# ­WHAT’S ON NEWSLETTER

## Term 2 Week 10 and Term 3 Week 1 (Monday 1 July – Sunday 28 July)

## IMPORTANT NEWS

**2023 Annual Report to the Community**

Please click here to find the 2023 Annual Report, <https://www.merici.act.edu.au/building-futures/about-merici/annual-reports>.

**School Fees**

We have a number of families who are yet to pay their Term 1 & 2 school fees. As the end of this term is fast approaching, we would appreciate if you could please arrange to have these paid as soon as possible.

Thank you to those families who have already paid. If you are on a direct debit or payment plan this request does not apply to you.

If you have not received your fee or monthly statements via email, are experiencing any financial difficulties or would like to discuss your fee account or payment options please contact our Finance Manager Jodi Wrenford at fees.office@merici.act.edu.au or call 6243 4108 to discuss.

**Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability**

All schools in Australia are required to participate annually in the National Consistent Collection of Data for Students with Disability (NCCD). This allows our Catholic sector to continue to provide and prioritise innovative and high-quality teaching and learning to support all students on their learning journey. Above all though, our Catholic tradition demands that educators see every child as equal, inherently sacred and worthy of dignity and respect. Our Catholic schools support children and young people with disability as an act of love, not merely as a legislative requirement.

What is the National Consistent Collection of Data?

The Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on Student School Students with Disability (NCCD) is a process that all schools must complete on an annual basis. It is designed to count the number of students who receive additional adjustments or “help” at school because of a disability. This national data collection helps federal and state governments plan for the needs of students with disability. It is also the way that schools seek and receive funding to support the learning needs of their students.

Please click [here](https://www.merici.act.edu.au/sites/default/files/FINAL_2024_NCCD_Information_for_Parents_Simplified_with%20fields%20%28protected%29_editableforschoollogo.pdf) to find more information about collection of data.

**Staff News**

The following staff will be leaving the College at the end of this term and we extend our thanks and gratitude for their tireless commitment and dedication to teaching at Merici College and wish them well in their future endeavours

* Karen Evans (Inclusive Education Coordinator) appointed to a leadership role at Radford College
* Simone Fox (Teacher) appointment to a teaching position in the ACT Education Directorate
* Kylie Gilbert (Teacher) contract ends

We would also like to advise the following staff movements:

* Rebecca Casey (Teacher, Ningil House Coordinator) will be taking long service leave for Term 3.
* Jack Brown (Relief Staff Officer), currently in his 4th year of his Teaching degree will teach at Merici on a Permit to Teach from Term 3.

**Classroom Mastery @Merici**

From Semester Two, we will be implementing the Classroom Mastery program in all our classrooms from Years 7-12 at Merici.

Classroom Mastery program is a behaviour curriculum that explicitly teaches our students correct behaviours to maximise the potential teaching and learning time in classes. This program ensures consistency across all classes and year groups so that our students know and understand the expectations in every classroom.

Classroom Mastery has been developed by leading classroom management expert, Dr Tim McDonald, to provide teachers, leaders and schools with the professional learning and resources to:

* Dramatically improve student learning outcomes through increased engagement.
* Create consistently productive, safe and calm learning environments.
* Improve student wellbeing and create the classrooms they need with belonging, mastery, generosity and responsibility.
* Provide your teachers with the knowledge, practice, demonstration and coaching they need to get the outcomes they desire.
* Increase safety of classrooms and schools by proactively reducing disruptive behaviours
* Apply evidence from the science of learning and the insights of cognitive load theory

We are excited about the potential of Classroom Mastery to enhance the overall learning experience for our students and look forward to seeing the positive impact it will have on our school community.

Stay tuned for further information and updates.

## WHOLE SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

### End of Semester Reports

### On Friday 5 July, Semester 1 reports will be released through SEQTA. Students will be able to see their reports through SEQTA Learn and parents will be able to access them through SEQTA Engage. If you have not registered your SEQTA Engage for parent access, please go to the school website ([www.merici.act.edu.au](http://www.merici.act.edu.au)) to register your account. The reports are a culmination of your daughters learning across Semester 1. If you have any questions or concerns about your daughters report, please email the teacher of the subject. Our email addresses all follow the pattern of firstname.surname@merici.act.edu.au.

