

This week we farewell our Business Manager Mr Gary Bevin who is retiring after 18 years of outstanding service to the school. Mr Bevin was one of the first Business Managers to be appointed by any school in New Zealand and has been instrumental in the development of Mount Roskill Grammar School. His wise counsel and financial acumen have been greatly appreciated. We wish Gary and his family every happiness in his retirement.



We are very proud of the results achieved in the 2008 NZQA Scholarship examinations. These results place the school amongst the very top academically in New Zealand. Mount Roskill Grammar students gained 75 Scholarship passes with 18 at “Outstanding” level. Timothy Vogel is one of only ten premier scholars in New Zealand. Timothy and Jessie Xing were also top scholars in a subject. These students will be presented with their awards in Wellington in May. Two more students, Caleb Saunders and Andy Liu gained Outstanding Scholar Awards also placing them in the top 60 scholars nationwide.

The performance of our groups at the Polyfest 2009 was superb. All of the groups practised hard from the beginning of term and gave disciplined, polished performances. It is particularly pleasing that the Kapa Haka returned to the festival after many years. Thank you to all of the families and tutors for your generous support of our students as they prepared. Congratulations also to our Senior Boys and Senior Girls Waterpolo teams for their very good performances at the North Island Waterpolo Championships! We wish them all the best at the upcoming national competitions.

A busy and stimulating first term is almost complete. I wish everyone a restful, safe Easter season and look forward to seeing students back fit and ready to learn in Term 2.

G Watson
Principal

NEWS FROM THE GUIDANCE COUNSELLING DEPARTMENT

Harassment

All Year 9 students are taking part in the school's pro-active Anti-Harassment programme this term. Two counsellors co-facilitate an interactive two-hour programme with Year 9 core-classes. Harassment and bullying cause harm. We take harassment seriously, and we are passionate about making sure our students feel safe. We inform students on where to go to get help in stopping harassment: we encourage them to tell a Counsellor, a Deputy Principal or a Harassment Contact Teacher. The identity of the students or parents that inform us about harassment can be kept private! For more details of this excellent programme, please see our website under Student Services: Guidance. E-mail details of our four Counsellors are on the website.

Travellers: travelling the journey of life, and dealing with changes.

All Year 9 students are invited to fill out the "Travellers questionnaire" this term. We use this questionnaire to select about 100 students who may benefit from our "Travellers" programme. This popular 16-hour programme has been designed by Pauline Dickinson from the University of Auckland. We are proud to be able to give this excellent programme to our Year 9s' for the 8th year in a row! Please check our website for details: Student Services: Guidance

A MESSAGE FROM THE MRGS TRAVELWISE GROUP

Students are encouraged to aim to reduce the number of days where they get to school by car and instead walk, cycle or bus more to help reduce local traffic congestion and pollution. Every small thing makes a difference! For info on bus routes visit www.maxx.co.nz. Watch out for more info and details coming soon.

Note: The Auckland Regional Transport Authority in partnership with many other agencies in the region has set up Travel Wise to raise awareness of and promote healthy and safe travel to school for students of all ages. MRGS is working with the Primary and Intermediate schools to encourage and support this endeavour. A group of enthusiastic students has come together to plan a major promotion in June.

STUDENTS LEAVING SCHOOL DURING THE DAY

If a student needs to leave school during the day for doctor, dentist, or other appointments, permission to leave must be obtained by presenting a written request from parents or an appointment card, to any Deputy Principal, before school or during roll check once their presence has been noted. A pass will then be issued for the student to leave at the appropriate time. This saves parents/caregivers time waiting in reception while the student is located.

SHEEP

Is a newfound organisation in the school which consists of students trained in educating and promoting healthy eating and healthy activity. Our job is to seek out ways that can increase everyone's knowledge of nutrition and help them make better choices when deciding what to eat. In order to get the best of school and being young, we need to eat the right amount of food from every food group to ensure our wellbeing. Unfortunately not everyone views healthy eating as a positive thing. By introducing delicious alternatives to high fat or high sugar snacks we hope to increase the percentage of healthy foods being consumed by students. We will start by promoting the eating of a healthy breakfast during an upcoming health week in July. Stay tuned for more details.

HEALTH

Cessation of Smoking program: The school, as part of our commitment to healthy living has entered into a smoking cessation program- our school nurses are managing the program and can offer advice and help for students who are identified as smokers.

