

The academic year is in full swing. Senior students have just completed their first semester examinations, during which a range of assessments occurred. Firstly, there were practice examinations for the achievement standards that will be examined at the end of the year. The purpose of these assessments is to provide a snapshot of each student's progress to date. More importantly we expect students and teachers to be identifying specific next steps so that grades gained can be improved as the year progresses. Excellent students will be developing specific lists of improvements to be made for each standard. Secondly, there was assessment for internally assessed standards that is difficult to carry out during a normal school day. These included practical Science investigations, and meal preparation and presentation for Catering and Hospitality. Thirdly, some learning areas used the time to provide students with an unbroken run at ongoing work for example in the visual arts and technology. At Mount Roskill Grammar School our expectation is for each student to seek the heights of achievement. An Achieved grade is only a stepping stone to Merit and Excellence grades.



In this light it is pleasing to report that two of our students Timothy Vogel and Wenyi Yi have been selected for the New Zealand Chemistry Olympiad Team to compete in Budapest later this year. Timothy and Wenyi were selected for an initial training programme, and then they made the four student New Zealand team after exhaustive practical and theory assessments. Congratulations to the Chemistry Department and in particular HOD Joe MacDougall. Over the last 9 years there have been 9 Mount Roskill Grammar School students selected for the New Zealand teams.

As our students learn and achieve it is important that our teachers keep pace through their own professional learning. This year we are focusing on three main areas. Firstly, we are working on improving the quality of our lesson planning to ensure that students are absolutely clear about our intentions for their learning and about what successful learning looks like day to day. Secondly, we are continuing to enhance the literacy competencies of our students by developing our literacy learning strategies. Thirdly, we are developing further strategies to evaluate the quality of the learning opportunities that we are providing through observing then discussing each other's lessons. As part of this work the **first day of term 3 July 21 will be a teacher only day.**

Senior students receive a full progress report on **Friday June 27**. This report will affirm good progress highlighting any concerns, and identify useful next steps. We look forward to meeting many of you at the senior 'Meet the Teacher' report evening on **Thursday July 3**. Junior reports will be issued in the first week of term 3.

GOLF

The Mt Roskill Golf Team of **Seve Ha, David Kang, Harry Na, Tom Khor** and **Jared Taia** came first in the Auckland Secondary Schools Golf Teams Championship held at Maungakiekie Golf course. They will go to Wellington in September to represent Mt Roskill Grammar in the New Zealand Schools Golf Teams Championship. The team wishes to thank all parents and supporters for their help in fundraising for this event.

TABLE TENNIS

Congratulations to **Brandon Wallace** who has been named in the New Zealand under 18 squad for Table Tennis. Brandon is hoping to make the team travelling to the Oceania Championships in Tahiti in July. We wish him well.

PETER SNELL TALENT SEARCH PROGRAMME

On Tuesday 27th May a group of students from Year 9 and 10 were invited to take part in a Talent Search Programme run by the Peter Snell Institute of Sport. All Year 9 and 10 Physical Education classes went through a battery of tests within their Physical Education lessons. The students who took part in further tests had been identified as being in the top 10% of our school. Specific physical attributes relating to different sports are focused on each year. Further testing will take place if any of our students continue to be in the top 10% for Auckland. We wish our students well in this pursuit. The mission statement of the institute is:



“To foster the development of more world class athletes for New Zealand in Olympic and Commonwealth Games sport”.

NCEA ENTRIES, FEES, EXAMS

A candidate information sheet from NZQA has been distributed to all senior students. All Year 11, 12, 13 students will be involved in NCEA qualifications this year. Entries are made electronically. Fees (\$75 for most students) are due to be paid now. \$75 is payable by students who are New Zealand residents and covers all internal and external standards as well as up to three scholarship entries. Financial assistance is available. Application forms for this assistance are available from Mrs Wills or Mr Lett.

Exams will be held 15 November to 3 December. Please note that if you are thinking of travelling overseas the exam timetable is displayed around the school and no changes of dates or individual arrangements are possible.

PARENTAL CONTRIBUTION

Thank you to families who have sent in the school contribution. The school relies on parental contributions to help fund co-curricular activities and to provide extensive computer facilities.

The expected contribution is \$150 for one student or \$250 for two or more students at the school. We hope you will support the school by paying your contribution.

