

NEWSLETTER – APRIL 2012

Nga mihi nui ki a koutou

A very full and purposeful term is almost complete. A feature of the term has been the strong community support for the learning of our students. Last week over 100 students were presented with an academic gold bar by former Principal and Auckland University Schools' Partnership Director Mr Ken Rapson to recognise their achievement of gaining NCEA with Excellence. It was fantastic to see so many families celebrating success with their children. We are thinking we will need to find a larger venue to hold this event next year! This atmosphere of celebration and support was also evident at the recent whanau hui and Pasifika families evening at which Nick and Vasa Tuitasa spoke about ways families can help with learning. It was also great to see so many families at the recent report evenings.



The scholarship results for the school were again excellent. Students gained 48 scholarships including 5 outstanding awards. Congratulations to **Lei Yin** who was named a New Zealand Outstanding Scholar having gained 6 scholarships. Four other students **Yanqing Wei, Abhishek Pillai, Dheeraj Gopalakrishnan and Runfeng Li** will also have their names added to the school honours board for gaining three or more scholarships.

The summer sports season has been completed. Thank you to everyone involved in supporting our teams. Congratulations to **Hayden Ng** who has been selected in the New Zealand Mens' Gymnastics Team to compete at the Australian Gymnastic Championships. Premier winter sports teams are well into their training. In the second week of term the school production of the musical 'Bye Bye Birdie' will be held. Students and supporting staff will be working hard over the school break to complete the preparation. Make sure you put aside one of the evenings **May 2nd to May 4th to come along and enjoy the show!**

To enhance the way we do things, we have three annual goals focused on meeting our vision of students becoming **successful powerful learners who are active and responsible citizens**.

Firstly, just as academic learning needs to be supported so does learning for citizenship. We are working to build with students **positively framed expectations** about the way we do things in a range of contexts for example, in the classroom, on class trips, in the queue at the canteen. We have started with the school values of aspiration, commitment, resilience, respect and responsibility, and are working with student to express these in accessible ways. Achieving this goal will bring together our school commitment to restorative practices and ideas from the government's 'positive behaviour for learning' programme.

Secondly, we want to ensure that senior students are tracking their academic progress and setting SMART goals for achievement. We want to ensure that families know '**what the score is**' as the academic year proceeds. Together with academic support for students who are at risk of not achieving to their potential we expect that this initiative will result in more students achieving NCEA. Last year a pilot mentoring programme lifted the pass rate in NCEA Level 1 literacy from 72% (6 percentage points behind the national average) to 85% (5 percentage points more than the national average).

Thirdly, in the second half of the year the focus of teacher professional learning will be on developing further ways to **assist students with their writing**. Capability in writing is essential for academic success in all curriculum areas.

Currently lead teams of teachers are working towards these goals. We will update you with progress during the year. I wish everyone an enjoyable and safe Easter season, and look forward to seeing students return rested and ready to learn in term 2.

Ki nga taumata

Greg Watson
PRINCIPAL

NZQA SCHOLARSHIP RESULTS

Once again the school excelled in 2011 in this premier examination. A total of 48 scholarships were gained by MRGS students made up of 43 Scholarship passes and 5 Outstanding Scholarship passes.

The successful candidates were:

(Level Achieved = O > Outstanding Scholarship; S > Scholarship)

