WHAT’S ON AT MERICI #unitedinhope
Term 1 Weeks 2 and 3 (Monday 6 February – Sunday 19 February)

WHOLE SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Principal's Welcome 2017
We welcome all returning students and new students to the new academic year. Please follow the link http://tinyurl.com/zds52nu to find the Principal’s Welcome Letter.

Welcome from the Merici College School Board for 2017
It is with great pleasure that I welcome all new students and staff, along with the returning members of our community for the 2017 school year. The Merici College School Board performs a dual role; Governance of the College as well as the Parents & Friends Association of Merici. This year we have two positions available on the Board. Whilst it is not a requirement, any background in finance or legal matters would be welcomed. The appointment is for a 2-year period, with the option to re-nominate for a further 2-year periods, 6 years in total. Existing members of the Board are eligible to re-nominate, within the guidelines above. We encourage any interested parent, who has the desire to commit to becoming part of the Merici College School Board, to contact the returning officer Ms Trish Ryan, trish.ryan@merici.act.edu.au to obtain the nomination forms and details of the process involved. Nominations close on Tuesday 24 February.

John Brennan, Board Chair, Merici College

2017 Improvement Plan for Merici College
Please follow the link http://tinyurl.com/zrbg6nu to find the improvement plan for Merici College for 2017.

Merici College Principles for Powerful Learning (PPL) 2017
Please follow the link http://tiny.cc/dyzwiv to find our recently updated Principles for Powerful Learning.

Swimming Carnival House Working Bees – Friday 3 February and Monday 6 February
In order to prepare for the upcoming Swimming Carnival (Wednesday 8 February) and build House spirit, each House is conducting some working bees after school. The working bees are held in the O'Connell Youth Centre (OYC). All equipment is provided and students from all Year levels are encouraged to attend. They will be held on Friday 3 February and Monday 6 February. Please follow the link http://tinyurl.com/hf9jp7r to find more information.

Academic Awards Semester 2 2016 – Monday 6 February (10.45am)
Academic Awards for Semester 2, 2016 will be presented to students on Monday 6 February. The letter of invitation for parents of students receiving awards has been emailed to parents. Current Year 11 students received their awards at the Year 10 Awards Ceremony in late 2016. We look forward to seeing awardees from current Year 8, 9, 10 and 12 groups. Year 7 students will receive awards for Semester 1 achievements in Semester 2.
Parents of students receiving an award are welcome to attend the Awards Ceremony. The ceremony for Balgo, Brescia and Ningil commences at 10.45am. Penola, Seiwa and Tullow awards will commence at 12.05pm.

Car parking for the event is available in the car park next to the oval and the student car park off Henty Street. Parents need to follow parking signage on Wise Street, Henty Street and Helemon Street. Parents are urged NOT to park on nature strips, school crossing zones or in a dangerous position (i.e. too close to intersections) as parking inspectors may be out and about and parking infringements will be issued for any vehicle that does not comply with the above.

Please keep in mind that parking may be difficult for the second ceremony at 12:05pm, as parents attending the first session may still be at school on your arrival.

Light refreshments will be served after the ceremony in the New Quad at the conclusion of award ceremonies.

Opening School Mass – Tuesday 14 February (11.30am)
On Tuesday 14 February we will be celebrating our Opening College Mass. His Grace, the Most Reverend Archbishop Christopher Prowse will be the Principal Celebrant for this very special occasion and Fr Bernie Patterson will assist him. Mass will commence at 11.30am in the Auditorium and we invite all parents and carers to attend Mass and join us afterwards for refreshments. Please follow the link [http://tinyurl.com/huuy8wy](http://tinyurl.com/huuy8wy) to find an official invitation. Please RSVP your attendance to Ros Parisi, email ros.parisi@merici.act.edu.au by Thursday 9 February to assist with catering.

Bridge Restaurant – Wednesday 15 February (12.30pm-1.40pm)
The Bridge Restaurant will be open for lunch on Wednesday 15 February from 12.30pm – 1.40pm. Merici students are only permitted to eat between 1.00pm-1.40pm (timetabled lunch period). Families are welcome to come at 12.30pm and children can join them at 1.00pm. Please contact Reception on 6243 4100 to make a booking.

Follow us on Facebook
Merici College now has a Facebook page, [https://www.facebook.com/mericicollege](https://www.facebook.com/mericicollege). We welcome you to view/like our page.

Cashless Canteen and Changes to Print system
Our Canteen is going cashless! Students may have noticed Karl, the new cash kiosk (the machine that looks like an ATM) located in the foyer outside of Student Services. This is where students can top up their Merici College Student Card with credit for both the canteen and printing – please use this facility instead of giving cash over the counter at the canteen. It’s easy, just follow the prompts on the screen – please remember Karl is cash only.