**Last day of Term 2 (Friday 5 July)**

Term 2 will end on Friday 5 July. We wish our students a very safe and restful holiday break.

**Commencement of Term 3 (Tuesday 23 July)**

The commencement of Term 3 for students is Tuesday 23 July. Monday 22 July is a Catholic Education designated Professional Development Day for all staff.

**Winter Uniform Reminder**

We draw your attention to the following uniform requirements:

* Skirt length (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 transparent piercings are not alternatives to remedying the situation.
* Hair (extreme hairstyle and colour is not acceptable)
* No visible tattoos
* School shoes must be black, lace-up and polished. No mary-jane or buckle shoes are permitted
* The Merici school bag is also compulsory and needs to be in good condition
* The blazer is a compulsory uniform item in Terms 2 and 3 to and from school. The blazer is also to be worn at formal school events throughout the year.  It is an optional item in Terms 1 and 4. The school jumper and/or vest are additional clothing items for extra warmth.
* The Puffer jacket is available for purchase at the Uniform Shop. This is an optional uniform item which DOES NOT replace the school blazer. Students are allowed to wear the puffer jacket during school hours.
* The co-curricular hoodie is not to be worn during school hours and is not part of the uniform. The hoodie can be worn to co-curricular sports and training. If worn at school, this item will be confiscated until the end of the school day.
* PE tracksuit jacket is only to be worn for PE lessons or on school excursions as required.

Every Merici student is an ambassador for our College, and there is an expectation that uniforms will be worn responsibly and respectfully, to the highest standard of presentation. All students are expected to wear the correct school uniform while at school and when travelling to and from school each day. Uniform is checked and monitored each morning in Pastoral Care by the PC Teacher. We understand that there may be a situation where a student attends school in incorrect uniform from time to time. In this instance, parents and guardians are asked to email their daughter’s PC Teacher or House Coordinator, and the student will be issued with a uniform pass.

If students are wearing incorrect uniform items without notification from parents, they will be asked in the first instance to remove these and rectify the uniform concern. Should the student continue to wear incorrect items, consequences will be applied as per the student behaviour management guidelines.

Please familiarise yourselves with the uniform guidelines and support the College in its efforts to ensure the uniform is worn with pride and respect. <https://www.merici.act.edu.au/my-merici/resources/uniforms>

**Uniform Shop Holiday Trading (Monday 22 July)**

Please note that the uniform shop will be open for trading on Monday 22 July from 11:00am-2:00pm, drop-in only, no appointment necessary.

### P&F Committee Trivia Night –Thursday 5 SeptemberThe Merici College P&F Committee are excited to share an evening of trivia with you to be held on Thursday 5 September. A fun night of trivia! Great prizes, silent auction and raffles!

We would love to receive any donations that you may be able to provide as part of Trivia prizes. We would welcome gift vouchers, goods, services, any other items that can be used. In appreciation of your support, you and/or your business will be acknowledged, and your logo displayed on our school website and social media networks. Please contact Ros Parisi (ros.parisi@merici.act.edu.au) for information. Thank you to many of our families that have donated items! Your support is greatly appreciated.

## YEARS 10, 11 and 12 NEWS

**Year 10 Transitions Forum (Monday 1 July – Friday 5 July)**

The Transitions Forum is an important week for Year 10 students. During the forum your daughters will consider how to make decisions, reflect on what is important in life, hear about a few different careers, learn about the job market, prepare for senior study and much, much more. Students are not expected to wear uniform during this week.

Lunch will be provided on Monday and Friday. Students will be required to bring or buy their own recess for the week as well as lunch on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday.

The days have been specifically organised into different areas.

