



MOUNT ROSKILL GRAMMAR SCHOOL

DECEMBER 2016

NEWSLETTER

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Nga mihi nui ki a koutou

The academic year concluded with our junior prizegiving celebrating the capabilities and achievement of our students. We are proud of the approach to learning, the character and developing capabilities and the academic success of our students.



Congratulations to Year 9 students Anna Brown and Jane Babu, and Year 10 students Sheng-Ya Wang and Lauren van Laarhoven-Hargreaves, who gained the top academic awards for their year levels. We enjoyed farewell speeches from deputy head prefects Joshua Simmons, May Kate Fonua, Jantia Fuller and Victor Chitando.

Associate Principals John Wilkinson and Julie Small were presented with taonga in recognition of their outstanding leadership. Ms Small is taking up the Associate Principal role at St Peters College in Cambridge and Mr Wilkinson is retiring after more than twenty years' service to the Mount Roskill Grammar School community and we wish them well in their chosen next steps.

I would like to thank everyone who contributed to making this year such a positive year in the life of our school. We wish you a great summer break and look forward to a bumper year in 2017.

Ki nga taumata

Greg Watson
PRINCIPAL

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A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR— MARJET POT

As the school year draws to a close it is timely for the BoT to reflect on the successes of the year.

This year the Board has completed the Hockey turf and had a large community opening on a wet Saturday which seemed appropriate for a water based turf. This new sports complex has been a welcome addition to the school facilities and has raised the tone of the school.



Thank you to all those who have been involved in the many aspects of the required fundraising to bring this project to completion.

The Hodge learning common has been a great success. It is a multipurpose room doubling as a senior common room and education space. The built in overhead projectors and drop down white boards and multi purpose furniture enable it to be used for interactive teaching spaces for the teachers and students.

The BoT is planning to develop the school quad into a refreshing urban landscape better connected with learning spaces and with the schools green spaces is our next project. The aim is to provide better facilities for our students, facilities that match the effort and quality of the teaching and learning that happens at MRGS.

During the year the school has showcased many of the diverse cultural and arts and sporting achievements.

Many of you will have attended the Roskars (Media awards) and the arts and cultural award. Both these events have grown over the last 3 years. The Roskars was held in the new Hodge learning common so they made good use of the new facilities. This event was well supported by whanau.

The arts and cultural awards has grown from a small presentation of a couple of items to a very small audience to what is now a large scale production in a almost filled school hall. The diverse range of arts and cultural opportunities really stood out.

The School Production, "Beauty and the Beast" was a huge success and it played to sold out audiences and involved a lot of hard work over Terms 1 & 2 for the teachers, the performers, backstage workers and the Show Band.

The Samoan Group had a lot of success following on from the Polyfest.

The Concert Band was awarded a Silver award at the KBB Music Festival for the second time only in the school's history of competing.

The success of the Barbershop Singers has been awesome again this year.

Maori graduation. This years cohort had the highest academic achievement ever.

The academic achievement surpasses the MoE targets in all areas

Article continued on page 3



MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR—*continued from page 2.*

At the sports awards it was amazing to see so many talented sports people achieving at such a high level. Each year we have a greater number of sports which are playing at a premier level. The strategic goal of developing facilities and promoting centres of excellence has supported the achievement at this high level.

This year the MoE set up a Community of Learning (CoL) which MRGS is part of along with the Mount Roskill Primary, Intermediate, Dominion Rd Primary and Three Kings. A CoL is a Govt program to support neighbouring schools to work together to support and raise the education of all students. The three schools on this campus already worked together but now we have 2 further schools to work with. This is a great opportunity for the area as all 5 schools will share some common goals with MoE paid teaching leadership across the schools.

The BoT is very pleased with the achievements of the school this year and we look forward to another excellent year in 2017.

For all of you- keep safe over the holidays, come back in 2017 refreshed and ready to engage 100% in your learning. The BoT wishes all students who are leaving MRGS this year all the best with your future and trusts that your exams went well.

