

Year 13 Chemistry students Wenyi Yi and Timothy Vogel, have returned from the International Chemistry Olympiad with bronze medals. The high quality of their achievement on the international stage is put into perspective by the recent endeavours of New Zealand athletes to gain Olympic medals. Well done Wenyi and Timothy!



You may have seen the recent Metro magazine article (June 2008) examining the factors that contribute to an outstanding school. Mount Roskill Grammar School was recognised as the outstanding school for all round achievement of its students. The article shows that MRGS adds exceptional achievement value to its students while focusing on attributes that fit students to be confident, connected citizens. While we are delighted with this ongoing recognition of excellent achievement there are groups of students who are at risk of not achieving satisfactorily. After the Term 2 examinations we identified a group of about 10% of our Year 13 students whose attendance and focus on learning is unsatisfactory. Thank you to families who have assisted our Year 13 Level Co-ordinators and House Leaders in renewing the efforts of these students. I am also concerned about the number of students arriving late to school. Quite simply 'wet weather' or 'traffic problems' are not satisfactory explanations for lateness. We live in Auckland! Your assistance in ensuring your son or daughter is in class, on time, ready to learn is greatly welcomed. Quality learning requires regular and complete attendance.

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 senior students have only 40 days learning at school before leaving for NCEA and Scholarship examinations. These students will receive a brief report summarising their progress and identifying any concerns before the end of term.

Our proposed new school uniform is on display in the administration foyer. We have endeavoured to develop a uniform that links with the MRGS tradition and is practical and comfortable for students while simplifying the possibilities. The new uniform will be phased in over three years to minimise inconvenience to families. In 2009 only the Year 9 students will be expected to purchase the new uniform. In 2010 our current Year 10 students will move into the new Year 12 uniform. By 2011 the new uniform will be fully implemented. Any comments or enquiries you have are welcomed.

G B Watson  
**PRINCIPAL**

## **ELECTRONIC DEVICES IN SCHOOL**

With the increased sophistication and availability of electronic devices, Mount Roskill Grammar School has had to reconsider students' use of such equipment at school.

The following issues have been identified by teachers:

- The use of electronic equipment by students in class is disrupting student learning.
- The increased sophistication of these electronic devices creates the risk of assessments becoming invalid.
- Learning time is wasted by both teachers and students trying to find lost electronic devices and dealing with their misuse.
- As electronic devices become increasingly sophisticated, there is a risk of inappropriate photos and videos being taken which raises privacy concerns.
- Of significant concern, however, is the tendency of students listening to and using electronic devices being isolated from their peers and the rest of the school community.

Parents and caregivers are reminded that students are not permitted to use electronic equipment within the grounds of Mount Roskill Grammar School. Electronic equipment includes cell-phones, iPods, MP3 players and other devices that are not required for normal school use. If seen at school these electronic devices are confiscated from students. From the beginning of Term 3 confiscated electronic equipment will only be returned to parents or caregivers. Parents/caregivers must provide identification and make an appointment through Mrs Wills to collect the device.

The school will also not take responsibility for any electronic equipment brought onto the school grounds.

We look forward for your support in this matter. We are happy to discuss any questions or concerns you may have.

## BADMINTON SUCCESS

At the Greater Auckland Secondary Schools Championship, **Jack Lu** and **Wesley Yep** were second in the Junior Boys doubles. They won four matches including their semifinal with Rangitoto College. **Ari Tse** reached the quarterfinals of the senior Boys Singles.

In the Auckland Central Zone Secondary Schools Team event, Mount Roskill finished fifth with their best result a 4 - 2 win over Sacred Heart College.

In Grade Competition completed, Mount Roskill has won two competitions and was second in two others. The winning teams were the Girls B Monday team and the Tuesday Open C team. Teams that were second were the first Girls Wednesday C team and the Girls Thursday D team.

## TRAMPOLINE TEAM

Competed at McCown Sports Centre on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> June.

Results are: **Patrick Lee** was first in the Mens D Grade. He scored a great total of 41.70 points, 11 points ahead of second place. This is superb a effort for his first Trampoline Competition.

**Nikki Lumangtad** finished 10<sup>th</sup> in the Womens C Grade; **Hayden Ng** finished 9<sup>th</sup> in the Mens B Grade; **Sarah Deverell** finished 9<sup>th</sup> in the Womens B Grade

These are outstanding results as these Year 9 students are competing against year 9 – 13 students, there being no age groups. Congratulations to **Sarah Deverell** who has qualified for her age group at the National Trampoline competition to be held at Mystery Creek in September. She will represent Extreme Trampoline in this competition.

