



# WHAT'S ON NEWSLETTER

Term Weeks 2 and 3 (Monday 29 July – Sunday 11 August)

## IMPORTANT NEWS

### Governance Arrangements for Catholic Education Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn

Earlier this year, Archbishop Christopher announced changes to the governance arrangements for Catholic Education within the Archdiocese from 2025. This will result in a change to the proprietor of each Catholic School in the ACT but will not otherwise materially impact school operations. If you would like further information about this change, or you would like to provide feedback about the change in proprietor, please contact [governance@cg.catholic.edu.au](mailto:governance@cg.catholic.edu.au).

### Staff News

We welcome the following staff members to Merici:

Byron Luck (Music – starting Monday 22 July)

Josh Pargeter (Relief Officer Starting Monday 22 July)

Lisa Clarkson (Inclusive Education Coordinator – Starting Monday 26 August)

Please note the following staff changes:

Rebecca Casey, Ningil House Coordinator is on long service leave for Term 3

Bianca Porcheddu is acting House Coordinator for Ningil for Term 3

Jo Aboud returns after long service leave in Semester 1

Kerry McDonnell is on carer's leave and will only be at school on Tuesdays and Thursday but continuing her role as VET and Careers Coordinator for Semester 2

Jack Brown is now on a Permit to Teach, teaching Year 10 Civics and Year 10 History

Linda Deng is joining us in an ongoing capacity teaching both Chinese and HASS

Heli Davis is working as relief, teaching Integrated Humanities

Nicole Papasidero is covering for Lisa Clarkson for the first five weeks of term

Emma Bishop is Acting Inclusive Education Coordinator until week 6

### Information Centre (iC) After School hours

From Week 2, the iC will be open after school until 5:30pm Monday – Thursday. This is an opportunity to spend extra time after school doing homework and study. There is an iC tutor on hand to provide assistance with homework, organisation of tasks, assignments, research and referencing. More information will be available in the next What's On.

### Classroom Mastery

Your Daughter's may have come home and talked about some changes to our routines here at Merici. We have now implemented Classroom Mastery in all our classrooms from Year 7-12. Merici is very lucky to be one of ten pilot schools in the Archdiocese.

At the heart of Classroom Mastery lies a commitment to fostering a consistently productive, safe and calm atmosphere where every student can thrive academically and personally.

Classroom Mastery aims to:

- create consistently productive, safe and calm learning spaces
- reduce disruptive and off-task behaviours
- increase engagement in learning

Why? We know that safe, ordered and positive learning environments are the foundations for learning. Although it is common sense, this is backed up by significant research (PISA 2019). Although we do not have significant and problematic behaviour at Merici, we are committed to improving our practice, so students can learn in the best possible way. Our implementation of this program means establishing and practicing set consistent routines. These are sequences of what to do, when and how. In short, there are clear 'recipes' for how to prepare for learning and how to participate in learning. A behaviour curriculum is like a Mathematics or English curriculum. It means that our students learn the right behaviours so successful learning can happen, where our classrooms are safe, orderly, and predictable.

**We now have routines for:**

**Entry routine:**

Students are to line up in a quiet, orderly and calm manner before entering the classroom. They enter and then stand behind their chair, waiting for the teacher's greeting and instructions.

**Exit routine:**

Students put away personal and class equipment, the chairs are placed under the desk and the classroom restored. The teacher farewells the students and instructs them to leave in a set manner.

**Cue to start and stop work:**

All students will respond to a spoken cue such as "Merici on 3". Each class will have agreed cues for starting and stopping their work. These may be verbal cues or gestures.

Teachers have been working on aligning our school values with norms, expected behaviours, routines, rules, maintaining expectations and consequences.

If you want to see Classroom Mastery in action, see this clip from the 7.30 Report:

Link to 7:30 Report clip: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LV8ljj-Fx70&t=3s>

## WHOLE SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

### Penola House Week (Monday 29 July – Friday 2 August)

Penola House Week will be celebrated on Monday 29 July to Friday 2 August.

