

Our vision is that our students become successful, powerful learners who are active and responsible citizens.

Recent achievements of our students exemplify this vision. Six students, (Nirusha George, Shail Kaushal, Elia Kim, Wilson Liu, Ajay Ravindran and Sheenal Singh) attended the Model United Nations conference in Wellington. Elia Kim and Wilson Liu have been selected to represent New Zealand at the International event at the Hague next January. Ashreya Duvuru has been selected as one of four New Zealand Unicef 'Year of Youth' Ambassadors. Jason Walls will take up the World Vision scholarship to attend a conference in Wellington in recognition of his leadership contribution as the school raised \$13,000. for the World Vision 40 Hour Famine. Events such as the recent Health Expo, organised by the student Health Council are very important in developing active and responsible citizens. Congratulations to everyone involved!



Recently a team from the Education Review Office visited the school. They met with students, teachers, parents, the senior leadership team, and the Board of Trustees. They visited many classes and school assemblies. Initial feedback from the ERO team is very positive and we look forward to being able to share with you their formal findings later in the term. ERO's feedback aligns with that of Metro magazine who in their July/August issue have once again recognised Mount Roskill Grammar School as one of the top schools in Auckland. My congratulations to everyone who contributes to the high quality achievements of our students.

We have reached the point in the year where students should be drawing up timelines for preparation for final examinations. Senior trial examinations are in week 8 of this term and there are only about 40 days of learning left before senior students leave for NCEA and Scholarship examinations. Both junior and senior students will receive a brief report summarising their progress and identifying any concerns at the end of this term.

Attendance rates for each year level are shown later in the newsletter. Regular attendance is a prerequisite for quality learning and it is pleasing to see that attendance rates are up compared to last year. While the 2-3% improvement in attendance may seem small, this equates to 30,000 extra lessons attended by our students over the first two terms of the year.

Thank you for your ongoing support in ensuring that your son or daughter is in class, on time, ready to learn.

Ki nga taumata
Greg Watson

EARLY SCHOOL FINISH TUESDAY 24 AUGUST

School will finish at 12.00 midday on Tuesday 24 August. This is because 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.

Parents who wish students to be supervised after 12.00 should contact the school office.

MOUNT ROSKILL DOES IT AGAIN



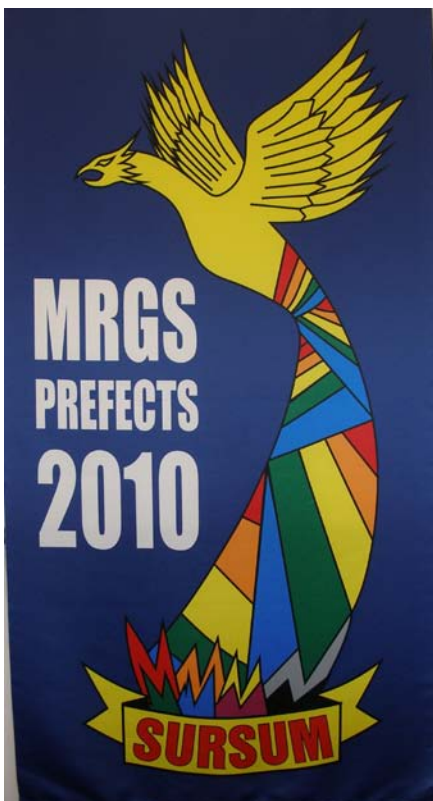
In the annual analysis of results of Auckland secondary schools completed by Metro Magazine Mt Roskill once again features highly. This year we are second (out of 76) in their overall rankings of "The best NCEA schools in Auckland".

Mt Roskill Grammar is the top state coeducational school (one of three state coeducational schools in the top ten) and the only coeducational school in the top six. We stand out as one of the schools with the

best three-year academic record (2007-2009) for adding value, across all the measures used to compile these rankings. We are also highlighted as one of the schools which most increased students' chances of passing scholarship.

