



**MOUNT ROSKILL
GRAMMAR SCHOOL**



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COURSE CONFIRMATION 2011

COURSE CONFIRMATION

Course confirmation will take place in H6 to H8.

Year 13 students must come in at 9.30 on Wednesday 26th January.

Year 12 students must come in at 9.30 on Thursday 27th January.

Year 11 students who wish to change their course should go to H9 at 9.30 on Thursday 27th January.

What If You Can't Come Into School On That Day?

You may email your course confirmation or changes to Ms Thomas: kaytho@mrgs.school.nz

How do you know if you need to change your course?

Check your NCEA results against the prerequisites for each subject in the Academic Programme (available for download below)

Academic Programme 2011

FAREWELL FROM HEAD PREFECTS 2010

"Ko te manu e kai ana i te miro, nona te ngahere.

Ko te manu e kai ana i te matauranga, nona te ao."

The bird that partakes of the miro berry reigns in the forest.

The bird that partakes of the power of knowledge has access to the world.



This Maori proverb shows us that when one is totally immersed in a certain field only then can one master one's domain. If one is immersed into knowledge, however, then his or her potential is endless. This is who we are: students of life, and life is journey.

We all have journeys, whether it is a road trip around our beautiful Aotearoa or the journey from high school to university. The main focus is not the final destination or what we have achieved, but the lessons we learn from the journey.

When the native Maori tribes founded Aotearoa, they were on a journey from their homeland Hawaiki. They set out to a new land and were ready to take the risk of failure. It is that risk that makes a journey what it is. If life had no risk then there would be no excitement therefore no triumph or meaning.

I have personally been through many journeys in which I have had to make great choices that will affect me and the ones who care about me. There have been many roads that lead to different paths, some harder than others but all having consequences. I am defined by the choices and consequences of the decisions that I have made. Some have been good and some have been bad, but I have learned from my mistakes. We learn more from losing than we do from winning.

When we embark on our journey in life we are given opportunities and choices. It is up to us to choose the right path. Not one way is the best for everyone. Engineering is not everyone's desired career, and neither is school. Knowledge broadens our opportunities for success whether it is from books or the journey of life. There are three baskets of knowledge in the Maori world. First there is the experience of our senses, second is the understanding of what lies behind our sense experience and thirdly is the experience we have.

"A good education doesn't make you any better than someone without it, it simply gives you more opportunities" – from a humble friend.

Zane Van Lieshout, Head Prefect

My first steps at Roskill were taken as a ridiculously small, skinny white chick in an uncomfortable and oversized new uniform including "black leather lace up shoes, with no brands or labels". Those tentative first steps were taken trying to negotiate my way through the maze of corridors, desperately trying to find C block.

I'm still a skinny white chick wearing regulation black leather lace up shoes, but my uniform fits and it's even slightly comfortable. I can almost negotiate the corridors with my eyes closed and C block, it turns out, is very real and not so hard to find after all. Like me, however, C block in the ever-developing world of Roskill, has been completely rebuilt.

Mt Roskill is a place of change, a place to grow in, and a place to journey through. Like C block I stand in the same place. I'm called the same thing and my foundations and my beginnings have not changed,

but, also like C block, I'm bigger and, one would hope, better. I have been expanded, changed, shaped, stretched and moulded. Like C block I have been equipped with new handy dandy features and abilities that the old me couldn't even have dreamed of. I have undergone a huge journey since I first walked in the gate.

The beauty of this place is not so much the journey but rather the colourful and diverse group of people who belong to Roskill and who journey with you. Nowhere else will you find such culture and difference under one roof. The teachers and staff who have come alongside me have been phenomenal and the friends I have made have been inspiring, encouraging and challenging. I have grown much because of the people who have been prepared to get elbow-deep in life with me. You have shaped or challenged me in some way. You, not the location or buildings, make Roskill such a great place in which to grow and develop.

I encourage all of you who still have time here to let Roskill take you on a journey, to let the people here challenge and develop you, and to contribute in return. Throw yourself into the crazy tangle of activities offered. Take the opportunities you are given to impact the lives of those who surround you.

My last steps here will be taken as a far more confident, colourful and skilled person. It has been a pleasure and an honour to journey with you.

Helen Edmiston, Head Prefect

WATER SPORT MANIA

During 2010 Wider Ed, 19 awesome students and 5 brave teachers decided to spend 3 days doing water sport mania. With the help of instructors, we windsurfed, kayaked, paddle boated, SUP Boarded (stand up paddle) and jet skied.

On day 1 we learned basic windsurfing techniques and then were sent out for the rest of the day to put our newly learned skills to use. Unfortunately most of us were not very good and were continuously being rescued. We had a lot of fun though; some of us didn't even stop for lunch.



On day 2 Swarley (our instructor, also known as Ryan) decided he didn't like rescuing us so he taught us self rescue on a windsurfing board. Some good activities we did that day were kayak races and seeing how many people you can fit on kayak before it capsizes.

Day 3, our last day of Wider ED was spent jet skiing. It was tons of fun, especially the donuts we did and racing at 70km an hour. At the end of the day Theresa won a \$75 gift voucher for windsurfing lessons for being the most committed windsurfer.

The experience was really exciting and a fantastic experience. Thanks to the teachers and instructors for organising it and putting up with us all. I would do it again in a flash!

Erin Steel

[photos](#)

JUNIOR MUSIC EVENING

MRGS Junior Music Evening was a blast for all parents, teachers, and most of all the students. In total there were 12 items plus an awesome exit music item played by one of the Year 9 bands.

The evening ranged from heavy metal to some calm and soothing classical music. The Year 10 bands were mainly from the Year 10 music classes taught by **Miss Steedman**, and this performance was part of their group performance assessment.

Over all we all had a wonderful time playing for each other and the parents. This was a great opportunity for everyone to see the hard work and success of the lovely junior students. After all the music, the adults had a great time chatting to each other about the successful performances from their children, along with some tea and coffee. The children, well they had a good time sharing the food they had bought in and also how relieved they were about giving everyone a good performance. =) We look forward to this evening again next year!



Written by Year 10 Music option students.

[photos](#)

NEW C BLOCK

Work is very nearly complete and there only remain a few detail elements to finish off before the furniture is installed and the rooms given over to teachers so that they can have them ready for teaching classes in 2011.

Twelve of the thirteen classrooms will be used by the Social Sciences Department teaching Geography, History, Classical Studies, Tourism and Social Studies. The department has waited some years for their rooms to be refurbished and brought up to the standard of other rooms around the school – now it looks as if they will set the standard. The remaining classroom will be a specialist room for the teaching of Media Studies.



The final finishing touches outside the building will be attended to over the Christmas vacation. Since we are gaining permanent classrooms we are required to lose some of our prefabricated rooms. This will leave some space for the development of easier access ways and more open seating spaces for students.

AUSTRALIAN CHEM QUIZ

Australian Chemistry Quiz - Outstanding Results Again

- Senior Division - High Distinctions & Plaque **Joey Gu**.
- High Distinctions - **Andy Leung, William Quach, Aaron Li, Karan Dasgupta, Tom Yang**.
- Junior Division - High Distinctions & Plaques - **Angela Shi**.
- High Distinctions - **Cindy Ou, Hannah Yang, Aditya Chitre, Mark Yep**.

MATHS COMPS - GREAT RESULTS

MATHEMATICS - GREAT RESULTS IN FOUR COMPETITIONS

Firstly, the Eton Press Casio Senior Mathematics Competition was entered by some of our top students with a number gaining top 100 or Merit certificates. They are: **Joey Gu, Aaron Li** (both in the top 100 competitors), **Caleb Deverell, Yuming Ding, Andy Leung, William Mittal, Lei Quach, Timothy Widjaja** and **David Yang** (all gaining Certificates of Merit).

Secondly, the Australian Mathematics Competition was entered by a large number of students from all year levels. Top students were: **Angela Shi** (a Prudence Award Winner), **Mark Yep, Alice Ng, Haleem Mohammed Abdul, Stephen Li, Wesley Yep, Aaron Li, Joey Gu** (all receiving High Distinction Awards), and **Jason Lee, Sam Tan, Theodore Loretz, Hannah Davidson, Diana Qiu, Aaron Wong, Aditya Chitre, Jack Dai, Jiantao Shen, Lucy Yan, Peiwen Du, Arnold Fernandes, Dylan Thompson, Jenny Kim, Saviduruu Mohan, Shivay Singh, Victor Xie, Richard Xu, Kevin Ang, Justin Wei, Diana Ng, Jae-Young Cho, Jonathan Guo, Junedh Amrute, Peiling Su, Hannah Yang, Nipoon Patel, Wilson Liao, Sharon Ngo, Shawn Jordan, Marcus Sung, Shilpan Patel, Peter Siew, Yuming Ding, William Quach, Timothy Widjaja** (all receiving Distinction Awards). There were also a large number of students who gained Credit Awards.

