



MOUNT ROSKILL GRAMMAR SCHOOL

MAY 2017

NEWSLETTER

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Nga mihi nui ki a koutou

Attending school every day is one of the biggest investments young people can make for their futures. Student attendance, along with effective teaching, has the greatest influence on student engagement and achievement. Students with high absenteeism are less likely to succeed in their learning. If a student misses five school days each term, or one day a fortnight, they will miss the equivalent of one year of school over 10 years. As the level of absenteeism grows, the difficulty of re-engaging in learning can grow exponentially. Families and school working together to ensure high attendance is a great recipe for each students remaining purposeful and positive in their learning. Our Attendance Officer Mrs King is available to assist with any queries you may have.

Recently released information from the Ministry of Education show that our students continue to lift their achievement. Last year 88% of all students left with NCEA Level 2 compared with 79% nationally. We are encouraged by these results and are continuing to work to ensure each student achieves success. The mentoring conferences for senior students on June 20th will enable families, student and teachers to take stock of progress, and next steps whilst celebrating success along the way. need further exploration. We will keep you updated as our review progresses.
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Thank you to everyone who completed the initial consultation survey for our Senior Curriculum Review. Initial findings show the students, teachers and parents all consider character education, citizenship, communication skills, collaboration and creativity very important components of contemporary education. No surprises there. What is interesting is that when looking at how successful we are currently in these areas there are some differences in the way students, teachers and parents are seeing things. Below are the survey results for the area of communication. This area includes knowledge and ideas appropriately and the ability to use various communication tools. While the results are positive the different perceptions we have about our effectiveness and what is most important in an area like communication.

Key events this term include the Matariki Celebration, the Campus Fiafia night, our senior dance showcase, the senior mentoring day and the Open Evening together with weekly stirring performances from our sports teams. We look forward to seeing you at school or on the side lines.

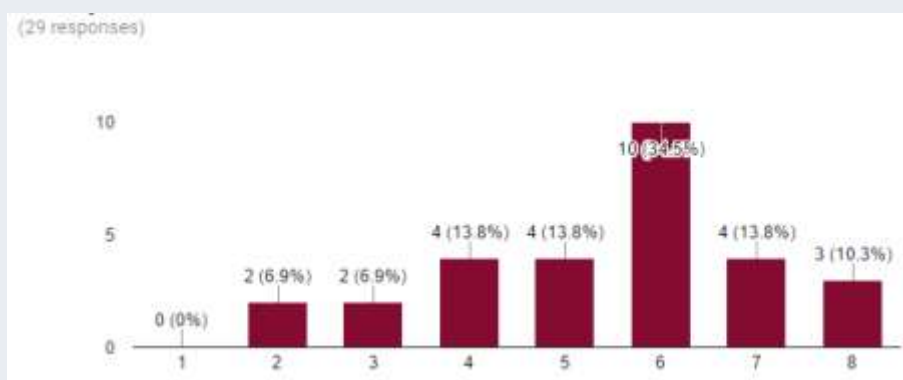
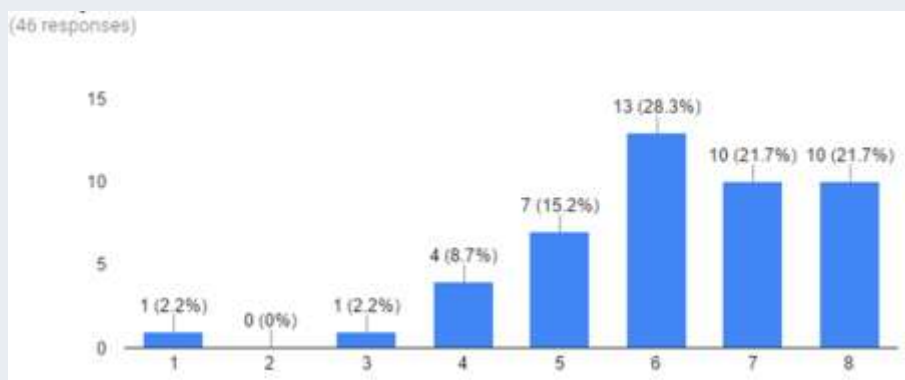
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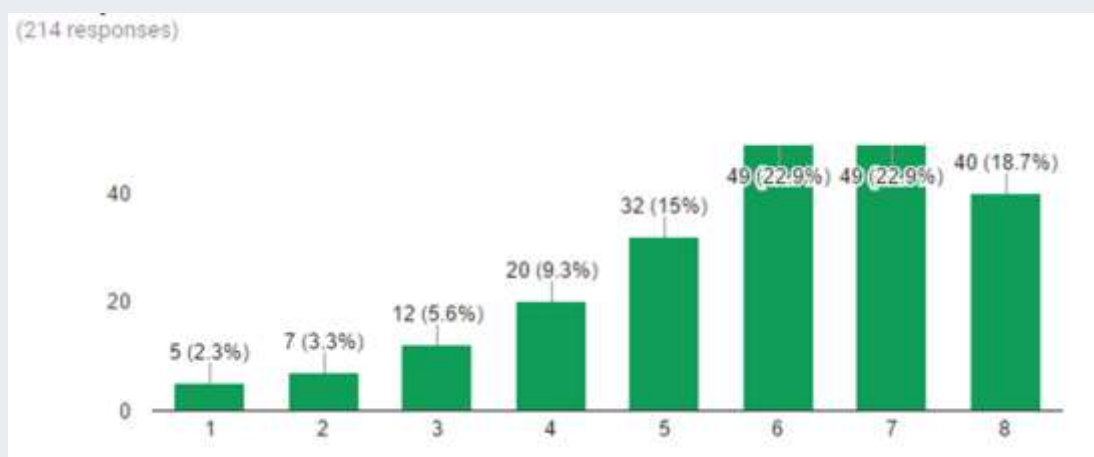
Greg Watson