### P&F Committee Trivia Night –Thursday 5 September



The 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](mailto:ros.parisi@merici.act.edu.au)) for information. Thank you to many of our families that have donated items! Your support is greatly appreciated. Ticketing information will follow shortly.

## YEAR 7, 8 AND 9 NEWS

### Year 7 Grandparent's Day Liturgy and Morning Tea (Tuesday 30 July)

It is with great pleasure that we extend an invitation to you to celebrate Grandparents Day at Merici College!

**Date:** Tuesday 30 July (Week 2 Term 3)

**Time:** 9.30am

**Location:** College Auditorium followed by refreshments in the restaurant.

**Ticket Cost:** \$10:00 per person. **Please note that all students attending will be required to purchase a ticket.**

**Bookings:** Bookings close Friday 26 July and can be purchased here:

<https://events.humanitix.com/grandparents-day-2lycat8x>



As valued members of our extended Merici College family, we recognize and appreciate the significant role you play in the lives of our students. Grandparents Day is a cherished Merici College tradition that provides an opportunity for us to honour and acknowledge the invaluable love, support, and wisdom you generously share with your grandchildren.

This year, we have planned a meaningful agenda for you and your granddaughter. The day will commence with a liturgy in our College Auditorium. The liturgy will be a time for prayer, reflection, and gratitude as we come together as a community.

Following the liturgy, we invite you to join us for morning tea in our restaurant. Enjoy a cup of tea or coffee, indulge in delectable treats, and engage in conversations with fellow grandparents and their grandchildren. This time is a perfect opportunity to connect, share stories, and create lasting memories.

After the morning tea, we have arranged a special tour of Merici College, led by your granddaughter. This guided tour will give you a glimpse into the daily life and experiences of your granddaughter. Explore our vibrant campus, visit classrooms, witness the enthusiasm of our teachers, and see firsthand the incredible growth and achievements of our students. Your granddaughter will be thrilled to show you her favourite spots and share her journey with you.

Please follow the link <https://events.humanitix.com/grandparents-day-2lycat8x> for all bookings, cost \$10 per person. **Students attending with their grandparent/s will require a purchased ticket.** Bookings close Thursday 25 July. Please indicate any special dietary requirements on the online booking portal where indicated.

## YEARS 10, 11 and 12 NEWS

### Senior Study and Driving to School

To encourage responsibility and safeguarding of all members of the Merici community, the College has several protocols that apply to senior students around leaving the College during study periods and driving to and from school. The responsibilities of students and procedures are outlined in correspondence [here](#).

### Exciting career opportunities for 2023/24 Year 12 School Leavers

Applications for the 2025 Australian Government School Leaver Program will open 7 August and close 28 August 2024. This is an incredible opportunity for 2023/24 Year 12 school leavers to build skills on the job, in one of many participating Australian Government agencies. Successful applicants will work in human resources, customer service, projects and policy, or a technical area.

The 12-month full-time career development program offers:

- A permanent position in one of our participating agencies/departments
- a competitive salary
- practical, hands-on work experience
- formal training, including a Certificate IV in Human Resources or in Government
- professional development and networking opportunities.

Positions are based in Brisbane, Cairns, Canberra, Darwin, Geelong, Melbourne, Perth and Sydney. For more information:

- visit: [Australian Government School Leaver Program](#).
- attend one of our [online information sessions](#) held via Microsoft Teams

Thursday 01 August	4.00-4.30pm	<a href="#">Microsoft Teams Link</a>
Thursday 08 August	4.00-4.30pm	<a href="#">Microsoft Teams Link</a>
Thursday 15 August	4.00-4.30pm	<a href="#">Microsoft Teams Link</a>
Thursday 22 August	4.00-4.30pm	<a href="#">Microsoft Teams Link</a>

### Canberra CareersXpo 2024

- Wednesday 7th August: 9am-3pm & 4pm-7pm  
Thursday 8th August: 9am-2.30pm  
Exhibition Park in Canberra

The CareersXpo showcases the multitudinous careers and jobs available in 2024. This event is for school students, adults already in the workforce, or anyone with an interest in seeking a new career path. Join us for a journey of discovery into the labyrinth of inspiring possibilities, <https://careersxpo.com.au/>.

