



WHAT'S ON AT MERICI #YearofYouth #SpreadingJoy

Term 2 Weeks 4 and 5 (21 May – 3 June)

WHOLE SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Social Media

Parents, carers, students and staff are invited to *share* us on our social media networks with family members, friends and business associates. Find us here:



[@MericiCanberra](https://twitter.com/MericiCanberra)



[@mericicanberra](https://www.instagram.com/mericicanberra)



[@mericollege](https://www.facebook.com/mericollege)

Merici Principal has risen to the challenge, now she needs your support!

Did you know that more than 105,000 Australians experience homelessness on any given night of the year?

The face of homelessness is changing and now sadly encompasses an increasing number of women, families and children.

44% of those experiencing homelessness are women, and over 17,000 children under the age of 12 do not have a stable place to call home in Australia.

If like me, you agree that these staggering figures are simply not acceptable, you can help make a difference.

This year, I will be joining business and community leaders from around Australia to take part in the 2018 Vinnies CEO Sleepout, raising awareness and vital funds to support services for the thousands of men, women and children experiencing homelessness across the country.

It is up to all of us to respond to homelessness and help the most vulnerable in our society from becoming another statistic.

You can support my night out in the cold by making a donation here:
<https://www.ceosleepout.org.au/fundraisers/loretta-wholley/canberra>

Thank you so much for any help you can offer.
Loretta Wholley

Winter School Uniform

We have received enquiries with regards to students wearing parkas over their winter uniform as the cold weather sets in. Please note that parkas and beanies can be worn **only** to and from school - not at school. Students can potentially wear four layers of school uniform: Long white top, white shirt, school jumper, school jacket, in addition to a coat/parka to/from school if required.

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Open Day – Thank you!

We would like to acknowledge the wonderful contribution made by students which, in no small part, contributed to the success of our Open Day. Over 200 students participated in Open Day activities during the day and into the night. The students were all wonderful ambassadors for our school and we have received excellent feedback from all our visitors on your exceptional skills in conducting school tours, participating in classroom activities, and presenting dance and drama performances. In particular, our visitors commented on how our students spoke about Merici life with such pride and enthusiasm. We would like to extend our special thanks and appreciation to our Maintenance and Hospitality staff members who worked tirelessly to prepare for our Open Day, and our teachers who coordinated and supervised activities, that present a small snapshot of the exceptional work they do every day. Their enthusiasm for teaching and learning and their dedication to the school is greatly appreciated.

Photo Day – Monday 21 May (Day 2)

Online Order Code: NKP 6M5 G73

Online Order

link: <https://www.advancedimage.com.au/keycode/keycodefinder.aspx?keycode=NKP6M5G73>

The second school photo day is on Monday 21 May. On this day a Year 12 photograph will be taken, along with House photos and any missed individual and family/sibling portraits. It is important all Year 12 students arrive promptly at school on Monday for their graduating class photograph.

A message from *advancedlife* photography:

School photo day 1 was last Thursday. If not already done so, photographs can still be purchased by following the link above for 7 days from the final day photos are taken (21 May), after which late fees/additional charges will be incurred. Past years' photographs are also available at your school's advancedlife community portal (follow the link above)

Important Information:

- School photos purchased online DO NOT require envelopes returned to school*
- **Late fees/additional charges will be applied for purchases after photo day**
- Photos will be returned to your school for distribution approximately six weeks after photos are taken

advancedlife would like to express our appreciation to your school for placing your trust in us. Please remember we offer a 100% money back guarantee on our products to ensure your peace of mind. We would also love to receive your feedback or resolve any issues you may experience as fast as possible, to ensure your satisfaction. If you have any questions, comments or feedback relating to your *advancedlife* experience please contact us at enquiries@advancedlife.com.au.

Please ensure that your daughter is dressed appropriately, that shoes are polished and skirts are no shorter than the knee. Full school winter uniform (including the jumper) must be worn and the seniors are required to wear their blazers. Students will be asked to remove their scarves and spray jackets for the photo.

