



# MOUNT ROSKILL GRAMMAR SCHOOL

MARCH 2015

# NEWSLETTER

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

The start to our year has been enjoyable and purposeful. Students are setting goals for their learning and getting involved in school events such as the athletics carnival along with sports and cultural competitions.

Thank you to families who have come along to evenings for year 9 students, NCEA information and year 11 and 12 mentoring. Our focus together is a tremendous support for learning and achievement.

Examination results for 2014 were outstanding. The pass rates for NCEA level 1 and level 2 were the best ever, and a record 477 students gained merit or excellence endorsement in NCEA. Congratulations to Victor Xie who in gaining 5 scholarship passes including one outstanding is a New Zealand Outstanding Scholar. Diana Qui, Alice Ng, Jintao Shen and Mark Yep will also have their names inscribed on the school honours board to recognise their scholarship success. The percentage of students leaving school with NCEA level 2 and UE remains above national averages. Further information about student success is given later in the newsletter.

This year we welcome three new members of the Senior Leadership Team. Karen Collins, Toe Pune and Xanthe Sulzberger bring a wealth of experience and capability to the school and we look forward to seeing their leadership influence help lift our school to the next level.

Congratulations to Glenn Lewis and Pearl Lazaro who are our Head Prefects for 2015. They will be wonderfully supported by deputies Parneet Kohli and Mandie Galea.

We have set ambitious goals for the learning and achievement of our students in 2015. Their sense of pride, respect and purpose as the year begins makes reaching new heights very obtainable.

Sursum!

Greg Watson

### ERO Visit to the school 23 – 26 March

As part of the regular school cycle reviewers from the Education Review Office will be carrying out a review of the school next week — we are looking forward to sharing with them the practice and achievements of Mount Roskill Grammar.



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Mount Roskill  
Auckland 1041



## NEW SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM MEMBERS -

We are privileged to welcome three new Deputy Principals at the start of 2015—the skills, experience and commitment they bring further enhances our community's leadership.

### MRS KAREN COLLINS.

Karen has already been an acting Senior team member and with her permanent appointment brings her wealth of knowledge of Roskill learners and their community. She first began her teaching career here in the English Department and since then has taken up a range of leadership roles. She has been a management unit holder in the English department, a House Dean and for a number of years was senior Academic Dean for year 13 where she guided many of our students through the challenges of their final year at school. She has been influential in the student support area of the school, driving the development of the vision and values in our 'Roskill Way'. She also has experience in enrolment and the organization of learning pathway choices for the senior school. As Deputy Principal she will lead the portfolio of Progress with responsibility for such areas as Mentoring & Tracking, Reporting and the Deans Team.



### MR TOE PUNE



Toe's previous school role was as Deputy Principal at Otahuhu College and since that senior role he has worked with the Education Review Office. At Otahuhu he received an AIMHI award for teaching excellence and he also holds a Masters qualification in Professional Language Studies. Earlier in his career he was HOD of Physical Education. He brings a range of experience and as a senior leader has held portfolios in assessment, student engagement/leadership, literacy programmes, sports academies in addition to intermediate school leadership. Together with his curricular expertise he has a particular interest and strength in rugby coaching and promotion—having developed successful programmes and teams at his previous schools. At Roskill he will lead the portfolio of Pathways with responsibility for Sport Academies, Pathways, Maori and Pasifika Achievement.

### MRS XANTHE SULZBERGER

Xanthe joins us from Botany Downs Secondary College where she was Head of the Learning area of Health and Physical Education. Prior to that she had a number of roles at Aquinas College where she was a Dean and interim Assistant Principal. In her career she has also been a HOD sport. She holds a Masters degree in Educational Leadership. She brings particular expertise in E-Learning and in recent years she has worked alongside the Ministry of Education initiative Best Evidence Synthesis on Electronic Learning Logs. She is acknowledged as a national innovator in 21st century teaching and learning - publishing articles and presenting professional development courses for fellow teachers. At Roskill she takes charge of the Pedagogy portfolio with responsibility for areas such as E learning, Junior Assessment and Junior Curriculum.





## New Staff Members At Roskill

At the start of this year we greeted a number of new staff at the Powhiri—we welcome them to our community of learners and look forward to the contributions they will make as they settle into their Roskill classrooms!

Mr Toe Pune	Senior Leadership Team	Ms Amy Benton	Technology
Mrs Xanthe Sulzberger	Senior Leadership Team	Ms Joanna Cakebread	Music
Mr Rowan Johanson	Mathematics	Mr Tom Inger	Physical Education
Mr Zak Musa	Mathematics	Ms Taylor MacKinlay	Physical Education
Ms Gillian Holliday	English	Mrs Catherine Hawke	Guidance
Mrs Whitney Johanson	English	Ms Rose Jenkin	Guidance
Ms Grace Risetto	Languages	Ms Naressa Gamble	Performing Arts
Mr Tony Kwok	Science	Ms Kerrily Aitchison	Performing Arts