FAREWELLS TO ASSOCIATE PRINCIPALS

At the end of this term we have farewelled two of our Senior Leadership Team – Associate Principals Julie Small and John Wilkinson. Ms Small is moving on to an exciting new position as Associate Principal at St Peter's Cambridge while Mr Wilkinson is taking a well-earned retirement after 21 years at Roskill. Our school has been blessed with two leaders of outstanding quality and integrity in John and Julie. As part of our appreciation they were presented with taonga at Junior prize giving by our BoT chair Marjet Pot who paid tribute to their service in her speech: "You are both very proud of MRGS and you deserve to be. You have given your heart and soul to the community. You have never turned away from the challenges of school life and you know that you have made a huge difference to the educational outcomes of students and the professional development of staff."

Our community wishes them both the best in their respective futures. Below we include a brief tribute to each and their service at Roskill.

MS JULIE SMALL

Julie began her teaching in Waikato and taught at both co-educational and single sex schools, experienced being a Head of Department and Faculty, Deputy Principal and spent 10 years in two different schools as a Principal. She joined MRGS in 2011 bringing a wealth of experience in curriculum and exceptional leadership skills.

She has made a difference at Roskill: a difference in the professional thinking of many teachers and middle leaders in the school, in the leadership capabilities of many teachers and most importantly in the leadership and



Article continued on page 4



FAREWELLS TO ASSOCIATE PRINCIPALS—*continued from page 3.*

career aspirations of many students. She has worked tirelessly in the re-design of our curriculum, in the development of our Roskill Effective Teacher Profile, in the leadership of restorative practice, in school tone, and in using data sharply to understand problems and progress practice.

She has done this through an extraordinary ability to not only design big picture thinking but to track this through to what a big idea could look like in the work of each teacher and each student. In doing this with determination she has raised the educational achievement of the students of our school at all levels. As a leader pastorally, academically and operationally, she has left no stone unturned in her quest to ensure that all students are catered for and reach their potential. We thank her for her commitment and exceptional service.

MR JOHN WILKINSON

Before emigrating to New Zealand from England in 1989, John was a teacher and HOD English in a variety of schools. He first taught at Auckland Grammar School and joined Roskill in 1995 as HOD English. He became a Deputy Principal in 2003 and later Associate Principal. In addition to developing teaching in his subject and managing a successful Department he has been a national leader in English curriculum development, NCEA assessment and the New Zealand Scholarship English examination. As a community we have been lucky to have such a wise and able leader guiding our school for 21 years.



John has been instrumental in strategic planning, policy development and the school gaining its double 5 year ERO reviews. His work in shaping and presenting the work of the school has been outstanding. He has been our event planner developing the NCEA Awards Evening, running the Diamond Jubilee, being the most amazing MC at the campus music event, quite at home amongst the primary school ukele band; absolute calm in a sea of excited musicians.

In later years John has worked alongside the Board and is the wordsmith and the thinking power force for the strategic planning and policy development. He has brought his wisdom and clarity of thought to the role of being responsible for the tone of the school. He is seen as our 'gentleman and scholar': empathetic, always treating people graciously and thoughtfully, highly educated, widely and richly read. He is fiercely proud of Roskill, when he speaks to students about Roskill they listen because they sense the depth of his convictions about a school community he loves.

He has led the school adeptly as Acting Principal on a number of occasions always bringing sound judgment attention to detail and regard for each person to the role. He leaves Roskill with our thanks having been an outstanding and most respected leader.

MRGS ON SOCIAL MEDIA

You can now follow Mount Roskill Grammar on social media to keep up with the latest news and events. Check out our [facebook page](#) to see more photographs from events that have taken place this term.



[Facebook](#)

<https://goo.gl/hvAPU0>



[Twitter](#)

<https://goo.gl/MW9xts>



[YouTube](#)

<https://goo.gl/uoV0zl>



CHEMISTRY OLYMPIAD TRAINING QUALIFIERS

Our proud tradition of involvement and high achievement in the New Zealand Chemistry Olympiad is set to continue for 2017 as 5 students have qualified for next year's training camp. Josette Xu, Tushar Thakur, Felix Yang, Cindy Ko and Kuan-Yi Yang will join the group and start the various stages of modules, assignment preparation and finally a selection examination in the new year. We wish them all the best in their quest to join the final New Zealand International team an honour which, over recent years, has been achieved by many of our senior students.



COMPETENZ COMPETITION AWARD WINNERS CONGRATULATED

Earlier this term Year 12 student Faraaz Khan was awarded one of the senior engineering prizes in the nation-wide 'Toolbox Challenge' competition run by Competenz NZ - a skills for industry training organization. As part of this competition for secondary schools, students had to document and present a 90 second video of their finished engineering project. Faraaz's project involved the building of a miniature steam engine and his video described the tools and processes he used in its manufacture. In the final week of term representatives from Competenz visited the school to present Faraaz with his award. They also presented a number of other students with tools and equipment in recognition of their performance in the national competition.

