
THE FLAME STUDENT NEWSPAPER

Welcome parents, teachers and students to MRGS's student newspaper- The Flame. This is an online edition of the newspaper, written by students for students. Click [here](#) to read the current issue of **The Flame** online, as well as previous issues. Students are encouraged to submit an article for The Flame by clicking on the "Submit Work" link a the Flame website.



SPORTS NEWS

For latest Sports News click [here](#)

PEER SUPPORT LEADERS

On Monday 7th December, many Y12 students turned up at school to be trained to be peer support leaders next year. Peer Support is a personal development programme for junior students led by senior students. It encourages the development of support networks among teenagers. Seniors are trained to lead sessions which help juniors to understand themselves and their own growth, to develop skills and experience in relating to others, and to build their own confidence and sense of self-worth.



The Y13 leaders for 2010 are:

Blue House

- Dominic Brown
- Jason Walls
- Sumanth Seshasayee
- Agnes Suisala
- Rachel Zhou
- Tracey Ho
- Rachel Alefosio
- Zoe Brock
- Jaiman Patel
- Holly Elliston
- Zenobia Khan
- Wilson Liu
- Arthur Ung
- Joella Daniel
- Tegan Ker
- Ajay Ravindran
- Tony Fu
- Belinda Kok
- Nidhi Vyas
- Ashreya Duvuru
- Javed Khan
- Finau Tutone
- Caitlin Faherty
- Wenyu Ouyang
- Telisha Kumar
- Shraddha Kamath
- Amrita Kaur

- Elia Kim

Green House

- Gloria Ching
- Caleb Deverell
- Yuming Ding
- Alisi Puloka
- Janet Liu
- Yunsi Luoyu
- Zhi Shean Tee
- Purnima Seth
- Codesa Afele
- Archit Dhingra
- Sunaina Kamath
- Madhurima Sen
- Lini Thomas
- Victoria Ng
- Robert Pome'e
- Jenny Lee
- Tanya Cabral
- Brett Harper
- Varsha Manohar
- Aditya Sheth
- Ravina Pai
- Arjhun Shivakumar
- Sophie Askew

Orange House

- Abhijit Desai
- Sneha Malakappa
- Sabita Nayak
- William Quach
- Eugene Xu
- Helen Edmiston
- Vivien Lee
- Joshua Smith
- Megan Perry
- Gladys Rowntree
- Timothy Sue
- Bruce Huang
- Nandita Rao
- Wasi Khan Azmi
- Annaliesa Tran
- Leo Vanderlaan
- Pranav Chandnani
- Franjo Serrao
- Laie Mihaere
- Alexandra O'Connor
- Sidhaarth Singh
- Shravya Vishnudas
- Katie Winny
- Alexander Bayliss
- Kaveendra Krishna
- Andrea Iskandar
- Mahsheed Ibram
- Nicholas McIntosh

Red House

- Lance Taku
- Alisa Darling
- Mohamed Dhanish
- Semar Shahul
- Mehak Gill
- Carl Maskell
- Jackie Chun
- Jing Tong Liu
- Tina Makasini
- Rohit More
- Brinda Mamidi
- Tarannum Shaikh
- Harika Achanta
- Michael Quach
- Siddharth Dave
- Johann Muller-Fraser
- Shiza Siddiqui
- Danielle Huch
- Kerry Ngai
- Shikha Kishun
- Sneha Salimath
- Keewin Fam

- Raina Naidu
- Philip Tan
- Joanne Lai
- Shikha Narsey
- Shreya Rao

Yellow House

- Harsha Joseph
- Danisha Lal
- Tariq Shah
- David Yan
- Alastair Fernandes
- Tanya Fonseca
- Maggie Tang
- Helena Wang
- Anaya Mokashi
- Gaganpreet Saini
- Jennecca Evalu
- Umamah Ansari
- Hamish Bulmer
- Gershon Cadelis
- Harneet Saini
- Dhanushka Ambepitiya
- Shuwen Chan
- Priya Mittal
- Prateek Sharma
- Emily Ng
- Zane Van Lieshout
- Nikita D'Souza
- Malina Vaka
- Saketh Vishnubhotla
- Ragasmitha Rayapeddi
- Anchita Sharma
- Afa Laufoli
- Puja Rai

2009 JUNIOR PRIZEGIVING

The Junior Prize giving will be held in the Hall at 9.30am on the morning of Tuesday 8 December.

The prize giving is the culmination of the junior school year and all junior students must attend.

Junior students are required to be in their form room by 9.00 am for roll call. All students will be escorted by their form teachers to the hall to take their seats at 9.15 for a 9.30 start to the ceremony. Caregivers and family of students are invited to attend and must be seated by 9.15 in the hall.

We hope that you are able to be present on the morning of December 8th to applaud our high achievers, to celebrate the commitment of many junior students to the school community, and to enjoy items provided by some of our school music groups.

After the ceremony students will return to their form rooms to receive reports and they will then be dismissed by form teachers to go home for the summer holidays.



2009 SENIOR PRIZEGIVING

Senior prizegiving is a celebration of the academic achievements of our senior students, as well as acknowledgement of the major sporting successes throughout the year. The 2009 Prizegiving was held on the evening of Tuesday 10th

November. Follow this link for a complete list of [prizewinners](#).



MEDIATION & MENTORSHIP SERVICE

We are the Peace Foundation's Number one School in Mediation with 210 Mediators , including 80 Advanced Mediators!

The Mediators had another successful International Peace Week in August with activities such as face painting; the wearing of white ribbons and peace t- shirts; and an Assembly presentation with our peace banner and original peace song being sung.



In June another 34 Mediators participated in a 2 day intensive Mentorship training with Julie McCracken of Mindflow learning the important people skills of how to support other students. Special thanks goes to Louise Fisher and Peter Maher for their generous donation which supports this programme.

