



WHAT'S ON NEWSLETTER

Term 3 Weeks 2 and 3 (Monday 28 July – Sunday 10 August)

IMPORTANT NEWS

Staff News

Please see below staffing updates effective from the beginning of Semester 2.

Congratulations to the following staff on their new appointments for Term 3:

- Emma Bishop – Inclusive Education Coordinator
- Jess Lacey – Mathematics Coordinator
- Bianca Porcheddu – Balgo Coordinator
- Dayne Spencer – Brescia Coordinator

We warmly welcome the following new staff:

- Jason Smith – Science (commencing Term 3)
- Mara Pangallo – HASS/English (commencing Term 3)
- Brooke Jarvis – Visual Arts (commencing Term 4)
- Louise Dwyer – History and Inclusive Education (commencing Week 4, Term 3)

We also farewell several valued staff members:

- Jess Tillack, who will be joining the team at Daramalan
- Nicole Cabello, who is relocating to Sydney to be closer to family
- Anne Lange, who is retiring after a wonderful career in education

Important information - Future of Education Equity Fund

Please see below important information from the ACT Government regarding increased support for families through the Future of Education Equity Fund.

As part of the 2025–26 ACT Budget, the ACT Government has announced a \$600,000 boost to the Equity Fund. This will enable an additional 1,000 eligible ACT students to receive financial assistance in the 2025 school year.

The Equity Fund is available to families of students enrolled in preschool to Year 12 in any ACT school—government or non-government—who are experiencing financial disadvantage. Support provided through the Fund assists with education-related expenses and aims to ensure that all children have an equal opportunity to fully participate in their learning.

Funding amounts for 2025 are as follows:

- \$400 for preschool students
- \$500 for primary school students
- \$750 for high school and college students

In 2024 alone, the Fund has supported over 5,000 students across the ACT, distributing more than \$3 million to families in need.

Further information, including application details, is available on the [ACT Education Directorate website](#).

Price Increase – Uniform Shop


Please note that there will be a general price increase for garments sold in the College uniform shop. On average, prices will increase by approximately 6% and will take effect beginning of Term 4 later this year. This increase is necessary to cover increases in operational costs and is being kept to an absolute minimum. Prices have only risen once before since we commenced trading with our own uniform shop in 2019.

The uniform shop will move to new larger premises in 2026 as part of the planned refurbishment of the Scout Hall on Limestone Avenue known as the O'Donnell Youth Centre.

WHOLE SCHOOL NEWS

Merici College presents Legally Blonde Jr. the Musical

Get ready for a night of pink, passion and powerful performances! Merici College proudly presents *Legally Blonde Jr.*, a high-energy musical bursting with talent, heart and first-class entertainment. Don't miss your chance to see our incredible students bring this fabulous story to life on stage.

 *Book your tickets now and join us for a show that's bold, brilliant and absolutely unforgettable!*

Shows:

Thursday 24th July ~ 7pm

Friday 25th July ~ 7pm

Saturday 26th July ~ 2pm & 7pm

Sunday 27th July ~ 2pm

Venue: Merici College Auditorium

Tickets:

Adults ~ \$18, Students ~ \$16, Child (under 12) ~ \$14, Seniors ~ \$12

Family (2 adults & 2 students/children) ~ \$55

<https://events.humanitix.com/merici-college-presents-legally-blonde-jr>

Tickets also available at the door

P&F Committee Trivia Night –Thursday 7 August

Come along to a night of intellectual fun and friendly competition on Thursday 7 August! Embark on a journey through five rounds of mind-boggling questions, engaging bonus point games, and the chance to win fantastic raffle prizes, lucky door prizes, and much more!

COME DRESSED IN A TABLE THEME – BEST DRESSED TABLE WINS A PRIZE!

BRING GOLD COINS FOR YOUR CHANCE TO PLAY GAMES AND WIN GREAT PRIZES!

Date: Thursday 7 August


Venue: Merici College Auditorium

Time: 5.30pm-9.30pm (arrival and seating 5.30pm)

Cost: \$25 per person, \$160 table of 8 people

BYO Drinks and Food

Tickets: <https://events.humanitix.com/p-and-f-committee-trivia-night-dpu3tyvx>



MERICI COLLEGE PRESENTS

LEGALLY BLONDE

The Musical JR.