Any students who are caught smoking while at school will be referred to the program and under these circumstances our normal communication with families will continue through the Senior Management team.

OUTSTANDING SCHOLARSHIP SUCCESS

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

Almost 9000 students in NZ sat the Scholarship examinations of whom 2038 received awards. Awards range from \$500 for a single subject scholarship pass, to \$30000 (paid over 3 years) for a Premier Award.

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

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

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

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

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

6 Scholarships

Timothy Vogel: <i>Premier Scholar</i>	History, Economics, Chemistry (O), Physics (O), Mathematics with Statistics (O), Mathematics with Calculus (O) – <i>Top Scholar in Chemistry</i>
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5 Scholarships

Yu-Ting (Andy)Liu:	Mathematics with Statistics, Geography, Physics (O), Economics (O), Mathematics with Calculus (O)
Caleb Saunders: <i>Outstanding Scholars</i>	Physics, French, Chemistry, Biology, History (O)

4 Scholarships

Rushi Penumathy:	Mathematics with Calculus, Chemistry, Biology, Geography (O)
Wenyi Yi:	Mathematics with Statistics, Mathematics with Calculus, Chemistry, Biology

3 Scholarships

Ashley Tao:	Chinese, Economics (O), Accounting (O)
Tatyana Soares:	French, Economics, English (O)
Tony Dazhong Huang:	Mathematics with Statistics, Mathematics with Calculus, Biology
Zelin Ma:	Physics, Economics, Chemistry
Bethany Windsor:	Mathematics with Calculus, Geography, English

2 Scholarships

Abhilash Kamineni:	Physics, Chemistry (O)
Jennifer Kirby:	English, History (O)
Ricky Tsai:	Mathematics with Statistics, Accounting (O)
Jessie Xing:	Chemistry, Chinese (O) (<i>Top Scholar in Chinese</i>)
Phillip Cao:	Technology, Physics
I-An Lu:	Mathematics with Statistics, Chemistry
Geoffrey Thomson:	Mathematics with Statistics, English
Wenzuo Yi	Mathematics with Statistics, Mathematics with Calculus

1 Scholarship

Abhinav Jain:	Accounting (O)	Disha Mysore:	Biology
Yi Chun Jiang:	Accounting (O)	Srinidhi Ragavan:	Accounting
Leanora Gomes:	Biology	Amanda Shen:	Chemistry
Claire Hayward:	Classics	Natasha Smith:	Biology
James Iefata:	History	Shruthi Vijayakumar:	Biology
Alma Jakupovic:	English	Wen Jie Liang:	Physics
Apurva Joshi:	Accounting	Jiayu Yang:	Chinese
Gavin Lee:	Accounting	Cheng-En Yee:	Biology
Herng-Jeng Leong:	Biology		
Jun Li:	Mathematics with Calculus		
Ching Hsiang Wang:	Mathematics with Statistics		

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



DIRECTOR OF SPORT

This is a new position and strengthens the position of sport in the school. Mr Clinton Buckley has been appointed to this role.

Clinton will work alongside Ms Mardia Te Whiu who has been our Sports Coordinator for the last three years.

His main role is to promote and develop sport within the school. He wants to increase the number of sports teams fielded by the school and to encourage participation by students at all levels as well as improve the performance levels of the top teams in the school. His expectations of our students are that they commit to at least one co curricular activity. We are fortunate here at MRGS that our staff are fully involved in providing a wide range of activities for students to choose from. Already he has organised an enlarged inter-house sports competition. This competition takes the form of a series of tournaments in four sports each running over a week. House teams are organised by the House Captains and points earned go towards the House Shield. Next year we will look to start a sports academy (sports yet to be decided). This is an exciting opportunity for students attending MRGS in the future.



However, to improve sport within the school we need to have as much parental support as possible. If you would like to help coach, manage or transport students or simply attend to support your child that would be appreciated. If you have any queries please feel free to contact Clinton Buckley (Director of Sport) 6210050 ext 891 or Mardia Te Whiu (Sports Coordinator) 6210050 ext 852.