## UN YOUTH

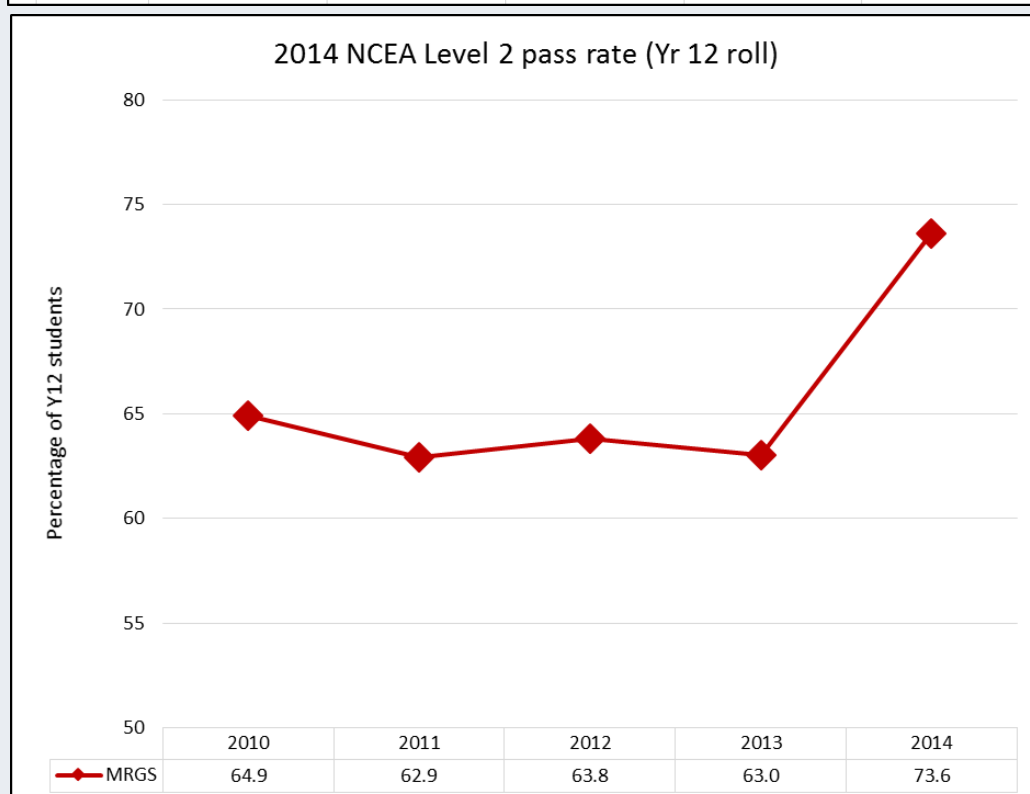
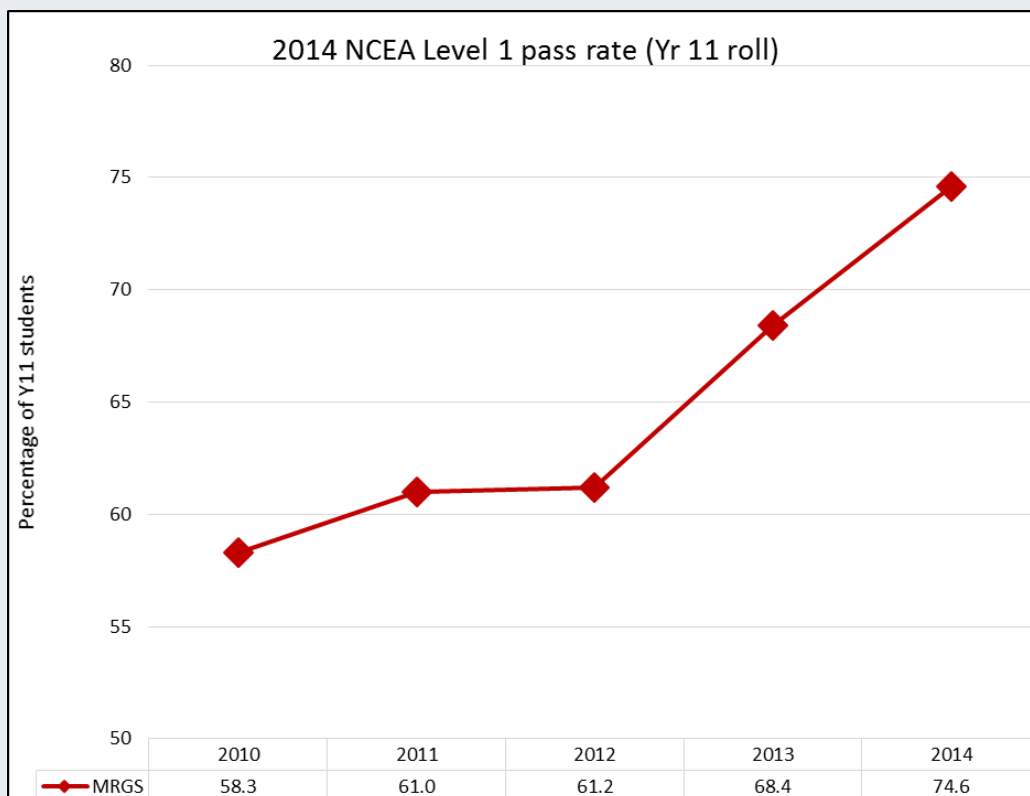
UN Youth is an organization that provides civics education outside the traditional classroom context through fun workshops, Model UN events (which are basically a simulation of the United Nations) and various discussion groups actively engaging the youth of our country in the most pressing affairs of New Zealand and the global community. If that wasn't exciting enough already by attending these events you will also gain valuable skills such as public speaking, critical thinking, problem solving, negotiating and many more all while interacting with amazing like-minded individuals from all over NZ. UN Youth offers many opportunities throughout the year for students to get involved in such as the Auckland Model United Nations, Aotearoa Youth Declaration, NZ Model UN, and several others. So if any of this sounds exciting to you look out for more information in the notices about upcoming events and how to get involved with UN Youth or see Ms Boudreau in E3. ( Shaizan Virani )





## MRGS NCEA RESULTS CONTINUE TO IMPROVE

Once again Mount Roskill students demonstrated their powerful learning in the NCEA examinations. Pass rates increased and there was particularly raised achievement at Level 1, level 2 and year 13 leaving school with NCEA level 2 qualification. The results for our Maori and Pasifika students were also pleasing. Maori students gained across all measures and Pasifika student NCEA achievement has increased overall.







## MRGS EXCELLENCE ENDORSEMENTS FOR 2014 EXAMINATIONS

Once again the school achieved high numbers of Excellence endorsements. At level 2 we surpassed our results in 2013 and continued the outstanding achievement across a range of subjects that the endorsements represent. A students NCEA will be endorsed with Excellence if they gain 50 credits at Excellence. This year a total of 157 MRGS students achieved at this highest level across NCEA 1, 2 and 3. In addition another 278 students had their NCEA endorsed with Merit after achieving at least 50 credits at this level. These results once again attest to the committed, resilient and engaged learning within our student community. These young men and women will be celebrated at our forthcoming Excellence Awards Evening in the school hall.