Thirdly, we had a number of students who participated in the National Bank Junior Mathematics Competition and have gained certificates for their participation.

Finally, twelve students competed in the recent Mathex competition and one of our year nine teams. Many students gained credit awards and participation certificates which were presented in class. **Angela Shi, Victor Xie, Aditya Chitre** and **Lizanne Gomes** finished fourth in their race.

ERO REPORT 2010

To the Parents and Community of Mt Roskill Grammar School

These are the findings of the Education Review Office's latest report on Mt Roskill Grammar School.

Mt Roskill Grammar School is a large, vibrant multicultural co-educational school for students in Years 9 to 15. Students from more than seventy nationalities work

together to achieve the board's vision for them as successful and powerful learners. The extensive school campus includes a primary and an intermediate school. The three schools are continuing to build sound relationships with each other so that their students enjoy consistent teaching practices and experience smooth transitions as they move through the schools. The school's MacLean Centre continues to provide high quality support for students with disabilities and high needs.

The school has a very positive tone. Caring and supportive relationships are evident between teachers and students. Students report that they enjoy opportunities to be involved in pastoral decision-making about peer support and mediation and are proud of their academic, cultural and sporting achievements.

Students' achievement in National Certificates of Educational Achievement (NCEA), including at Scholarship level, is above the national average. NCEA data show that the percentage of students gaining NCEA Level 1 literacy and numeracy consistently exceeds national levels. The percentage of students gaining merit and excellence endorsements at all levels of the NCEA exceeds national levels. Students gained 48 scholarships in 2009 and 75, including 18 outstanding scholarships in 2008. In the last three years, two students have gained New Zealand Premier Scholar awards, and four students have gained New Zealand Outstanding Scholar awards.

NCEA data show a generally increasing trend in achievement for Māori and Pacific students at Levels 1 to 3. Students in Years 9 and 10 make good gains in mathematics and literacy. Improved systems for analysing student achievement for students in Years 9 to 13 are providing rich information that is increasingly used to improve learning outcomes for students. Senior leaders and teachers are investigating ways of using this information to meet the specific learning needs of individual students in classrooms.

High quality self-review systems have been established through a well considered approach that focuses on teaching and learning. Increasing use is made of student achievement data, including data on progress and engagement, to evaluate the effectiveness of school improvement initiatives. The board, principal and senior leaders have consulted with the community, staff and students to develop the Mt Roskill Grammar School Curriculum, which aligns with The New Zealand Curriculum. The principal and his senior leadership team are managing change in an effective and consultative manner.

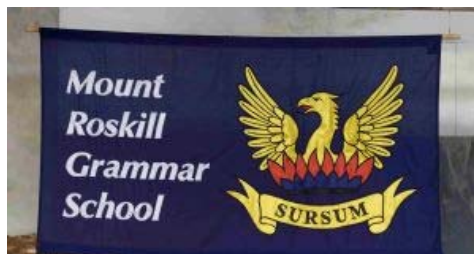
The school is gaining good momentum in improving the success of Māori students and senior leaders are now considering ways of implementing the Ministry of Education's Pasifika Education Plan to better meet the needs of the Pacific students, who constitute 24% of the school roll.

The board, senior leadership team and staff are working hard to ensure that the Mt Roskill Grammar School curriculum is effective in supporting student learning: engagement, progress and achievement.

Future Action

ERO is likely to carry out the next review in four to five years.

If you would like a copy of the full report, please contact the school or see the ERO website, www.ero.govt.nz



JOSEPH WINDSOR - STUDENT REP

I love Roskill and the diversity that it has. The chance to encourage others and help develop a servant attitude towards others, as well as learning valuable skills and see the effort that is needed behind the scenes at a board meeting. It's a real privilege to see how a school runs and to learn from an experienced and diverse group of board members. I still have one more year at school, but have realised that I love working with people and any study in the future that relates to this is what I look to do. I saw being student representative as a chance to serve my peers, which is what I get a real buzz out of, and also learn heaps in such a unique opportunity.

Joseph Windsor



WOOLF FISHER FELLOWSHIP

On Friday 29 October we learned that our Principal, **Mr Greg Watson**, has been awarded a Woolf Fisher Fellowship. This prestigious award continues a tradition at the school and entitles **Mr Watson** to 10 weeks leave and a grant for him and his wife to travel to the United States to attend a course at Harvard University as well as other travel. When **Dr Nigel Evans** presented the award he praised the school and its record and congratulated the staff and the Board of Trustees for their efforts.



CHINESE STUDENT ASSOCIATION

The Chinese Student Support Group has been renamed the Chinese Student Association (CSA).

Our role at Mt Roskill Grammar School is to help newly arrived Chinese students with any difficulties that they might have and to help these students with any language problems they have. We also try and promote Chinese culture to our school. This year's Chinese Student Association Leaders are **Jingtong Liu** and **Helena Wang**.

This year the CSA did several activities such as selling traditional food and decorations during the Lantern Festival and a rose sale on Chinese Valentine's day. Money raised by the group was used to buy books (in English and Chinese), both fiction and non-fiction, which were donated to the school library. Students also assisted **Mr Whitlock**, the librarian, with the cataloguing and processing of these new library resources and the establishment of a new Chinese language collection.

With help from our CSA, Mt Roskill Grammar School opened up a Chinese Language level 3 course in 2010 during study period. The school is now considering opening up a Chinese language course to all year levels. This provides more options for our students and gives another pathway for students to success in the future.

Leaders of the Chinese Student Association in 2011 will be **Ashely Yang**, **Jiaxin Lin** and **Davy Dai**.

[photos](#)



SENIOR ART EXHIBITION

The annual Senior Art Exhibition will be on **Saturday 30th of October from 10.00am to 1.00pm** in the MRGS Art Department. Folio display and light refreshments available.

[photos](#)



FRANCE HOMESTAY TOUR

In term one, twenty enthusiastic students committed themselves to being part of the 2010 France Homestay Tour. Extensive planning and fundraising got underway including parent meetings and deposit payments at the end of each term. A number of students haggled people with boxes and boxes of chocolates to help pay for the trip. At the end of term two, the group held a bake sale which turned out to be a huge success as many of us walked to the accounts office at the end of lunchtime grinning from ear to ear. Term three called for four meetings each Thursday during



lunchtime to sort out the details of the trip such as what to pack, itineraries, flight details and presentation preparation. The excitement escalated each meeting and on Friday the 17th of September, it was time to take off. At 8am we met at the departure lounge and were all too excited to focus. The long twenty-four hour flight with a five hour stop over in Singapore was definitely worth it. The first two weeks was spent in Normandy, where we all lived in a family's home and learned the French culture first hand. The experience gained from living in someone else's home for two weeks is invaluable as there is always so much to learn. During the weekend, our French families took us sightseeing to different tourist attractions such as the butterfly museum in Honfleur, the kite festival in Dieppe and even EuroDisney! In the second week the group travelled to Lower Normandy for an overnight trip where we visited the Bayeux Tapestry with its history of William the Conqueror's invasion of 1066, some D-Day beaches such as Arranches and the Mulberry harbour, the cliffs of Etretat and the house of France's mysterious superhero Arsène Lupin. Everywhere we ventured was jaw dropping as France is such a beautiful country. Staying with families also welcomed us to the world of French food. Many of us tried specialties such as mussels & fries, cider, and a wide range of French cheeses.

Leaving behind our French correspondents was emotional, and we all look forward to hosting all twenty six of them in February 2011. The trip then led to a week in Paris, the world's tourist capital city. Each day was jam-packed with sightseeing and shopping. The group was ecstatic when seeing world-famous monuments such as the Eiffel Tower, the Arc of Triumph and the Louvre Museum. Every night everyone came home to the FIAP youth hostel with sore feet, roaring stomachs and shattered energy levels. It was eye-opening taking the metro system everywhere in Paris. The first experience with the trains was traumatic as there were too many people and some girls even got left behind. But by the end of the trip, we were all veterans of the public transport system.

Words cannot describe the trip as it was so awesome! The group returned to New Zealand on the 9th of October with paper thin wallets, suitcase loads of souvenirs and gigabytes worth of photos. There was so much of France to absorb which is clearly evident as Matthew took over 3000 photos and Audrey over 2000, Mr McAlpine's suitcase weighed close to 40kgs and Matt's weighed 36kgs! It was indescribable being able to sing a waiata, perform the haka, hold a running competition in oversize jandals, do presentations of NZ food and culture, and show off our Roskill flavour to the French. The group grew very close throughout the three week trip and returned home with unforgettable memories such as: the boys doing the haka before our soccer game against our French correspondents, performing the Banana Dance in Changi Airport, being told off for starting a game of touch for "security reasons" and singing "I Choose You", "Dynamite" and "Just the Way You Are" over and over again on the way to Lower Normandy. Despite some unfortunate events including **Jennecca**, **Patrick** and **Audrey** getting food poisoning for France's "Quality Burger Restaurant" Quick, and some Metro tickets and money getting lost, the trip was without a single doubt, the best time of our lives.

