



WHAT'S ON NEWSLETTER

Term 1 Weeks 8 and 9 (Monday 18 March – Sunday 31 March)

IMPORTANT NEWS

Research Study on Metacognition, 'Learning how to learn'

Student's views are very important for understanding the nature of life-changing, impactful teaching and learning.

Metacognition refers to the ability to be aware of and control performance. It covers a range of thinking skills and self-regulatory behaviour. Metacognition is fundamental for students to experience meaningful learning and to help them to develop the ability to transfer their educational experiences to new contexts.

Annie Termaat is a PhD candidate at Deakin University with an interest in what teachers are doing to help students develop these thinking skills and independence in learning. The research study, *Meaning in the middle years: how metacognition in curricula is translated in pedagogy and student perceptions*, has been approved by Deakin University (reference: 2023-069), the Catholic Education archdiocese of Canberra Goulburn (Record No: R656208) and Mrs Masters, our Principal. In 2024, Annie will be continuing the research she started at Merici College last year, by visiting classes with students in Years 7 and 9.

Annie will be investigating links between curriculums (for example, the Thinking and Critical thinking General Capability in the Australian Curriculum), teachers' classroom practice and the views of the adolescent learners, across several subjects in ACT schools. As with all higher degree research, the outcomes will be shared with the participants, who will be anonymous in the reports. Classroom based education research that includes the perspectives of young people is relatively uncommon, and therefore Annie is extremely grateful to the families willing to support this important work.

Annie will be audio-recording lessons of Grade 7 or Grade 9 students, nominated by participating teachers of English, Mathematics, Science or Humanities/Social Sciences. The purpose of the research is to discover patterns used by teachers of different subjects, and how these change as students become older. Teachers who agree to participate in the project will also complete an on-line survey and a brief interview about the practices that they emphasise in their teaching, and they will ask their students to complete a short reflection activity towards the end of the observations, which will provide them with feedback about their students' learning.

Students in observed lessons will be asked to reflect on how they learn by completing a cartoon called a Pupil Views Template (PVT). This single sheet of paper shows children in a teaching situation, with speech and thought bubbles, to which students add thoughts about their learning, and perhaps details such as the facial expressions or background information, if they wish. PVT information from many students, from multiple schools, can be collated and analysed for patterns, for example, to discover how students generally feel about learning a certain subject. Only the PVTs of students whose parents support their child's views being represented in the research can be collected for this analysis. No child will be personally identifiable in the study results.

A Plain Language Statement attached to this article (also found [here](#)) discusses student involvement in the project in greater detail.

If you, and your daughter in Year 7 and Year 9, are willing to support this research, please save a copy of the plain language statement for reference. You can return a scan of the Parent Consent Form (Pages 7 and 8) to atemaat@deakin.edu.au, or provide your consent electronically, [HERE](#).

WHOLE SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

School Photo Day (catchup day Monday 18 March)

School Photo Catchup Day will be held on Monday 18 March for students any student who absent on Friday 8 March.

Please ensure that your daughter is dressed in full summer uniform. The following blazer requirements are in place:

1. Junior dress – does not require blazer to be worn
2. Junior white shirt and blue shorts – blazer to be worn
3. Senior students – blazer to be worn.

Please visit <https://www.merici.act.edu.au/my-merici/resources/uniforms> to find all uniform requirements.

Please note that sibling ordering will be closed until 24 hours after the catch up day. All siblings are more than welcome to present for photos, whether a pack has been purchased or not. These packs will be available 24 hours after the catch up day for purchasing here, <https://store.theschoolphotographer.com.au/>. Please enter the First Code X4102SEC50M where required on the portal to proceed to the ordering page.

Bridge Restaurant (Wednesday 20 March)

The Bridge Restaurant will be open on Wednesday 20 March from 6:00pm. Please email bridge@merici.act.edu.au for all bookings. Visit www.bridge.restaurant for more information and sitting times.