HOMEWORK CENTRES

The **Homework Centre for all students** is open on Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday from 3.10pm – 5.00pm in L3.

The **Maori & Pacific Island Homework Centre** is open Monday & Wednesday from 3.10pm – 4.00pm in L1.

The **Tongan Homework Centre** will be starting later in the year. In the past it has started at 7.00pm.

The **ESL Homework Centre** is open on Wednesday from 3.20pm – 4.30pm in D9.

The **Chinese Student Support Group** has tutors available to help Chinese speaking students on Monday and Friday from 3.10pm – 4.30pm in E8.

JAPAN EXCHANGE SCHEME

We will be hosting a Japanese boy from Seirinkan High School from mid-July until the end of August, and are looking for a host family for him. If you would like to offer accommodation and spend time with someone from our sister school, please contact Ms Harding at the school 621 0050, ext 756.

OPEN EVENING

The School will be holding an OPEN EVENING for prospective students and their parents on Wednesday 30 July. There will be guided tours through classrooms with displays and activities and the opportunity to discuss aspects of education with staff.

The afternoon's activities begin at 3.30pm and the visits will finish about 6.30pm.

We look forward to meeting many new faces and seeing some familiar ones too. We are proud of what we achieve academically, culturally, socially and in activities outside the classroom. We have worked hard over the last few years to raise the standard of the facilities which are available for our students. Our students are supported in all sorts of ways and we want to share this with our community.

CHEMISTRY OLYMPIAD SUCCESS

Two Year 13 students, **Wenyi Yi** and **Timothy Vogel**, as well as **Abhilash Kamineni** of Year 12 took part in the selection camp for the New Zealand Olympiad Team. Approximately 20 students from throughout the country attended the camp. The selection process involved doing written and practical tests.

Wenyi and Timothy were successful and make up half of the New Zealand team to travel to Budapest. This follows on from Chuan-Zheng Lee's success in the 2007 Olympiad Team.

PASIFIKA YOUTH FONO

On Thursday 5 June the Ministry of Education hosted an Auckland Pasifika Youth Fono at Mount Roskill Grammar School. Students from a large number of Auckland schools participated in the meeting and workshops. There was an address by Karen Sewell, Secretary for Education, followed by workshops and a report back session.

The discussion concentrated on four aspects of schooling and asked the important basic question: "What do Students, Teachers, and Families need to do?"

The points of focus were:

- attendance at school
- engagement in the learning process
- success and achievement
- maximising educational opportunity

The Fono closed with a prayer and supper after the feedback session.

A similar event was held at De La Salle College last term. We enjoyed welcoming a large number of young Pacific Island Leaders to our school. Many of our students were involved in helping with the organisation for the smooth running of this Fono. The next Fono will be held on June 26 at Kelston Boys' High School.

ROAD SAFETY

The three schools on the campus are continually concerned about the safety of students on the roads around the schools. We ask our students to show leadership and use the pedestrian crossings, obey the patrol signs and be sensible.

Parents can help in a number of ways:

- encourage your children to walk to school
- drop students off further away from school (eg on Dominion or Mt Albert Roads)
- allow 10-15 minutes extra on wet days
- drop students off in the parking bays in front of the schools
- do not come into the car parking areas in front of the buildings

Auckland City has been very responsive to our request for increased signage around the school areas and the Auckland Regional Transport Authority is working with the schools to improve safety. At the moment they are analysing responses from students and parents to assist in formulating an action plan for the area.

THE CAREER EVENT OF THE YEAR - Mount Roskill Grammar School Career Expo

We warmly welcome students and parents from all levels of the school to attend our Career Expo on Thursday July 3rd from 5.00pm – 8.00pm in the School Hall. We have over 40 providers attending, including Auckland University, AUT and Massey University as well as universities out of Auckland, such as Otago and Victoria (Wellington). Unitec and Manukau Institute of Technology will also be there, as will NZ Police and the NZ Defence Forces.

A large number of private providers have also accepted our invitation, coming from areas as diverse as sound engineering, travel and tourism, hairdressing, food technology, media design and sport. There will also be a representative from Studylink who will be able to provide you with information on student loans, scholarships and allowances. The providers are coming to answer questions, explain their courses and put a human face to their institution.