Metro magazine writes: *"Good Scholarship rates are ... an excellent across the board measure of academic achievement at the top end. A good school should have good scores (well over 100 on our table) in all measures."* Mt Roskill Grammar School scores 216, a measure which Metro believes *"reveals the commitment of a school to top academic achievement in the senior year"*. **(Reference: Metro, July/August 2010, issue 345, pp. 54-55)**

PREFECT FLAG



This is the Mount Roskill Grammar School Prefect flag for 2010. After much deliberation the Prefects chose to use a vertical banner shape that ends with the crest. The banner at the bottom reads 'Sursum', our school motto, showing that our school will strive to reach the heights.

The phoenix that emerges from the flames is a more modern and elaborate take of our school logo. The flames at the very bottom show the house colours from last year. This also symbolises the past, and our experiences. From these flames, the phoenix emerges. The tail consists of a winding ribbon incorporating the new house colours, and shows the transition from our old colours to the new arrangement.

The new colours also represent the students, who all belong to a house. As the colours intertwine, it shows our interactions with each other, the friends we make and the road we choose. The tail colours eventually turn into the golden phoenix, which signifies our unity and how we are all part of this great community that is Mt Roskill Grammar.

As you can see, despite all the modifications, the phoenix is still flying upwards, which emphasises the motto, “To The Heights”. It shows that despite all the changes that occur around us, and in spite of the changes we undergo as individuals and a community, we will always be looking to the heights and strive to reach it.

MUNA

YEAR 13 MUNA DELEGATION 2010



From July 3 - July 6, six Mount Roskill Grammar Students (**Nirusha George, Shail Kaushal, Elia Kim, Wilson Liu, Ajay Ravindran and Sheenal Singh**) attended the New Zealand Model United Nations (NZMUN) at Wellington. The 2010 NZMUN theme was ‘Your world 2050’ outlining the challenges that would be faced by today’s younger generation in the year 2050. Over 200 delegates from all over New Zealand attended this highly recognised conference which involved debating and negotiating among the delegates. Other events occurred during the conference including a

regional dinner in Wellington to help familiarise the delegates with one another and a highly anticipated United Nations ball. The NZMUN event was a tremendous experience and each delegate who took part in the event enjoyed it to the last minute. At the conclusion of the event, two of the Mount Roskill Grammar School delegates (**Elia Kim** and **Wilson Liu**) were chosen to be part of a New Zealand delegation of 16 to the International Hague Model United Nations which was both an honour and a privilege.

ASHREYA – YOUTH AMBASSADOR



Being named one of the UNICEF Year of Youth Ambassadors has come as an absolute honour for Ashreya Duvuru. Having spent a large part of her childhood in India, she has witnessed the terrible effects that global poverty can have on a community. She comments, “The past couple of years at MRGS have provided me with many opportunities, which have also greatly educated me about global poverty and children’s rights. Being a part of the Peace Foundation and the 40-hour Famine team at this school has taught me a lot about the injustices faced by children in third-world nations. This knowledge served as a huge motivation for me to apply for this position. Personally, I find child trafficking to be one of the most terrible effects of poverty.”

As well as being excited about this incredible opportunity, Ashreya can’t wait to get started on the task. As one of the UNICEF Year of Youth Ambassadors, she will mainly be working with Youth audiences, to raise awareness about issues which affect adolescents globally. Her main goal this year is to raise awareness about child trafficking, especially in nations where it is legal or largely over-looked. She hopes that UNICEF’s work this year will help ease the dire conditions faced by a large population of youth around the world.

Ashreya's main aspiration for the future is to work as a doctor with victims of riots in nations such as Bangladesh, Pakistan and India. She also hopes to continue with her current goals and make the world a better place to live in.

SPORT

Netball

Three Mount Roskill Netball Teams attended the Combined Netball Points Tournament out at the Morrin Rd Netball Center on Wednesday 4th August. The sun stayed away all day and all teams had to play through hideous wintery conditions but they still had smiles on their faces to be playing the sport they love. There was a variety of results from across the teams but it was safe to say that all players had a great day, made new friends and enjoyed the strong competition against local Auckland teams and some schools that came from as far away as Cambridge.