Night Bridge Restaurant – Wednesday 23 May

The Bridge Restaurant will be open from 6.00pm on Wednesday 23 May for all members of our community. Please contact 62434100 to make a booking or visit www.merici.college for online bookings.

Senior Drama Comedy Night – Tuesday 29 May

Stand-up comedy night from 6.00pm-8.00pm in the Restaurant has been organised. Tickets are \$10pp and include a charcuterie platter and a non-alcoholic drink. Please follow the link <https://www.trybooking.com/VVQL> to find online bookings.

Narragunnawali Movie Night – Thursday 24 May

A Narragunnawali movie night has been organised for Thursday 24 May 5:30pm–8:00pm in the CRLC. The film is 'Bran Nu Day'. Please follow the link <http://merici.college/go/ran-ue-ay> to find ticket information and news on great prizes.

St Angela Merici Day – Friday 1 June

The Feast Day of St Angela Merici will be celebrated on Friday 1 June. The day's celebrations will commence with extended PC where each student will be provided with a gift to present to another. A Celebration Mass will follow PC at 10.00am in the Auditorium. Students are required to wear full-school uniform at the Mass but are invited to change into non-uniform after the Mass. After recess, students will be participating in a Trivia game led by our House Captains. A special sausage sizzle lunch will be hosted by Tullow, as well as a great menu served in the Canteen at lunch time. In the afternoon, senior students will be running market stalls (gold coin donation) and a disco at 1.15pm in the indigenous garden. Bubble soccer will also be held on the oval with Year 12 students competing against staff from 2.00pm-3.00pm. Please follow <http://merici.college/go/st-angela-day> to find the program of events. All members of our community are invited to attend our Mass and other activities.

Alumni Soiree – Saturday 2 June (4pm School Tour, 5pm Soiree)

An invitation is extended to all ex-students and ex-staff members of Merici College to attend our Alumni Soiree which will be held on Saturday 2 June from 5.00pm-7.00pm in our restaurant. School tours will be available from 4.00pm. Please RSVP your attendance to alumni@merici.act.edu.au by Monday 28 May. Please also indicate any special dietary requirements and/or if you would like a tour.

Parent Online Advice May 2018

The *Parent Advice Online Safety* information newsletter focuses on technology issues that concern parents. Please follow the link <https://www.merici.act.edu.au/parent-online-newsletter-may-2018> to find the latest newsletter on Anti Chat – Chat with Strangers and Fortnite: Battle Royale (also attached to this newsletter). We encourage the College community to contact us with specific apps or topics that you would like more information on so that we can help you support your child.

SchoolTV – Eating Disorders

Eating disorders are a serious, potentially life-threatening mental health illness that can have significant physical and emotional effects. It is an illness that does not discriminate affecting both males and females of all ages and backgrounds.

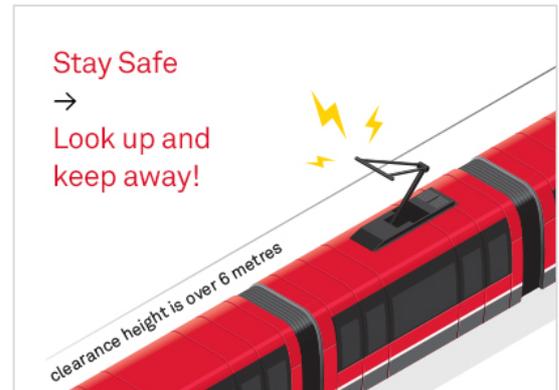
Although often starting during adolescence, recent data shows that it is now becoming more common for children under the age of 12 to be diagnosed. Often, an eating disorder develops as a way for a young person to feel in control about what is happening in their life. It can be triggered by personal, environmental, psychological, biological or social factors. Although the focus is on food, weight and shape, there is often an underlying issue being masked by the eating disorder. There are many things that parents can do in the prevention of an eating disorder, but they do need to be aware of the warning signs. To find out more, please follow the link <http://merici.act.schooltv.me/category-latest-newsletter> to launch our SchoolTV site.

