

MOUNT ROSKILL GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Newsletter

JULY 2011



Principal: G Watson, MSc (Hons), MEd.Admin (Hons)
Phone: 621-0050
Website: www.mrgs.school.nz

Frost Rd
Mount Roskill
Auckland 1041

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ACTING PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



This has been a busy term two for the school and as I reflect on it and also look forward to the next term it seems appropriate that we draw our thoughts for a moment to the education communities of Christchurch and their continuing difficulties. Our daily work at Roskill has had its own challenges but none that compare with the South Island students and their parents who are enduring breaks to their education and the continuing presence of aftershocks. Some schools are sharing sites so that they can deliver their core business of teaching and learning. I am heartened by the fact that our school has fundraised for the Christchurch appeal on a number of occasions and will I am sure, with the ever-present sense from our students of their place as citizens in a wider community of New Zealanders, still do what they can to support others. On the theme of support we have this term engaged in the annual 40 hour famine, also the Blood Donation day and in both I have been pleased to see the positive and enthusiastic response from students.

Earlier I mentioned the core business of a school, teaching and learning, and that has certainly been a driving force in the term. We have had a solid eleven weeks of classes that have seen our Seniors consolidating their work for National Qualifications with their first set of school practice examinations and our Juniors advancing in their core subjects. I had the pleasure of reading the recent year 9 reports and there was a consistent sense of young men and women settled into the school and developing their skills and knowledge. In the Senior school the reports showed the determination of students to make the most of their learning opportunities. Of course in every case from the achieving to the under-achieving the reports offer clear advice for next steps which must be taken to ensure progress in the final two terms of the year. As follow-up to these reports we have also had the Parent Report Evenings which have given parents and caregivers the chance for dialogue with teachers and a shared sense of future priorities for each student. We are also pleased to have piloted an on-line booking system for those evenings; part of our continuing commitment to link with our community. Linking and updating have also been the aim of our weekly news bulletin, published on the website and developed this term as a supplement to these fuller Newsletters.

As ever, achievement is a focus of our school and the excellent work of our students and teachers was once again acknowledged in the July 'Metro' magazine within our placing in the top ten schools in Auckland. In fact our combined listing in tables of University Entrance, NCEA endorsements and Scholarship places us above all other schools in Auckland and confirms the article's statement that we are 'an outstanding school'. It is encouraging to see nationally published what we are aware of as we work daily in the context of the Grammar school.

As part of this term's further acknowledgement of achievement we celebrated the NCEA achievements of our students at The Excellence Awards evening. A trustee of the Sursum

Foundation, Dr Ramesh Pandey presented the certificates to over 90 of our students who achieved Excellence endorsements in their national examinations last year. The evening also gave us the opportunity to applaud our two premier scholars Jordan Zi and William Quach who were both present at the ceremony with their families. It is always a privilege to be part of an event that once again restates the success of our school as a teaching and learning community.

In the wider context of our campus community this term has seen the celebration of Matariki and the wonderful Campus Music Concert, where students from the three schools performed for a packed audience in the Grammar school hall. It were great to see the range of musical talent including the ukulele group, school orchestras, choirs, concert bands and pop bands.

In our own Grammar school co-curricular area we have had the return of the school's major production with an entertaining presentation of the play 'Niu Sila'. Its humour and topicality was well appreciated by audiences at its three night run. We look forward to next year's production with great anticipation.

We have also had performance success with our dance group – 'Bring It On' who advanced to the regional final this term. They were also part of a well-received school presence when the Wesley Community centre launched its Youth Zone. The celebration of this addition to community facilities also saw a performance by the school's Kapa Haka group. We have also had entertaining performances by our school music and singing groups in rest homes, local competitions and at other school venues. On every occasion the presentation and enthusiasm of our students has been appreciated and commented on.

The achievements of our students outside the classroom have been rewarded throughout the term. A number of students have had articles published in the College Herald – the schools edition of the New Zealand Herald – thus confirming the standard and professionalism of writers at the school. In the sporting area teams have won grade level competitions in squash, students have received medals in gymnastics and others have been picked for local and national representative squads in Rugby league.

