

MOUNT ROSKILL GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Newsletter

APRIL 2011



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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

At the end of term we farewell Deputy Principal David Lett who is retiring after 32 years of outstanding service. Mr Lett took up the role of Head of Languages in 1979, before being appointed to the Deputy Principal role in 1996. In this role he has been responsible for property development, particularly as the school roll grew significantly. David has also been instrumental in establishing and nurturing links within the local school's community and developments such as the school web site. His wise counsel and dedication to the school and its community have been greatly appreciated. We wish David and his family every happiness in retirement.



Bullying and harassment in schools has been a recent focus and concern. I want to leave no one in any doubt that this school does not tolerate harassment and bullying, and that we deal with it firmly, decisively and fairly. Achieving a safe school environment requires the school's leadership to be firm and fair, and the community to support us when we take action to deal with students who breach our guidelines and policies. We have a long history of proactively addressing such behaviour. If you have a concern please contact your child's House Dean. Should a matter not be resolved satisfactorily a concern or complaint can be raised directly with the Principal in writing or in person.

The recent visit of two outstanding former students of Mount Roskill Grammar School, Mr Owen Glenn and Mr Tony Rae, together with thirty other influential past students was an exceptional occasion. Our Kapahaka and members of the Samoan and Tongan groups led the powhiri welcome with huge pride. The recently established Sursum Trust which aims to increase the links between former and current students initiated the event. We look forward to on-going links with former pupils who lift the sights and aspirations of students.

The performance of our groups at the Polyfest 2011 was very good. All of the groups practised hard and gave disciplined performances. Congratulations to the Tongan group who gained first place in both the Mako and the Lakalaka.

Next term John Wilkinson will be acting Principal while I am away on the Woolf Fisher Fellowship. I wish everyone a restful and safe Easter season.

Greg Watson

MR DAVID LETT



In his 32 years at the school David has fulfilled leadership roles at Middle and Senior management level. His work has always been characterised by tireless and methodical effort and an abiding approach which facilitates learning and service within the Roskill community.

In 1979 he joined Mount Roskill Grammar school as HOD of the Languages Department and during his conscientious stewardship he oversaw the introduction of Japanese as a taught option and the establishment of Classical Studies in our curriculum. He was also instrumental in moving the teaching of his subject from a disparate group of rooms to its present location in the A block and R block area. During the latter year of his tenure as HOD he worked as a Senior Master in a leadership role deputising at senior management level on a number of occasions and gained valuable experience of wider school operations at the same time as running a successful and developing department.

In 1995 he joined the senior team as a Deputy Principal. In his 16 years of leadership he has been the Senior link with a range of departments including Commerce, the MacLean Centre, Food Technology, Performing Arts, Languages, Visual Arts and Physical Education. He has always taken a keen supportive part in their promotion of teaching and learning. He has held a number of portfolios over the years and brought to each of them a meticulous and collaborative approach.

In Community Liaison areas he has managed the presentation, communication and profile of the school with thoroughness and a practised eye to the effective and productive placing of information to give present and prospective students a clear appreciation of Roskill's qualities. He has been a major mover in successive school prospectuses, advised on updating logos and re-introduced the school's annual Open Evening which has proved so successful in recent years.

His organisational skills have also been utilised in his work on prizegivings, parent report evenings, jubilee celebrations, community events and the Excellence Awards evenings which have become essential to the school's honouring of the achievements of its students.

David's clear sense of the school's place and responsibilities within the wider community has also seen him forge links with Kiwanis, local traffic safety consultations and an enduring student relationship with catering for the Ronald MacDonald house at Starship hospital.

Other involvements have been his promotion of the school's cybersafety practice and as a result of that his close working with the Netsafe organisation. As the school's Principal's Nominee David set-up the school's external examination arrangements and ensured that student entries and assessments were accurately reported to NZQA. He was instrumental in this role in supporting the school's smooth and successful establishment of NCEA and the expanded National Qualifications Framework.

As is typical of the staff at Roskill, David has had an abiding interest and involvement in the extra-curricular life of the school: he has coached girls cricket, supported netball on the coldest of winter mornings, co-managed the 1st XI boys' soccer team and was, early on in

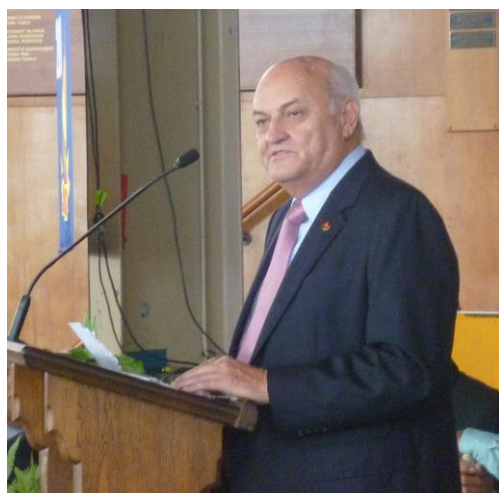
his career at Roskill, coach of an Auckland championship winning tennis team which boasted amongst its players Brett Stevens.

