

MOUNT ROSKILL GRAMMAR SCHOOL



Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2012

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Phone: 621-0050
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Frost Rd
Mount Roskill
Auckland 1041



In this Issue:

U14 Rugby
Auckland Champions

Science Fair Success
John Campbell at Roskill
Junior Summer Sport
Community Education Term 4

Past Students Honoured



NEWSLETTER – SEPTEMBER 2012

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the strategic plan consultation. We are collating the information from the wider community, parents and caregivers and from students. Next term we will report outcomes of the consultation and the strategic direction set by the Board of Trustees.



The visit of old boys Colonel James Blackwell and Mr Mark Day has been a highlight of the term. After speaking at the school assembly James and Mark met with prefects, telling old school stories and providing great insights about what it takes to become an influential leader. In recognition of his inspirational 'Brown Brother' speech Colonel Blackwell presented Joshua Iosefo with a signed copy of the book by Willie Apiata VC.

Senior students preparing for external examinations are bringing home a short progress report at the end of term. The report gives further feedback following the recent trial examinations and can be used to help plan the next steps in preparation for final examinations. Families could ask students to tell them the areas they have identified as needing further work in each subject.

Students are encouraged to make the best possible use of these coming holidays, while balancing time for refreshment and a planned schedule of study.

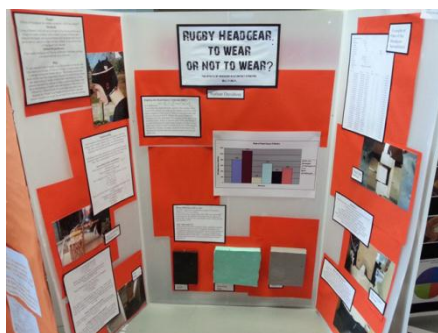
This newsletter documents many outstanding student achievements. Congratulations to everyone for their success.

Greg Watson
PRINCIPAL

PARENTAL DONATIONS

Thank you to all who have made their parental donation already after the recent invoices were sent out. The parental donation is \$180.00 per student or \$300.00 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.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FAIR SUCCESS



Many of Mount Roskill Grammar School's young scientists and engineers have been working hard this year on their projects for the Science and Technology Fair. A wealth of enterprising projects were submitted to our own in-school competition and over 17 students were chosen as finalists. Their placing gained them entry into the NIWA Auckland Science and Technology Fair which was held recently. There were over 220 entries from 20 different schools.

The Fair comprised of a day's interviews and judging in the categories of Technology, Earth, Space, Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Highly commended entries were also awarded special prizes from the fair's sponsors. Six students were highly commended and a further 5 students were placed in their categories: Jonathan Khoo (Water Xylophones), 1st in Physics; Nathan Davidson (Rugby Headgear—preventing concussions) 2nd in Physics; Athulya Rathnayake, (Viscosity) 3rd in Physics; Sai Krupa Narayana (Osmosis in Eggs) 2nd in Biology; Conor King (Blurb applications) 1st in Technology.

Special Prizes were also gained by Diana Qiu—Bronze award from the Ornithological Society of New Zealand; Nathan Davidson—Silver Award for Excellence from Babbage Consultants; Jonatha Khoo - Silver Award for Excellence in Physics Investigations and Physics Department Experience, University of Auckland; Conor King - Silver Award, University of Auckland Faculty of Science Junior Scientist Award and the NIWA Premier Gold Award—Best Overall Exhibit in the Fair—1st Equal.

JAPANESE SPEECH FESTIVAL



On 17th August the Auckland Secondary Schools Japanese Speech Festival was held at AUT. Veronica Lumauig received 2nd prize for all Year 12 students, and Sam Tan received a special prize for the Year 11 competition.

The students were judged on the quality of their speech, how well they engaged the audience and their enthusiasm.

