

This will be the final newsletter for 2009. Our senior students are completing their NCEA and scholarship examinations and junior students are preparing for wider education activities followed by our junior prizegiving on Tuesday 8 December.

Next year our new pastoral system will be operational. Improvements have been made to ensure that House Deans oversee groups of junior core classes. They will work from a newly established pastoral care centre in E Block near the main administration building. Our review of the current system showed that the community greatly values the vertical form system and the house system. Established vertical form classes have been retained under five new Houses. We expect that monitoring of student progress and communication with families will be improved by these developments. The Pastoral Care Centre will be overseen by the Head of Deans Mrs Michelle Heywood and Deputy Principal Mrs Jenny Barker.



The success of 3 MRGS students at the prestigious national Bright Sparks Competition, a contest for high-tech enthusiasts was exceptional. Three top prizes went to MRGS students in the much contested 17 years+ category – Kevin Huang, Nikhil Mahashabde and Abhilash Kamineni. Commenting on Kevin's remoted controlled lawnmower, Abhilash's USB device, the NSR Transfer, and Nikhil's Spynik monitor of kids' internet use, Bright Sparks Judge Ross Petersen said 'What do they put in the water in Mount Roskill?' Congratulations to our aspirational students and their wonderful teacher Mr Bill Collis.

Our senior prizegiving was a tremendous acknowledgement of the efforts of our students. Awards for top scholars this year went to:

Year 11		Joseph Windsor	(6 subjects including Level 2)
		Shruthi Jyengar	(6 subjects)
		Daniel Tat	(5 subjects)
Year 12	1 st	Jordan Zi	
	2 nd =	Yuming Ding	
	2 nd =	Elia Kim	
Year 13			
Dux:		Abhilash Kamineni	
Proxime Accessit:		Kelly Zhang	
Sportsmwoman of the Year:		Aleisha Keshaw	
Sportsman of the Year:		Zane van Lieshout	

Best wishes to everyone for a restful and refreshing Christmas Season.

G B Watson
PRINCIPAL

UNIFORM

The Mount Roskill Grammar School Uniform Shop will be open at the following times:

Wednesday 9 to Friday 11 December:	9.00am – 4.00pm
Tuesday 12 and 19 January:	9.00am – 3.00pm
Wednesday 13 and 20 January:	9.00am – 5.00pm
Thursday 14 and 21 January:	9.00am – 5.00pm
Friday 15 and 22 January:	9.00am – 3.00pm
Tuesday 26 to Friday 29 January:	9.00am – 6.00pm
Tuesday 2 to Friday 5 February:	9.00am – 12 noon

All junior students are expected to wear the new uniform in 2010. Students who will be in Year 11 in 2010 can continue to wear their current uniform but will be required to move into the new senior uniform at the beginning of 2011.

The official Mount Roskill Grammar School uniform designed and manufactured by Elizabeth Michael is only available from the Mount Roskill Grammar Uniform Shop in Somerset Road next to the hockey turf.

PASTORAL CARE CENTRE

Over the last 2 years we have been reviewing our Pastoral care structure and in 2010 we will attend the centre if they have any enquiries or concerns. The reason for this change is to give another level of support to students as they progress through the school and allows deans to focus on class groups as well as individuals. Once in their 2010 house group students will stay in that house for the remainder of their time at Mt Roskill Grammar School.

Each house has a Dean and an Associate Dean to oversee the well-being of students. Form classes from 2009 have been allocated to new houses.

Deans for the new houses are:

RED (Whero)	Mrs Michele Heywood	assisted by Mr Chris McGirr
ORANGE (Karaka)	Ms Fiona Leigh	assisted by Mr Jon Eley
YELLOW (Kōwhai)	Mr Ram Subramaniyan	assisted by Ms Vicki Earl
GREEN (Kākāriki)	Mr David Williams	assisted by Ms Michelle Cranch
BLUE (Kikorangi)	Mr Chris Swanwick	assisted by Mrs Shelagh Cave

After gathering student input the process for choosing house names will be completed by the end of Term 1 2010.

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Junior students:

From the start of the year students will be placed into house groups through their core class groups

- *For students in year 9 (2009) there will be changes to their form class groups*
- *Students in year 10 (2009) will remain with their existing form class groups*

Senior students:

- *Students in year 11-12 (2009) will remain with their existing form class groups*

Lists will be posted on the school website as soon as placements are confirmed and information will be posted on student notice boards at the start of the year.