Original Production by Hal Luftig, Fox Theatricals, Dori Bernstein, James L. Nederlander, Independent Presenters Network, Roy Furman, Amanda Lipitz, Broadway Asia, Barbara Whitman, FWM Group, Ruth Hendel, Cheryl Wiesenfeld, Hal Goldberg, David Binder, James D. Stern, Douglas L. Meyer, Stewart F. Lane, Bonnie Comley, Robert G. Bartner, Michael A. Jenkins, Albert Nocciolino and Warren Trepp, Produced in association with MGM Onstage, Barrie Denkert & Dean Stolber

Production Team	Venue	Shows
Merici College Creative & Performing Arts Faculty	Merici College Auditorium Wise Street, Braddon ACT	Thursday 24th July - 7pm Friday 25th July - 7pm Saturday 26th July - 2pm & 7pm Sunday 27th July - 2pm

Tickets

Adults - \$18
Students - \$16
Child (under 12) - \$14
Seniors - \$12
Family (2 adults & 2 students/children) - \$55

Legally Blonde JR. is presented through special arrangement with & all authorised materials are supplied by Music Theatre International, New York, NY
(212) 541-4684 mtishows.com
www.merici.act.edu.au



Father and Daughter Liturgy and Lunch (Friday 29 August)

An invitation is extended to all our fathers or special male carers to attend a very special liturgy and lunch with their daughter/s for the 'Heart of the Father' on Friday 29 August. The celebration will commence with a liturgy at 11.30am in the Auditorium. A two-course lunch will follow in the Merici College Bridge Restaurant and Canteen prepared and served by Senior Hospitality students.

The cost for the event is \$55 per person (two-course meal and refreshments). Please note that your daughter (currently enrolled at Merici) is welcome to attend both the liturgy and lunch.

If your daughter is attending the lunch, a ticket will need to be purchased for them.



Tickets can be purchased here, <https://events.humanitix.com/father-and-daughter-liturgy-and-lunch>.

Bookings close Monday 18 August.

A significant male relative is most welcome to attend on behalf of the father.

NO WALK-INS PLEASE!

Limited seating, please book early to avoid disappointment!

COUNSELLORS CORNER

POSTPONED Parents in Partnerships – Raising Body Kind Teens

Please note that this presentation, which was scheduled to be held on Wednesday 30 July, has been postponed. A new date will be advised shortly. Families that have rsvp'd for this event will be contacted separately.

For information, the session will offer practical strategies to support positive body image in children.

Topics include: the power of positive role-modelling, reducing appearance talk, encouraging healthy behaviours in relation to eating and exercise, language around food and bodies, and what to do if you are concerned. Details and a revised registration link will be advertised when a new date is finalised.



YEARS 7, 8 AND 9 NEWS

World of Maths Day (Thursday 31 July)

World of Maths is a "travelling show" that runs hands-on mathematical activities for students in their middle years of schooling. These workshops offer real-life experiences of using mathematics and applying problem-solving skills. Students work collaboratively to discuss strategies to help them develop problem-solving skills.

A number of ATLs are advanced in the workshops including:

1. Thinking (critical and creative)
2. Communication (speaking, listening and presenting)
3. Social (collaboration)
4. Self-management (organisation and time-management)

This event is for all Year 7 students. The Year group will be divided into 3 sub-groups and each sub-group will spend a double period undertaking the workshops.

Year 7 Grandparents Day (Monday 4 August)

We would like to extend an invitation to our grandparents to attend our special Grandparents Day to be held on Monday 4 August 2025. Please click [here](#) to find an invitation for you to pass on to your daughter's grandparents. Please note that all students attending with their grandparent/s will be required to purchase a ticket.

Date: Monday 4 August (Term 3 Week 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 with their grandparent/s will be required to purchase a ticket.**

Bookings: Bookings close Monday 28 July and can be purchased here:

<https://events.humanitix.com/grandparents-day-liturg-and-morning-tea>

YEARS 10, 11 and 12 NEWS

Year 12 Retreat (Wednesday 30 July – Friday 1 August)

As Year 12 comes 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 Period 4) 30 July until Friday, August 1 2025. Students will have normal lessons on Wednesday before leaving for the Retreat at the conclusion of Period 4.

The Retreat will be held at the Waterslea on the Shoalhaven River, a perfect venue for reflection. The students will travel by coach; leaving Merici College at 1.00 pm on Wednesday afternoon and returning to Merici College at 3.15 pm 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:

1. Student must provide their own: pillow, pillow case, doona/sleeping B\bag, top and bottom sheets and Towel
2. Appropriate shoes for bushwalking/walking: walking shoes or joggers with covered non-slip soles
3. Warm winter Clothes for layering including a warm coat, rain jacket, beanie, gloves, scarf
4. Refillable water bottle, hat
5. Casual and Comfortable clothing e.g. tracksuit pants, jumper

Please refer to Compass for more information.