David's enduring legacy of service and commitment to the school will be his exhaustive work on Property. He has guided the Development Plan for many years with his oversight of the new buildings of the administration area, the Science and Physics blocks, the new gym complex and T block area, the new C block and the refurbishment of the Commerce area and Year 13 common room. This work has involved many, many hours of meetings, consultations, negotiations and a relentless attention to detail. The presentation of the fabric of the present school environment, its facilities and ultimately its support of teaching and learning are testament to David's professional stewardship. The school community as a whole is grateful for the work he has done over the years and wishes him a long and enjoyable retirement.

VISIT OF OWEN GLENN AND TONY RAE

Looking Back, Moving Forward

Owen Glenn, an international billionaire. Tony Rae, a world renowned sailor. Two successful men who both share a common root; they are both former students of Mount Roskill Grammar School.



Both of these formidable men and 30 other influential and powerful past students visited Mount Roskill Grammar School on March 24th to speak to senior students and staff about their lives at Mount Roskill and beyond.

Mr Rae, who explained to us how he had to wait four years before he was accepted to sail with Sir Peter Blake around the World, showed us the need for resilience and passion. Mr Glenn told us of the many jobs he had done throughout his life and showed us that drive and determination were what he needed to build up his multi-million dollar empire. It was an inspiration to hear their life stories of perseverance; they showed us that no matter who we are and where we come from, we can achieve great things.



Many of these past pupils, led by Mr Nick Tuialii have worked to set up a foundation called the Sursum Trust with the aim to support our school for years to come. Once set up it will be a major asset for our school, its students, their families and the wider community. It is something for all of us to be proud of. While funding will be available, more important will be the invaluable experience of having many more past pupils visiting our school, sharing their life stories, and offering their support which is so vital.

Acknowledgment must be given to Mr Tuialii who has given up a lot of his time and effort to bring this project to fruition. It is much appreciated by administration, staff, and, above all, students. We can be assured that this project will help our school and its community strive for their aspirations, and reach for the heights.

Shilpan Patel

MERGE - Maximising the Engagement of the Roskill Group's Education. Peter Leilua – Pasifika Liaison Officer

The Roskill Campus and May Road School are participating in a Pasifika Project with the Ministry of Education. The schools are focussing on better ways we can work with our Pasifika community to raise the achievement of our Pasifika students.

We are very fortunate to appoint Peter Leilua as our Pasifika Liaison Officer. Peter will be working for 10 hours a week supporting the schools to build effective relationships with our Pasifika community. Peter Leilua lives locally with his wife Tili and their 3 young children. Peter worked at the Department of Justice for 10 years and has now founded "Global Lighthouse New Zealand". The aim of this organisation is "to build strong communities through the restoration of families".



Peter was a founding member of "Bring It On" a national secondary dance competition and he also played international rugby for Samoa. We would like to welcome Peter to our campus and cluster and we look forward to building stronger relationships with our Pasifika community.

PASTORAL CARE

Mt Roskill Grammar School does not tolerate harassment and bullying and has a proactive approach to prevent and deal with incidents. We encourage students to report any incidents of harassment or bullying to a Teacher, Dean or Counsellor. Staff are expected to report incidents of harassment and bullying and refer students to a Dean or Counsellor. If you have any concerns about your son or daughter please contact the school and speak to their Dean.

GUIDANCE COUNSELLING DEPARTMENT

At MRGS we have a team of four counsellors who provide confidential counselling to students for a wide range of personal, family and school-related reasons. We are all members of the New Zealand Association of Counsellors. Please check us out on the school website in the "Student Services" section. If you have any concerns about your child, we welcome your e-mail or phone call.

Year 9: "Travellers"

This term all Year 9 students completed a computer based survey to help us identify students who may benefit from one of our support programmes. Results are confidential, and only the counsellors will see them.

If your child is one of the approximately 100 selected for the "Travellers" programme (a wonderful 16- hour small group programme to build resilience and connectedness) they receive an invitation. All our programmes are optional. Feed-back from past participants and their families has been overwhelmingly positive.