An infinite amount of gratitude goes to **Mr McAlpine**, **Ms Robertson** and **Mr Lett** for their time and effort in preparing this trip. They were all very patient and took good care of us. All twenty of us are thankful to them for putting up with a rowdy bunch of teenagers who sung the same songs as if on loop play, had no shame in doing the Banana dance in public and handed over all twenty of our cameras to them to take group photos in front of every monument. A huge thank you goes to the **New Zealand-France Friendship Fund** as well who supported our trip and will also support the French school Lycée Jean XXIII when they come to New Zealand next year.

To the three teachers: *Merci beaucoup. Le voyage ne pourrait pas être si incroyable sans vous.*

To the students : All the bananas in the world...UNITE !! Roskill WHAAAAT!!!

Audrey Tay

ALLIANCE FRANCAISE COMPETITION

2010 ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE FRENCH SPEAKING COMPETITION RESULTS

MRGS pupils gained outstanding results in the 2010 competition. 12 pupils took part in the competition:

- Year 11: **Matthew Davidson, Richelle Fernandes, Shilpan Patel, Shiva Kalyanasundaram, Taina Puloka**
- Year 12: **Krithika Prahallad, Roza Ridwan, Jessica Wei**
- Year 13: **Pranav Chandnani, Gladie Hanipale, Alisi Puloka, Jordan Zi**



Not only did all the pupils perform extremely well, gaining certificates, but three pupils were recalled for the Regional Finals on the 3rd September.

Results for the **Auckland Region Finals** were:

- Year 13: **Jordan Zi** - 1st / **Pranav Chandnani** – 7th
- Year 11: **Taina Puloka** – 2nd

Jordan Zi will receive a special Prize for winning the Auckland Region French Competition and we await his result for the National Finals. The winners of the National Finals receive a trip to France in January.

KBB BAND AND ORCHESTRA FESTIVAL

Valentines String Orchestra gained a Bronze Award this year, quite an achievement considering that the ensemble has a mix of players of such varying backgrounds and the group has reformed as a string only orchestra this year.

Concert Band took part in the KBB Fringe Festival this year (non-competitive) and there has been a pleasing increase in new, young players this year so that the group is well placed to prepare for the competitive section in 2011.



SUSO UPDATE

Stand Up Stand Out Manukau City Talent Quest.

We entered 4 soloists, 1 vocal group and 6 bands and had 5 items recalled to the Finals held on 27 August - The Finalists were:

- Solo Vocal **Michael Murray**,
- Group Vocal the Brittetts comprising **Brittany Conlon-Stephanic, Brittany Roxburgh, Linette Mathew**,
- Bands: Emensis comprising **Michael Murray, Nicholas McIntosh, Kaveendrah Krishna** and **Gershon Cadelis**; Sweet Sounds comprising **David Cao, Michael Murray** and **Warren Duncan**; and Brothers and Sisters comprising **Storm Smith, Julie Fa'alogo, Esther Koonwaiyou, Sigmund Kaufusi, Peti Lau'ese, Metia Lisati** and **Fred Manoa**.



All performed very well and Emensis came second in the Band section.

Emensis had so impressed the judges during the heats that the Otara Music and Arts Centre has offered to record their song during the Term Three holidays.

Michael Murray was a stand out performer that evening, performing with conviction and with great skill in three of the items.

MAKING OKONOMIYAKI

'**Kojima Sensei**... Are we gonna make anything this year?' her year 10 Japanese class asked
 'We're making Okonomiyaki' she replied.
 And that's exactly what they did.

At first, even her Japanese students were confused as to what okonomiyaki is. They later found out that it was a savoury pancake, made from a mix of flour, water, eggs, cabbage, bacon and all that. It was then fried in special electric frying pans borrowed from teachers all over the school.

They majority of the savoury pancakes turned out good, some of us even went creative and made it into a stir fry (they forgot to put oil in it!).

All of us enjoyed the experience with hands-on Japanese culture- and the okonomiyaki was both nutritious and delicious!



TEENS FIGHT BINGE CULTURE

The following article appeared in the Central Leader (17th September, front page)
 Reporter, **Carly Tawhiao**:

A group of enterprising teenagers has come up with an award-winning solution to curb alcohol abuse.

Mt Roskill Grammar School pupils **Ajay Ravindran, Jason Walls, Manasi Deshpande** and **Ryan Puertollano** are gearing up to host an expo to highlight the dangers of alcohol abuse for young people.



The group won the first P3 Foundation social enterprise competition for its proposal and received \$1500 as well as mentoring and support for the event at Mt Roskill Grammar next Wednesday.

Ajay says they decided to host an expo after identifying a lack of information as the main barrier to changing the binge drinking culture.

Sixteen-year-old **Manasi** says a survey on what their peers know about alcohol showed plenty of room for improvement.

"Our survey showed that teens scored an average of 57.5 percent in terms of general alcohol knowledge," she says.

"We aim to raise that to 75 percent after the expo."

"People don't know the basics about standard drinks," **Ryan** says.

"Teenagers are picking up any bottle without necessarily knowing what it's about and what it can do to them," he says.

"We hope the expo's visual impact may trigger something people relate to on a personal level."

The event will include a damaged liver specimen and a car crash installation.

Organisations such as Students Against Driving Drunk, the Alcohol Advisory Council, fire, police and ambulance services will also be distributing facts on alcohol consumption.

Jason says the expo aims to encourage informed decisions and will include plenty of prizes as well as demonstrations on how to make non-alcoholic mocktails.

"It's knowing about alcohol and being responsible.

"We can't tell you not to drink, but we can help you make better choices," **Jason** says.

"We're grateful for the opportunity and excited to give back to Mt Roskill."

P3 Foundation founder and Young New Zealander of the Year Divya Dhar says she was impressed with the quality of solutions students produced during the competition.

"All teams really honed in on their first-hand experience to come up with innovative, effective strategies," she says.

"I think the most effective policies to tackle youth binge drinking will use the ideas of young people to kick-start a culture change."

P3 stands for peace, prosperity and progress and was started this year by a group of young professionals.

It works to improve the lives of those living in poverty worldwide.

The social enterprise competition is set to become an annual challenge focusing on a different issue each year.

The Alcohol Education Expo is on September 22 from 3.10pm to 6pm at the Mt Roskill Grammar School hall. For more information visit <http://themarjproject.co.nr>.

SUSHI MAKING

On Monday 13th September, class for the Year 9 Japanese students was a little different than usual. It was the day we learned how to make the famous Japanese food, Sushi.

Tables were prepared with the rolling mats, and smells of warm vinegar rice filled the room, a colourful array of ingredients were made available for us the sight already made us lick our lips, and made us buzz with excitement.

Kojima Sensei demonstrated for us first how to make the sushi, her quick swift hands made it look all too easy. Now it was our turn to try, some found it easy but other needed some help. In the end we all were satisfied with the delicious taste and appearance of our own made sushi.

This hand on Japanese cultural experience was greatly appreciated by all the students, and much thanks needs to be given to **Kojima Sensei** for her organisation to make the experience possible.



INDUSTRIAL ACTION

Letter from the principal to all caregivers – Industrial Action on Wednesday 15th September

Dear Parents/Caregivers

The PPTA union has advised the Mount Roskill Grammar School Board of Trustees that teachers at our school will be taking strike action on **Wednesday September 15**.

After careful consideration, the Board has decided that, due to the unavailability of staff, it would be impracticable for the school to remain open for instruction during the period of the proposed strike.

Accordingly, **the school will be closed for instruction** during the strike on **Wednesday 15th September**.

In these circumstances, it would assist the Board if **students** are able to **remain at home**, or if you are able to **make alternative arrangements for care**.

Classes will resume on Thursday September 16 at the usual time of 8.40 a.m.

I appreciate that this may be an inconvenience for parents and students alike. Please be assured that student safety is our main concern. Thank you for your assistance. Please contact me if you have any queries relating to the Board's decision.

Yours sincerely

Greg Watson
Principal

JAPANESE SENIOR STUDENTS' ZOO TRIP

The Year 11 and Year 12 Japanese classes practised their Japanese directions by going to the Auckland zoo. We used worksheets to follow instructions and answer questions about directions, which was awesome fun as well as good for our studies.

We were fortunate that the weather held out for us and we were able to see a few shows whilst there. A couple of highlights of the day were seeing the elephant encounter, and the Japanese gardens, as well as the various other enclosures.

I think everyone enjoyed their day, with

Jayden especially being able to wear jandals, and **Aakash** having the opportunity to hang out with the amazing-ness that is the Roskill Japanese students. Also thanks to **Miss Kojima** and **Mrs Cave** for



organising the trip and taking us on the day.