The results:

Premier Netball Team: 1 win, 1 draw, 2 losses

Intermediate Team: 4 losses

Junior Team: - 3 wins, 2 losses

Artistic Gymnastics

At the Auckland Secondary School Gymsport Champs, MRGS performed extremely well and achieved pleasing results, and the senior girls loved wearing the new school leotards after wearing a 1970's version for the last few years.

In gymnastics our two girls teams came first and second in their grade with **Erin Weston**, **Sarah Deverell** and **Emily Ng** earning 1st, 2nd and 3rd respectively.

Erin Weston also came first in A grade Tumbling with well executed tumble routines.

Hayden Ng was placed 2nd in B Grade Mens.

Trampolining

Rachel Baptista and **Ella Berlin** took part in their first competition and did exceptionally well owing to all the training they had put in.

Brittany Conlon-Stepanicic qualified in the top 12 to compete in the finals and earned 5th place in her grade. Well done Brittany as this was also her first competition.

In Mens B Grade **Mark Yep** was 2nd, and **Hayden Ng** 3rd.

Patrick Lee was 2nd in Mens C Grade.

Sarah Deverell moved up a grade this year from A grade to Elite womens and came a very creditable 4th having recently returned from the World Championships.

Jonathan Guo, **Brendan Lim** and **Patrick Lee** were placed 2nd in the C grade Mens Trampolining.

Nikki Lumangtad, **Brittany Conlon-Stepanicic**, **Priya Mittal** and **Ella Berlin** were placed 3rd in C grade trampolining for Girls

Winter Sports

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

The **Girls Open Basketball** side went through their season with a record of 11 wins from 12 games in the Auckland Central zone championship. They have now been invited to attend a Greater Auckland Tournament where they will play the top 2 teams from North Harbour, Waitakere and Counties Manukau.

The **Boys U19 Basketball** team finished in first place in the U19 Boys Central Zone Competition after winning 9 out of 10 games this season. Special mention must be given to two former students Benson Rong and Willie Wei who coached the side superbly.

The **Boys U15 Basketball** side finished in first place in the U15B Central Zone Competition after beating Onehunga in the final 56 to 45.

MRGS will have four teams representing the school at tournament week this year: Hockey Boys and Girls, Soccer Girls and Netball Open A. We wish them well.

Cross Country 2010

This year's Cross Country House competition unfortunately was cancelled on the day owing to poor weather conditions earlier in the week and on the day. The championship run however did go ahead with 85 of the school's best runners involved. This year's stand out result came from **Helen Edmiston** of Year 13 who set a new school record for female students of 13.25 minutes. The House competition was decided by the results from the championship run. This year Green House prevailed and managed to take the honours for this year's Cross Country event.

Cross Country Championship Results 2010

Senior Boys

- 1st Haile Tesfaye
- 2nd Tadele Tekle-Haimanot
- 3rd Daniel Yep

Senior Girls

- 1st Helen Edmiston
- 2nd Worknesh Dinkayehu
- 3rd Telisha Kumar

Intermediate Boys

- 1st Warren Duncan
- 2nd David Zeng
- 3rd Khan Rogers

Intermediate Girls

- 1st Vandhana Tularam
- 2nd Himani Bhatia
- 3rd Alana Miller

Junior Boys

- 1st Chak Kadali
- 2nd Ben Varkey
- 3rd Junior Kasiano

Junior Girls

- 1st Victoria Mulrennan
- 2nd Azora Tohi
- 3rd Eleanor Mulrennan

House Results

- 1st **GREEN HOUSE**
- 2nd **ORANGE**
- 3rd= **BLUE**
- 3rd= **RED**
- 5TH **YELLOW**

Auckland Cross Country Championships

Haile Tesfaye is to be congratulated for coming 2nd in the senior boys section for this event.

Year 12 Cross Country

Since the cross country was cancelled the PE Department ran a Year 12 Cross Country Event the next day with all Year 12 students. The results were:

	Boys	Girls
1 st	Daniel Yep	Khyati Sharma
2 nd	Nikhil Parpudi	Ye-Eun Nam
3 rd	Callan Goodin	Anya Yang
4 th	Kris Gounder	Yuuka Minobe

Auckland Secondary Schools Regional Road Race results

On Friday 12th August at Bruce Pulman Park in Papakura MRGS had six students entered into the Senior Boys Race. They were supported by Mr G Smith. From a field of 47 runners **Daniel Yep** came in 17th, **Haile Tesfaye** came in 7th and **Tadele Tekle-Haimanot** came in first. Tadele, Haile and Daniel came second overall in the three-man event.