The same opportunities will be available for student leadership and fundraising activities for the local community will continue.

BUILDINGS

The Pastoral Care Centre is now complete with curtains, furniture and reception desk. The House Deans and Assistant House Deans are moving in ready to start the new year.

Approval for the rebuilding of C Block has been received from the Ministry of Education. As soon as permission from the Auckland City Council has been granted our contractors, Econobuilt Ltd, will commence the demolition of the existing building and the construction of the new classrooms. The Social Sciences Department has been temporarily housed in other parts. We look forward to this new facility being available towards the end of 2010.

JAPAN EXCHANGE SCHEME

For several years MRGS has had an exchange scheme with Seirinkan High School, Nagoya, a private school of around 800 students. We are inviting applications from students who would like to host a Japanese student in 2010 and then travel to Japan in 2011 to stay with a family and study at Seirinkan. There is no cost for accommodation or school in Japan, the only costs are airfare, insurance and spending money. Please see Ms Harding for more information or phone her on 621 0050 ext 756. She will be available until 18 December if you would like to meet her.

INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGE TRIPS IN 2010

Students will be able to be involved in either the 3-week France Homestay Tour or the 2-week Japan Homestay Tour in September 2010. Students should already be giving their names to either Mr McAlpine or Miss Kojima. Parents' meetings will take place in Term 1 and deposits will be due by the end of Term 1. Students need to make a commitment to the preparatory tutorials during Term 2 and 3 before departure. These are established MRGS trips with our exchange schools in both France and Japan.

LAST 2 WEEKS OF SCHOOL FOR JUNIORS

Week	Mon Nov 30	Tue Dec 1	Wed 2	Thu 3	Fri 4
8	<u>Junior Assembly</u> - National Anthem rehearsal	<u>Period 5 All Prizewinners to hall</u>	<u>Wider Education Day 1</u> <i>[Students not involved in a wider education activity will attend classes at school]</i>	<u>Wider Education Day 2</u> <i>[Students not involved in a wider education activity will attend classes at school]</i>	<u>Wider Education Day 3</u> <i>[Students not involved in a wider education activity will attend classes at school]</i>
Week	Mon Dec 7			Tue 8 End of term 4	
9	Periods 1 and 2. Students in normal classes Period. 1 Prizewinners Rehearsal Period 2 Music Rehearsal Period. 3 – Juniors to hall – prize giving rehearsal and National Anthem. Juniors sent home after rehearsal. (Approx. midday)			<u>Junior Prizegiving</u> Form period 9-00 Students to hall seating 9-15. Prizegiving 9-30 start. At end of Prizegiving students return to form rooms for issue of Reports then Students dismissed for holidays.	

Junior Prize giving – Tuesday 8 December 9-30 start

The **Junior Prize giving** will be held in the Hall at 9-30am on the morning of **Tuesday 8 December**.

The prize giving is the culmination of the junior school year and all junior students must attend.

Junior students are required to be **in their form room by 9-00 am** for roll call. All students will be escorted by their form teachers to the hall to take their seats at 9-15 for a 9-30 start to the ceremony. Caregivers and family of students are invited to attend and must be seated by 9-15 in the hall.

We hope that you are able to be present on morning of December 8th to applaud our high achievers, to celebrate the commitment of many junior students to the school community and to enjoy items provided by some of our school music groups.

After the ceremony students will return to their form rooms to receive reports and they will then be dismissed by form teachers to go home for the summer holidays.

FREE Dental Care*

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

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WIDER EDUCATION 2009

With only a few days until Wider Education begins students are buzzing around meeting teachers in charge of groups and finding out further information on what they will be doing and the different skills they will have the opportunity to learn.

What can you as a parent do to help?

Talk to your child about the process of doing something different and giving things a go. To a teenager these activities may seem hard, even scary. Talking with them can help to alleviate concerns, especially talking about their fears of being with people they may not know and of facing unknown challenges. Encourage them to talk to the teachers who will be with them and get them enquiring about different activities.

It is important that students come to school prepared on the 2nd December with the correct gear they need for their camp or day activity. They will already have a list of the gear they require from the teacher in charge of the camp or activity. It is also important that all health and permission forms are returned to the teachers as required.

To enable groups to meet time constraints, students need to be early to the events. As large groups of students are moving between different activities, travelling times are tight so late students may be kept at school.