Name	Subject	Level	Name	Subject	Level
Lei Yin	Chemistry	O	Jayden Hickman	Economics	S
Hannah Widjaja	Classical Studies	O	Manasi Deshpande	Economics	S
Dheeraj Gopalakrishnan	Economics	O	Yanqing Wei	Economics	S
Lei Yin	Calculus	O	Abhishek Pillai	Economics	S
Runfeng Li	Statistics	O	Joshua Power	Economics	S
Dheeraj Gopalakrishnan	Accounting	S	Manasi Deshpande	English	S
Khyati Sharma	Accounting	S	Yanqing Wei	French	S
Aalok Paudel	Accounting	S	Khyati Sharma	Geography	S
Don Yuhan Li	Accounting	S	Lei Yin	Geography	S
Johnson Liu	Accounting	S	Yue Fan Li	Graphics	S
Abhishek Pillai	Accounting	S	Kuei-Mao Huang	Graphics	S
Casablanca Kwok-Heon	Biology	S	Yanqing Wei	History	S
Audrey Tay	Biology	S	Runfeng Li	Calculus	S
Harrison Thomson	Biology	S	Gloria Fraser	Media Studies	S
Hannah Elizabeth Widjaja	Biology	S	Chloe Leith	Media Studies	S
Lei Yin	Biology	S	Harrison Thomson	Painting	S
Runfeng Li	Chemistry	S	James van der Loeff	Physics	S
Wesley Yep	Chemistry	S	Lei Yin	Physics	S
Tao Yang	Chemistry	S	Shreya Handa	Statistics	S
Jiaxin Liang	Chinese	S	Dheeraj Gopalakrishnan	Statistics	S
Jianan Wu	Chinese	S	Daniel Yep	Statistics	S
Audrey Tay	Classical Studies	S	Lei Yin	Statistics	S
Krishant Dharan	Classical Studies	S	Abhishek Pillai	Technology	S
Gloria Eileen Fraser	Classical Studies	S	Tasneef Tahid Hussain	Technology	S

EXCELLENCE AWARDS EVENING



On Tuesday evening 27th March we held our annual school celebration of NCEA high achievement in the Excellence awards. Students at levels 1, 2 and 3 who gained 50 or more credits at Excellence level in the 2011 National examinations were awarded excellence endorsements by NZQA earlier this year. A total of 77 students were awarded endorsements at level 1, 29 at level 2 and 23 at level 3. As part of our in-house acknowledgement of this achievement we awarded the students our own gold certificate and badge in the evening ceremony. Over 200 guests and more than 100 students took part in the marvellous event. The Director

of the Auckland University Schools Partnership Office (and previous Principal of MRGS) Ken Rapson was the guest presenter and he joined the members of the school community in the celebration. The school's Kapa Haka group heralded the opening of the ceremony and then Mr Watson, the Principal welcomed students, guests and Mr Rapson to the occasion. Mr Rapson's address then honoured the students' effort, achievement and the continuing evidence of our school's facilitation of powerful learners. He was then asked to present the certificates and badges. A number of past students, now in tertiary education were able to attend in addition to present students. The supper following the ceremony was also a great opportunity for our learners to talk and share their success.

GATEWAY DEPARTMENT



We are pleased to welcome Selina Fihaki to the position of Gateway Coordinator. Selina has joined us from the Salvation Army where she was an employment coach, welfare officer and budget advisor. Selina brings a wealth of knowledge about employment and we look forward to her working with our students. Selina is married with four children including twins. She is an active member of many organisations and is heavily involved in sports. If you have any

questions regarding the Gateway programme you can contact Selina on 621 0050 ext 826, 027 3554402 or gateway@mrqs.school.nz.

YEAR 13 PREFECT PROJECTS

The prefects are facilitating a range of projects to make a positive contribution to the wider school community. They are learning how to follow a project through to completion, reflecting on barriers and successes as they go.

Each project is being facilitated by the prefects but are school wide initiatives. We look forward to the Year 13s, MRGS as a whole and the Mt Roskill community contributing towards making these projects a success so that the graduating year of 2012 can leave their mark. The projects are detailed below:-

Environment: A recycling programme is being set up in the Year 13 common room with the hope of expanding the initiative to the wider school. With well over 2000 students at Mt Roskill Grammar this prefect group saw a need to go beyond just recycling paper in the classroom.

Diversity: With over 70 ethnicities on site this group wanted to publically acknowledge cultural diversity within our school. They plan to publicise (with input from all students) as many cultural events/celebrations/dates as they can throughout the year through posters and notices. They are also running a cultural food challenge in Term 2.

School Sport: An inter-year 13 netball tournament is being run early in Term 2 with the intention of further strengthening the Year 13s as a “family” and encouraging people to interact with others outside of their traditional friendship groups.

Community: Violence in the home and community is something this group feels passionate about. They plan to encourage students/families/community leaders to take a pledge to resolve issues in non-violent ways. They are planning a dinner with motivational speakers from a range of cultural backgrounds to encourage positive interactions within the wider school community.