C BLOCK BUILDING

Excellent progress on the new classroom block has seen the building take shape very quickly.

The building will have 2 floors; 6 classrooms and a resource room on the ground floor and 7 classrooms on the second floor. The second floor has two stairways and is linked by a walkway to H block.

The majority of classrooms are scheduled for use by the Social Sciences Department and there is one classroom designed for use by Media Studies classes. The ground floor is linked to the existing Social Science Staff Workroom.

After a long wait for consent, construction of the new 13 classrooms got underway in May. With the foundations laid, the blockwork for the ground floor was soon in place. This allowed the concrete for the upper floor to be poured and the framework for the upstairs classrooms to be erected. The roof trusses arrived last week and were put in place so that we now have a complete outline of the new building.

Our contractors, Econobuilt Ltd, are to be congratulated on the progress they have made. They look forward to handing the completed block over to the school near the end of the year.

Other photographs of the construction of the building are available in the photo gallery on the school website. (www.mrgs.school.nz)



TRAVELWISE

Getting to school safely

As you are aware the schools on our campus are part of the TRAVELWISE Programme. This programme looks at ways of getting to school using safer routes and more ecologically-friendly means of transport (walking, bicycles walking school buses, etc.) As part of this programme Auckland City wardens patrol outside schools on a random basis to ensure that parking/stopping regulations are being obeyed. Please respect the signs. Students should be dropped off and picked up in the parking bays on Frost Road. Parents should not come into the campus grounds to deliver their children.

OPEN DAY



MRGS held its Open Day on Wednesday 28 July. Many potential students and their parents were taken on tours around the school by our Prefects and School Guides. Departments assembled displays and had students demonstrating aspects of learning in their subject areas. Many of the activities were interactive and fascinated learners of all ages with the result that tours tended to take a great deal longer than intended. Our grateful thanks to all those who took part.

CAREER EXPO

It may have been a dark and stormy July night but that didn't stop the continual stream of students and parents from pouring through the doors of our most successful Career Expo yet.



The 55 providers that cheerfully turned up to offer their knowledge and advice ranged from the universities and institutes of technology to the Armed Forces and Police. Providers of qualifications in areas as varied as construction, sport, audio engineering, animation, fine arts and hairdressing discussed their courses and qualifications throughout the night. There were also representatives from the ANZ bank, quantity surveying and MIT Maritime School.

All providers were highly impressed with how well informed Mt Roskill Grammar School students were and complimented the students' questioning skills and approach to inquiry.

The night's success was largely to do with the tireless work of our career assistants who helped the providers get their gear through the rain into the hall, then plied them with hot drinks and pizza and generally looked after them. A huge thank you to **Miss Hodge** who was the brains and organiser behind the event.

BRING IT ON

The Mt Roskill troupe of 55 students gained its highest place ever in the regional competition coming 4th.



ATTENDANCE

Teachers mark their roll on the computer every period. This allows us to monitor attendance statistics for both individual and groups of students more frequently and closely. The following table shows the attendance rates for lessons at each year level for Term 2.

Attendance Rate per Year Level (% attended):		
Year Level	Term 2 2009	Term 2 2010
Year 9	92	94
Year 10	91	94
Year 11	92	94
Year 12	90	93
Year 13	88	91
Whole School	91	93

Students are expected to bring a note explaining their absence on the day they return to school. If you have any concerns about attendance or want to report an absence, please phone Mrs Hyland, Attendance Officer, on 621-0069. Lateness to school is an increasing concern this term and we would value your support to help us address this when it is brought to your attention. It is our experience that left unaddressed, lateness can become truancy.

