



MOUNT ROSKILL GRAMMAR SCHOOL

MAY/JUNE 2014

NEWSLETTER

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Nga mihi nui ki a koutou

In the early days of our school students and community worked to establish facilities of which to be proud. Families and staff formed 'working bees' to dig out the school swimming pool, countless 'emu parades' cleared the fields and 'bottle drives' raised funds to support sports teams.

This year we are working with Auckland Hockey to re-develop the hockey turf into a state of the art facility for the community – together with a sports pavilion for all sports.

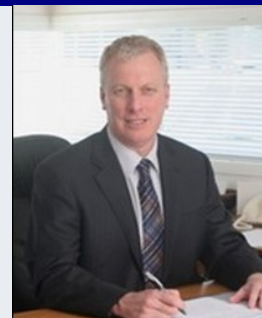
Our students are rolling up their sleeves to contribute to the effort. We have held a mufti day, sausage sizzles and car washes. Thank you to families who came along to the recent quiz evening which raised over \$3000.

There are two big events this term. Firstly the student 'workathon', where each student has arranged to do a job for family or friends and gained sponsorship from as many as possible for that job. Enterprising and productive! At the end of term we have a 'helicopter drop' raffle organised by the Sursum Trust and our school prefects. Tickets are just \$5 and are on sale now. Excellent performance is support by excellent facilities and we look forward to any assistance you can offer to help us realise our goals.

The term has begun very well with students focused on ensuring that they position themselves well through on-going commitment to success in their assessments. We have enjoyed meeting families of year 11 students at the mentoring sessions this week. One way that families can help our day to day work is to ensure your child arrives at school before the 8.37 am start time. A purposeful start sets up each day for productive learning.

Ki nga taumata!

Greg Watson, **PRINCIPAL**



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

From the Board of Trustees	2
Board Profile	3
Prefect Helidrop Fundraiser	3
MRGS Top NZ Scholars	4
Chemistry Olympiad Selection	4
Samoan Language Week	5
Language Perfect World Championship	5
High School Rockerz Competition	6
School Production	6
Computing Dept News	6
Prentice Run	7
Trampoline Success	7
Brain Bee Qualifiers	7
Music Dept News	8
Campus Music Concert	8
Sports Update	9
Juniors in Comprehension Research	11
International Student Homestay	11
Being Roskill—3	11
Sustainability Challenge	12
Sursum Foundation Grant	12
Outward Bound Scholarship Winner	12
Pasifika Student News	13
Japan Trip	14
Attendance	15
Body safe	16
Junior Curriculum	16
Doctor Service at Health Centre	16
MRGS Fundraising	17
School Contacts	18
Dates for Your Diary	19
Road Safety Reminders	20
School Sponsors	21

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FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

There are often things you'll find that you could not have done without in your life. And you'll find it as part of many different contexts. It could be as simple as one document that ties an entire case together, or a book that ignited a passion you otherwise wouldn't have seen. But often definitive things we can't go without are other people. We all have one. This school has a few defining people and this month we say goodbye to one of them – Bonnie Wills.

Bonnie has worked at MRGS for 25 years and this month leaves us for retirement. Whenever I call the school I can honestly feel Bonnie smiling down the phone at me and I'm sure any of you who have had the pleasure of speaking with her would have had a similar experience. On behalf of the Board and the Mount Roskill community I would like to thank Bonnie for her tireless service to the school over the years. I wouldn't be able to do her justice if I attempted to quantify her contribution to MRGS in such a short space.



Bonnie Wills

It has continued to be a busy two months for the Board and we have enjoyed being privy to the vision the Senior Leadership has in reviewing the Junior Curriculum as well as various other initiatives led by the Deputy Principals. These different strands of work will eventually tie together and enable Mount Roskill to rise even further to the heights. However in the throes of significant change it is apt to remind our parents and caregivers to please contribute to the change process by commenting and providing feedback. This vision cannot just belong to the Board, and to create a school that is truly outstanding we actively seek and desire input from each and every one of you.

The fundraising committee has also been working tirelessly to raise funds for the new Hockey turf and you can expect a Workathon in the near future. The Sursum foundation and the Prefects are also working zealously for the 'Helicopter Drop' fundraiser Saturday 05 July to raise funds for the turf and to be able to award more students with scholarships. You can find out more about fundraising initiatives on the school website.

This month we are profiling Ella Kumar, who has been a Board member for 9 years and has contributed significantly to our School over this time. I trust you will enjoy getting to know her just as much as I have.

Yours sincerely,

Kima Tuialii. Trustee



Board Member Profile - Name: Ella Kumar

For a living: I am a health and fitness educator/instructor. I have worked in the fitness industry since 1989 delivering group exercise classes at the Mt Roskill Grammar Community Education and many other local gyms, University of Auckland Recreation centre.

I am an elected Local Board Member for Puketapapa (Mt Roskill).

I do enjoy community work and working with people, my volunteer hat as a Justice of Peace helps me return back to the community. My hardest job is being a mum to three wonderful children and wife to a great husband.

I wanted to be on the Board because I wanted to help the diverse community we live in. When I went on to the board I was the only Indian, now we have a balance on the board with members reflecting our community. I wanted to input at a level where we can assist and support the school to help all the students to reach the heights.

I am an ex pupil of the school and felt I could give back to the community.

What you can expect from me is commitment and reliability. I am a challenger and look for opportunities to work hard. I am ready to help students, teachers, school overall and parents whenever required putting community at the top of my priority list.

One of the things I love the most about Mount Roskill is the rich diverse cultures we all live in. I love the Mt Roskill culture, everyone is the same no matter who you are and where you come from. We use diversity as our strength.