On September 11th, eight Mediators represented MRGS at the Secondary School Mediation Symposium attended by many other schools. Sera, Hayshal, Kuresa, Ajay, Aditya, Ashreya, Audrey and Alastair did MRGS proud!

On September 27th, MRGS Mediators walked with United Nations representatives and other Peace Activists on the beginning of the WORLD PEACE MARCH!

When asking a student what being a Mediator has meant to him, Naseer writes:

“ Being a Mediator to some means the glory of getting a badge, to others it is something more. I belong to the latter and have worked closely with the wonderful Counsellors over the past few years, developing new relationships with other Mediators and learning lessons on life which are of immeasurable value. These were done through the insanely fun training sessions, the various activities through peace week and also through Mediations. There is so much you can learn as a Mediator, simply by being involved. I will never regret the day I submitted my application to become a Mediator. It is one of my proudest achievements I have made at this school, one I will wear on my heart rather than on my shirt.”

ANYONE INTERESTED IN BECOMING A MEDIATOR NEXT YEAR PLEASE APPLY TO STUDENT SERVICES AT THE BEGINNING OF NEXT YEAR (2010)! *It is open to Year 11 and 12 students.*

ANYONE who would like the support of a Mentor or who would like to know more about it, please contact Student Services.

Have a Peaceful and Safe Christmas holiday!!

MEDIATORS OF THE YEAR 2009:

- Sera Tuialii,
- Hayshal Prasaad,
- Naseer Mohammed Abdul,
- Kuresa Sa'u

PEER MENTORS OF THE YEAR 2009:

- Aali Desai
- Ajay Ravindran

photos

TRADE FAIR

Trade Fair is part of the Year 10 Business course where students are placed into groups. They then decide to make a product by first creating a business plan and then carrying out a marketing survey. This also involves submitting a product sample, as well as preparing an advertisement to promote their product.

Products were sold during Trade Fair which was held on Friday 6th November in the Hall.



photos

NIWA SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY FAIR

2009 Auckland NIWA Science and Technology Fair.

Category Prizes

- **Living World Year 9 and 10- 2nd**
Jonathan Guo *Open Sesame*
- **Physical World Year 9 & 10- 2nd**
Junedh Amrute *Energized*
- **Physical World Year 9 & 10- 3rd**
Marcus Sung *Airfoils*
- **Senior Technology- 1st** Kevin Huang *Remote control lawn mower*

Highly commended Certificates:

Viliani Tutone, Karan Dasgupta & Shilpan Patel, Siddhartha Khandrika & Ancil Thomas, Ming Pei Wu, Diana Ng.

Special Prizes 2009

- **Ornithological Society Bronze Award- 2nd** Brendan Lim *Amazing Backyard Feast*
- **ASTA Silver Award for Original Research Years 9&10-** Junedh Amrute *Energized*
- **University of Auckland Physics Department, Award for Senior Physics-** Kevin Huang *Remote Control Lawn Mower*
- **University of Auckland Physics Department, Medical Physics-** Ming Pei Wu *Mosquito Ring Tone Theory*
- **LENScience Scientist for a Day Award for Excellence in Science Investigations-** Junedh Amrute *Energized*, Jonathan Guo *Open Sesame*, Siddhartha Khandrika & Ancil Thomas *Feel the music*
- **DairyNZ Excellence in Biological Science-** Jonathan Guo *Open sesame*
- **University of Auckland Faculty of Science Junior Scientist Award, Physics-** Kevin Huang *Remote control lawn mower*



more photos

OUTSTANDING MUSIC RESULTS

Manukau City Stand Up Stand Out Talent Quest:

- David Cao - **1st in Solo instrumental section,**
- Michael Murray-Estall - **2nd in solo vocals.**
- Emensis - **2nd in Bands section.**



Auckland Philharmonia Composition Competition:

- Oliver Xu - one of 7 finalists whose music will be performed by the APO in early October.

Pacifica Beats:

- Cocokazians who competed in the Auckland Finals.

Congratulations to our talented musicians and our hard working music department.

FELLOWSHIP AWARDED TO MR CLIVE STONE

Mr Clive Stone, HOD Visual Arts, has been awarded a Royal Society of New Zealand Fellowship for 2010. He is one of thirty two teachers to be given a year away from their school to complete a project. Mr Stone's project is 'The Making, Meaning and Migration of New Zealand War Art Produced in the Pacific in WW2'. We are delighted that he has received one of these prestigious fellowships.

ASB SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

ASB SECONDARY SCHOOLS SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

Every year the ASB Bank awards a prize to the top students in each school across Auckland. At Mt Roskill we receive 8 such prizes and they go to the students with the highest grade point average in their Level 3 internal assessments, calculated at the end of term 2. The winners receive \$150 and an invitation to a scholarship lunch at Eden Park where in previous years they have been addressed by the Prime Minister.

The 2009 ASB Scholars are: Ahmed Abdile, Abhilash Kamineni, Alwin Lim, Michael Lin, Cornelia Mu, Priya Ratan, Harveer Singh, Natasha Smith.

SAMOAN TSUNAMI APPEAL

The school organised a collection of monies for the Red Cross appeal to assist in Samoa. The total collected was over \$1,600.

DIVERSITY FORUM

CoR-DIVINQ – Challenging ideas about diversity

MRGS is a diverse community with students from many cultures. A keen group of seniors decided this year to think more deeply about other forms of diversity (Diversity Inquiry – 'DIVINQ') and explore assumptions about difference. The main idea behind forming this group was the idea that there are still forms of stigma and prejudice towards certain



kinds of diversity within our community. The way to break these down is by working on our own assumptions and creating a new community of respect (CoR).

