold. Please click [here](#) to find further information.

Road Ready 2021

Year 9 and 10 students who live in the ACT will be given the opportunity to complete the Road Ready course this term. The program will run on Thursday 25 November from 9:00am until 3:30pm. Students wishing to take advantage of this opportunity will have set modules to complete before the day. To be issued with a certificate student's must attend all sessions and complete the compulsory activities in their workbook.

How old do the students need to be to do the course? Students in Year 10 and Year 9 who will be 15 years or older on 25 November can do the course. Students may like to start practising the test now. [Safe plates testing](#) Road Ready is only for those residing in the ACT.

Please click on the link below to register your interest in completing the Road Ready course on the 25 November. Registrations close Friday 29th October.

[Road Ready Registration](#)

For further information, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Kennedy via email emma.kennedy@merici.act.edu.au or by telephone on 62434168

YEAR 10, 11 AND 12 NEWS

Year 11 and 12 BSSS and IB DP Key Academic Dates

Please find below links to the BSSS and IB DP Key Academic dates:

- [BSSS](#) Key Academic Dates
- [IB](#) DP Key Academic Dates

Please read this carefully, as it outlines when you finish school and firm deadlines for finalising the academic results. If you have any questions, please email renee.taylor@merici.act.edu.au.

MISSION AND COMMUNITY NEWS

Socktober 2021

Merici is taking part in Socktober, an initiative of global mission aid agency Catholic Mission Australia that raises awareness and funds for critical projects supporting vulnerable children in developing countries. The focus of the learning and fundraising efforts that students will carry out throughout the month of October, known as World Mission Month, is a Kindergarten in Bangkok that provides a safe learning environment for children and life-changing empowerment for their mothers. Please view the video here:



<https://youtu.be/m4fv6pKdkVc>.

One of the first activities on the agenda in Long PC last term was to make a “sockball” – a makeshift soccer ball made of recycled materials like old socks. The activity helps students understand the reality of children who cannot afford high-quality balls found in schools across Australia. It is important for our students to understand why children overseas need our support, and to expose some of the root causes of poverty. In doing this, we are preparing our students to be responsible leaders of change in the future. The soccer part of the program, especially the sockball activity, helps the students to understand that, while we might be more privileged than children in Thailand, we are very similar at a fundamental level, in our love of games and sports.

Our school community is hopeful we can make a big impact for children in need in Thailand. The pandemic has caused a lot of uncertainty here in the Canberra region but the situation is a lot more difficult there, and part of being a Catholic community is always looking to support those in greater need than ourselves.

- Students will be informed of further details regarding official crazy sock day and the sock fashion parade to be held during Week 4, Term 4.

You are invited to remotely support Merici's Socktober effort by donating to your family's House page:

<p>Balgo: https://www.socktober.org.au/fundraisers/balghouse</p> 	<p>Brescia: https://www.socktober.org.au/fundraisers/bresciahouse</p> 
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Ningil:

<https://www.socktober.org.au/fundraisers/ningilhouse>



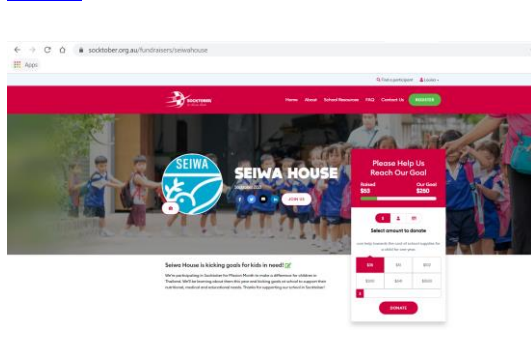
Penola:

<https://www.socktober.org.au/fundraisers/penolahouse>



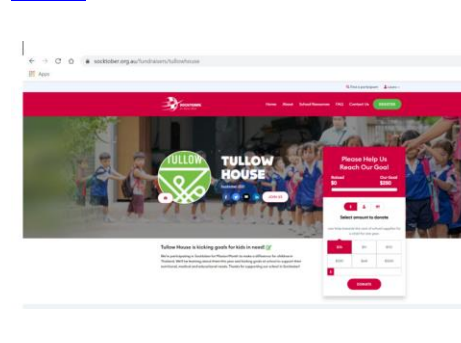
Seiwa:

<https://www.socktober.org.au/fundraisers/seiwhouse>



Tullow:

<https://www.socktober.org.au/fundraisers/tullowhouse>



Seeking volunteers!

Wonderful volunteers are invited to assist with our 'star' art installation. Students completed a star (fabric and sticks) each, earlier the year, for our Dare to Dream theme. We are seeking volunteers to help string these (approx. 600) into lengths using fine fishing line. The finished art installation will be hung in the stairwell where the butterfly installation currently exists. Our Maintenance Team will hang the star lengths. If you are able to assist, please contact Amy Connellan, Head of Mission and Community at amy.connellan@merici.act.edu.au.

