



MOUNT ROSKILL GRAMMAR SCHOOL

JUNE 2016

NEWSLETTER



FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Nga mihi nui ki a koutou

These are exciting times in education as students, teachers and communities grapple with deep questions knowing that what needs to be mastered has changed over the last 25 years.

Twenty five years ago a set of the Encyclopedia Britannica could be purchased for about \$2000. In 1990 sales of the encyclopedia were at the highest level ever. In 2016 you can't buy a printed set of the encyclopedia but you can download the app with all the same information for about \$15. Knowledge has become more easily available and it's cheaper. Some might say the value of knowledge has fallen as information has become so easily accessible.

In this world of readily available knowledge and increasing automation what is important in education? What are employers looking for in young graduates? What knowledge and capabilities are enduring 'must haves' for the 21st century? If teachers have been the primary source of knowledge for students, but much of this knowledge is readily available on the web, what should be role of teacher?

In response to such a question at MRGS we seek to develop successful powerful learners who are not only knowledgeable but can use their knowledge base, critical thinking skills and social learning capabilities to explore and tackle problems. Our teachers are strengthening approaches to support the growth of powerful learners, using professional inquiry methods and what we call the Roskill Effective Teacher Profile – our description of the ways

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Principal: G. Watson, MSc (Hons), MEd Admin (Hons)
Phone: 621-0050
Website: www.mrgs.school.nz

Frost Road
Mount Roskill
Auckland 1041



FROM THE PRINCIPALS DESK—*continued from page 1.*

teachers can maximise achievement through focusing on what is important.

Our sports teams are working hard. Character trumps talent. Congratulations to teams who are lifting their work rate and their focus on skill development and team patterns to take their game to the next level.

We look forward to seeing families on the senior mentoring conference day later this month.

Ki nga taumata

Greg Watson

A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR— MARJET POT

The May 2016 meeting of the Board of Trustees was the last for the current serving Board. At this meeting we farewelled two long serving Board members who have given so much of their time to govern the school. I would like to acknowledge their service to MRGS through this article and thank them for all of their hard work.



Ella Kumar

Ella Kumar has been on the Campus Board of Trustees since 1999. She is a past pupil of MRIS and MRGS and is still currently teaching night school for MRGS Community education, which she has done since 1989. Her three children have all attended all three schools and Karishma is still at MRGS as a year 13 student this year. Ella says the following about her time on the Boards:

“As a board member I have been lucky to work with many great past principals at all three schools - while I was on the board at MRPS - Bas Barriball, I started at MRGS with Ken Rapson and now work along our current principal at MRGS, Greg Watson.

While on the Board I have enjoyed working in many governance roles but I have particularly enjoyed the work we have done in collaboration with the three schools such as the MERGE project, diverse community projects that celebrate our community, developing a curriculum that helps our children thrive for more and reach greater heights, property that helps in the schools and community, fundraising projects, sporting projects and making sure all our parent community feel they are part of Mt Roskill Campus.

I have enjoyed receiving phone calls and emails from many students. I have been able to assist students in engaging external organisations through wearing many various hats so students can find path ways to succeed.

Helping students is the reason I wanted to be on the board and personally I think if children think they can approach you that is a achievement.

I will miss MRGS this but I will be continuing to work for the wider community and for many other schools.”

Article continued on page 3.



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

Thank you Ella for your many years of community service to the BoT. You have worked tirelessly for the school and always ensured that you gave the Indian perspective to the Board discussions. Your links with the Council have also been very useful for the school as the property is developed.



Sue Mulrennan

Sue Mulrennan has been a board member since 2008, and previously she has served on the Board of Trustees of a local Primary School. Sue has a passion for education and enjoys the Board of Trustees' role in ensuring the students are given the very best opportunities to succeed in all areas: academic, cultural, social and sporting. Her four children all attended MRGS.

Sue says the following about serving on the Board:

"I love the school and have the utmost respect for and confidence in the leadership and all staff at the school. In my time the positive changes I believe have stemmed from the change in Pastoral care which has led to the growth in achievement. Tied into that are the changes in PD for staff and the mentoring and tracking of students. With my involvement in the Disciplinary Committee I became very aware of the above changes, Not only was there a dramatic drop in numbers, but in the conversations the parents are better informed of their child's learning and achievement than they have been in the past.

It is great to see the Hockey Turf almost complete and the football pitch re-layed, the first steps into the upgrade of the facilities which of course is a key item in our strategic plan".

Thank you Sue for your commitment to the Board and the school. Sue's focus has always been 100% for the benefit of the students and the school. Sue has great attention to detail and her teaching background in finance has been very beneficial for the Board. In her time as Chair of the Disciplinary committee, Sue has been thorough in her investigations and process but always treated the students with compassion and fairness.