This school is special to me because I was a student, I have been a tutor and still am, my brothers and sisters attended the high school, my children attended and one still attending in year 11, I taught a year 11 class for two terms as a teacher. The school is special to me as I have been attached to the school for 34 years.



PREFECT FUND RAISER FOR HOCKEY TURF REDEVELOPMENT

Keen to help raise money for our new water-based Hockey Turf or better yet, want to win some money? \$250, \$500 or even \$1000? Of course you do!

This year, The Sursum Foundation teamed with the Mt Roskill Grammar School Prefects is organising a Helicopter Drop as a fundraiser for the future Hockey Turf and Sports Pavilion. The front field of the school is going to be divided into 5000 squares and a helicopter will randomly drop 10 packages onto the field. For as little as \$5 a ticket, you can purchase a square and be in the draw to win a monetary prize or perhaps even a wonderful mystery prize to the value of \$250. Ultimately, you'll get to contribute to the betterment of Mt Roskill Grammar School as well as our wider community and be a part of Mt Roskill History. Tickets are available from any of the 40 Mt Roskill Grammar Prefects and can also be obtained from the Accounts Office. See you there!





MRGS TOP NZ SCHOLARS

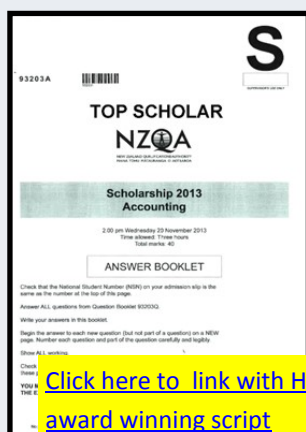


At a ceremony in Wellington at the start of term our two top in subject scholars Hannah Yang and Sohail Abdulla received their awards. The event was held in the old Parliament building and was attended by the Prime Minister John Key and Education Minister Hekia Parata. Sohail and Hannah received their certificates from NZQA Board Chair Sue Suckling and joined over 35 of the nation's top achievers in the ceremony. The awards were gained in last year's New Zealand Scholarship and in this premier examination Hannah was top in New Zealand

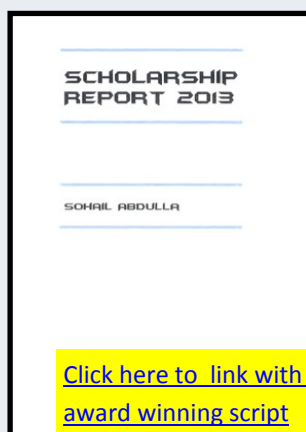
in Accounting while Sohail topped the nation in Technology. Their success continues the tradition of Roskill's presence at the awards ceremony over many years when we have had a number of Premier and Top in subject scholars.



Hannah and Sohail pictured with PM John Key, Mr. Hall MRGS Deputy Principal and HOD Commerce Mr Gavin Parratt



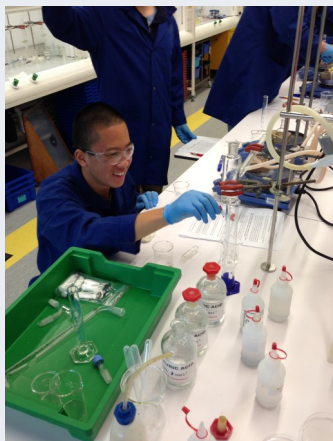
[Click here to link with Hannah's award winning script](#)



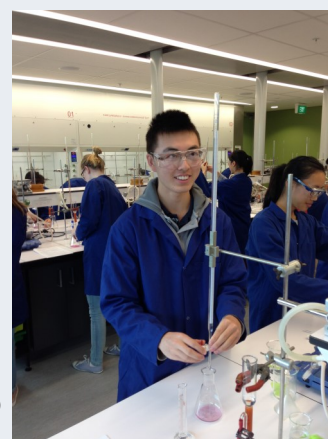
[Click here to link with Sohail's award winning script](#)

NZ CHEMISTRY OLYMPIAD SELECTION FOR MRGS STUDENTS

Two year 13 students, Victor Xie and Mark Yep have been selected to join the four student team representing New Zealand at this year's Chemistry Olympiad—to be held in July in Hanoi, Vietnam. The students have earned their place by first being part of a nationwide training group of 80-90 secondary



students, then moving forward after a series of tests and reading assignments to be part of a training camp of 30 students. The performance of Mark and Victor at the camp has brought them this exciting opportunity to compete with the world's top student chemists. Their accomplishment continues our school's strong tradition of excellence in the Olympiad where we have had 11 NZ team members since 2000; the most recent being Cindy Ou who in 2013 gained medal status as part of the team. It is also the third time that Roskill has supplied half of the team of four. We wish Mark and Victor the best for the July competition.





SAMOAN LANGUAGE WEEK

In the last week of May the school participated in Samoan language week and celebrated the language of Samoa throughout the school. A special presentation of a traditional song medley took place in assembly and each day students and staff were provided with Samoan phrases to use, cultural information to share and the rich detail of Samoa's traditions to enjoy. On the last day of the week students served a special morning tea in the staffroom, presenting a feast of traditional recipes. Throughout this year other

Pasifika languages will be celebrated within the school—in August we will share in Cook Islands Language Week. For information about all national Pacific language weeks click here [Pacific Languages](#)



LANGUAGE PERFECT WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS – 19-29 MAY 2014

Mount Roskill Grammar School has again achieved outstanding results in this International Languages competition. MRGS pupils answered over 1.6 million questions, gaining 604,642 points, which represents 3,522 hours spent learning.