The list of institutions attending can be found here, <https://careersxpo.com.au/exhibitors/>.

## 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/>.

## HPE NEWS

### Athletics Carnival House Working Bees (Monday 5 August)

In preparation of the annual Athletics Carnival, House working bees will be held on Monday 5 August from 3.30pm. More information to follow.

### Athletics Carnival (Thursday 8 August)

The Merici Annual Athletics Carnival is an opportunity for all members of the school community to gather and celebrate the talents of Merici students. It is also an opportunity to promote the health and fitness of the students as well as develop pride and passion for their House. **All students are expected to attend the carnival as this is a compulsory community event which falls on a school day.** Parents will be asked to explain their child's absence in writing in a note to their PC teacher.

The carnival will be held at the AIS. It has a canteen that sells a variety of food and drink. However, it is recommended that your child bring a packed lunch, as lines could be long. In line with the normal school policy, students are not permitted to bring/have fast food or take away meals delivered to the venue.

Dress: Students are expected to wear appropriate clothing such as shorts, T-shirt, hat and runners, and sports gear. House colours should be worn, and students are encouraged to dress in the theme for their assigned House. Students are encouraged to bring sunscreen and a hat. Some shade will be provided. Please dress appropriately for the weather.

Family attendance: All parents and carers are very welcome and encouraged to attend the carnival. There will be a designated viewing area and visitors will be required to sign in at the main gate. Students wishing to see their family members will be able to go and see them. Spectators are not permitted to enter any house areas.

Transport: Chartered buses will be provided to transport students to and from the venue. The buses will depart Merici at 9.15am and return at approximately 2.30pm. It is expected that all students will travel to and from the venue by bus from Merici College.

Permission notes can be accessed through Compass emails.

Those students who wish to run in the 1500m event will need to be dropped to the AIS by 8.45am, and they will return to Merici by bus with the rest of the students at the end of the day.

### Water Polo High School Competition

Merici will again be entering teams in the Term 3 Water Polo High Schools Competition. This year we will be entering a team in the Year 7-8 Division and another in the Year 9-12 Division. The competition is low key, a lot of fun, and an opportunity for students to try out a new sport. The only requirement is that you can swim 25 metres confidently. The competition is held over 7 weeks on a Friday night, beginning 9 August. If you would like your daughter to be involved and she has not yet submitted her expression of interest, please email Jackie Males on [Jackie.males@merici.act.edu.au](mailto:Jackie.males@merici.act.edu.au). Specific details regarding registration will be released on Compass soon as an opt-in activity.



## iC NEWS

Term 3 is the best time of the year for libraries, where we celebrate the Children's Book Council Awards (CBCA) and have an author visit.

We very luckily will have 2 authors visiting Merici this term, Jack Heath will be here on Thursday, 1 August after school from 4:00pm-5:00pm, If your child is interested in hearing Jack speak, please get them to be in touch with Mrs Blakey for a permission note.



On the Friday 20 September we have Jane Godwin visiting. Book Week will be held in Week 5, 19-23 August. Throughout this term we delve into the short list of awarded picture books. Once a fortnight, during Junior English classes (Year 7 -10), we will be exploring the shortlisted books for all categories: older readers, younger readers, picture books, early childhood, and The Crichton Award for new illustrators. Reading and sharing a picture book and novel are a beautiful way to celebrate stories, discuss a message and appreciate the illustrations and written word.