CRANES FOR PEACE

As part of the "Cranes for Peace" project, groups of enthusiastic students got together to make 1000 paper cranes to commemorate the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Miss Kojima's Year 9 and 10 Japanese classes made a significant contribution to the overall number. The cranes have now been sent to the mayor of Hiroshima for display in the Peace Park.



GREAT RESULTS FROM LANGUAGE OLYMPICS

MRGS gains Top Results in 2010 International Language Olympics

For 2 weeks in September over 400 schools took part in the International Language Olympics Competition run by Language Perfect (www.languageperfect.co.nz). Over 400 schools took part, over 80,000 language pupils, and over 22 million questions answered. This is the first time MRGS took part and we are thrilled at the effort and success of our pupils.

And...the final results are out!

Mount Roskill Grammar is:

- 1st - Top School in French
- 2nd in Maori
- 3rd in Japanese
- 3rd School Overall

Students gained Gold Medal, Silver Medal, Bronze Medal or Credit Certificates depending on how many questions they answered.

Teacher Feedback:

"Dear Language Perfect Team, Thank you for the joy you are giving our students during the Language Olympics. They are having so much fun which is surely one of the most important factors in language learning. They are positive and enthusiastic, and they say "we learn so much". They feel empowered! Well done on organising such a positive and helpful event."

Top MRGS Gold Medal winners were:

Adil Bhayani, Matthew Davidson, Alastair Fernandes, Natasha Fonseca, Gladie Hanipale, Tracey Ho, Nigaah Khan, Cassie Khoo, Angela Ko, Yashveendra Krishna, Wendy Li, Ayesha Nadat, Victoria Ng, Padmini Nunna, Shilpan Patel, Alisi Puloka, Soo Ling Tran, Grace Wang, Katie Winny, Luke Winny, Jordan Zi.

Top 10 winners were: **Salote Makasini** – 3rd in Maori, **Jordan Zi** – 5th in French, **Padmini Nunna** – 7th in French



STAND UP STAND OUT

MRGS had great success at the heats of the Manukau City Stand Up Stand Out talent quest with five items recalled to the finals of the 27 Aug Stand Up Stand Out Talent Quest as follows: Bands: Brothers & Sisters, Emensis Rockquest band, Sweet Sounds, Vocal group the Brittetts, Solo Vocals **Michael Murray**.

16 of our talented students will take part - a great showing for our school and we can be very proud of this.



BRING IT ON

For the third year in a row the MRGS troupe was placed first at the central heats of the Secondary Schools' Hip Hop Dance Competition 'Bring It On' in July. The grand finals were held on August 14th and out of 14 schools Mt Roskill was awarded 4th place. This is a major achievement and first for our school. The troupe of 55 students has been rehearsing for their performance since the start of April - every day after school, in the holidays and over many weekends. They have exhibited major commitment and perseverance and thoroughly deserved the high placing. Huge congratulations to the performers and their leaders: **Ma'afu Tulimaiu**, **Stephen Apineru** and **Jess Tahana**.



[more photos](#)

OPEN DAY

MRGS held its Open Day on Wednesday 28 July. Many potential students and their parents were taken on tours around the school by our Prefects and School Guides. Departments assembled displays and had students demonstrating aspects of learning in their subject areas. Many of the activities were interactive and fascinated learners of all ages with the result that tours tended to take a great deal longer than intended. Our grateful thanks to all those who took part.



[more photos](#)

C BLOCK BUILDING

Excellent progress on the new classroom block has seen the building take shape very quickly.

The building will have 2 floors; 6 classrooms and a resource room on the ground floor and 7 classrooms on the second floor. The second floor has two stairways and is linked by a walkway to H block.

The majority of classrooms are scheduled for use by the Social Sciences Department and there is one classroom designed for use by Media Studies classes. The ground floor is linked to the existing Social Science Staff Workroom.



After a long wait for consent, construction of the new 13 classrooms got underway in May. With the foundations laid, the blockwork for the ground floor was soon in place. This allowed the concrete for the upper floor to be poured and the framework for the upstairs classrooms to be erected. The roof trusses arrived last week and were put in place so that we now have a complete outline of the new building.

Our contractors, Econobuilt Ltd, are to be congratulated on the progress they have made. They look forward to handing the completed block over to the school near the end of the year.

ASHREYA - YOUTH AMBASSADOR

Being named one of the UNICEF Year of Youth Ambassadors has come as an absolute honour for **Ashreya Duvuru**. Having spent a large part of her childhood in India, she has witnessed the terrible effects that global poverty can have on a community. She comments, "The past couple of years at MRGS have provided me with many opportunities, which have also greatly educated me about global poverty and children's rights. Being a part of the Peace Foundation and the 40-hour Famine team at this school has taught me a lot about the injustices faced by children in third-world nations. This knowledge served as a huge motivation for me to apply for this position. Personally, I find child trafficking to be one of the most terrible effects of poverty."

As well as being excited about this incredible opportunity, Ashreya can't wait to get started on the task. As one of the UNICEF Year of Youth Ambassadors, she will mainly be working with Youth audiences, to raise awareness about issues which affect adolescents globally. Her main goal this year is to raise awareness about child trafficking, especially in nations where it is legal or largely over-looked. She hopes that UNICEF's work this year will help ease the dire conditions faced by a large population of youth around the world.

Ashreya's main aspiration for the future is to work as a doctor with victims of riots in nations such as Bangladesh, Pakistan and India. She also hopes to continue with her current goals and make the world a better place to live in.

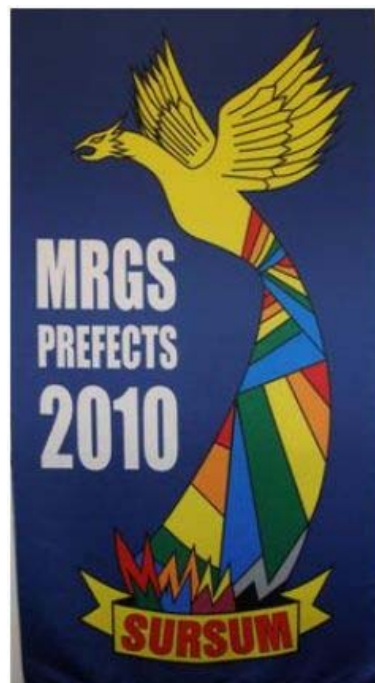


2010 PREFECT FLAG

This is the Mount Roskill Grammar School Prefect flag for 2010. After much deliberation the Prefects chose to use a vertical banner shape that ends with the crest. The banner at the bottom reads 'Sursum', our school motto, showing that our school will strive to reach the heights.

The phoenix that emerges from the flames is a more modern and elaborate take of our school logo. The flames at the very bottom show the house colours from last year. This also symbolises the past, and our experiences. From these flames, the phoenix emerges. The tail consists of a winding ribbon incorporating the new house colours, and shows the transition from our old colours to the new arrangement.

The new colours also represent the students, who all belong to a house. As the colours intertwine, it shows our interactions with each other, the friends we make and the road we choose. The tail colours eventually turn into the golden phoenix, which signifies our unity and how we are all part of this great community that is Mt Roskill Grammar.



As you can see, despite all the modifications, the phoenix is still flying upwards, which emphasises the motto, "To The Heights". It shows that despite all the changes that occur around us, and in spite of the changes we undergo as individuals and a community, we will always be looking to the heights and strive to reach it.

A VISIT TO NISHIKI

On the 3rd of August a group of students from Mt Roskill Grammar's senior Japanese classes had the option of attending a trip to one of Auckland's very own little slices of fine Japanese cuisine; Nishiki restaurant. The meal was attended by twenty two students (plus a few tag-alongs), and although the school had reserved an entire section of the restaurant for our use, we still had trouble fitting in. The end result was cramped, but was made up for by the ease of conversation. While waiting, many students decided to take a gander at Nishiki's menu. Unfortunately we didn't have a choice in what we were served, but as soon as our dishes were in front of us the lack of choice didn't matter so much. With a selection of tempura (deep-fried vegetables and chicken), sushi, yakitori (marinated chicken) and misoshiru (soup made from miso beans), complete with a bowl of plain rice and various condiments, no one could feel unsatisfied with the meal. Tea and water was also freely available to all at their own discretion. Almost everyone was able to use chopsticks for their meal, and those students who couldn't were able to learn quickly. Once everyone had finished the main course, a small dessert of vanilla ice cream with chocolate sauce followed. Simple, but refreshing. With that, everyone from the Mt Roskill group headed outside for several group photos before taking their leave. Despite the hefty price tag of attending, no student left Nishiki without a fuller stomach and better appreciation of Japanese-style food.



'*Doumo arigatou*' ('thank you very much') to the waiters and chefs at Nishiki, who managed to serve and feed us all without much hassle, and to the Language Department teachers at Mt Roskill Grammar School that allowed the event to happen. '*Okagesama de subarashii hito ni narimasu*' (in your great presence we will become wonderful people).