Special school achievements:

- * 4th school in the World overall out of 1,151 participating schools
- * 2nd for French in NZ (6th globally)
- * 2nd for Japanese in NZ (5th globally)
- * 1st in World for schools having between 250-500 participants (1st in French, 1st In Japanese in this category)
- * Top NZALT school in New Zealand winning the NZALT-LPWC Trophy a second time

Special student achievements:

- * **Sephie Liu** – 7th in the World overall, 4th in World for Japanese, with 37,073 points
- * **Taruki Gunawardana** – 18th in the World overall, 2nd in World for French, with 29,722 points
- * ELITE award (10,000+ points) gained by 12 students: **Sephie Liu, Taruki Gunawardana, Joshua Simmons, Bryan Busby, Naman Gupta, Ziwei Zhuang, Jessica Gao, Tessa Brown, Caitlin Chessum, Qi Zhu, Yong Shi Lin, Nathan McDougall**
- * GOLD medal certificate (3,000+ points) = 49 students
- * SILVER medal certificate (2,000+ points) = 25 students
- * BRONZE medal certificate (1,000+ points) = 56 students
- * CREDIT award certificate (500+ points) = 78 students



HIGH SCHOOL ROCKERS COMPETITION

A group of 14 students participated in the High School Rockers competition on Saturday 24th May at the Logan Campbell Centre. This is traditionally an Indian Dance competition and Mount Roskill Grammar has been participating in this event since 2008. 16 different schools from the Auckland area (and one from Hamilton) competed this year. The Mount Roskill Group stood out due to their creative storyline for a boy having to choose between a traditional Indian girl and a Hip Hop Indian Girl. This in addition to marvellous choreography, costumes, music and energy gained the group the

BEST ENTERTAINMENT AWARD. Included in the music and dance mix were traditional Indian, Bollywood, Fijian Indian, Hip Hop and even a little Sasa. Our student ethnicities in the dance group were just as diverse, in true Roskill Style including Indian, Korean, Tongan, Maori, Fijian Indian. Hearty congratulations go to the group for their success and commitment.



SCHOOL PRODUCTION NEWS

The MRGS Performing Arts Department is delighted to announce that this year's school production will be Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. From 30 July – 1 August, including both evening performances and a matinee, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory will come alive on stage with a student cast including our very own Willy Wonka, 5 lucky children, an entire Bucket family and MRGS Oompa Loompas! Watch out for lickable wallpaper, hot icecreams for cold days, fizzy lifting drinks and square sweets that look round! Ticket sales from the end of this term – join us for a scrumdilyumptious time!



COMPUTING DEPARTMENT NEWS

This term we have been fortunate to have a number of Year 12 and 13 students being taught Python (a programming language) on a Thursday after school until 5pm.

The teacher is provided free of charge; an initiative by Datacom who are paying all associated costs. They also provide two young helpers from the Datacom team who come every week to support the teacher and to talk about their path into a career in Computer Science.

Along with the much publicised support Orion Health provide for students with the Raspberry Pi competition, Datacom also see the value in up-skilling students in computer programming.

We are very fortunate to have been given this opportunity and our students are making great progress.



70TH BIRTHDAY PRENTICE RUN



At the start of term past principal of MRGS (1989-1994) Colin Prentice returned to school to do a commemorative "Prentice Run" with past and present pupils. The original runs were taken every Wednesday during Colin's time at the school and he would take a number of students who were in the spotlight for some of their 'behaviours' on a series of sprints running up Mt Roskill Mountain. As Nick Tuailii says "It was like pre-

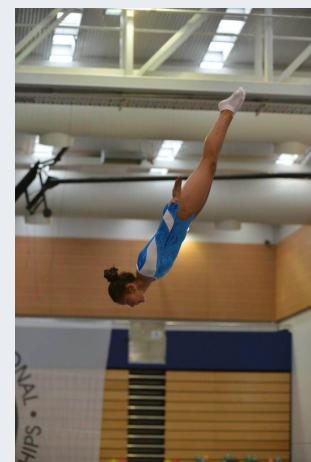
season training for Rugby; running up Mt Roskill Mountain, climbing ropes etc. I think in his 6 years here there were only two students who got the better of Sir. The tough kids saw Mr Prentice in a very different light and in most cases he won them over for life."

A number of those past pupils came along to the commemoration, to give their best wishes for his 70th birthday and were rewarded with an afternoon tea and a chance to re-live some memories with Mr Prentice.



INTERNATIONAL TRAMPOLINING SUCCESS FOR MADDISON

Roskill Year 10 student Maddison Smith recently represented New Zealand in the Australian Nationals trampolining competition held in Melbourne between May 21st and June 1st. In the individual U 17 year old age group she was successfully placed 6th—competing against gymnasts older than her. Maddison also took part in the U17 synchro trampolining competition where she and her partner were placed 2nd gaining a well deserved silver medal.



BRAIN BEE COMPETITION QUALIFIERS

The Science Department has continued its successful involvement in the 'Brain Bee' Competition with 5 students **Elisa Yansun, Rithvic Murali, Dhruvil Oza, Lily Li and Athulya Rathnayake** selected to go forward to the second round of the competition on 2nd July at Auckland University.

Last year senior student Jiantao Shen (see picture) went through to the finals and became the Champion the of North Island. He went on to compete in the Melbourne Competition and gained a position to enter the International Brain Bee Challenge 2013 in Austria where he successfully returned with a Bronze medal. We hope that this year's qualifiers will also advance further.





MUSIC CAMP

Music Camp 2014 was held in April, in perfect weather, at Motu Moana Scout Camp.

Over the course of Friday, Saturday and Sunday, 40 eager MRGS students from Concert Band and String Orchestra came together to live, dream and breathe MUSIC! The focus of the camp was for students to work towards achieving higher standards of performing whilst forming a cohesive ensemble and developing a sense of belonging to the team.