So come along to the Butler Hall after your parent teacher interviews and make the most of this opportunity to access these knowledgeable people. Put this date in your diaries. The Career Department Staff look forward to seeing you there.

CANTERBURY NETBALL CARNIVAL 2008

During the first week of the July holidays, the Open A and Senior 1 Netball teams will be travelling to Brisbane to compete against teams from around the world. The girls are very excited by the opportunity to play in Australia and have been fundraising since early in March. So far they have completed a sponsored walk, done stock taking for various companies and have held weekly car washes.

Exciting events coming up include a \$2 raffle (for beauty product baskets valued at over \$50). Tickets can be purchased from reception or Ms J Howard (PFA department).



A \$5 Butter Chicken and Rice lunch pack can be ordered during interval on 17th and 18th June from the PAS and will be ready for collection from the PAS on Thursday 19th June. Don't miss your opportunity to support the girls.

THE SCHOOL BALL

Date: Friday 4th July

Venue: Ellerslie Convention Centre

Cost: \$80

Time: Start 8pm Finish 12am

Students can enter the venue from 7:30 pm and exit from 11:45pm **at which point the students are the responsibility of their parents/guardians.**

Tickets: Year 13 Monday 16 & Tuesday 17 June, Year 12 Wednesday 18 & Thursday 19 June

Tickets are available to all students currently attending MRGS in Years 12 and 13 on presentation of **current school ID card and a signed permission slip from their parents.**

Students are expected to have **paid all their school fees** (with the exception of the parental donation) before they can buy a ticket.

Students are allowed to invite their partners if they do not attend MRGS, however, they must complete a permission form and get approval from Mr Wilkinson (Deputy Principal) prior to ticket purchase. Tickets will be issued on Friday 4th of July and students must be at school to receive their ticket. Students will not be allowed entry into the ball unless they have a **valid named ticket and their school ID card.**

PRODUCTION 2008



This year saw another successful collaboration between the Performing Arts and Music Departments as they staged “FAME – The Musical” under the direction of Ms J Howard.

Running a matinee for the MacLean Centre students followed by four evening performances, the bright colours and exciting sounds of New York in the 80’s had audiences practically dancing in the aisles.

With over one hundred students involved in the show there was a real sense of community produced over the nine week rehearsal period. “It was an awesome experience – the cast and crew really bonded like a family” claimed Year 13 cast member Eve Cahill.

Many thanks go out to the staff, students, parents and Mt Roskill community that supported the show.



CONSULTATION ON UNIFORM

One of the main concerns that emerged during the school’s consultation with the community last year was that of uniform. Concerns focussed on the variety of items that can be worn, the variable quality and the relatively high cost. As a result, the school is currently looking at designing a new uniform.

The following have been identified through the consultation and by key members of the school community as important features in a school uniform:

- Simplicity
- Elegance
- Durability
- Conveying school identity
- Referencing school tradition
- Quality at reasonable cost
- Comfort
- Practicality

We would be interested in your feedback on these features, including which should take priority. Please email your comments to admin@mrgs.school.nz

After this initial consultation has been completed a concept design for a new uniform will be displayed in the foyer of the Administration Block for community feedback.

CAMPUS SCHOOLS WIN SIGNIFICANT FUNDING FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

We called it MERGE: Maximising the Engagement of the Roskill Groups' Education.

Mount Roskill Primary, Mount Roskill Intermediate and Mount Roskill Grammar School have been granted a significant amount of money spread over the next four years to work together to promote high standards in the school system by strengthening effective classroom practice in all three schools so that students experience as little disruption as possible when they change schools and levels within schools.

This means that teachers will work together to better meet students needs, gather evidence which will help inform classroom practice and work with parents to respond more effectively to their children's needs.

Our intention is to focus on achievement needs and literacy, particularly of those students whom we see as underachieving. In spite of very pleasing results in the Benchmark Indicators last year we believe that we must continue to address this area of need.

We are also looking to improve attendance at school. The effects of non-attendance become very evident at Year 11 and are even more damaging at Year 12. Analysis shows that there is a positive correlation between achievement and attendance - by being at school students give themselves a much greater chance of success.

We look forward to keeping you up to date and involving all parents in this exciting development. Ms Kay Thomas and Mr John Wilkinson put a significant effort into the application and have worked hard with the principals and staff of all 3 campus schools to achieve success.