* Monday: The first day of the Year 10 Transitions forum is dedicated to the Year 10 Reflection Day.
* Tuesday: students will be given presentations on:
	+ IB Diploma Programme/BSSS Program
	+ University degree pre-requisites and recommendations
	+ Extra- curricular academic activities available in Senior College
* Wednesday: students choose 2 institutions that they would like to visit. The options are: Australian National University, Australian Catholic University, University of Canberra, Defence Force Recruiting, Police and Magistrates Court. Students will be sent an online form to submit their preferences,
* Thursday: All students will be doing independent work on Personal Project
* Friday: a full day presentation, ‘Day of Hope’ with Glenn Gerreyn from the Hopeful Institute, Sydney. He concentrates on goals and motivation and in the past, he has had our students on the edge of their seats with his inspirational words.

**Year 10 Reflection Day (Monday 1 July)**

The Year 10 Spirituality Day is a one-day session on campus and will be held on Monday 1 July. The day is aimed at motivating students to strengthen their faith through identifying their connection with both a loving God and their relationships with others. The day will involve a series of engaging activities, and reflection exercises.

Lunch (sausage sizzle) will be provided on the day. Students will provide their own morning tea.

Students will be asked to go to the PC class in the morning to have their names marked off and then they will proceed to the Auditorium for the remainder of the school day. All students are required to wear full PE uniform.

**Year 12 Retreat (Wednesday 24 July – Friday 26 July)**

As Year 12 come to the end of their journey at Merici College, they are required to attend their annual Year 12 Retreat. It is an overnight Retreat from Wednesday (after school) 24 July to Friday 26 July 2024. Students will have normal lessons on Wednesday 24 July before leaving for the Retreat at the conclusion of the school day.

The Retreat will be held at the Warrambui Retreat and Conference Centre in Murrumbateman, a perfect venue for reflection. The students will travel by coach; leaving Merici College at 4.15pm on Wednesday afternoon, returning to Merici College at 3.15pm on Friday afternoon.

Dress for the Retreat days will be neat casual. All food for the overnight component conference is provided. Students are requested to bring the following:

* Due to COVID restrictions, student must provide their own: pillow, pillow case, doona/sleeping B\bag, top and bottom sheets and towel
* Appropriate shoes for bushwalking/walking: walking shoes or joggers with covered, non-slip soles
* Warm winter Clothes for layering including: warm coat, rain jacket, beanie, gloves, scarf
* Refillable water bottle, hat
* Casual and Comfortable clothing e.g. tracksuit pants, jumper

For further information, please contact Veronica Harrold-Carter, Head of Mission and Community on email veronica.harrold-carter@merici.act.edu.au.

**2024 My First Speech competition open now**

The national My First Speech competition for Year 10-12 students is now accepting submissions. The competition asks students to write and record a 90-second speech on a topic they are passionate about as if they are making their first speech in the House of Representatives. A winner from each year group is selected and will deliver their speech at Parliament House. Winners will also meet MPs, tour Parliament House, and learn more about the democratic process. A panel of judges including the Speaker of the House of Representatives Milton Dick MP will choose the winner from each year group. Entries close 11.59pm AEST on Friday 27 July. <https://www.aph.gov.au/myfirstspeech/enter>

## HEAD OF MISSION AND COMMUNITY

**Support Mother of Peace Primary School in Cambodia!**

Merici College is excited to announce that next month, a group of Merici College staff and students will be visiting Mother of Peace Primary School in Battambang, Cambodia, to work with students in the classroom and support this wonderful community.

Mother of Peace, supported by the Ursuline Sisters, provides vital education and holistic development to lift children and families out of poverty. The school offers free nourishing lunches, creative and physical education, and teacher formation to enhance learning and counter corruption.

**How You Can Help:** We're putting together care packages to take with us, and we need your support! We’re asking for:

✨ Cash donations to purchase essential items in Cambodia (stationery, sporting equipment, first aid supplies, picture books, wooden puzzles, toys, and games).

✨ Toothbrushes (preferably wooden) and toothpaste to improve dental hygiene for the children, many of whom lack access to dental care.

💡 **Special Offer:** Wooden toothbrushes in packs of four are currently available for $6 at Woolworths!

📍 Please drop off your donations to Mrs. Harrold-Carter in the Mission and Community office.

Please help us to make a tangible difference in the lives of these children. Every little bit helps! Thank you in advance for your generosity.