The camp was superbly organised by Ms Dekker, with Ms Steedman on entertainment (and real coffee), and under the artistic supervision and guidance of Mr Atkinson, Mr Darragh, Mr Snelling and Mr

Sergeant.. Thanks also to ITM tutors Mr 'Ofamo'oni and Ms Camilleri for their helpful tutoring as well as parents and Arts Coordinator Mrs Lattey for generously giving their time to assist. The students spent their days divided between section and full rehearsals, and activities like the team-building confidence course, flying fox and the entertaining quiz on Saturday night.

The weekend came to a close with a fantastic finale - a lunchtime concert for parents. Congratulations to all students and staff involved in making Music Camp a huge success!



MRGS MUSIC STUDENTS OUT IN THE COMMUNITY.

On Friday 16 May, 17 music students travelled to the Hillsborough Heights Retirement Village to perform to the residents. The string orchestra and several chamber groups performed a variety of pieces that had the audience smiling and tapping their feet.

As part of New Zealand Music Month, the Mt Roskill Library hosted a concert by year 12 and 13 MRGS students on Saturday 24 May. Members of band Vertigo (Ben Deverell, Matthew Deverell, Tim Coldham and Mark Bingham) competently performed a set of 5 songs to the delight of the public, including a large group of young children who were at the library for storytime. The concert was rounded off by Pearl Lazaro singing a beautiful song in both English and Maori. The concert organiser and members of the public were enthusiastic in their praise of the students' performances.

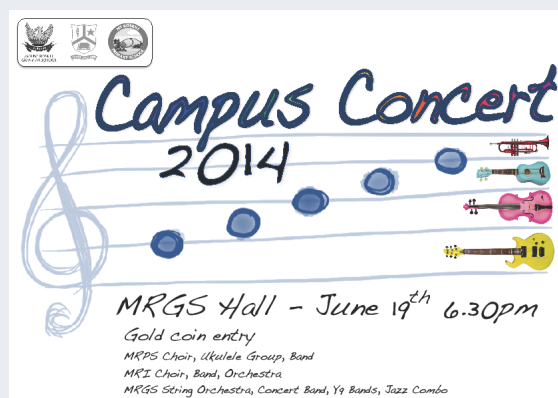


ROCKQUEST 2014

Band Vertigo (Ben Deverell, Praveen Krishna, Matthew Deverell, Tim Coldham and Mark Bingham) competed in the regional heats of Smokefree Rockquest on Saturday 24 May and made it through to the regional finals. This is a fantastic achievement considering the strong competition. The regional finals are open to the public and are held at AGGS in the Dorothy Winstone Centre on Friday 13 June at 7pm. Come along and support our very own rock band!

CAMPUS MUSIC CONCERT

On June 19th this term our three Campus schools will hold their annual Music Concert in the Grammar school hall. As usual it will be a sparkling night featuring the range of instrumental and vocal talent from across the campus. Make a note in your diary—the evening starts at 6.30pm and entrance is by a gold coin.





SPORTS UPDATE

The beginning of Term 2 has been exciting as well as busy for the Sports Department. We have over 55 teams competing in Auckland competitions in the Winter season. It has been fantastic to observe all teams practising hard in the lead up to their first games and the attitude has been exemplary.

We have welcomed a new member to the Sports Department – Mr Jimmy Grant. Jimmy is overseeing all Hockey and brings a wealth of knowledge and skills from his other coaching roles with Auckland and New Zealand Hockey teams. All of our Hockey teams have benefitted from his coaching in some form through extra lunchtime sessions, guest coaches attending training and personalised training plans. Jimmy is looking forward to the new Hockey turf and the possibilities that will bring. A big thank you to Mr Grant Chester of Chester's Plumbing for enabling the employment of such an excellent coach who has already become an asset to MRGS.

Basketball

We have 5 boys Basketball teams competing this season with all teams getting off to cracking starts. With only 2 losses from 15 games for all teams, it is shaping up to being an exciting year. Thank you to the coaches – Mr Buckley, Mr Windsor, Joshua Thompson, Paul Enriquez, Todd Dormer and Yashveendra Krishna for their hard work.



Football

This year we have 4 boys and 3 girls Football teams competing. The build up to the season has been intense with the 1st XI Boys training right through the end of year break. The coaches this year are Mr Christopher, Maksim Manko, Miss Thomas, Mr Morris and Mr Cluely. There are also student coaches assisting this: Solomon Penny, Angela Zhao, Hayden Couper and Josef Power. Thank you to all of those coaches and managers.



Hockey

As mentioned earlier, we have high hopes for MRGS Hockey this year and in the future due to the employment of a Hockey Manager. The results have been pleasing so far with only 3 losses from 10 games across all teams. Games are played Monday to Thursday nights on the turf and all support is welcomed.

Rugby

Rugby has had a big push for more teams in 2014 with good results. We have grown by 2 teams under the guidance of Mrs McNaughton who now oversees Rugby. It has been amazing to witness over 100 boys and 20 girls training on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday afternoons on our fields. Thank you very much to the coaches for coming on-board for the season and welcome to our new coaches – Miss Ma, Mr Sua, Mr Tualima, Sag, Mike and Karl.

Rugby League

The Rugby League team has had a tough start to the season losing games to St Pauls and MAGS, both top Rugby League schools. They bounced back with a good win against Lynfield College by displaying excellent team defense on their own line. Mr Taunga coaches the team and he is assisted by Mr Leilua and Ms Tokley. This year we also have an Under 15 Rugby League team which has made a great start to the season. They are coached by Mr Mohenoa.



Lacrosse

The Girls Lacrosse team are in their second year of existence and have made a bright start with 2 wins in as many games. They are coached by Ms Leman and Year 13 student Joseph Kaufusi. The team plays on Thursday afternoons on the back field and welcomes supporters to the games.

