

**MOUNT ROSKILL GRAMMAR SCHOOL**

# Newsletter

## SEPTEMBER 2011



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## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Nga mihi nui ki a koutou

Our senior students are preparing for their practice examinations which are held in week 6 and 7 of this term, starting on September 5<sup>th</sup>. These examinations enable students to find out how well they are doing in the externally assessed standards they will sit later in the year, and also to grapple with the complex task of organising their revision programme and using their time productively.

Students need to practise organising their time. The exam schedule is included in this newsletter. Students should be mapping out the period before and during the examinations, deciding what subjects should be studied each day, and how this study needs to be worked in with other responsibilities, and with time to relax and refresh.

Students need to be clear about what they should be learning. In each subject the particular NCEA standards (or topics) to be examined have been identified. Students will have information about what it takes to gain an achieved, merit or excellence grade in each standard (these are the assessment criteria).

Students are practising strategies for revision. In recent assemblies I have talked through some learning strategies and form teachers are also working through a revision skills programme with their classes. Students will be trying out different revision strategies and also building powerful learning dispositions such as; how to work through difficulties when the pressure mounts and the going gets tough; how to recognise and reduce distraction, and when to take a break and gain refreshment. The most important part of revision is practising writing answers to questions of a similar level to those in the examination. The school's 'moodle' site called iLearn contains many excellent resources for students. The site can be found at [www.ilearn.mrgs.school.nz](http://www.ilearn.mrgs.school.nz)

Families can be a great help to students studying for exams by encouraging development in these areas - time management, gaining clarity about what should be learned, using revision strategies and remaining resilient under pressure. Serious endeavour now will provide an excellent foundation for the external NCEA exams in November.

Ki nga taumata

Greg Watson



## ENROLMENT

**Out of zone enrolment applications** close on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> September. The out-of-zone ballot will be held on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> September with letters informing parents of the outcome of the ballot being sent out within the following five days.

**In zone enrolment interviews** will be held in the main school office on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> September from 4pm to 7.45 pm. Justices of the Peace will be available at the school on those evenings to sign statutory declarations.

## HEALTH CENTRE

The Health Centre at Student Services provides a supportive service to students to assist them with any health concerns and promote healthy living. We have 3 Registered Nurses who provide a confidential service. We do health assessments on Year 9 students for whom we gain consent on enrolment.

The cold and flu season is here. We recommend any sick students be kept at home and seek medical help if necessary. There has also been a Measles outbreak in Auckland and we recommend parents check to see if their children have been immunised and if they haven't, to take them to the doctor to get immunised. Measles is a viral infection and is highly infectious. It is spread by coughing and sneezing or by direct contact with secretions. It is similar to the flu with a fever and red eyes and sometimes a rash.

Students are entitled to free dental care until they are 18. We strongly recommend they enrol with a local dentist that provides this service. We can help students with this at Student Services.

The school has recently held a very successful Health and Wellbeing and Peace Week. There were many lunchtime activities and a breakfast in the hall for some Year 9 classes. There was an expo in the hall at lunchtime for students organised by student groups. Outside agencies also attended the expo to support healthy lifestyles and choices. There were lots of activities and prizes and a good time was had by all.

## TRAMPOLINE COMPETITION

### **SARAH DEVERELL: TRAMPOLINE NATIONAL CHAMP**

**National Championships were held at the North Shore Events centre 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> July.** Sarah is the National Champ on trampoline for the 17+ age.

### **Hayden Ng**

#### **Australasian Nations Mens Gymnastics**

In this two day event Hayden competed well on the first day where he was placed 8<sup>th</sup>. After Day 2 he was placed 14<sup>th</sup> overall out of 52 gymnasts competing.

He has recently attended another competition in Christchurch during the last weekend of the school holidays and was placed 2<sup>nd</sup> individually and his team 1<sup>st</sup>. On the second day he also won a bronze medal for pommel and two silver medals on vault and rings. A great accomplishment coming home with 5 medals altogether.

## **ICAS COMPUTING EXAM RESULTS**

Pleasing results were gained by Year 9 and 10 students sitting this optional assessment in May. Congratulations go to the following students for gaining Distinction. These results place them in the top 5% of results in New Zealand.

