

New Curriculum

The purpose of education is to prepare young people for their futures. The new national curriculum clearly has this purpose and must be implemented next year. The new curriculum recognises the importance of gaining qualifications through mastery of subject matter and also throws the spotlight on training in ways of thinking, learning and knowing that will prepare our young people to flourish in the 21st century environment. If we are serious about education being a preparation for the future, the quality of these learning skills and attitudes are crucial in the long run. These 'qualities of mind' such as curiosity, courage, resilience, investigation, imagination, reasoning, sociability, and reflection enable students to feel more capable, confident and willing to engage in everyday situations and difficulties that they encounter.

Developing these qualities of mind has always been part of learning at school, but most often as an indirect by-product of learning in a subject area, or participating in sports or cultural activities. We are working to develop more 'up front' ways of helping students develop these important learning dispositions as part of their learning in each subject. Our teachers are working towards this by meeting before school every Wednesday morning and we are focussing the curriculum development days given by the Government to on this work on this area. The next teacher only day is Monday July 20th. **Term three will begin for students on Tuesday July 21st.**

Budget Cuts

The recently announced Government Budget has impacted seriously and significantly on resourcing for our school. We have been affected in three areas, the MacLean Centre, Community Education and the MERGE Project.

The MacLean Centre is faced with a significant reduction in the number of therapists for our physically disabled students. In order to continue providing a full range of services the structure of the Centre will have to be reviewed, and some programmes and opportunities for students are likely to be curtailed.

The Mount Roskill Campus schools had obtained funding for teacher professional development for 4 years. This funding has been cut after just two years. We called the project MERGE and appointed a project director and a research co-ordinator to help us plan and facilitate the programme. As you are aware there have been many visits, exchanges of ideas, gathering of data, visiting of colleagues' classrooms, a full staff conference as well as informal networking between each of the three Campus schools. We have been working to build a seamless education for our students that enable them to become the confident connected life long learners that the new curriculum demands. I have been delighted with the impact this programme is having on our learning programmes.

As of December 31 2009, all funding arrangements for school based Community Education will end. Approximately 20% of the current funding will be reallocated. This funding will be offered to a small number of schools to target literacy, language and numeracy and Te Reo Maori. The Tertiary Education Commission says that schools will be able to offer full user-pays Community Education. Our current programme will not be able to run. The Community Education programme would be a major loss for our community. This programme enhances community connectedness, gives many people an opportunity to pursue lifelong learning, and allows adults in the community to model aspirational learning to our students. Learning how to learn and lifelong learning are two of the major tenets of the New Zealand Curriculum and so this decision is extremely disappointing.

In each of these areas we are raising concerns about the decisions while looking ahead to consider how things can work in the future. We believe that each of these areas is an important component of the successful service that our school offers the community and while there is significant uncertainty we are searching for the best ways forward.

School Donation

It is timely to remind everyone that **we absolutely rely on families paying fees for goods and services received from the school, and also the voluntary school donation of \$150 for one and \$250 for more than one student.** Understandably in these difficult financial times the total school donations that we have received this year have been reduced. **I request that even if you are unable to offer the full amount, that you consider part payment of the school donation.**

I look forward to seeing you at the **senior report evening on Wednesday July 1st**

Kind Regards

Greg Watson



START OF TERM 3

Term 3 begins for students on Tuesday 21 July.

PANDEMIC PLANNING

The Ministry of Health has announced that Auckland is moving into a “manage it” phase in its influenza A (H1N1) Swine Flu strategy. The “containment” phase has helped restrict the number of cases and slowed the spread of the virus.

What this means for us is that we are unlikely to be advised to close even if we have suggested or confirmed cases of Swine Flu. There will be no restrictions on people returning to school after being overseas, unless they have symptoms.

However – we still strongly urge you to be vigilant about ensuring all unwell children are kept at home. Please keep reinforcing good hygiene practices with your children – especially washing hands before and after eating, blowing noses with disposable tissues and covering mouths when coughing and sneezing.

UNIFORM

From the start of this year our Year 9 students have been wearing our new junior uniform.

In previous newsletters we have mentioned the roll out of the new uniform to other year levels. In 2010 all Years 9, 10 and Year 12 students will be required to be in the uniform. For Years 11 and 13 students the new uniform is recommended but will not become compulsory until the following year. All year groups will be required to be in the new uniform in 2011.

