

Nga mihi nui ki a koutou.

A very full first term is almost complete. Our students have been busy balancing commitments to academic learning, their co-curricular activities and to family life.

Our Samoan, Tongan, Cook Island, Indian and Maori cultural groups all performed very well at the recent ASB Polyfest. The Kapa Haka performed with distinction and the group is looking forward to having an ongoing presence in school life. The newly formed Cook Island group performed with vibrancy and skill. The Tongan group gave a high quality performance coming 1st in the Milolua and 3rd in the Mako. Outstanding progress has been made by the Samoan group who came 1st in the Mauluulu and 2nd in both the Sasa and Exit. This is the best result for the Samoan group ever! Our students are enjoying seeing the groups perform at school assemblies. Thank you to all of the families and teachers for your generous support of our students as they prepared.



Newsletters will be emailed to all families who have supplied an email address to us. We will continue to give newsletters to students to take home. Newsletters are also posted on our website at www.mrgs.school.nz as soon as they are issued. If you would like newsletters emailed to you please contact Mrs Bonnie Wills on 621 0050 or email admin@mrgs.school.nz

Each year the Board and the staff set school goals as part of our ongoing school improvement. Our 2010 school goals are:

1. Enhance responsive teaching including:
 - Implementing formative practices such as self assessment and use of feedback and feed-forward to students.
 - Ensuring that teachers of junior classes meet regularly to update each other on student learning.
 - Continuing to weave the key competencies into learning programmes.
2. To strengthen school wide Tikanga Maori.
3. To strengthen our capacity to use ICT in teaching and learning.

We see these goals as next steps in providing a high quality learning environment for our students and will keep you informed about what progress we are making during the year.

I wish everyone an enjoyable and safe Easter Season and look forward to seeing well rested students return ready for learning in Term 2.

‘Sursum’

G B Watson
PRINCIPAL

NEWS FROM THE BOARD

Elections



The Board of Trustees elections for our school will be held early next term.

We are looking for passionate people willing to join a team interested in the education of the students at Mt Roskill Grammar. Experience is not necessary.

If you wish to speak with someone about being on the BoT please phone the current Chair Marjet Pot: 021 977201 or (09) 6388872. Any of the other BoT members will also be happy to speak with you.

For further information visit the school website: <http://www.mrgs.school.nz/ourschool/bot.aspx>

Nominations close on April 23rd.

EMAIL ADDRESSES

Any changes to parents email addresses please contact admin@mrgs.school.nz as this is an excellent and quick way for the school to contact parents/caregivers.

PARENTAL DONATIONS

The parental donation remains at \$150.00 per student or \$250.00 per family. Every effort is made to keep school costs to a minimum but to ensure that we offer quality educational opportunities we encourage payment of these costs. The parental donation assists in meeting the costs of providing classroom and sports equipment. If you have difficulty in paying the total cost at the beginning of the year, please contact the Accounts Office to make alternative arrangements.

UNIFORM

The MRGS Uniform Shop is located near the hockey turf on Somerset Rd. The shop will be closed the first week of the holidays commencing 5 April due to Easter and for stocktake. Opening Hours are as follow: Wed 14 April - 3.00 pm to 5.30 pm, Thu 15 April - 11.00 am to 2.00 pm, Mon 19 April - 8.00 am to 9.00 am, Tue 20 April - 8.00 am to 10.00 am and 3.00 pm to 5.00 pm, Thu 22 April - 8.00 am to 9.00 am and 3.00 pm to 4.00 pm. Normal Hours thereafter. If you have any queries about uniform, please contact Mrs Barker, Deputy Principal.

PRINTING

From the beginning of term 2, 2010, a new system will be in place for students to use the school's printers to print their own work and projects.

How the system works:

- All students will have a printing account.
- Each time a student prints to a school printer, credit will be deducted from their account.
- A starting balance of \$2.00 (around 40 copies) will be loaded on each student's account free of charge at the beginning of term 2 when the system begins and again at the beginning of each year.
- Normal black and white printing to A4 paper will be charged at a rate of 5 cents per copy. Colour or larger copies will cost more.
- At any time, a student may add credit to their printing account by purchasing a "printing top up card" for \$2.00 from the school accounts office. The card will contain a code and this code can be loaded on to the student's account the next time they log in to a school computer.
- When a student's printing balance reaches \$0.00, they will not be able to print until they purchase more credit and load it to their account. Exceptions will be made for senior students during examination periods where they may need to print for assessment purposes.
- Where students have paid through their subject fees for printing that they are expected to carry out themselves, they will be issued with top up cards to cover that component of the fee.