Canberra's Light Rail is Fast Approaching. Are you Rail Ready?

Please follow the link

<http://merici.college/go/canbmetro> to find the latest update on road closures.

We are reaching an exciting stage of the light rail project with the installation of poles, overhead wire and testing of electrical systems and vehicles. As these activities progress, it is important that people stay safe and are aware of changes around them.



Some of the changes include installation of light rail track along Flemington Road, Federal Highway and Northbourne Avenue. Also, the installation of the overhead electric wire that will power the light rail vehicles is currently underway. **If you drive, cycle or walk near the light rail environment, please keep in mind these safety tips:**

- The overhead wire is LIVE and carries 750 volts of power. While the wire is more than 6 metres from the ground, drivers with high loads must make sure their load does not come into contact with it.
- Pedestrians and cyclists should always cross the tracks at designated intersection crossings. When crossing the tracks, it is safe to come into contact with the rail.
- Always stay alert! Light Rail Vehicles (LRVs) are quiet and can approach unexpectedly from either direction. Distractions like texting and listening to music can put you at risk.
- In the event of an emergency, always dial 000.

Learn more light rail safety tips and watch the new Light Rail Safety Video at www.canberra-metro.com.au/safety

YEARS 10, 11 AND 12 NEWS

Year 10 United Nations Information Centre Presentation - Monday 4 June

Year 10 students will attend a presentation by the United Nations Information Centre in Canberra on the history of the UN and the UN's Sustainability Goals. The presentation will be held during the Flex Lesson on Monday 4 June at the College.

ANU Young Women Project

Parents and students in Years 10-12 at Merici College are invited to participate in a focus group that will explore factors that may be impacting on the wellbeing of female adolescents in the ACT region. The focus groups are being conducted by the ANU and will be facilitated by a registered psychologist. Students and parents who are interested in being involved in the focus groups are asked to contact Associate Professor Alison Calear at the ANU directly at Alison.Calear@anu.edu.au or 6125 8406. Please follow the link <http://merici.college/go/-oung-omen-roject> to find more information.

CAREERS NEWS

To find the latest Careers Newsletter, please follow the link <http://merici.college/go/mericicareersnewsletter>.

Year 10 Transitions Forum - Monday 2 July - Friday 6 July

The Year 10 Transitions Forum will be held from Monday 2 July to Friday 6 July (Term 2 Week 10). It is a requirement that Year 10 students attend during this week because it provides essential information about the requirements for Senior College.

The Year 10 Business Administration students will be contacting parents to take part in some of the activities occurring during the week, and this will be used as evidence towards the completion of their competencies. The students will access parent occupation details and emails so they can organise the Experts on Tap sessions that will occur during the week.

At all times, student email contact with parents will be strictly monitored by their teachers. However, if you do not wish to have the Business Administration students access your occupation details, please email Mrs Kerry McDonnell as soon as possible on kerry.mcdonnell@merici.act.edu.au or telephone 6243 4135. Please also contact Mrs McDonnell if you would like to participate in the 'Experts on Tap' Day.

LANGUAGES NEWS

Sister-school Relationship with Tieyi School in Xi'an, China

Exciting news for Mandarin! We have successfully established a sister-school relationship with Tieyi School in Xi'an, China. Xi'an is an ancient Chinese city and had been the capital city of various Chinese dynasties and, of course, the home to the famous terra-cotta warriors.

The main objective of this relationship is to develop friendship and cooperation between Tieyi School and Merici College and, most importantly, to promote cross-cultural understanding and awareness between Australia and China.

Both Tieyi and Merici will endeavour to engage in the following activities to develop and strengthen the sister-school relationship:

- Exchange of information about curriculum, school policy and school events
- Exchange of teaching resources, course materials and teaching strategies
- Exchange between students to promote mutual understanding, such as E pen pals club.