YEARS 7, 8 AND 9 NEWS

NAPLAN 2024

The testing period for NAPLAN is upon us and we would like to notify you of the testing schedule occurring over Week 7 and 8 (13th March-19th March) for Years 7 and 9. Students will go to the same room for ALL of their NAPLAN tests based on their House:

Balgo = CRLC Rm202	Ningil = CRLC Rm 204	Seiwa = CRLC Rm 206
Brescia = Modular 1	Penola = Modular 2	Tullow = Modular 3

Important information:

- Students need to bring their **devices fully charged** and **must bring headphones** to all of the tests (ideally plug in headphones rather than wireless due to Bluetooth interference). We also suggest bringing a book to read if students finish with time to spare.
- Please note that **if the NAP2024 Locked Down Browser is still not downloaded on the students' device, it is important that this is completed at home** by being downloaded from this [link](#).
- Students with Personalised Plans who require adjustments such as additional time or readers/scribes will receive a separate email to them and their parents outlining what provisions have been applied.
- If you know your daughter will be absent for one of the days scheduled for testing, please send an email to the Literacy Coordinator nicole.commins@merici.act.edu.au so we can put her in for the Catch Up Test Session on Tuesday 19th March in Periods 5 and 6. Likewise, if you wish to withdraw your child from NAPLAN, please ensure you contact us ASAP.

As reiterated in previous communications, these tests are used as a growth measurement at Merici. It is a busy time with assessment tasks, and hence we would prefer students spend their time on assessment tasks, not preparing for NAPLAN.

As such, outside of the Demonstrations Tests, as conducted in class using the NAP Locked Down Browser, we do not require students to study for these tests. The skills that they are learning in their lessons should equip them with the skills to complete these NAPLAN tests.

Please see the timetable on the next page outlining when each test is occurring. If you have any questions and concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out.

PERIOD	WK A Wednesday 13 March	WK A Thursday 14 March	WK A Friday 15 March	WK B Monday 18 March	WK B Tuesday 19 March
P1	Y7 WRITING (42 mins)	Y7 READING (65 mins)	Y7 CONVENTIONS OF LANGUAGE (45 mins)	Y7 NUMERACY (60 mins)	
P2					
RECESS					
P3	Y9 WRITING (42 mins)	Y9 READING (65 mins)	Y9 CONVENTIONS OF LANGUAGE (45 mins)	Y9 NUMERACY (60 mins)	
P4					
LUNCH					
P5					CATCH UP TESTS Y7 AND Y9 Rm M4
P6					

Year 7 Camp (Wednesday 20 March-Friday 22 March)

Year 7 students will be attending a camp in Week 8 Wednesday 20 March – Friday 22 March at The AGH Camp Centre NSW. The Year 7 Camp is an excellent opportunity for students to develop relationships with their peers and enjoy diverse experiences outside of the formal school setting. It is expected that all students will attend the Camp. Students will be involved in various activities at the Camp for which all equipment will be provided.

For full information and permission note, please click [here](#). A Medical Authorisation Form can also be found [here](#).

Year 7 Immunisations (27 and 28 March)

All Year 7 students should have received a consent form regarding vaccinations which are due under the ACT School Vaccination Program. Students in Year 7 who have returned signed Consent Forms will receive the Human Papillomavirus vaccine (HPV) and the Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis vaccine (Boostrix) on March 27 and 28 2024.

If your child did not return a Consent Form, but you would like them to receive the vaccinations, please complete the form, and return it to Student Services ASAP.

For more information from ACT Health please follow the link below. <https://www.health.act.gov.au/services-and-programs/immunisation/adolescents>.

Year 9 History War Memorial Excursion (Tuesday 2 April)

The College has organised an excursion to the Australian War Memorial, on Tuesday 2 April, for all Year 9 students who are studying History in Semester One. The purpose of the excursion is an educational tour of the First World War galleries, led by War Memorial guides. This tour is directly related to their current focus in class, which is Australia's role in the First World War. Students will catch a bus to the War Memorial along with their History teacher. Permission notes will be provided to students by their History teacher. For any questions, please contact our Humanities Coordinator, Kyla Firman, kyla.firman@merici.act.edu.au.