### STUDENTS WITH EXCELLENCE ENDORSEMENT AT LEVEL 1

Mannat	Ahuja	Nicholas	Jose	Sai Krupa	Narayana	Tanaya	Sonar
Aishwarya	Balasubramanian	Anshita	Kapoor	Albert	Ou	Emma	Stitt
Anirudh	Bhatnagar	Jasleen	Kaur	Dhruvil	Oza	Raphael	Tang
Larissa	Bird	Jonathan	Khoo	Hetkumar	Patel	Christina	Tran
Oyishik	Chakraborty	Aishwarya	Kochhar	Moksha	Patel	Jenny	Ung
Celine	Chan	Aditya	Krishnan	Jayna	Patel	Lesley	Ung
Nikhil	Chand	Amie	Lee	Holly	Porter	Deeksha	Vijayakumar
Phoebe	Chau	Qingqing	Lei	Chernade	Prasad	Jessica	Walsh
Victor	Chitando	Allanah	Leerdam	Aditi	Ramalingam	Shirley	Wang
Nathan	Davidson	Yitong	Li	Athulya	Rathnayake	Helin	Wang
Sanaj	Deshpande	Dan	Li	Shriram	Raveendran	Emily	White
Kavish	Dharan	Xiao	Liang	Sudarjini	Satkunarajah	Miriama	Wilson
Kaitong	Feng	Yuanzhou	Liang	Rosmi	Shaju	Kungeng	Wu
Disha	Gomathinayagam	Zhihong	Lin	Ghufran	Shami	Elisa	Yansun
Hayley	Gosling	Brian	Liu	Osman	Siddiqui	Sesha	Yellapantula
Naman	Gupta	Gabriel	Lobo	Joshua	Simmons	Kexin	Yuan
Jordan	Holmes	Yathursan	Mohanathas	Apoorva	Singh	Qi	Zhu
Alan	Jiang	Rithvick	Murali	McGregor	Small		





## MRGS EXCELLENCE ENDORSEMENTS FOR 2014 EXAMINATIONS ( CONTINUED )

### STUDENTS WITH EXCELLENCE ENDORSEMENT AT LEVEL 2

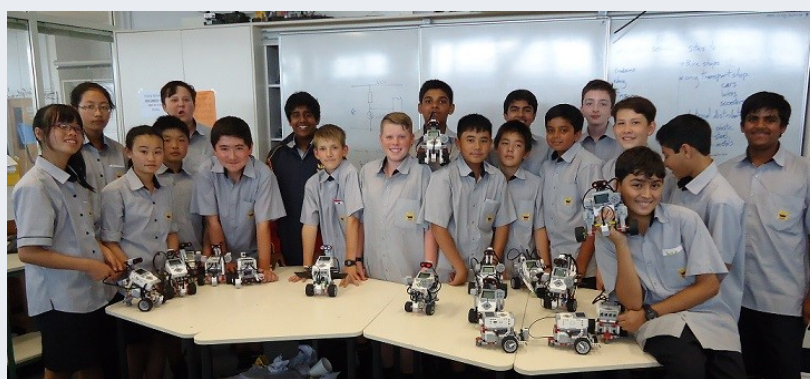
Reuben	Alfred	Srishaa	Iyer	Ishani	Oza	Timothy	Van der Leoff
Ethan	Bell	Heidi	Judd	Pooja	Patel	Pebble	Varela
Bryan	Busby	Dweep	Kapadia	Pia	Puertollano	Deeksha	Vijayakumar
Alex	Cao	Iqra	Khan	Mike	Qiu	Huan Zhou	Wang
Hasnain	Cheena	Ka Wing	Law	Joel	Raichur	Raymond	Wang
Archit	Chopra	Jenny	Lee	Aditi	Ramalingam	Franklin	Wang
Kashyap	Choudhary	Allanah	Leerdam	Akshata	Rao	Joyce	Wong
Benny	Chun	Uwin	Lewke Bandara	Arun	Ravindran	Minrui	Yang
Salina	Dhungel	Yitong	Li	Rayner	Rebello	Lusi	Yu
Aman	Dwivedi	Vilia	Li	Korine	Rosario	Tamana	Zamani
Shreshta	Dyavadi	Shurui	Li	Gowthami	Sreedharanath	Xiao Cheng	Zhang
Disha	Gomathinayagam	Venkata	Mallela	Zi Yuan	Tee	Wencong	Zhou
Taruki	Gunawardana	Nathan	McDougall	Abin	Thomas	Ziwei	Zhuang
Karen	Ho	Jairaj	Modak	Yug	Trivedi		
Hugh	Huang	Sai Krupa	Narayana	Dhairya	Trivedi		
Zi Xuan	Huang	Stephen	Njoto	Tiana	Tuialii		

### STUDENTS WITH EXCELLENCE ENDORSEMENT AT LEVEL 3

Adil	Bhayani	Jamish	Kant	Venkat	Prakash	Benjamin	Varkey
Prayas	Bhutani	Neha	Kolhe	Kushal	Prakash	Mildred	Wong
Bryan	Busby	Praveen	Krishna	Rayner	Rebello	Victor	Xie
Matthew	Deverell	Shengzhi	Luo	Diana	Qiu	Lucy	Yan
Peiwen	Du	Sandra	Mathew	Romina	Seylani	Jonathan	Yeoh
Arnold	Fernandes	Savidurru	Mohan	Puja	Sharma	Mark	Yep
Celine	Fung	Elanor	Mulrennan	Kavita	Sharma	Zelin	Zhou
Lizanne	Gomes	Alice	Ng	Jiantao	Shen		
Chakradhar	Kadali	Sidharth	Parthasarathy	Katherine	Sung		

### ROBOTICS ACADEMY NEWS

This is the first set of robots created by the new Robotics Academy at year 9. The initial brief was to create a robot which had wheels to enable it to move forwards, backward and rotate. A radar sensor so that it won't run into objects and a reversing sensor so it wouldn't reverse into things. A directional sensor to enable directional movement and colour sensor so it can follow a colour. There was a big learning curve in creating, but by working together and solving construction problems the class has produces 20 working robots. The programming has just begun using the on-board micro controller, and this will progress into using the LEGO software on the computer and eventually writing programs in LEGO BASIC. For their extra curricula activity the students will be entering the Robocup nationals during the term 2 holidays with teams designing, building and programming robots for the Soccer, Dance/Drama and the search and rescue competition.





## NEW ZEALAND SCHOLARSHIP EXAMINATION SUCCESSES

The school's record of achievement in the premier national examination continued with 47 individual scholarships across 13 subject areas with 5 of the scholarships being at Outstanding level.

Victor Xie gained a total of 5 Scholarships and is therefore named as a New Zealand Outstanding Scholar. Diana Qui was awarded 4 and Alice Ng, Jiantao Shen and Mark Yep all achieved scholarships in 3 subjects. The Commerce department was once again a high achiever with 10 scholarships in Accounting and Science amassed a total of 16 with the combination of achievement in Physics, Biology and Chemistry.