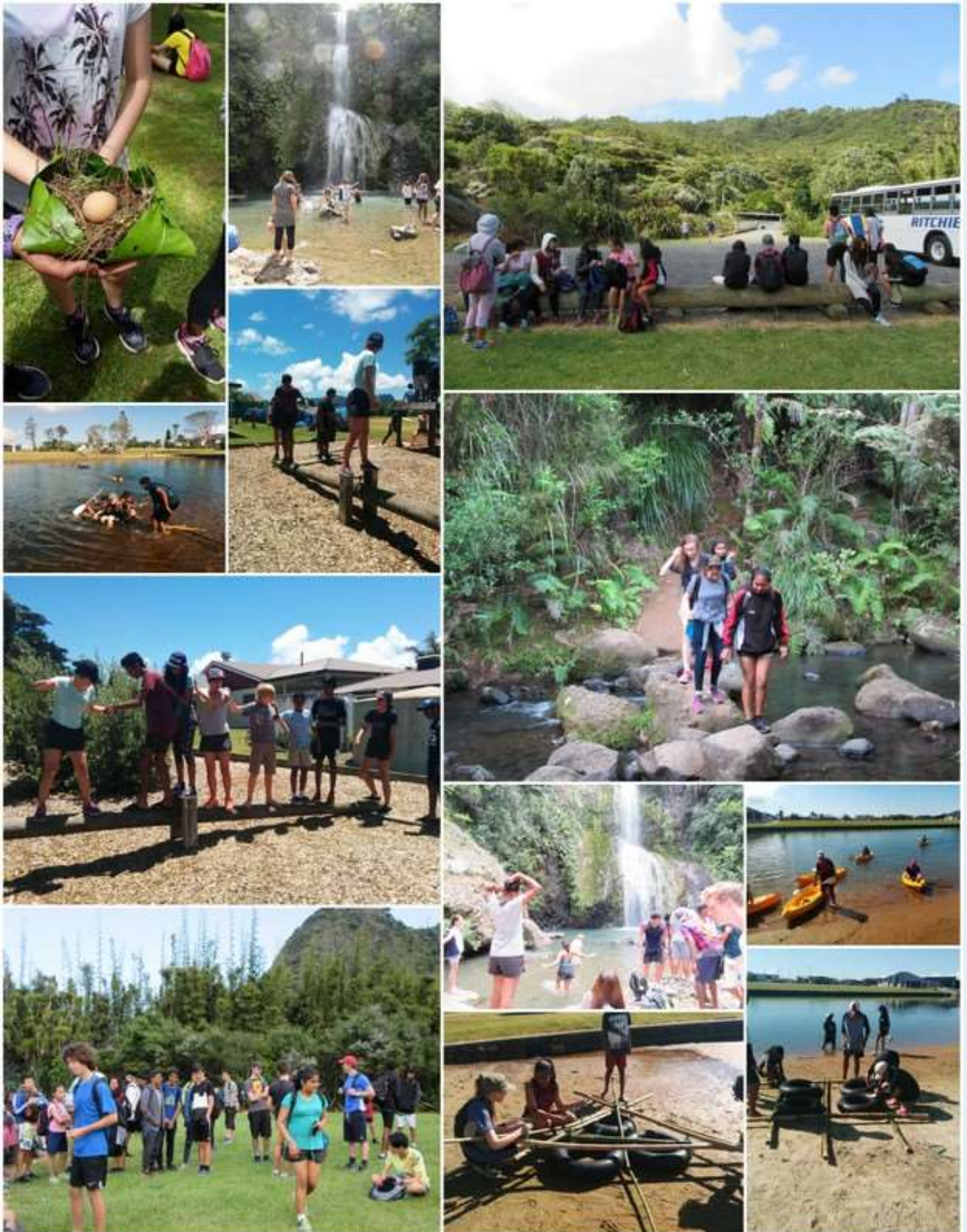


Faraaz with his award Certificate





YEAR 9 AND 10 WIDER EDUCATION— 5TH-7TH DECEMBER





BEING WORK READY!