Leavers: Year 13 students are in their final year of school and want to mark their pride in being a “Roskillian” with leavers’ gear. This group is currently investigating what the Year 13s want in terms of leavers’ gear, allowing for a range of price options.

Students should keep an eye on notices and facebook pages to contribute to these initiatives and any members of the wider school community who feel that they can support any of these groups should feel free to contact the Year 13 academic deans by email:

Karen.Collins@mrqs.school.nz or Andrew.Gipps@mrqs.school.nz

PERFORMING ARTS

DANCE

We would like to congratulate Brenda Meyer, HoD PFA, who competed in the World Salsa Competition in Hong Kong in early March. The team of 6 placed second and were overwhelmed by their achievement. This is the first time a team from NZ has made it to the finals of a World Competition and the 1st time NZ has placed. Well done.

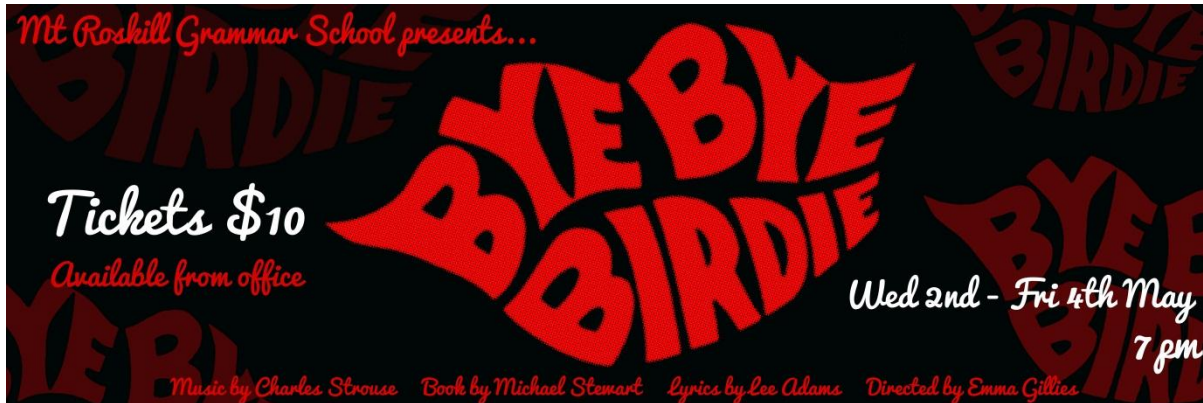
This term the PFA department has added Salsa and Cha cha classes to their list of co-curricular activities. A keen group of students are learning after school Monday and Friday and during Lunchtime Wednesday, and making great progress. Hopefully in the not too distant future there will be a few performances from this group and maybe even competing in the NZ Salsa Champions in the Youth section in November. New members are always welcome and you do not need to attend all classes.

DRAMA

Year 13 Drama Assessment Evening

The Year 13 Drama class of Mt Roskill Grammar performed excerpts from the play, Bare, by Toa Fraser on Monday the 2nd of April. In this performance our Year 13s were displaying their knowledge of drama technique, and were assessed that night in front of a large audience. It is a polarizing play, which shows many stereotypes of different Aucklanders in a very real and 'bare' state; the great performances from our cast are a testament to the hard work and maturity they have grown to possess as an ensemble of new actors. We look forward to bringing you more Performing Arts performances from our students at Mt Roskill, check our website where we will post details about upcoming shows.

SCHOOL PRODUCTION–WEDS 2ND TO FRI 4TH MAY



Our 2012 production is the musical *Bye Bye Birdie*. Conrad Birdie is the biggest rock & roll star of the 1950's ever to be drafted into the army. Aspiring song writer Albert is convinced he can make his fortune and marry his girlfriend Rosie if he gets Conrad on the Ed Sullivan show to kiss a high school girl goodbye. Albert struggles with an over-possessive mother, crazy townspeople, and legions of fans: will he makes his fortune, or will the whole plan flop?! Rehearsals are taking place at the moment and it is looking like it will be a great show, plenty of music, dancing and great acting from Mt Roskill students. Production nights are Wednesday to Friday, 2nd-4th of May, and tickets are available from accounts for \$10 each.

