WHAT’S ON AT MERICI
Term 1 Weeks 2 and 3 (9 February – 22 February)

WHOLE SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Principal’s Welcome
Please follow the link http://tinyurl.com/k6vo8ja to find Mrs Loretta Wholley’s welcome letter.

Uniform Reminder
We draw your attention to the following uniform reminder from the Principal.

- Skirt lengths (at knee length)
- Nail polish (neutral shade)
- Jewellery (simple ring, bracelet, a silver or gold chain necklace and maximum of two pairs of small sleeper/studs in the lobe of the ear only). No other necklaces, items or piercings are permitted.
- Please be mindful that body piercings need to be removed whilst at school. Band aids covering body piercings and piercings that are transparent, are not alternatives to remedying the situation.
- Hair (extreme hair style and colour is not acceptable.
- No visible tattoos
- School shoes must be lace-up.

Thank you for your support.

A Message from Archbishop Prowse regarding the Lenten Season

Dear Friends,
The Lenten season is soon to begin – Ash Wednesday is 18 February 2015. As we return to our normal routines, let us prepare in our various communities for this season that recalls our Baptism and stresses its penitential dimension. It is a time of conversion as we prepare for the saving events of our salvation at Easter.

Pope Francis, in his Lenten message for this year, http://tinyurl.com/kop9drw, highlights that Lent is a time of conversion against globalised indifference to those who suffer. The Pope writes: “Indifference to our neighbour and to God also represents a real temptation for us Christians. Each year during Lent we need to hear once more the voice of the prophets who cry out and trouble our conscience.”

Could I ask all in the Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn to prepare now to enter into this penitential season. I attach information regarding the Lenten requirements. Could I also encourage Project Compassion (Caritas) as a pre-eminent way to respond practically to those who suffer. Having recently returned from Beirut, Lebanon, I have seen first-hand the wonderful practical ways that Caritas helps those who are so fragile in our troubled world. May God bless you, your families, parishes and communities during 2015.

Archbishop Christopher Prowse, Catholic Archbishop of Canberra and Goulburn

House Soirees – Monday 9 February – Wednesday 11 February (5.00pm-6.30pm)
Please follow the links below to find invitations to all school community to attend the 2015 House Soirees.

- Balgo House – Monday 9 February (http://tinyurl.com/odxp7zf)
- Brescia House – Monday 9 February (http://tinyurl.com/odxp7zf)
- Seiwa House – Tuesday 10 February (http://tinyurl.com/odxp7zf)
- Tullow House – Tuesday 10 February (http://tinyurl.com/lwgyr5x)
- Ningil House – Wednesday 11 February (http://tinyurl.com/odxp7zf)
- Penola House – Wednesday 11 February (http://tinyurl.com/odxp7zf)

We look forward to seeing our students, parents, carers and staff at the Soirees.

Follow us on @MericiC, @MericiSport, @MericiCanberra, @MericiMusic
**Tullow House Day – Tuesday 10 February**

Tullow House will celebrate their inaugural ‘House Day’ on Tuesday 10 February. This is an opportunity to acknowledge and observe the Brigidine Order on which Tullow House is founded. The Feast of St Brigid is commemorated on 1 February annually and is very important to the formation of the Brigidine Sisters. It is hoped the Brigidine Sisters located in Canberra will be able to join us during the day.

Students will be required to attend normal classes during the day and will be involved in Tullow House activities during morning PC, PC long lesson and lunchtime. Tullow students are required to wear green clothing and accessories on the day and will celebrate together with a shared Tullow lunch.

**Tullow House healthy shared lunch arrangements**

Under the direction of the individual Tullow Pastoral Care Teachers, each student is required to contribute to a healthy shared lunch with a ‘green theme’. Please contact your daughter’s PC Teacher if you require any further information.

**Guidelines for Tullow House Day dress**

To ensure the Tullow House Day is as successful as possible, students are required to follow the dress guidelines below.

- Wear predominantly green (otherwise wear full school uniform).
- All College rules about make-up and jewellery apply on this day – no nail polish, coloured hair or facial piercings.
- Please bring your full PE uniform for PE classes.
- Shoulders must be covered and no shoe-string tops, bare midriffs or revealing necklines.
- Skirts and/or shorts should be mid-length or longer: no ‘short-shorts’ or ‘mini skirts’
- No pyjamas or onesies
- No ‘skins’ or tights to be worn instead of trousers or jeans.
- No inappropriate slogans or symbols on clothing or accessories.
- Shoes should be fully enclosed and appropriate for activities completed in science laboratories and food and technology lessons.
- Do not wear any of the following shoe types: ugg boots, thongs or high-heeled shoes.