HEAD OF MISSION AND COMMUNITY NEWS

Merici College Gift of Life Walk – Tuesday 19 March (REGISTRATION CLOSES 2PM THURSDAY 14 MARCH)

On Tuesday 19 March, Merici College students and staff will participate in our DonateLife Walk.

We are delighted to have Canberra FM's 104.7 Wilko and Courts here as well, broadcasting their morning radio show live from the College.

The walk will take place on the Merici College Oval from 7:15am – 8:30am, students are encouraged to walk up to 5km. **REGISTRATION IS ESSENTIAL** for our walkers to enjoy a cooked breakfast at no cost after the walk. **REGISTRATION IS ESSENTIAL** for students to receive a free 'Gift of Life' t-shirt or hat. Students who have participated in previous years are encouraged to wear t-shirts and hats that they have already received.

Registered students will have permission to wear Gift of Life or DonateLife Walk t-shirts and hats for the school day with their sports uniform shorts/uniform tracksuit pants on Tuesday 19 March. Please do not wear non-uniform items (only school uniform allowed).

Students are required to complete the permission note found here <https://forms.office.com/r/awugUc3eY5> to register before Thursday 14 March. Please note that the MS form is linked to the Merici email system and therefore will come up as an error for anyone outside of the organisation. Students themselves will need to use the link to register for the event.

IB NEWS



Middle Years Programme

Upcoming events

Event	Date	Information
IB MYP Award Ceremony Year 10 2023	To be advised	MYP Year 10 2023 (current Y11 students) Award Ceremony. Families will be invited to attend, and this will be live streamed and recorded for your convenience.
MYP Revision Skills Workshop	Mon 25 March From 6pm	A workshop for Year 7 families (students and their parents) to learn effective techniques to revise for tests and exam at high school. This will be an interactive workshop with practical strategies provided.

iC NEWS

Merici College has a number of databases and resources that are available from home 24/7. These are all located on our [SEQTA/site home](#). One such database, Sora by Overdrive is a digital library of eBooks and audiobooks for students of all year levels, as well as adults. The collection includes fiction, as well as non-fiction titles related to the Australian curriculum topics. The current collection includes over 10,000 eBooks and audiobooks, including 'Read-a-long' books.

The collection is available 24/7 from any device. It can be accessed through [Merici SEQTA](#) 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](#).



1. Download the Sora app (free from the App store)
2. Click on the Green Button **Find my school**
3. At bottom of screen '**my school isn't listed**'
4. **Let's Find your school**, Type in: ACEN (Australian Catholic Education Network)
5. Choose our school from the menu: Merici College
6. Click the button "Sign in using Merici" It will redirect you back to the Merici Login via Microsoft log in with your Merici email
7. You can then borrow three items at any one time
8. Books are automatically returned after 21 days

We will be showing this collection, ClickView and Oliver to the students in years 7-10 during their English WIDE reading lessons. Encourage them to explore the resources, and if they are having trouble accessing the service to come and see us in the iC or send Ann Blakey an email: ann.blakey@merici.act.edu.au

Happy reading

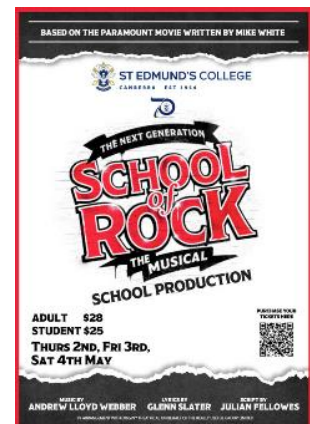
iC staff

CREATIVE AND PERFORMING ARTS NEWS

St Edmund's College School Musical, School of Rock

We are very excited to announce that tickets for the St Edmund's College School Musical, School of Rock, are now on sale. Please go along and support our performing Merici students and all the cast and crew for what will be an exceptional performance.