Badminton

This year we have 14 teams competing in the Auckland competition during Term 2. The organisation of all teams is handled superbly by Mr Dix who also spends several nights at Auckland Badminton looking after teams.

Netball

We have changed the structure of Netball this year so there is a competitive pathway and social pathway. We have 4 teams entered in the Auckland competition at Morrin Road, two senior and two junior. We are lucky to have Kylie Leota coaching the Premier team, she is a former Samoan Netball captain and has changed the attitude and work ethic of these girls.

The social netball pathway is being catered for with a Fast 5 competition running on the Mt Roskill Intermediate Netball courts on Monday nights. We have teams entered from both MRGS and Lynfield College in junior, senior and mixed grades. Ms Te Whiu is running this competition with the aim of getting students active in the game of Netball, learning new skills and having a lot of fun with their mates.



House Competitions

In the first two Terms we have held 4 competitions between the Houses. Currently Green House is leading the way with the others a little way off. The next event is Junior Volleyball.



		Term 1		Term 2		Total
House	Athletics	Junior Netball	Hockey	Badminton	Junior Volley-	
	Week 3	Week 8	Week 10	Week 2	Week 8	
Blue	60	20	60	20		160
Green	100	100	60	100		360
Orange	80	40	100	40		260
Red	60	80	20	100		260
Yellow	20	60	80	100		260



JUNIOR STUDENTS REWARDED FOR ASSISTANCE IN READING RESEARCH WITH BOOK TRACK

"On Friday 23rd May we went to the Booktrack headquarters in Takapuna to learn all about how the company operates. They invited us to say thank you for appearing in a Seven Sharp news item about research which had been done at Mt Roskill Grammar showing that adding soundtrack to texts increases reading comprehension scores .

Booktrack is a new revolution in reading, where you can co-ordinate musical soundtracks into a piece of writing, or a book, to make it into a really cinematic experience with music, ambience and effects eg. if you're reading about walking along the beach you can hear the waves crashing.



The CTO Craig showed us around and we got to meet all the people that worked there such as Chazz who used to be in a band but now is the soundtrack engineer. He showed us how to turn a boring old book into a musical masterpiece by adding a soundtrack.

Booktrack further thanked us with complimentary t-shirts and pens and took us for lunch at Sal's pizza where we ate the biggest pizza's we'd ever seen.

We had an amazing and interesting day and we thank Booktrack for putting up with us."

Maddie, lance, India, Ronan 1014

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT HOMESTAY

We are expecting two short term groups in Term 3. The first group is from Japan from 29 July – 10 August and require a single room each. The second group is from Taiwan from 10 August – 22 August and these students will share a room. If you have a spare room and would like more information about either of these groups, please contact Sandra Flessak on Sandra.flessak@mrgs.school.nz before the end of June. We also have a group of Brazilians coming in July for 6 months if you are interested in a student for a longer stay."

BEING ROSKILL—THE CONTINUING JOURNEY OF THE 1ST XI FOOTBALL TEAM

Shot in Rio de Janeiro, Santos and Salvador over the summer, Being Roskill Season 3 takes an in-depth look at Brazilian football, culture and society as the country prepares to host the 2014 FIFA World Cup. The first episode will be released shortly, most likely through YouTube. Watch the trailer here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0PFby3vB0yw>





SUSTAINABILITY CHALLENGE



The Sustainability Challenge involves teams of 4 students who compete in a 2 or 3 hour event, which includes a mix of running/walking, navigation and sustainability based activities. Teams navigate to as many checkpoints as they can, collecting points for each checkpoint visited. To earn extra points teams can complete sustainability themed activities which will require some research and teamwork. Examples of activities could be to identify native bird calls, match a pest to the correct trap used or make something from

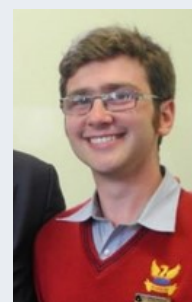
flax. Mt Roskill have competed in two events the first was held at Shakespear Regional Park during Term One and the second and most recent event was at Duder Regional Park on the 13th of May.

During the first race our Year 11 team came 7th overall and 1st all girls team which was a fantastic result. In the second race our junior team after a slow start made up good ground on the others for a commendable mid-table result. The third race will be held in Term 4 which we will be looking forward to.



SURSUM FOUNDATION GRANT TO ROSKILL STUDENT

Earlier this year the Sursum Foundation gave a grant of \$1000 to assist senior student Theo Loretz in journeying to Europe in July. Theo has been accepted as a Young Ambassador to France. This July he will travel to North Eastern France to participate in WW1 commemoration events, visit historical and cultural sites and make contact with the people of this region. Theo and other students from around the world who have been selected as Young Ambassadors will also have the honour of representing their country during the official parade down the Champs-Élysées in Paris to open the commemorations on Bastille Day.



OUT WARD BOUND COMMEMORATIVE SCHOLARSHIP AWARD



Senior student Junior Kasiano is one of the two inaugural recipients of the Christie Marceau Scholarship. The original scholarship provides funding for teens to challenge themselves on the 'Mind, Body and Soul' Outward Bound course at Anakiwa in July. The scholarship panel were so impressed with the maturity and confidence he displayed in the interview they felt the scholarship on offer would "not be a great test for him" and so a generous panel member wanted to sponsor an extra course for the Trust that would allow Junior to do the "Classic" course aimed at 18-24 year olds offered in December/ January 2015. The Trust have said they did not expect to be in a position where they would be awarding 2 scholarships in its first year and have credited this to Junior. We are very proud of him and thrilled he has this opportunity. The Christie Marceau Charitable Trust sponsor this

scholarship and it is set up in commemoration of Christie whose tragic murder in 2011 stunned the nation. The scholarship is part of a positive legacy her family vowed to establish that would allow other teenagers to do some of the things that Christie had wanted to do.



