



# WHAT'S ON AT MERICI #BuildingFutures

Term 1 Weeks 2 and 3 (10 February – 23 February)

## WHOLE SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

### Principal's Welcome 2020

We welcome all returning students and new students to the new academic year. Please follow the link <http://merici.college/go/principal-welcome> to find the Principal's Welcome Letter.

### Current Safety Matters

Please follow the link <https://merici.news/news/principal-letter-current-safety-matters> to find correspondence from Mrs Wholley, Principal regarding current safety matters,

### Tulow House Day (Monday 17 February)

Tulow House will celebrate their 'House Day' on Monday 17 February. This is an opportunity to acknowledge, observe and explore the Brigidine Order on which Tulow 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 Tulow House activities during morning PC and PC Long lesson. Tulow students are required to wear green accessories on the day and will celebrate together with a Tulow cake during long PC.

### Guidelines for Tulow House Day dress

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

- Wear green accessories with your full school uniform (green ribbon, green socks).
- Please bring your full PE uniform for PE classes.

We are looking forward to a very successful Tulow 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 Laura Pearce, House Coordinator, [laura.pearce@merici.act.edu.au](mailto:laura.pearce@merici.act.edu.au).

### Opening School Mass (Tuesday 18 February 11.20am)

On Tuesday 18 February we will be celebrating our Opening College Mass commencing at 11.20am in the auditorium. All parents, family members and friends are invited to attend this very special celebration, <http://merici.college/go/invite-opening-mass>. A light lunch will be provided at the conclusion of the Mass. Please rsvp your attendance to [ros.parisi@merici.act.edu.au](mailto:ros.parisi@merici.act.edu.au) by Thursday 13 February (include special dietary requirements).

### **Talk and Tour (Saturday 22 February 9.30am)**

As part of our Enrolling Now campaign for 2021, a Talk and Tour will be held on Saturday 22 February at 9.30am for prospective families. For all information on Open Day, Be a Merici Girl days, Talk and Tours, Information sessions and enrolment, please visit [www.merici.college](http://www.merici.college).

### **International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme (MYP) Assessment and Reporting Workshop (Tuesday 25 February)**

This session is aimed at new families in Years 7-9 who would like to learn about the MYP and assessment criteria and will be held in the CRLC on Tuesday 25 February 6pm-7.15pm. This is a hands-on workshop and you are invited to attend with your daughters to engage in some activities that explain the MYP Assessment criteria, provide a brief overview of the MYP philosophy and explore how assessment tasks are used to make evidence-based judgements of learning.

Please RSVP to Ros Parisi at [ros.parisi@merici.act.edu.au](mailto:ros.parisi@merici.act.edu.au) stating the number of people who will attend. Information will be available via our website after the evening to those families unable to attend or for more information about the IB at Merici please contact [Natalie.Fairfax@merici.act.edu.au](mailto:Natalie.Fairfax@merici.act.edu.au).

### **Ash Wednesday (Wednesday 26 February)**

Ash Wednesday is the first day of the season of Lent. On Wednesday 26 February blessed ashes will be marked on our foreheads in the form of a cross. The smudge mark made by the ashes is a visible reminder of the commitment we enter into during Lent and of the forgiveness and strength which is the gift of Jesus to each of us.

During the season of Lent we are challenged to reconcile ourselves to God. But the place to begin is to reconcile ourselves with one another. We need to fast. Perhaps we will be fasting from the hurts and grudges we bear against one another, the anger we allow to simmer away under our false smiles, the rumours we allow to go round and round, the finger-pointing we participate in, the inability to love ourselves and each other with forgiveness. We are encouraged to forgive ourselves, to forgive one another and to accept God's forgiveness in our lives so that we may live peacefully.

As members of the Merici College community we commit to raise money for Caritas Project Compassion and offer hope to the millions of families who fight for justice, peace and survival every single day. It is an ongoing demonstration of the faith, love and generosity of our Catholic congregation, all in the name of justice and peace.