Philip Patson ran discussions every three weeks that stretched our ideas about acceptance, tolerance, and how we make sense of those who are different, particularly for diversity related to sexuality as homophobia is still the cause of much exclusion and harassment. We also had powerful insights into the world of functional diversity (otherwise known as 'disabilities'). But always with Philip there was humour and the group spent a lot of time laughing. Conversations were also carried out online in our own discussion forum. One of the biggest themes of the year has been about noticing where our assumptions come from and how these can limit our experience of the world. Philip helped us all explore where our values come from and how we can hold our own ideas without needing to change others ideas.

The group was supported by a RISE grant from The Werry Centre and this enabled the group to get going and give it momentum. Big thanks to them for supporting our project. The group hopes to continue next year and invitations to join will be advertised through the school notices.

The following are some quotes from students involved in the group:

- *"It's great to learn that someone doesn't have to be 'wrong' or 'right' in a discussion".*
- *"It made me feel accepted amongst my peers".*
- *"It's like getting colour TV for your mind when before it was black and white".*
- *"I realised you can do whatever you like, until it affects someone else, then you have to rethink things".*
- *"I've learned how to really listen fully and be present in a conversation, rather than just jumping to conclusions as soon as I think what someone is saying".*
- *"I liked that it didn't feel like being at school, we got to talk about really important things and still learn and have fun".*
- *"Being certain about something, usually means you are wrong, so I'm more comfortable being uncertain about something".*
- *"If you did this in school you would learn everything else just by the way that you think, it's not what you think, it's how you think".*

Special thanks go to Helen Edmiston and Kathryn Frankcom-Burgess for putting the time and effort into writing the original proposal to the Werry Centre and creating a unique experience for us all.

FIVE FRENCH FINALISTS

Alliance Française French Speaking
Competition 2009 - Auckland Region

Alisi Puloka, Roza Ridwan, Oliver Nacey,
Cornelia Mu, Jordan Zi

After the Alliance Française French Speaking Competition was held at the University of Auckland on Monday 31st August, five Mount Roskill Grammar School pupils were called back for the finals on Wednesday 2 September. The first thing we did after arriving at St



Cuthbert's College was to squeeze out of Mr McAlpine's car, stretch our legs, and have a photo taken.

Each pupil was given a random question to prepare in French, and we had 10 minutes to organise our thoughts and prepare our answer. The main aspect of the final was a conversation about the topic. Prizes include trophies, books and vouchers, but in Year 12 and Year 13, the top prizes can be trips to New Caledonia and France. It was really good to feel part of a much larger group of students studying French nationwide.

Auckland Regional Results:

Year 11:

- 1st Oliver Nacey (HC section)
- 8th Roza Ridwan

Year 12:

- 2nd Alisi Puloka (HC section)
- 6th Jordan Zi

Year 13:

- 4th Cornelia Mu

All of the above pupils gained an "Excellent" certificate as well.

Other MRGS results were:

Year 11:

- "Très Bien" = Tasneef Hussain, Krithika Prahallad
- "Bien" = Audrey Tay, Jessica Wei

Year 13:

- "Bien" = Keegan Lopez, Cara Rebello

CAMPUS CONCERT 12 AUG 2009

Orchestras, ukulele group, and choirs from our three schools, Primary, Intermediate and Grammar performed at a shared concert at 6.30 p.m. followed by supper. This was a great success with a family atmosphere as older siblings, ex-students, parents, teachers, Principals and Board of Trustee members met and shared the event together in front of a sizeable audience that clearly really enjoyed the event.



Thanks to music teachers involved as well as MRGS Prefects and those who helped with sound, supper and lighting for the event.

[Click here for photos](#)

MRGS WINS AT STAND UP STAND OUT

Congratulations to David Cao- 1st in Solo Instrumental, Michael Murray- 2nd in Solo vocals, and Band Emensis- 2nd in band section.

The Finals were held at the TelstraClear Genesis Theatre on Friday 28 August. We are proud of our talented students who performed so well.



JACKIE CHUN (12 MLGN) GOT THE FIRST PRIZE!

On Saturday 22nd of August, students studying Japanese from secondary schools all around Auckland participated in AUT's Japanese speech competition. Forty-five secondary school students of varying levels of skill and talent competed for the top prize and they enthusiastically gave their speeches in Japanese. Competition was fierce.



Only one person could be number one and that person is none other than our Jackie Chun with his topic - "The Secrets of Success" and he will receive his prize later at the "Taste of Japan" festival, a free event on Saturday 19th of September.

In the end, the students were given a certificate of participation to thank them for their endeavours, so everyone came out a winner.

JAPANESE ZOO TRIP AUGUST 2009

To celebrate International Language week, the Year 12 Japanese class set off for their trip to the zoo on 12 August 2009. We were each given a Japanese question sheet to fill in as we made our way around the zoo. To our disappointment the weather was not too good and "Pridelands" was closed for the day (no giraffes!). However, this did not stop us from having an enjoyable day.

We learnt more about the protection programme for kiwis and more about the habitat of meerkats. We also got to be up close to tigers, with only a thick glass barrier separating us from them.

Most enjoyable was our experience inside the Japanese Garden. Built together with Fukuoka (a city in Japan), the garden is an exact representation of what an actual Japanese garden looks like.



At the end of the day, we dragged our tired feet back onto the school van with many memories and photos accompanying our trip back.

TOA TOA MIX IT UP DANCE COMPETITION

Toa Toa Mix It Up Dance competition encourages secondary school students to blend Hip Hop Dance with other cultures. The result is fusion Dance. The competition is run in association with the Ka - Mind, Body and Spirit programme through the Mika Haka Foundation.

This year we entered two teams; The Shake Shakinz, a five girl crew and The Boomshakalakaz, an all boy crew made up of 8 dancers. The heats were held on Saturday 1st August at the Mt Albert YMCA. Both teams performed well. The Shake Shakinz were placed 1st in the All Girl Crew section and the Boomshakalakaz were placed 1st in the All Boy Crew category. The boys also placed 1st overall. Both crews will now be competing in the Grand Final which will take place at the Auckland City YMCA on Grey Street on Saturday 22nd August. We would really like to see friends and whanau their to support our dancers.