In the past, students have paid for printing either through the various departments where printers are available or at the library. This new system will provide a consistent and fair way for students to cover the costs of the printing that they do and will allow us to continue to provide printing services for all.

If you have any inquiries regarding this new system, please contact Michael Loretz mloretz@mrgs.school.nz (09) 621 0050.

MERGE – MAXIMISING THE ENGAGEMENT OF THE ROSKILL GROUPS EDUCATION

Highlights of 2009:

Campus concert on August 12 celebrated the performance of students.

- Maori Enhancement Groups established, culminating in a graduation ceremony in December. Sub Merge group looked at how to improve our students' writing skills.

Mount Roskill Grammar School has successfully applied for an ICT Professional Development contract available for the next three years.

Activities to help the transition of students from school to school.

2010 Plans:

The MERGE Project will continue in 2010. We are committed to working together to learn from each other, grow links and raise achievement for our at risk students. The Steering Group will lead this cross campus work. Our goals for 2010 will focus on: gathering, sharing and using data; implementing Professional Learning Circles as our main form of professional learning and building a consistent approach to teaching and learning.

Lee Tawhai will continue in her role as Campus Maori Student Co-ordinator. The students she has been supporting in Year 6 and Year 8 are now moving to their new schools, and we believe their transition will be easier as a result of this existing relationship.

Professional Learning Circles (PLCs): growing our PLCs will be a big focus this year. We would like to see as many teachers as possible visiting their colleagues and engaging in discussions about teaching and learning. Some of these groups will be cross campus.

Campus music: this group will continue to learn together in 2010. We hope the music staff on the campus will meet in a regular PLC throughout the year.

Specialists and Grammar Departments: during 2009 we began developing links between the specialists at MRIS and their corresponding departments at MRGS. We would like to continue growing these links in 2010.

GLAD WRAP AND TINFOIL AVAILABLE FOR A GREAT PRICE

Sarah Deverell in Yr 11 has qualified to represent NZ in Trampolining in Japan in June.

She needs to raise money to help her go, so place your order via this the email below or see Sarah in E Block on Senior report evening. Glad wrap 600mtrs \$35, Tinfoil 150mtr \$35 OR two for \$65. They will be ready for collecting outside the school hall on Monday 19th April 3.45 – 4.30pm, or Wed 21st 6.45 – 7.30. Email: rogerjdeverell@gmail.com

Three Kings Dental Centre

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Three Kings Plaza, 536 Mt Albert Rd (beside Foodtown)



CULTURAL GROUPS



Samoan Group – The year 2010 will stand in our school's history as the time we had our best ever Samoan group perform at the ASB Polyfest. This was reflected in the stunning results as follows: **1st Mauluulu, 2nd Sasa & Exit.** To compete against traditional schools steeped in their culture and to achieve these results was beyond words.

Thank you first to the leaders, **Brigid Savaiinaea, Jacinta Siliai, Catherine Dunn, Danielle Huch, Ezrom Malifa, Sagele Palaamo.** Malo le fa'amalosii!

To Aleki Jackson and his colleagues fa'afetai! Aleki was the inspiration, without his enthusiasm and knowledge none of this would have been possible.

Ms Fox was the disciplinarian, the voice and the maternal glue of the group. Parent supporters Mr & Mrs Meleisea (who came to every practice), Mrs Cheekam (who fed us) fa'afetai mo le alofa.

Teachers Mrs Ryan, Mrs McNaughton for putting up with the noise and the drama. Thank you for your support!

Mr Watson and Mr Wilkinson, keepers of the faith! The students knew you believed in them...they flew! You were the wind beneath their wings!

Twenty years! It was worth the wait!