HEAD OF MISSION AND COMMUNITY

DonatelLife ACT Week Launch (Monday 28 July)

[DonatelLife ACT](#) will hold their DonateLife Week launch event at Merici College on Monday, 28 July 2025.

This year commemorates 50 years of organ and tissue donation in the nation's capital.

At the age of 11, Annette Taylor, became the ACT's first organ donor. Annette was a much-loved student of Merici College at the time of her passing and is fondly remembered for her strength and determination – always a sister to us all.

Set in the forecourt of the grounds of the College and surrounding the lightbox in Annette's honour, it is symbolic that we as a community join together with DonatLife ACT and pay homage to Annette and the Taylor family this DonatLife Week.

Anyone in Australia aged 16 and over can register on the [Australian Organ Donor Register](#). It only takes one minute.

Expression of Interest – 2026 Cambodia Immersion (2026 Years 10–12)

Merici College has received initial approval to proceed with planning the 2026 Cambodia Immersion, scheduled for 11–24 July 2026. This co-curricular opportunity is open to students in **Years 10–12** in 2026 and will be offered in partnership with Ripple Effect Rides, a provider with significant experience in ethical, community-based travel.

The immersion experience will focus on:

- Cultural exchange and language
- Community development projects affiliated with [REACH Siem Reap](#)
- Environmental sustainability
- Ethical reflection and global citizenship
- A visit to our affiliated primary school

We anticipate this being a transformative and enriching experience for all involved. The full itinerary and programme overview are outlined in the attached proposal provided by [Ripple Effect Rides](#).

Without knowing flight costs at this stage, we anticipate the approximate cost for 14 days (all inclusive) will be around \$5600. Please click [here](#) to find the Ripple Effect proposal.

Please note that **places are limited**. At this stage, we are seeking expressions of interest to gauge potential student involvement and to inform the next steps in planning.

If your daughter is interested in participating, please complete the following form with your daughter using her school account by **Friday, 25 July 2025**:

👉 [[Link to Microsoft Form here](#)]

An information session will be held in early Term 3 for all students and families who express interest.

If you have any questions in the meantime, please don't hesitate to contact Veronica Harrold-Carter, Head of Mission and Community on email veronica.harrold-carter@merici.act.edu.au.

Years 9 – 11 Students: Expression of Interest: Australian Catholic Youth Festival (ACYF) – Melbourne 2025

The Catholic Education Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn (CECG) is seeking expressions of interest from students who would like to participate in the upcoming Australian Catholic Youth Festival (ACYF), which will be held in Melbourne from Sunday 30 November to Tuesday 2 December.

This national gathering of Catholic young people is a vibrant and formative event. It will bring together youth aged 16 to 18 and post-school leavers up to age 25 for a celebration of faith, community, and encounter. The Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne is hosting it at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre (MCEC). Archbishop Christopher Prowse, Chair of the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference (ACBC) Commission for Evangelisation, is strongly encouraging school participation in this important event. CECG hopes that each school will be represented by a small group of students accompanied by staff members.

The approximate cost per student is \$1800, which includes transport, accommodation, and registration for the three-day festival. While some funding support may be available through Catholic Education, this will depend on the final numbers of participants and staff and will be communicated once expressions of interest have been received.

For more information, please visit the ACYF website:

👉 <https://acyf.org.au/>

If your daughter is interested in attending, please email your Expression of Interest to Mrs Harrold-Carter as soon as possible. At this stage, no financial commitment is required – this is simply to help gauge interest and begin preliminary planning.

Should you have any questions or wish to discuss further, please don't hesitate to contact Veronica Harrold-Carter on email veronica.harrold-carter@merci.act.edu.au/

iC NEWS



We very luckily have Katrina Nannestad visiting Merici in Week 3 this term. Katrina Nannestad will be here on Thursday 7 August. She will provide an author talk to the Year 7's during Period 5 and will conduct a writer's workshop for self-nominated volunteers during Period 6.

Book Week will be held in Week 5, 18-22 August. Throughout this term we continue to delve into the short list of awarded picture books. Once a fortnight, during junior (Year 7 - 10) English classes, 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 *Book an Adventure*. The Book Week Committee have been busy planning activities. So far, Monday – Cake Decorating competition, Tuesday – Lunchtime book trivia in the iC, Wednesday – Lego Creation Competition, Thursday – Cosy Café with a celebratory cake and Friday – The dress up parade. Further details will be revealed in SEQTA.