### **Distribution of Ashes:**

Staff (parents and students welcome) - Chapel at 8.25am

Students – House meetings

Lunch - for all those yet to receive their ashes

### Medical Welfare

As the new year begins, can we please remind parents/carers to review our Medical Welfare policy (<http://merici.college/go/medical-welfare-policy>) so that we can provide the best and most appropriate support for your daughter at Merici.

### Uniform Shop Hours

A reminder that the uniform shop is open on Tuesdays 8am-11am and Thursdays 2pm-5pm during the school term. The shop is located at the front office.

### Information Centre (iC) Opening Hours

The Information Centre (iC) is open Monday – Thursday 8:30am–5pm, Friday 8:30am–4pm. Students are welcome to stay after school, borrow books, study, or use the resources available.

### Student and Medical Information Forms

A printout of Student and Medical Information forms listing current information held at the College on students have been distributed to students. It would be greatly appreciated if parents could check all details listed on the forms. Please sign and return the forms as soon as possible to the Student Services Office. Please note any changes on the printout. All forms, with or without changes must be returned. For the first time we would like to store information about dietary requirements within the medical section of the form; this will remove the need for this to be collected on our excursion forms. Please also check your primary email address and let us know if there has been a change.

### Transport Canberra – School Ready

As we start a new school year, Transport Canberra would like to remind parents and students about their services and how to best prepare for travel on both bus and light rail. Details of all school and regular services are available [online](#) for parents and students to begin planning their journeys. To assist in planning school bus travel, use our handy tips and checklist below found at <http://merici.college/go/bus-school-ready>.

### Parent Online Advice Newsletter

The *Perimeter Guardian Parent Advice Online Safety* information newsletter focuses on technology issues that concern parents. Please follow the link <http://merici.college/go/parent-online-newsletter> to find the latest newsletter covering *Frysbe* which is an app where young people can chat with strangers from around the world, share photos and 'make new friends', as well as *Txting* which is an app that allows young people to 'Chat with Strangers' anonymously.

## YEARS 7, 8 AND 9 NEWS

### Year 7 Aspiring to Achieve Parent Workshops (Tuesday 18 February 5.30pm-8.00pm)

Parent Workshops will be held on Tuesday 18 February to assist in supporting a successful start to high school at Merici. The evening will commence at 5.30pm with refreshments in the canteen, followed by a presentation by Coastlife Adventures regarding the upcoming Year 7 camp. This will be followed by a rotation of three key sessions, 25 minutes each. Students are welcome but are not required to attend. Please follow the link <http://merici.college/go/year7workshops> to find more information.

To assist with catering and the preparation of rooms, please rsvp your attendance to [ros.parisi@merici.act.edu.au](mailto:ros.parisi@merici.act.edu.au) by Wednesday 12 February (include special dietary requirements).

### **Year 7 Immunisations Round 1 (Friday 21 February)**

Year 7 Round 1 HPV Dose I and dTpa immunisations will be held on Friday 21 February. Students have been given an information card that needs to be returned before the end of this week. Students will be called down in class groups. For more information please follow the link <http://merici.college/go/year-7-immunisations>.

## **YEARS 10, 11 AND 12 NEWS**

### **Year 11 Conference (Thursday 13 February – Friday 14 February)**

Each year we hold a Year 11 Conference to support our new senior students transition into Year 11. The Conference is designed to create enthusiasm and energy around the learning and development your daughter will experience over the next 2 years and to ensure she understands all Board of Senior Secondary Studies requirements. It is also an opportunity for her to understand and reflect upon the responsibilities she has to herself, her family and the College whilst she is with us for the next 2 years.

The Merici College Year 11 Conference will be held for 2 days at the Warrambui Conference Centre, Murrumbateman from Thursday 13 February to Friday 14 February 2019. The overnight program will include a motivational keynote presenter, discussions about leadership, a retreat day and essential information about BSSS processes, study skills and sessions about what it means to be a senior at Merici.