We wish both Sue and Ella all the best with their next steps and know that they will always be big supporters of MRGS. I am sure we will see them both about the campus in the future.

Marjet Pot, BOT Chair

ANZAC DAY

During the Term 1 holidays some of our students were involved in local ANZAC Day events out in the community.





BOARD OF TRUSTEES - PARENT/CAREGIVER SURVEY TERM 1

The Board of Trustees carried out a survey of parents and caregivers in Term 1 covering general areas and impressions of the school's provision and performance. Respondents represented the range of student year levels and ethnicities. It was encouraging to find that responses were very positive with all averages between 4.7 and 4.19 (Available response ratings were from 1 -not at all satisfied to 6 – very satisfied).

The responses have given the Board and school leadership some indication of present strengths and potential areas for development:

Strengths - Access to guidance, counselling services and health services; celebration of cultural diversity; good working habits expected; range of learning opportunities; well managed and organised; positive leadership with a clear direction; high standards of behaviour expected; programmes to meet individual needs and student enjoyment of school.

Areas for Development: opportunities for computer based learning; campus and buildings appearance; equipment and facilities for students; online study resources; opportunities in Technology subjects; support for subject and course choices.

The survey also contained opportunities for extended comments. These sections collected views on such elements as: identifying a major goal; stating what the school does well; suggestions for changes/improvements; school communication and finally any further comments.

The final further comment question was characterised by overwhelmingly positive affirmations of the school's practice, achievement and work. The general themes of responses are indicated in the summary table below. (from left to right in decreasing strength of frequency.)

| Question | Decreasing Strength of frequency >>>>>>> | | | | |
|-------------------------|--|--|------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Major Goal | Facilities | High Achievement | Quality teaching | Continue to develop sports | Career, & Course guidance |
| What school does well | Communication, feedback, responsiveness | Diversity – its celebration, support – inclusiveness of the school | Quality teaching | High achievement | Student support, pastoral |
| Changes or Improvements | Facilities improved | Further Sporting Opportunities | | | |
| Communication | Excellent, satisfied with | | | | |

As a Board and school leadership we welcome this opportunity for parental feedback and while affirming, it also provides 'work-ons' so that Roskill can continue 'to the heights'.

Marjet Pot, BOT Chair



DEPUTY PRINCIPAL KEITH HALL'S 30 YEARS OF SERVICE

Congratulations to Deputy Principal Keith Hall who has delivered 30 years of service to our school and community. Keith started his career at MRGS in 1986 and in his time here he has been the HOD Social Studies and a Y13 Dean before moving into his current role as Deputy Principal. Keith has also been very involved in our community through such endeavors as overseeing fundraising events and rugby management. In recognition of Keith's service, a morning tea was held on Monday where he received congratulations from staff, a gift from the school, and a framed long service certificate.



2016 CHINESE SPEECH COMPETITION

On 14th May, 2016, three students of Chinese decent from Mount Roskill Grammar attended the '2016 Chinese Bridge Speech Competition' hosted by the Confucius Institute of Auckland. They were Alex Wichman (Year 10), Bhavya Jasti and Ayesha Hafeez (both Year 9). They all gave an excellent performance in the speech competition. Congratulations to Ayesha and Bhavya who both won a Merit Prize Certificate. Congratulations also to Alex on winning the Second place prize for the Auckland Region. Mount Roskill Grammar School was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation by the Confucius Institute of Auckland.

From here, Alex went on to compete again, this time in the National Chinese Speech Competition where she placed third overall. This is a huge achievement and we are very proud of her. Well done Alex!





YEAR 11 GEOGRAPHY TRIP TO ROTORUA AND TARAWERA

Thirty one Year 11 Geography students spent three days in Rotorua during week four this term as part of a field trip to see the volcanic environment. As a part of their course, they study extreme natural events and the Tarawera eruption of 1886 is their case study. Whilst in Rotorua the students visited the Buried Village, took a four wheel drive trip to the top of Mt Tarawera and explored the Waimangu Valley. They also went up the gondola, had fun on the luge and visited the Rotorua Museum.



NEW BODYSAFE PROGRAMME

On Friday 20 May the organisation 'Rape Prevention Education' launched its new and revised 'BodySafe' programme. HOD Guidance Margaret Hoogendoorn and Year 13 prefects Sanaj Deshpande and Kavish Dharan were the guest speakers at this media launch.

They spoke about last year's successful "Consent Awareness Week" that the Peer Sexuality Support Programme team ran. Counsellor Margaret Hoogendoorn spoke about her gratitude for the excellent facilitation of the BodySafe programme in our Year 10 Health programme over the last 13 years.