- **Jayden Hickman**

SCIENCE FAIR RESULTS

Science Fair Results 2010 - Mt Roskill Grammar School

- **Dianca Mitchell**
1st Living World Y9-10
"Handy Personality"
Investigation of whether hand gestures indicate your personality type.
- **Victor Xie**
1st Physical World Y9-10
"The Power of Flight"
To find which wing shape provides the most lift by measuring atmospheric pressure.
- **Kartik Yellapantula**
1st Technology Y9-10
"mPower"
Mp3 player mobile charger
- **Ken Hendricks**
University of Auckland Physics Department - Award for a Project in Optoelectronics
"Electromagnetic Induction"
What effect does the position of the induction receiver coil have on the power transferred?
- **Mildred Wong**
1st place Y9-10, New Zealand Statistical Association Award
"Words + Images = Memory?"
Investigation of whether images do actually help people memorize information.



DYSLEXIA AWARENESS WEEK

'Dyslexia Awareness Week' was acknowledged here at MRGS. We celebrated the week with daily quotes from famous dyslexics, a fund raising BBQ and a speech to the school by our Head Prefect and Deputy Head Prefect, both of whom are proud to have the Gift of Dyslexia.

You can download the speech they gave below. here is a link to the [Dyslexia NZ](#) website. Dyslexia NZ is a wonderful organisation which campaigns tirelessly to support the estimated 10% of the population who have dyslexia in various forms.

[speech](#)



FRENCH DINNER

On Monday the 28th of June, the majority of the year 11 and 12 French students indulged in French cuisine at the St Tropez Restaurant in Parnell. The daring ate escargot (snails) and hardly anyone regretted that feat. The atmosphere in the restaurant was very warm and welcoming, and some practiced their French on the waiters. While waiting for dessert we were spoiled with many spot prizes, ranging from French diaries to CDs to key chains. Thankfully, no one left empty handed and didn't miss out on the French fever. With a satisfying meal and the taking of many photos, it definitely was a highlight for the last week of Term two. **Audrey Tay**



FONTERRA KICKSTART BREAKFAST

MRGS participates in the Fonterra KickStart Breakfast Programme. We provide a healthy breakfast for any students. For example these could be sports teams or students in need. We were fortunate to have breakfast with discus star **Beatrice Faumuina** on Friday the 23rd July 2010. She spoke about her successes and failures as an athlete and how important breakfast was to each of us on a daily basis. She talked about the difficulties of training in a small arena and competing on the huge world stage, adapting and making the best of difficult situations. The breakfast was attended by several dozen students who appreciated hearing her experiences. She spoke about discipline, planning and structure being important parts of her training programme. We were also surprised to see another side of Beatrice – she confessed to maths being her favourite subject at school and is also a rubic cube whizz!



more photos

CAREER EXPO

It may have been a dark and stormy July night but that didn't stop the continual stream of students and parents from pouring through the doors of our most successful Career Expo yet.

The 55 providers that cheerfully turned up to offer their knowledge and advice ranged from the universities and institutes of technology to the Armed Forces and Police. Providers of qualifications in areas as varied as construction, sport, audio engineering, animation, fine arts and hairdressing discussed their courses and qualifications throughout the night. There were also representatives from the ANZ bank, quantity surveying and MIT Maritime School.



All providers were highly impressed with how well informed Mt Roskill Grammar School students were and complimented the students' questioning skills and approach to inquiry.

The night's success was largely to do with the tireless work of our career assistants who helped the providers get their gear through the rain into the hall, then plied them with hot drinks and pizza and generally looked after them. And a huge thank you to **Miss Hodge** who was the brains and organiser behind the event.

More photos available in [photo gallery](#)

YEAR 13 MUNA DELEGATION 2010

From July 3- July 6, six Mount Roskill Grammar Students (**Nirusha George, Shail Kaushal, Elia Kim, Wilson Liu, Ajay Ravindran and Sheenal Singh**) attended the New Zealand Model United Nations (NZMUN) at Wellington. The 2010 NZMUN theme was 'Your world 2050' outlining the challenges that would be faced by today's younger generation in the year 2050. Over 200 delegates from all over New Zealand attended this highly recognised conference which involved debating and negotiating among the delegates. Other events occurred during the conference including a regional dinner in Wellington to help familiarise the delegates with one another and a highly anticipated United Nations ball. The NZMUN event was a tremendous experience and each delegate who took part in the event enjoyed it to the last minute. At the conclusion of the event, two of the Mount Roskill Grammar School delegates (**Elia Kim** and **Wilson Liu**) were chosen to be part of a New Zealand delegation of 16 to the International Hague Model United Nations which were both an honour and a privilege.



Being obliged to wake up at the enervating hour of 6 AM was but a small price to pay. The reward? An utterly unforgettable insight into how the United Nations functioned, all whilst meeting like-minded students from all over Auckland.

Taking their place behind the USA (don't China just get the best seats in the house?), China settled confidently into a day of gruelling debate, its two remits involving sanctions against rogue nuclear states and expansion of the Security Council. China soon wove a network of alliances, encompassing Italy, Angola, Poland, Tonga and Chile, to name but a few. China's most powerful ally was of course its good Communist buddy Russia, featuring Athene, Vash and Shirley from St Cuth's! Much to the chagrin of **Wilson** and **Elia** though, **Jordan** seemed more interested in chatting with the other delegates-amongst whom Ella of Chile could be seen talking with him at morning tea on the second day-than engaging in the passionate, albeit often tumultuous, cross-floor debate.

Jordan's impassioned defence of North Korea's nuclear programme (backed by Russia, as ever) was duly followed by **Elia's** eloquent oratory in favor of restricting the SC expansion. Having declined to participate in the improptu debate (reviving the perennial favorite theme of North Korea, this time in the recent sinking of a South Korean naval corvette), China's voice was more than ably represented by the Honourable Delegate for Russia, Athene. Such a close working relationship was cemented by a solemn handshake between her and **Jordan** at morning tea.

After the break, the convocation reconvened under the watchful gaze of **Mr Wilson**, who functioned just as well as, if not better than, the right Honourable Jonathan Hunt had on the first day. A barrage of interjections was hurled at anything and everything the delegates deemed wary, and many a folded note was once again received by China. One particular communique belonged to another of China's Communist Comrades, Cuba. Emblazoned with a lipstick kiss, it proved a watersehd in the Chinese delegation's day.

All in all, the Rotary MUNA 2010 was an incredible experience. A deeper appreciation of the UN's workings wasn't all that China took away from the conference, with **Jordan** clutching a bulging folder full of notes and his phone vibrating like mad as he kept up with texting the delegates he had met. Especially worthy of note should be Harriet of Italy, with whom he held a whispered conversation in French on the last day.

Our most sincere thanks must be consecrated to **Dr Hawthorne** and **Ms Hartstonge**, without whose shrewd observations on the absurdities of the gathering-such as **Dr Hawthorne's** keen remark on the myopic Jonathan Hunt who shot down Points of Information like flies and diligent driving none of this would have been possible.

By **Jordan, Elia** and **Wilson**

MRGS Year 13 MUNA Delegation 2010, Representing the People's Republic of China

MEDIATION SYMPOSIUM

On Friday 25th June, seventeen MRGS Mediators attended the 2010 Cool Schools Secondary Symposium and embraced an unforgettable experience. The day comprised of presentations by various guest speakers like Divya Dhar (Inaugural 2010 Young New Zealander of the Year); Alfred Filipaina and Wilson Chau. The MRGS Mediators presented how Roskill spreads peace, with a power point presentation of Peace Week photos, an excerpt of the Peace Week Assembly and the debut screening of the MRGS rendition of Michael



Jackson's " We are the World". The Symposium was a great opportunity to meet students from 9 other schools and learn the different mediation methods that they use. It was very encouraging to share ideas with other Mediators from different parts of Auckland and rub shoulders with like-minded people. Together we were shown our potential to change the world as youth, starting with our local community. It is possible to fight injustices, poverty and build a peaceful world. But it starts with the individual. Only with a global vision coupled with a plan of action can they be agents of change.

All the Mediators that attended the Symposium are extremely grateful to **Donna Hourigan-Johnston** for this life- changing experience. The time and effort that she devotes to the Mediation Service at MRGS is greatly valued and appreciated. In a nutshell, Donna is a Legend!

