

Our senior students are preparing for their practice examinations which are held in week 8 and 9 of this term. It is worth considering just what is being practised. Students are not only revising subject content for their examinations; they are building 'learning muscles' or learning power that will enable them to manage examinations successfully and to become successful lifelong learners.

On one level students are practising **organising their time**. Mapping out the period before and during the examinations to decide when study can occur and what study should occur is an important skill to practise. Families can help students identify the 'must dos' over the exam period. These might include family, church, sports or work commitments. Students also need to block in time to relax and refresh. Decisions will need to be made about how many favourite TV programmes one can have, or how many trips to the mall are needed. This newsletter contains the exam timetable. Just what is studied and when will be influenced by the way exams are scheduled.

At another level students must be absolutely **clear about what they should be learning**. Teachers will tell students which NCEA standards (or topics) are being assessed. For each of these students should find out the achieved, merit, and excellence criteria (what it takes to get each grade). This year teachers are ensuring that students are made aware of **learning intentions** in lessons. A list of learning intentions together with the grade criteria for each standard is a great guide about what to learn for examinations. It is better to spend a little time early on finding out these things so that study is purposefully directed.

At a different level again students are practising and building learning dispositions such as resilience and reflectiveness. A resilient student knows **how to work through difficulties** when the pressure mounts and the going gets tough, how to recognise and reduce distractions, and when to walk away and gain refreshment. A resilient student keeps going in the face of difficulties, knowing that quality learning is often a slow and uncertain process. A reflective student is one who is becoming more strategic about learning. They plan where they are going and the actions that they will take, yet are flexible, changing plans in the light of different circumstances. A reflective student **monitors and reviews how things are going**.

Families can help students during exam time by encouraging development in all of these areas – time management, gaining clarity about what should be learned, resilience and reflectiveness. Practice makes perfect, and quality exam practice builds learning power.



G B Watson
PRINCIPAL

SCHOOL HOLIDAY

Monday 31 August is the school's annual tournament week holiday. The school will be closed.

PAID UNION MEETING

On the afternoon of Thursday September 10 there will be no regular classes for junior students since the school's members of the PPTA will be taking part in a Paid Union Meeting. This meeting is provided for under employment law and forms part of the consultation about a new contract.

Senior exams will continue during this afternoon. Parents who wish junior students to be supervised should contact the school office. All other junior students will be released from school at 12.15pm.

ATTENDANCE INFORMATION: SOME REMINDERS

1. Students need to be in school by 8.35am to meet their Form Teacher by 8.37am (except Wednesday when it is 9.17am for Period 1).
2. For students who are late parents should provide an explanation note (to be given to the Form Teacher). Late students may get a lunchtime or after school detention.
3. If a student is absent it is helpful for parents to phone the Attendance Officer (Mrs Hyland on ph 621 0069), but a written note is also required on the day of return. This is to be given to the Form Teacher.

It is very important for your son/daughter to arrive at school on time, to attend classes on time and to be at school every day. Those students with excellent punctuality and attendance score best in assessments.

WIDER EDUCATION

Over the last weeks students and parents have been making choices on what wider education trip they will be going on during the 2nd to 4th December. It is an exciting time for students as they learn to negotiate, with both you and their peers, on what they want to do.

I still remember going on my wider education trip tramping when I was here at Mt Roskill in the 80's. Students ask a lot of questions at this time, like does the deposit come off the final price, what will we be doing, are my friends going, what type of food will be available and do I need to eat veggies? At school we will go through these sorts of questions, but we also talk about issues like can your family budget afford your choice. Peer pressure comes into the equation. I imagine you have had "but so and so is going on it". As a parent I am well aware of costs etc. Don't be concerned about talking to your son or daughter about the consequence of cost. Life lessons are one of the aims of wider education and I hope that you will have an opportunity to encourage your son or daughter to make the best of their opportunities.



Places for some trips are filling up fast so a reminder that the deposit needs to be paid to the accounts office by Friday 2nd September (\$25 for day trips and \$50 for camps). The remainder of the fee will need to be paid by Thursday 29th October.

If you have any queries in regards to the camps/trips please feel free to contact me here at school on aferguson@mrgrs.school.nz.