Please see [Ms Howard](#) for more details.

MT ROSKILL GRAMMAR NUMBER ONE SCHOOL

In the July/August issue of the Metro magazine the leading article reports on Metro's annual survey of Auckland secondary schools and their overall academic achievement. Below are some quotes from the article. At the end of August the article will be available full-text



as a PDF from the MRGS website.

"Applying our added-value measure to last year's academic results, we discovered that the top school in Auckland was Mt Roskill Grammar."

"Mt Roskill is a large, decile-4, co-ed school with more than 70 nationalities represented amongst the students..."

"Mt Roskill is not uniquely gifted; it has to work hard to get the results it does. But it was in the top 10 for every indicator we looked at, and usually it was first or second. In general its academic results were what you would expect of a decile-9 school."

(Reference: Metro, July/August 2009, issue 335, p. 30)

 [full-text \(part 1\)](#)

 [full-text \(part 2\)](#)

TRAVELWISE

This is a group of students who are promoting safe and healthy travel to and from school. The group has been part of a larger campus promotion as well as the organisers of a display and competition here at Mt Roskill Grammar.

Initial promotion was done at Assembly. This included a performance by the Mt Roskill Primary School Choir which had worked with Audrey Tay to practice an appropriate song for the occasion.

On Thursday 11 June the group set up a display in the quad to drive home the message. Elements of the display concentrated on the environmental impact of cars and the amount of pollution caused by driving students to school (29% of our students are driven or drive to school, 253 people in the Auckland region die from vehicle emissions each year, 80% of our air pollution is caused by vehicle emissions); the benefits of walking or cycling to school; safe routes to school; road safety measures.

Students wrote a questionnaire which those who came along could answer and put in a draw for an MP3 player. The first correct answer drawn from the large number of entries was Farhat Ansari of Year 9 who is pictured being congratulated by Acting Principal, Mr John Wilkinson.



Auckland City Council Road Safety engineers have proposed a number of measures to increase the safety of students walking to school including: a 40 kph speed limit around the schools and near the main crossing points on Dominion Road; a new pedestrian crossing, traffic islands and roundabout at the Denbigh Avenue / Somerset Road intersection as well as changes to the pavement layout. Details are available on www.aucklandcity.govt.nz/transport.

The Travelwise group has further plans for this year. During Health Week they have organised a presentation by Billy TK Jnr "Driving Towards a Future" which focuses on Road Safety. In August there will be a Research Roadshow for Year 10 students which will have as its theme Road Crashes, the Physics, Mathematics and Social impacts of them.

'BRING IT ON' VICTORY

Saturday 27th June was the Central Heat of the Bring It On competition for 2009. There were 11 schools competing, all wanting to win a top 4 place to compete at the Grand Final. The Roskill Crew has been rehearsing for almost 4 months now with Matt Whyte and Uinise Tulimaiau leading the eager dancers. We had our sleepover last week which meant spending 28 hours together and dancing until we had the routine perfected.



We performed 7th on the day and everyone gave 100%. Our theme was Jeepers Creepers and we had been working on a few visual treats for the audience involving lights, material and umbrellas. The crew were nervous as they went on stage but gave a killer performance. The crowd went wild and the cheering was epic.

We had to wait another hour after performing to get the results. Epsom Girls had put in an immense performance - competition was tight. They started the announcement.....4th place - Wesley, 3rd place - Onehunga, 2nd place - we all held our breath and many silent prayers were sent up.....Epsom Girls! We had done it for a second year. 1st place - Mt Roskill Grammar School.

Cheers filled the arena and 46 very happy dancers stormed onto the stage along with Ms Howard, Mardia TeWhiu, Mr Taunga and our BIO mentor; Helen. We gave an encore performance before posing for photographs. The crew would like to thank the many staff, students, whanau and community members who came over to the Northshore Events Centre to support us.

Now we start to prepare for the Grand Final. This is the first year that the event will be held at Vector Arena. No Central school has ever taken out this massive event.....but this year Roskill will be aiming high. Ki nga taumata!

Click here for [photos](#)

AWESOME 'CATS' EXPERIENCE

Harlequin Musical Theatre very generously donated 20 "CATS" tickets to the Performing Arts Department, completely free of charge. Our students were given premium seats in the circle for the opening performance and at the end of the show they had the opportunity to meet members of the cast.

Taking place at the Civic Theatre, the show was action packed from start to finish. The singing, dancing, scenery, music and costumes kept the audience spell bound in their seats. "I thought the singing and Make-up was fantastic" said Jordan



Harris. "I liked how the actors really got into character and behaved just like cats all the time" marvelled Unise Tulimaiau. "The fireworks were really cool - I loved the whole magician section" states Brooke Clarkson.

This was a fantastic experience for our students to see a world renowned show and we are truly grateful for the kind and generous donation from HMT.

OPEN DAY 2009 (WED 29TH JULY)


Open Day will be held on Wednesday 29 July this year. All students who are thinking of coming to Mt Roskill Grammar School are invited to come with their parents and family to look around the school.

Open Day runs from 3:30pm until 6:30pm.

Visitors are asked to meet in the Conference Room in The Administration Building (at the corner of Frost Road and Carr Road. Tours of the school lead by our prefects will leave regularly and senior staff will be on hand answer queries.

The tour will feature the learning areas of the school, demonstrations, and displays. Teachers will be present to explain the demonstrations and discuss aspects of education.