MRGS STUDENT DELIVERS SPEECH TO FASHION WEEK AUDIENCE



Worknesh Dinkayehu, one of our Year 13 students and part of the YWCA Future Leaders Programme, spoke at a fund-raising lunch for the YWCA during Fashion Week. Despite arriving in New Zealand in 2007 with absolutely no English, she spoke in front of 100 influential women, telling them how the YWCA Future Leaders Programme had transformed her life. Her speech has been universally praised, and the lunch raised \$10,000.

FURTHER BARISTA SUCCESS FOR JIAHUI



Earlier this year, in June, Jiahui Xia gained a gold medal for coffee preparation in the Regional Secondary Schools Barista competition. As a result of her success she was invited to compete in the National NZ Culinary Fare – Barista Training event held at the ASB showground at the end of August. Jiahui was the only secondary student to take part – other competitors came from tertiary institutions such as AUT and MIT. Once again the Roskill Year 13 student demonstrated her highly developed coffee preparation skills and was awarded a silver medal. Her task in the competition was divided into two parts: the first where she had to set up and prepare the espresso machine and the additional equipment; the second where she produced a range of 6 coffees including an espressos, lattes and flat whites. The whole competition had Jiahui competing and achieving under the World Barista Competition rules.

AYUSH CONTINUES HIS SPORTING INVOLVEMENT AND SUCCESS



Despite being diagnosed at the age of 10 with Congenital Myopathy, Ayush Bhatnagar of Year 13 has maintained his Paralympic level performances in table tennis for many years and has also played cricket for Eden Roskill club. In the last five years he has successfully competed in the Independence Games in swimming and athletics; the Special Olympics and has won a silver medal in the NZ Paralympics open table tennis event in 2010. In the

2011 Mitsubishi Motors PNZ National Championship (Table tennis) he won silver in the single and doubles events and also was awarded two team event silver medals overseas in the Darwin-based Arafura games. His most recent achievement was a bronze medal in the men's singles of the New Caledonia Para Table Tennis Championships earlier this year.

At the same time as his competitive success he has also been awarded a Variety Gold Heart Scholarship and was named I.C.S.A Young Sportsman of the year in 2012. In 2011 he sailed on the Spirit of Adventure and took an active part in the voyage's teamwork and leadership building elements. Ayush, while studying Chemistry, Physics, Accounting and Calculus at year 13, still maintains rigorous training and fitness and has his sights firmly set on the 2013 Arafura games and beyond that will strive for consideration for the 2016 Paralympics in Rio de Janeiro.

STUDENT SUCCESSES

Congratulations are due to Year 9 student Mohammad Hassaan Mirza won third prize in the Auckland-wide Fuse competition run by Auckland City Council through the city libraries. Mohammad won the prize through his story writing.

Another Year 9 student, Disha Gomathinayagam, has been selected as one of 13 finalists in the Massey University Future U competition. Future U is an online competition for 13 to 18-year-olds, who were challenged to upload a two-minute video of their vision of New Zealand in 2050, and the challenges they think they'll face. Disha and the other finalists will attend a mentored workshop in Auckland in October to refine their vision. They will present their final version to the judging panel and the overall winner will receive a prize package for them and their school.

SHOTOKAN KARATE-DO NEW ZEALAND REPRESENTATIVE

Year 10 student Bryan Busby has been selected to represent New Zealand in the 14-15 years Boys Individual Kumite and Kata events at the 2012 Shotokan Karate World Championship in Sydney this November. Bryan has been a member of the NZ team for four years and has represented his local club in the past with great success. He is an integral member of the NZ team and all the school wishes him the best in the international competition.

U15 GIRLS' HOCKEY

For the first time in MRGS hockey history, our Under 15 Girls A team played in the Championship grade. The team consisted of a harmonious blend of Year 8, 9 and 10 girls. They showed enormous commitment turning up for early morning practice with coach Barry Bryan and Rahul Parbhoo. The games consisted of highly skilled, first class, fast hockey, which was a delight to watch! They remained unbeaten throughout the season, until the very last game. In the final they lost against Diocesan, so they became the runners up in the Under 15 Girls A competition.