Mr A Ferguson
Wider Education Coordinator

INFORMATION ON THE NEW UNIFORM

The school wishes to inform you that:

- The only supplier of the official new uniform is the **Mount Roskill Grammar School Uniform Shop in Somerset Road**.
- This official new school uniform is manufactured by Elizabeth Michael and has their label on it.
- From Tuesday 1st of September, students who need to replace items of uniform should buy items of the new official uniform from the school Uniform Shop in Somerset Road, regardless of the year level they are in.
- In 2010 Year 12 students will be in the new uniform, as will Years 9 and 10. Year 12 students will be able to seek permission to remain in the old uniform.

Below is background information on the new uniform.

At the beginning of this year Mount Roskill Grammar school introduced a new school uniform after consulting with parents and other members of our school community. Many of those consulted wanted a more standardised uniform which readily identified our students and allowed the school to portray a consistent, tidy image.

In 2008 we contracted Elizabeth Michael to design and manufacture our new uniform. This company was chosen as the supplier because we were impressed with the quality of both their designs and the fabric they use. Parents, teachers and students were consulted on the proposed designs and the school community was pleased with the quality and appearance of the design that was finally chosen. You may be aware that the skirts and trousers of the new uniform are made of a high-quality wool and polyester blend and the blouses and shirts are made of a quality viscose blend.

The Board of Trustees and school management were concerned that a school uniform made of such high quality fabric may be very expensive for parents if it was sold at standard retail prices. Therefore the Board of Trustees decided to sell the school uniform at a minimal mark up and established the Mount Roskill School Uniform Shop. Selling the uniform from the school will also help ensure that it continues to be made of high quality fabric and the design remains consistent.

If you have queries about the uniform please contact Kay Thomas, Deputy Principal.

You may have seen reference to students not being allowed to wear singlets at Mount Roskill Grammar School in the New Zealand Herald's Sideswipe column. This item was inaccurate. We encourage students to wear singlets under their blouses and shirts to stay warm. However, students are not permitted to wear undergarments such as t-shirts which can be seen at the neckline or below the uniform sleeves/hemline.

SENIOR EXAMINATIONS

These will be held from **Monday 7th to Tuesday 15th September**. A copy of the timetable for the examinations is included in this newsletter (see the centre pages).

Please note:

- During the seven days of the examinations Senior Students (Years 11-13) are only required at school when they have an examination, (for the rest of the time they have study leave).
- Students need to be aware of the time and date of their examinations.
- It is a student's responsibility to be aware of the examination rules and to be present.
- **In case of illness student MUST have a medical certificate.**
- Late comers will not be allowed into the examination if they arrive more than 15 minutes after the scheduled beginning of the examination.

Examinations start times:

Morning: 9.15am for 3 hour exams
 9.45am for 2½ hour exams
 10.15am for 2 hour exams
 10.45am for 1½ hour exams
 11.15am for 1 hour exam

(or at the time designated for some practical exam sessions shorter than 3 hours.)

Afternoon: 1.00pm for all examinations (apart from some practical examinations)

During the seven days of the Senior Examinations all Juniors will have lessons as normal with school beginning at the usual time, though there will be adjustments to the shape of the day and school will finish at 3-00pm each day. Students in years 9 and 10 will be given details of the revised shape of the day.

JUNIOR STUDENTS PLEASE NOTE: SCHOOL WILL START AT 8.40AM ON WEDNESDAY 9TH SEPTEMBER

MUFTI DAY

Mount Roskill Grammar School is having a mufti day on Friday 4th September to raise money for the Cancer Society's Daffodil Day.

Students must be either completely in mufti or in uniform. No mixing of the two will be tolerated.

The dress code for mufti day is:

- Students must be covered from the shoulder to the knee and no revealing clothing will be permitted.
- No gang related items or bandanas are able to be worn
- No threatening clothing or items can be worn
- No headgear, other than that normally worn with uniform, can be worn.
- Hoodies must not cover the head
- No offensive language, symbols or pictures can be displayed on clothing items
- No high heeled shoes more than 5cm in height may be worn
- Coloured hair and jewellery items are permissible, so long as they are completely removed on the following Monday.

Students who break the dress code will be sent home. Electronic devices continue to be prohibited at school on mufti day. Students must bring their PE gear if they have Physical education on that day.

Students who wear mufti will be required to donate a gold coin during form period to the worthy cause of the Cancer Society's Daffodil Day.