## Scholarship 2014

SCHOLARSHIP RESULTS ( O-SCHOL = OUTSTANDING SCHOLARSHIP)					
Victor	Xie	SCHL - Biology	Eleanor	Mulrennan	SCHL - Technology
Victor	Xie	O-SCHL - Chemistry	Eleanor	Mulrennan	SCHL - Drama
Victor	Xie	SCHL - Physics	Arun	Ravindran	SCHL - Physics
Victor	Xie	SCHL - Calculus	Arun	Ravindran	SCHL - Calculus
Victor	Xie	SCHL - Accounting	Rayner	Rebello	SCHL - Chemistry
Diana	Qui	O-SCHL - English	Rayner	Rebello	SCHL - Physics
Diana	Qui	SCHL - Statistics	Jamish	Kant	O-SCHL - Accounting
Diana	Qui	SCHL - Accounting	James	Ashworth	SCHL - Technology
Diana	Qui	SCHL - History	Prayas	Bhutani	SCHL - Accounting
Alice	Ng	O-SCHL - Chemistry	Jack	Dai	SCHL - Technology
Alice	Ng	SCHL - Physics	Chakradhar	Kadali	SCHL - Accounting
Alice	Ng	SCHL - Statistics	Neha	Kolhe	SCHL - English
Jiantao	Shen	SCHL - Biology	Praveen	Krishna	SCHL - Accounting
Jiantao	Shen	SCHL - Physics	Jia	Li	SCHL - Technology
Jiantao	Shen	SCHL - Statistics	Theodore	Loretz	SCHL - Biology
Mark	Yep	SCHL - Chemistry	Sandra	Mathew	SCHL - Accounting
Mark	Yep	SCHL - Physics	Savidurru	Mohan	SCHL - Technology
Mark	Yep	SCHL - Statistics	Victoria	Mulrennan	SCHL - Physical Education
Kavita	Sharma	O-SCHL - English	Shaam	Prakash	SCHL - Accounting
Kavita	Sharma	SCHL - Design and Visual Communication	Puja	Sharma	SCHL - English
Adil	Bhayani	SCHL - Accounting	Katherine	Sung	SCHL - Biology
Adil	Bhayani	SCHL - Technology	Dylan	Thompson	SCHL - Accounting
Nathan	McDougall	SCHL - Chemistry	Mildred	Wong	SCHL - Biology
Nathan	McDougall	SCHL - Calculus			





## PREFECT TEAM AND HEAD PREFECTS FOR 2015

### Prefects 2015

Perpetua	'Akau'ola	Glen	Lewis
Grace	Allan	Scott	Lewis
Jonathan	Alphonso	Vilia	Li
Cameron	Bell	Usha	MacDonald
Ethan	Bell	Balu	Mallela
Mark	Bingham	Juhaina	Mascarenhas
Zoe	Brown	Nathan	McDougall
Bryan	Busby	Kaaj	Pala
Alex	Cao	Aryaman	Parulkar
Ankur	Dakwale	Ayushi	Pillai
Ben	Deverell	Josef	Power
Salina	Dhungel	Pia	Puertollano
Luke	Edmonds	Yvette	Raju
Conor	Ferencz	Korine	Rosario
Ritika	Fernandes	Nightingale	Sapoi
Mandie	Galea	Keren	Smith
Chloe	Haigh	Shaden	Smith
Eddie	Haunga	Pebble	Varela
'Aisake	Havea	Raymond	Wang
Heidi	Judd	Joyce	Wong
Parneet	Kohli	Tamana	Zamani
Pearl	Lazaro		

In two early assemblies of the term the 2015 School Prefects were formally introduced to the school and presented with their badges and ties. These 43 young men and women strengthen the student leaders of the school bringing their particular service, commitment and energy to their new roles. We look forward to their ongoing demonstration of excellence, respect and responsibility.



Mr Watson also announced the Head Prefects for this year: **Pearl Lazaro and Glen Lewis** are Head Girl and Head Boy respectively; they are ably supported by **Parneet Kohli and Mandie Galea** who will be their deputies.



Principal—Mr Watson with Head Prefects

Parneet Kohli, Pearl Lazaro, Glen Lewis and Mandie Galea



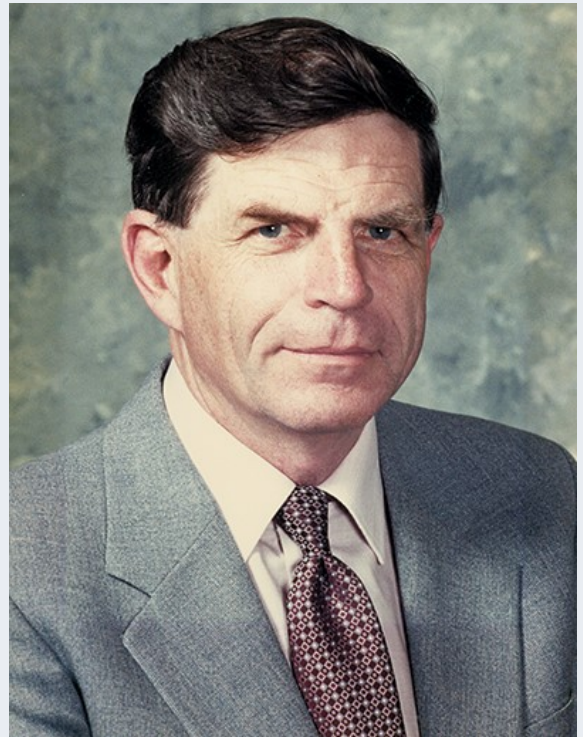
### PASSING OF EX - PRINCIPAL CHARLES DOWDLE

It was with sadness that the MRGS community learned recently of the death of past Principal Mr Charles Dowdle. He passed away on 21st February after long illness and his funeral was held on Wednesday February 25th.

Charlie Dowdle began his career at Mount Roskill Grammar school in 1968, taking up the head of Social Studies role when Jack Kelly became Deputy Principal.

Mr. Dowdle excelled as a teacher of history and geography becoming renowned for his story telling and his interest in the well-being of his students. The Dowdle library, a hub of learning in the school recognizes his mastery of teaching.

Mr. Dowdle's passion for learning across the curriculum found him coaching cricket, rugby and archery, producing several school plays and running inter-form lunchtime sports competitions.



He became Deputy Principal in 1977 and in 1981 was appointed Principal. In all his roles, his will to succeed and commitment were inspirational. Charlie's wife Verna also taught at MRGS and later became Headmistress at Epsom Girls Grammar School. At one stage both Charlie, Verna and their four children Bruce, Bryan, Keith and Rebecca were all teachers.

Mr Dowdle is fondly remembered and respected by our whole school community. We continue to enjoy the support of the Dowdle family through the Sursum Trust.

We offer both our condolences to the family for their loss and our thanks for the legacy of service and achievement that Charlie gave us in his years at Roskill.