Open Day 2008 [photos](#)

 [Open Day 2009 Flyer](#)



LETTER TO PARENTS/CAREGIVERS 9TH JUNE, 2009 RE: 'SWINE FLU' PANDEMIC

9 June 2009

Dear Parents / Caregivers

The government has announced that New Zealand is stepping up its pandemic influenza response plans. This means that the situation overseas has changed and New Zealand's borders have been tightened in an attempt to stop the "swine flu" (H1N1) virus spreading here.

Our own pandemic plans mean that we have systems in place to help us cope if anything changes. However you should be aware that if the situation becomes more serious or if Health officials move into the next stage of infection control then we may be required to close the school.

Part of our pandemic plan allows for communication using email. Please assist us in updating our database by sending an email to the school admin@mrgs.school.nz for inclusion on the emergency communication list.

The most important thing you can do as parents and caregivers is reinforce healthy messages:

- Teach your children the importance of hand washing and drying – especially before meals and after toileting.
- Teach your children to use a disposable tissue when coughing or sneezing.

We ask that all children showing flu like symptoms be kept home until checked and cleared by a doctor or nurse to return to school.

We also request that any students who have recently travelled from overseas or have had contact with someone from a risk area are kept away from school for a period of at least 7 days.


The board of trustees and I are working closely with staff to ensure that all students at our school are kept as safe as possible.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact me directly. Thank you.

Yours sincerely

Greg Watson
Principal

Ministry of Education updates available [here](#)

 [Letter to parents/caregivers 9th June, 2009](#)

YEAR 12 GEOGRAPHY TONGARIRO TRIP 2009

A group of Year 12 Geography students went to Tongariro National Park from April 6th to 9th for our 2nd annual trip. The area is the case study for the Natural Landscapes topic and seeing the area first hand is incredibly beneficial to their overall level of understanding.

On the first day, to get a bit of exercise after the long drive down, we did a 2 hour walk to the Taranaki Falls which is a large water fall that cascades over the end of a 15,000 year old lava flow. This tested the kid's level of fitness for the Tongariro crater tramp that we were doing the next day and it showed that the terms "youth" and "fitness" don't necessarily go hand in hand.



The big hike the next day began in marginal conditions in the Mangatepopo Valley. This valley was created 100,000 years ago by a glacier that came from a super-volcano called Proto-Ngauruhoe. Visibility wasn't the best but they were still able to see many of the erosion features that they had learnt about in class. By the time we reached the top of the Mangatepopo Valley, which is about a 2 hour walk, it was evident that some of the group were not going to be able to complete the climb to the summit. We split into 2 groups and one group returned to camp while the other soldiered on up the

mountain. Once we reached South Crater the temperature had dropped and the wind had picked up. Visibility was very low and the decision was made to turn back after talking to hikers coming in the opposite direction who warned of gale force winds at the top. Walking back down the mountain the clouds lifted enough for us to see all the lava flows from Ngauruhoe that have been filling the Mangatepopo Valley over the last 2000 years.

Day 3 was slightly less physically demanding. We circumnavigated the mountains to enable the students to see the variations in landscape from the western side, which is dense Beech forest, to the Rangipo Desert on the eastern side. After a leisurely lunch in Ohakune, we drove up Ruapehu to the Turoa ski field and students were easily able to understand why no vegetation could survive up there the minute they stepped out of the van.

For the last night we had a Pub Quiz (without the Pub) and students won prizes for their geographic prowess. We also had a slide show of photos from the last few days.

The final day we awoke to the snow we had been promised all week. Unfortunately this was also the day that we had to get into the 10°C water of the Tongariro River for white water rafting. The river was pretty low which meant a few of the rafts got stuck in precarious positions on the rocks, but it was an exciting as well as beautiful trip. We did manage to squeeze a little bit of geography into this as well as we talked about fluvial erosion and they were able to see the 15 - 20 metre cliffs of pyroclastic ignimbrite from the Taupo eruption.

All that went on the trip thoroughly enjoyed it but were thoroughly exhausted and ready for the holidays. And hopefully it will help them to give specific detail in their answers in the end of year exam.

NZ JUNIOR HOSPITALITY CHALLENGE

On Wednesday 8 April the following Year 13 Hospitality students competed in the NZ Junior Hospitality Challenge organised by HSI and held at MIT, with the following results:

- Brian Chan - Silver medal for preparation and presentation of a pasta dish;
- Sam Low - Bronze medal for preparation and presentation of a salmon dish;
- Natania Farrell - Bronze medal for preparation and presentation of pork mince dish.



Many schools competed and the standard was extremely high. Congratulations to our students for their great results.

YEAR 12 HISTORY TRIP 2009

For 3 days from Wednesday March 25th to 27th, 20 students and 2 teachers went to the central North Island to learn about the impact of war on the New Zealand Identity, which meant visiting the Kippenberger Museum at Waiouru. The trip down included a stop for the fattest cream cakes in the North Island, and a visit to the Otorohanga Kiwi and Native Bird Park, where we all got up close to a Brown Kiwi, lots of other native birds and some tuatara. The day at the Museum featured a guided tour, a chance for



some original research and a 2 hour presentation on Weapons through the Ages, which was incredible. Mr Hall enabled us to mix History and Geography when we visited Tangiwai, the site of New Zealand's greatest rail disaster. The trip back went smoothly as we avoided rush hour, and arrived back at school safe and sound. Thank you to Miss Hartstonge, our History teacher, who organised everything and made the trip so interesting.

LONG SERVING STAFF CELEBRATED

LONG TERM STAFF MEMBERS
CELEBRATE OVER 120 YEARS COMBINED
SERVICE TO MT ROSKILL GRAMMAR

Mt Roskill Grammar School is very fortunate to have a number of long-serving staff members.

This year three teachers have marked the completion of their 30th year of service to the school.

Ms Michelle Hartstonge, Mr David Lett and Mr Trevor Wilson joined Mt Roskill Grammar School in 1979. Michelle joined the school from Auckland Secondary Teachers College as a specialist in History with an

interest in students with learning difficulties. She is presently the Head of History and a teacher in the Social Sciences Department as well one of the House Leaders of Sheppard House.