Next term will see the return of our Principal Mr Greg Watson from his term's Woolf Fisher travel award and I am sure that he will return refreshed by the conferences and schools he has attended and invigorated by the challenge of term three. Personally, as my period as Acting Principal comes to an end, I would like to thank students and staff for all their work and parents for their support. The success of our school is a combination of the efforts and involvement of many and it is this that takes us 'To the Heights' in all we do. In closing may I wish all students a good holiday and the chance to spend time with family and allow themselves the 're-charging' time so that they return to school ready for a great term three.

Please remember that the first day of school for students next term is Tuesday August 2nd as Monday August 1st is a Teacher Only Day.

ART AWARD

The award is for a **Year 13 student who demonstrates “outstanding commitment and passion for the visual arts and community awareness”**.

Tautai Contemporary Pacific Arts Trust will also sponsor nominated pacific heritage students to pursue their Art studies.



Hala Finau receiving the award from Gil Hanly

SCHOOL PRODUCTION

This year our school production was Niu Sila, written by Dave Armstrong and Oscar Kightley. We started our rehearsals mid-term 1, and instantly the students connected with the text. It is a very funny story about two boys growing up during the dawn raid era in Ponsonby. It is a journey of them growing together, and being forced apart by a changing community. The students were heavily involved in the process and the final performances were run only by students (acting, technical, management – everything) which is a great feat. Their hard work on this beautiful story was performed in week 8 of term 2, to large and appreciative audiences who were very generous with their praise for the production, which we all appreciate. Thank you to the Mt Roskill community for attending Niu Sila, and supporting our budding actors and technical crew. The students have done us very proud and we are so happy to be able to show off their amazing talent. The Performing Arts Department look forward to bringing you a musical in 2012.



SPORT

GYMSPORTS

Hayden Ng has been selected to represent **Gymsports New Zealand** at the 2011 Australian **Men's** Artistic Gymnastic Championship in July 2011. He goes to Australia in the last week of term. His Performance and score at the trial event was a credit to all his hard work and dedication to training. We wish Hayden all the best for his competition and travel to Australia.



ENROLMENT

2012 Enrolment forms are now available from the school office. Enrolment packs will be delivered to local intermediate schools in the first week of term three. Parents are asked to hand the completed enrolment forms into the school office during **August as the In Zone Enrolment Evenings will be held on the 6th and 8th of September.** Out-of-zone enrolment applications must be handed into the school office by **Thursday 1st September.**

UNIFORM SHOP OPENING HOURS

The school uniform shop will only be open during the school holidays on Thursday 28th July from 11.30am to 12.30pm. Normal opening days/hours during the school term are Mondays and Thursdays 8am – 9am and 3pm - 4pm. The shop will not be open on the teacher-only day on Monday 1st August. Normal service will resume on Thursday 4th August.

UNIFORM REMINDERS

- The only trousers that boys may wear are regulation navy trousers.
- No black trousers are allowed.
- No undergarments, t-shirts etc are to be visible under the school blouse/shirt.
- The only shoes permitted are black, leather, full foot, school shoes.
- No canvas or ballet-type shoes are allowed.
- Socks must be MRGS socks for both boys and girls.
- Please name all school uniform items.

OPEN DAY

The school held a successful Open Day on Tuesday 5th July when parents of students who are intending to enrol at Mount Roskill Grammar in 2012 were able to listen to an introduction to the school, visit classrooms displays and speak with staff. School prefects were guides for the evening and it was a great opportunity for our community to see much of the work we do in teaching and learning. Note – details of enrolment dates for 2012 are given in this newsletter.

CAMPUS MUSIC CONCERT

For the third year the three schools on the campus, grammar intermediate and primary took part in a full evening of musical performances in the grammar school hall. The event was opened by the grammar school kappa haka group and pieces were performed by the MRPS orchestra, the MRGS concert band, the MRIS orchestra, the MRPS ukulele group and also choral, string orchestral and jazz ensembles entertained the large and appreciative audience. The evening's music culminated in a sing-along combined performance of 'Proud Mary'. There were many positive comments by those attending and acknowledgement of the work of students and staff to create such a marvellous evening: another example of the MERGE campus co-ordinated ventures.