### MOUNT ROSKILL GRAMMAR FOUNDATION YEAR'S REUNION

We recently received news of a reunion lunch organised on Waiheke in November last year for 60 MRGS past pupils from the 1950's.

Many of these people were foundation pupils in 1953, and as the organizer said "As we are all pensioners we were able to use our Gold Cards to get to Waiheke." This is the second lunch organised since the 60<sup>th</sup> Reunion at the school in 2013.

The interest in these reunion lunches is fantastic and organisers anticipate even greater numbers for their next get together. We have included the a photo of the November Lunch and organisers have other photos if there is any interest. ( Contact the school for details)







### SCHOOL POWHIRI FOR 2015 NEW STUDENTS AND STAFF

For the first time both new students and staff were welcomed in a combined powhiri at the start of this term. After gathering on the field in their house groups, the new students were led into the hall in the company of the new teaching staff. They were given a haka by the present staff and year 13 students before taking their places in the gathering. After a hymn and karakia, Mr Watson spoke in his welcome of the proud tradition they were joining at Roskill. His words were followed by a waiata and then Y13 student Luke Edmonds spoke.



Responding whaikorero and waiata were next delivered by representatives of the newcomers. After the ceremony new students made their way to house meetings and their day of orientation at the school.



### JUNIOR SWIMMING CARNIVAL

Amid the classroom work of the first full week of this term our Junior students were involved on a Thursday in their swimming carnival. Led by the vocal and visual encouragement of senior students, juniors from all five houses competed in the school pool to gain competition points. On a fine weather day everyone got involved with energy and commitment—swimming, paddling and even walking their legs of each race.







## ATHLETICS CARNIVAL

The weather gave us a wonderful day for the annual carnival of athletics and students were actively involved in the range of sports —gaining points for their house in addition to challenging their own skills.



## INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT ORIENTATION DAY



On the 18<sup>th</sup> of February we took our new International Students on an Orientation trip to explore some top attractions of Auckland city. New students have come to our school from China, Brazil, Germany, Japan, Korea and Singapore. We started by walking to the top of Auckland's highest volcanic cone, Mt Eden to view the city. The students could also see

our school from a different perspective.



The next stop was at Mission Bay for lunch. The weather was excellent, and the Brazilian students even took a swim! The last visit was One Tree Hill. Some of the students walked to the top, while others had fun at the playground. We even got a dance lesson from our Brazilian Student leader. All in all we had a great day, and students were able to make new friends while enjoying our beautiful parks and beaches.

## INTERNATIONAL STUDENT LEADERS FOR 2015

Each year we select a student leader to help new International students by introducing them to friends, showing them to class and interpreting as necessary. Our leaders this year are: Ray Shen, Zara Tang, Sara Lu (China) and Joao Victor de Rego Barros Borba (Brazil).



## STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

One of our annual school goals this year is:

**To improve student engagement through a focus on attendance and teaching and learning.**

At Roskill, students engaged in their learning will : be confident, connected learners and  
: achieve “to the heights”

One aspect of being engaged is how students learn in class.

Students engaged in their learning will:

- ***talk about their learning in small groups and in their wider class***
- ***share new ideas***
- ***plan together***
- ***listen and be able to explain their learning to others***
- ***debate***
- ***ask questions***
- ***show curiosity***

By talking with your son or daughter about their learning and by asking questions about what they are learning you will be able to support them to achieve “to the heights”.

A second aspect of being engaged in learning is to attend every class on time.

Our school target for attendance is 90% for 2015. Do you know what your son/daughter’s attendance rate is at the moment? Students can ask their Form Teachers/House Deans for this information.

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR FAMILIES ABOUT ATTENDANCE

In order for students to be successful, powerful learners they need to be in class on time in every lesson.

If a student misses two periods (this can include roll check and LCT) they are recorded as having missed half a day of lessons and this is reported to the Ministry of Education.

Teachers mark their roll on the computer every period. This allows us to monitor attendance statistics for both individual and groups of student more frequently and closely. If you have any concerns about attendance or want to report an absence, please phone Mrs Hyland, Attendance Officer, on 621 0069 or email [attendance@mrgs.school.nz](mailto:attendance@mrgs.school.nz) Please phone on the morning of your child’s first day of absence. When we do not receive a call from the family a text message is sent out. Students are expected to be in every class on time in order to be successful powerful learners. Parents/caregivers have been sent their password to access the **parent portal** in order to view attendance.

*The Ministry of Education now has a NEW code for the way the school is required to record absence. Families who take holidays during the school term will have their son/daughter’s absence recorded as an unjustified absence.*

We look forward to working with you to support your son/daughter in being engaged in their learning.

Ms J Small, Associate Principal Learning





### MENTORING FOR ALL YEAR 11 AND 12 STUDENTS

A goal of the school this year is **-To enrich mentoring relationships with students and their families to improve student progress and achievement .**

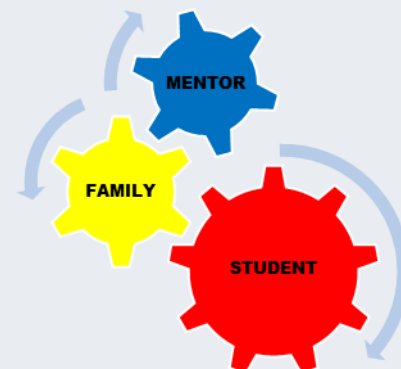
The process for this will be

- ◆ Form teacher and associate staff member allocated to form classes
- ◆ These staff will mentor their learners years 11 and 12 during LCT 2x per term
- ◆ There will be Parent/caregiver conferences with the mentor and student -

17th February ( 4-7.00pm )

19th May ( all day )

20th August ( all day )



[ February approx. 20 minute appointments— May and August 30 minute appointments ]

### NZQA FEES COLLECTION 2015

All senior students must pay their NZQA Fees (compulsory) to the accounts office between Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May – Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May . These fees must be paid so that any credits a student achieves through either Unit or Achievement Standard assessments will be recorded on a student's record of learning. If not paid, the credits will not be released to the student.

The Fee for the majority of students will be \$76.70. However financial assistance is available to students whose parents/guardians receive a Work and Income Benefit or have a Community Services Card. Financial assistance forms can be collected from the front office, accounts office or from Mr Parratt in the Commerce Department next to H6

#### From Days Gone By:

##### 1956:

Initially MRGS was administered by the Auckland Grammar Schools' Board. By 1956 it had its own Board of Governors and to prevent confusion with the other Grammar Schools it replaced the Lion emblem with that of the Phoenix, under which is the motto "Sursum" meaning "to the heights". It also replaced the light blue in the school colours, so that the colours became squadron blue, red and gold.