By **Audrey Tay** and **Joseph Windsor**

MT ROSKILL DOES IT AGAIN

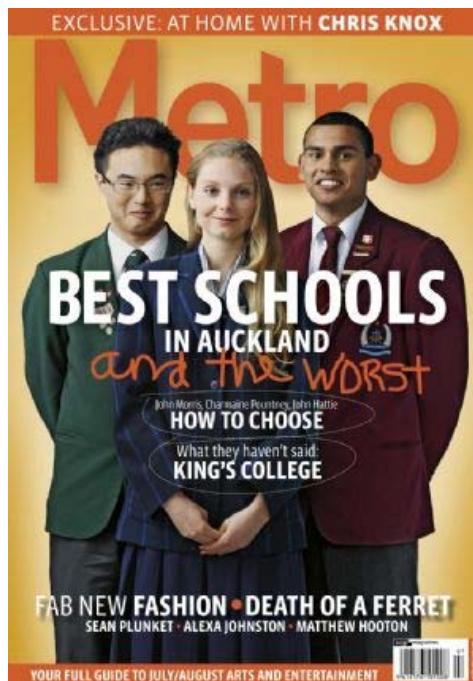
In the annual analysis of results of Auckland secondary schools completed by Metro Magazine Mt Roskill once again features highly. This year we are second (out of 76) in their overall rankings of "The best NCEA schools in Auckland".

Mt Roskill Grammar is the top state coeducational school (one of three state coeducational schools in the top ten) and the only coeducational school in the top six. We stand out as one of the schools with the best three-year academic record (2007-2009) for adding value, across all the measures used to compile these rankings. We are also highlighted as one of the schools which most increased students' chances of passing scholarship.

Metro magazine writes:

"Good Scholarship rates are ... an excellent across the board measure of academic achievement at the top end.

A good school should have good scores (well over 100 on our table) in all measures."



Mt Roskill Grammar School scores 216, a measure which Metro believes "reveals the commitment of a school to top academic achievement in the senior year"

(Reference: **Metro**, July/August 2010, issue 345, pp. 54-55)

[full text](#)

BLAKE MEDALLIST VISIT

On Monday 28th June the school was privileged to welcome as a guest at its assembly, Ray Avery – this year's recipient of the Blake Medal, the supreme accolade of the Sir Peter Blake annual leadership awards. He was greeted by a haka from the school's Kapahaka group and then spoke to the assembly about his life and work in bringing affordable medical care to poor countries throughout the world. After the assembly Mr Avery spoke to a small group of the school's own student leaders and gave them a fascinating and informative insight into his own career, life philosophy and opinions on leadership.



Mr Avery's award recognises his life's work in clinical pharmacology, and particularly his foundation of Medicine Mondiale, an organization that develops innovative medicine and technologies to help those who could otherwise not afford it. One of his own particular contributions was the invention of the low-cost intraocular lens, which he invented in his garage – at a cost of only \$6 it has saved the sight of millions of the poorest people in the world.

MATARIKI CONCERT

On the evening of Wednesday 16th June the school hosted a campus wide Matariki concert to celebrate Matariki.

A day no-one will ever be able to imagine or forget. It was a memorable, fun-filled night with performances and meeting new people.

Shannon, Sam, Emma and I got to greet the new Kaumatua (**John Komene**) into our school but had to say a sad good-bye to the old one. The performances were done by all three schools, Primary, Intermediate and Grammar. We all knew that Matariki was a very important time of year, so we all sung our hearts out, and came together as a whanau. If it weren't for the patient **Whaea Lee** and the dedication she put into all three Kapahaka groups, none of this would have been possible. We had all shown the new Kaumatua how much Kapahaka means to us and how important he will be in our lives. Everyone had congratulated and thanked Whaea Lee for all the hard work she put into the Kapahaka groups, applauded the principals for supporting us through it all and showed appreciation to **Mrs Coetzee** for all the wonderful, amazing, delicious food she had cooked for us. The night ended with a massive feed and smiles on everyone's faces.



Sarah Joseph

[photos](#)

MUNA TRIP

At the disgustingly early hour of 6.30am, in the dark and the cold of Friday 28th of May, we assembled at school to go to MUNA, which was to take place at Auckland Girls' Grammar School inside the Dorothy Winston Centre. MUNA stands for Model United Nations' Assembly where delegates from each country represent their views to the General Assembly. The Year 12 Mount Roskill team had four delegates who were **Binal Patel, Palutea Malu, Anfernee Yee** and **Raagini Vijay**, and we were representing Tonga. We arrived on time and



got dressed into our Tongan costumes which were organised by Palu. When we went inside to find our allocated seats, it was a surprise that we were seated right in the front. The hall was soon filled by 900 other students eager to learn about the workings of the United Nations.

Since we were representing the Kingdom of Tonga, we didn't really need to say much as we were a relatively small country. However we soon realised that even a small country like Tonga is influential in deciding the roles played by countries which feature more prominently in the BLOC and General Assembly meetings. The day slowly progressed with numerous debates, discussions and lots of laughter. The food was amazing, a satisfying breakfast followed by a sausage sizzle and a vegetarian pizza. Afternoon tea was another success with numerous plates filled with doughnuts. The two remits we shared our views on were the issue of human organ trading and disarmament of Nuclear weapons in South Korea, Iran and Iraq. This concluded Day 1.

We went back early morning the next day looking forward to other interesting issues from some of the other countries. Overall, MUNA was a valuable experience as we all got to learn more about what is going on in the world. We thoroughly enjoyed MUNA and are looking forward to hopefully taking part next year. Special thanks to **Mr Hawthorne** and **Ms Hartstonge** for giving up lots of their time for us, and allowing us to have this great experience.

ANZAC DAY SERVICE

It was a beautiful Sunday morning on the 25th of April, as all the Prefects of Mt Roskill were gathered to pay our respects to the fallen soldiers and veterans. We gathered on the corner of May Rd and Denbigh Ave then took part in the march with other schools and organisations and general public, to The May Rd War Memorial. When we arrived at the full Memorial Hall we found our place, then waited for the ceremony to begin. There were many people of the Mt Roskill community including Phill Goff, Jackie Blue, Reverend Mark Johnson, Mt



Roskill Rotary Club as well as our very own Mt Roskill Grammar school choir. The procedure flowed smoothly and respectfully from an introduction through to scripture passages read by students from Marcellin College, with hymns and prayers throughout. The lowering and raising of the flag was commemorating and had a great impact on everyone with the brass trumpet playing in the background. Mt Roskill Grammar participated with Head Boy and Girl, Zane Van Lieshout and Helen Edminston, laying of the wreath out of respect to the fallen soldiers from the Mt Roskill school community. By the end of the ceremony, our Prefects gave a hand to whoever needed it in stacking away chairs and helping wherever needed. This was a first for some but certainly not a last as it was very spiritually moving as we paid our respects to those who sacrificed themselves for our freedom.

YEAR 13 GEOGRAPHY TRIP

The west coast beach at Muriwai was the destination for 160 keen Year 13 Geography students. The aim of the day was for students to collect data to enrich their learning of natural processes for AS90701. Armed with oranges, for Long Shore Drift, greasy sticks, for Saltation, pencils for field sketching and colouring pencils because it is Geography after all, the students set off from each end of the study area swapping over briefly at the Dunz cafe for lunch. It was all hands to the pump in the Geography department with all present and some past members brought along to supervise.



Special mention goes to Mr Hall proving that old geographers never give in. While the newcomers retreated to the cafe when a typical west coast squall swept in Mr Hall remained at his post on the tip of the Headland with only a flax bush for protection. It was a very positive day and the department is looking forward to seeing the students results.

More photos available in [Photo Gallery](#)

INCHWORM...INCHWORM

The year 12 physics classes started their 4 credit internal obtaining precise measurements using a range of equipment and techniques. Most students obtained their results carefully with no breakages this year, a promising sign of things to come?



NEW STAFF TERM II, 2010

Ms Brenda Meyer, an experienced teacher, has been appointed HOD Performing Arts (LTR) while Mr John Coker has joined Mathematics as an assistant teacher, his first appointment. Ms Mary Jane Walker in English and Ms Olivia Stanley in Physical Education are relieving for the rest of the year; Mr Darren Simpson in English, Ms Gillys Miller in Social Sciences and Ms Sarah Anderson in Guidance are relieving for this term. We are pleased to welcome these additions to our staff and the quality they will add to our pupils' education.

- Sara Anderson (Guidance)
- John Coker (Mathematics)
- Brenda Meyer (Performing Arts)
- Gyllis Miller (Social Sciences)
- Darren Simpson (English)
- Olivia Stanley (Physical Education)
- Maryjane Walker (English)

JAZZ COMBO SUCCESS

The Jazz Combo competed in the Port of Tauranga National Youth Jazz Competition on Easter Saturday 3 April and came second in the Jazz Combo section.

Furthermore, three out of the five jazz combo members were awarded best instrumentalist:- **Michael Murray** – best bass player, **David Cao** – best Sax player, **Jordan Lapwood** – best Electric guitar player. The judging criteria were based on the student's technical skill but also their ability to improvise. Many thanks to **Mr Janssen**, our guitar tutor who directs and manages the combo so expertly.



PRINTING AT SCHOOL

From the beginning of term 2, 2010, a new system will be in place for students to use the school's printers to print their own work and projects.