### **Year 9**

Rachel Sun

### **Year 10**

Saviduruu Mohan

Aaron Wong

Victor Xie

## **HEALTH CONSULTATION**

Every two years, Mount Roskill Grammar School conducts a community consultation on our Health Curriculum. Health is compulsory in the NZ Curriculum for Years 9 and 10 and can now be chosen as an NCEA subject in Year 11, 12 and 13. Health has an important role in the New Zealand Curriculum, teaching our students life-long skills and knowledge.

The MRGS Community Health Consultation will take place now until Monday 12 September 2011. This year we have made it very quick and simple to complete; an online survey that will only take a few minutes of your time. An email will be sent to all parents and caregivers on our email database with a link to the survey. A link will also be available on the school website and paper copies available from the school office. We value your input and look forward to receiving your feedback.

A copy of the MRGS Junior Health Curriculum outline is available on the school website. If you have any further questions regarding the Health programme at MRGS, please contact Kim Thomas, HOD Health, 621 0050 ext 741, [k.thomas@mrgs.school.nz](mailto:k.thomas@mrgs.school.nz)



## UNIFORM

MRGS regulation uniform is the only school uniform that may be worn. The complete regulation uniform requirements are available on our school website. If you are purchasing second hand uniform from past pupils please ensure it has an Elizabeth Michael label. If you have any concerns or queries about uniform, please contact Mrs Barker on 6210050.

## UNIFORM SHOP

The MRGS uniform shop is open Mondays and Thursdays from 8am to 9am and 3pm to 4pm.

## ATTENDANCE

Teachers mark their roll on the computer every period. This allows us to monitor attendance statistics for both individual and groups of students more frequently and closely. Students are expected to bring a note explaining their absence on the day they return to school. If you have any concerns about attendance or want to report an absence, please phone Ms Hyland, Attendance Officer, on 621-0069. Lateness to school is always a concern and we would value your support to help us address this when it is brought to your attention. It is our experience that left unaddressed, lateness can become truancy.

## TOURNAMENT WEEK

### Netball Premier

The Premier Netball team went down to Mt Maunganui for tournament week and had a fabulous time in the very warm and sunny Bay of Plenty weather. Each day the girls were up bright and early for a light jog down to the beach then they had 2 games to play each day. By the end of the week the girls had played 10 games winning 6 of them. Our team were a dedicated bunch of girls and played some fantastic Netball where they finished 20<sup>th</sup> out of 32 teams. A huge “well done” to the girls as they were most respectful and helpful throughout the whole trip, and a real pleasure to take away.

Thank you to the following girls for your commitment throughout the season, rest up well and we look forward to an even better season next year! The team is Renae Toealau (Captain), Sandy Toiu (Captain/Statistics Collator), Mattie Tuiallii, Virtue Maea, Theresa Vi, Fapiola Siale, Oshan Malifa, Yikutae Matenga, Nancy Hoeter, Logosau Moaga Su’a, Lizzie Apisala, Noane Robertson and Sapatitai Matenga.



### Hockey Girls 1<sup>st</sup> XI

Otumoetai 2 <sup>nd</sup> XI	Draw	1-1
Te Awamutu	Win	8-0
Kuranui	Win	2-1
Edgecumbe	Loss	2-1
Whakatane High	Loss	3-2 in penalty strokes
Otumoetai 2 <sup>nd</sup> XI	Draw	2-2

The Girls 1<sup>st</sup> XI Hockey team enjoyed a positive start to the week with their first game on Monday against Otumoetai 2<sup>nd</sup> XI resulting in a draw 1-1. This left the team feeling confident and eager to get a win under their belt. In the second game played in the early evening we came away with a huge win of 8-0 against Te Awamutu which was a great way to finish the day.