YOUTHLINE 2016 HEALTH FONO

Our Health Council are a group of young people united to advocate and promote healthy wellbeing in their community. On the 7th of April, our Junior Health Council represented Mt Roskill Grammar School at the Youthline 2016 Health Fono. We took eight elected students from Year 9 and 10 to a day of training where they learnt event management skills, leadership development and team building to equip them with the skills they will need for the year ahead.

Here's what our students had to say about the day:

'The 2016 Health Council Fono was a blast! We met other health councils from other school. We participated in 3 workshops which all taught us aspects of what it means to be in health council. We learnt the more we planned, the better our results will be!' – Simar, Yr 9

'The youth health Fono was an immensely enjoyable experience. We had free food which was great, as were the activities which we participated in. We gained a lot of new knowledge (and calories!) and engaged in conversation with other enthusiastic students from other schools. I personally recommend everyone participate in this enjoyable experience.' - Akash, Yr10

'The activities taught me about team work which is a key part of successful working. I will be focusing on effective team work in our health council to make this school a better place.' - Puja, Yr 9

We look forward to putting some of the skills we learnt into making our events this year successful and fun. Look out for further information on our healthy sandwich day coming up later in Term 2.



FIA FIA NIGHT

The campus Fia Fia night was held on Tuesday 24th May. It was a splendid occasion at the Intermediate school and the opportunity for the community to see the entertaining performances of our cultural groups. Students and speakers from the three schools gave us an exciting evening of dance, song and speech which celebrated the talent of our young men and women. It was particularly great to see the Niuean group performing after an absence of a number of years.





EDUCATION PERFECT WORLD LANGUAGES CHAMPIONSHIPS – 16-26 MAY 2016

Mount Roskill Grammar School gained impressive results in this International Languages competition. MRGS pupils answered over 1.5 million questions, gaining 580,675 points, which represents 6,514 hours spent learning languages.

Special school achievements:

- MRGS was 2nd school in New Zealand
- 7th in the World (over 1,100 schools)
- 3rd in Japanese in New Zealand
- 4th in French in New Zealand
- 4th in Chinese in New Zealand

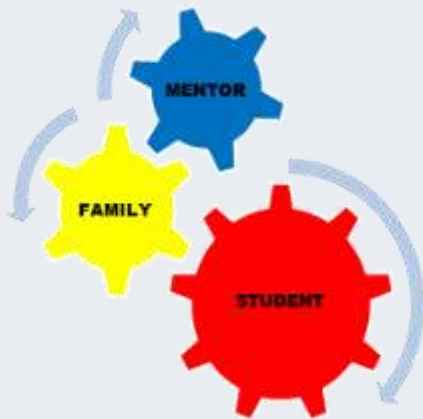
Special student achievements:

- **Tessa Brown – 3rd in New Zealand and 21st in the world with 27,819 points!**
- ELITE Award + badge (10,000+ points) gained by 16 students: **Tessa Brown, Jordan King, Anna Brown, Huthaifa Ibrahim, Ellen Peng, Jessica Gao, Halym Smith, Amy Roscoe, Zainab Iqbal, Zoe Fuller, Bhavya Jasti, Rebecca Ferguson, Anna Greaves, Persia Gharekhanian, Aiden Fang and Alex Wichman**
- GOLD Award (3,000+ points) gained by 40 students: **Qanita Abdul, Hepi Akauola, Jane Babu, Isaac Bayldon, Kate Bonnici, Shirley Chan, Max Chen, Thea Dickson, Ayesha Essop, Jamie Gibson, Selena He, Jiahui Huang, Lillian Huo, Serah Kavaliku, Tabitha Kavaliku, Steffanie Kobayashi-Cox, Ashleen Lau, Jean-Luc Libeau, Dominic Loretz, Miki Lu, Keerat Marwah, Euan McDougall, Sarah McKenzie, Jeremy Narayan, Dhavni Patel, Amisha Prasad, Rishil Prasad, Aarti Rao, Charlotte Shirreffs, Angela Soriano, Loran Surendran, Kirushni Suthakaran, Anuksha Talpade, Sheng-Ya Wang, Dulanya Withana, Josephine Yo, Eurodias Young, Kenny Yu, Sophia Zhou, Ellie Zou**
- SILVER Award (2,000+ points) = 17 students
- BRONZE Award (1,000+ points) = 65 students
- CREDIT Award (500+ points) = 73 students

Well done to all our students who took part in the competition.