##### 1985:

"Workday: Students at MRGS laid aside their books, rolled up their sleeves and joined the ranks of the workers on April 30<sup>th</sup> to raise more than \$13,000 for special projects in the school... Each student's target was \$15... Students exercised imagination and initiative and the range of jobs undertaken was astonishing".

From: MRGS Celebrating 50 years 1953-2003



## COUNSELLING SERVICES AT MT ROSKILL GRAMMAR SCHOOL

This year we welcome two new, but experienced counsellors to join Donna Hourigan-Johnston and Margaret Hoogendoorn in the Student Services counselling team: Rose Jenkin and Catherine Hawke.

Our four Counsellors are members of the New Zealand Association of Counsellors, and abide by their Code of Ethics. All counselling is confidential, unless there is an imminent risk to safety.

Common issues we deal with include family stresses, traumatic experiences, loss and grief, depression, anxiety and harassment. If your child may benefit from ongoing psychological support, with your consent we can refer them to a psychologist at no cost to you.

If you are concerned about your child's wellbeing, please feel free to make contact. We are here to help!

You can find us on the school website: [www.mrgs.school.nz](http://www.mrgs.school.nz)> Student Services> Counselling

We also have three counsellors from Auckland Sexual Abuse Help working on our premises part-time. Again, help is confidential and discrete. Teachers in our school will not find out what counselling is about.

### YEAR 9

This term all Year 9 students will meet with two members of the counselling team. We will run two Anti-Harassment workshops with all year 9 core classes to explain how we effectively stop harassment in our school. Students will be told that if they tell on harassment, their identity can be kept confidential. We know harassment causes long-term psychological harm, and we will always treat it as unacceptable, even when students say it's just "friendly mocking".

Also, all Year 9 students will be asked to fill out a confidential, internet-based "Travellers" questionnaire in class. This helps us identify students who may benefit from extra support. The results are confidential to the counsellors only, and will not be shared with the school.

From Term two onwards, we will run the exciting Year 9 small-group TRAVELLERS programme to help students build resilience and enhance connectedness. From term 3 onwards, we will offer DRUMBEAT, a percussion-based group therapeutic programme. Please see the school website for details.

### PEER SEXUALITY SUPPORT PROGRAMME

Five of our students were trained by the Auckland District Health Board as P.S.S.P. leaders in week 3: Jonjon Cowley Lup, Mary Kate Fonua, Sanaj Deshpande, Josette Xu and Erin Newton. They spent four days at Kiwani's camp in Huia to learn about a wide range of topics in the area of relationships, wellbeing and sexuality.

They've joined returning PSSP-ers Kavish Dharan, Hasiba Zareh and Conor Frensz to make up a new, enthusiastic PSSP team.

These highly trained students give confidential support to their peers, and help with the teaching in sexuality in the Year 10 Health programme. They also will offer optional workshops for Year 13 students.







## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical Education is a compulsory subject at Mt Roskill Grammar from year 9 – 12 where all students have two periods per week. All students are expected to wear correct PE uniform for all lessons. Please ensure your son/daughter has their uniform clearly named in full. No school sports uniforms are to be worn for PE. We all know the benefits of exercise and eating properly, we have read it, most of us have acted on it, yet we still get many parents signing letters to get their child excused from PE. Please think about what you are doing before signing – there are many things in life we do not feel like doing but most often, once we have done them we are glad we did.



If your child is well enough to be at school then they can still take part in some of the PE lesson. The Physical Education curriculum area is often referred to as having the most valuable skills you can learn for life – by learning; teamwork, sportsmanship, peer friendships, cooperation, leadership, self esteem, self confidence, personal identity and self worth and even though students maybe fully involved in sport outside of school they can still benefit in these areas during PE.

Interpersonal skills: Respect for diversity and cultures, care and concern for others, social justice, communication skills, tolerance. These are some of qualities we want to install in our students as well as being physically active.

Most of these benefits are not measurable but clearly lead to a more production and healthy life style. As parents we hope you can help us to help you install these skills in your child while they attend Mt Roskill Grammar so please next time your son/daughter asks for a note to be excused from Physical Education you may think twice Physical Education is no different to any other subject – you wouldn't think of asking your child to be excused from Maths or English, why PE?

Are you child's medical records with the school up to date, has their PE teacher been informed of any medical issues that might need to be recognised in a PE class?

After trialing a new initiative last year we are asking all students in Health and Physical Education to enrol on our class learning sites on Edmodo. Students have been given all the information needed to enrol in this, and we look forward to sharing parental access in the future.

Please contact **Mrs Bennett HOD Physical Education ext 824** if you have any areas in the Physical Education curriculum you would like to discuss.





## ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENTS AND NEWS

### PROFESSOR MURRAY BRENNAN AWARDED NZ'S SECOND HIGHEST HONOUR

Past Roskill student, now Sir Murray Brennan, was named earlier this year as a Knight Grand Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit—an honour shared amongst only 40 living New Zealanders. Sir Murray, a world-leading cancer surgeon, now living in America, went from Roskill to Otago University and then on to further Medicine studies at Harvard University. This NZ honour is the latest of many accolades which acknowledge his long career in medical research.



### STUDENT SIGNS NRL FIRST GRADE CONTRACT

Deloise HOETER, a student at MRGS from 2007—2011, has recently signed a first grade contract for Wests Tigers in the NRL. He played three years of junior rugby for us before switching to League. Last year he played for the Junior Kiwis and was a member of the Tigers squad for this year's Auckland NRL 9's tournament. He has also represented Manu Samoa in League.

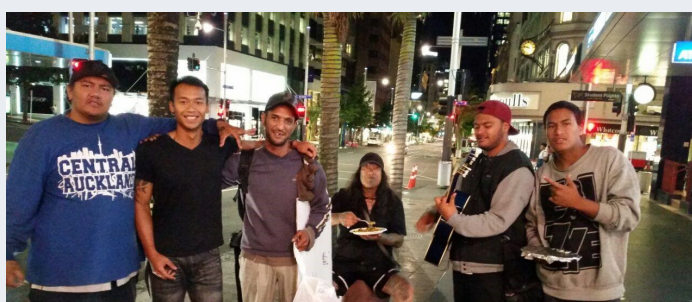
### MRGS STUDENT IN NZ LACROSSE TEAM

Venkat Prakash ex-Prefect and award winner in a number of co-curricular endeavours has been picked for the New Zealand U18 Lacrosse team. This is a reward for his many years of involvement in the sport while at Roskill. He is an accomplished player and together with a number of students in his year established a strong base for the sport in the school. We wish him all the best for his forthcoming games.