Only students who have fully paid will be allowed to attend activities. Other students will be required to attend classes from 9.00 am to 3.00 pm. If you have any queries please contact Mr Ferguson teacher-in-charge of Wider Education.

CANTEEN CLOSING DATE: TUESDAY DECEMBER 1

The last day the Canteen will be open is Tuesday 1 December. After this date students will be on Wider Education or released at lunch time. Those in classes during Wider Education will need to bring their own lunch.

FUNDRAISER FOR SCHOOL SPORT TOURNAMENTS AND TRAVEL

Save Money When Eating Out! The Restaurant Value Book (RVB) is a great Christmas gift idea. It features a number of restaurants from all over Auckland e.g. Bolliwood, Squid Row, The Grange Tonys, Claret, Portfolio and many more with each page showing a new restaurant and a voucher for free meals, free bottles of wine or 25% off the total bill.

Each time you use the book you save \$20 - \$40. Vouchers are valid until November 2010. At ONLY \$20 the RVB makes a great Christmas gift to someone who enjoys eating out. \$5 from each copy sold is donated back to MRGS.

To order copies visit www.restaurantvaluebook.com/mrg SAVE MONEY and help MRGS Sports Teams.

SPORT

In 2010 MRGS will be running for the first time a Hockey Sports Academy at year 9. It is an exciting time for the school and we are proud to announce that the head coach for this academy will be John Daji. John is rated one of NZ's top secondary school coaches, he currently coaches the Eden Roskill Premier Ladies side and the NZ Secondary School Girls champions Diocesan. We are also excited that we still have the services of Habib Makvandi Nejad who will continue to develop Football in the school. Habib is an ex-professional football player and elite high performance coach.

To improve sport within the school it is important that we see an increase in the involvement of **parents** and **ex-pupils** of MRGS. If you would like to coach or manage a sports team and have a passion for sport, a child who is involved or would like to give something back to the school please do not hesitate to contact Mr Buckley (Director of Sport) on 6210050 ext 891. Any help would be much appreciated.

Finally at the start of next year the school is looking to set up a school sports committee. This committee would look at ways to improve school sport by having meetings involving parents, staff and students. Once again if you are interested in being involved in this committee please ring Mr Buckley on 6210050 ext 891.

Volleyball Junior Girls

This term has been a very good one for volleyball with 2 girls teams, one team playing in the A grade and in one the B grade. In the first round both teams won, which meant that the second team moved up into the A grade for the 2nd round. Thank you to Caroline Marshall for giving up her time to coach this team. The A team finished their season in 2nd place behind Onehunga. Mt Roskill was seeded 18th out of 24 schools. Well done to both teams for the season. Also good luck to the team and Miss Harvie and Miss Hughes who are attending the Volleyball Championships in Rotorua this week.

Touch Junior Girls

It's been a challenging season for the girls, who have played in the A grade. They have managed to get through the season finishing on a high by winning their last 2 games beating St Cuthbert's 7 – 2 and Marcellin 6 – 1. The girls finished 8th out of 12 schools. Big thanks go to Mr Ciaran Overton for coaching the girls during the season.

Touch Junior Boys

The boys have had a tough season. Nevertheless they have enjoyed the games they have played. This boys team has the potential to be a number 1 team as a result of their commitment to trainings and their passion for the game.

Touch Senior Mixed New Zealand Secondary School Nationals

We wish the best of luck to this team who are attending the National Tournament in Palmerston North on December 10th – 11th. They have been training very hard for the past 3 months under the skilled coaching of Mr Dennis Matene and are looking in great shape for the tournament. Staff attending are Mr Taunga, Ms Te Whiu and Mr Koloamatangi.

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

TERM 4		
December	Wednesday 2	NZQA Exams finish
	Wednesday 2 – Friday 4	Wider Education
	Tuesday 8	Junior Prizegiving
		END OF TERM 4

DATES FOR 2010

Course confirmation for senior students. Details on who needs to confirm their course will be available from 26 January on the website. www.mrgs.school.nz

Tuesday 2 February: Year 13 at 9.00am
Year 12 at 11.00am

Course changes: Year 11 at 9.00am

Friday 5 February: Powhiri for new students including Year 9 and all Year 13 students.

Monday 8 February: First full teaching day for all students

TERM DATES 2010		
Term 1	Tuesday 2 February	Thursday 1 April
Term 2	Monday 19 April	Friday 2 July
Term 3	Monday 19 July	Friday 24 September
Term 4	Monday 11 October	Monday 13 December

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