(Note – our new Year 7s will receive temporary cards over the next few days and get their permanent cards later in the term).
We are in the process of developing an APP that will allow parents/students to top up cards using a debit or credit card either by logging on at home or anytime using a mobile device. More information will be sent to families.

**Merici College Elite Competitors Program**

At Merici College we recognise the efforts and time commitments of elite competitors and commend these students for their dedication to developing their skills and abilities. “Elite” refers to competition in a sport or performance-based activity at national or state level or its equivalent. At Merici College we assist and guide our elite athletes to manage their academic life in tandem with their competitive endeavours. In this way, students can both perform in their area of giftedness and maintain their effort and engagement at school.

An up-to-date outline of our program and application form will be available on the Merici College website within the next week.

All applications will be considered by the Head of Junior School, in consultation with appropriate specialists, on their individual merit and the level of support offered will be commensurate with the needs of the student. It is a requirement of our Elite Competitors Program that all applicants re-apply each year.

Please do not hesitate to contact Ms Renae Pettit, Head of Junior School, email renae.pettit@merici.act.edu.au for more information.

**Have you changed your address, email, contact details?**

Please advise Student Services via email student.services@merici.act.edu.au if your details have changed and require amendment on our school system.

### YEARS 7, 8 AND 9 NEWS

**Message from our Head of Junior School - 2017 ...Year 7, 8 and 9 #unitedinhope**

As we begin our school year, I would like to welcome new and returning students to the rich learning and pastoral care environment offered by Merici College. As a new member of staff and Head of Junior School, I have been delighted in the way I have been welcomed into the Merici family and I have seen this same sense of community offered to all students. Truly, there is a spirit of acceptance, goodwill and belief that everyone can learn and prosper in the classrooms and staffrooms at Merici College.

Whilst Year 7 began their high school career on very hot 39-degree Canberra day, the girls readily absorbed new information, new processes and new names and faces with great enthusiasm. I received many comments from staff about how “well-mannered” and “delightful” the Year 7 students were as they participated in IT sessions, tours of the school and getting to know their sessions with their senior sisters in their House groups.

After a brief assembly that informed the girls of the Year 7 Camp in Week 7 and an explanation of exactly “What is EEP? And “Why do we ‘do’ EEP?”, a shared lunch of wraps, sandwiches fruit salad and slices became a welcome stop at 1.00pm. After this the Year 7s gathered for a fun
photo near the Indigenous Garden where they showcased our key theme for 2017... at Merici College, we are #unitedinhope.

Great displays of bonding took place across the day and I sincerely hope the girls continue to reach out and take the opportunity of making new friends in Year 7; friends that could last a lifetime.

Our Year 8 and 9 students returned to school on Tuesday and many a hug was shared between friends who hadn't seen each other for several weeks. The Pastoral rooms buzzed with the chatter of catch up conversations as timetables were studied and planners and calendars checked for vital dates. Another hot day failed to dispel the girls' enthusiasm to be back at school, they were very excited about another great year of learning at Merici. I advise the students to quickly establish good academic practice and planning of extra-curricular commitments through using their diary and calendar as a means of sound organisation. The expectation is that our students complete all homework and assessment tasks to the very best of their ability. This is achievable through good organisation and purposeful use of time. The diary can help all students work a "checklist" towards the completion of homework or assessment tasks.

I would like to remind all Year 7 parents that the Immunisation form handed out on Tuesday is due back to Student Services by this Friday and, for all students in Year 7, 8 and 9 the completed form for next week's swimming carnival is due ASAP. Mr Higginbotham has offered a massive points heads start to the house that has all their permission notes handed in first. Surely this is a great opportunity (Brescia!!!) to get ahead early!

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns your daughters may have about their learning at Merici College. Renae Pettit (email renae.pettit@merici.act.edu.au).

**YEAR 10, 11 and 12 NEWS**

**Year 11 Conference – Thursday 9 February – Friday 10 February**
Each year we hold a Year 11 Conference to induct 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 your daughter is fully aware of her responsibilities as a senior. The Conference will be held at Warrumbui Retreat and Conference Centre from Thursday 9 February – Friday 10 February. Please follow the link http://tinyurl.com/hv8shg2 to find all relevant information.

**Year 12 Tertiary Queensland Skills Test Trial – Thursday 16 February**
Year 12 Tertiary students will be undertaking a trial of the Queensland Skills Test which is similar to the AST. The test is an opportunity to work on and develop their higher order thinking skills in a test environment.