On Tuesday we faced Kuranui from Greytown and were able to walk away with another win, this time a closer score of 2-1 which gave us the opportunity to play in the quarter finals on Wednesday. Unfortunately the winning streak did not continue the following day and we lost our quarter final game against Edgecumbe 2-1. On Thursday the team played hard against a good Whakatane High side and at full time a score of 2-2 meant that the teams went to Penalty strokes. The first set of strokes saw the teams drawn again and meant that a set of Sudden Death strokes were played. Unfortunately we lost in the Sudden Death strokes but the girls were happy with the game they had played and looked forward to playing off for 7<sup>th</sup> position on the last day of Tournament. Our last game of the week was played against Otumoetai 2<sup>nd</sup> XI, the team we had played first on Monday, and like the first game in the week it resulted in a draw which was a good way for both teams to end a really enjoyable Tournament.



### BLOOD DAY 2011

Once again the staff and students of MRGS gave great support to the New Zealand Blood Service. On the 4th of July "Blood Day", organised by Blue House, 92 units of blood were donated, surpassing 2010's total by 10 units.

The Blood Service staff commented that they always enjoy coming to Mount Roskill Grammar because of the helpful, friendly students and the great support they give.

### JAPANESE SPEECH FESTIVAL

On the 20th August two students from MRGS took part in the Auckland Regional Japanese Secondary School Speech Festival run by AUT. Veronica Lumauig of Year 11 came second in her level and Isaac Chen Year 13 came fourth in his. It was a great effort on the part of both students as they had very little time to prepare.

## SPORT

The winter sports programme for most teams is drawing to an end.

### Recent Highlights:

#### **Squash Boys Senior A**

The team of Ben Speedy, Abhishek Pillai, Sufiyaan Mitha, Arhat Dhami, Kenneth Mascarenhas and Garshing Dai won the Auckland Senior Championship played each Friday during Term 2. They also won the Inter Collegiate Teams Tournament Division 2 Championship, then competed in the New Zealand Secondary schools Squash Nationals where they improved their placing to 26<sup>th</sup> from a ranking of 36<sup>th</sup>. All the boys played exceptionally well and the support for each other was impressive.

#### **Basketball U19 Girls**

This team had a top season placing second in the Girls Open Division with a record of 11 wins and 1 loss. Led by Leilani Marshall and Palu Malu, they had an average winning margin of just over 20 points per game.

#### **Rugby U15 Boys**

The team went through the season undefeated until the final last weekend, unfortunately losing to Otahuhu College after a big win against Southern Cross in the semi-finals the previous weekend. The boys have been well led by Captain Paea Tupou and well coached by Nick Tuialii.



### Academies:

#### **Football Junior Boys**

Competing in the championship division, they have played 8, won 3, drawn 2 and lost 3. These are pleasing results considering more than half the team involved are in Year 9 and are competing in the top Year 10 competition.

#### **Netball Year 10 Academy**

Working hard throughout the season this team has produced some excellent results. They are currently playing in the championship competition and have won all but 2 of their games with both losses being against the same team. The team is well led by Noane Robertson.

#### **Hockey Girls Academy**

This team has also had a very good season - winning the U15 Auckland West competition. The team is well led by Martha Havea with a 10 win, 1 loss record. The girls have scored 53 goals and conceded just 14.

#### **Hockey Boys Academy**

Under the leadership of Junior Kasiano this team has played well and once again had an excellent season. They won the U15 Auckland West competition with a record of 8 wins, 1 draw and 1 loss. The boys scored 62 goals and conceded just 6.



## School Cross Country Championship Results

The school Cross Country Championship was run on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> August. Well done to all students who participated and enjoyed what was a beautiful day.

### Junior Boys

1. Ken Hendricks
2. Chrisanto Carvalho
3. Nathan McDougall

### Junior Girls

1. Victoria Mulrennan
2. Freshteh Abrahimi
3. Amy Chen



### Intermediate Boys

1. DeMaio Bury Vilela
2. Kosei Mori
3. Saqawe Isse

### Intermediate Girls

1. Alana Miller
2. Vandhana Tularam
3. Bella Thompson



### Senior Boys

1. Daniel Yep
2. Tim Bulmer
3. Jack Chu

### Senior Girls

1. Worknesh Dinkayehu
2. Khyati Sharma
3. Ye-Eun Nam



## Upcoming Events

There is a very busy finish to this term with a number of sporting events to take place.