- Do you have a child in their senior years' of schooling?
- Confused about what's out there and where their future career path is heading?
- Are you aware of the Pathway programmes MRGS has to offer our senior students?

MRGS offers Work Experience Opportunities for Students! Our programme is called Gateway!

This programme is about exploring career interests and strengthening the pathway from school to tertiary or into the workplace. It provides students with structured workplace learning, while they continue to study at school. We have placements available in Banking, Retail, Hospitality, Accountancy, Hairdressing, Teaching, Police, Sports Leadership, Trades, Fashion, Engineering and many other industries.



Gateway Overview

- Open to Year 13 and selected Year 12 students.
- Students apply to be accepted onto the GATEWAY programme.
- If successful, an individual learning plan is put into place and a suitable work placement found.
- Students attend their GATEWAY placement generally for one day a week for 10 weeks.
- Students will gain skills and knowledge and their workplace learning assessed.
- The GATEWAY programme requires students to complete a minimum of 20 NCEA industry based credits while on placement.
- Additional qualifications may be available, e.g. First Aid Certificate, Customer Services Award and Learner Licence etc. The programme is completely FREE, there is no cost to you or your child.

For more information on Gateway please contact Mrs Payne - ext 826 or email gateway@mrgrs.school.nz

MRGS offers Vocational Pathway Programme Opportunities for Students too!

In conjunction with Manukau Institute of Technology (MIT) we offer the following Trade Academy placements. Your child could kick start their career in:

Automotive Engineering
 Building and Electrical
 Building and Plumbing
 Engineering and Computer Aided Design
 Engineering and Refrigeration Air Conditioning
 Floristry
 Horticulture
 Plumbing
 Primary Industries
 Trades for Girls



Trades Academy Overview

- Students apply to be accepted onto the TRADES ACADEMY programme.
- If successful, students will attend MIT for one day per week for the year or half year.
- Students will gain skills and knowledge in their chosen industry.
- Students will complete NCEA industry based credits while on the programme.
- School attendance will continue as normal.
- MRGS makes all of the relevant transport arrangements and provides any necessary clothing or equipment for the programme.

The programme is completely FREE, there is no cost to you or your child.

For more information on the Trades Academy programme please contact Mr Fa'amausili - ext 826



YEAR 13 CAMP 2017

In 2017 students will be provided with the opportunity to attend the Year 13 Camp at the Motutapu Outdoor Education Centre. This camp will run from Monday 20th February to Friday 24th February, week 4 of Term One.

Motutapu Outdoor Education Centre (MOEC) is on Motutapu Island in the Hauraki Gulf and incorporates such activities as kayaking, sailing, climbing, confidence course and problem solving. The camp is a highlight of the Year 13 calendar. In previous years students have always enjoyed this camp because of its situation and the facilities it offers.

We have managed to keep the cost of the camp at only \$300. This includes transportation, accommodation, food and instructor fees. Places are limited and will be allocated on a first come first served basis. Payment will need to be paid by Friday 10th February. Medical forms and further information regarding the year 13 Camp will be made available at the start of 2017.

This notice is to give all Parents/Guardians advanced warning of the financial requirements for this camp.

Buzzthepeople School Fundraiser

If you are happy to complete the occasional on-line survey this would be a great way to help the school fundraise. Founded in 2004, Buzzthepeople is an Auckland based Research Company. To date over \$448,000 has been raised for charities, schools and other groups registered with them.



Parents, students, ex-students and supporters of the school living anywhere in New Zealand are able to register. You would receive on average one or two roughly 10 minute surveys per month to fill in on-line, and the school gets \$1 or \$2 for each completed survey. Essentially you are giving a gold coin donation to the school every time you do a survey. There is no compulsion to fill in all the surveys you receive, and you can withdraw from the programme at any time.

If you can help us with this fundraiser just click on this link to register.

<http://www.buzzthepeople.co.nz/helpfundraise.aspx?s=0609B55C>

WE'RE AN ANZ OLYMPIC SCHOOL

We have registered as an ANZ Olympic School which provides us with resources and rewards to inspire our school community.

If you're looking to take out a home or business loan, simply provide the name of our school when speaking with an ANZ representative. When your loan is drawn down, we will receive credits to spend at the ANZ Awards Centre on items like sporting equipment and computers.

To discuss an ANZ home or business loan, visit your local ANZ branch, or call a Home Loan Specialist on 0800 269 4663 or a Business Specialist on 0800 269 249.