- Both schools will maintain student, teacher and administrator exchange programs to provide the opportunity to study, work and live in the sister school community
- Exchange of leadership development information between principals.
- Organizing 'pilot' classes or groups of students in both countries to collaborate in curriculum areas such as English, art/design etc. through ICT-mediated communication to enable students to post work, display and discuss their work and communicate live with students from their sister school.
- Provide video conferencing opportunities, which should be used for the development of electronically-supported relationships between both schools. This can include class interaction via Skype or other conferencing tools

To begin this exciting journey for a strong relationship, Tiewi students will be visiting Merici in September 2018. During their visit, Tiewi students will be sharing their musical talents with us through some performances and of course interact with our students through various activities. More information about this visit will be sent out once their itinerary is confirmed.

Apart from the above short visit in September 2018, Merici may be hosting 15 – 20 students from Tiewi School in February 2019. We will be requesting for interested families to host these Chinese students. This will be a great opportunity for students learning Mandarin to foster and deepen their understanding of China and its culture. More importantly, Merici and Tiewi students will have an avenue for some authentic language exchange.

SCIENCE NEWS

Da Vinci Decathlon

Over the next few weeks, teams in all years from 7 to 11 will be competing in the Da Vinci Decathlon, a day-long competition originally invented by Knox Grammar to provide a cross-curricular challenge for talented students.

On Thursday 31 May, the Year 7 and 8 teams will compete in the regional competition hosted by Canberra Grammar School, while on Wednesday 23 May, the Year 9, 10 and 11 teams will travel to Sydney to compete at Knox Grammar in the NSW state competition.

The students will compete in ten disciplines during the competition: maths, science, english, drama, engineering, art and poetry, codebreaking, cartography, general knowledge and ideation.

The teams are being organised and trained by Dr Kathryn White, Mr Oliver Barlow and Mrs Renee Taylor, and the team members are:

Year 7: Ruby Alexander, Haley Bissett, Hazina Bravo, Matilda Hanley, Chloe Rushton, Emerson Whipp, Lexie White and Remi Yan.

Year 8: Saanvi Bajaj, Stephanie Frater, Olivia Henss, Samantha King, Anna Mels, Emily O'Mahoney, Sienna Rolfe and Georgia Tonkin

Year 9: Sinead Ahern, Heather Bravo, Caitlyn Crick, Fey Etherington, Ashley Frater, Chloe Gloyne, Sophie Spice and Georgia Stockings

Year 10: Imogene Blake, Sarah Carstens, Bridget Darby, Emma Garratt, Catherine Hinton, Emma Howse, Annalise Lennon and Sammie Trafford

Year 11: Rosalie Carter, Hannah Derwent, Jade Esler, Japneet Kaur, Kaitlin McClory, Shabnam Mohamad Shafiq, Lauren Solomon and Rosie Zielinski.

YM@Merici (Youth Ministry)

Students in Years 7-12 are invited to the following faith formation activities being held in the Canberra community this weekend and next. Some these activities provide an excellent opportunity for our students to engage with students from other schools including Marist College. Please note that there will not be Merici organised supervision at all of the events, therefore, the presence of a parent/guardian is advised.

Years 10-12 - CSYMA Year of Youth Spirit retreat

Date: Sunday May 27

Venue: St Benedict's Catholic Church, Narrabundah

Information at <http://merici.college/go/spirit-retreat>

Years 7-12 - Marist's next Connect Mass

Date: Saturday 19 May (Pentecost weekend) from 6.00pm-7.00pm, all ages.

Venue: St Mary Help of Christians Parish, Pearce

Years 7-9 - A mini retreat day run by Marist called INROADS (for Year 5-9 students)

Date: Saturday 19 May from 1.00pm - 7.00pm

Venue: St Mary Help of Christians Parish, Pearce

Years 10-12 - Fellowship: Post-Connect Mass

Date: Saturday 19 May from 7.00pm - 8.30pm

WHERE: St Mary Help of Christians Parish, Pearce

Information on Inroads and Connect Masses can be found here, <http://merici.college/go/inroads-connect-mass>.