## CREATIVE AND PERFORMING ARTS NEWS

## **Merici College Wakakirri Performance – Monday 29 July**

## We are thrilled to invite you to Merici College’s upcoming Wakakirri performance, which will take place on 29 July at 7:15pm at Canberra Theatre. Wakakirri is a nationwide Festival for Australian schools that provides a platform for students to express their thoughts, ideas, and aspirations through the art of storytelling and dance. Inspired by the belief that great stories can inspire change, Wakakirri is designed to promote student engagement and well-being in schools through the creation and performance of captivating Story-Dances. Our students have been working tirelessly to perfect their routines and cannot wait to share their incredible talent with you.   Tickets are currently on sale and can be purchased via [https://canberratheatrecentre.com.au/show/wakakirri-2024/](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https%3A/canberratheatrecentre.com.au/show/wakakirri-2024/__;!!Ax-PnKpllFIIgPxB!maGHntP6xjONqDbgwjux_qDgVX7weRFnfyO7A0cWO-GuLqReTqBFmAhU0n8OUE-9yjMwegL7GaSTTQtGvqD0tZj0lbzb$). iC NEWS

The iC will be closed at 3:00pm on the last day of term, Friday, 5July.

There is much activity in the iC at the moment. During Wide Reading lessons we have begun the countdown to Book Week. Book Week will be held during Week 5, Term 3 and the theme is *Reading is Magic.* Further details about what is being planned by the Book Week Committee will be posted on SEQTA notices and here in the following weeks.

The iC is also undergoing a transformation as we prepare for new carpet to be laid over the next two holidays. The Reading section will be done in July and then the non-fiction and front of the library in the September break. We have tried to keep the library opened and accessible for the duration of this process, with books temporarily relocated to a different section – an organised chaos. To assist in this process, we have paused overdue notices for library resources. This is a great time to encourage your daughters to come in and collect some holiday reading.

The use of Overdrive or Sora continues to be a popular platform for e-books. For those families who have not yet discovered the e-book collection they can follow the instructions below and try it out during the upcoming holidays.

The collection contains novels, non-fiction, audiobooks, magazines, graphic novels and is available 24/7 from any device. It can be accessed through the [Meric SEQTA](https://teach.merici.act.edu.au/welcome) home or by downloading the Sora app onto your IOS or Android device. Books can also be read offline on a laptop accessing Sora through [soraapp.com](https://soraapp.com/welcome).

1. Download the Sora app (free from the App store)

2. Search for a school (type in): ACEN Member Collection

3. Choose our school from the drop-down menu: Merici College

4. It will redirect you back to the Merici Login

5. You can then borrow three items at any one time

Just as a gentle reminder, the return of Semester 1 textbooks would be greatly appreciated.

Happy Reading!

iC Staff

## DEFENCE NEWS

**Defence**

The current Defence Office is being moved to the new administration area at the front of the school from Term 3. Students will still be able to access their DSM at any recess or lunch, except Wednesdays, in Room 109 in the Brescia corridor.

If any Defence student needs support outside of recess or lunch, I strongly encourage them to come to the administration area and ask for the DSM, Kate Friend. We will find a safe, confidential space to talk. I’m here at Merici College every day, except Wednesdays.

Defence families are always welcome to contact your Defence School Mentor with any concern or information regarding a new posting or absences impacting your family. Kate.friend@merici.act.edu.au or telephone 0262434190

**Upcoming Defence Events**

Tuesday 2July (Week 10) - Defence Mid-Year Hot Chocolate and brownie in the OYC. Please RSVP for catering and include any food requirements, email kate.friend@merici.act.edu.au.

Tuesday 23July (Term 3 Week 1) - Defence drop in, lunchtime in Room 106. Bring your lunch and say hello to your Defence friends. Small snacks provided.