UNIFORM

When students are in uniform we require them to be in complete regulation uniform, not a mixture with mufti. Non MRGS uniform items worn on school grounds will be confiscated and will be available for collection from the Deans' Centre. An MRGS school cap may be worn in terms 1 and 4. No other caps or beanies may be worn. In 2011, every year level is expected to wear the new uniform (Elizabeth Michael label). Blazers and red vests will be available (not compulsory) for Year 12 and 13 students for 2011, however, blazers must be ordered by the end of Term 4 2010. The full list of uniform requirements for juniors and seniors is available on the school website. If you have any queries about uniform please contact Mrs Barker, Deputy Principal.

Uniform Shop Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 8.00am to 9.00am and 3.00pm to 4.00pm at the MRGS uniform shop by the hockey turf on Somerset Rd.

OPTIONS

Students who will be in senior classes in 2011 should have handed their option forms into the office by now. Year 9 students will hand in their forms for Year 10 options next week. If you have a year 9 student you may wish to discuss their option choices with him or her. You can find more information to help with the option selection from the 2011 Academic Programme available under the Curriculum tab on the school website www.mrgs.school.nz

ENROLMENT

If you have a younger child who will be coming to Mount Roskill Grammar School in 2011 please collect an enrolment form from the school office and return the completed form. Enrolment forms can also be downloaded from the school website: www.mrgs.school.nz Out of Zone enrolment applications must be returned to the school by Wednesday 1st September. The Out of Zone ballot will be held Monday 6th September and letters advising of the balloting results will be posted on Friday 10th September.

In Zone enrolment interview evenings will be held at the school from 4 pm until 8pm on Tuesday 7th and Thursday 9th of September. Justices of the Peace will be available at the school on these two evenings.

Can you please pass this information to friends and family who are unlikely to receive this newsletter but intend to enrol their children at Mount Roskill Grammar School.

DRUG EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL YEAR 12 & 13

Pat Buckley will be in School during PE lessons on 21st September to inform our students of the consequences and dangers of drug use. Pat has been sending his message throughout NZ secondary schools for the past 4 years with many positive endorsements from these schools.

WIDER EDUCATION YEARS 9 & 10

Wider education this year runs from 6-8 December and it is an opportunity for all to be involved in valuable learning activities that are based outside of the classroom. Students will be challenged via range of media, tasks and learning intentions designed to develop problem solving and social skills. Students will get the opportunity to make new friends, see new places and interact with other students, all the while having fun completing a wide range of activities.

Year 9

Year 9 wider education comprises day trips that are based around the Auckland area. The trips that are running are activities that students might not normally be involved with but are fun and designed to challenge.

Year 10

As a Year 10 student your son/daughter will be required to attend a camp or three day trip programme as a part of Mount Roskill Grammar School's Wider Education Programme.

This programme has been developed to enable all students at Year 10 to participate in



a learning experience that takes them away from their familiar home comforts. Students will have the opportunity to develop their life and social interaction skills through learning activities based outside the classroom.

Most camps are based outside of the Auckland area and students will be travelling to these destinations by bus or mini bus. Risk appraisal and management plans will be completed for each camp to ensure your child's safety.

This year the trips and camps cover a wide range of activities and venues, and although there is a cost associated with each camp we have endeavoured to keep these to a minimum.

A deposit of \$25 for day trips and \$50 for residential trips is needed to secure placement by Friday 3 September and final payment is due by 29 October.

For further information refer to the handout given to students by form teachers.

A Ferguson
Wider Ed Co-ordinator

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

TERM 3		
August	Tuesday 24	Union Meeting (School finishes 12.00pm)
	Monday 30	School Holiday (Tournament Week)
	Monday 30 August - Friday 3 September	Tournament Week
September	Monday 6 – Tuesday 14	Senior Exams
	Friday 24	Junior & Senior Reports Issued
TERM DATES 2010		
Term 4	Monday 11 October	Friday 10 December

Calendar for 2011: Term Dates

Term 1:	Start of Term 1	Tuesday 2 February
	Last day of Term 1	Friday 15 April
Term 2:	Start of Term 2	Monday 2 May
	Last day of Term 2	Friday 15 July
Term 3:	Start of Term 3	Monday 1 August
	Last day of Term 3	Friday 7 October
Term 4:	Start of Term 4	Tuesday 25 October
	Last day of Term 4	Friday 9 December

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