CHRISTIAN SERVICE LEARNING PROGRAM

Next Steps for the Christian Service Learning Program - Year 8 Upcycling Project

As Year 8 students are finalising their Upcycling Project as part of our Christian Service Learning Program (CSLP), I would like to take the opportunity to thank parents and carers for your support of this project. There are some fantastic upcycled pieces which really have embraced the goals of the project! There are also a few reminders for students and a small request of parents and carers.

The Year 8 Upcycling Project also provides students with an opportunity to address some outcomes of the IB MYP Service as Action. Meeting the Service as Action outcomes is a requirement of the MYP. It is important that students complete all steps and continue to communicate with their RE class teacher if they are having any problems finalising their project or reflections.

Year 8 - Steps which should be completed by now:

1. Viewed the 30 min. Foreign Correspondent episode (PG) *‘Dead White Man’s Clothes’* (ABC, 2021). (Access through ClickView on Moodle or ABC iView)
2. Reflection 1: Before the Service (MS Forms link emailed to you)
3. Reflection 2: During the Service (MS Forms link emailed to you)

Year 8 - Steps to complete by Friday 15 October:

1. Finish your Upcycling Project
2. Complete your *‘Evidence Log Upcycle Project’* in OneNote (this includes progress photos)
3. Complete your *‘Hours log Upcycle Project’* in OneNote (12 hours min. – 20 hours max.). Remember to log the hours covered in class for the project!

Year 8 - Step to complete by Friday 22 October:

1. Reflection 3: After the Service (MS Forms link will be emailed to you)

Parents and Carers step:

Parents and carers will be able to provide feedback regarding the project and also verify the total number of hours your daughter has spent working on the project at home by completing the following MS Forms via this link: <https://forms.office.com/r/RwCFn6TNRu>

Final steps:

1. After parent/carer verification, your daughter’s RE Teacher will verify student reflection submissions
2. The total approved hours will be added to your daughter’s Angel Effect (Moodle)
3. As communicated earlier, after the completion of the project, we are hoping to hold a stall at school later in Term 4 to sell the projects and donate the proceeds to a sustainability-focussed group/project in our local community. This will of course depend on COVID restrictions.

Further information:

Students will complete some hours in their scheduled 8 RE lessons and are encouraged to complete 8-10 hours in their own time on their own project at home. Students are reminded to keep the project simple and they may wish to complete a number of smaller projects to accumulate the hours. Students will be credited with time given to research in class for their project and teachers will add this to their record of hours. Parents and carers will be able to verify the total number of hours spent working on the project at home.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the project or requirements, please contact Amy Connellan, Head of Mission and Community (amy.connellan@merici.act.edu.au).

MATHEMATICS NEWS

Mathematical Mindset

The following are self-paced courses for both parent and student around maths anxiety. The first two listed are sponsored by an educational organisation called Eedi, and as such you see an advertisement for the organisation at the end. The final course is a student course developed by a professor at Stanford University. All courses are free.

1. [Did you find Maths stressful at school? Free course for Parents](#)

This course called "[Helping with Homework: For Maths-Anxious Parents](#)" guides parents through a few of the ways they can help their child without having to know too much about the maths being taught at school. (This course takes about 30 minutes)

2. [Free course for Students with Maths anxiety](#)

Eedi's free maths anxiety course, for students is available [here](#). Eedi sends through an email certificate upon completion of the course so you'll have something handy to record as evidence! (This course takes about 30 minutes).

3. [How to learn Maths is a free course run by Professor Jo Boaler from Stanford University](#)

This course combines really important information on the brain and learning with new evidence on the best ways to approach and learn math effectively. Many people have had negative experiences with math and end up disliking math or failing. This class will give learners of math the information they need to become powerful math learners, it will correct any misconceptions they have about what math is, and it will teach them about their own potential to succeed and the strategies needed to approach math effectively. If you have had past negative experiences with math this will help change your relationship to one that is positive and powerful. This course can be accessed through the link [Online Student Course - YouCubed](#) . (This course takes about 2 hours)

iC NEWS

Remote learning has created some challenges for our learning. One of the things we have noticed is students' reliance on the free web, "to Google". This often leads to use of poor-quality sources. Some students have struggled in their organisation, not leaving themselves enough time to research and draft, good assignments take time.

We are continuously working with classes on the skills of paraphrasing, academic honesty, and the use of quality resources. Plagiarism can take many forms and we want students to research widely and well, use their own words, to quote when necessary, and use evidence that supports their own ideas and writing.

One of the best things you can do as parents is to talk to your daughters about their research and tasks. This helps to solidify their ideas and ensures they understand their reading, enabling them to put the information into their own words, to paraphrase. As a school we use Turnitin as a similarity tool. Students are able to submit a draft before the submission date to check the assignment similarity, it will pick up if the writing is too similar to another source this then gives the student an opportunity to redraft the task before it is too late.

Using quality resources is a must for high school and college research, the iC provides many quality databases for all students to access through Moodle or SEQTA.

iC staff are always happy to assist in research tasks.