## OTHER NEWS

**Tim Fischer Oration of Ethics in Public and Political Life (7 August)**

**Building on the success of the Inaugural Oration 2022, which saw nearly 600 people in attendance, we are pleased to share that Helen Alvaré, Chair in Law and Liberty at Antonin Scalia Law School, George Mason University, USA, will deliver the 2024 Oration. Helen's profound insights on moral and social challenges resonate widely across various platforms.**

**Australia's former Deputy Prime Minister, John Anderson, who delivered the Inaugural Oration in 2022, will be the Master of Ceremonies with the popular Q&A session, moderated by Chris Uhlmann, Political Journalist and TV Presenter.**

**The Tim Fischer Oration aims to inspire and encourage us all to build a society grounded in principles of freedom and equity. We hope to ignite a passion for public service among young Australians, and this event provides a perfect platform.**

**7 August, Great Hall, Parliament House
Drinks and Canapes at 6.00 pm
Main Speaker and Q&A from 7.00 pm
Tickets and Information: $40** [**www.tfo.org.au**](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https%3A/cgcatholic.us3.list-manage.com/track/click?u=2c32e84a307a7f612ca35421d&id=61f284b114&e=fa19120d59__;!!Ax-PnKpllFIIgPxB!iK4Gj4B93skbBlqDp0JyYrNu22c55v35l6FfVnLEFzBMw4WJwfKh9_NJGxJC-HGPPNokSDO71qwci7iP_4Ty4jZebP7-pRaX$)

**ACT Sports Bulletin #9 2024**

Please click [here](https://www.merici.act.edu.au/sites/default/files/ACT%20Sport%20Bulletin%20%239%202024.pdf) to find the latest School Sport ACT bulletin to keep our community up-to-date on school sport events in the ACT.

**The Rising Tide Tour (Friday 5 July)**

Please join us for a night of live music, food and inspiring speakers: Rising Tide guests Senator David Pocock and Polly Hemming of the Australia Institute, with MC Alex Sloan. Rising Tide is a diverse movement working to ensure Australia honours its commitment to the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement via a focus on the world’s largest coal port in Newcastle.

When: from 5:30 pm for 6:15 pm, Friday 5 July

Where: Lyneham High School Hall, 61 Goodwin St Lyneham

RSVP: <https://www.risingtide.org.au/tour-canberra-july-5>

Attendance is FREE. Food and drinks by optional donation.

**MEGAfauna: Hide and Seek Megafauna Fun**

Join children’s author Bronwyn Saunders for MEGAchats about MEGAfauna! Perfect for families. Children must attend with an adult. Weather dependent.

Bronwyn Saunders is a local author and a citizen scientist. Her first book, Diprotodon: A Megafauna Journey, was released in October 2023, published by CSIRO Publishing. Bronwyn will be presenting Megafauna Fun at the Australian National Botanic Gardens this July. *Diprotodon Insights* provides information about the largest marsupial to ever have lived. *Who is the reptile champion of Australian Megafauna?* is both informative and a hypothetical battle between two ginormous beasts.

Date: Friday & Saturday 5 & 6 July, 12 & 13 July, 19 & 20 July

Diprotodon Insights - 10:15am | Rock Garden Friends Shelter

Learn about the largest marsupial to ever have lived.

Megafauna Reptile Champions - 11:15am | Eucalypt Lawn

Who is the reptile champion of Australian Megafauna? Listen to the facts and decide.

For more information, [https://parksaustralia.gov.au/botanic-gardens/do/whats-on/magnificent-megafauna-hide-and-seek/](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https%3A/parksaustralia.gov.au/botanic-gardens/do/whats-on/magnificent-megafauna-hide-and-seek/__;!!Ax-PnKpllFIIgPxB!mGawvrItAShZ35k6UBwyPe5qWQakOwNPsgV4eH78p3jOLJJfSDHhF-MmiE51-I_78WM9j3KOBBcZryUVl18NaLyWkx8_igfylAYQkAk$).

**Winter Wonderland ‘24**

This year, Local Village Markets will bring back Winter Wonderland: Canberra’s Cosiest event over not one, but two weekends in July, in not one, but TWO locations!

At the Little Burley Markets from 9am - 2pm on Saturday 6th July and on Sunday 14 July at the Haig Park Village Markets from 8am to 2pm. A free, family friendly event, celebrating our diverse community with soups from all over the world, freshly baked damper, toasted Marshmallows, local entertainment and the magic of markets to get even the coldest Canberran into the winter spirit.