### ANTONO RISWANTONO—RESTAURANT CHEF

Ex Roskill student and now restaurant chef Antono Riswanto was recently featured on Seven Sharp - TV One. In addition to cooking at his city restaurant he is involved in the distribution of food to Auckland's street people. One night a week he and his staff create over 50 meals from food donated and distribute them around the city. They are assisted in this by members of the MRGS 1st XI soccer squad who become couriers for the night. Antono has set up a Facebook page 'Cooks for the people' through which he co-ordinates donations and makes further contacts to assist in his benevolent service. The story feature from Seven Sharp can be accessed following the link below.

<http://tvnz.co.nz/seven-sharp/auckland-chef-s-heartwarming-effort-help-homeless-video-6237750>



Anto (2nd from left) pictured with some of the people he has helped in Auckland.



## MRGS FAMILY AND FRIENDS GROUP



The MRGS Family and Friends are working together to help the school in whatever way we can. The on-going input that we provide is for the benefit of the students and to provide the best learning environment possible. We organise fundraising events and are available to assist the school in any way that they may require.

Take a look at the Fundraising page on the school website to see the fundraising events and opportunities currently underway <http://www.mrgs.school.nz/ourschool/fundraising.aspx>

If you are willing to assist us please return the completed form to the School Office or e-mail a copy to Judith Bingham: [jcl.air@xtra.co.nz](mailto:jcl.air@xtra.co.nz).

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number day \_\_\_\_\_ evening \_\_\_\_\_

If you have a child/children at the School

Students Name \_\_\_\_\_ Year: \_\_\_\_ Form Class: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Year: \_\_\_\_ Form Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have another connection to the School eg Past pupil: \_

\_\_\_\_\_

I would like to help as a volunteer (tick those that interest you):

.....Run a Fundraising Event eg \_\_\_\_\_

.....Help at a Fundraising Event

.....Provide Baking/Food for an Event, or for Fundraising

.....Assist a student as a reader/writer in an exam

.....Join the Family & Friends Group

.....Utilise your fundraising experience eg \_\_\_\_\_

.....In Other Ways \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to help financially (tick those that interest you):

.....Donate a book needed by the Library

.....My business may be able to provide goods or services to assist with fundraising eg

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



## MRGS FUNDRAISING

( for full details of fundraising <http://www.mrgs.school.nz/ourschool/fundraising.aspx> )

### STUDENT WORKATHON 2-10 MAY

In a return to MRGS tradition, students will be asked to raise funds for the school between 2-10 May by doing workathon jobs, outside school time, that involve community service or helping others. This year the money raised will go towards the upgrade of the hockey turf. Students are encouraged to:

Either get sponsorship from friends and family for doing a job in the community e.g. through their church, mosque or temple, a rest home where a family member lives, or helping out an elderly relative or friend of the family. More than one person could sponsor the student to do the same job.

Or their friends and relatives may have jobs they will pay them to do e.g. cleaning windows, mowing lawns or gardening.

There will be prizes for the top fundraisers, and spot prizes. **The Coffee Club** has already donated several gift vouchers for use as Prizes.

### Buzzthepeople School Fundraiser

If you are happy to complete the occasional on-line survey this would be a great way to help the school fundraise. Founded in 2004, Buzzthepeople is an Auckland based Research Company. To date over \$437,000 has been raised for charities, schools and other groups registered with them.

Parents, students and friends of the School are able to register. You would receive on average one or two roughly 5 minute surveys per month to fill in on-line, and the school gets \$1 or \$2 for each completed survey. Essentially you are giving a gold coin donation every time you do a survey. There is no compulsion to fill in all the surveys you receive, and you can withdraw from the programme at any time.

*If you can help us with this fundraiser just click on the link below to register*

<http://www.buzzthepeople.co.nz/helpfundraise.aspx?s=0609B55C>

### The Athlete's Foot St Lukes School Rewards Programme.

Each pair of School or Sport shoes bought at The Athletes Foot St Lukes, for a student of Mt Roskill Grammar, will earn a \$10 donation to the School's Fundraising Programme.

Simply notify the Sales Assistant at the time of purchase that the shoes are for a Mt Roskill Grammar student.





## KEEPING IN TOUCH—IMPORTANT CONTACTS AT SCHOOL

Talking with Parents/Caregivers about their child's learning and wellbeing is important to us—we have listed below some of the contacts /names to help you in the event of any concerns or enquiries: All staff can be reached by phoning the school main number 09-621-0050 to request a contact or by e-mailing to [admin@mrgs.school.nz](mailto:admin@mrgs.school.nz) detailing the person you wish to contact in your subject line.

Your child's <b>Academic Programme</b>			
<b>Academic Deans</b>			
Year 9	Mrs F. Burns	Year 13	Mr A. Gipps
Year 10	Mr K Hays		Mr R Cornes
Years 11 and 12	Mrs S Singh Mrs A Gosai		
Your child's relationships with students and staff— <b>Pastoral welfare</b>			
<b>House Deans— (Head of Deans = Mr D. Williams)</b>			
<b>Cooper House</b> ( Blue )	Mr G Taunga Ms L Leman	<b>Ngata House</b> ( Orange )	Ms F Leigh Mr A Ferguson
<b>Rutherford House</b> ( Red )	Ms M Cranch Mr C McGibbon	<b>Sheppard House</b> ( Yellow )	Mr R Subramaniam Mr C Chellew
<b>Hillary House</b> ( Green )	Mr D Williams Mrs N Fell		Ms N Dekker ( Term 1 )
Your child's <b>attendance</b>			
Attendance Officer	Mrs E. Hyland		
Your child's <b>emotional welfare</b>	<b>Guidance Team</b>	Head of Guidance	Mrs M Hoogendoorn
Your child's <b>health</b>	<b>Nursing Team</b>	Receptionist Student Services	Ms J Pace
<b>Wider Issues of Concern</b>	<b>Deputy Principals</b>		
Cooper House	Mr K Hall		
Rutherford House	Ms J Small		
Hillary House	Ms K Collins		
Ngata House	Mr T Pune		
Sheppard House	Mrs X Sulzberger		

## CONTACT DETAILS

If you have a new address, phone number, cellphone number or email address please pass this information through to the school: [admin@mrgs.school.nz](mailto:admin@mrgs.school.nz)

Emergency contact details should also be kept current so please update the school when either the person or their contact details change.