## MRGS CROSS COUNTRY 2008

This year the MRGS Cross Country was held on the afternoon of Thursday 7 August. As usual it was a School wide event and nearly every student from Year 9 to 13 participated. Despite some difficult weather the Students had been training hard during PE over the previous 3 weeks and it was a fantastic event enjoyed by most Students and Staff. The afternoon began with the Championship Race at 1:00pm and then final race at approximately 2:45pm.

## SCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY

### Champions:

<b>Junior Girls:</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Alana Miller	<b>Junior Boys:</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Warren Duncan
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Siobhan O'Conner		2 <sup>nd</sup> Kaiz Hudda
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Carrie Li		3 <sup>rd</sup> Henry Li
<b>Intermediate Girls:</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Telisha Kumar	<b>Intermediate Boys:</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Tadele Tekle-Haimanot
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Puja Rai		2 <sup>nd</sup> Daniel Yep
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Natasha Smith		3 <sup>rd</sup> Haile Tesfaye
<b>Senior Girls:</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Lucy Horne	<b>Senior Boys:</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Gurveer Bhandari
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Lerly Luo		2 <sup>nd</sup> Abdizamed Mohamed
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Fiona Ting		3 <sup>rd</sup> Javid Hameed

**HOUSES**

**Rutherford**  
**Baxter**  
**Blake**  
**Hillary**

1<sup>st</sup>  
 2<sup>nd</sup>  
 3<sup>rd</sup>  
 4<sup>th</sup>

**Hillary**  
**Sheppard**  
**Savage**  
**Mansfield**

5<sup>th</sup>  
 6<sup>th</sup>  
 7<sup>th</sup>  
 8<sup>th</sup>

**Year 9 – Boys**

1<sup>st</sup> Opeti Kei  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Joshua Sprague  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Irshad Ghazi

**Girls**

1<sup>st</sup> Carol Tang  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Tameilia Sue  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Angeli Ishwar

**Year 10 – Boys**

1<sup>st</sup> Nikhil Parpudi  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Mohammed Abdi  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Joel Jeevan

**Girls**

1<sup>st</sup> Brittany Conlon-  
 Stepanicic  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Anya Yang  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Ye – Eun Nam

**Year 11 – Boys**

1<sup>st</sup> Aditya Sheth  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Jason Bruce  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Geon Hwi Kim

**Girls**

1<sup>st</sup> Holly Elliston  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Angela Zhang  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Puja Rai

**Year 12 – Boys**

1<sup>st</sup> Alix Hay  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Brandon Wallace  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Taufiq Asad

**Girls**

1<sup>st</sup> Lara Galea  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Claire Yu  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Florence Efia Atta

**Year 13 – Boys**

1<sup>st</sup> Haman Ganda  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Javid Hameed  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Vincent Chak

**Girls**

1<sup>st</sup> Zenia Jaitley  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Leanora Gomes  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Jennifer Huang

**1<sup>ST</sup> XV AUSTRALIAN TOUR**

After much hard work fundraising we left with high expectations for the Gold Coast on July 6th. Immediately upon arrival we were struck with a viral infection. Fifteen of the boys and two of the staff became ill. Three boys needed hospital treatment and Thomas Ellis was hospitalised with pneumonia on our return. We were not able to field a full Roskill side until our last game against Trinity Grammar. It was satisfying to see the boys on the field and we won convincingly. Those boys who were able to enjoyed the two day trips to Wet and Wild and Dreamworld immensely. Our singing at Jupiters was received enthusiastically. It was disappointing that after all our practising that with the boys being ill our voices were strained and not quite up to the mark. Still we enjoyed the evening. The boys managed to make themselves known to the Australian netball teams that were in attendance. We returned home to a large group of anxious parents. The trip was definitely one which tested the character of all involved. We were bowed but not defeated. To all concerned, particularly the old boys who accompanied us.....Dean, Sam, Richard, Sushil.....and also Grace Nattrass. Thank you for all your hard work. Nick TUIALII - Tour Organiser.

## **NIKEPLUS CHALLENGE 2008**

The NikePlus Challenge is a competition across 149 Schools in Australia and Auckland starting on August 8<sup>th</sup> and running for 24 days. It involves having 100 of our students walk and run as far as they can during that time. The distance the Student's cover is recorded using a device donated by Nike and then uploaded onto the [www.nikeplus.com](http://www.nikeplus.com) webpage. They are able to use this webpage to track their total distances and also to check the cumulative kilometres that the entire group of students from MRGS cover and to compare it against other competing Schools. Incentives are being offered to students who can cover 50km over the 24 day period as well as some other prizes for participation. There will also be an internal competition running within the school for the Houses. The participating students and the entire school are being encouraged to take small steps to increase the amount of walking or running they do over the next few weeks by doing simple activities such as getting on and off at an earlier bus stop, walking to school instead of getting a ride in the car and also to generally go for walks or runs while encouraging their friends and families to also tag along. There will be a range of activities for the Students to participate in during the week at School to help encourage and motivate them. As part of the NikePlus Challenge, the Students need to use their iPod Nano's as part of their recording equipment, and I would like to just take this opportunity to remind the Students and Parents that they will still be unable to use these electronic devices during School time.