PLANNING UNDERWAY FOR 2 NEW BUILDING PROJECTS

A number of years ago the Ministry of Education allocated schools an amount of money which was to cover modernisation of and major maintenance work on school buildings. The sum was allocated in two lots, each to cover a five year period. The second amount fell due in July this year and permission was given to undertake a number of projects around the school. Planning has been underway for a little time on these, beginning with the appointment of a project manager (Mr Paul Styles of Styles Project Management) and architects (John Ingham and Tane Pratt of Archoffice) to oversee the two major works.

Pastoral Care Centre: The development of this Centre coincides with the restructuring of the House System and the pastoral care system within the school. There will be House Deans' Offices, a reception area, waiting areas, interview rooms and a meeting room as part of this complex. In order to achieve this development in the most efficient way possible it has been decided to repartition three classrooms in E Block near the Administration Building. Plans have been drawn up and tenders are being invited so that the work can be completed before the end of this year. There will be minimal disruption to classes while this work is carried out.

C Block Addition and Refurbishment: One of the last areas in the school to be modernised is C Block. We saw an opportunity to complete the refurbishment and replace a number of relocatable classrooms by building new rooms over the existing C Block and linking the structure to H Block. There will be 7 new rooms built on top of the existing block in the course of 2010. Each classroom will open onto a covered walkway / verandah with a stairway coming up from below and linking to the existing walkway along the front of H Block. Concept plans have been drawn up and are about to go selected tenderers.

AWARDS DINNER

Guest Speaker: Nathan Fa'avae – Adventure Racer

Nathan Fa'avae has been one of the best all round adventure racers in the world and Captain of the Balance Vector – the highly successful New Zealand Adventure Racing Team. Nathan is an expert navigator with a broad range of skills and experience in the outdoors and he is a qualified instructor in a wide range of outdoor pursuits.

Adventure racing is a combination of two or more disciplines, including orienteering, navigation, cross-country running, mountain biking, paddling and climbing and related rope skills. Events can span two hours to ten days or more. Adventure racing historically required teams to be of a specified size and to include both men and women, but many races no longer restrict team size.

TOURNAMENT WEEK

Next week Monday 31 August – Friday 4 September is Tournament Week. Students are **NOT** required at school on Monday 31 August.

Teams involved are:

Netball, Boys and Girls Hockey, Boys & Girls Football. The Netball team will be travelling to Hamilton with Mrs Te Whiu and Ms Robinson. The Boys Hockey team is playing their tournament in Ngatea under the guidance of Mr Hays. The Girls Hockey team is off to Whakatane with Ms Hourigan-Johnston and Mr Eley. The Girls Football team is playing in Taupo and will be coached and managed by Mr Duncan and Miss Thomas. The Boys Football team is playing at Keith Hay Park in the Rex Dawkins Cup Tournament. Mr Rankin is managing them with Mr Habib as coach.

SPORT

The Winter sports program is coming to an end with a number of our top sports teams competing well in their competitions.

2009 highlights from Winter Sport to date

The **Girls U19 Basketball side** went through its season unbeaten to win the Auckland Central zone championship. While the **Boys U19 Basketball side** finished third on a point's count back after winning 11 out of 12 games this season. Special mention must be given to two former students Benson Rong and Willie Wei who coached the side superbly.

The **Boys U85kg Rugby League side** had a great season finishing 2nd in the Auckland competition losing to Massey High school in the final. Special mention must go to Mr Taunga for his outstanding contribution to Rugby League in the school.

The **Girls 1st 11 Hockey team** has had another top season going through undefeated and are preparing to play in a semi final cross over promotional match.

The **Girls Netball Open A team** finished 3rd in the Auckland Senior A competition and are in the final of the Waitakere competition next week.

Both the **Boys and Girls 1st 15 rugby teams** finished mid table this year while both the **Squash and Badminton teams** are still currently involved in their competitions.

MRGS will have five teams representing the school at tournament week this year. They are the Hockey Boys and Girls, Soccer Boys and Girls and Netball Open A.

The School would like to thank all staff and parents involved in this year's winter sports program and we are looking forward to a bigger and better 2010.

Cross Country 2009

This year's Cross Country event took part on a very fine and sunny day. In the first race of the day Tadele Tekele-Haimanot broke his own school record completing the 3.2 km race in 9.44 minutes, while in the Girls championship Eliza Brown, a year 9 Student, was first girl back beating other girls much more experienced in this race.