CHESS

For the second consecutive year, our MRGS chess team school placed a clear third in the ChessPower national finals, close behind winners Christchurch Boys High School and 2nd placed Auckland International College. Our school also qualified for the finals by winning three tournaments. This event is more like a 1500m race, as each player has only 15 minutes to complete each of their nine games in one day. The top seven players from our school had to think fast under pressure, without making mistakes. While it was a team effort, Kashyap Choudhary, Kalyan Todha, Savidurru Mohan and William Huch received bronze medals. William only learned to play chess last year, but his dedication to daily chess training in E1 every lunchtime paid off.

The team's success at the finals rounds off a successful year in which two MRGS two chess teams qualified for the Auckland Chess Championships. This competition is the chess marathon, with each game lasting over 2 hours, with five games spread over three school days.

ICAS SCIENCE COMPETITION 2012

This year 84 students participated in the competition and were awarded 4 High Distinctions, 18 Distinctions, 25 Credits and 37 Participation Certificates. High Distinctions is awarded to the top 1% of entrants and Distinction to the next 10% of entrants. The highlight of the year was the awarding of the UNSW Medal to Richard Xu for being top scorer in Year 12 of all elements from New Zealand.

PAST PUPILS HONOURED



Earlier this term in a special assembly the school was privileged to welcome two celebrated past pupils, Colonel James Blackwell ONZM, commander of the New Zealand SAS and Mr Mark Day head of the Drugs Investigation Department of NZ Customs. They were greeted by a haka powhiri from the kapa haka group, our rugby teams and years 9 and 13 of the school. Both men addressed the assembly and held the packed hall in awe with their insights into their time at school and the distinguished careers they have both led serving the interests of New Zealand. Their speeches followed the formal Whaikorero by the Principal Mr Watson

and a year 11 student.



Mr Day entertained the students and guests with his experiences 'guarding' the borders of our country in the fight against drugs and illegal importations. Colonel Blackwell then took the stage and immediately drew the audience with his reference to Victoria Cross winner Willie Apiata who gained his medal while under his command. The scope of Col. Blackwell's career serving in all the major areas of conflict with the SAS over 25 years was testimony to

a Roskill man who had shaped his life with clear values and resilient attitudes. Following the assembly both men spent morning tea with staff and then took part in an informal question session with a group of Prefects—where again they shared their inspirational attitudes with our own aspiring young men and women.

SENIOR MEDIA STUDENTS MEET JOHN CAMPBELL



Senior Media students were recently treated to a remarkable talk from TV3's current affairs presenter, John Campbell. This exciting opportunity came about as a result of the appearance of our Year 13 students, Joshua Iosefo and Rashad Stanley, on *Campbell Live* (itself a result of the incredible success of Joshua's prefect speech on *YouTube*).

On a morning in August about 60 Media students gathered in the school library to hear John Campbell speak about his life and the paths he followed that led to his incredible career as a broadcaster with over twenty years at TV3.

Our students used the occasion to show off their own budding journalism skills and did our school proud by asking Campbell a number of astute questions. All who attended found Campbell to be a charmingly open orator, and this along with his affability when faced with our student paparazzi, made his visit an absolute highlight of the Media Studies year.

YEAR 13 DRAMA PRODUCTION



The Year 13 Drama class performed the play, *Find Me* by Olwen Wymark in the Performing Arts room in Week 8. The play is about a young girl living with mental illness in the UK in the 1970s, and the inability of her family, community and medical industry to contain her. The class worked very hard throughout the entire term rehearsing, researching and preparing for the performance, including working through the Stanislavski System of Acting. Four students took on the technical roles of

props, lighting, costume and sound meaning that their director (and teacher) did not have to do a thing on the night- a completely student-led performance! Miss Gillies would like to thank the students for all their hard work, the students who helped out on the night and their lovely audience of approximately 60 people. It was a great learning experience for the Year 13 Drama class, even though it was a LOT of work!