DRAGON BOATING 15 MARCH 2009



On a sunny Sunday at the crack of Dawn, 7:45am to be exact, the MRGS Dragon Boat squad arrived at Lake Pupuke in Takapuna ready for a competitive, fun and ultimately rewarding day of racing. We participated in 3 heats, improving and getting stronger as we moved through the races. Despite the wind picking up as the day progressed, we managed to keep safely in our lane avoiding other teams who were struggling to head in a straight line. We managed to qualify third fastest for the plate final and after a short lunch, where we were entertained by Nesian Mystik, we prepared for our last race with a few token stretches and some very loud

chants. In the final we managed to get off to a good start and despite having superior technique, timing, and putting in a massive effort, we ended up coming third. Dragon boating, despite only being raced over a 500m course, taking approximately 3 minutes to complete, involves a great deal of dedication and commitment. We were training twice a week, often getting home after 7pm, and after a full day on Sunday the girls deserved to be very proud of their efforts. Special mention goes to Captain Annie who has been our metronomic caller for the last two years and who also had the important job of ensuring that Mr Williams didn't manage to run over too many Swans during training!

GOLF - BATTLE OF THE SEXES



Golf has grabbed the public imagination following Danny Lee's outstanding win in the Johnnie Walker Classic. The quest is on to find the next Danny Lee. Our own school team of Seve Ha, Harry Na, Jared Taia, Samantha Collings and Haveer Singh shaped up well for their first challenge of the season against Macleans College in what turned out to be boy versus girl and girl versus boy in a 'no holds barred' match-play golf arm wrestle. Seve ran out a winner six holes to three against a charming young lady who often threatened to out-drive him past the 250 metre mark. Harry competed against a similar opponent who out-driven him a couple of times and she was uncompromising in her ability to sink a long putt and Harry's hopes on a number of holes. Nevertheless Harry withstood the pressure and drew his match, 4.5 each. Jared also had a tough match against

a boy who was determined to the last hole which resulted in a narrow loss, 4 to 5. Samantha, being our number 4 player, also had an exciting match against a boy who had a better golf handicap than her. Nevertheless she ran out the winner by two strokes on the day. The final team result was no massacre but a hard earned win to Mt Roskill over Macleans.

Our season's second match which was against Pakuranga matched up the New Zealand Number 2 Boys player, Seve Ha, against the New Zealand Number 1 Girl's player, Cecila Cho. Seve's power and accuracy on the drive was equally matched by Cecila's placement and precision of approach to the green. They were evenly matched over the first eight holes and were heading for a draw when Seve found himself in strife in the out-of-bounds area on the ninth hole and having to play a second ball which also strayed into trouble. Seve conceded a narrow loss 5-4 to Cecila. Harry played magnificent golf, also for eight of the nine holes, and conceded the ninth hole only, to run out a winner 6-3 against another talented female opponent. Jared worked hard in the only boy versus boy match to stay close to his opponent. Samantha who is turning out to be our find of the season, stuck to her game grittily and sunk two 10 metre long putts early in the game to sink her young male opponent's hopes and run out the winner, 6-3. Final score, Mt Roskill (19.5) win over Pakuranga (16.5).

The season is shaping up to be a thrilling battle of the sexes where the boys are being fiercely challenged in The Gentleman's Game.

UNIFORMS

As winter is coming and it is getting colder now is a timely reminder for students and parents about our school uniform requirements:

T-shirts must not be visible under their school shirt. Any t-shirts or singlets that are visible either at the neckline, arms or below the shirt will be confiscated. Our uniform shop has a plentiful supply of jerseys and jackets to keep you warm.

During the winter terms (Term 2 and 3) no hats or caps are allowed to be worn. Scarves must be plain navy or black and can only be worn outside the classroom.

Any visible jewellery will be confiscated.

The only acceptable uniform shoes are **black leather lace up school shoes**. Canvas shoes, slippers or shoes with visible labelling are not acceptable. Uniform passes will only be issued for broken or damaged shoes and we require a letter from home explaining the damage. This note must be presented on the day the pass is requested. Detentions will be issued for all other uniform infringements without valid notification.

Our school uniform shop in Somerset Rd now has a full supply of PE uniforms and these can be purchased for all year levels. A reminder that for Y9 and PE only school uniforms purchased from our uniform shop are approved for wear.

Our new school uniform must not be modified in any way. This includes modifying the length of the girls' skirts at the hemline. The skirt is available in two lengths knee length and long.

WE FAREWELL MR GARY BEVIN

This week we are sad to say farewell to Mr Gary Bevin who is retiring after 18 years as Business Manager at Mount Roskill Grammar School.

Gary was appointed in 1991 at a time when schools were taking increasing responsibility for their finances. At this time Mount Roskill Grammar School was beginning new projects such as the Early Childhood Centre, Overseas Fee-Paying students, the Artificial Turf Trust, the Adult Language School and Community Education.

