WHAT’S ON AT MERICI
Term 4 Weeks 8 and 9 (2 December-15 December)

WHOLE SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Important Dates to remember

Year 10 Thanksgiving Mass and Awards Ceremony – Friday 6 December 2013
Last day for Years 7, 8 & 9 students – Friday 13 December 2013
Commencement Dates for 2014
First day for Years 7, 11 & 12 students – Monday 3 February 2014
First day for Years 8, 9 & 10 students – Tuesday, 4 February 2014

Please follow the link http://tiny.cc/7ij55w to find all term dates for 2014.

Nude Food Day – Friday 29 November
Merici College will hold its second Nude Food Day on Friday 29 November where students not eating lunch from 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 (Bisphenol A) 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.

Sell, Swap and Buy Preloved School Uniform – Monday 2 December – Friday – 13 December

Families have an opportunity to purchase or swap preloved school uniform items at the Student Services Office. Gold coin donation per item for purchase with some uniform items being sold for $5. We are in need of senior uniform items and would greatly appreciate donations of clothing from Year 12 students. There will be some preloved senior uniform items on sale: blazers $50, vests $15, skirts $5. For more information please contact the Student Services Office on telephone 6243 4109. Small notices can be displayed on the College’s noticeboard at the Student Services Office for those families who wish to sell uniform items privately. Please forward notices to the Student Services. All donations will go to the St Vinnies Christmas Appeal.
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. To date we have received over 75 responses. From these responses and feedback on our website, we have added maps of the school and increased access to curriculum documents.

Canteen Closures – Wednesday 11 December
The Canteen will be closed from Wednesday 11 December to the end of Term 4.

Year 7-9 Christmas Mass – Thursday 12 December (11.30am-12.30pm)
Our annual Advent Mass will be held in the Auditorium at 11.30am on Thursday 12 December. All students from Year 7, 8 and 9 will be in attendance. The girls are required to wear their full school uniform on this formal occasion. We are very fortunate to have Father Bernie Paterson as the Celebrant for this special Mass. All parents are welcome to attend.

Year 7-9 Christmas Concert and Disco – Friday 13 December
A Christmas Concert will be held in the Auditorium from 10.15am to 12.35pm. A disco will follow from 1.15pm – 3.25pm. It is a casual clothes day. No donation required. Appropriate clothing is expected. Extremely short shorts, low-cut tops, facial piercings or high heels are not permitted. Please follow the link http://tiny.cc/nuj86w for more information and guidelines on appropriate casual wear.

Semester Reports for Years 7 – 11 Students – posted Thursday 19 December
Semester reports will be posted home to students on Thursday 19 December. Please ensure your postal address details are correct by contacting the College via Student Services on telephone 6243 4109.

Merici Laptop Program
The laptop program is designed to provide a reliable tool to students to further their learning experience. Merici College have been running the program successfully in Year 7 for almost two decades. For the 2014 school year, the opportunity to purchase a laptop has been opened up to all current and new students in all year groups. ASI Solutions and our partners, Lenovo, are very excited to work with Merici College to bring your daughters(s) the latest technology.

The College provides full on-site servicing for the laptop including all parts replacements, software updates and repairs for free on the main laptop. This includes physical damage, cracks and severe wear and tear over the 3-year lifetime of the warranty at no additional cost. There is also a free one-time replacement battery policy during the 3 year warranty. For more information on the laptop program please follow the link http://tiny.cc/vnje6w.

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 from Monday 9 December until Thursday 12 December during the day but open after school except on Monday 9 December. The iC will re-open on 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: 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.

**iC Homework Club**

From Week 8 the iC Homework Club goes into recess, it will resume again in Week 2 Term 1, 2014. Thank you to the Learning Support staff who have facilitated this valuable service all year it has been appreciated and enjoyed by a large number of students. Students can continue to come to the iC for private reading and research as well as self-directed learning activities. Please check with the iC for opening times as these may vary as the school year comes to a close.

**Arrangements for Student Early Departures**

Parents are requested to plan early departures/pick up with their daughters before arriving at school. It is very difficult for Student Services staff and student runners to locate students at this time of year due to end-of-year celebratory gatherings and assemblies. Also, a reminder to all parents that Absentee Reports distributed to students in Pastoral Care last week, must be returned as soon as possible.