WIDER EDUCATION YEAR 9 AND 10 WEDNESDAY 5TH – FRIDAY 7TH DECEMBER

Wider Education is a tradition at MRGS which give students the opportunity for students to be involved in valuable learning activities that are based outside of the classroom. Students will be challenged by new experiences, make new friends, learn new skills while having fun completing a wide range of activities.

Year 9 trips comprise of day trips that are based around the Auckland area, while Year 10's are required to attend a camp or a three day trip programme.

This year the trips and camps cover a wide range of activities and venues, and although there is a cost associated with each activity we have endeavoured to keep these to a minimum. A deposit of \$25 for day trips and \$50 for residential trips is needed to secure placement. Final payments are to be made by 30th October. For more information please refer to the handout given to students by Form Teachers, or the school website. or contact: Ms L Leman, Wider Education Coordinator laura.leman@mrqs.school.nz

SPORTS NEWS FROM THE TERM

TERM 3 SPORTS WEEKS

During Term 3 we have held Junior Girls' and Boys' weeks in the Sports Department. These weeks were opportunities for all students to participate in activities such as Zumba, Boxing, CrossFit, Volleyball and Basketball. The response from students was positive as we seek new and exciting ways to increase the participation levels of our students in sport and recreation activities. The Sports Department encourages all students to take part in at least two activities or sports throughout the year as a way of socialising with others, learning new skills and developing their personal fitness.

HAVE A GO SESSIONS

Every Thursday at lunchtime in all of the Gyms are chances for students to play social sport with their friends and learn something from the professional coaches who attend. Currently we have Table Tennis, Futsal and Badminton available for all students to try out.

TOURNAMENT WEEK



Week 8 saw five of our top sports teams compete in tournaments around the North Island. Tournament Week is held at the end of the regular season and gives these teams a chance to wrap their season up with intense competition as well as having fun off the field. The 1st XI Girls Hockey team played very well in their competition finishing 3rd out of 15 teams. All of the other sports finished well in their competitions and their

sportsmanship and conduct on and off the field were a credit to the school. Well done to all teams.

U14 RUGBY TEAM—AUCKLAND CHAMPIONS



After making their way to the final with a last minute try in their previous week's game, our unbeaten U14 rugby side met Tangaroa College in the final this term. It was a hard fought encounter and Tangaroa took the early advantage with a try in the first minute and by half time they led 12-0. In the second half Roskill scored but Tangaroa quickly replied with a try of their own. With 10 minutes left to play Roskill were 5-19 down. Then a try to Zach Semi from Roskill with a sideline conversion was quickly followed by another brilliant

try under the posts to Luke Edmonds which levelled the score at 19 all. If this score had remained at full time Tangaroa would have won on a countback of points. In the very last minute Tangaroa won a penalty and chose to tap and run, taking the ball to within meters of the Roskill goal line. Then in a dramatic reversal, Roskill

drove the play all the way back into the Tangaroa half winning a penalty on the 22 line. The high standard of goal kicking was maintained by Roskill and they scored the penalty, taking them to a winning score of 22-19. A great victory for this young side leaving them unbeaten for the season and worthy Auckland champions.

TERM FOUR JUNIOR SUMMER SPORTS

Next term there are various sports available to be played by Junior students only. These sports include Lawn Bowls, Aussie Rules, Touch, Volleyball and Softball. If your child is interested in playing any of these sports they should see Mr Horne in the Gym 1 office to get an Information and Permission Form.

REPRESENTATIVE HONOURS FOR ROSKILL STUDENTS AUCKLAND CENTRAL U14 RUGBY SQUAD

Earlier this term central Under 14 Coaches named a 31 man squad for their 2012 Blues U14 competition which runs from Sept 1 to 29. Seven MRGS students were named in the squad: Luaiva Asiata, Nathan Davidson, Luke Edmonds, Tawhiri Gifford-Kara, Aubrey Lasi, Reginald Linoscicia and Viliami Jr Panuve. The school congratulates them on their selection.