Students are expected to be lined up in the Qld Quad at 8:45am. The test will be completed by 11:15am. Students are expected to be in normal school uniform; they will return to class for Period 3 after recess.
ANU Extension Course Year 11 2017
Please follow the link http://tinyurl.com/hqvhsn9 to find a flyer outlining the details of the ANU Extension programs on offer to Year 11 students in 2017. These courses run in the afternoons once a week at ANU and need to be studied in conjunction with studies at Merici. The course can count as a minor towards the ATAR. The suite of courses on offer is broad and includes Astrophysics, Biodiversity, Chemistry, Discovering Engineering, Physics, Specialist Mathematics, Chinese, Indonesian and Japanese. There continues to be no tuition fee charged to students and all programs are open to Australian domestic students who hold a concurrent enrolment in an ACT secondary school.

ANU is hoping to give students the opportunity of coming on campus and extending their interests in studying at ANU through our ANU Extension courses. Online applications close midnight next week 12 February. For further information: http://extension.anu.edu.au/

Please note that it is a commitment for the 2 years and there is a selection test. If students are unsure, then register online anyway. There is an opportunity at the end of Year 12 to receive a university offer from ANU based on individual student performance in the extension course.

CAREERS NEWS
Please visit the Merici Careers website, http://www.mericicareers.com/ to find comprehensive information on careers and the latest information that will help our students make decisions about their future career and life beyond school.

Upcoming events:
1. University of Wollongong Discovery Day for Yearr 12 students is will be held on Friday 10 February. There are a couple of vacancies still available. Please see Mrs McConnell if you are interested in attending.
2. Are there any students interested in undertaking an ASBA in Certificate III in Individual Support, Aged Care or Children's Services? If so, please see Mrs McDonnell.

MATHEMATICS NEWS
This year will be one of challenge and growth for students and teachers of Mathematics at Merici College. The Maths Faculty are offering real opportunities for all the girls to participate; to improve their confidence, knowledge and problem solving skills. To do this we are embracing change while refining our core practices. Please follow the link http://tinyurl.com/zgpdgvw to find an information flyer on Mathematics@Merici throughout 2017.

DEFENCE NEWS
Defence Community Organisation Twilight Event – Friday 10 February
Defence members and their families are invited to attend an evening of fun and entertainment. Please follow the link http://tinyurl.com/j6vfgez to find more information.
iC NEWS

Welcome back! It is so nice to see many students (old and new) in the iC. Our opening hours are as follows:

- Monday – Thursday 8.30 – 5.00pm
- Friday 8.30 – 4.00pm
- The iC is closed every recess

All books borrowed in 2016 need to be returned, including all holiday reading. We are excited to announce the start of Cosy Café and Book Club for next week. Cosy Café is on Monday lunchtimes in the iC. This group is for keen readers who would like to eat their lunch and read a good book in the iC’s very comfortable reading area. Book Club is on Tuesday lunchtimes also in iC Reading. This group is for students who like to read and discuss the chosen book.

We look forward to working and reading with the Merici Community this year.

Happy Reading
iC Staff

SOCIAL JUSTICE

St Vincent de Paul Door Knock Appeal – Wednesday 15 February (4.30pm-6.30pm)
The Doorknock this year will take place on Wednesday 15 February in Campbell and Ainslie. Further information will be available at an Expression of Interest meeting for interested students and will take place in Week 2. Details of this meeting will be emailed to students shortly.

DonateLife Walk - Wednesday 1 March
On Wednesday 1 March students and their families are invited to take part in the DonateLife Walk which is being held for the eleventh year here in Canberra. The purpose of the walk is to promote increased organ and tissue donation. 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:

Date: Wednesday 1 March 2017
Location and time: 6.30am-8.30am at Patrick White Lawns near the National Library of Australia
Transport: Students are expected to arrange their own transport to and from the event.
Cost: FREE with a complimentary breakfast and t-shirt, to be provided on the morning of the walk
Contact: Carmel Dinn (carmel.dinn@merici.act.edu.au)
**SRC**

**2017 Blood Donation campaign**

Merici College is kicking off its 2017 Blood Donation campaign through a series of regular blood donations. To facilitate this, courtesy buses from school to the Donor Centre in Garran have been organised for our students. The donor buses booked from Merici College for Terms 1 and 2 are as follows:

- Monday 27 February @1.00pm - 3.15pm
- Tuesday 9 May @1.00pm - 3.15pm
- Thursday 2 March @1.00pm - 3.15pm
- Monday 29 May @1.00pm - 3.15pm
- Thursday 16 March @1.00pm - 3.15pm
- Friday 2 June @10.30am -12.30pm
- Wednesday 29 March @1.00pm - 3.15pm
- Friday 9 June @10.30am -12.30pm

If you are 16 years and over and weigh more than 50kg, 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 a courtesy bus please contact the SRC Facilitator, Ms Sonia Conte at sonia.conte@merici.act.edu.au. Thank you for your continued support of this initiative.