PEER MEDIATION SERVICE

At MRGS we have the biggest, most comprehensive Secondary School Mediation Service in the country. With over 200 trained Student Mediators, we take seriously the need to provide a safe and respectful school environment for all students.

Our Mediators are trained in conflict resolution skills by the Peace Foundation so that students have the opportunity to sort problems out without resorting to verbal or physical violence. The Peer Mediators also have the role of “ambassadors of social justice”, standing up to any kind of prejudice and bullying. They receive advanced training in this from Rainbow Youth and the Human Rights Commission.

This year we had 183 senior students apply to be Mediators, with 100 of them having the opportunity to be trained. Group one was trained on the 21st of March; group two will be trained on May the 8th. Another 80 students have received advanced Mediator training in Term one.

In June, 30 Mediators will get the chance to experience a two day inspirational training in Mentorship skill development; and in August the Mediators lead together with many school activities celebrating International Peace Week.

Together we can all make a difference. As Edmund Burke once said: “The only thing necessary for evil to triumph is for good people to do nothing” and we are certainly doing something important at MRGS!

For further information please contact Donna Hourigan-Johnston or Jan Pace at Student Services.

MUSIC

The Music department is underway with its Itinerant Music Tuition and various rehearsal groups. In term two several events are planned as follows:

- Choir - will sing the hymns for the ANZAC day service at May Rd RSA, starting at 9.30 a.m. - all are welcome to attend this event.
- Chamber Groups - on Fri 11 May they perform for the residents at Hillsborough Heights Retirement Village.
- Performance Evening for Concert Band, Orchestra & other large ensembles- This takes place on Wed 16 May 7.00 p.m. -friends and parents invited.
- In early June the Chamber groups and Choir are performing in competitions.

NZQA FEES COLLECTION 2012

All senior students and 1001 students must pay their NZQA Fees (compulsory) to the accounts office between Wednesday 9th May and Friday 11th 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.

PASTORAL

ATTENDANCE

If you have any concerns about attendance or want to report an absence, please phone or email Mrs Hyland, Attendance Officer, on 621 0069 or elaine.hyland@mrqs.school.nz. Please phone or email on the first day of your child's absence. All attendance codes are set by the Ministry of Education. A "?" code is regarded as temporary and short term. It is required to be replaced with a legitimate code. If an absence or late to school remains unexplained after 20 days, the temporary "?" will automatically change to the "truant" code "T".

UNIFORM

To be ready for the winter terms, please use the holiday period to check that your child has the correct school uniform. The complete uniform requirements are available on our school website. If you have any concerns or queries about uniform, please contact Mrs Barker on 621 0050. For security purposes please ensure your child's uniform is clearly named.

UNIFORM SHOP

The MRGS Uniform shop will be open during the school holidays on Thursday 19th April from 9.00am to 10.30am. During the school term the shop is open Mondays and Thursdays from 8.00 am to 9.00am and 3.00pm to 4.00pm. The uniform shop is located at Gate 3, Frost Road.

ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT

Expensive electronic equipment should be left at home. The school does not accept responsibility for the security of these items.

PASTORAL CARE

The Deans' Centre is the first point of contact if you have any issues or concerns for your child. Please call 621-0050 and ask to speak to your child's dean.

CONTACT DETAILS

If you have a new address, phone number, cellphone number or email address please pass this information through to the school: admin@mrqs.school.nz

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

AUCKLAND UNIVERSITY COMPUTER SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

There is an opportunity for interested students from MRGS to visit the Department of Computer Science at Auckland University. If you are interested, please see Mrs Insull in the Computing Department for more information.

Y13 OUTDOOR EDUCATION CAMP

This year the Year 13 Outdoor Education to Motutapu Island was the largest we have run for many years. Camp started with 218 students walking the 19km over Rangitoto and across the island without one single word of complaint! That evening Year 13 demonstrated their competitive streak in a supremely hard fought quiz night. After a peaceful night's sleep, there followed three days of activities where our Year 13's kayaked, sailed, climbed, built and raced rafts, learned the skills of archery, designed a T-shirt and even tried cooking for 250 people. As ever our MacLeans students added a wonderful extra dimension with their laughter ringing across the camp from the flying kiwi. Bronwyn Coleman, who has been accompanying our disabled students for many years now, commented that the care and support provided this year by our senior students rivalled anything she had ever witnessed.