The theme of this year's Book Week is *Reading is Magic*. The Book Week Committee have been busy planning activities. So far, Monday – Cake Decorating competition, Tuesday – Lunchtime book trivia in the iC, Wednesday – PC quiz, Thursday – no activities due to Moderation Day, and Friday – Dress Up Parade.

You are never too old for a picture book!

As mentioned previously in this newsletter, from Week 2, the iC will be open after school till 5:30pm Monday – Thursday. This is an opportunity to spend extra time after school doing homework and study. There is an iC tutor on hand to provide assistance with homework, organisation of tasks, assignments, research and referencing. More information will be available in the next What's On.

iC staff

## DEFENCE NEWS

### Defence

The Defence School Mentor is now located in the new front office area, behind student services. I will be available at every recess and lunch in Room 109 in Brescia. Students are welcome to drop in. If students need to speak with their DSM during other times, please come to Student Services and ask for Ms Friend. I will continue to be at Merici College every day except Wednesdays.

Defence families are always welcome to contact your Defence School Mentor (DSM) with any information regarding a new posting or absences impacting your family. [kate.friend@merici.act.edu.au](mailto:kate.friend@merici.act.edu.au) or ph 02 6243 4190

### Upcoming Defence Events

**Week 2** Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> July Defence Drop In at lunchtime. Room 109. BYO lunch and some snacks are provided.

**Week 3** Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> August, Defence Drop In at lunchtime in Room 109. BYO lunch, some snacks are provided.

## OTHER NEWS

### ACT Sports Bulletin #12 2024

Please click [here](#) to find the latest School Sport ACT bulletin to keep our community up-to-date on school sport events in the ACT.

### Please Support Petition to improve railway crossings!

On behalf of members of our community, the Kimball family, who tragically lost their cousin Ethan Hunter in a devastating train accident in Grenfell, NSW in 2021, are seeking your support. Ethan was just 27 years old and soon to be married when the accident occurred.

You can read more about the accident [here](#).

The Kimball family has been working with Parliament to get their petitions signed and approved to implement legislation that would require rotating beacons on the front of locomotives and side lighting on locomotives and rolling stock. This legislation aims to improve safety and reduce preventable accidents and fatalities at railway crossings. You can support their cause by signing the petition [here](#) before Wednesday 31 July.

### TEDxCanberra Youth comes to Canberra

The youth are speaking up and taking charge! Whether you are inspired by brilliant minds in law and activism, groundbreaking tech/STEM innovations, or passionate voices for equality, we've got you covered! Our very own student, Leah Shoebridge, an aspiring changemaker and high school student passionate about equality and justice in Australia, will be joining two other speakers.

In the spirit of ideas worth spreading, TED has created a program called TEDx. TEDx is a program of local, self-organised events that bring people together to share a TED-like experience. Our event is called TEDxYouth@Canberra, where x = independently organised TED event. At our TEDxYouth@Canberra event, TEDTalks video and live speakers will combine to spark deep discussion and connection in a small group. TEDx is a nonprofit program.

<b>Date:</b>	Sunday 4th August 2024		
<b>Time:</b>	10:00 am - 3:00 pm AEST		
<b>Location:</b>	Canberra Girls Grammar School 48 Melbourne Ave, Deakin ACT 2600		
<b>Tickets:</b>	<b>Early Bird:</b>	Students	\$10
		Adults	\$35
		<b>Sales Close: 11:59 pm, Wednesday 3rd July 2024</b>	
	<b>Standard:</b>	Students	\$15
		Adults	\$40
		Student 'bring a friend'	\$25
		Adult 'bring a friend'	\$75

**Event link:** <https://events.humanitix.com/tedxcanberra-youth-2024-stars>

Come along to our upcoming event to hear some STELLAR ideas worth spreading from our STARS speakers! For more information, visit us at: <https://www.facebook.com/TEDxYouthCanberra> or follow [@tedxyouthcanberra](#), on Instagram.