**Year 7 2014 School Packs**

As previously advised at the Year 7 Induction Day, the College is offering you an easier way to purchase compulsory items for class in readiness for the 2014 school year. The College school pack includes a College PE hat, House badge, scientific calculator, a specific language workbook, a cloth bag which is suitable for use of storing PE or dance gear, a Hospitality cap, an exercise book, and a folder with general College information. Please note that it is compulsory to purchase a pack. It is not possible for packs to be altered in any way. The pack will cost $75.00 which will be charged to your Term 1 school fees. Your daughter will be given her pack on the first day of Year 7 2014.

**YEAR 9 AND 10 NEWS**

**Year 10 Thanksgiving Mass/Awards Ceremony – Friday 6 December (10.00am)**

Please follow the link [http://tiny.cc/woh55w](http://tiny.cc/woh55w) to find an invitation to all Year 10 parents and their families to the Thanksgiving Mass and Awards Ceremony. We are looking forward to seeing you at this special celebration. Parents and students are reminded that the dress for the occasion is smart attire suitable for a Thanksgiving Mass (no bare shoulders, no short skirts, no facial piercings and low heels are recommended).

**Year 10 Timetable for last week of Term 4 – Friday 29 November– Friday 6 December**

Please follow the link [http://tiny.cc/oxqv6w](http://tiny.cc/oxqv6w) to find the timetable for all Year 10 students for their last week at school for Term 4 (Friday 29 November to Friday 6 December).

**Year 10 Service Day – Monday 2 December**

All Year 10 students have been allocated a charitable work placement for Monday 2 December. Students will need to make their own way to and from the venue. Staff members will be checking in on students during their service day placement to sign off on their required six hours. Placements have been made according to where students live to facilitate ease of access on the day. There will be a group here at school also.

**YEAR 11 AND 12 NEWS**

**Year 12 Graduation Mass and Awards Ceremony – Wednesday 4 December**

Year 12 students and their families will attend a Graduation Mass and Awards Ceremony on Wednesday.
4 December. Attendance is compulsory for all Year 12 students. The Ceremony will be held in the Auditorium at 6.00pm. Girls are asked to arrive no later than 5.30pm. Please note that full uniform is to be worn.

Academic excellence and outstanding effort in senior courses is recognised at the end of Year 12 at the Awards ceremony, following the Graduation Mass. To be eligible for an award, students must complete a major, major-minor or double major in the course (minimum of four units). Outstanding effort is awarded to a student who has shown consistently commendable levels of effort over the duration of the course. Academic excellence in Tertiary courses is awarded to the student achieving the highest average score, of 70 or above, for a course. In Accredited courses, Academic Excellence is awarded to the student with the highest overall ranking (based on scores if applicable or teacher input) and a Grade Point Average of 4.0 or above.

**Year 12 Formal – Thursday 5 December**
The Year 12 Formal will take place on Thursday 5 December and will be held at the Convention Centre. Students are asked to arrive by 6.00pm to facilitate the taking of the whole group photo.

**Distribution of Year 12 Certificates – Wednesday 18 December (1.00-3.30pm)**
Year 12 Certificates will be available for collection from the College on Wednesday 19 December from 1.00pm to 3.30pm in the iC. Year books will be available for collection for Year 12 students at this time.

**Return to School, 2014**
Day 1 2014 for Years 7, 11 and 12 students will be Monday 3 February 2014. Years 11 and 12 students will be required to be at school from 10.00am. As a member of the Year 12 class of 2014, your daughter will play an important role in assisting the new Year 7 students in her House. Please note that there will be canteen facilities on this day.

All members of the College Student Leadership team are required to be at school from 8.30am to assist with the orientation of the Year 7 students. Lunch for College leaders and Year 7 will be provided on Monday 3 February and College leaders will help with the serving of lunch to the Year 7 students.

**MENTOR AND VOLUNTEER PROGRAM NEWS**

*Mentor and Volunteer Farewell - Tuesday 3 December*
A farewell afternoon tea will be held for all Black Mountain School mentors and volunteers and their families on Tuesday 3 December commencing at 5.00pm in the restaurant.