YEAR 11, 12 AND 13 MENTORING CONFERENCE DAY



On Tuesday 21st June 2016 we will be having a Year 11, 12 and 13 Mentoring Conference Day. This is for students and their families to continue working alongside mentors to review and consolidate goal

setting and look more closely at academic, co-curricular and attendance progress and next steps as we head into the second half of the year.

Students and families will also be provided with subject specific feedback - provided to the mentor by the subject teacher.

What: One half hour mentoring conference.

Who: All year 11, 12 and 13 students, their mentor and parents/caregivers (Years 9 and 10 do not attend school on that day)

When: Tuesday 21st June (half hour block) blocks start at 8.30am-7.30pm

Where: In form class

How: Parents/caregivers will receive a letter by week 6 of term 2 with a half hour allocated time slot. The school will provide a letter for employers to explain the importance of these meetings to enable parents/caregivers to negotiate time to attend this meeting. If you are unable to attend your allocated time the letter will provide further information regarding how you may be able to change your time.

Thank you for your support of the mentoring programme – it makes a significant difference to students' engagement and achievement knowing that we are working with them to achieve their goals.

DANCE SHOWCASE EVENING

On Thursday 12 May year 12 and 13 dance presented their choreography for Assessment in the hall for an audience of friends and family. This is the first time they have had the opportunity to present their assessment work under lighting and to an audience. After weeks of hard work learning how to communicate intention and develop choreography, they wowed us with their precision of dancing and their ability to tell stories through their choreographic work. They did such a stunning job and presented some outstanding performances. Many of the works explored personal journeys of growth or friendship and connected with many audience members.

LACROSSE SUCCESS

Congratulations to Emma Thompson and Breearna Johnson (both current Year 12 students) who represented New Zealand in the NZ U23 Lacrosse team for the ANZAC tour in Melbourne over the Term 1 school holidays. The NZ team beat Australia 14-2. A great success!





MOUNT ROSKILL GRAMMAR SCHOOL

OPEN DAY

Thursday June 30th
3.30 to 6.30 pm



Successful Learners

Active Citizens

Meet at the Administration Building (main entrance). Tours start from the conference room.

You will be able to view an informative visual display while you wait.

A School Prefect will direct you to a tour route of the school – staff will answer your questions throughout your visit. There will be a presentation from the Principal at 4.30pm and 6pm in the school library.

During the tour you will be able to meet staff and gain information about the following subjects and aspects of the school

ALL WELCOME

- Quality teaching and learning
- Excellent NCEA & Scholarship results – 3 NZ Outstanding Scholars in 2015
- Wide range of sporting and cultural activities
- World class facilities
- Metro Magazines Top Auckland Schools 2009-2014
- Focus school in ERO Best Practice report May 2014

Enrolment Information: 2017 In Zone and Out of Zone Enrolment forms will be available from the School Office or from the website www.mrgs.school.nz

| | |
|-------------|---|
| September 1 | Applications for Out of Zone places close |
| September 8 | Out of Zone Ballot Date |

Enrolment Evenings

| | | | | |
|-----------|------------|---------|------------|------------|
| Tuesday | November 1 | | | |
| Wednesday | July 6 | July 27 | October 12 | November 9 |
| Thursday | November 3 | | | |

Enquiries: Phone 621 0050, Fax 621 0055, Deputy Principal Toe Pune, email Toe.Pune@mrgs.school.nz



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



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 | | Ms L Tawhai |
| 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) | Mrs N Fell Miss T Mackinlay | 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 | Ms E Hyland | 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 | Mrs N Fell | | |
| Hillary House | Ms K Collins | | |
| Ngata House | Mr T Pune | | |
| Sheppard House | Mrs X Sulzberger | | |

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 2016

| | | |
|--------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Term 1 | | Friday 15th April |
| Term 2 | Monday 2nd May | Friday 8th July |
| Term 3 | Monday 25th July | Friday 23rd September |
| Term 4 | Monday 10th October | Friday 9th December |

TERM TWO EVENTS

| | | | |
|---------|--|---------|------------------------------------|
| June 6 | Queens Birthday | June 8 | Campus Matariki Celebration |
| June 21 | Mentoring Conference Day—Year 11-13 students | June 28 | School Production begins |
| June 30 | Open Day | July 6 | In Zone enrolment interviews 4-8pm |

We're fundraising with *entertainment*

Still just \$65 giving you over \$20,000 of value!

ORDER NOW FOR EARLY BIRD OFFERS

We're very excited to be fundraising with Entertainment™ this year. Order your NEW 2016 | 2017 Entertainment™ Books and Entertainment™ Digital Memberships from us today, and 20% of the proceeds contribute towards our School!

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

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.

ANZ Olympic Schools



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



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 Mr [Ben Horne](#) - Director of Sports.