Year 9 Anti-Harassment programme

All Year 9 classes attend two "Anti-Harassment" workshops with the Counsellors. We take pride in taking our responsibility to create a safe school seriously, and we believe all harassment is unacceptable, including name calling and "friendly mocking". We educate your child on what to do when they receive harassment verbally, physically, or through the internet or by mobile phone. We explain the different ways in which we can successfully stop harassment. We are a "telling" school and we encourage students to report incidents of harassment they witness or experience.

Peer Mediation

We advocate sorting out conflicts in a respectful, equitable way through Mediation or Restorative Justice. We are proud of our large and successful Peer Mediation service. This month 80 students will receive the Basic Mediation training with the Peace Foundation, and 120 previously trained students will participate in Advanced Mediators Training.

VISIT OF LYCEE JEAN XXIII

Two weeks. 26 French exchange students. One amazing time! 20 MRGS students ventured to France last year, and this year, it was our turn to host not 20 but 26 French students for two weeks! We all stood, huddled together at the airport, complete with welcome balloons and gifts. Some of us had no idea who to look for, even though we pretended we did. Suddenly the sound of screaming turned all heads as our Roskill girls greeted the first of the French students entering the arrival lounge! It was the reunion of old friends and the making of new. The next day, we introduced them to our school. It overwhelmed them a little, and we had the Powhiri.

The weekend was one of fun, fun, fun! as we went out far and wide across Auckland and the North Island, and in some cases, as far as Wellington! A popular and quite fascinating attraction for the first weekend was the lantern festival. The next week was a hype of sightseeing, trying to fit everything into a very short amount of time! They spent some time coming into daily classes, meeting our teachers. In fact, some teachers were so taken with our guests they insisted on relating the entire lesson to the French culture and its people. Some teachers even organised special events: Miss Kojima and Miss Robertson got the French group making sushi rolls; Mr Davis had them make chopping boards in his technology workshop; Ms Tawhai taught them how to make Poi and the songs that go with it; Mr Lett prepared them for their Tiritiri Matangi visit, and a number of teachers lent us their rooms for other activities. Thanks to Mr Gipps for again allowing some “Frenchies” to attend Y13 Camp. Mr Hall for sailing some French students back from Motutapu Island and to Mr Buckley for organising the international sports event. The French students had their own trip planned for Tuesday and sadly, missed our Athletics Day.

Wednesday was a group trip to Tiritiri Matangi, a bird sanctuary. We were all a bit sceptical of the weather, some of us turning up in tracks and hoodies only to change on the ferry as the weather cleared up. The walk with our guides was amazing as we learned many new things about birds in NZ. Lunch was eventful, as we tried to save our food from Greg the Takahe – the quick fingered (or toed), lunch stealing bird. We headed home tired, and some of us sunburnt, only to realise the French students were leaving for Rotorua the next day. For a one night trip, who would’ve thought some would take suitcases, while others only took backpacks?

Our friends returned on Friday where we spontaneously decided to go to the movies to watch “I am Number Four”. We took up an entire row in the cinema, with one unfortunate man sitting right in the middle of about 20 hyper teenagers. No doubt, we got told off a few times but that didn’t stop us. Second weekend came around and once again it was a flurry of activity.

Saturday was our (planned much in advance) BBQ at Cornwall Park, where almost everyone managed to get to! Hayden and Andy- we missed you! Ninja tag got slightly violent (no surprises there!), and we were all a bit amused when a few of the French boys decided to “herd” sheep! The weather was amazing, a bit too amazing really, and again, we had a few sunburn casualties. Some of us decided a whole afternoon together wasn’t enough and decided to go ten pin bowling and pool... till 1 in the morning! Talk about making the most of it! The weekend passed in a haze and most of us were finally able to tick off our sightseeing destinations, but the party never stopped! Every day after school we had little events in small groups to the pools, a park or just hanging out.

JEAN XXIII PHOTOS

JEAN XXIII PHOTOS

Wednesday was shopping day in the city, for the French only! Yeah, we thought it was for us too, and we were all geared up to go! Poor Mr. McAlpine had to break the news to us, yet some of us- namely Hayden, Richelle, Nirusha and Patrick- decided to sneak onto the bus and hide! A desperate attempt considering EVERYONE knew where we were. Many shopping bags returned, accompanied by the French students! We decided we ought to have our farewell party for our "Frenchies" that night.