We are looking forward to a very successful Tullow House Day and appreciate your support of this special celebration. If you have any questions or require any further information, please contact either your daughter’s PC Teacher or Ms Connellan, Tullow House Coordinator.

**Photo Day – Wednesday 11 February**

All students have received a photo envelope for school photos scheduled to be held on Wednesday 11 February. On-line payment details are outlined on the photo envelope; parents are encouraged to pay online. Alternatively, envelopes are given directly to the photographers with either credit card details or the correct cash amount. Please ensure that student details printed on the top of the envelope are correct. If you have not received an envelope please contact the Student Services Office on 6243 4109.

**Tullow House Working Bees for Swimming Carnival - First Working Bee: Thursday 12 February**

Tullow House will be holding working bees to prepare for the 2015 Swimming Carnival. The theme is “Tullow Turns Wild” and Tullow members would like to create banners, streamers, posters, etc. The working bees will be held in the OYC on:

- Thursday 12 February from 3.30pm-5.00pm (Week 2)
- Wednesday 18 February from 3.30pm-5.00pm (Week 3)
- Wednesday 25 February from 3.30pm-5.00pm (Week 4).

Please follow the link [http://tinyurl.com/lmebgyy](http://tinyurl.com/lmebgyy) to find more information and the permission note to be returned to Ms Amy Connellan Tullow House Coordinator as soon as possible.
Opening School Mass – Friday 13 February (11.30am-12.30pm)
All staff and students will attend the Opening School Mass in the Auditorium on Friday 13 February from 11.30am-12.30pm. Parents and friends are invited to attend this special ceremony. The Mass will be celebrated by His Grace, the Most Reverend Archbishop Christopher Prowse. A light lunch will be held at the conclusion of Mass for parents and invited guests. Please confirm your attendance to Ros Parisi, Public Relations Officer, email ros.parisi@merici.act.edu.au by Monday 9 February. Please follow the link http://tinyurl.com/nwwp5rm to find an invitation.

Ash Wednesday – Wednesday 18 February
Rite of Ashes will be distributed to staff at 8.25am in the Chapel and to students during an extended PC. Special arrangements have been made for all Year 11 students attending the Conference at Green Hills to receive the Ashes on Wednesday morning.

Follow up Photo Day – Wednesday 18 February
A catch up photo day will be held on Wednesday 18 February for students who did not have their school photo taken on photo day.

Activities Expo – Friday 20 February (12.00pm – 1.00pm)
Students from Year 7 – 9 will attend the Expo from 12.00pm to 12.30pm. Years 10 – 12 will attend from 12.30pm to 1.00pm. The Expo provides students with the opportunity to explore and sign up for Merici's range of co-curricular activities.

Parking/Drop off Areas
Wise Street Carpark and Children’s Crossing
Parents are reminded that there is no stopping at the entrance of the Wise Street carpark and are requested to proceed to the pickup/drop off zone at the back of the carpark. Your assistance with this matter would be greatly appreciated. Please also be aware of the NO STANDING area on the opposite side of Wise Street which needs to be kept clear to maximise visibility of the Children’s Crossing. Please also adhere to the road regulations and stop before entering the Childrens’ Crossing zone, particularly if a student is preparing to cross at the crossing.

Senior Carpark (Henty Street)
Parents are reminded that the Senior Student carpark off Henty Street is not a pickup/drop off zone and are requested to proceed to the pickup/drop off zone in the Wise Street carpark. Your assistance with this matter would be greatly appreciated.

Senior students are also reminded that Henty Street carpark is the designated carpark for students and students are not to park in the Wise Street carpark as this is designated to staff and visitors.

College Twitter Accounts
Please follow the College on Twitter @MericiiC, @MericiSport, @MericiCanberra and @MericiMusic for updates and latest news items.