PASIFIKA STUDENT NEWS

Young Free and Pasifika Conference

The photograph opposite shows students and a staff member with Minister Of Pasific and Island Affairs at the 'Young Free and Pasifika Conference' on the Auckland Museum steps.

Mary Kate Fonua, Perpetua 'Akau'ola, Mrs Puafolau, Nooroa Taulagaua, Grace Usumaki and Hon. Paseta Sam Lotuliga.

The four mentioned students joined 200 other young Pasifika women at the 'Young Free and Pasifika Conference' at the Auckland Museum. Key note speakers were Hon. Paseta Sam Lotuliga and Judge Ida Malosi.

The objective of the conference was for students to recognize the empowerment that comes with pride in cultural identity and how this can lead to their taking greater responsibility and leadership roles within their school and home communities. The students returned from the conference enthusiastic and motivated.



NIU Programme

Former MRGS Principal Ken Rapson in his current role as Director of School's Partnership at Auckland University has invited 12 year 13 Pasifika students to participate in the NIU Programme. The programme mentors and tutors targeted Pasifika students in their final year of school and first year of university study. Over six sessions here at school and two at the Auckland Campus our selected students will be provided with academic assistance and strategies and skills in leadership and self-management.

Pasifika Visual Arts Programme.

During the first week of the recent holidays 80 yr 11 and 12 students attended a 3 day programme which saw them produce works displaying cultural conventions. Resident R.T.L.B Russell Su'a invited Leota Alice Meredith from 'The Roots – Creative Enterprises' organization to deliver a seminar to the students on patterns and design of siapo and tapa, and their cultural significance. The students' work will be placed on display later this term.

Pasifika Homework Centre.

The homework centre is changing its time and venue. As of Monday the 26th May the homework centre will operate out of G4 and G5 every Monday from 3.15 to 6pm.

University of Otago Pacific Expo.

Any year 13 Pasifika students considering a course of study at Otago University should attend the above expo on Monday 23 June 4-7pm at Hotel Grand Chancellor Auckland Airport. Cnr Kirkbridge & Ascot Roads Mangere. Free phone 0800 80 80 98 for information or see Mr Leen Learning Extension Department..



JAPAN TRIP

What started off with a polite “Konnichiwa” and some very awkward hugs, in the span of two short weeks changed to tearful goodbyes and more than one “I’M STEALING YOUR PASSPORT SO YOU CAN’T LEAVE!” 10 students and two teachers were fortunate to visit Japan on the first student exchange trip with the prestigious Toho High School in Chiba, Japan. We arrived at Auckland Airport at 5.45 am on Saturday the 19th of April- and it seemed like none of us were able to sleep the previous night!

12 hours and 8820km later, we were bombarded by the group of people waiting for us at Narita Airport, and we finally got to meet the host families we had been emailing! Staying with our hosts, we had the unique opportunity to immerse ourselves in Japanese customs and culture in a way that simple tourists can’t. We reached school at 8am that Monday. In Japan, it is not uncommon for students to travel more than an hour each way to school! But Toho High School was well worth the journey. The staff and students were all so kind and friendly, and we were placed in classes with our hosts. School life in Japan is very different but we are so glad we were able to experience it! Not only did we go to school, we got to see some traditional Japanese sports- such as Kendo, Judo, Japanese Archery and we even got to participate in a traditional Japanese tea ceremony.



In addition to school we did a lot of sightseeing, both with our host families and our MRGS group. A clear favourite was visiting the two theme parks- Disney Sea and Disneyland. We ate Mickey themed food, waited hours to get onto the rides, and saw some amazing light displays. According to my host father, “it is illegal to be sad in Disneyland” and everyone has great memories. Everyone left with their wallets a whole lot lighter after visiting themed shops. We also visited the Tokyo Sky Tree which stands at 634m- almost double the height of the Sky Tower! Independently our tour group also visited places like Shibuya - with the famous crossing- and Harajuku, popular amongst teenagers. We even got to attend a professional baseball game at the Tokyo Dome. To make sure we were learning, we went to plenty of Shrines and even went to an interesting Edo Museum. A highlight of the trip was seeing Mt Fuji- we got squashed on the early morning rush trains and ended up being two hours late- but it was all worth it when we saw Fuji-san from the observation platforms. We had a full-on schedule which meant that dinner was often a time to unwind and socialise with the group.

We had activities with our host families and many of us went to “Lalaport”, a very popular massive shopping mall. We also went to historical places like Narita Temple and Kamakura, as well as theme parks such as Fujikyu Highland. The most important thing, however, was that we got to know our host families and interacted with them as family. We got to try many new foods, and experienced many new things. This was a very unique experience and something we will never forget. We will treasure it forever. On behalf of the 10 students that went on this trip, thank you to Toho High School, MRGS Languages Department and Ms Kojima and Ms Shepherd who gave up so much of their time to make this amazing experience possible. (Neha Kolhe)



ATTENDANCE

In order for students to be successful, powerful learners they need to be in class on time to every lesson. Our school goal is less than 7% unjustified absences.

If a student misses two periods (this can include roll check and LCT) they are recorded as having missed half a day of lessons and this is reported to the Ministry of Education.

One of the strategies we have implemented this term to improve attendance is to monitor the attendance of our **top sports teams** and senior students wishing to attend the **school ball**.

We see both of these groups as role models within our school and we have implemented a reward system and a warning system. Rewards vouchers (music/sports stores etc) are given to top attendees within teams and to randomly selected individuals the wider school community who are meeting our attendance expectations and they are being publically acknowledged during our school assemblies.