**SPORT NEWS**

To stay updated on all sporting activities, please ensure your daughter checks our Sports Moodle page and/or Twitter @MericiSport.

**Swimming Carnival – Wednesday 8 February**

Our 2017 Swimming Carnival will be held at Dickson Pool on Wednesday 8 February. Please follow the link [http://tinyurl.com/h4xbdjn](http://tinyurl.com/h4xbdjn) to find more information and the permission note. Please note that all notes are required to be returned as soon as possible.

**Merici College Volleyball Registration 2017**

Please follow the link [http://tinyurl.com/ztmlpw4](http://tinyurl.com/ztmlpw4) to find information and registration for Volleyball 2017.

**Merici College Netball Registration 2017**

Please follow the link [http://tinyurl.com/hdng2gw](http://tinyurl.com/hdng2gw) to find information and registration for Netball 2017.

**School Sport ACT Information**

Merici College participates in a number of School Sport ACT events but with the exception of swimming, athletics and cross country, these are NOT trials for School Sport ACT representative teams. These trials are held independently and interested students need to be aware of when trials are and, if attending, register for the trials on line. All information about events and trials can be found on the School Sport ACT website [https://www.schoolsportact.asn.au/](https://www.schoolsportact.asn.au/) and students can register for trials after registering for an account (those who have done this previously do not need to set up a new account).
CO-CURRICULAR NEWS

2017 Music Co-curricular activities
The co-curricular music program has commenced. Please see practice times below for each group:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Day and Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beginner Strings for complete beginner strings players</td>
<td>Monday lunch</td>
<td>Jubilee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jazz for continuing and competent musicians</td>
<td>Tuesday morning</td>
<td>Jubilee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beginner Band for complete beginner woodwind, brass and percussion players</td>
<td>Tuesday lunch</td>
<td>Jubilee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beginner Band</td>
<td>Tuesday lunch</td>
<td>Jubilee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chamber Group for Preliminary level and above musicians</td>
<td>Tuesday lunch</td>
<td>Music Room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Choir – All students welcome</td>
<td>Wednesday lunch</td>
<td>Music Room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senior Band for Advanced musicians</td>
<td>Wednesday afternoon</td>
<td>Jubilee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>String Ensemble for Advanced string players</td>
<td>Thursday lunch</td>
<td>Jubilee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junior Band for Continuing musicians in Years 7-9</td>
<td>Thursday afternoon</td>
<td>Jubilee</td>
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Marist/Merici Sailing Club
A group of enthusiastic students sail at Lake Burley Griffin through a YMCA program every Monday of Term 1 from 4.00pm-7.00pm. They would love more students to join them and Mr Brady will even drive students there from school in the Merici bus! Students do not need to be an experienced sailor. What better way to spend a hot afternoon? If students are interested, please email Mrs de Puit on robyn.depuit@merici.act.edu.au. Please note there is a fee of $120 for the term and a registration form that needs to be filled in.

OTHER NEWS

Athlete's Food School Rewards Program
The Athlete's Foot Canberra is an ongoing supporter of our school through their School Rewards Program. Every time you purchase any pair of shoes from the Athlete's Foot Canberra Centre, $5.00 will be donated back to the school. This applies to the whole family and across the entire footwear range, including school, athletic, work and casual shoes. There are no restrictions and it is unlimited.
Marymead 50th Anniversary Celebration – Sunday 26 February
As part of Marymead's 50th Anniversary celebrations they will be holding a Family Fun Day at Marymead's Narrabundah site on Sunday 26 February from 11.00am to 3.00pm. There will be a jumping castle and lots of free activities for the kids, a sausage sizzle and soft drink for gold coin donations, entertainment and more, so please come along and enjoy a day with the Marymead Community!

UPCOMING EVENTS (Term 1 Weeks 4 and 5)
Tullow House Day – Tuesday 21 February
Activities Expo – Thursday 23 February
Year 7 Immunisations – Friday 24 February
Year 7 Parent Transition Workshops (6.30pm) – Monday 27 February
Year 8 -11 SRC Elections – Tuesday 28 February
Ash Wednesday – Wednesday 1 March
Bridge Restaurant – Wednesday 1 March
Year 7 IH National Museum excursion – Thursday 2 March
Schools Clean Up Day – Friday 3 March