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



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

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

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

VISIT OF LYCÉE JEAN XXIII FRENCH EXCHANGE SCHOOL FROM NORMANDY

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



We would like to thank again the host families for their wonderful commitment to this exchange and to the Staff and Senior Management who also worked very hard on the programme. The exchange of school gifts in Assembly included, from the French school, a ceramic Drakkar (Viking ship) and MRGS gave Jean XXIII a mounted stone Koru made from Oamaru stone.

We look forward to welcoming Jean XXIII again in two years' time and we will begin our own planning for the French Homestay Trip to Normandy in 2010 at the end of this year.

EASY SHOPPING

Online Shopping is so simpleand it all raises funds for MRGS. Simple steps: Go to www.yourfastshop.co.nz and select MRGS as your fundraiser. Browse over 90 online stores. Each store can deliver direct to your family and friends or to yourself.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Night Classes for Adults – Part-time day & night ESL classes are also offered Telephone: (09) 6210051 or email: sueb@mrqs.school.nz

Starts Monday 11 May unless stated

Aerobics – Step
 Aerobics – Pump
 Ballroom Dancing – Beginners
 Basic Car Maintenance & Servicing
 Create Your Own Mosaics
 English as a Second Language – **Mon & Wed**
 English for the Workplace
 Excel Spreadsheets XP – Level 1
 Family Trusts **starts 18 May**
 GST Returns & Business Tax **starts 18 May**
 Indian Cooking
 MYOB Computerised Accounting
 Painless Public Speaking
 Painting with Oils
 Spanish - Beginners
 Swiss Ball – **includes ball**
 Yoga – Beginners to Intermediate

Starts Tuesday 12 May unless stated

Badminton
 Cardmaking
 Car Maintenance & Servicing – Stage 2
 Defensive Driving **starts 12 May**
 English as a Second Language – **Tues & Thurs**
 First Aid for Babies & Children **starts 30 June**
 French Cuisine
 Fresh Flower Arranging
 Getting Hired – nailing interviews
 Indoor Soccer for Women
 Introduction to Digital Photography
 Salsa Dancing – Beginners
 Welding for Beginners
 Woodwork for Total Beginners
 Yoga – Beginners to Intermediate

Starts Wednesday 13 May unless stated

ABC of Accounting for Business
 Aerobics – Pump
 Ballroom Dancing – Intermediate
 Dressmaking
 Feel the Fear and Do It Anyway

Starts Wednesday 13 May unless stated

Indoor Soccer Intermediate **starts 29 April**
 Kitchen Skills for Men **starts 10 June**
 Mandarin Chinese Beginners
 NZ Sign Language Level 1
 NZ Sign Language Level 2
 Painless Public Speaking
 Texting is Fun!
 Thai Cuisine
 Tiling for Beginners
 Touch Typing for Beginners
 Welding for Beginners

Starts Thursday 14 May

Aerobics –Step
 Bollywood Dancing
 Café-Style Cooking
 Car Learner Licence
 Designer Gift Wrapping
 Fly Fishing
 Guitar Styles Beginners & Intermediate
 Indoor Soccer Intermediate & Advanced
 Middle Eastern Cooking
 Picture Framing
 Pilates
 Woodwork & Furniture Restoration

Starts Friday 15 May

Guitar Styles – Intermediate & Advanced

Saturday 6 & 13 June

Workplace First Aid – 2 Saturdays
 Workplace First Aid – Refresher – 1 Saturday

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

Starting 11 May & 12 May

Night Classes – two nights per week

Elementary, Pre-Int, Conversational,
 Intermediate, High Int, IELTS Academic

Day Classes – Mon, Wed & Fri 9am – 12pm

Conversational English & Grammar Level 1
 Conversational English & Grammar Level 2

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

TERM 1		
April	Thursday 9	END OF TERM 1 Closing time 3.10pm
	Monday 27	BEGINNING OF TERM 2
May	Monday 11 – Thursday 14	School Production
	Friday 22 – Friday 29	Senior Exams
June	Monday 1	Queen's Birthday
	Tuesday 2	School Holiday
	Tuesday 9	Pukekohe Exchange
July	Friday 3	END OF TERM 2 Closing time 3.10pm
TERM DATES 2009		
Term 2	Monday 27 April	Friday 3 July
Term 3	Tuesday 20 July	Friday 25 September
Term 4	Monday 12 October	Tuesday 8 December