Thursday came along- even though we didn't want it to! We spent an entire day with everyone in A3 saying our goodbyes, taking a million pictures- especially Patrick and Benoît- and signing each other's books, folders, shirts and eventually hands and faces! And then came the temporary tattoos. Even a game of naughts and crosses on Richelle's face courtesy of Arthur and Benoît. Oh the joy. We finally managed to get a group picture with all 52 of us! (Us Roskillians and the Frenchies) Our goodbyes were sad with almost all of us crying. It was hugs, kisses and "faire la bise festival". But we had the time of our lives; making friends we'll keep for a lifetime and enjoying it all the way. Thanks so much to the MRGS Host families who made their stay so wonderful. We would also like to thank the New-Zealand France Friendship Fund for helping both schools involved in this exchange (MRGS & Lycée Jean XXIII), the MRGS Board of Trustees for supporting the Exchange and all the teachers and support staff who helped us. We are sure that the French teachers also had fun - Mr Frédéric Hyvert and Mrs Françoise Marotel. We hope to see them next year!

Richelle Fernandez

HEALTH

Since the 11th of January 13 people have been confirmed with measles infection in Auckland and the disease is now likely to be spreading in the wider community. The number of cases may seem small but one person with measles can infect many others.

Measles is a serious and highly infectious viral disease. It makes people very sick, often causing fever, cough, sore red eyes and a rash. People with measles can be infectious even before they start feeling unwell. While almost all people will make a complete recovery, it can lead to hospitalisation and in rare cases, death.

Parents/guardians need to find out whether their children are protected against measles.

Watch your children for symptoms of fever, cough, runny nose, sore red eyes, or a rash. If this occurs:

Call your GP or Healthline (0800 611 116) as soon as possible for advice.

Keep your child away from school until they are well again. Your GP will advise the safest time for your child to return to school.

For more information on immunisation, please call the Immunisation Advisory Centre free on 0800 IMMUNE (0800 466 863) or visit their website <http://www.immune.org.nz>

The **Health Centre at Student Services** provides a supportive service to students to assist them with any health concerns and promoting healthy living. We have 3 Registered Nurses who provide a confidential service. We do health assessments on Year 9 students for whom we gain consent on enrolment.

The cold and flu season is coming up we recommend any sick students be kept at home and seek medical help if necessary. Students who have a medical condition are able to get a free flu vaccination from their doctor.

Students are entitled to **free dental care** until they are 18. We strongly recommend they enrol with a local dentist that provides this service. Any queries or if you would like to discuss anything with us please contact us at Student Services. You can also look up more information about us on the school web page

MUSIC NEWS

Itinerant Lessons at school

Music staff are pleased with the interest shown by Year 9 students in learning to play an instrument at school. Our orchestra and concert band needs new players of brass (cornet, trumpet, euphonium, trombone, tuba) woodwind (flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon) and string (violin, viola, cello, double bass). We offer hireage of most of the above instruments at \$25 per term and lessons are free (a \$20 levy). Students taking lessons at school **MUST** be involved in a co-curricular group as outlined below.

Music Co-curricular

If your son or daughter already plays an instrument please encourage him /her to join one of our groups which rehearse as follows:

Year 9 Bands –	Tuesdays until 4.15
Orchestra	Wednesdays until 4.30
Concert Band	Thursdays until 4.30
Choir	Wednesday Lunchtimes
Jazz Combos	

Chamber competition groups –for advanced players, we have entered 4 groups into the competitions this year.

Various beginner groups –start later in the year.

Also bands involved in **Rockquest**, **Pasifika Beats** and **Stand Up Stand Out** talent quest.

Our start so far

Orchestra and concert band rehearsals have begun with good attendances. The Choir is now a mixed boys and girls one directed by Mr Terence Maskell – a top choral director in N.Z. There is a strong interest with about 60 students enrolled.



SPORT

The winter sports programme is fast approaching with all teams training hard to be ready for the start of their seasons beginning early in Term Two.

Sports Fees

Fees for these teams are now due. 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, hireage of facilities and upgrading of uniforms and equipment.

Highlights from Term One

Athletics – congratulations to **Armani Rex-Hipa** and **Warren Duncan** who qualified for the Auckland Athletics Championships in their chosen events.

Badminton – **Wesley Yep**, **Ahana Palande**, **Neha Kolhe** were selected to trial for the Auckland U17, **Mark Yep** and **Rohil Rao** for the U15 trial.

The **Senior Open Debating team** is currently undefeated in their competition.

The **Senior Mixed Touch Team** came 2nd in the Auckland Central Zone tournament. This qualified the team for the NISS Regional's where they finished 4th equal and may qualify the team for NZSS Nationals.

The **Senior Girls Tennis Team** are currently leading their competition having won all of their games.

The **1st X1 Girls Hockey Team** made an impressive start to the 2011 campaign placing third in a pre-season tournament. They beat Pakuranga 2-1 in the third and fourth playoff having narrowly lost to Pukekohe 1-0 in a game that would have put them into the final.