**Please ensure that you have given the school a current email address which enables us to keep you up to date with information and newsletters.**





## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### Term Dates 2015

Term	First Day of term	Last Day of term
Term 1		Thursday 2nd April
Term 2	Monday 20th April	Friday 3rd July
Term 3	Monday 20th July	Friday 25th September
Term 4	Monday 12th October	Tuesday 8th December

### TERM ONE EVENTS

<b>March 18—21</b>	<b>ASB Polyfest Competition</b>	<b>March 31</b>	<b>Junior Subject Report evening</b>
<b>March 30</b>	<b>Blood Donor Day</b>	<b>April 2</b>	<b>End Of Term One</b>

## PARENTAL VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION

School donations are voluntary and may be tax exempt. The funding provided by the government meets basic education costs. However this funding alone is inadequate to provide the high quality of education expected by our community. Parent contributions greatly increase our ability to provide this.

We are extremely grateful for your on-going support. Last year parental donations assisted the school in providing class sets of tablets and laptops to enable a wider range of students to use these devices as part of their learning. The network filtering and electronic device management system was also upgraded to support on-going access for all students. We are developing the football field to premier level to support our academy and premier football teams. Donations also helped with the running of our after-school homework centres.

This year we would like to continue the installation of interactive data projectors in classrooms and complete the resourcing of the academy programmes in robotics, Maori and sports. Working with the campus schools we have gained consent to install an electronic message board at the front gate to keep you informed of events and students' achievements. Your donations will support installation. Finally we deferred phase 2 of the development hall projector system last year and would like to improve the sound system to enhance student performances.

Your help in enabling these improvements will lift the learning experience for all students.

The Accounts Office is open from 8.00am to 4.00pm each day. Alternatively you can pay in one of the following ways.

**\*\*Via the parent portal link <http://kamarportal.mrgs.school.nz/student/index.php>**

By cheque together with the payment advice to Mount Roskill Grammar School, Frost Road, M. Roskill-  
Payment via EFTPOS, VISA or MASTERCARD at the School Office by phone or in person between the hours of 8 am to 4 pm

Direct Credit or Internet Banking payment can be made to Account No: 12-3033-0358045-02. Please include your child's Student ID number in the reference column of the bank statement.

**\*\*This method is the preferred option**



## ROAD SAFETY REMINDERS

Our school campus has joined with Auckland Transport to support their campaign of Safety at the School Gate—which encourages road users to be responsible

and reinforces this with transport warden patrols outside the school gates.



## PICK UP AND DROP OFF INFORMATION FOR CAMPUS SCHOOLS

In the interests of student safety on the roads around the school we have printed below the details of suggested safe pickup and drop off places that the three campus schools are encouraging families to use.

Rainford Street	Carr Road	Britton Avenue	Somerset Road	Bremner Avenue
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- Please use pick up and drop off points away from the school gate.
- Let our students walk to and from these pickup—drop off points.
- Do not use Fruit World or other commercial parking places.
- Do not enter the school drive way for pick up or drop off.

Make our school and our roads a safer place. Too many cars are a danger to all our students.

The Campus schools thank families for their co-operation.

## Park safely outside schools

Before and after school is a busy time for everyone. Parking rules help protect our children and keep them safe. Drivers who park illegally put our kids at risk.

This term parking officers will be on patrol outside your school to issue tickets to those who are illegally parked.

### Fines for illegal parking include:

• Parked on the footpath or grass verge/ berm	\$40
• Parked across or within 1m of a vehicle entrance	\$40
• Parked within 6m either side of an unmarked bus stop	\$40
• Parked within a marked bus stop	\$60
• Parked within 0.5m of a fire hydrant with no one in the car legally capable of moving it	\$60
• Parked within a designated bus lane, transit or cycle lane	\$60
• Parked on a clearway	\$60
• Double parked	\$60
• Inconsiderate parking to other road users, including pedestrians	\$60
• Parked on or within 6m of an intersection	\$60
• Parked on a pedestrian crossing	\$60
• Parked on a broken yellow line	\$60



### QUIZ NIGHT AND AUCTION FUNDRAISER

The annual Quiz Night and Auction was held on Friday March 6<sup>th</sup> and a fun night was had by all. Mr Douglas was the Quiz Master. Sixty two staff, parents and friends of the school attended and \$2885 was raised for the Fundraising Committee's current project; contributing towards the funds needed for the upgrade of the hockey turf.

This wouldn't have been possible without the donations from the following local businesses and members of the school community:



Orvieto Café, Kings Plant Barn St Lukes, Entertainment Books, Finishing Touch Hair Design,

Buckley Rd Food Store, Tusk Thai Restaurant, DHL, Progressive Enterprises, Bluebells Cakery, Rainbows End, Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra, Ross Millar Swim School,

Frasers Café, Lido Cinema, Eiffel en Eden, The Zookeepers Son, The Thirsty Whale,

The City Cake Company, May Rd Liquor, Villa Maria Wines, Beyond Beauté,

Mr Hall, Mr Pune, Marjet Pot, Judith Bingham, Sue Mulrennan & Vijay Parulkar.

### BUS, TRAIN AND FERRY FARES CHANGES

Auckland Public Transport Fares are changing at the end of this month—details can be accessed at -

<https://at.govt.nz/farechange>



**Bus, Train  
and Ferry fares  
are changing  
on Sunday  
29 March 2015**

For details visit  
**AT.govt.nz/farechange**  
or phone 09 366 6400



### SCHOOL SPONSORSHIP

Mount Roskill Grammar School would like to thank the following businesses for their ongoing generous financial sponsorship and support ;


Libelle, Barfoot & Thompson – Mt Roskill, Kip McGrath and Three Kings Dental

Proudly Supported by

**Barfoot & Thompson**  
Licensed REAA 2008 MREINZ

**Mt Roskill, 09 621 0912**



**Kip  
McGrath<sup>TM</sup>**  
  
**EDUCATIONCENTRES**

**THREE KINGS  
DENTAL CENTRE**



**FREE** TREATMENT FOR ENROLLED ADOLESCENTS  
**FREE ACC** TREATMENT FOR PATIENTS UNDER 18  
ORTHODONTIC TREATMENT (BRACES)  
FAMILY AND EMERGENCY CARE  
OPEN 6 DAYS

THREE KINGS PLAZA, 536 MT ALBERT ROAD, THREE KINGS - 09 625 7175

Any business or organisation wishing to offer sponsorship to the school—please contact Mr Ben Horne—  
Director of Sports Ben Horne [Ben.Horne@mrgs.school.nz](mailto:Ben.Horne@mrgs.school.nz)