Principal

Communication

(Key: teacher response, student response, parent response)





A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR— MARJET POT

This Board of Trustees has almost completed the first year of their three year term. I thought it timely to update you on the membership of the BoT.

The Board of Trustees has recently co-opted two new parent representatives, Alana Madgwick and Khylee Quince. Alana is an education consultant working in secondary schools to improve educational outcomes for students with a focus on literacy, Pasifika and Maori achievement.

Khylee is a past pupil of MRGS and is a senior lecturer in law at AUT with a practice background of criminal and family law. Both Khylee and Alana have strong links with the community and we welcome them both on to the BoT.



The membership of the BoT is up to nine parent representatives and with the addition of the Alana and Khylee all seats are full for now. The Principal is also a member of the Board of Trustees. The BoT also has a staff and a student trustee so in total we have a membership of 12.

To see the full list of BoT members please follow this link:

<http://www.mrgs.school.nz/ourschool/bot.aspx>

We always welcome parents/whanau to come along to BoT meetings. These are held monthly and you will find the meeting schedule on the website. If you are interested in being on the BoT then come along and find out what we do. If you have particular skills which you wish to share then please contact the BoT chairperson.

The BoTs role is one of Governance which means we set the goals and strategic plan for the school but do not get involved in the day to day running of the school, that is the role of the Principal.

The BoT will be consulting with the community later this year on the strategic direction which the school community wishes the school to take. The current strategic plan was for a five year period of 2013-2017 and so it is time for developing the strategic plan for the next five years.

This is your school and we need your direction to enable us to govern the school so we look forward to engaging with you in the planning stages of the strategic plan.

Marjet



“13 REASONS WHY”

Teenagers in your home may be interested in watching the Netflix series “13 Reasons Why”.

The Mental Health foundation considers this series to have some dangerous messages for vulnerable young people who might be struggling to cope with their own problems.

The show contains a suicide, and it includes a message that there is no way out and that there is no help available when you need it. This is an unhelpful and potentially devastating message.

In New Zealand there is a range of within school and national services to support young people who are low in mood, and who may have suicidal thoughts. The depiction of counselling in the series is misleading and unhelpful.

Counselling support that is both professional and effective IS available!

We would encourage you not to allow your teenagers to watch this series by themselves. If your teens want to watch it, please watch it **WITH** them so you can discuss the content.

Here is a helpful link helpful for a conversation you might like to have with them. Reassure them that there are many people that they can talk to, and counselling support is freely available in the school and it does help!

<https://thespinoff.co.nz/parenting/20-04-2017/13-conversations-to-have-about-13-reasons-why/>

If you are concerned about your teenager, please email us at counsellors@mrgs.school.nz. We have four counsellors available at the school, and we will follow up with confidential counselling. With your consent we also can refer on to the confidential Youth Mental Health services at no cost to you for specialist help with anxiety and depression.

Where else to get help:

Youthline (open 24/7) – 0800 376 633. Text 234 for free between 8am and midnight, or email talk@youthline.co.nz.