Tickets here, [School of Rock - St Edmund's College School Musical | Humanitix](#)



DEFENCE NEWS

Merici College have participated as part of the Queanbeyan RSL Sub-branch ANZAC Day March for many years. This is an opportunity for ALL Merici College students to commemorate our ANZAC Veterans while showing support for our current serving members.

All Merici College students are invited to attend and march on Thursday 25 April, during the school holidays. Full winter school uniform should be worn to march with Merici College. More details to come in the next newsletter and School Notices. We hope to see you many of you join us.

Merici College ANZAC Assembly will be held Wednesday 1 May from 11.30am. Invitations have been sent to Defence families, if you have not received your invitation or need to RSVP please email kate.friend@merici.act.edu.au.

Week 8 Tuesday 19 March

Defence Drop In lunchtime in room 222. BYO lunch, snacks provided.

ANZAC Assembly information and volunteering. If you have questions regarding our ANZAC assembly please drop in at lunchtime to have those questions answered. You can also volunteer to be part of our assembly.

Week 9 Tuesday 26 March

Defence Drop In lunchtime in room 222. BYO lunch, snacks provided.

Defence families can contact Kate Friend, Defence School Mentor, with any information regarding a new posting or absences impacting your family.

Students from Defence families are welcome to drop into the Defence Office any recess or lunch.

SUSTAINABILITY NEWS

The Office of the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment (OCSE) has contacted Merici College to see if we can provide some feedback on their [Environment for Youth website](#).

Every four years, the office writes a report about the State of the Environment in the ACT. They want this report to be accessible to everyone, including young people. For the last report in 2019, they created a special website version especially for high school students in years 7-10. The Environment for Youth website has a focus on what young people can do to protect Canberra's environment, and also contains a resource for educators linking the content to the Australian Curriculum.

As part of the upcoming release of the 2023 State of the Environment Report, the Environment for Youth website will be updated. Before that, they are seeking meaningful feedback on the 2019 website from young people and teachers to identify what can be improved. The OCSE has said that they would love for the Merici students and staff to spend some time exploring the website and filling out this [short survey](#). The questions for teachers are quite targeted, so it may be useful to read the survey questions first to guide your exploration of the website.

Thank you for your assistance!

CO-CURRICULAR NEWS

Instrumental and Vocal Opportunities

Merici students have the opportunity to participate in private instrumental lessons to learn a musical instrument or sing with one of our vocal teachers, during school hours on campus.

Cost: \$43 per half hour in Term 2

Instrumental lessons are available in the following:

- Voice
- Strings - violin, viola, cello and double bass
- Guitar and bass guitar
- Piano and keyboard

- Woodwind – flute, clarinet and saxophone
- Brass – trumpet, trombone, french horn, euphonium and tuba
- Drum Kit

How to enrol: If you would like to enrol in instrumental lessons, please complete the enrolment form via the link: <http://merici.college/go/musictuition>

The form will ask you to confirm before it is submitted. You will receive a pdf via email upon completion of the form.

Instrument Hire:

Brass, Woodwind and String instruments are available for hire at Merici College. There is a security deposit of \$100 which is fully refunded upon return of the instrument in good condition.

Merici Co-Curricular Music Opportunities:

Students are welcome to take part in instrumental and vocal opportunities which include:

- Concert Band - each Monday (3:30pm – 4:30pm) in room 219
- Vocal Group - each Monday lunchtime (12:50pm – 1:20pm) in room 220
- String Ensemble - each Wednesday lunchtime (12:50pm – 1:20pm) in room 219

Contact: Heather Lloyd (Music Co-Curricular Facilitator)

Email: music.program@merici.act.edu.au

OTHER NEWS

ACT Sports Bulletin #4 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.

Skyfire at The Little Burley Market

Perfect for families, a vibrant market at Commonwealth Place, with live entertainment, free activities for kids and over 80 vendors serving multicultural delights, delicious sweets and crafted goods. It's all your Skyfire needs and wants in one place!

Where: Queen Elizabeth Terrace, Lake Burley Griffin, Parkes

When: 16th of March 2024 from 2pm - 8.30pm

Website: thelittleburleymarket.com.au