Bring Your Own Device (BYOD)
This year it is mandatory for all students to have a laptop for their school work. If your daughter does not have a laptop, or she has a laptop that needs to be replaced, you will need to purchase one. The school has supported models available on the website http://www.merici.act.edu.au/laptops. These models are available for purchase, however there is a 2-4 week delivery timeframe so if ordered now, the laptop will not be ready for use for the start of term. Alternatively, you can buy and support one yourself from a retailer as long as it meets our specifications. Remember that the laptops are yours even when you leave College.

Please follow the link http://tinyurl.com/muhy4sg to find important information on wireless compatibility for Merici College Wi-Fi. For any enquiries, please email byod@merici.act.edu.au.

Follow us on  
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SRC AND SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS

SRC: Merici Blood Donation Terms 1 and 2
Merici students are continuing to support the Australian Red Cross in 2015 through regular blood donations. To facilitate this, courtesy buses from school to the Donor Centre in Garran have been organised for our students. A representative from the Red Cross will be at Merici to talk to students about Blood donation on Monday 9 February in the Catherine Rey Learning Centre at 12.40pm.

The donor buses booked from Merici College for Terms 1 and 2 are as follows:

- Monday 23 February @ 1:00pm
- Wednesday 11 March @ 1:00pm
- Wednesday 1 April @ 1:00pm
- Friday 15 May @ 10.30am
- Friday 5 June @ 10:30am

Please note there have been important changes to the Youth Donation policy. Donors aged 16 and 17 years are now limited to one donation every 12 months. 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 for further eligibility requirements at [http://www.donateblood.com.au/](http://www.donateblood.com.au/). Please note this service is available to students only.

For further details or to book a place on the courtesy bus please contact SRC and Social Justice Facilitator, Ms Sonia Conte at Sonia.Conte@merici.act.edu.au. Thank you for your continued support of this initiative.

Social Justice: DonateLife Walk: Wednesday 25 February
On Wednesday 25 February students and their families are invited to take part in the DonateLife Walk which is being held for the ninth year here in Canberra. The purpose of the walk is to promote increased organ and tissue donation awareness. One donor can transform the lives of up to 10 people and significantly improve the lives of many more. This event is organised by Gift of Life and sponsored by the Australian Government’s Organ and Tissue Authority which promotes the national reform program in this sector.

Event details:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Wednesday 25 February 2015.</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Location and time</td>
<td>6.30am – 8.30am at Lake Burley Griffin.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transport</td>
<td>Students are expected to arrange their own transport to and from the event.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cost</td>
<td>FREE with a complimentary breakfast and t-shirt, to be provided on the morning of the event</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Who’s invited</td>
<td>Students and their families, friends and pets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact</td>
<td>Sonia Conte 0428 661507</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Participants are asked to meet at 6.30am under the flagpole on Regatta Point Hill. The bridge-to-bridge walk begins at 7am sharp and will be followed by a free breakfast organised by the Lions Club of Belconnen. Students will then be expected to make their own way back to school at 8.30am.

If you are interested in attending this event, please come to a meeting on Friday 6 February (Week 1) in the Catherine Rey Learning Centre at 12.40pm to sign up and get a permission note. Please follow the link [http://tinyurl.com/lbd7z4c](http://tinyurl.com/lbd7z4c) to find the permission note. For more information please contact SRC and Social Justice Facilitator, Sonia Conte (Sonia.Conte@merici.act.edu.au).

Follow us on @MericiC, @MericiSport, @MericiCanberra, @MericiMusic
Social Justice: Vinnies Doorknock Appeal
The Vinnies Doorknock will take place on Thursday 26 February. If you are in Years 7, 8, 9, 10 or 12, please contact your local Catholic church to organise this. For Year 11 students, please liaise with Mrs Tolfree, Head of Mission and Community.

YEAR 7 NEWS

Year 7 Christian Service Learning Program Begins – Wednesday 18 February
All Year 7 students at Merici College are asked to participate in a Christian Service Program called the Lenten Project during the period of Lent. They are expected to commit to working for 10 hours serving people in need and learn from the experience about the gift of caring for others.

The core values in which the program is grounded are the Christian principles of serving those most in need and building relationships which respect and enhance the dignity of each person. We hope that the students, by participating in this project, will understand the significance of the call to love and serve others which is integral to the life of a Christian person.

Their service experience involves helping people in their homes, their School, their Parish or their neighbourhood; random acts of kindness, where they share their gifts, time and resources with their community.