Lifeline – 0800 543 354

Suicide Crisis Helpline (open 24/7) – 0508 828 865 (0508 TAUTOKO)

Depression Helpline – 0800 111 757 – this service is staffed 24/7 by trained counsellors

Samaritans – 0800 726 666

0800 WHATSUP (0800 9428 787) – Open between 1pm and 10pm on weekdays and from 3pm to 10pm on weekends. Online chat is available from 7pm to 10pm every day at www.whatsup.co.nz.

Margaret Hoogendoorn, M.N.Z.A.C.

HOD Guidance



PEER MEDIATION SERVICE

The MRGS Peer Mediation Service is becoming more and more an integral part of the school with 180 new students applying each year to be trained. In March, 120 new Mediators were trained by the Peace Foundation which involves learning effective communication and conflict resolution skills. A further 63 Advanced Mediators received a whole days training from the Peace Foundation and other LEADR adult Mediators, many of them being lawyers. Other Advanced training was provided by Youthlaw (Youth Rights & Responsibilities) Julie Watson (Race relations) and SHINE (the effects of violence).

The Peer Mediation Service is about supporting students to deal with conflict in a constructive way without violence. It is about standing for fairness and respect for all, dealing with bullying and helping students get support when needed.

Many students apply to be Mediators because they want to make a positive difference to their school community and have already witnessed the difference it has made to others.

Students write:

" I would love to be a Mediator and seeing what other Mediators have done like Jonjon Cowley-Lupo and Mary Kate Fonua inspires me to push myself to become a better person".

" I like to solve problems not with my fists but with my words".

" I have seen the positive change in my brother since he became a Mediator".

" I want to be a part of the 'social justice movement' at MRGS".

A big thank you to the Peace Foundation and all the other providers for your inspirational training of our Mediators, and a huge thank you to those Mediators who all work hard to make MRGS a safer, kinder more respectful place to be.

If any student is experiencing conflict or bullying please come to Student Services for confidential support from the Peer Mediation Service.





JAPANESE SUCCESS



Tessa Brown in Year 12 travelled to Japan from **20th April to 30th April** for a one-week homestay in Fukuoka on the island of Kyushu.

In 2016, Tessa won the NZ Japan Society award for the Haiku & Calligraphy Competition. As the recipient of this Auckland-Fukuoka Sister City Prize, **Tessa** will represent Auckland City and New Zealand in 2017 as a youth ambassador, enhancing the special connection between Auckland City and Fukuoka City. She received this award in the Auckland Town Hall during the 2016 Fukuoka Day. **Stephen Duxfield**, President of the NZJS, presented the award and **Tessa** also met the Mayor of Fukuoka City, **Mr Takashima**. 2016 was the 30th anniversary of the sister city relationship between Auckland City and Fukuoka City, and therefore the poem theme was about "friendship". **Tessa** composed the Haiku Poem in Japanese and wrote it with a special writing brush and ink. Also, as part of the competition process, **Tessa** was interviewed by five council members both in Japanese and English.

We wish Tessa all the best for this amazing trip during which she will be staying with a host family in Fukuoka, doing sightseeing, visiting schools and being an Ambassador for New Zealand.





PERFORMING ARTS

AN EVENING OF DANCE

On the evening of Wednesday 1st of March, 27 students from Senior Dance classes attended a performance of *Mea Tau* at the Basement Theatre. Mt Roskill Grammar School benefits from our relationship with Basement Theatre's Schools Partnership Programme which provides free tickets and transport to selected Basement shows, courtesy of generous Basement patrons. *Mea Tau* was created by choreographer and dancer Elijah Kenner who was inspired by the idea of weaponry and its reference in the bible. It explored themes of objectification, manipulation and the relationship between toys and weaponry. The students seemed to really enjoy the show and were very vocal in the bus on the way home asking questions about the meaning of the work and how they may use the show's work to influence their own choreography. Thanks to the students for being so well behaved on the trip and thanks again to Basement Theatre for your generosity.



PERFORMING ARTS COMMITTEE

On Thursday 2nd of March, the Performing Arts Committee put on what they called a 'Showsage Sizzle' – a show and sausage sizzle fundraiser to raise money for their projects for the year. Yusuf Guessous, Isope 'Akau'ola, Josephine Mavaega, Ella Mavaega and Tafadzwa Chikomba performed outside the PFA room and thanks to their beautiful performances, crowds snapped up every last sausage we had. The PFA Committee is a new student-led group, who are focused on promoting the Performing Arts, supporting student-directed work and creating Dance and Drama events for our school and community. We are particularly looking forward to preparing for Open Day and Arts Week for our very quickly growing department. Thanks to all the students who helped out and have worked so hard to organise this committee.