You are never too old for a picture book!

iC staff

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.

NARRAGUNNAWALI NEWS

Planning Goals for 2026 Meeting (Tuesday 29 July 3.30pm)

Over the last year we have achieved exciting steps towards Reconciliation at Merici, including providing First Nations students excursions to engage in their cultures, inviting Aunty Selina Walker to present a Welcome to Country at Angela Merici Day, and planning to incorporate First Nations artworks into our renovations in the school. If you would like to be a part of the planning process for our goals for the next year, please join me in the school restaurant on Tuesday 29 July at 3:30pm. Please RSVP to Alyssa.markmann@merici.act.edu.au if you would like to come, or if you have ideas but are not able to attend

SUSTAINABILITY NEWS

Sustainability at Merici

In response to a request by the ACT government Sustainable Schools Program to present at a Staff Meeting with school staff from across the ACT to show how sustainable actions are implemented at Merici College, the SAM's made a short documentary with award winning local film maker Mia Channing. Filmed over two days, this documentary is a snapshot of the work that is done by SAM at Merici. Included are the book swap and litter audit. These activities are steps in the accreditation process, and only a small part of what happens at Merici to promote sustainable action.

View video here: <https://youtu.be/rCTISxYnf6A?si=jG-H22iqrbsxQo1O>

OTHER NEWS

St John Paul II College Presents: Charlie and the Chocolate Factory

Step into a world of pure imagination with this year's College musical!

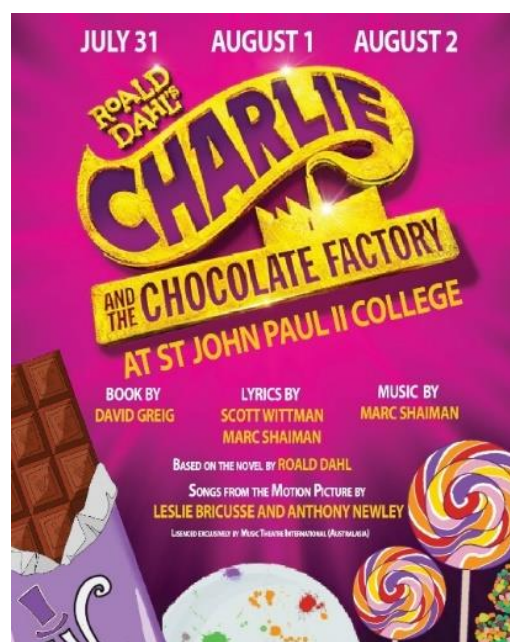
Show Dates:

- Opening Night: Thursday, 31 July at 7:00 PM
- Evening Show: Friday, 1 August at 7:00 PM
- Matinee: Saturday, 2 August at 2:00 PM
- Closing Night: Saturday, 2 August at 7:00 PM

📍 St John Paul II College Theatre

🎫 Bookings can be made at: <https://www.trybooking.com/DAXAT>

A colourful, family-friendly production perfect for all ages!



Come Celebrate 80 Years of CBCA!

Join the Fun!

Celebrate 80 years of the Children's Book Council of Australia and immerse yourself in the world of books and creativity. A day to remember for young readers, families, and book lovers alike!

Bookings are essential via

<https://www.trybooking.com/DCRCI>

Event Details

- When: Saturday, 23rd August 2025
- Time: 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM
- Where: Yhuuramulum – situated on the shores of Lake Burley Griffin, at 41 Alexandrina Drive Yarralumla.

Please click [here](#) to find more information.



Term 3 National Parent Carer online workshops

Please click [here](#) to find information on the upcoming Term 3 National Parent Carer online workshops.

- Tuesday 19 August 12:00-1:30pm – Session 1 – Diversity of Autism
- Tuesday 26 August 12:00-1:30pm – Session 2 – Sensory Processing
- Tuesday 3 September 12:00-1:30pm - Session 3 – Understanding Behaviour
- Tuesday 9 September 12:00-1:30pm – Session 4 – Working Together



positive
partnerships

**Autism online
workshop
sessions for
parents & carers
National**

Join us for an online workshop where you will have the opportunity to listen, share and learn with parents and carers who support young autistic people from across all states.

Free workshop



Note: Separate registrations for each session can be found on the Positive Partnerships homepage: [workshop registration](#).