MAORI LANGUAGE WEEK

Maori language week took place from the 4th to the 10th July. Every year since 1975 New Zealand has marked Māori Language Week. This is a time for all New Zealanders to celebrate te reo Māori (the Maori language) and to use Māori phrases in everyday life. This year the theme was Manaakitanga – how we make people feel welcome when they are in our company, and how we give regard to and care for others when we are hosts. During the week MRGS challenged its Kaiako (teachers) to show their students elements of manaakitanga during class. Some examples of how teachers did this were by writing the date on the board in te reo and greeting students in Māori as they entered class. The school also held wero (competitions) involving nominating teachers who were using te reo and also locating select Māori phrases that year 13 students had placed in notices around the school. This was a great opportunity to spread our awareness of te reo and make it a part of our daily school life. There are also some significant dates next week for future planning. On Tuesday 5th July we hold our Open Day from 3.30pm to 6.30pm when prospective parents of students hoping to come to the school in 2012 are invited to find out about our courses and facilities. The school day will finish early for present students at 2.45pm.

COLLEGE HERALD – ROSKILL WRITERS IN PRINT AGAIN!

Once each week, The New Zealand herald publishes a 'College Herald' section which is made up from articles, pictures, even cartoons that are created solely by Auckland secondary school students. These chosen pieces are representative of the best writing on topical issues in our schools. On a number of occasions in the past MRGS has had student submissions chosen but this term three of our students Shilpan Patel, Karyn Dasgupta and Nigaah Khan have had articles published and Nigaah has received a special award after having a second article appear. It is encouraging to see the writing of our students reaching such a professional level and being enjoyed by fellow students as well as the reading public of Auckland.

PUKEKOHE EXCHANGE

The annual Pukekohe exchange was again a very successful day. With staff and students enjoying the sunshine and a day at another school. After a good trip down there, we were greeted with a warm welcome. The Kapahaka group along with U15 Rugby team performed the haka with pride and passion, setting up what was to be a great day of competition between the two schools.

The **Hockey** academy boys did the school proud. They won 1-0, not a huge score but they played superbly as a team. The heat however got to many of them as they usually play all their games at night so not being exposed to the sun until now was a drawback.

Girls **1st XI Hockey** lost 1-0, letting in a goal in the last 5 minutes of the game. It was an excellent all round team performance.

Boys **1st XI Hockey** lost 3-0 but after trailing by the same score at half time, they worked hard to not concede any further goals in the second half.

The **1st XI Football** Boys won 2-0 in what was a competitive and fiery game between the two sides. Both goals were scored in the first half and the team held on to the ball in the second half to record a good win.

The **1st XI Football** Girls lost 7-0 to a team with multiple NZ reps. They competed for the majority of the game but unfortunately ran out of legs in the last 10mins which is when the opposition scored 3 of their goals.

The Junior Boys **Football Academy** team had a fine win 4-2 with some superb play similar to that of Barcelona. The boys enjoyed the day and the experience and for many of the year 9 boys it will be the first of 5 years of games against Pukekohe.

Senior 1 Netball lost 34-16. After a slow first quarter they put in a really good team performance full of effort to make the game competitive.



The **1st XV** lost 10-0 in a disappointing game. There were many opportunities for both sides to score points but silly mistakes and some decisions by the official meant that the game wasn't as free flowing as either side would have liked.

The **U15 Boys Rugby** team had a big win 48-10. The game was close at half time 15-10 to us but after a good team talk at half time the boys brought out their A game in the second half to run away with the win.

U19 Boys Basketball had an easy win 60-13. After a poor start, the boys increased the defensive pressure which led to a number of easy baskets. Top points scorer was Nitesh with 16.

1st XV REPORT

The 1st XV squad has been fortunate to be coached by three past pupils. Head Coach Mr Overton (PE Teacher), Tony Koonwaiyou and Ricky McCamish as well as having the assistance of Tom, a volunteer from England.

Pre-season games included a good win against the Old Boys (10-5) and a draw against Hillary College (10-10). After the first pool round the team just missed out on a top four placing, so is now playing for the plate final. In this round the boys have beaten Edgewater (33-14) and One Tree Hill College (13-3).



The top points scorers to date are the captain Peti Lauese (7 tries), followed by Isi Kei (6 tries), Mafutaga Sagote (5) and Rapture Tuigamala (3). Metia Lisati is the third highest points scorer with 2 tries, 4 penalties, and 3 conversions (28 pts) while Monte Tautua'a has kicked 24 points.