Mr Tuialii

Cook Island – 2010 Cook Island group performed well at the secondary schools polyfest. Well done on polyfest day you have put great effort into the group and it was good to see you perform with vibrancy and joy. You are the best and it was a good experience for everyone. I am so proud of all of you and thank you very much for being a part of the Cook Island group and I look forward to working with you again next year.

Mrs Tua Peraua

Indian Group - The Indian Group performed on the Diversity Stage. This stage has performances from students of ethnic groups from all over the world. These stage performances are not judged as they do not come under the true umbrella of Maori and Polynesian groups. Even though not judged, officially, you can almost feel the best performances by the acclamations from the audience. Our two groups performing Indian Dances depicting the Bollywood modern style with traditional weave of movement had the audience spell-bound. On public demand both our teams were called back on stage to perform the second time during the day. The stage managers' comment "This is by far the best we have seen today" sums up the quality of our team performances. We had thirty five boys and girls participating. They trained themselves with guidance and help from an ex student and parents. The team is preparing to participate in two competitions to come namely, Rockerz and Secondary School Bollywood dance competition. A big thank you to all who helped and participated to make the Polyfest Indian Group performances a great success.

DO ALL YOUR SHOPPING FROM HOME AT WWW.YOURFASTSHOP.CO.NZ AND SPEND MORE TIME RELAXING

Over 90 online stores and all shopping raises money for Mount Roskill Grammar School. Books from online bookstores, The Nile and Fishpond, DVDs from Real Groovy, iPODs, phones, laptops and more from Noel Leeming and Bond + Bond, Toys from IQ Toys and Mighty Ape, Gifts from Bestow Gifts, Groceries from Woolworths Online and lots, lots more!

Just go to www.yourfastshop.co.nz and select Mount Roskill Grammar School for great discounts and online offers.

YEAR 13 CAMP



Every year Motutapu Island becomes home to a couple of hundred Year 13 MRGS students. For a whole week students leave behind their cellphones, MP3 players and facebook page to experience learning outside of the classroom. From the first day students are making new friendships with people they may have seen but never taken the time to get to know over the past five school years and are pushing the limits of what they thought they were capable of physically and mentally. The students participate in a wide variety of water-based activities such as kayaking, sailing, waka ama, raft building and snorkelling. They also use a mixture of brains and brawn to work together to complete the challenging confidence course, high ropes, pump class, survivor and seal challenge where a love of mud, determination and courage are the keys to success. On the first night students were given a torch lit tour of the historic WWII bunkers and on the second evening they showed off their extensive

knowledge in the 9-round general knowledge quiz. The last night of camp provided students with the opportunity to show off their creative and very humorous personalities in the infamous Roskill camp skit night. Students returned home last week with a bag full of dirty clothes, a souvenir screen printed t-shirt, utterly exhausted and tired and most importantly with plenty of great stories to regale their friends and families with. We would like to thank all students and staff that came along and helped make a memorable week.

SPORT

Summer sport highlights for term one are as follows:

Senior Girls Volleyball

This team has had a fantastic year. The team won the Auckland Central Zone competition going through the season undefeated. They then went onto finish a creditable 8th place at the Greater Auckland Volleyball Championship. The girls should be congratulated for their hard work and dedication. Special thanks must go to **Caroline Arthur** and **Fale Malifa** for their outstanding coaching.



1st XI Boys Cricket

This team has made a good start to the year reaching the 3rd round of the Gillette Cup for the first time in a number of years. There have been two outstanding performances from Term One. **Sanchut Chopra** scored a memorable 135 against St Kent's, while the youngest member of the side and opening batsman **Karan Banker** scored 3 half centuries.

Athletics

At the recent Auckland Athletics Championship three students had very good results.

Zion Alataua-Haira finished 2nd in the Junior Boys Shot Put, **Warren Duncan** finished 3rd in the Intermediate Boys 400, **Haile Tesfaye** finished 2nd in the Senior Boys 1500

Fencing



Mount Roskill fencing team has got off to a flying start. 35 students make up the 2010 summer team and **Hamish Bulmer** has already gained a 3rd placing in Sabre in his first competition of the season. Students interested in joining the team for the winter squad should approach Mr Thompson towards the end of term 2 to register interest.