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS**

*St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal – Thursday 5 December/Friday 6 December*
In our Year 7 RE classes we are exploring the real meaning of Advent and Christmas and to encourage students to think of others, the Year 7 RE Classes will be running stalls to raise funds for the St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal. Each class is making craft items to sell and we are also giving students the opportunity to bring in some cupcakes or other home baking to add to their class stall. Student craft items include Christmas decorations and other small gifts suitable for Christmas. The stalls will be held in your daughters usual RE lesson time in Week 8:
  - Line 8 classes – Thursday 5 December Period 2
  - Line 5 classes – Friday 6 December Period 2
Students are asked to bring in silver coins to make their purchases, since we will not be able to provide change for larger notes. The students are enthusiastic and we look forward to your support for this worthwhile cause.
SUSTAINABILITY NEWS

Sustainable Buildings Tour – Tuesday 3 December
The Sustainability students will be attending a sustainable buildings tour on Tuesday 3 December. Students will need to be at school at the usual starting time and ready to leave on the bus by 9.30am. They will spend the morning on a tour of Jigsaw Housing’s office and then Gungahlin College. They will return to school for a tour of Merici College and then participate in a walking tour around Ainslie to see two sustainable houses. Students will return to school by 3.25pm ready to finish school at the usual time.

LANGUAGE NEWS

Study Tour of Japan – Friday 29 November – Thursday 19 December
A 10-day study tour will be held from Friday 29 November to Thursday 19 December. The tour includes a 10-day homestay with families from our sister school, Kagoshima Immaculate Heart College, a 2-day homestay on Konko (Okayama), and visits to Hiroshima, Kyoto and Tokyo. We wish our students and teachers participating in the study tour safe travel and a wonderful cultural experience.

MUSIC NEWS

Combined Band Workshop – Thursday 5 December
On Thursday 5 December in Periods 4 and 5, there will be a combined Band Workshop with the Junior Band, Jazz Band and students from John Paul College.

Music Summer Safari – Tuesday 10 December
A Music Safari will be held on Tuesday 10 December with our String Ensemble, Junior Band and Choir students participating in a day of performances at schools in Michelago and Cooma.

SPORT NEWS

2013 Australian Volleyball Schools Cup
The 2013 Australian Volleyball School Cup will be held in Melbourne from 8 December to 13 December. Three teams from Merici with players from Year 8-12 will be participating in the competition this year. We wish all our team members and coaching staff all the best at the Cup and a very safe trip to and from Melbourne.

CONGRATULATIONS

Student Nomination 2013 Young Canberra Citizen of the Year
Congratulations to Natasha Silver, Year 7 who was nominated as 2013 Young Canberra Citizen of the Year. There were 113 nominations and Natasha was one of a handful who received commendations. We would like to acknowledge this wonderful achievement and wish Natasha well in her future endeavours.

OTHER NEWS

School Uniform Suppliers
Please follow the link http://tiny.cc/smd75w to find information on school uniform price lists from our suppliers and current specials available to our families.
Our suppliers are currently manufacturing new Merici College sport shorts for students. The shorts will have an “MC” embroidered on the left side. We have received confirmation that MacDonalds Childrenswear and Lowes will have the shorts available in their stores for purchase in mid-December 2013.

Please also note that Lowes currently has a sale on Merici College jerseys. Please follow the link http://tiny.cc/48v26w to find the reduced price list.

**Kids Pantry Cooking School and Kitchen Garden for children 5–18 year olds**

Have you thought about joining Kids Pantry Cooking School and Kitchen Garden for some Christmas gift cooking on the weekends of 14/15 December and 21/22 December and Monday 23 December. We are also running school holiday programs during January from 13 January until 31 January. Join us for one session or all day. Don't forget we are running after school programs during terms in 2014, for all the details go to our website, www.kidspantry.com.au or call Kids Pantry on 0447 074 167.

**John Bennett Tennis Coaching Term 1 2014 Enrolment**

Please follow the link http://tiny.cc/h0wt6w to find information on the John Bennett Tennis Coaching run in Queanbeyan, NSW and Reid, ACT.

**Police Appeal for Vigilance over Christmas School Holidays**

Unfortunately the approaching school holiday period means school grounds in your area will be empty between 13 December 2013 and 3 February 2014 making them easily accessible to would-be offenders. ACT Policing will be increasing pro-active patrols around schools during the holidays, but we are also asking you, the community, to assist us in ensuring our schools remain secure. Anyone who observes anti-social behaviour or suspicious activity around schools is urged to report this to police immediately on 131 444. This includes suspicious persons or vehicles seen at odd hours of the night, and any signs of potential criminal activity such as the sound of breaking glass, spray cans or electrical equipment being used at odd hours. By working together with police you can help to ensure that our schools remain secure over the holidays, allowing our children to get the education they deserve.

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Wishing all our students, parents and community members a very happy and safe Christmas and New Year Season.