### **Language Study – Year 11 and 12**

Students of Year 11 and 12 who are interested in studying a language that is not available at Merici are invited to contact the Canberra Academy of Languages. Courses in Continuing German and Tamil plus courses in Advanced French, German, Spanish and Tamil will be offered in 2020.

The Canberra Academy of Languages is a not-for-profit organisation, registered as a Specialist Education Provider with ACT BSSS, offering courses for senior secondary students who wish to study languages that are not available in their day schools or through other providers.

A registration evening will be held at the Alliance Française, 66 McCaughey Street, Turner, on Thursday 6 February 2020, from 6pm. On their website, they have invited expressions of interest from students and their families. Interested families are asked to email their contact details and selected language(s) to [info@cal.act.edu.au](mailto:info@cal.act.edu.au), preferably before the evening to facilitate setup.

Please click on this link to find more information: <http://merici.college/go/canb-acad-languages>

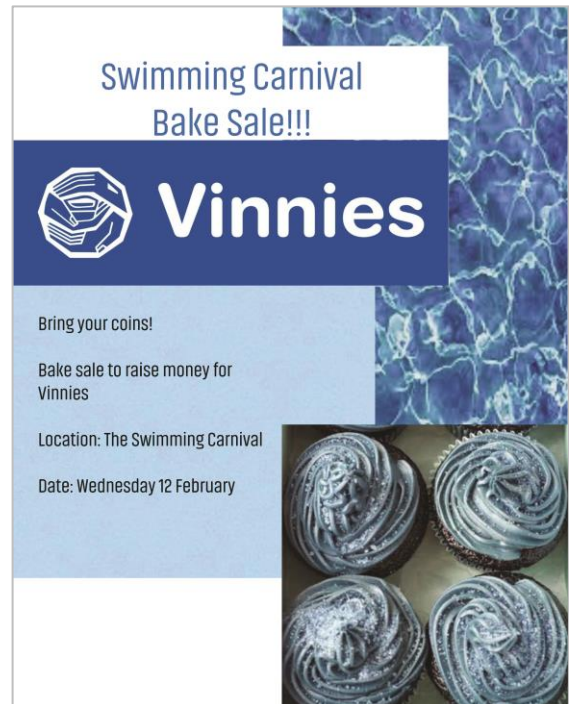
## **CAREERS NEWS**

To find the latest Careers newsletter and information, please visit <https://www.mericicareers.com/>

## MISSION AND COMMUNITY

### Swimming Carnival Bake Sale (Wednesday 12 February)

There will be a bake sale to raise money for Vinnies at the Swimming Carnival on Wednesday 12 February. This is in support of Vinnies which has unfortunately had to cancel the Annual Doorknock Appeal due to the fire and smoke situation. Members of the Social Justice Group and any other student are invited to prepare baked goods for the carnival. All ingredients need to be listed with the items. Thank you in advance for supporting this wonderful cause.



### St Vincent de Paul Annual Doorknock Appeal

St Vincent de Paul advises that the Annual Doorknock Appeal has been cancelled for 2020. St Vincent de Paul made this decision in light of the current bushfire and air quality situation in Canberra.

Vinnies will be running some fundraising stalls at shopping centres and Bunnings BBQ instead to help raise money for the bushfire appeal. If volunteering opportunities arise, these will be advertised. St Vincent de Paul apologises that the Doorknock has been cancelled; they just want to make sure the health and safety of all its wonderful volunteers is looked after.

### GIVIT - volunteers needed @ Brumbies match

GIVIT has been given the opportunity to be the Brumbies charity partner to support our Bushfire Relief Appeal. Amongst other fabulous things, GIVIT will be 'shaking the coin tin' at their first 3 home games to raise funds for their work across SE NSW fire affected communities. If your daughter is interested in volunteering at the Brumbies third home match on 15 February 4:30PM – 7:15PM (kick off), please contact Kristi Clark at GIVIT [act@givit.org.au](mailto:act@givit.org.au). Parking and tickets to the match provided to volunteers. *Please note: this is not a Merici College organised or supervised activity and parent supervision is advised.*

### DonateLife Walk 2020

On Wednesday 26 February the DonateLife Walk (<https://www.giftoflife.asn.au/>) is taking place 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. Please note that although some Merici staff will be in attendance, this is not a Merici organised or supervised event. Students are to make their own way to and from the venue and parent supervision is strongly advised.