Cross Country Championship Results 2009

Senior Boys

- 1st Tedele Tekle-Haimanot
- 2nd Haile Tesfay
- 3rd Carl Maskell

Intermediate Boys

- 1st Daniel Yep
- 2nd Warren Duncan
- 3rd Kaveendra Krishna

Junior Boys

- 1st Eshan Taio
- 2nd Damien Flavell
- 3rd Kaiz Hudda

Senior Girls

- 1st Fiona Ting
- 2nd Natasha Smith
- 3rd Codesa Afele

Intermediate Girls

- 1st Telisha Kumar
- 2nd Akhila Achanta
- 3rd Tamelia Sue

Junior Girls

- 1st Eliza Brown
- 2nd Alana Miller
- 3rd Madina Faghiryar

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

TERM 3		
August	Monday 31	SCHOOL HOLIDAY – Beginning of Tournament Week
September	Wednesday 2	Campus Hui 5.30-7.30pm
	Friday 4	Out of Zone Enrolment closes
	Monday 7	Senior Exams begin
	Tuesday 8	In Zone Enrolment 4-8pm
	Wednesday 9	In Zone Enrolment 4-8pm
	School finishes 12.15	PAID UNION MEETING
	Thursday 10	
	Monday 14	Out of Zone Ballot
	Tuesday 15	Senior Exams End
	Tuesday 22	Out of Zone Enrolment 4-8pm
	Wednesday 23	Out of Zone Enrolment 4-8pm
	Friday 25	END OF TERM 3
TERM 4		
October	Monday 12	Start of Term 4
	Monday 26	Labour Day – HOLIDAY
	Wednesday 28	Awards Dinner
November	Tuesday 10	Senior Prizegiving
	Thursday 12	Teacher only day – NO SCHOOL
	Saturday 14	NZQA Exams begin
	Friday 13, Monday 16 & Tuesday 17	Junior Exams
December	Wednesday 2	NZQA Exams finish
	Wednesday 2 – Friday 4	Wider Education
	Tuesday 8	Junior Prizegiving
		END OF TERM 4

DATES FOR 2010

TERM DATES 2010		
Term 1	Tuesday 2 February	Thursday 1 April
Term 2	Monday 19 April	Friday 2 July
Term 3	Monday 19 July	Friday 24 September
Term 4	Monday 11 October	Monday 13 December

NETBALL NEWS

Junior A Girls Netball

On 25th July this young team was awarded team of the week by the Auckland University Netball Sponsorship. Each girl received a certificate and a voucher for their efforts.

The award was made on the basis of the girl's presentation, their behaviour on and off the court and their sportsmanship while playing.



Coach of the Week

On 22 August Mardia Te Whiu, our Sports Coordinator, was presented with a New World voucher as a thank you for the hours she puts in to the Netball Community. Mardia is the coach of our Senior Girls Open A Netball Team which plays in the Waitakere Competition on Tuesday nights and in the Interschool competition on Saturday mornings. Their results this year have been very pleasing and are reported elsewhere in this newsletter. The team is playing in the national tournament in Hamilton next week.



TUITION

Kip McGrath Three Kings is offering senior English, Maths, Physics and Chemistry tuition for Years 9 - 13, NCEA. Ring Jenny on 620 1277 or call in to 75 Carr Road, Mount Roskill

REVIEW OF PARENT TEACHER MEETINGS

On the next page is a short questionnaire about Parent Teacher Interviews and Uniform Shop Hours.

Your opinion is very valuable to us and we would appreciate this sheet being returned to the school office before Friday 4 September.



PARENT TEACHER MEETINGS REVIEW

Please tick in the appropriate box your response to each of the questions below.

	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
4PM – 7PM is a good time to hold interviews			*	*
5 minutes is sufficient time to talk to each teacher				
Most teachers adhere to the allotted time				
Teachers are mostly available to see me				
The venue for the interviews is easy to find				
I can find teachers quite easily				
Appointments are easy to make				
There is sufficient time for my son/daughter to make appointments				
I find the interviews valuable				
I would rather meet one teacher (say the Form Teacher) for a longer time than each of my child's subject teachers.				

* A better time for us to come to an interview is: _____
(please give a time range)

Please add any comments you may have:

UNIFORM SHOP: We are also reviewing the opening hours for the MRGS Uniform Shop. Please tell us the day of the week and the time you would find most convenient:

Day: _____ Time: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: Do we have your correct family email address?

It is: _____

Name of email holder: _____