Our school uniform shop is on Somerset Rd (behind the hockey turf) and is open during term time on Tuesday and Thursday 8am to 9am and 3pm to 4.30pm or orders can be placed with Mrs Parkinson in B1. All uniforms can now be purchased from our school shop. This school holidays the uniform shop will be open on Thursday 16 July from 12pm to 2pm.

A reminder to all parents and students that no caps or beanies are allowed to be worn during Terms 2 and 3. Scarves should be plain navy blue or black, shoes must be black leather lace-up school shoes and boys must be clean shaven.

OPEN DAY

The School will be holding its annual OPEN DAY on Wednesday 29 July. All parents and students who may wish to enrol are welcome to visit the school between 3.30 and 6.30pm. Tours will leave from the Administration Building and there will be displays, demonstrations and opportunities to talk with teachers and students about all aspects of the school.

‘BRING IT ON’

Congratulations to **Matthew Whyte**, student leader and Ms Howard, HOD Performing Arts. The ‘Bring It On’ group won the Central Zone competition on Saturday evening.

M R G S SPORT

The Winter sports programme is well under way with a number of our top sports teams currently leading their competitions.

Highlights from this term

Trampolining

On Saturday and Sunday two students from MRGS competed in the Auckland/Manukau championships which involves competitors from all over the North Island. Congratulations to:

Erin Weston (Year 12) in the Elite Grade came 2nd in the synchronised event and 4th in the individual competition.

Sarah Deverell (Year 10) Won her 15-16 year old group. She also came 2nd in the synchronised trampoline competition.

Both girls put enormous hours into training and it is great to see the commitment and dedication they both put into practicing pay off. Both girls have a bright future in this sport and we look forward to following your progress.

Basketball

Both the **U19 Boys and Girls Basketball Teams** are currently undefeated and leading their competitions. The Boys team is well lead by Captain **Paula Latu** and leading scorer **Jason Ou**. The best two results of the year were a close fought victory over Michael Park 36-28 and a big win against ACG 123-36. The Girls team is well lead by **Leilani Marshall**, and has had an average winning margin of 20 points per game.

Hockey

The **Girls 1st XI Hockey Team** is also undefeated with the best result of the year to date being a 4-3 win over the previously undefeated Kings College team. The girls came back to win after trailing 1-3 at half time. We are proud of our girls as they train hard and are fully committed to their team.

Rugby

The **Boys 1st XV Rugby team** is currently joint leaders of their competition with quality wins over a number of sides and one recent loss to Otahuhu College. Rugby League and the boys Under 85kg team has made it to finals by beating St Pauls last week. Their final is this Wednesday evening (6.00pm) at Mt Smart Stadium. Supporters are very welcome. For the latest Draws and Results visit www.mrgs.co.nz and / or www.collegesport.co.nz.

PUKEKOHE EXCHANGE:

This year's annual exchange took place at Pukekohe High School. The students from both schools enjoyed the day, the competition, the chance to watch other sports and the chance to socialize and mix with different students. Unfortunately the results did not go our way this year, Pukekohe winning the exchange 8 games to 3 with one draw. Next year's exchange will take place at MRGS and we are already looking forward to reversing these results.

Results were:

Rugby	1 st XV	7 – 17 loss
Netball	Open A	38 – 52 loss
	Junior 1	18 – 26 loss
	Junior 2	4 – 35 loss
Football	1 st XI Boys	1 – 4 loss
	1 st XI Girls	0 – 2 loss
	Junior Girls	1 – 0 win
Hockey	1 st XI Boys	0 – 4 loss
	U15 Boys	0 – 4 loss
	1 st XI Girls	2 – 2 Draw
Badminton	Senior Boys	5 – 1 win
	Senior Girls	5 – 1 win

Commitment

This is an area where students at MRGS desperately need to improve on if our sport teams are going to be successful and compete at the highest level. Being committed means working together as a team, attending all meetings, trainings and games and having the courtesy to notify others if unable to attend.

REPRESENTATIVE HONOURS:

Many of our teams compete at the top level and this year the following students have been selected for various representative teams in their chosen sport. Congratulations to them all.