HIP HOP CREWS

Our PFA department has been busy this term - with two new hip hop groups added to the ever-growing list of performance opportunities. This year we have decided to split the crews to a separate Junior and Senior crew which allows for our junior students to participate in greater numbers and afford more students an opportunity for leadership. The senior and junior crews will participate in Stand Up Stand Out which happens in Term 3, as well as other performance opportunities in the school and community. We also have a fusion crew (Indian Dance and Hip Hop) rehearsing for the upcoming High School Rockerz Competition which is mid Term 2. These students have worked hard throughout the holidays to prepare for the show, led by student choreographers. We have had such a great response at auditions and some great rehearsals so far - we look forward to updating you with the progress of our groups.



STREET DANCE NZ

Street Dance NZ is Aotearoa's premiere hip hop dance competition held in April annually. Mt Roskill Grammar students featured this year in a range of hip hop crews and had some impressive success. **Myke Davis Hoeft** (alumni 2013) and current student **Isla Mayo** performed in crews which received first placings in their respective categories which qualifies them for the World Hip Hip Championships which are in Arizona in August! Neil Mohan and Victoria Medina Villapol also performed well on the evening and were a credit to the school.

CHINESE MUSIC AND ART

In April, Liu Lao Shi has invited Ms Gander to MRGS as a guest to showcase her performance of Guzheng (an ancient Chinese string instrument) and the art of Sugar Painting (Tang Painting). Ms Gander has performed for the Corner of Chinese Culture Group at lunch time and for Year 10 Chinese in Period 5. Her exquisite technique in playing Guzheng and making sugar painting have attracted a big group of students who came to Corner of Chinese Culture and enjoyed the music pieces named 'High Mountain and Flowing Waters' and 'Night with a Moon above the Spring River'. Each one of them was given a piece of sugar painting as a gift of appreciation of attendance.





SPLENDID DEVISING WORKSHOP

Year 13 Drama and Year 12 Drama students had such a unique opportunity in the first week back of Term 2 to learn from a world-renowned theatre practitioner Kerry Frampton of Splendid Theatre Co based in the UK. Frampton has come to New Zealand to visit only a handful of Auckland schools on her first ever trip abroad to Aotearoa and was very keen on visiting Mt Roskill Grammar in particular.

The workshop focused on using Brechtian and Epic devising skills in preparation for their upcoming assessments in Year 13 - which focuses on alienation techniques in structuring and performance of theatre. The students had a wonderful time and were so grateful for the specialist advice and enthusiasm from Frampton and look forward to putting their knowledge into practise for their devising internal starting later this term. We hope she will visit again, perhaps with the whole Splendid team, fingers crossed.



POP UP GLOBE

Learning in the Performing Arts Department is always fun, but on days such as this - it is pure joy! Mt Roskill Grammar Senior Drama students had the absolute privilege to go back in time to the 16th century to watch the play 'Much Ado About Nothing' by Will Shakespeare at the world-famous Pop Up Globe in Ellerslie. The students didn't know what to expect but many said they were expecting stuffy, hard to understand language, old fashioned costumes and acting, but boy were they wrong, and very impressed! The play was hilarious and the students were smiling the whole way through - this production of Much Ado was more modernised with a Pasifika feel to it - in fact, the teachers loved watching our students watch the play almost more than watching the play; their engagement with the play was so wonderful to see. Our students were a mix of groundlings (standing at the edge of the stage) and gallery seated patrons; our Year 12s (who are learning about Elizabethan theatre) particularly enjoyed the chance to feel as if they were back in time and learning about the Globe theatre from a first-person standpoint. I think that this would have to be one of the best field trips we have ever experienced - even teeming rain didn't get our spirits down - and students returned with such wonderful opinions on one of the greatest playwrights the world has ever known, as well as some great Shakespearean quips to use with the friends and whanau!





POLYFEST—DIVERSITY STAGE 2017



This year our school entered three groups to the Diversity stage, Indian (which our school annually enters) as well as Jamaican and African groups, which were new entries for the school, as well as Jamaican being a first ever entry to the Diversity stage at Polyfest. The students involved had a wonderful day and loved the experience of learning about a new culture through the medium of Dance. Our results for the day were really pleasing; Jamaican group won 2nd place in the America's section, and the African group came 2nd in the African section as well as 2nd in the interpretation of theme award which was a

stage-wide award. A very good outcome for these groups and for the Performing Arts Department. We would like to thank the tutors, teachers and students involved for their commitment and enthusiasm this year.