How the system works:

- All students will have a printing account.
- Each time a student prints to a school printer, credit will be deducted from their account.
- A starting balance of \$2.00 (around 40 copies) will be loaded on each student's account free of charge at the beginning of term 2 when the system begins and again at the beginning of each year.
- Normal black and white printing to A4 paper will be charged at a rate of 5 cents per copy. Colour or larger copies will cost more.
- At any time, a student may add credit to their printing account by purchasing a "printing top up card" for \$2.00 from the school accounts office. The card will contain a code and this code can be loaded on to the student's account the next time they log in to a school computer.
- When a student's printing balance reaches \$0.00, they will not be able to print until they purchase more credit and load it to their account. Exceptions will be made for senior students during examination periods where they may need to print for assessment purposes.
- Where students have paid through their subject fees for printing that they are expected to carry out themselves, they will be issued with top up cards to cover that component of the fee.

In the past, students have paid for printing either through the various departments where printers are available or at the library. This new system will provide a consistent and fair way for students to cover the costs of the printing that they do and will allow us to continue to provide printing services for all.

If you have any inquiries regarding this new system, please contact Michael Loretz mloretz@mrgs.school.nz (09) 621 0050.

POLYFEST 2010- TONGAN GROUP

Being in the Tongan group for 2010 has been a GREAT opportunity, especially since it was my first time, to experience and know more about my culture. We practiced every day from 3:30-5:30pm (or 6:00 at the latest) with Palau Tuli. At Polyfest, I liked how I became a part of MRGS Tongan group and performed the Milolua (making kava). Our Tongan group came 1st for the Milolua and 3rd for the Mako. Special thanks to our Tongan tutor Palau and the Tuli family, for teaching the Tongan MRGS students. Also thanks to our parents, teachers and friends for their support.



Sophie Askew

POLYFEST 2010 - SAMOAN GROUP

After four weeks of intense practices, the MRGS Samoan Cultural Group graced the stage on the 19th of March at the ASB Polyfest. The Samoan group led by Bridgette Savaiinaea and Jacinta Siliia, performed five items to the crowd on a dreary Friday afternoon. The crowd was packed with ex-Roskill students who came to support their old school. Our staff helpers even dubbed the group as "the best in MRGS' history". As we stood and watched other schools perform, we wondered if we did well enough, and nervously replayed every move in our heads. When it was finally time for us to go backstage, the reality started to settle in. We were just about to perform! We changed into our beautiful costumes and chattered nervously, scrabbling to find bobby pins, slapping on oil and taping our wrists. The level of excitement was just as high as the level of noise as we hyped each other up, giving each other hugs and words of encouragement. We all lined up to get lipstick and our fales by one of the helpers and took photos all dolled up, in hope of getting rid of the butterflies in our stomachs. As we waited for the signal to go on stage, we all joined hands and bowed in prayer. As we listened to the inspirational words of one of our tutors, we each whispered our own little prayers, hoping we wouldn't mess up in front of the huge, waiting crowd. Once we were set, the excitement kept building up and the suspense was overwhelming.



Our performance was exhilarating and full of energy. The MRGS Samoan Cultural Group placed first for our mauiuilu (girls dance), and second for our sasa and our exit. We were disappointed that we didn't place, but that is definitely our goal for 2011. Our group would like to thank Lelei Jackson, our tutor who we'd be nothing without; our teachers Tului Fox and Nick Tuialii, our parent helpers Mrs Meleisea and Mrs Cheeleam for their support and encouragement while pointing us in the right direction.

The group came 1st in the ma'ulu'ulu, 2nd for the sasa, and 2nd for their exit (ulufafo)

Rawinia Fagamalo

POLYFEST 2010 - INDIAN DANCE GROUP

Four weeks from Polyfest, Mr. Dass and Ms. Naidu called a meeting for everyone interested in the Indian dance group. A lot of people turned up to the meeting and immediately groups were formed. From that moment on, the hard work started. We would meet everyday after school and stay until 5 o'clock to practice in S9 or the PFA room.



We choreographed our moves as we progressed into the dance so we could perfect our previous moves. Often people had to leave because of their after-school commitments, so they would miss out on some of the main details and choreography, therefore we would meet at lunchtimes and catch up on our dance. This was a very important commitment and no-one missed practices unless we had legitimate reasons. We also practiced at someone's house in the weekends so we could spend as much time as possible on our dance.

One week before our performance we decided on our costumes but we couldn't find what we were looking for so we ended up borrowing our costumes from one of the parents.

We had to show our dance to Mr. Dass and Ms. Naidu two days before our performance to hear their feedback and surprisingly enough, our teachers were very impressed with our performance.

On the big day, our performance was second on the list so there were not many people watching us. We were all very nervous as this was the first time to perform on stage for a few of us. We forgot to take our music CD with us, which was worrying, but luckily Krishant had the music on his USB stick. Even with these disruptions we danced our way to the hearts of our audience. Later on in the day we got a second chance to perform and we were all very excited. It was a bit nerve-racking because now the place was swarming with people who were waiting to be entertained but we went on stage and thrilled everyone.

We all had a wonderful experience and we had lots of fun while dancing too.

Naina Gupta

PSSP HUI

Four days. Amazing facilitators. Seventeen workshops. Twenty-two meals. Thirty students.

The experience we had is hard to describe in words. Feelings that can only be felt once experienced. Such were the four days we spent at The PSSP Hui from the 24th to the 27th of February.

The Hui consisted of a wide range of workshops that challenged the views and opinions of many. It was an incredibly special experience to share four days with such a diverse group of people. Within the first five minutes of meeting everyone there, we already knew each others names and aspirations. The hui began in the traditional way with a Powhiri. Not long after that we began our very first workshop. All the workshops were exceptionally informative and interactive; filled with role-plays and several challenging questions and ideas.



Over the four days we covered a huge range of topics such as communication skills, decision-making, safer sex, sexual wellbeing, contraception, gender, pregnancy, HIV, sexual abuse and diversity. A particularly interesting workshop was one titled Personal Perspectives where we were all asked questions and asked to identify our take on them through a continuum. This was especially exciting as we were able to see an insight into different people's views and opinions and perhaps even review our own.

The last night of the hui was certainly the most eventful as it was our celebration night; each group prepared and presented a play reflecting our marvellous time. It was remarkable watching the enthusiasm with which groups approached this challenge and truly exhilarating to be in the same room as so many positive people.

Despite everything, as usual the hardest part was leaving. At a post hui meeting I vividly remember everyone recalling a particular game called 'I like, I value, I admire' which involved a rotating circle in which everyone told everybody else something that they liked, valued and admired about the other person, it was truly uplifting and significant of the close bonds that had formed over the days that had passed. I know I don't speak for myself when I say that every single one of us would go again if given the chance.

PSSP stands for Peer Sexuality Support Programme and is a diverse group of highly motivated, positive students who have the role of empowering their peers with the knowledge to make informed decisions about their sexual health. This year, five students from Mt Roskill Grammar School went to The PSSP Hui; **Warren Duncan, Sondiyp Singh, Annaliesa Tran, Henali Patel** and **Manasi Deshpande**. The PSSP team of 2010 is also made up of **Katie Winny, Robert Pomee** and our fabulous coordinator **Margaret Hoogendoorn**.

We look forward to working together with both students and teachers to provide a quality service for the school and are excited to implement and pass on the skills and information we have learnt. We would also like to thank Margaret Hoogendoorn, The PSSP Team, the wonderful facilitators and Phil, our cook, for the beautiful food. A special mention to our principal Mr Watson for giving us this wonderful opportunity.

Four days went too fast. The facilitators like friends. Seventeen opportunities. Twenty-two delicious memories. And thirty life long friendships. The Hui was a life changing experience.

Manasi Deshpande

YEAR 13 MOTUTAPU CAMP

Every year Motutapu Island becomes home to a couple of hundred Year 13 MRGS students. For a whole week students leave behind their cellphones, MP3 players and facebook page to experience learning outside of the classroom.

From the first day students are making new friendships with people they may have seen but never taken the time to get to know over the past four school years and are pushing the limits to what they thought they were capable of physically and mentally. The students participate in a wide variety of water-based activities such as kayaking, sailing, waka ama, raft building and snorkelling. They also use a mixture of brains and brawn to work together to complete the challenging confidence course, high ropes, pump class, survivor and seal challenge where a love of mud, determination and courage are the keys to success.



On the second night students were given a torch lit tour of the historic WWII bunkers and on the third evening they showed off their extensive knowledge in the 9-round general knowledge quiz. The last night of camp provided students with the opportunity to show off their creative and very humorous personalities in the infamous Roskill camp skit night.

Students returned home with a bag full of dirty clothes, a souvenir screen printed t-shirt, utterly exhausted and tired and most importantly with plenty of great stories to regale their friends and families with. We would like to thank all students and staff that came along and helped make it a memorable week.