(If you or your business would like to assist in sponsoring these rewards please contact Karen.Collins@mrgs.school.nz DP in charge of attendance).

Below are examples of the warning cards given to students who represent our school in our top sports teams and who are not currently meeting our attendance expectations.



ATTENDANCE: GREEN CARD

This card is a reminder that your **attendance needs to improve** in line with school expectations in order to have the privilege of playing _____ for your team and school.

If enough improvement is not seen you may receive a yellow warning card

ATTENDANCE: YELLOW CARD

This card is a sign to you and your coach that your attendance is **currently unsatisfactory** and will need to improve immediately in order to have the privilege of playing _____ for your team and school.

If enough of an improvement is not seen you may receive a red card which will mean that you will not be able to play for your team for one game.

ATTENDANCE: RED CARD

Despite our best efforts to encourage you to do the right thing to attend classes regularly and on time your attendance remains at an unsatisfactory level.

As a member of a top team you are a leader in our school and we look forward to you taking more responsibility for your own attendance so that your team will have you back in the game for the remainder of the season. There is an expectation that you will attend the _____ game on: _____ but **you will not be allowed to participate**.



BODYSAFE

At MRGS we are proud to have run the BodySafe programme in year 10 Health for over a decade. This four session programme teaches students to stay safe and maintain respectful relationships.

This year we are delighted to have been approached by Rape Prevention Education in conjunction with the Ministry of Justice to be a pilot school to extend the BodySafe programme.

To start the ball rolling we would like to enable you, as caregivers, to have a voice in how this programme can be further developed.

You will be invited to participate in a survey in the next few weeks via email or a link on our website. We would value your feedback on the skills you believe our students need to stay safe. Using a survey monkey we are asking for your input on what schools can do to contribute to reducing sexual pressure and sexual violence in our society.

JUNIOR CURRICULUM

At the beginning of 2013, the Curriculum Committee began to review the junior learning and curriculum. A Junior Learning Review (JLR) team was established to undertake this work. A vision for this work was developed collaboratively with the Curriculum Committee and a process to interview a range of staff was developed. The JLR team also undertook research and shared aspects of their work with the wider staff.

We have surveyed the families of our junior students (via email in term 1 2014) and appreciate the time those families took to give us feedback. We would like to now extend this opportunity to families of senior students whose children will have experienced the junior curriculum as it still operates. We are also currently interviewing a variety of student groups.

The survey will be distributed via email by the 26th May-if you could take the time to complete this for us we would appreciate your feedback.

We want to ensure that the junior curriculum offers the very best opportunity for our students to build from a strong platform of key capability-based learning along with the essential learning required for effective transitions into the senior school.

We will keep you informed of the progress we make.

Julie Small

DP Curriculum Development



DOCTOR SERVICE NOW AVAILABLE AT SCHOOL HEALTH CENTRE

There is a new service at the School Health Centre. We have a doctor who comes in for 12 hours each week to see students. This is a free service though sometimes there may be a small cost. To make an appointment to see the doctor students need to come to see one of the nurses before school or break times to make an appointment.



MRGS FUNDRAISING EVENTS—HOCKEY TURF APPEAL

ENTERTAINMENT MEMBERSHIP SCHEME TO SUPPORT MRGS

As part of our fundraising scheme MRGS is offering the community the opportunity to order Auckland Entertainment Books . These popular membership books offer purchasers a wide range of discounts on restaurants, shopping and entertainment. There are also a limited number of digital memberships available which offer extra benefits. By purchasing one of these books you support our school's fund-raising

If you would like to order and pay for an Entertainment Book on line please follow this link

<https://www.entertainmentbook.co.nz/orderbooks/957q50>

Or



scan the QR image
with your
smartphone



New Entertainment™
Digital Membership

FUNDRAISING WORKATHON MAY 31ST TO JUNE 8TH

At the 60th Jubilee last year we heard many stories of how facilities that we value at Mt Roskill Grammar were built through the efforts of the students, parents and the local community. This year we are reviving the old fashioned Workathon to help raise funds for the upgrade of our hockey turf to a water based pitch and to build a sports pavilion that will service all sports using our fields.

Students are being asked to raise funds for the school by doing Workathon jobs, outside school time, that involve community service or helping others. You can:

- Either get sponsorship from friends and family for doing a job in the community e.g. at your church, a rest home where a family member lives, or helping out an elderly relative or friend of the family. More than one person could sponsor you to do the same job.
- Or your friends and relatives may have jobs they will pay you to do e.g. cleaning windows, mowing lawns or gardening.

Please do not approach businesses or people not known to your family for work or sponsorship.

The work can be done from Saturday May 31st – Sunday June 8th .

Please start thinking about what work you could do for the Workathon.

Workathon Sponsorship forms will be given to all students in the last week of May.

Prizes: Westfield St Lukes Gift Cards for the Eight Students who Raise the Most Money.

i.e. Top 3 Students Overall, and then One Student for Each Year Level

Top Form Class will receive a Pizza Lunch

Everyone that participates will be entered in the draw for Spot Prizes



KEEPING IN TOUCH—IMPORTANT CONTACTS AT SCHOOL

Talking with Parents/Caregivers about their child's learning and wellbeing is important to us—we have listed below some of the contacts /names to help you in the event of any concerns or enquiries: All staff can be reached by phoning the school main number 09-621-0050 to request a contact or by e-mailing to admin@mrgs.school.nz detailing the person you wish to contact in your subject line.