Yours in research,
iC staff

CREATIVE AND PERFORMING ARTS NEWS

Week 5 Welcome Back Singalong and Jam Sesh

Music is good for the soul and better done together! To celebrate all being back together join in for a singalong and jam Thursday lunchtime 4th November in the courtyard between the gym and main staffroom. Instrumentalists and singers (staff and students) all welcome, no experience necessary - enthusiasm required (and masks of course). Hoping to see lots of Merici Vocal Group members, Matilda the Musical cast members and some new faces as well!

Songs to learn or have a listen to are:

These Days:

- <https://tabs.ultimate-guitar.com/tab/powderfinger/these-days-chords-5356>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DpWVsOyf0n4&list=PLP-golz-gbVstjsjSz0W7Fe57xMIGfdIK&index=14>

Riptide:

- <https://tabs.ultimate-guitar.com/tab/vance-joy/riptide-chords-1173278>
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uj_1HMAGb4k

Chords and lyrics will be provided on the day - can't wait to singalong with you all!

Clare Freeman

SUSTAINABILITY NEWS

SW(OP) Shop

The SW(OP) shop will be back in Term Four!

While we are at home this is an excellent opportunity to clear out the clothing that you no longer use. Doing so will extend the life of the items as well as divert clothing from landfill.



Items will be made available to students for a gold coin donation. Proceeds will be donated to a charity to be determined by the SAM team. Only clean items suitable for a new life please.

Check your next newsletter for information about where to drop off your donations!

CO-CURRICULAR NEWS

Debating Opportunity for Year 11 students: Applications Close Soon

Applications for Year 11 students to represent the ACT in the **National Schools' Constitutional Convention 2022** are due on **Monday 1 November**. Interested students should contact Dr Powell for more details on how to apply (email: stephen.powell@merici.act.edu.au).

The 'Con Con' is a fully-funded three-day event to be held at Old Parliament House in March 2022. It brings together 120 future leaders from across Australia to consider a hypothetical change to the Constitution. Each year, a team of 5 students represent the ACT and participate in its workshops, debates, and more. This is a great opportunity for students with an interest in public speaking, negotiation, legal studies, politics, modern history and ethics.

OTHER NEWS

Athletics Foot School Program

Please support our partnership with Athletics Foot School Program. For every pair of shoes a student from your school purchases from us, we donate \$5 back to your school!

Jazz Program Information Session

Covering our Girls Jazz and Developing Musicians Jazz programs

Thursday 4 November, 6:00 pm

Register here: [Jazz Info Session Registration](#)

Chamber Program Information Session

Covering our Chamber Ensemble program, including Music Theory and Aural Skills, and the Vocal Fry choir

Friday 5 November, 5:30 pm

Register here: [Chamber Info Session Registration](#)

Students can find out more information about the programs and how to apply here: <https://music.cass.anu.edu.au/open-school/news>

Woolworths Cricket Blast (Ages 5-10)

Junior Blasters (Ages 5-7) - Learn the skills to play cricket through fun game-based activities (60 mins)

Master Blasters (Ages 7-10) - Play modified games of cricket in a fun and social setting (90 mins)

Junior Cricket (Girls & Boys)

Girls competitions (Ages 10-17) - A fun, welcoming and inclusive environment, everybody gets to bat, bowl & field, T20 matches with modified rules and formats, a league for girls to develop their skills and progress along their cricket pathway.

Boys competitions (Ages 10-17) - A fun, welcoming and inclusive environment, everybody gets to bat, bowl & field, short, action-packed games played in under two hours.

To register, head to playcricket.com.au and search Tuggeranong Valley Junior Cricket Club

Tuggeranong Valley Cricket Club is working hard to connect with local schools and the community to ensure kids are outside being physically active and looking after their wellbeing.

If you would like any more information on Cricket Blast, Junior Cricket, or cricket at Tuggeranong Valley, please don't hesitate to get in contact.

Hip Hop and Literacy Program

The Hip Hop and Literacy Program works to help students with literacy flow patterns and creative pathways. Students will gain an understanding of song writing, and new-wave creative techniques to develop their music.

This 2-day workshop is delivered by KG & Shaka Browning who combined have over 20 years and seven albums worth of music and creative writing experience.

- 16 and 17 October
- 11am - 12 pm and 1 - 2 pm both days
- Ages 12 - 17
- Free, booking essential
- Zoom links to be emailed to participants prior to the workshops

To apply to join these online workshops, please fill out the following form: <https://music.cass.anu.edu.au/form/kg-and-shaka-workshop-application>





Hip Hop Workshop with KG and Shaka

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This 2-day online workshop is delivered by KG & Shaka Browning who combined have over 20 years and 7 albums worth of music and creative writing experience.

16 + 17 October
11 am - 12 pm and 1 - 2 pm both days
Ages 12 - 17
Free, booking essential!
Zoom links to be sent to applicants prior to the workshop

To book, please visit:
<https://music.cass.anu.edu.au/form/kg-and-shaka-workshop-application>

Sponsored by
 **ACT** Government
 **ANU Open School of Music**
For more information visit music.cass.anu.edu.au/open-school
 **Australian National University**

UPCOMING EVENTS (Term 4 Weeks 6 and 7)

Upcoming events will be advised.