2008 AUCKLAND FINALS for MRGS SENIOR WATER POLO TEAMS

The Senior B Boys and Girls Water Polo Teams played their final matches in the Auckland Secondary Schools Competition during senior exams.

Senior B Boys Team: Daniel Verhoeven (goalie), Ryan Goodin, Fraser Goodin, Neo Herng Fong, Quilong Liu, Kelvin Fung, Alwin Lim, Ben Tokley, Srdan Jakimovski, Walter Zhang & Jordan Harris. Coached by: Stephen Bensley Managed by: Mrs C Bartlett
Mt Roskill Boys placed 7th equal overall in the Division 1 of the B Grade Auckland Competition.

Senior B Girls Team: Holly Elliston (goalie), Eva Penny, Catie Mulrennan, Hannah Widjaja, Telisha Kumar, Eleanor Natrass, Briar Elliston, Mattie Tuialli, Serah Tuialli and Kathryn Frankcom-Burgess. Coached by: Joe Bensley Managed by: Mrs C Bartlett & Mr N Tuialli
MRGS Girls finished 5th in the Division 1 of the B Grade Auckland Competition.

Tournament results from earlier this year - **Senior North Island Water Polo Tournament** 13-16th March 2008. Both the Senior MRGS Boys & Girls were placed 2nd, as Runners Up in their respective Second Division Competitions.

B Grade National Tournament In Hamilton In April (School Holidays)

Senior B Boys - winners of the Bowl Trophy.

Senior B Girls - Placed 8th overall.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Night Classes for Adults – Part-time day & night ESL classes are also offered

Telephone: (09) 6210051 or email: sueb@mrqs.school.nz

Starts Monday 19 May unless stated

Aerobics – Intermediate step **starts 5 May**
 Aerobics – Pump **starts 5 May**
 Accounting for Businesses Today
 Ballroom Dancing – Beginners
 Basic Car Maintenance & Servicing
 Create Your Own Mosaics
 English as a Second Language – **Mon & Wed**
 English for the Workplace
 Excel Spreadsheets
 Family Trusts **starts 26 May**
 GST Returns & Business Tax **starts 26 May**
 Indian Cooking
 MYOB Computerised Accounting
 Painless Public Speaking
 Painting with Oils`
 Photography Techniques & Tips
 Tai Chi – Beginners & Intermediate
 Yoga Beginners to Intermediate

Starts Tuesday 20 May unless stated

Badminton
 Computers for Absolute Beginners
 Defensive Driving **starts 27 May**
 Digital Photography & Photoshop
 English as a Second Language – **Tues & Thurs**
 Fresh Flower Arranging
 Indoor Soccer for Women
 Line Dancing
 MYOB Computerised Accounting
 Salsa Dancing – beginners
 Small Engine Repairs
 Welding for Beginners
 Yoga – Beginners to Intermediate

Starts Wednesday 21 May unless stated

Aerobics – Pump **starts 7 May**
 Ballroom Dancing – Intermediate
 Build Your Own Fence, Retaining Walls, Pavers
 Dressmaking
 Feel the Fear and Do It Anyway
 Indoor Soccer Intermediate **starts 7 May**
 Mandarin Chinese Beginners
 NZ Sign Language Beginners
 Painless Public Speaking
 Tiling for Beginners (hands-on class)
 Touch Typing
 Watercolours for Beginners

Starts Thursday 22 May

Aerobics – Intermediate Step **starts 8 May**
 Badminton
 Café-Style Cooking
 Car Learner Licence **starts 29 May**
 Guitar Styles Beginners
 Indoor Soccer Intermediate & Advanced
 Indoor Soccer for Women
 Picture Framing
 Spanish – beginners
 Woodwork & Furniture Restoration

Starts Friday 23

Guitar Styles – Advanced

COMMUNITY NOTICES

DYSLEXIA AWARENESS WEEK (JUNE 16-22)

Bright child- can't spell?
 Verbal ability outstrips writing skills?
 Thinks in pictures -not words?
 Knows it but can't get it down on paper?

It could be dyslexia.