Dragon Boating 2011

After 5 hard weeks of training the Roskill Dragon Boat team competed in the North Island Regional Dragon Boat championships on Sunday 20 March at Lake Pupuke, Takapuna.

The race is held over a 500m course which is the longest dragon boat course in New Zealand. It takes approximately 3 minutes to complete a race and at the end of it everyone is so tired they are barely able to breathe. The first 4 races were for grading which once our times were combined ensured that we qualified for the Novice Girls final.

The final was tough, and after our best start of the day, the team finally got their timing together. The result was a third placing.

The team should be proud of their efforts with both the training and the race day. Their team spirit and commitment was outstanding and we look forward to racing again next year.



Volleyball

The **Senior Girls Volleyball Team** did well in their first year as a Premier team coming 2nd in the Auckland Central/West division and competing well in the Premier competition. The girls played well at the Auckland Champs finishing 7th out of 32 teams. Special mention must go to **Tasi Filiga** and **Fale Malifa** for their excellent coaching.

Waterpolo

Term 1 of the 2011 Junior Waterpolo season saw the introduction of many new players, allowing two near full teams. With numbers in our favour, and good experience within the two sides, Roskill was able to take on some of the bigger schools and even shut down and beat teams housing prized rep players. To the girls who never gave up, well done. You have come very far this year and pulled each other together in a tight knit team. To the boys who endured some seriously rough games, I commend you. With a lot of pace and skill in the side it has been some very exciting waterpolo to watch and coach.

Both teams played fairly whether they were up or down in any game and this is a reflection of the players in the teams. I appreciate the fearless and mature attitude that they all played with.

Finally, I look forward to Term 3 & 4 when Junior North Islands kicks in! We will be ready! Thank you to **Eleanor Natrass** an ex-student for coaching waterpolo since she left school and also to **Grace Natrass** for managing the teams.

HOMEWORK CENTRES

A homework centre for Māori and Pasifika students is held in the Learning Extension Department on Wednesday afternoons from 3.30 to 5pm. The homework centre has been very successful with many students attending for help with their school work. A second homework centre for Tongan students will be held in D10 on Tuesday evenings from 6 to 8 pm. In addition, the homework centre in D10 after school on Wednesdays continues to provide learning and homework support for ESOL and other students.

Between them, our three homework centres offer all students the opportunity to have assistance with understanding their school work and a supportive learning environment for doing their homework .

UNIFORM

The Uniform shop will be open during the second week of the school holidays on Thursday 29th April from 11 am to 1 pm only. Normal opening hours are 8 am to 9 am and 3 pm to 4 pm Mondays and Thursdays, recommencing Monday 2nd May.

Gateway PROGRAMME



a pathway to careers for young people

- Gateway opens a new pathway from school to the world of work.
 - It's a great opportunity to blend school study with workplace learning and experience.
 - Learning can be assessed in the workplace, counting towards national qualifications.
 - Students spend one day a week for a term working in industry.
- We have over 30 students keen to work in areas such as hospitality, sports and recreation, business, retail, trades, sales, tourism, childcare and service industries.

If you are a business owner or have contacts with any local businesses that might be able to take our students, please contact Kelley Tams, Gateway Coordinator on gateway@mrqs.school.nz , or phone 621 0050 ext. 868.

Benefits of Gateway to employers:

- ✓ Great marketing opportunity – Gateway will be promoted in the school's printed and digital media
- ✓ The rewarding experience of helping young people and giving something back to your community and local school.
- ✓ Exposure to possible new employees
- ✓ Assisted experience in training
- ✓ The fresh ideas that young people can bring to your workplace
- ✓ The opportunity to get extra part-time help at no direct cost to you. (The school will equip our students for the workplace and provide training resources.)
- ✓ An opportunity to expose your industry to the employees of the future.

IMPORTANT DATES DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

TERM 1		
April	Friday 15	END OF TERM 1 Closing time 3.10pm
May	Monday 2	BEGINNING OF TERM 2
	Wednesday 11	MAHURANGI EXCHANGE
	Friday 27 – Friday 3 June	SENIOR EXAMS
	Monday 6	QUEENS BIRTHDAY
	Wednesday 8	MATARIKI – CAMPUS CELEBRATION
TERM DATES 2011		
Term 1	Tuesday 1 February	Friday 15 April
Term 2	Monday 2 May	Friday 15 July
Term 3	Monday 1 August	Friday 7 October
Term 4	Tuesday 25 October	Friday 9 December

POLYFEST 2011