Team record so far: Wins 6, Losses 5, Draws 1
Points for 177: Points Against 150

The boys say thanks to Mr Overton for the great job he is doing as head coach and half of the team are looking forward to 8 days in Sydney next week, where they will be sightseeing and playing two games.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION - TERM 3 2011

Frost Road, Mt Roskill, Auckland 1041 www.mrgs.school.nz (click on Community Education)

Phone (09) 621 0051 Email: j.carson@mrgs.school.nz Fax: (09) 620 9467

Office Hours: 9am-3pm Monday to Friday. Extra enrolling night: Wednesday, 10 August 6-8pm

MONDAY starts 15 August 7-9pm unless stated

Aerobics Step – 7.30-8.30pm	8 wks	\$56
*Or sign up for two aerobics classes (Mon & Wed) for \$98		
Basic Car Maintenance	6 wks	\$80
Confidence in Public Speaking	5 wks	\$225
Dancing is Fun – Ballroom 7-8pm, Latin American 8-9pm		
*\$55 (6 wks) or do both Dancing is Fun classes for \$100		
Indian cooking: An Introduction	4 wks	\$70+
*Includes first night's ingredients		
MYOB- Computerised Accounting	7 wks	\$135
Painting with Oils	6 wks	\$80+
Thai Cooking – starts 19 September	3 wks	\$45+
*Excludes any ingredients		
Yoga - 6.45-8.15pm. Bring a mat	8 wks	\$72

TUESDAY starts 16 August 7-9pm unless stated

Ayurvedic Nutrition and Cooking	4 wks	\$95
*Starts 13 Sept - Fee includes all ingredients for course		
Badminton - 6.30-8.30pm	7 wks	\$80
Bollywood Dancing - 7.30-8.30pm	7 wks	\$70
Dressmaking – Intermediate	7 wks	\$80+
*Bring pattern, fabric, pins & thread		
Fresh Flower Arranging/ Floristry – Beginners to Intermediate	6 wks	\$70+
Indoor Soccer - Men's - 7.35-9pm	8 wks	\$75
Indoor Soccer – Women's 6-7.30pm	8 wks	\$75
Middle Eastern Cooking	4 wks	\$70+
*Fee includes first night's ingredients		
Picture Framing *Bring item to frame	6 wks	\$75+
Pilates 6-7pm, or 7.10-8.10pm	7 wks	\$65
Spin Bikes - 6.15-7.15pm	7 wks	\$65
Welding for Beginners *Only 4 spaces	6 wks	200+
Woodwork & Furniture Restoration	8 wks	\$95+

WEDNESDAY starts 17 August 7-9pm unless stated

Aerobics Pump - 7.30-8.30pm	7 wks	\$49
*Or sign up for two aerobics classes (Mon & Wed) for \$98		
Café Cooking – starts 14 Sept	4 wks	\$70+
*Fee includes first night's ingredients		
Confidence in Public Speaking	5 wks	\$225
Digital Photog & Photoshop – an Intro	6 wks	\$80
Dressmaking – Beginners	7 wks	\$80+
*Bring pattern, fabric, pins & thread		
Employer Taxes – 21 Sept	1 wk	\$10
French Café Cuisine	4 wks	\$70+
*Fee includes first night's ingredients		
GST Returns/Small Business Taxation	3 wks	\$30
Rental Taxation – 14 September	1 wk	\$10
Small Engine Repairs	6 wks	\$85
Wills – Will Your Last Wishes Be Carried Out? – 7 September	1 wk	\$25
Woodwork – Beg to Int 6.30-9pm	8 wks	\$95+
Yoga - 6.45-8.15pm – starts 3 August	10 wks	\$90
ZUMBA -6.30-7.30pm	7 wks	\$56

THURS/ FRI GUITAR CLASSES

***Fantastic tutor. Bring own guitar. Limited spaces**

Guitar – Beg - Thurs	7-8pm	7 wks	\$75
Guitar Int (1)- Thurs	6-7pm	7 wks	\$75
Guitar Int (2) – Friday	6-7pm	7 wks	\$75
Guitar Int (3) – Thurs	8-9pm	7 wks	\$75
Guitar – Adv - Friday	7-9pm	7 wks	\$125