[photo gallery](#)

YEAR 12 BIOLOGY FIELD TRIP

We were surrounded. Native trees and bushes were all around us and insects crawled around in the undergrowth. A stream trickled nearby, and the occasional fantail fluttered through the branches. We had to remind ourselves that we were still in the middle of the Auckland CBD.

On the 24th of February, all of the year 12 BIO students took a trip to the Auckland domain to conduct field research in the native forest in the domain and visit the museum.

When we arrived, the group split up; half of us went inside the museum while the other half ventured into the native forest. We spent an hour in the bush mapping out our sites and indentifying New Zealand's unique flora, whilst brushing away the occasional green spider from our hair. It was around 30 degrees Celsius in there and very humid, but that didn't dampen our spirits. We all worked hard and tirelessly, examining leaves and measuring out distances. Finally an hour later we trudged out of the bush, exhausted and relieved.

After that, the two groups swapped, those who had been working in the bush went to the museum and those who had spent their morning in the museum ventured into the native forest.

The last museum group then had their lecture, which was very intriguing. We were taught about how New Zealand's flora and fauna had evolved and how unique New Zealand's native species really are. We even got to hold a moa bone and a fossil which was millions of years old. After a look around at the various biological displays around the museum we headed off, back to the bus. We met up with the other groups and then we were off. It was an interesting, informative and enjoyable trip.

Shilpan Patel

Vivien Lei

MEDIATOR EXCHANGE

On Thursday the 25th of February, a small school exchange took place between MRGS and Whangaparaoa College. This was not, however, the usual sports exchange but a corresponding visit between two groups of mediators. The mediators of Whangaparaoa College were hosted by a group of selected MRGS Advanced Mediators including:

Aditya Sheth, Aditya Verma, Afa Laufoli, Ajay Ravindran, Ashreya Duvuru, Audrey Tay, Helen Edminston, Jason Walls, Joseph Windsor, Khadija Khan, Lita Vatuvei, Timothy Sue, and our passionate and devoted Mediators co-ordinator, Donna Hourigan-Johnston.



The day consisted of presentations given by MRGS students, based on the areas of their school lives involving the mediators such as: Peace Week, Mediator and Advanced Mediator Training, Peer Mentors. MRGS was named the Cool Schools' number one secondary school, as MRGS has successfully been implementing the Peer Mediation Programme for fifteen years. This was seen as an irreplaceable opportunity to pass on to another school that was just establishing their mediation system, the extent of opportunities MRGS offers in ways of training and involvement throughout the year.

Even though the exchange only took place for two hours, the students of both MRGS and Whangaparaoa College felt they were able to connect and contact details were exchanged in various ways. When students were asked for their feedback on the exchange they replied that it was simply "*too epic to describe*" and "*an experience never to be forgotten*". Donna and the MRGS host students are now wishing Whangaparaoa College all the best with their journey to make their school safer through the Peer Mediation programme and hope to be able to visit Whangaparaoa College in the middle of term two to see their progress.

Audrey Tay

MT ROSKILL GRAMMAR'S TRIAL BY MEDIA

Trial By Media – Our Verdict

I am pleased to report that the feedback I have had on the 'investigation' into our school uniform by TV3's Target programme has been almost universally supportive.

We were always confident that the BoT's consultation with the school community over the uniform had been full and extensive, that our manufacturing and retailing procedures are fair and transparent, and the uniform is competitively priced.

However, it is always disconcerting when the media tells you it is 'investigating' you, and you are given only limited opportunity to respond to accusations being made against you. While the coverage was not as negative and one sided as it could have been, it was superficial, strong on innuendo and light on getting to the truth of the situation.

As I mentioned in my note prior to the programme going to air, this should be treated by our students as an opportunity to compare the situation as they know it with the coverage by Target. Then they can ask the question: how much reliability can I place in other programmes I see, hear or read in the media?

Based on Target's coverage of our school uniform, my view is that a fair measure of scepticism will serve them well.

Two points I think parents and caregivers should take from the coverage

- The garments Uniform Plus claims it will be selling will not be genuine Mt Roskill uniforms.
- The price of our current school uniform is similar to that when our uniforms were supplied by Uniform Plus two years ago.

Two questions the Target programme never sought answers to are, if Uniform Plus can now sell its garments for less than ours

- why was that not the case two years ago?
- what sacrifices in terms of quality have been made?

Those that missed the programme can view it on TV3's website www.tv3.co.nz (Click on shows and scroll down to Target). Alternatively, it will be replayed at 4.30pm on Saturday.

Attached is the only inquiry we received from Target, and the BoT's response.

G B Watson
Principal

[Letter from Target](#)

[Board Response to Target](#)

NEW STAFF 2010

We welcomed 9 new teachers for the start of 2010 year:

- David Hithersay (Science Department),
- Sarah Fels (Art Department),
- Martin Vlaskovsky (Maths Department),
- Ben Horne (PE Department),
- Connor Chellew (PE Department),
- Ciaran Overton (PE Department),
- Ashmita Gosai (Social Sciences Department),
- Thomaseena Paul (Maori Department)
- Carolyn Dower-Crudon (Performing Arts)

BUILDING PROJECTS

Your children may have mentioned that there is currently an open space where the old C block once stood.

Plans have been drawn for a new two storey block to house Social Sciences. This will be constructed throughout this year. Major noisy and disruptive activities will be scheduled for the holidays where it is practicable.

The new Deans' Centre has opened in the newly remodelled lower floor of E block and is already proving to be an asset to staff and students.



HEAD PREFECTS 2010

Congratulations to the following students who have been appointed as Head Prefects for 2010:

- **Jason Walls**
- **Helen Edmiston**
- **Zane van Lieshout**
- **Codesa Afele**

The school prefects are:

- **Reuel Baptista**
- **Sophie Askew**
- **Caleb Deverell**
- **Gloria Ching**
- **Gray Hunter**
- **Ashreya Duvuru**
- **Javed Khan**
- **Jennecca Evalu**
- **Elia Kim**
- **Tracey Ho**
- **Kaveendra Krishna**
- **Telisha Kumar**
- **Afa Laufoli**
- **Vivien Lee**
- **Jordon Milroy**
- **Jing Tong Liu**
- **Michael Murray**
- **Raina Naidu**
- **Jaiman Patel**
- **Emily Ng**
- **Robert Pome'e**
- **Nandita Rao**
- **Ajay Ravindran**
- **Gladys Rowntree**
- **Aditya Sheth**
- **Annaliesa Tran**
- **Timothy Sue**
- **Lita Vatuvei**
- **Tadele Tekle-Haimanot**
- **Katie Winny**
- **Aditya Verma**



INCREDIBLE TECHNOLOGY RESULTS

In summary:

- 80% of those Year 13 students entered for Scholarship gained a Scholarship
- Kevin Huang earned an "Outstanding" in Scholarship.
- 3 students nominated to "Realise the Dream" awards, one by two different groups (a first!)
- 2 students are given travel awards (a third was not eligible because he gained one last year, only 6 awarded in New Zealand).
- 1st place in international computer science competition.

KEVIN HUANG

Kevin Huang

Kevin designed and built a remote controlled lawnmower. This creation earned him a gold award at the Auckland Regional Science Fair and a nomination to the "Realise the Dream" awards (a New Zealand wide competition). There he won first place in the Senior Technology category. He was also awarded an Auckland University Scholarship worth \$2000.



He submitted an entry to the national "Bright Sparks" competition (entry is by internet submission) and gained second place in the senior category as well as another nomination the "Realise the Dream" awards. As a result he has been awarded a travel scholarship to Beijing in March where he will compete with students from 16 other countries. He has also been invited to attend the "Bright Sparks" awards ceremony in Wellington in March.

Kevin gained an "Outstanding" in his New Zealand Scholarship examination.

NIKHIL MAHASHABDE

Nikhil Mahashabde

Nikhil created "Spynik", an internet monitoring system for children, which he entered into the "Bright Sparks" competition. He was awarded 3rd place and a nomination to the "Realise the Dream" awards. In December he was given a travel award to Taiwan (one of only two in New Zealand) which he took in earlier this month. Taiwan hosts some 250 students from 13 countries around the world, giving them a chance to display their inventions in one of the 10 categories available.



Nikhil was awarded first place in the Computer Science category and has also been invited to attend the "Bright Sparks" awards ceremony in Wellington in March.

ABHILASH KAMINENI

Abhilash created a USB transfer system, allowing direct transfer of data from one USB to another, which he entered into the "Bright Sparks" competition. He was awarded 3rd place and a nomination to the "Realise the Dream" awards. In 2008 he was awarded a travel scholarship to Taiwan for his previous efforts. He was also awarded a scholarship in Technology in the New Zealand Scholarship Examinations.



He has also been invited to attend the "Bright Sparks" awards ceremony in Wellington in March.

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