YEAR 11 NEWS

Year 11 Conference – Monday 16 February – Wednesday 18 February
Each year we hold a Year 11 Conference to induct Year 11 students into Year 11 and life as a senior. The Conference is a compulsory, formal program designed by the pastoral and academic staff at Merici to ensure you daughter is fully aware of her responsibilities as a senior.

The Conference will be held at Greenhill’s Conference Centre, Cotter Road, Stromlo, ACT from Monday 16 February to Wednesday 18 February. Further information will be sent to Year 11 students and all forms are required to be returned (together with your daughter's medical form) to her House Coordinator no later than Wednesday 11 February.

SPORT NEWS

Volleyball 2015 – Registration forms and fees due Friday 27 February
Students interested in representing Merici College in co-curricular Volleyball are required to register by Friday 27 February. Registration fees are also due to be paid by Friday 27 February and payment should be made to Mrs Christine Collins at the Front Office. Volleyball ACT registration forms are to be completed and provided back to the school to Mr Andrew Blakey, Sport Facilitator. For more information please follow the link http://tiny.cc/yyeqax to the College’s website.

Netball 2015 – Registration forms and fees due Friday 27 February
For those students interested in playing for the Merici Netball Club this year, please follow the link http://tinyurl.com/kcelp8z to find the permission note and forms needed to register. ALL forms must be completed, payment made at the front office and stamped forms given to me by Friday 27 February. Grading dates will be Saturday 14 February 1.00pm – 4.30pm, Tuesday 17 February 3.30pm – 5.00pm, Thursday 19 February 3.30pm – 5.00pm.

Trials are compulsory and will all be held at the College. If you are unable to attend one of the dates you need to let Ms Withers know ASAP. We hold trials in order to grade the players into the best fit team possible; Merici Netball is about participation, enjoyment and providing a challenging level of netball for the girls.
If you would like to play with friends, please ensure you complete the relevant section in the online form below. Any questions, please feel free to email Ms Laura Withers on email laura.withers@merici.act.edu.au.

If you are interested in being part of the Merici Netball Club Committee (helping with the administrative running of the club, being present on a Saturday at the courts) please contact me. In addition, if you would like to coach or manage a team please contact Ms Withers.

All players must complete the Netball Registration Form found at the following link: http://goo.gl/forms/19gJZX47rz. If you would like to coach or manage a team, please complete the form as well (relevant questions). The online form is due Thursday 12 February as we need this information for grading. Payment is due Friday 27 February.

**Elite Competitors Program Semester 1 2015 – Applications due Monday 16 February**

Merici College recognises the efforts and time commitments that Elite Competitors have and aims to support them in finding a balance between their academic responsibilities and their areas of competitive expertise. If you or your daughter are interested in applying to be part of the Merici College Elite Competitors Program for Semester 1 2015 please follow the link http://tiny.cc/d1stax to access the policy and application form. Applications will be accepted on or before Monday 16 February and should be submitted to the Head of Junior School, Mrs Megan Keogh, email megan.keogh@merici.act.edu.au.

**Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award Hike – Friday 20 February – Sunday 22 February**

For students completing their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award there will be two hikes to Kosciuszko National Park, from 20-22 February and 6-8 March. Students should attend only one of these camps. Camps leave Friday afternoon after school. If you are interested in attending please follow the link http://tinyurl.com/kpqm9jt to find a permission note. If you have any questions please contact David Rodda, email david.rodda@merici.act.edu.au.

**Merici College Sports Awards**

Merici College values the participation of students in sport at Merici College and as such recognises their efforts through the Sports Awards. The awards raise the profile of and to encourage participation in sport at Merici College, and recognises the achievements of the students in various sporting endeavours. Please follow the link http://tinyurl.com/nguuleg to find more information on sport awards and the criteria for receiving awards.

**MUSIC NEWS**

**Music Students Wanted**

On Friday, 6 February (Week 1) at lunch time students are invited to go along to the Jubilee Centre and sign up to get involved in a number of co-curricular activities the Merici Music Department is offering this year. Come along and introduce yourself to our new music teacher, Miss Way, and have a bit of a treat made as a gift to you for your commitment to music.

**New to this year: Year 7 Beginner Band!**

Have you ever wanted to learn a new instrument, in a fun, supportive and exciting enrolment with your friends, does your brother own an instrument that he never plays anymore and you would like to try, perhaps grandma or grandad own an instrument that’s never been played. This could be ideal for you. Come to the sign ups in the Jubilee Centre for more information.