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

***Non residents pay 30% extra for classes**

DAY-TIME CLASSES

Conversational English and Grammar – starts 1 August

Mon, Wed & Fri 9am-12noon	10 wks	\$395
Beginners/ Elementary	Level 1	
Pre-Intermediate	Level 2	
Intermediate/ High Intermediate	Level 3	

IELTS Academic Preparation – starts 2 August

Tuesday & Thurs 9.15-11.15am	10 wks	\$265
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NIGHT-TIME CLASSES – start 15 August

Mondays and Wednesdays, 6.40-9pm, 7wks	
Beginners/ Elementary	\$99
Pre-Intermediate/ Conversational English	\$99
Intermediate	\$99
High Intermediate	\$99
Advanced Grammar	\$99
English for the Workplace	\$99
Pronunciation	\$99
IELTS Academic Preparation	\$170

*** Tues and Wed, starts 16 August**

Please note: a "+" after a price indicates that there may be further materials costs involved
You must be a minimum of 16yrs to join these classes
TO ENROL: Phone or visit our office or fill in the enrolment form below.

ENROLMENT FORM – COMMUNITY EDUCATION MT ROSKILL GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Course name: _____

Day: _____

Fee: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone number: _____

Email: _____

Credit Card: ____ / ____ / ____ / ____

Exp date: _____ Signature _____

(or post with a cheque made out to Mt Roskill Grammar School Community Education)

PLEASE BE AWARE OF MAIORO STREET CLOSURES FROM 22 JULY

The New Zealand Transport Agency is closing a key part of Maioro Street (SH20) for four weeks and need your help to keep our area moving during this time. From Friday evening 22 July to Sunday 21 August they will be closing Maioro Street (SH20) from the Sandringham Road roundabout to Richardson Road. They would appreciate your help by avoiding Maioro Street, using alternative routes around the area and allowing a bit more time for your trip. So in this way the work can be completed as quickly as possible and we can enjoy the benefits of much better connections – at what will be a key interchange. Keep an eye on their website (www.nzta.govt.nz).

FREE PUBLIC INFORMATION EVENING – see panel on next page

Student Exchange Australia New Zealand, a not-for-profit organisation registered with the New Zealand Ministry of Education, is pleased to extend an invitation for Mt Roskill Grammar students to attend a free information evening in Auckland on Wednesday 10th August at the Copthorne Hotel HarbourCity, 196-200 Quay Street, Auckland. The session starts at 7:30pm.

The evening gives students and families the opportunity to learn more about becoming an exchange student and the various scholarship options that are available. Further details are available in the newsletter notice on the website which can be downloaded in either [Word](#) format, as a [JPG](#) or in [PDF](#) format.

Update



- Over 32 students are currently on work placements
- In a range of industries including building, retail, hospitality, banking, automotive, healthcare, sports and recreation, teaching and architecture
- Students are completing courses and gaining credits in areas such as Health and Safety, Leadership, Customer Services and First Aid



FREE CITY INFORMATION EVENING IN AUCKLAND – 10TH AUGUST, 2011

- Come and meet our staff
- Hear comprehensive information on all aspects of exchange
- Ask questions
- Listen to questions asked by other students and parents, and
- Meet other students who are considering going on exchange
- Scholarships available!

7:30pm

Wednesday, 10th August

Copthorne Hotel HarbourCity

196-200 Quay Street

Auckland

www.studentexchange.org.nz

0800 440 079 (free call)

FREE ONLINE INFORMATION SESSIONS

Our Online sessions provide access to the same information presented at our city sessions.



You can watch our On Demand pre-recorded video presentation **anytime you like**. To access the 6 videos available, please register online.



Our next LIVE Online information session will be held at **8:30pm (NZST) on Wednesday 17th August**. To secure your place, please register online.

<http://studentexchange.org.nz/info-sessions/>

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

TERM 2		
July	Friday 15	END OF TERM TWO
	Saturday 16	SCHOOL BALL
August	Monday 1	TEACHER ONLY DAY
	Tuesday 2	TERM 3 STARTS
	Monday 22 – Friday 26	TOURNAMENT WEEK
September	Monday 5 – Tuesday 13	SENIOR EXAMS
	Friday 16	SCHOOL HOLIDAY
October	Wednesday 5	AWARDS DINNER
TERM DATES 2011		
Term 3	Tuesday 2 August	Friday 7 October
Term 4	Tuesday 25 October	Friday 9 December