Dyslexia is a different way of thinking and processing information, although dyslexics often struggle with written tasks they may be gifted in other areas, particularly three dimensional thinking. Dyslexics may make fine architects, engineers, or entrepreneurs - the Mad Butcher is quoted as being dyslexic. Dyslexia is now recognised by the Ministry of Education as a learning disability.

The Dyslexia Foundation of New Zealand estimates 70,000 children may have dyslexia. The foundation provides information and support for dyslexics and their families. If you have concerns about your child contact the school or the Dyslexia Foundation.
www.dyslexiafoundation.org.nz

IMMUNISATION PROGRAMME

Tēnā koutou katoa

The Prime Minister has announced the introduction of a national immunisation programme for human papillomavirus (HPV) with the aim of reducing the incidence of cervical cancer. HPV vaccine will be offered to 12-year-old girls (Year 8) on an ongoing basis as part of the National Immunisation Schedule, with a phased 'catch up' programme for girls from 13 years up to and including 18 years of age.

HPV immunisation programme

This important immunisation programme will start in September 2008 with vaccinations for 17- and 18-year-old girls, to be delivered by general practitioners, practice nurses or health clinics. From 2009 onwards, vaccinations will be provided for 12-year-old girls. The catch up programme for the remaining girls will be delivered during 2009 and 2010.

School-based immunisation programme

The Ministry of Health would like to deliver the HPV immunisation programme through schools and is working with district health boards (DHBs) to do this. As adolescents do not always have regular health care visits, providing immunisations through schools is an effective way to target this group. School-based immunisation programmes are also an effective way to reduce ethnic disparities in vaccine uptake.

The Ministry of Education is working with the Ministry of Health's HPV team to communicate effectively with schools and to seek to minimise any disruption to school operations. We will work to support schools and will maintain open communications with education sector groups at our regular meetings with them as planning and implementation progresses.

The Ministry of Health will keep you well informed of the programme's plans, with realistic lead in times. Your DHB will provide information on the timing and mode of delivery of the local programme.

HPV and cervical cancer

On average, 160 women are diagnosed with cervical cancer in New Zealand each year, and 60 women die from it. Cervical cancer is caused by HPV, a common virus that is spread through skin to skin contact. Some types of HPV infection can cause cell changes that may lead to cervical cancer, and these types are spread through sexual contact. Cervical cancer usually takes more than 10 years to develop. Most women who develop HPV infections clear the virus naturally and do not develop cervical cancer.

HPV vaccine

The HPV vaccine (called Gardasil) targets the types of HPV responsible for most cases of cervical cancer and genital warts. Studies show Gardasil is highly effective in preventing these types of HPV in young women who have not previously been exposed to them.

Three doses of HPV vaccine are given over a six-month period.

More information

For more information about the programme, email HPV@moh.govt.nz, see the Ministry of Health website www.moh.govt.nz/immunisation and/or phone Janine Bryce at the Ministry of Health on 04 816 4451.

Nāku noa, nā



Karen Sewell
Secretary for Education

JULY HOLIDAY PROGRAMS

Arthouse Remuera (parnellstudio.co.nz)

- Build your own Multimedia City!
- Sketch and Paint your own 3D Jungle Mural!
- Learn the art of Doll Making!

Little Chefs Cook School (parnellstudio.co.nz)

- Delicious Desert Bonanza!
- Cookie Monster Crazy Cookies and Cake!

www.parnellstudio.co.nz Ask us now on Tel: 524 2460

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

TERM 2

June	Tuesday 10	Pukekohe High School Exchange at MRGS
July	Thursday 3	Senior Report Evening & Career Expo
	Friday 4	END OF TERM 2 - Closing time 3.10pm SCHOOL BALL

TERM 3

July	Monday 21	TEACHER ONLY DAY
	Tuesday 22	BEGINNING OF TERM 3
	Wednesday 30	Open Evening
August	Wednesday 6	Junior Report Evening
	Thursday 7	School Cross Country
September	Monday 1	SCHOOL HOLIDAY
	Monday 1 – Friday 5	Tournament Week
	Monday 8 – Tuesday 16	Senior Trial Exams
	Friday 26	END OF TERM 3 – Closing time 3.10pm

TERM DATES 2008

Term 2	Monday 5 May	Friday 4 July
Term 3	Tuesday 22 July (Monday 21 – Teacher only day)	Friday 26 September
Term 4	Monday 13 October	Friday 12 December