Badminton

Ashita Sharma	Auck U19 Girls Team
Kyati Sharma	Auck U19 Girls Team
Eric Sow	Auck U17 Boys Team
Wesley Yep	Auck U15 Boys Team



Hockey

Aleisha Keshaw	Auck U18 Girls Team
Alana Rose Miller	Auck U16 Develop Team
Emily McIntosh	Auck U16 Develop Team
Jaiman Patel	Auck U18 Develop Team



Rugby League

Reece Tamasi	Warriors Development
Delouise Hoeter	Auck West U15
Junior Leiua	Auck West U15
BJ Magele	Auck West U15
Vincent Leota	Auck West U15



Cross Country

Tadele Tekle-Haimanot	NZ Junior Team
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SQUASH TOURNAMENT

On Tuesday 16th June the Mount Roskill Grammar School Senior Squash A Boys' Team headed out to Unitec for the Senior Division One Day Tournament. The team consisted of **Ben Speedy, Aamir Mitha, Abhishek Pillai, LJ Tai, Naseer Mohammed Abdul** and **John Elliott**. Their aim was to surpass last year's placing of coming 3rd in the tournament. Their aim was to win. They played against Birkenhead College in the first round, with Ben, Aamir, Abihshek, LJ and John convincingly beating their team 5-0 to advance into the semi final facing Orewa College.

The boys once again excelled, but it wasn't without a challenge as both Ben and Abihshiek had to come back from a 2-1 deficit to beat their opponents in 5 games. With that said, the boys won 5-0 to advance into the finals. With Sacred Heart as their last opponent, the boys put on a marvellous display of squash with some exceptional games being played. Both teams were in a gripping tie until the end. There was no predictable clear winner with each team taking 2 games before heading into the final and decisive game. However, the final score came out 3-2, to Sacred Heart. The boys played to the best of their ability and had an amazing amount of fun, both on and off of the court where they met with other Squash players.

Special thanks go to Mr Parratt and Mrs Whitaker-Hall, who not only organise the event but also gave some very inspiring talks and advice to the boys. Without them we wouldn't have made it to the final.

TRAVELWISE

In the last newsletter there was a message about the group of students who were promoting safe and healthy travel to and from school. The group has been part of a larger campus promotion as well as the organisers of a display and competition here at Mt Roskill Grammar.

Initial promotion was done at Assembly. This included a performance by the Mt Roskill Primary School Choir which had worked with **Audrey Tay** to practice an appropriate song for the occasion.



On Thursday 11 June the group set up a display in the quad to drive home the message. Elements of the display concentrated on the environmental impact of cars and the amount of pollution caused by driving students to school (29% of our students are driven or drive to school, 253 people in the Auckland region die from vehicle emissions each year, 80% of our air pollution is caused by vehicle emissions); the benefits of walking or cycling to school; safe routes to school; road safety measures.

Students wrote a questionnaire which those who came along could answer and put in a draw for an MP3 player. The first correct answer drawn from the large number of entries was **Farhat Ansari** of Year 9 who is pictured being congratulated by Acting Principal, Mr John Wilkinson.



Auckland City Council Road Safety engineers have proposed a number of measures to increase the safety of students walking to school including: a 40 kph speed limit around the schools and near the main crossing points on Dominion Road; a new pedestrian crossing, traffic islands and roundabout at the Denbigh Avenue / Somerset Road intersection as well as changes to the pavement layout. Details are available on www.aucklandcity.govt.nz/transport.

The Travelwise group has further plans for this year. During Health Week they have organised a presentation by Billy TK Jnr "Driving Towards a Future" which focuses on Road Safety. In August there will be a Research Roadshow for Year 10 students which will have as its theme Road Crashes, the Physics, Mathematics and Social impacts of them.

NZQA EXAMINATION FEES

These fees are now overdue and should be paid as soon as possible to the Accounts Office.

Fees are \$75 for New Zealand resident students and \$375 for non-resident students. The fees are set by the Qualifications Authority and collected by the School on the Authority's behalf. The fee for NZ residents covers all Achievement and Unit standards assessed both internally and externally and also covers entry into 3 Scholarship subjects. Non-resident students should check with Mrs Harding if they wish to enter Scholarship. There is financial assistance available for those families who are on a benefit or qualify for a Community Services Card. Forms for Financial Assistance are available from Mrs Wills in the Administration Office. After the 18th of September there is a \$50 late fee charged by NZQA.

NATIONAL EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING & LEADERSHIP AWARDS 2009

If you believe your son or daughter has an inspirational teacher and can give specific examples of how the teacher has been a positive influence then you might like to put in a nomination for this National Award. Please ask your son or daughter to pick up a nomination form from the office.

REPORTS

Senior reports are being sent. The package will contain the student's report, a booking form for times to see teachers at the parent-teacher meeting on Wednesday 1 July, a request for confirmation of contact details, and a reminder about uniform requirements.