The students were less kind to the staff in the annual survivor challenge, winning for the first time in three years. The camp show always remains a highlight and this year the quality of the performances even persuaded the camp instructors along (although on a personal note some of the impressions 'got it so wrong').

We would like to take this occasion to express our thanks to the school for their continued support for this unique learning opportunity. The growth in confidence, resilience and self-management as well as the friendships that flourish provide our students with a wonderful foundation for their final year at school. We are indebted to the teaching staff who gave up their time and put in so much effort to make the week such a success.

PARENTAL DONATIONS

Thank you to all who have made their parental donation already after the recent invoices were sent out. The parental donation is \$180.00 per student or \$300.00 per family. Every effort is made to keep school costs to a minimum but to ensure that we offer quality educational opportunities we encourage payment of these costs. The parental donation assists in meeting the costs of providing classroom and sports equipment. If you have difficulty in paying the total cost at the beginning of the year, please contact the Accounts Office to make alternative arrangements.

SPORT

The Summer sports program is coming to a close with excellent results achieved by most teams.

SPORTS FEES

Fees for Summer Sports are now overdue. Students who have not paid their fees will not be able to participate in Winter Sports. It is vital to the development of sport within the school that all students pay their fees. Sports fees help the school pay for sports entry fees, transport costs, and upgrading of uniforms and equipment. Winter Sports fees are due before the start of the season. There is the opportunity to fundraise for these fees. See Mr Horne for more information.

TERM ONE - HIGHLIGHTS

Athletics – Nathan McDougall finished second in the 3000m at the Greater Auckland Athletics Championships: a fantastic result for him. Congratulations also to Abdur Saeed and Nakala Tulimanu who qualified for the Auckland Athletics Championships in their chosen events.

The **Boys Cricket Teams** are all competing well in their grades. Currently there have been three losses across all four teams and this is a reflection on excellent coaching and good commitment from students at training sessions. Stand out performers from each team include: Nikhil Gupta, Bhargav Dave, Balu Mallela, Abhay Vaidya, and Yathursan Mohanathas.

The **Senior Golf Team** finished 1st in the Auckland Premier Division 3 grade. Congratulations to all of the golfers involved and a big thank you to Mr. Green for his efforts in achieving this fantastic result.

The 1st **XI Girls Hockey Team** and **Boys Hockey Academy** have the distinction of being coached by current Women's Blackstick Striker Katie Glynn in 2012. Glynn is consistently the top goal scorer for the Blacksticks and we are looking forward to the expert coaching she will provide for both teams.

The **Senior Girls Volleyball Team** did well in both competitions they took part in. They placed 3rd in the Auckland Central/West competition and 9th in the Premier competition. Special mention must go to Fale Malifa for his excellent coaching of the team.

The **Senior Boys Volleyball Team** has had a good season placing 6th in the Senior Boys Division 2 Central/West Zone competition. A big thank you to John Wuatai and Mark Matila for their effort in coaching the team this year. Also a thank you to Mr McGerty for his transport of the boys to their matches.

The **Junior Sports Academies** (Football, Hockey, Netball) are now up and running and we are looking forward to some top results from these teams which start in Term 2. The coaches for 2012 are Mr Christopher for Football, Barry Brian and Katie Glynn for Hockey, and Miss Willcox and Fale Malifa for Netball.

Hayden Ng has been selected for the New Zealand team to compete in the Australian Gymnastics Championships in Sydney. This is a fantastic achievement and we wish him all the best with this endeavour.

Upcoming Event

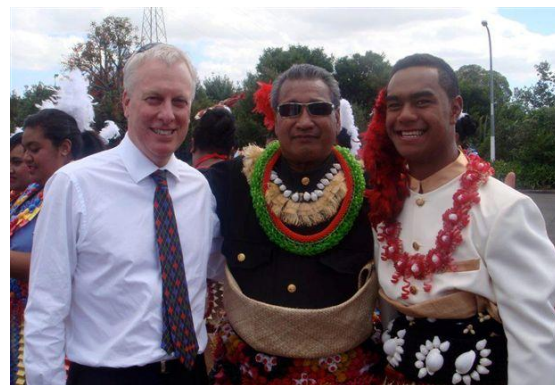
The **Mahurangi Exchange** is the school's first exchange of the year and takes place in Week 3 of Term 2 on Wednesday 9th of May. There will be a number of teams from the following sports involved: Basketball, Football, Hockey, Netball, Touch and Volleyball. This year the exchange will take place at Mahurangi. For the latest Draws, Results, Photos and News, visit www.mrgs.co.nz and click on Co-Curricular.