Thousands of Canberrans are expected to take part in the walk to show their support for this cause. The 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 (<https://donatelife.gov.au/>).

Gift of Life's DonateLife Walk this year will start at and return to Rond Terrace, Lake Burley Griffin, Southern end of ANZAC Parade (northern foreshore of Lake Burley Griffin Parkes ACT). Two simultaneous walks will be held, the standard bridge-to-bridge walk around Lake Burley Griffin as well as a shorter option around Commonwealth Park. Both courses are paved and wheelchair accessible. Participants should gather at Regatta Point at 6.45am with both walks starting at 7am sharp from the same start point. All participants must register online which includes completion of the Participants Waiver: <https://www.giftoflife.asn.au/register-for-gift-of-life-s-donatelife-walk-2020#formanchor> .



Please refer to the Gift of Life website for further details (<https://donatelife.gov.au/>).

### ***Where can I park?***

If travelling by car, the map above indicates your parking options. Please allow plenty of time to arrive at Rond Terrace by 6:45am.

Please be aware that the Canberra Visitor Information Centre and surrounding area at Regatta Point is anticipated to be undergoing construction works during February 2020. The Centre and other public facilities surrounding it may not be accessible to the public on 26 February.



The DonateLife walk is a good opportunity to discuss your thoughts on tissue and organ donation with your family and friends and to register your donation decision on the Australian Organ Donor Register at [www.medicare.gov.au](http://www.medicare.gov.au) or [www.donorregister.gov.au](http://www.donorregister.gov.au) (donations cannot go ahead without the consent of family).

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[Australian Government Department of Human Services](http://www.medicare.gov.au)

[www.medicare.gov.au](http://www.medicare.gov.au) We deliver social and health payments and services.

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For further information please contact Amy Connellan, Head of Mission and Community, [amy.connellan@merici.act.edu.au](mailto:amy.connellan@merici.act.edu.au).

## SPORT

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

### Swimming and Athletics Carnivals

The Merici Annual Swimming and Athletics Carnivals are an opportunity for all members of the school community to gather together and celebrate the talents of Merici students. It is also an opportunity to promote the health and fitness of the girls as well as develop pride and passion for their House. All students are expected to attend both carnivals as they are compulsory community events and fall on a school day. Parents will be asked to explain their daughter's absence in writing in a note to their PC teacher.

The Swimming Carnival will be held on Wednesday 12 February. The Athletics Carnival will be held on Tuesday 7 April. Please follow the link <http://merici.college/go/2020-carnivals-info> to find the permission note and information on both these carnivals.

### Tennis Free Try Day (Thursday 6 February)

Merici College is introducing after-school Tennis lessons in 2020 through Canberra School of Tennis. There will be a free try a day on Thursday 6 February from 3.30pm held on the Chris Fraser Tennis Courts. This is an exciting opportunity for our students and also a great way to make new friends and improve your fitness at the same time. Students should registers their interest in the free trial session by contacting either

[emma.kennedy@merici.act.edu.au](mailto:emma.kennedy@merici.act.edu.au) or CSOT Head

Coach Mark Walton [csot@grapevine.com.au](mailto:csot@grapevine.com.au) or 0408 486 191.



### Weekend Netball at Merici College

There are many benefits of team sports for girls. Sports teach girls commitment, respect for others, how to relax, concentrate under stress, set and achieve goals, accept responsibility and failure and be gracious winners. Not to mention making new friends, being social and keeping fit at the same time. Why not make netball your team sport for 2020? The Merici College netball community caters for all levels. Beginners are very welcome.

Registrations are due by the end of Week 2-Friday 14th February. Please follow the link <http://merici.college/go/2020-winter-netball> to find the Weekend Netball Information Sheet for more details and a registration link.