Junior reports are being completed by teachers and will be posted to parents and caregivers shortly after the beginning of Term 3 so that students can make bookings for interviews at the parent-teacher meeting scheduled for Wednesday 1 August.

MUSIC

Another busy but gratifying term for the music department included six Chamber groups competing in the Chamber Competitions and acquitting themselves well, having had practice performances to the very welcoming Hillsborough Heights Retirement Village residents as well as to Mt Roskill Primary students and in our own assemblies.

Rock group Emensis competed in the Rockquest heats and a group of year 9 students are forming a band to take part in the under 15 year old Nickelodeon Band Competitions.

Next term's events will include a combined campus schools concert on Wednesday 12 August 6.30-8.00 p.m. in our school hall at which Roskill Primary, Intermediate and Grammar orchestras will play a combined item while several groups from the three schools will each perform an item. Please calendar that date to come along and support your son/daughter performing. Our newly formed Boys' Choir will perform during the evening as well. The term will include Pasifika Beat competitions, KBB Festival Orchestra competitions and the Manukau "Stand Up Stand Out" talent quest. Our Jazz Combo hopes that a venue can be found for the 2009 Jazz Competitions since we did very well getting into the finals last year. In the meantime they are in demand for Rotary chapter meetings, as well as fund-raiser concerts and are looking for other opportunities to perform in the community.

Amongst the music assembly items next term we plan to feature a group of Indian student performers on the veena and tabla – core members of this group took part in the 2008 40 Hour Live Concert.

HELP WITH PREPARING FOR EXTERNAL EXAMINATIONS

The Unitec in Schools **STEP UP** secondary school revision programme offers senior students the opportunity to help prepare for their end of year external exams in a tertiary environment. Intensive revision courses during the September school holidays will be held at Unitec's Mt Albert or North Shore campuses in Auckland. For further details view the STEP UP website or call 0508 STEP UP. 99% of last years students said they would recommend STEP UP classes to other students. Brochures and information are available from the Year 11-13 Deans, teachers and Careers Department. Enrolments are accepted from the beginning of term 3, with early enrolment advised as class sizes are limited. Enrol online at <http://stepup.unitec.ac.nz>.

EASY SHOPPING AT WWW.YOURFASTSHOP.CO.NZ

90 stores for you, fundraising for MRGS. Leading stores including Noel Leeming, Bond & Bond, Dominos Pizza, Dell and many more. You can shop for DVDs, fashion, holidays, baby, home, iPods, books, magazines, toys, gifts and even your groceries! Just select our school when you shop or browse.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

TERM 2		
July	Wednesday 1	Senior Report Evening
	Friday 3	END OF TERM 2 Closing time 3.10pm
	Saturday 4	School Ball Bring it on Dance Competition
	Monday 20	Teacher Only Day
	Tuesday 21	Students return Term III
	Monday 27	Beginning of Health Week
	Wednesday 29	OPEN DAY 3.30pm
	Thursday 30	Junior Reports posted
August	Wednesday 5	Junior Report Evening
	Monday 10	Blood Donor Day
	Monday 31	School Holiday – Beginning of Tournament Week
September	Friday 4	Out of Zone Enrolment closes
	Monday 7	Senior Exams begin
	Tuesday 8	In Zone Enrolment (Evening)
	Wednesday 9	In Zone Enrolment (Evening)
	Monday 14	Out of Zone Ballot
	Tuesday 15	Senior Exams End
	Friday 25	END OF TERM 3
TERM DATES 2009		
Term 2	Monday 27 April	Friday 3 July
Term 3	Tuesday 21 July	Friday 25 September
Term 4	Monday 12 October	Tuesday 8 December

GET YOUR CHILDREN OR FAMILY PORTRAIT FOR \$10

Advance warning that a family portrait sitting can be booked for Saturday 8 August in advance. Two years ago the session ran from 10.00am until 5.30pm. To secure the time you would like for your family be one of the first to return the booking slip below with your \$10.00. For a \$10 sitting you get a 235 x330mm (10" x 13") photo and have to agree to view the photos the next week.

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Family Name: _____ Students Name: _____ Form Class: _____
 Preferred time (please state a 1 hour slot eg 1-2pm) _____
 Telephone No: _____ \$10 included, Yes ____ (Booking can only be made if \$10 is included)
 Please hand this to Mrs Wills (receptionist) or Mr Hall (DP)