Hockey Academy



The Year 9 Hockey Sports Academy has begun with two in-school trainings a week and a theory and fitness class before school on Wednesday mornings. It is an exciting time for these students who are receiving top quality coaching. The aim of this Academy is to offer a programme designed for top performing athletes.

Volunteers for Sports



The Sport Department is looking for Coaches, Managers and Transport providers. If you have the time or the passion for sport please contact Mr Buckley Director of Sport on 6210050 ext 891. Whether you are a parent or ex student we would love to have your help. Parent help is essential in a large school like MRGS with well over 100 sports teams representing the school. Helping your child's sport is an excellent way of becoming involved with school. We acknowledge and thank many wonderful parents and volunteers who give of their time and effort to assist our students in achieving to their full potential on the sporting field.

School Sport Fundraising

MRGS will be selling the Entertainment Book this year to raise funds for school sport. The book is your guide to the best restaurants, hotel accommodation, attractions, sport and leisure activities. **The book cost \$65 and can save you up to \$15,000.** To purchase a book simply pay at the accounts office and bring receipt to Mr Buckley in Gym 1 office to collect book.

VISIT OF BILLY TK



On Monday 22 March an Assembly for Year 12 and Year 13 students hosted a presentation on Road Safety.

This professional and hard hitting show was headed by Billy Te Kahika (Billy TK) and is sponsored in schools by Holden Driving Towards A Future. It is strongly supported by Westpac, Automobile Association and Te Puni Kokiri and has the endorsement of a number of groups including Students Against Driving Drunk.

The presentation dealt with the disastrous effects of speed, not wearing seat belts, and alcohol consumption through an audio-visual presentation of graphic advertisements aimed at young drivers and passengers, the introduction of Tamati Paul, a victim of a drunk driver, and songs sung by Billy and his band.

While the ads were hard hitting, the presence of Tamati Paul was very poignant and effective. Tamati lived on the East Coast was keen on sport and surf life saving, became a NZ representative in Waka Ama, married and had a son. On his way home one night he was hit by a drunk driver. The impact was huge, changing Tamati's life forever. He was in hospital for years while his body started to recover and he learned to walk and talk again.

Our thanks to the sponsors and to our Nurse Mrs Marie Shepherd for organising this compelling presentation.

FREE Dental Care*

*For enrolled adolescents - School year 9 until 18th birthday. (excludes orthodontics)

Three Kings Dental Centre - Three Kings Plaza
536 Mt Albert Rd (beside Foodtown)

Ph. 625 7175



TRAVEL WISE – MOUNT ROSKILL TRAVEL PLAN

The school has worked with Mount Roskill Primary and Mount Roskill Intermediate to develop a Campus Travel Plan. The plan has been prepared with the help and guidance of Liz Ross, ARTA School Travel Co-ordinator and was launched in December 2009.

The goal overall is to reduce car trips to school and increase the number of students getting to school by walking, cycling and using public transport. To work towards this goal improvements in road engineering, education of students about road safety and sustainable transport as well as promotion of events to raise awareness of the issues and the possible solutions, are taking place.

An enthusiastic group of students is working to help the plan be as effective as possible within our community and will be organising events to promote these worthwhile ideas.

GROWING GOURMET



Holiday Cooking Classes. Peter Chaplin, celebrity chef, is running a cooking class for young people called “Growing Gourmet.” The classes will be creative and fun and students will learn the basics of how to cook healthy nutritional dishes. He has offered a free place in the class to a deserving MRGS student. A preview will be shown on TVNZ Good Morning Show on 6 April. Further information is available on www.rockcafe.co.nz.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

TERM 1		
April	Thursday 1	END OF TERM 1 Closing time 3.10pm
	Monday 19	BEGINNING OF TERM 2
	Wednesday 28	Mahurangi Exchange (away)
May	Thursday 20	Pukekohe Exchange (at home)
	Thursday 27 – Thursday 3 June	Senior Exams
June	Friday 4	School Holiday
	Monday 7	Queen's Birthday
	Thursday 24	Junior Report Evening
July	Saturday 3	School Ball
TERM DATES 2010		
Term 2	Monday 19 April	Friday 2 July
Term 3	Tuesday 20 July	Friday 24 September
Term 4	Monday 11 October	Friday 10 December

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