Grading will be at Merici on Saturday 22 February. Exact times are on the information sheet.

Please follow the link <http://merici.college/go/2020-merici-netball-handbook> to find the 2020 handbook.

Contact: [mericinetball@gmail.com](mailto:mericinetball@gmail.com)

# MATHEMATICS

## Mathematics Enrichment at Merici

The Mathematics Enrichment has been designed to engage all students. We offer support for those who would like help with their schoolwork through to additional opportunities for students to find ways to share their passion for Mathematics. Please follow the link <http://merici.college/go/mathematics-enrichment> to find information for everyone to be involved. Senior students, please note the AST session on offer. All tutoring starts Week 2. Please complete the permission at <http://merici.college/go/maths-enrich-permission> before 21 February and return to the school.

# LANGUAGES

## OzCLO 2020 – Calling for participants

The Australian Computational and Linguistics Olympiad (OzCLO) is a contest for high school students (Years 9 – 12 ONLY) that combines computational thinking and linguistics, challenging them to develop their own strategies for solving problems in fascinating real languages.

The dates of the OzCLO 2020 competition will be:

- Regional round: Wednesday 4 March 2020
- National round: Wednesday 25 March 2020

Competition Format: The OzCLO contest is held in two rounds.

The First Round is a two hour competition, usually held in early March. Participants work in teams of four on a range of language analysis problems. The teams are usually selected by their schools. The competition is held at the school with teams submitting their answers through an online form. Some regions offer offline alternatives.

The National Round is by invitation to the top three teams for each region. This has the same format as the First Round but is held at a local host university. The National Round is usually held in late March.

All participants complete the same tasks, with achievements recognised at the Junior level (Years 9-10) and the Senior level (Years 11-12).

If your daughter is interested in participating in this competition, she needs to form a team of four with her peers. Once the team is formed, she should get in contact with Mrs Jen Baines or email her on [jen.baines@merici.act.edu.au](mailto:jen.baines@merici.act.edu.au) by Wednesday, 19 February 2020.

## iC NEWS

The Information Centre (iC) is open Monday – Thursday 8:30am–5:00pm, Friday 8:30am–4.00pm. Students are welcome to stay after school, borrow books, study, or use the resources available.

Library Lover's Day is held on 14 February where we celebrate all things library, such as reading, literacy, authors, illustrators, and the most important thing... the readers and those who use this facility. We are encouraging our students to come into the iC to see the display, and to use the template provided to share a book recommendation of one they love.



We look forward to getting to know your daughters throughout the year, whether it be to help with researching and referencing, to find a great book, discuss an author, pull apart a character and story, participate in book club, play board games, or to complete a jigsaw puzzle.

Happy reading!  
iC Staff

## CO-CURRICULAR NEWS

### Dance Troupe Performance at Multicultural Festival – Sunday 23 February (1.00pm)

Our Dance Troupe's first performance for 2020 will occur on Sunday 23 February at 1.00pm at the Multicultural Festival Stage 4 situated along City Walk (Akuna Street side). All welcome to come along and support our girls.

## OTHER NEWS

### Athletes Foot School Rewards Program

As in previous years, Merici College participates in the Athlete's Foot Canberra School Rewards Program. The Athletes Foot will donate \$5 from every shoe sold when Merici is mentioned.



## UPCOMING EVENTS (Weeks 4 and 5)

Academic Awards for Semester 2 2019 (Monday 24 February)  
Ash Wednesday (Wednesday 26 February)  
Caritas Project Compassion Launch (Wednesday 26 February)  
Donate Life Walk (Wednesday 26 February 6.45am)  
Bridge Restaurant (Wednesday 26 February 12.30pm)  
An Evening with Justin Coulson (Monday 2 March)  
Moderation Day 1 (Tuesday 3 March)  
St Vincent de Paul Door Knock Appeal (Wednesday 4 March)  
Co-curricular Activities Expo (Thursday 5 March)