Polyfest - Indian Dance Group: from a students perspective

Our Indian dance performance at Polyfest has been enjoyable not only for me but the entire Indian Dance group members. This year the talent brought in by the students from Year 9 to Year 13 was outstanding. A highlight of this year's group was watching everyone coming closer together as we spent a month and half together practicing and forming new friendships. We didn't just make new friends, we became a family. The group helped each other learn the choreography, gave constructive criticism, and looked out for one another.

Overall the Indian group was very successful and we are thankful for the experience, and the opportunity that this has given us to learn more about our culture. We would like to thank the team of brilliant dancers for turning up to as many practices as they could, being so dedicated, committed and for never giving up! Big thanks to the parents and teachers involved with the Indian Group especially Ms. Gillies, Ms Thompson, Mrs Patel and Mr Tuiali'i for supporting, guiding and organising everything. I would also like to thank Chernade, who was our tutor, for all the support and guidance. We couldn't have done it without everyone's support.

All the best to next year's group, I'm sure you will continue to strive and keep our standard high.

Shivika Sharma, STHJ





Sheilah Winn Regional Festival

On the 6th of April, Mt Roskill Grammar entered two pieces to the Sheilah Winn Regional Festival for 2017 – Romeo and Juliet (set in the present day at Club Capulet) and A Midsummer Nights Dream play-ers scene (also set in a modern context, at a Mt Roskill Community Hall begging amateur actors to join in on a local performance). Our pieces challenged the audience and showcased the immense talent Mt Roskill has to offer. Although we did not place this year, we were so happy with our performances and look forward to the festival next year. We would like to thank Hobsonville Point Secondary School for their hospitality during the day.



Gibbs Farm Dance Performance

This year we were overwhelmed with pride to be invited by Pah Homestead to perform as part of their repertoire at Gibbs Farm Sculpture Art trail. We took eight selected students to the park in Makarau on the 27th of April to perform pieces they had choreographed in collaboration with Dance teacher, Miss Thompson. The pieces explored the idea of oceans, waves and the movement and dynamicity of water. The student work was of such a high quality and really challenged the students to perform in a new way seeing as at the Art trail there was no ability to play music so the students had to rely on their ensemble awareness and the use of breath and rhythm to perform the piece in cohesion. This was a great opportunity for many of the students involved to earn credits at high levels of achievement and in a context which makes authentic Performance a real possibility - we look forward to finding more opportunities for these assessment contexts.





FENCING

Fencing has started again this year at Mount Roskill Grammar. This Olympic sword fighting sport takes weekly place in gym one on Monday and Thursday afternoons. Fencing is an established sport to MRGS and draws a strong following. Led by experienced fencer (and Head of Physics) Mr Thompson this is a sport that requires precision, balance and cunning as opposed to brute force. Good luck to our fledgling swordsmen and women.



DRAGON BOATING

Straight into Term 1, back into school and the start of the six week Dragon boating season. Off to Westhaven Marina twice a week training up the new and excited Year 11, 12 and 13 girls who are just keen to get out onto the water. In mid-March, a group of about 20 girls travelled out to Lake Pupuke for an all day tournament. The girls gave it their all in both the 500m and 200m races and although we didn't come out with any medals, we came out with smiling faces knowing we had tried our best.

A few special acknowledgements to Miss Mackinlay who kept this sport going after Mr Williams left, and to the many other teachers who gave up their evening driving vans full of girls into the city and back.





BRINGING THE PAST TO LIFE

Year 13 Classical Studies students watched one of their own – Srishti Toora- undergo a life Face cast. In ancient Rome, photographs did not exist for families to hang on their walls and remember their dead loved ones so they would have a wax mask made of their dead beloveds face and then display them in their homes to honour their memory. The masks were very life-like and showed all the minute details of ones face such as wrinkles, large nose, full lips, bags under the eyes and so on. We had a mask made of Srishti's youthful face to highlight the process of mask making and be able to look at how life-like sculpture could be. Srishti says "who would've thought that only being able to breathe through one nostril for an hour while cold gloopy cottage cheese was slapped on my face would be a thoroughly enjoyable experience" and it was most definitely for the rest of too whilst watching it all take place. Other lucky students like Neeral also had the opportunity to have a life-like impression of the their thumbs made. Check out some of our pics.