## **SPORTS**

This year we have teams and individuals performing to their highest potential, Football 1<sup>st</sup> X1 Girls making Finals, Badminton, Golf, Table Tennis, Basketball U17 Boys, Hockey Girls 1<sup>st</sup> X1, 1<sup>st</sup> X1 Boys, Netball Open A, Netball Junior 1, top 4 in their grades.

Teams participating in Tournament Week: Netball Open A - Papakura, Football 1<sup>st</sup> X1 Boys - Keith Hay Park, Hockey 1<sup>st</sup> X1 Boys - Whakatane, Hockey 1<sup>st</sup> X1 Girls – Taupo, Golf – Lower Hutt.

## **NETBALL TOUR**

A highlight for girls sport this year was the Open A and Senior 1 Netball Tour to the Gold Coast Carnival where the Open A came Runner up in Pool B. Lucy Horne of the Open A and Rachael Martis of Senior 1 were selected in the Gold Coast Tournament Team called the Barbarians. I would like to thank the girls and also the staff who made the trip a success.

## **“BRING IT ON” - CENTRAL HEAT**

After eight weeks of intensive rehearsals, the 2008 Bring It On Crew went to the North Shore Event Centre on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> July to represent Mt Roskill Grammar School. Competing against eleven other schools, the crew put on an amazing performance and wowed the crowd and judges alike. They placed first and will now be competing in the Grand Final to be held at the Telstra Clear Pacific Stadium in Manukau on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September.

## WIDER EDUCATION YEARS 9 & 10

Wider Education this year runs from 9 - 11 December and it is an opportunity for all to be involved in activities that are outside of the classroom. Students will get the opportunity to make new friends, see new places and interact with other students, all 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 designed to be activities that students might not normally be involved with but are fun and designed to challenge young people. Activities offered include:

Girls Zone	Fun In The Sun
Going Bush	Girls Just Want To Have Fun
Hit & Splash	School Sport
Summer Slickers	Extreme Edge Rock Climbing
Let's Go To the Snow	Horse Riding
Art Escape	Golf

### Year 10

As a Year 10 student your son/daughter will be expected to attend a camp 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 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.

The main camp takes place at the Motutapu Outdoor Education Camp (on Motutapu Island) and because we cannot accommodate all Year 10 students there, other camps are held at Raglan (surfing) and Waiuku (Art).

A Ferguson  
Wider Ed Coordinator

## PREFECT CAMP

On Friday August 1<sup>st</sup> the prefects of the school attended an overnight camp at the Kiwanis facility in Huia, West Auckland. It was a chance for this student leadership group to meet informally, do some team building exercises and discuss future events. It was a successful and productive short break overseen by Mr Gipps, Ms Jerabek and Mr Wilkinson.

## UNIFORM FOR YEAR NINE STUDENTS 2009

The uniform we propose to introduce for Year 9 students in 2009 is on display in the foyer of the administration block. Students at other levels will continue to wear the present uniform in 2009. We welcome your feedback on the new uniform and forms on which you can record your comments are available from our receptionist, Bonnie Wills

## COMMUNITY NOTICES

Mount Roskill Community Activities is having an Indoor Kids Only Market on Saturday 30 August, from 9am to 12 midday at the Fickling Convention Centre, 546 Mt Albert Road, Three Kings. At this market, children and young people are the sellers while everyone can be buyers. This is a great opportunity for kids to earn some pocket money while having a great time. Stalls (including a table) are \$5 each and can be booked by ringing Theresa on (09)624-3281.

## HOSTING OPPORTUNITY

Families wanted for AFS Exchange Students arriving 16 August. Andrew (16) from USA Teen leadership member, musical, sports oriented likes fencing, good student. Martin (16) from Czech Republic, responsible keen student, enjoys all sport especially rock climbing and snowboarding. Christian (16) Denmark, positive, easy going, favourite hobbies, soccer, canoeing, cycling. For more information call Brenda, 8185520.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### TERM 3

<b>September</b>	Monday 1	SCHOOL HOLIDAY
	Monday 1 – Friday 5	Tournament Week
	Monday 8 – Tuesday 16	Senior Trial Exams
	Friday 26	<b>END OF TERM 3</b> – Closing time 3.10pm

### TERM DATES 2008

<b>Term 3</b>	<b>Tuesday 22 July</b> (Monday 21 – Teacher only day)	Friday 26 September
<b>Term 4</b>	Monday 13 October	Friday 12 December