David was appointed as Head of the Languages Department, became a dean, then a House Leader and then Senior Master and is now one of the Deputy Principals. Trevor joined the school from Hillary College as a teacher of mathematics. He is presently Assistant Head of Department and has a strong interest in the teachers union, the Post Primary Teacher's Association. At present he is a member of the national executive of the Association. He has also represented the staff on the Board of Trustees as well as being involved with Community Education for a long time.

These three teachers join Mr Glynn Sergeant, the other staff member to have completed over thirty years service. Glynn joined the staff in 1975 as a teacher in the Music Department. He has the distinction of being the holder of the walking stick for the longest serving staff member. This year Glynn has been awarded sabbatical leave during term three.

These members of staff as well as the 48 other employees of the school who have each completed more than ten years of service to the school have their names recorded on an Honours Board in the Butler Hall.

WORLD VISION 40 HOUR FAMINE

This year fundraising for World Vision has kicked off with a blast. The theme is malnutrition and we are raising money to target the issue in developing countries; especially for children living in Bangladesh, India and Tanzania. Our 40 hour famine leaders have set a target of \$20,000 which we hope to raise through several events as well as through individual student efforts by getting sponsors. Term I was successful with "Dancing with the Staff" happening where we raised well over \$1,000. Two of our top music students, Erik



Trevor Wilson, Michelle Hartstonge, Glynn Sergeant, and David Lett



and David, also busked on Queen Street to raise further money. Apart from bake sales and sausage sizzles, we hope to bring in local artists to perform and hope this Term will be just as successful as the last. Thank you to all the students who are taking part in their own famines to raise money. The official weekend is not until 22-25 May and money is due in June. Until then keep up the good work supporting this worthy cause and let's raise the stakes.

OUTSTANDING SCHOLARSHIP SUCCESS IN 2008

In the 2008 NZQA Scholarship Examinations Mt Roskill Grammar School achieved an extremely high success rate.

Almost 9000 students in NZ sat the Scholarship examinations of whom 2038 received awards. Awards range from \$500 for a single subject scholarship pass, to \$30,000 (paid over 3 years) for a Premier Award.



Mt Roskill Grammar School students gained 75 Scholarships including 18 at "Outstanding" level. "The whole community can be very proud of what these young scholars have achieved," said Mr Greg Watson, Principal of Mt Roskill Grammar School. "The strength and depth of the students' achievement at every level is a testimony to the hard work of both the students themselves and their teachers as well as the support given by parents."

Tim Vogel is one of the 10 students in the country to receive a Premier Award. Tim gained 6 Scholarships (in History, Economics, Statistics and Modelling, Physics, Calculus, and Chemistry) 4 of which were at "Outstanding" level. He was ranked first in New Zealand in the Chemistry Scholarship examination. Tim will officially receive his award at the Top Scholar Awards ceremony in Wellington in May. Last year Chuan-Zheng Lee also received this honour from His Excellency the Governor General.

At the next level 47 students in New Zealand receive an "Outstanding Scholar" Award. To receive this award students must have achieved three scholarships of which two had to be at the "Outstanding" level or five scholarships of which one had to be at the "Outstanding" level. Three Mt Roskill Grammar School students qualified for this honour and are awarded \$5000 per year for the next 3 years at university.

Six Mt Roskill Grammar students gained a "Scholarship Award" of \$2000 per year for the next three years. Ten students earned a place on our Honours Board by gaining 3 or more scholarships. Another 8 gained 2 scholarships and 19 students a single scholarship pass.

As well as Tim Vogel gaining 1st place in New Zealand in Chemistry, Jessie Xing also gained 1st place in New Zealand in Chinese. There were eleven scholarships awarded in Chinese throughout New Zealand of which three were won by Mt Roskill students.

Photographed are 5 of our top 10 students: Caleb Saunders now studying Science and Law, Ashley Tao now studying Law and Commerce, Bethany Windsor and Rushi Penumarthy both now studying Science and Medicine Tim Vogel now studying Engineering and Commerce,.

FAREWELL TO MR GARY BEVIN

This week (9th April, 2009) we are sad to say farewell to Mr Gary Bevin who is retiring after 18 years as Business Manager at Mount Roskill Grammar School.

Gary was appointed in 1991 at a time when schools were taking increasing

responsibility for their finances. At this time Mount Roskill Grammar School was beginning new projects such as the Early Childhood Centre, Overseas Fee-Paying students, the Artificial Turf Trust, the Adult Language School and Community Education.

Gary came to us from Forest Products and quickly carved a niche for himself as a wise advisor and a builder of relationships both with staff and with people outside the school. He rapidly developed an intimate understanding of how the school worked and what developments would be best in the existing environment. He worked tirelessly to produce the best outcomes for the school.



On Friday 3rd April, over 100 people gathered in the staffroom to thank him for his service, to acknowledge the contribution he and his family have made and to wish him well for the future. Speakers, including past and present principals, business colleagues and a City Councillor spoke of the support that Gary had given the school and the community and paid tribute to his work.

Gary has shown wisdom and integrity in all his dealings and we will miss his sense of humour.

Gary was presented with a framed silk-screen print of a painting by Alvin Pankhurst of the sand dunes at Mason's bay in Stewart Island.

VISIT OF LYCÉE JEAN XXIII - FRENCH EXCHANGE SCHOOL

For 2 weeks over February/March we welcomed our French exchange school to Auckland. The group of nineteen Year 13 students and 3 teachers was hosted by our pupils and staff. They had a great time in NZ and their itinerary was quite busy. MRGS teachers organised a powhiri and several seminars for the group on a number of things including NZ Art, NZ Film, NZ Fauna & Flora and TiriTiri Matangi Island. Trips included Tiri Tiri Matangi, Kevin Kilsby ceramics, Matakana, and a two-day trip to Rotorua, along with all the events that the host families planned. It is always a special time for the school to be able to develop our international cultural friendships.