NEVER TOO OLD.....

Man Kaur, 101, and her son Gurdev Singh, 79, who competed in the World Games held in Auckland over the Term one Holidays.

We were fortunate to have these athletes escorted by Ella Kumar talk to PE scholarship group students and Junior Sports Academies, and Year 12 PE class about their involvement in the World Masters games. They discussed the importance of life long physical activity for ones wellbeing.

She credits her good health to healthy food and regular exercise. Kaur says she runs every second day at an outdoor sports grounds and goes to a gym to work on her upper body every other day.

Man Kaur won both the 100m and 200m sprints in her age category at the World Masters Games, making her the oldest to join a select group of athletes, that includes elite competitors like Usain Bolt, who have managed to win in both categories at a single international sporting event.



REPRESENTING NEW ZEALAND

Congratulations to Ian Busby (year 9) who has been selected to play for the New Zealand Under 15 Badminton team.

Ian has been playing badminton since 2012 and currently plays for the Mount Roskill Grammar School A team as well as club badminton for Balmoral. On learning of his selection Ian said "The competition for places was very strong and so I am excited to be selected and representing New Zealand"

Despite his relatively short time in the sport, this is the second time that Ian has gone to selections but the first time he has been chosen for the national team.

Good luck to Ian in the upcoming test series against Australia which will take place in Sydney in June.



Adult Community Education

Enrol now for our June Workshops

7-Jun-2017 06:00 PM – 09:00 PM	Pasta Making Workshop Come and learn how to make different kinds of Pasta at this Workshop and impress your friends!
10-Jun-2017 09:00 AM – 11:30 AM	Yoga - Dru Indulge yourself for a morning and discover the magic of Dru yoga.
10-Jun-2017 09:30 AM – 02:00 PM	XERO Accounting - Intro Learn how to set up and maintain a business on Xero.
10-Jun-2017 09:30 AM – 01:30 PM	Basic Home Maintenance Demo & hands on!
10-Jun-2017 09:30 AM – 12:30 PM	Chinese Yum Char
10-Jun-2017 10:00 AM – 02:00 PM	Floristry - fresh flower arranging Learn how to make a professional looking bunch of flowers in one
10-Jun-2017 10:00 AM – 02:00 PM	Multi-Media/Stencils/Silk Screen Printing
10-Jun-2017 11:00 AM – 03:00 PM	Watercolour Painting Explore the ways watercolour can be used in this one day intensive workshop www.claudiaslaney.co.nz .

For more information e-mail: com.ed@mrgs.school.nz

2017 LANGUAGE PERFECT WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

15-25 May

MRGS is making excellent progress in this worldwide competition and is currently one of the very top schools out of 1,670 schools worldwide.

MRGS is currently 12th in the World and 3rd in New Zealand!

Special ELITE Award students so far with over 10,000 points are:

Tessa Brown, Huthaifa Ibrahim, Zainab Iqbal,

Bhavya Jasti, Leon Li, Amy Roscoe, Siva Sivaraman,

Amisha Prasad, Zainab Aktar, Benjamin Zhang, Persia

Gharekhanian, Mariano Mackenzie, Ellen Peng, Rebecca

Ferguson, Halym Smith.

The Competition finishes at 6pm NZST, Thursday 25 May

and full results will follow.





CHESS SUCCESS

Our school chess teams did exceptionally well in the Auckland Central Championships. Our Premier Team took the silver medals; congratulations to Daniel Morrin, Euan McDougall, Elvin Zhang and William Lesiak, Our old rivals used to be Mt Albert Grammar – we left them in the dust. Now only Auckland Grammar can match us, with their top two, internationally titled players, being from Mt Roskill. A shout-out to Daniel Morrin for drawing with FIDE Master Daniel Gong – the top player from Auckland Grammar.

Also well-done to our B Team, placing 3rd – a great job by Gaurav Pahuja, Neil Mario, Kirushni Suthakaran, and Daniel Balderrama.





SCHOOL SPONSORSHIP

Mount Roskill Grammar School would like to thank the following businesses for their ongoing generous financial sponsorship and support ;

Fuji Xerox, Libelle, Barfoot & Thompson – Mt Roskill, Mc Donalds ,and Fletcher Living.



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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



Any business or organisation wishing to offer sponsorship to the school—please contact Mr Kyle Rika, Director of Sports at Kyle.Rika@mrgs.school.nz