Week 5 Inter House Junior Volleyball Tournament

Week 9 Inter House Football Tournament

Team photos: Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> September

Week 10 Inter House Senior Volleyball

## AWARDS DINNER

This year's awards dinner will be on **Wednesday 5 of October from 6pm – 9pm** in the Butler Hall. This event is to celebrate the success of our sports teams and other co-curricular activities. This year's guest speaker is Willie Iosia Master of Ceremonies, Recreation Coordinator, Youth Worker and Basketball coach in South Auckland. The school, Sports Co-ordinator Ms Te Whiu and Director of Sports Mr Buckley would like to acknowledge all the parents who supported teams by attending games and provided transport.

## Sports Fees

Fees for these teams are now overdue. It is vital to the development of sport within the school that all students pay their fees. Sports fees help the school pay for sports entry fees, transport costs, hireage of facilities and upgrading of uniforms and equipment.



## WIDER EDUCATION YEARS 9 & 10

Wider education this year runs in the last week of school on 5, 6 and 7 December and it is an opportunity for all to be involved in valuable learning activities that are based outside of the classroom. Students will be challenged via a range of tasks and learning intentions designed to develop problem solving and social skills. Students will get the opportunity to make new friends, see new places and interact with other students, all while having fun completing a wide range of activities.

### Year 9

Year 9 wider education comprises day trips that are based around the Auckland area. The trips that are running are designed to be activities that you might not normally be involved with but are fun and designed to challenge students.

### Year 10

As a Year 10 student your son/daughter will be required to attend a camp or three day trip programme as a part of Mount Roskill Grammar School's Wider Education Programme.

This programme has been developed to enable all students at Year 10 to participate in a learning experience that takes them away from their familiar home comforts. Students will have the opportunity to develop their life and social interaction skills through learning activities based outside the classroom.

Most camps are based outside of the Auckland area and students will be travelling to these destinations by bus or mini bus. Risk appraisal and management plans will be completed for each camp to ensure your child's safety.

This year the trips and camps cover a wide range of activities and venues, and although there is a cost associated with each camp 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 by 19 September and final payment is due by 28 October 2011.

For further information refer to the handout given to students by form teachers.

A Ferguson  
Wider Ed Coordinator



## GATEWAY

### What a great success Gateway has been in 2011!

PJ Automotive, Strachan Group Architects, The Warehouse Balmoral, Farmers St Lukes, St Patricks Resthome & Hospital, YMCA Mt Albert, McDonalds Royal Oak, Lynmall and St Lukes, New World Mt Roskill and Green Bay, Wiri Timber, Woodstar, Richardson Road Care Chemist, Mt Roskill Primary School, Westpac and Axis Projects.

Thirty students from Year 13 have been successfully placed in various work experience opportunities including banking, automotive, architecture, retail, sports and recreation, healthcare, building, education, food and hospitality and pharmaceutical.

We would like to say a huge thank you to all those employers who took these students on for work experience. We are now looking towards 2012. We will open applications for Year 13 students to the Gateway Programme early in Term One.

**ATTENTION EMPLOYERS!!!** If you would like to offer a life changing work experience opportunity for a Year 13 student in your company in 2012, we would love to hear from you!! Please contact Luen Matthews-Ward on 621 0050 x847 or email her on [luenmw@mrgs.school.nz](mailto:luenmw@mrgs.school.nz).



#### What some Students had to say!

"Taking up the Gateway programme has been one of the highlights of my school year. It has shown me the real life possibilities of my trade, plus it is fun". Sheik (Woodstar)



"I got to find out if this is the kind of industry I want to carry on with in the future. It was an unforgettable experience". David (PJ Automotive)

"One of the best things that has ever happened in our lives"



## IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

TERM 2		
<b>September</b>	Monday 5 – Tuesday 13	<b>SENIOR EXAMS</b>
	Friday 16	<b>SCHOOL HOLIDAY</b>
<b>October</b>	Wednesday 5	<b>AWARDS DINNER</b>
<b>November</b>	Wednesday 2	<b>SENIOR PRIZEGIVING</b>
<b>December</b>	Friday 9	<b>JUNIOR PRIZEGIVING</b>
TERM DATES 2011		
<b>Term 4</b>	Tuesday 25 October	Friday 9 December

## INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