We would like to thank again the host families for their wonderful commitment to this exchange and to the Staff and Senior Management who also worked very hard on the programme. The exchange of school gifts in Assembly included, from the French school, a ceramic Drakkar (Viking ship) and MRGS gave Jean XXIII a mounted stone Koru made from Oamaru stone. We look forward to welcoming Jean XXIII again in two years' time and we will begin our own planning for the French Homestay Trip to

Normandy in 2010 at the end of this year.

REALISE THE DREAM

In early December 2008, three Mount Roskill Grammar students were part of a group of 29 other students from across New Zealand who attended the prestigious Genesis Energy 'Realise the Dream' event in Wellington.

The Genesis Energy 'Realise the Dream' event celebrated the work of students who have carried out excellent science or technological practice. The students were chosen through nomination from regional science and technology fairs across the country to present their projects to a panel of judges, as well as attending workshops and activities in the week-long event.

Alwin Lim (13RHRA) investigated the maximum air temperature for frost to form, after noting frost formation with the air temperature above freezing, thus his project titled 'There's frost on my car but it's not freezing cold'. Joseph Windsor (11MROB) wanted to know how exercise affected classroom concentration. He used a number of concentration tests on a group of friends as a control group to investigate his problem, calling it 'Boys on Bikes'. Abhilash Kamineni (13BFTZ) was a prize winner in the Bright Sparks Competition with his touch screen clock and tic-tac-toe robot. At the event, he was awarded an all-expenses paid for trip to Taiwan to attend the Taiwan International Science Fair, where he was awarded 2nd prize (1st prize went to another NZ student). Congratulations Abhilash.

"The event was very full-on, but it was an awesome experience in an invaluable environment. We all had the opportunity to share our work with others who have similar interests as well as enjoying and learning from the exciting activities planned for us through the week. And on top of all that, we all made a new bunch of friends."

Organised by the Royal Society of New Zealand, students visited science institutions around Wellington such as GNS Science, Island Bay Marine Centre, Massey University Wellington and the Karori Wildlife Sanctuary. The Genesis Energy 'Realise the Dream' is also sponsored by DairyNZ and the New Zealand Commission for UNESCO. The students return to Wellington on March 9 for the awards dinner, where cash prizes of up to \$7,000 and international travel to countries such as China and the United Kingdom will be presented.

Doing science and technology projects are a great form of hands-on learning where the skills and information picked up often cannot be taught by a teacher in a classroom. Students are encouraged to get involved and attend science fair meetings to find out more and for help to get started. For more info, visit <http://www.realisethedream.org.nz> or Alwin's 'Realise the Dream' website www.alwinatrealisethedream.synthasite.com



WELCOME NEW STAFF

We welcomed 13 new teachers for the start of 2009 year:

- Janette Ryan,
- Catherine O'Callaghan,
- Callum Gray,
- Clark Stewart, (English Department),

- Danielle Smith (Technology Department),
 - Avinesh Prakash,
 - Kirsty Buchanan,
 - Rebecca-Amy Holliday,
 - Chris McGirr,
 - Babita Mukherjee (Science Department),
 - Michelle Freeman (Maths Department),
 - Arthi Fogelberg (MacLean Centre),
 - Kate McGovern (PE Department).
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2009 PREFECTS

PREFECTS

The School Prefects appointed for 2009 are:

Head Prefects: Alwin Lim and Shruthi Vijayakumar

Deputy Head Prefects: Keegan Lopez, Ruokai Wang Serah Tuialii, Fiona Ting

The School Prefects are:

- Ahmed Abdile
 - Ashleigh Annereau
 - Julie Chen
 - Vincent Chow
 - Brooke Clarkson
 - Afano Fa'alogo
 - Briar Elliston
 - Seve Ha
 - Nandita Fernandes
 - Kevin Huang
 - Aleisha Keshaw
 - Abhilash Kamineni
 - Dinusi Kumarawansa
 - Alwin Lim
 - Dinesha Kumarawansa
 - Keegan Lopez
 - Antonia Lapwood
 - Namrata Modak
 - Cornelia Mu
 - Naseer Mohammed
 - Catie Mulrennan
 - Harveer Singh
 - Natasha Smith
 - Nalisa Sen
 - Ari Tse
 - Woon-Suan Sow
 - Andrew Tuala
 - Fiona Ting
 - Uinise Tulimaiau
 - Niko Uusitalo
 - Serah Tuialii
 - Brandon Wallace
 - Senitila Tutone
 - Ruokai Wang
 - Shruthi Vijayakumar
-

ATHLETICS DAY 2009

This years Athletics Day had a different look about it than in previous years. Firstly it was sunny and hot and secondly the day was broken up into two parts. The Athletics championship ran periods 1 and 2 while the more traditional carnival ran periods 3 to 5.

Athletics Championship

This was the first Athletics championship event that the school



has had in well over 10 years. It was fantastic to see so many students enter and take part in such a competitive manner. This event gives our more able athletes a chance to compete at a higher level and to qualify for the zone competitions later in the term. The students involved thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity and I am sure this event will get bigger and better in years to come. Congratulations to this years' Athletics champions and well done to the other competitors.