SELECTED FOR AUCKLAND U16 RUGBY LEAGUE

Tualima Tualima was selected for Auckland North U16 representative team for Auckland Rugby League "Auckland Regional Championship".

UNIFORM SHOP

The MRGS Uniform shop will be closed during the school holidays. During the school term the shop is open Mondays and Thursdays from 8.00 am to 9.00am and 3.00pm to 4.00pm. The uniform shop is located at Gate 3, Frost Road.

UNIFORM

We always welcome donated items of uniform. If you have PE uniform or other uniform items that your child will not require in 2013 we would be pleased to accept donated items either at reception or in the Deans' Centre.

CONTACT DETAILS

If you have a new address, phone number, cellphone number or email address please pass this information through to the school: admin@mrqs.school.nz
Emergency contact details should also be kept current so please update the school when either the person or their contact details change. It is vital that we have up-to-date contact information so we can communicate with you.

GRATEFULLY APPRECIATED SPONSORS – KONICA MINOLTA AND BARFOOT AND THOMPSON

In order to enhance the experiences and opportunities at MRGS the school is always grateful for sponsorships and donations from community groups, organisations and businesses. This year we have received \$20,000 from Konica Minolta and \$10,000 from Barfoot and Thompson. The school thanks these organisations for their funding and anticipates the benefit that students at the school will receive from their generosity.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION - TERM 4 2012

Frost Road, Mt Roskill, Auckland 1041 www.mrgs.school.nz (click on "Community Education")

Phone (09) 621 0051 Email: jennifer.carson@mrgs.school.nz Fax: (09) 620 9467

Office Hours: 9am-3pm Monday to Friday. Extra enrolling night: Wednesday, 24 October 6-8pm

MONDAY starts 29 October 7-9pm unless stated

Basic Car Maintenance	6 wks	\$87
Dancing: Ballroom for Beginners 7-8pm	6 wks	\$55
Dancing: Ballroom Beginners Plus 8-9pm	6 wks	\$55
Furniture Making & Design 6-9pm	7 wks	\$139
Get Fit! For Beginners 7.30-8.30pm	7 wks	\$49
Indian Cooking	4 wks	\$70
*Fee includes first night's ingredients		
Indoor Netball: Men/Women 6.15-7.45pm	7 wks	\$67
MYOB 6.45-9pm	7 wks	\$135
Painting with Oils *Materials needed	6 wks	\$85+
Pattern Making – Advanced	7 wks	\$110
Three Kings Toastmasters Speechcraft	5 wks	\$195
*Fee includes manual		
Yoga 6.45-8.15pm *Bring mat	8 wks	\$76

TUESDAY starts 30 October 7-9pm unless stated

Badminton 6.30-8.30pm	7 wks	\$85
Bollywood Dancing 7.30-8.30pm	7 wks	\$70
Bootcamp Circuit Training 6.30-7.30pm	7 wks	\$49
Dressing for Your Body Shape - Women	2 wks	\$56
*Starts 6 November		
Dressmaking – Beginners to Int 6.45-9pm	7 wks	\$85+
Floristry/ Fresh Flowers – Beg to Int	6 wks	\$75+
Indoor Soccer – Men's 7.35 - 9pm	8 wks	\$76
Indoor Soccer – Women's 6-7.30pm	8 wks	\$76
Pilates 6.30-7.30pm *Bring a mat	7 wks	\$65
Pastry and Bread	4 wks	\$70
*Fee includes first night's ingredients		
Welding for Beginners 6.30-8.30pm	6 wks	200+
*Only 4 spaces available		
Woodwork & Furniture Restoration	7 wks	\$90+