Olympic Schools





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@mrgrs.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		Mr C Buckley
Years 11 and 12	Mrs S Singh Ms A Gosai		
Your child's relationships with students and staff— Pastoral welfare			
House Deans— (Head of Deans = Ms F Leigh)			
Cooper House (Blue)	Miss T Mackinlay Mrs D Pringle	Ngata House (Orange)	Ms F Leigh Mr A Ferguson
Rutherford House (Red)	Ms M Cranch Mr C McGibbon	Sheppard House (Yellow)	Mr C Chellew Ms N Dekker
Hillary House (Green)	Mr C Overton Mr D Garraway		
Your child's attendance			
Attendance Officers	Mrs L Mohenoa	Mrs N Bana	
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	Senior Leaders		
Cooper House	Mr K Hall		
Rutherford House	Mr J Wilkinson		
Hillary House	Mrs K Collins		
Ngata House	Mrs N Peterson		
Sheppard House	Mrs N Fell		

CONTACT DETAILS

If you have a new address, phone number, cellphone number or email address please pass this information through to the school: admin@mrgrs.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 2016

Term 4	Monday 10th October	Friday 9th December
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TERM FOUR EVENTS

5-7th December	Wider Education	9th December	Junior Prizegiving End of Term 4
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Term Dates 2017

Term 1	Tuesday 31st January	Thursday 13th April
Term 2	Monday 1st May	Friday 7th July
Term 3	Monday 24th July	Friday 29th September
Term 4	Monday 16th October	Friday 8th December

TERM ONE EVENTS—2017

31st Jan	Start of Term 1 Staff Professional Learning Day	1st Feb	Staff Professional Learning Day
2nd Feb	All Year 9, 13, and new students	3rd Feb	Whole school starts
20-24th Feb	Year 13 Camp	28th Feb	NCEA evening Athletics Carnival
7th March	Year 9 and 10 swimming carnival	9th March	Excellence Awards
15-17th March	Polyfest	13th April	End of Term 1



Check out the new MRGS Sport website

sport.mrgs.school.nz

Information about sport at MRGS, photo galleries,
draws & results, and lots more!





MRGS FAMILY AND FRIENDS GROUP



The MRGS Family and Friends are working together to help the school in whatever way we can. The on-going input that we provide is for the benefit of the students and to provide the best learning environment possible. We organise fundraising events and are available to assist the school in any way that they may require. Take a look at the Fundraising page on the school website to see the fundraising events and opportunities currently underway <http://www.mrgs.school.nz/ourschool/fundraising.aspx>

If you are willing to assist us please return the completed form to the School Office or e-mail a copy to Judith Bingham: jcl.air@xtra.co.nz.

Your Name _____ Email _____

Phone Number day _____ evening _____

If you have a child/children at the School:

Students Name _____ Year: ____ Form Class: _____

_____ Year: ____ Form Class: _____

Do you have another connection to the School eg Past pupil: _____

I would like to help as a volunteer (tick those that interest you):

.....Run a Fundraising Event eg _____

.....Help at a Fundraising Event

.....Provide Baking/Food for an Event, or for Fundraising

.....Assist a student as a reader/writer in an exam

.....Join the Family & Friends Group

.....Utilise your fundraising experience eg _____

.....In Other Ways _____

I would like to help financially (tick those that interest you):

.....Donate a book needed by the Library

.....My business may be able to provide goods or services to assist with fundraising eg _____



SCHOOL SPONSORS

The school is pleased to have the financial sponsorship of a number of local businesses. Their financial support enables students at Roskill to take part in the full co-curricular life of the school. Sponsorship in many cases is directed at particular teams and/or certain events – it provides support for kit, equipment and also on occasion's expenses for attendance at tournament events.

Gold



Silver



Elizabeth Michael
UNIFORMS

Proudly Supported by

Barfoot & Thompson

Mt Roskill, 09 621 0912

Bronze



SPONSORSHIP OF GIRLS 1ST XI FOOTBALL TEAM

Mount Roskill Grammar School also would like to thank Pak' n Save Royal Oak for their sponsorship of the Girls 1st XI Football Team this year

We greatly value the commitment our sponsors show and their willingness to enable Excellence at Roskill. Any business or organisation wishing to offer sponsorship to the school - please contact our office.