Results

Senior Boys

- 1st **Dion Wing**
- 2nd **Tadele Tekele-Haimanot**
- 3rd **Caleb Deverell**

Intermediate Boys

- 1st **Warren Duncan**
- 2nd **Kaveendra Krishna**
- 3rd **Ahmad Alshamsi**

Junior Boys

- 1st **Opeti Kei**
- 2nd **Keerthy Nallur**
- 3rd **Jonathan Ngai**

Senior Girls

- 1st **Alisi Koloamatangi-Damu**
- 2nd **Julie-Anne Sagote**
- 3rd **Natasha Smith**

Intermediate Girls

- 1st **Brittany Conlon-Stephanicic**
- 2nd **Carrie Li**
- 3rd **Shivonne Oconnor**

Junior Girls

- 1st **Oshan Malifa**
- 2nd **Priyanka Reddy**
- 3rd **Adriene Grafia**

 [Photos1](#)

 [Photos2](#)

ATHLETICS CARNIVAL 2009

The afternoon Athletics carnival was a hot, yet very enjoyable, friendly but fierce house sports competition where students were involved in track, field and novelty events. The PE staff, with the help of peer support leaders, did a fantastic job in running the event. The House leaders, form teachers, support staff, and sports captains tried very hard to encourage their house on to heroic feats and a house victory, but at the end of the day fun and enjoyment was the name of the day and a great time was had by all.



This year Baxter House prevailed and managed to take the honors for the Athletics Carnival 2009.

House Results:

- 1st **Baxter**
- 2nd **Savage**
- 3rd **Blake**

- 4th Hillary
- 5th Rutherford
- 6th Mansfield
- 7th Sheppard
- 8th Ngata

 [Photos 1](#)

 [Photos 2](#)

SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIP 2009

This year it was fantastic to see so many students enter the Swimming Championships. It was probably the largest number of entries we have received in a number of years. The Swimming Championships is the event for our more able swimmers and we select the team to attend Central Zone Swimming from these swimmers. The swimmers competed very well with some of the events having tight finishes.

Congratulations to this year's Swimming Champions and hopefully we will continue to have high levels of participation in future years.



Junior Boys

- 1st Lucas Chen
- 2nd Richard Ru
- 3rd Emily McIntosh

Intermediate Boys

- 1st Harry Thomson
- 2nd Sam Saunders
- 3rd Jerry Chen

Senior Boys

- 1st Walter Zhang
- 2nd Nick Miller
- 3rd Nick McIntosh

Junior Girls

- 1st Alana Miller
- 2nd Diana Ng
- 3rd Emily McIntosh

Intermediate Girls

- 1st Mattie Tuialii
- 2nd Mone Koga
- 3rd Eva Penny

Senior Girls

- 1st Briar Elliston
- 2nd Serah Tuialii
- 3rd Holly Elliston

 [Photos](#)

SWIMMING CARNIVAL 2009

A multitude of house colours and a wide variety of swimming costumes graced our swimming carnival again

this year. The students ran, swam and piggy backed each other across the pool whilst their House Leaders, House Captains and helpers enthusiastically encouraged each and everyone to have a great time. No matter how well you swim, or whether you can swim at all, the swimming carnival is an opportunity for the school to have a good time and come together for a bit of friendly rivalry to start the year off in a positive manner. The majority of students take part and House rivalry whilst friendly is fierce. This year Blake prevailed and managed to take out the honours for swimming in 2009 well done Blake.



House Results:

- 1st Blake
- 2nd Mansfield
- 3rd Hillary
- 4th Ngata
- 5th Baxter
- 6th Savage
- 7th Sheppard
- 8th Rutherford

 [Photos 1](#)

 [Photos2](#)

LYCÉE JEAN XXIII

In February 2007, Mt Roskill Grammar School hosted our French Exchange School from Normandy in France, the Lycée Jean XXIII from Yvetot. The exchange was for two weeks in Term 1 and we hosted 21 pupils and 2 teachers. The students and schools involved are privileged to have these opportunities to discover other cultures and languages and to be able to build life-long friendships. During the two-week stay, the French pupils experienced life in a typical large Auckland school and were involved in many trips and family outings. These trips included a one day trip to TiriTiri Matangi Island and a 2 day Rotorua trip. Thanks go to the principals (Mr Greg Watson and Mr Alain Lefèbvre), senior management and boards of both schools who are dedicated to this exchange as well as to the France-New Zealand Friendship Fund which supported the tours.



In February/March 2009 we are again hosting Jean XXIII and are looking at adding other components to their time at MRGS. A number of teachers will run seminars for the group including NZ Film, NZ Art, NZ Fauna & Flora and NZ People & Places. The French School will be ably led by the same two teachers who were here in 2007, namely Mme. Françoise Marotel (English Teacher) and M. Frédéric Hyvert (Deputy Principal and Surveying Teacher). We look forward to their arrival on 18 February 2009 and are sure they will have a wonderful time in New Zealand. The next planned MRGS France Homestay Tour is for September 2010.

 [Photos](#)

DOMINION POST ARTICLE - MRGS PRIZEGIVING

Link to web [article](#) from Dominion Post, Friday 14th November ([print](#) version)

CORNELIA AND PRANAV MAKE CELEBRITY STATUS

2008 Alliance Française French Speaking Competition for the Auckland Region.

MRGS results were excellent with 3 students being recalled as finalists. They were Jordan Zi, Pranav Chandnani and Cornelia Mu. The competition is between students of French in all Auckland Secondary Schools. The 2008 final results were as follows:

Year 11:

- 2nd in Auckland Region – Pranav Chandnani
- "Très Bien" – Jordan Zi, Namita Rao, Madhurima Sen

Year 12:

- 2nd in Auckland Region – Cornelia Mu
- "Bien" – Keegan Lopez, Nandita Fernandes, Cara Rebello

Year 13:


- "Très Bien" - Matthew Gibson, Caleb Saunders
- "Bien" - Jennifer Kirby
- "Assez Bien" - Tina Pan

On Friday 31st October both Cornelia Mu and Pranav Chandnani went to the Auckland offices of the Alliance Française to receive their special prizes.



JAPAN TRIP 2008

Click below to read an article about the Languages Department trip to Japan in October 2008.

 [Japan trip 2008](#)



 [Photos](#)