If you have any questions regarding the above events, please do not hesitate to contact Amy Connellan, Head of Mission and Community, email amy.connellan@merici.act.edu.au.

St Gregory's Primary School Eucharist Retreat

Angela's Angels, Merici's Youth Ministry team is excited to be delivering the St Gregory's Primary School Eucharist Retreat to Year 4 students on Wednesday 30 May in conjunction with St Gregory's Primary School staff. If your daughter (Years 9-12) is interested in this opportunity, please contact Ms Amy Connellan: email amy.connellan@merici.act.edu.au or telephone: 6243 4157. Please follow the link <http://merici.college/go/st-gregs-retreat-permission> to find more information.

SPORT

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

CO-CURRICULAR NEWS

Duke of Edinburgh Introductory Weekends

The introductory weekends will be held on Saturday 19 May-Sunday 20 May and Saturday 9 June – Sunday 10 June at Camp Cottermouth. Please follow the link <http://merici.college/go/duke-of-edinburgh-permission> to find information on the activities that will be conducted, the equipment list and the permission note.

ACT Interschools 2018 Snow Sports Competition – Permission Note

It is almost winter and ACT Interschools are holding the 2018 Snow Sports competition departing on Tuesday 24 July with competition on Wednesday 25 July to Friday 27 July at Perisher-Blue Ski Resort.

Our Snow-Sports Team has grown over recent years and in 2018 Merici Girls are looking to enter one of our strongest teams ever. With that, on behalf of the College ski team, we extend a warm welcome to new participants. Please follow the link <http://merici.college/go/snowsports-permission> to find out more information about the event including permission note, participant information and the itinerary.

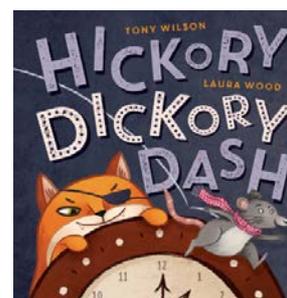
Please note that permission note, payment and on-line registration at ACT interschools snowsports website www.actinterschools.com.au are required by Thursday 31 May 2018.

If you have any enquiries, please contact snowsports@merici.act.edu.au or Adrian Heim/Diana Davis by telephone 6243 4100.

iC NEWS

Next Wednesday, the 23rd May is National Simultaneous Storytime, an event organised by the Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA) where many libraries and schools across Australia and New Zealand read a story together as part of the Library and Information Week celebrations.

The Merici Community is participating again this year and will come together in the iC at lunch time, on the day. We will have a reading of the National Simultaneous Storytime book *Hickory Dickory Dash* written by Tony Wilson and illustrated by Laura Wood. We will also have a recording of the story signed in AUSLAN for our students who are hearing impaired or learning to sign.



Looking forward to seeing all students as we share a story together. We are never too old for picture books!

iC Staff

OTHER NEWS

St Thomas More Parish and Forum Dinner 2018

Lessons from St Thomas More and the freedom of religion in Australia today

Sir Thomas More is the patron saint of politicians and statesmen. He was beheaded for his Catholic faith and passionate defence of religious freedom. Nearly 500 years later, placing limits on the extent of an individual's religious freedom has never been more popular. Freedom of religion is a core Australian value and its protection requires strong vigilance from growing secularism and unbridled populism. A look at populism and the current state of the religious freedom debate in Australia through the eyes of Sir Thomas More.

Friday 22 June 2018, 7.30pm – 9.00pm

Keynote Speaker: The Hon Dan Tehan MP

[Click here to download flyer](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS (Term 2 Weeks 6 and 7)

Real Talk Presentation to Year 8 and 9 Students– Wednesday 6 June and Thursday 7 June

Real Talk Presentation to Parents – Wednesday 6 June (6.00pm-7.30pm)

Queen's Birthday Public Holiday – Monday 11 June

ACT 13 & O Volleyball Finales – Tuesday 12 June

Year 8 Civics & Citizenship and Enterprise & Business – Tuesday 12 June

ACT 12 & U and 13 & O Combined Cross Country – Wednesday 13 June