POLYFEST 2012



The annual school celebration of Pasifika and other cultures took place in week 7 of this term at the Auckland velodrome. The marvellous event brought together students in a stunning display of cultural performance. Months of practice and preparation from students, teachers, parents and local communities provided four event-filled and entertaining

days. This year our Kapa Haka, Tongan and Indian groups proudly performed and brought that special Roskill blend of aspiration, enthusiasm and commitment to their time at the festival and on the performance stages. Our photos here show the Kapa Haka group in the course of their routine and also Mr Watson with the leader and tutor of the Tongan group. The Kapa Haka were the first of our groups to take the stage on Wednesday and the Tongan group were the last of our students to perform on the Friday afternoon.



STEVE GURNEY VISIT TO MRGS



Sport Auckland organised Steve Gurney (5 time Winner of the Speights Coast to Coast) who is ambassador to schools to come and speak to a group of students about his experiences and the winning edge. He taught the students a great deal about improving their motivation and striving for goals.

NOTICE FROM THE PE DEPARTMENT

WANTED OLD SETS OF GOLF CLUBS. Do you know of anyone who has a set of golf clubs taking up space in garage? The PE Dept would love to have donated sets or to borrow for Year 13 students for an Achievement Standard on Golf for Term 1 and Term 2. Please contact Mrs Bennett on 621 0050 ext 824 or email Karen.bennett@mrgs.school.nz

PASIFIKA PROJECT (PSCPL) Update

The Roskill Schools and May Rd Primary have been working together for two years building stronger relationships with our Pasifika families and supporting our Pasifika students in their learning. We were very fortunate to employ Pete Leilua as our Parent Liaison Officer. Pete works hard in our schools and communities, building relationships with our Pasifika children and families. He is involved in the homework centres and helps to facilitate our Young Leaders programme. **Homework Centres** May Rd, Mt Roskill Intermediate and Mt Roskill Grammar have well established homework centres. These attract high numbers of Pasifika students and provide opportunities for our students to receive extra support and guidance with their learning. Mt Roskill Grammar also runs a Tongan Homework Centre for both students and parents.

Fono

All four schools run regular fono for Pasifika families. These sessions focus on ways we can work together to support our Pasifika students with their learning. The fono are well attended by families and the feedback from parents has been very positive.

Goals for 2012

To increase parent attendance at fono

To spread the Young Leaders initiative to all schools (Y6 and Y8)

To involve more teachers in Pasifika events

To develop co-operative learning strategies in order to better engage Pasifika students.

Activities

Reading Together Programme at MRP and MRI; Regular fono at all schools.

Work collaboratively with local Pastors; Support families with low school attendance (Pasifika Parent Liaison); Homework centres; Set up a Young Leaders programme at MRI, MRP and May Rd; Establish a group who will focus on co-operative learning strategies and engaging Pasifika students.

IMPORTANT DATES

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

TERM 1		
April	Wednesday 4	Senior Parent Report Evening
	Thursday 5	END OF TERM 1 - Closing time 3.10pm
TERM 2		
April	Monday 23	BEGINNING OF TERM 2
	Wednesday 25	ANZAC DAY HOLIDAY
May	Wednesday 2 – Friday 4	School Production
	Wednesday 9	Mahurangi Exchange at Mahurangi
	Monday 14	NCEA Support Teacher Only Day
	Friday 25 – 1 Friday 1 June	Senior Examination
June	Monday 4	QUEENS BIRTHDAY HOLIDAY
TERM DATES 2012		
Term 2	Monday 23 April	Friday 29 June
Term 3	Monday 16 July	Friday 28 September
Term 4	Monday 15 October	Tuesday 11 December