**Rehearsal Times**

All ensembles will begin rehearsals at the beginning of Week 2. The schedule is as follows:

- Jazz Band - Tuesday 8-8:45am Jubilee Centre
- Choir - Tuesday lunch time Music Room
- Orchestra - Tuesday 3:30-4:40pm Jubilee Centre
- Beginner Band - Wednesday Lunch time Jubilee Centre
DANCE NEWS

Merici Dance Troupe Upcoming Events - February
Our Merici College Dance Troupe is in full swing again this year and the group will be performing at the following events.

- 2015 Multicultural Festival – 14 February: The Multicultural Festival will be held from Friday 13 February to Sunday 15 February. Our Dance Troupe will perform on Saturday 14 February from 1.30pm at the ‘Blue Moon’ Performance Platform 3: East Row. Canberra City.
- Royal Canberra Show 2015: The Dance Troupe will be performing on Saturday 28 February and Sunday 1 March in the Ikea Leisure and Lifestyle Pavilion. The group’s performance times and program has not been finalised as yet and will be advised closer to the date.

All welcome to come along and support our dancers at these two events.

OTHER NEWS

Meet the Providers Expo 2015 – In-home Support and Supported Accommodation – Saturday 7 February
The introduction of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) means that people with disability are wanting more information on which organisation provide personal support and tenancy management. This is your opportunity to meet all the providers in the one location. The Expo will be held on Saturday 7 February from 10.00am to 4.00pm at Merici College, Wise Street, Braddon, ACT.

Attendance at the expo is free and there will be more than 30 in-home, supported accommodation and disability tenancy management providers available to meet with you. For more information please contact Kate Fitzpatrick at Capital Community Housing on telephone 6287 4344. Tea, coffee and light refreshments will be provided.

Girls’ Brigade
Girls’ Brigade invites all girls to come to Girls’ Brigade. Girls’ Brigade is for girls in primary and high school. It is an organisation for girls giving them the opportunity to have fun, learn skills and make friends while empowering them to become future leaders in Girls' Brigade, their local community and the world. Girls’ Brigade companies meet weekly during school terms, and are each supported by a local church. Local companies meet at:

- St Andrew’s Presbyterian, Forrest on Tuesday nights
- Tuggeranong Uniting Church, Wanniassa, on Tuesday nights
- Northside Salvos, Gungahlin on Wednesday nights
- Tuggeranong Baptist Church, Kambah, on Thursday nights
- Hughes Baptist on Friday nights

For more information see www.girlsbrigadeaustralia.org.au or contact Marian on 0415 141 869 or info@gbact.org.au.
Mainly Music Program
Mainly music is a fun, interactive music session for young children. The children and their parents/caregivers join together for a fun, thirty-minute music session, then afterwards enjoy refreshments in a relaxed setting. Mainly music is an activity you and your children (0-5 yrs) can participate in.

Our mainly music group meets on Thursday mornings from 10.00am to 11.00am at St Simon’s Anglican Church, Georgina Cres, Kaleen. The cost is $5.00 per family per week. The sessions will commence on 12 February.

To reserve a place please go to the church website: www.stsimons.org.au, find the Mainly Music section, and fill in the on-line form or contact 6241 2034 for further information.

Canberra City Bowling Club Barefoot Bash – Expressions of Interest
Interested in having some fun on a Friday night with your mates? Canberra City Bowling Club plans to hold a Barefoot Bowling Bash on Friday nights for six weeks from February to March. We are looking for mixed teams of 4-6 players who would like to be involved.

- The bash will start at 5.30pm
- Games will be 2 Bowl Triples (with subs)
- You can swap players week to week
- 2 sets of 5 ends
- 1 end tiebreaker if needed
- Organise a work team/supporting club
- Bar open and ready!

Register your team’s interest now to Lexie at email peter_lexie@bigpond.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS (WEEK 4)
Year 7 Skills Day - Monday 23 February
Academic Awards Ceremony – Tuesday 24 February (10.15am-12.30pm)
DonateLife Walk – Wednesday 25 February
Sport and Recreation Camp – Wednesday 25 February – Friday 27 February
Bridge Restaurant – Wednesday 25 February
Vinnies Doorknock Appeal – Thursday 26 February (4.00pm-6.00pm)
Clean Up Australia Day – Friday 27 February