Your child's Academic Programme			
Academic Deans			
Year 9	Mrs F. Burns	Year 13	Mr R. Cornes
Year 10	Mr K Hays		Mrs S. Singh
Years 11 and 12	Mrs M. Brightmore Mrs S Singh		
Your child's relationships with students and staff— Pastoral welfare			
House Deans — (Head of Deans = Mr D. Williams)			
Blue House	Mrs S. Cave Mr. G Taunga	Orange House	Ms F. Leigh Mr. D Garraway
Red House	Ms L. Leman Mr A Ferguson	Yellow House	Ms. V Earl Mr. R Subramaniam
Green House	Mr D. Williams Mr D Mc Gerty		
Your child's attendance			
Attendance Officer	Mrs E. Hyland		
Your child's emotional welfare	Guidance Team	Head of Guidance	Mrs. M Hoogendoorn
Your child's health	Nursing Team	Receptionist Student Services	Ms J. Pace
Wider Issues of Concern	Deputy Principals		
Blue House	Ms M Cranch		
Red House	Mrs. J Small		
Green House	K. Collins		
Orange House	Mr. A Gipps		
Yellow House	Mr K. Hall		

CONTACT DETAILS

If you have a new address, phone number, cellphone number or email address please pass this information through to the school: admin@mrgs.school.nz

Emergency contact details should also be kept current so please update the school when either the person or their contact details change.

Please ensure that you have given the school a current email address which enables us to keep you up to date with information and newsletters.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

TERM DATES

Term Dates 2014

Term	First Day of term	Last Day of term
Term 2	Monday 5th May	Friday 4th July
Term 3	Monday 21st July	Friday 26th September
Term 4	Monday 13th October	Tuesday 9th December

TERM 2— EVENTS

TERM TWO			
June 13	Junior Reports Issued	June 27	School Ball
June 18	Pukekohe Exchange	July 2	Campus Matariki Concert
June 18	Campus Music Concert	July 4	End of Term Two
		July 4	Senior Reports Issued

DETAILS OF COMING EVENTS..

Pukekohe Sports Exchange- Thursday 19th June

Our premier Sports teams host Pukekohe High School in the annual sports exchange. Always an exciting day of competition and a chance for the 2014 teams of each school to test their abilities after early season games in their own local competitions.

PARENTAL CONTRIBUTION

Thank you to families who have paid their donation. Your support really makes a big difference! Last year parental donations assisted the school in providing a wide range of equipment including specialist sports equipment for Physical Education and a data projector for the school hall. The data projector is proving to be excellent for a range of student meetings and also for performing arts groups.

This year following the huge upgrade of our ICT network with ultrafast broadband and wireless capability we are wanting to provide class sets of laptops and tablets (computers on wheels) to a wider range of classes. Pilot programmes last year were very successful. We would also like to complete Phase 2 of the hall projector system which includes cameras and an improved sound system to enhance student performances. Donations also help with the running of our afterschool homework centres.

Your help in enabling these improvements will lift the learning experience for all students.

Parental contributions can be made by
contacting our Accounts department on **621 0050 extension 755**.
Direct credit facilities are available. Parental donations are tax deductible.



ROAD SAFETY REMINDERS

Our school campus is joining with Auckland Transport to support their campaign of Safety at the School Gate—which encourages road users to be responsible

and reinforces this with transport warden patrols outside the school gates.



PICK UP AND DROP OFF INFORMATION FOR CAMPUS SCHOOLS

In the interests of student safety on the roads around the school we have printed below the details of suggested safe pickup and drop off places that the three campus schools are encouraging families to use.

Rainford Street	Carr Road	Britton Avenue	Somerset Road	Bremner Avenue
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- Please use pick up and drop off points away from the school gate.
- Let our students walk to and from these pickup—drop off points.
- Do not use Fruit World or other commercial parking places.
- Do not enter the school drive way for pick up or drop off.

Make our school and our roads a safer place. Too many cars are a danger to all our students.

The Campus schools thank families for their co-operation.

Park safely outside schools

Before and after school is a busy time for everyone. Parking rules help protect our children and keep them safe. Drivers who park illegally put our kids at risk.

This term parking officers will be on patrol outside your school to issue tickets to those who are illegally parked.

Fines for illegal parking include:

• Parked on the footpath or grass verge/ berm	\$40
• Parked across or within 1m of a vehicle entrance	\$40
• Parked within 6m either side of an unmarked bus stop	\$40
• Parked within a marked bus stop	\$60
• Parked within 0.5m of a fire hydrant with no one in the car legally capable of moving it	\$60
• Parked within a designated bus lane, transit or cycle lane	\$60
• Parked on a clearway	\$60
• Double parked	\$60
• Inconsiderate parking to other road users, including pedestrians	\$60
• Parked on or within 6m of an intersection	\$60
• Parked on a pedestrian crossing	\$60
• Parked on a broken yellow line	\$60



ASB HOME LOAN SCHOOL DONATION SCHEME

For every new ASB home loan over \$150,000 taken out before 30 June 2014 ASB will donate— \$500 Cash to a participating school.

How to claim this offer

Visit <https://www.asb.co.nz/schoolbanking>

to download the voucher.

SCHOOL SPONSORSHIP

Mount Roskill Grammar School would like to thank the following businesses for their ongoing generous financial sponsorship and support ;

Libelle and Barfoot & Thompson – Mt Roskill

Proudly Supported by

Barfoot & Thompson
LIVESTOCK

Mt Roskill, 09 621 0912



NEW SPONSOR FOR 1ST XI GIRLS HOCKEY TEAM

We are pleased to announce that **Kip McGrath Mount Roskill** are sponsoring the uniforms of our Premier girls hockey team this coming season. We are grateful for the support to assist our development of excellence in the sport.



Kip McGrath Education Centre

First Floor,

8 Carr Road, Mt Roskill

Tel 09 6250229