WEDNESDAY starts 31 October 7-9pm unless stated

Advanced Car Maintenance	6 wks	\$115
Aerobics – Pump 7.30-8.30pm	7 wks	\$49
Cooking for Christmas starts 21 Nov	3 wks	\$50+
*Fee includes first night's ingredients		
Digital Photog & Photoshop – An Intro	6 wks	\$80
Dressmaking – Beg to Int 6.45-9pm	7 wks	\$85+
*Bring fabric, pattern, thread etc		
GST Returns/Small Business Taxation	3 wks	\$30
Indoor Soccer 7.30-9pm	9 wks	\$86
*Starts 17 October		
Italian Cooking	3 wks	\$58
*Fee includes first night's ingredients		
Spin Bikes 6.30-7.30pm	7 wks	\$65
Tennis – Beginners to Int *Bring racquet	6 wks	\$75
Woodwork – Beg to Int 6.45-9pm	7 wks	\$90+
Yoga 6.45-8.15pm *Starts 17 October	9 wks	\$95

GUITAR CLASSES

Start Thursday 1 Nov & Friday 2 November

***Fantastic tutor! Bring own guitar. Limited spaces**

Beginners - Thursday	7-8pm	7 wks	\$75
Intermediate (1) – Thurs	6-7pm	7 wks	\$75
Intermediate (2) - Friday	6-7pm	7 wks	\$75
Intermediate (3) - Thurs	8-9pm	7 wks	\$75
Advanced - Friday	7-9pm	7 wks	\$125

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

***Non-residents pay 30% extra**

DAYTIME CLASSES

Conversational English & Grammar – starts 15 Oct

Mon, Wed & Fri	9am-12noon	9 wks	\$360
Beginners/ Elementary		Level 1	
Pre-Intermediate		Level 2	
Intermediate/High Intermediate		Level 3	

IELTS Academic Preparation – starts 16 October

Tues & Thurs	9.15-11.15am	9 wks	\$240
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NIGHT TIME CLASSES

Mon & Wed classes – start 29 October

***2 nights per week, 6.40-9pm, 7 wks, \$99**

Beginners/ Elementary	
Pre-Intermediate/ Conversational English	
Intermediate	
High Intermediate	

Tuesday classes – start 30 October

***1 night per week, 6.40-9pm, 7 wks, \$50**

English Speaking and Pronunciation
Advanced Grammar and Vocabulary
English for Work or Employment

IELTS Academic Preparation Class – starts 30 Oct

***Tues and Wed (2 nights), 6.40-9pm, 7 wks, \$170**

Please note: A "+" after a price indicates that there may be further material costs involved

You must be a minimum of 16 yrs to join these classes

EASY WAYS TO ENROL:

- Phone the Community Education Office on 621 0051 with your credit card
- In person at the office. 9am-3pm Monday to Friday. Eftpos is available
- Download an enrolment form from the Website: www.mrgs.school.nz, click on "Community Education"
- Email to jennifer.carson@mrgs.school.nz

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

TERMS 3 & 4		
September	Friday 28	Senior Interim Report Issued
October	Monday 22	LABOUR DAY
	Thursday 25	Sports Awards Evening
November	Thursday 1	Arts Awards Evening
	Tuesday 6	Senior Prizegiving
	Wednesday 7	Last Day for Seniors
	Friday 9	NCEA Exams begin
	Friday 16	TEACHER ONLY DAY
TERM DATES 2012		
Term 4	Monday 15 October	Tuesday 11 December

EASY SHOPPING – EASY FUNDRAISING

Bargains at Apple, Ezibuy fashion, The Nile bookstore, Mighty Ape toys and more.

Step 1 – simply go on line to www.yourfastshop.co.nz , select your school and start browsing your favourite stores.

That's it!

- No parking problems. No petrol cost, No aching feet!
- Save \$70 on printer ink and save on other items at Snatch A Deal
- Your shopping is dealt with directly by your chosen online store.
- www.yourfastshop.co.nz automatically provide funds to your school

Treat yourself to easy shopping and help your school to fundraise.