



MOUNT ROSKILL GRAMMAR SCHOOL

SEPTEMBER 2017

NEWSLETTER

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Winter sports are now completed with tournament week being the final act. Our school was well represented by teams in hockey, football, basketball and netball and gained some excellent results. Thank you to all who gave of their time with teams over the week and congratulations to all of the competitors. I was fortunate enough to see our girls' football team compete in Rotorua. They demonstrated outstanding team spirit and footballing acumen. There are so many benefits that come from playing a sport including contributing to a team plan, learning how to persevere and recover from setbacks, and being confident and gracious in both victory and in defeat.



There have been many significant sports and cultural achievements during the last term. Congratulations to our girls lacrosse team on finishing second in Auckland and 4th in New Zealand, our girls football team in winning the premier 2 Auckland knockout title, the under 15 boys basketball team for winning the Auckland title, the under 19 boys basketball team for finishing runner up in the Auckland competition, the under 15 boys rugby team for finishing runner up in the Auckland B competition, our gymsports team who gained an amazing 30 medals at the national competition, the boys chorus for finishing best Auckland school and 5th in New Zealand and the contemporary dance group who have been invited to perform as part of the New Zealand Premiere professional Dance Festival, Tempo in October. I'm looking forward to our Arts and Sports awards evenings where many of these achievements will be recognised.

Xanthe Sulzberger, Deputy Principal, has been appointed to the position of Principal at McAuley High School. Xanthe came to Mount Roskill Grammar School in 2015 as Deputy Principal. She has given excellent service to the school and MRGS Community over the last three years. Her skills in future focused learning and developing ways of providing the best possible assessment opportunities for each student have strengthened learning experiences for all of our students. While we regret losing Xanthe from MRGS, we are delighted that her capabilities have been recognised by the McAuley High School community. Xanthe will be leaving Mount Roskill Grammar School at the end of Term 4, 2017.

Zane Chaudhry has been elected to the position of student trustee on the Board of Trustees. Zane takes over from Ojas Shukla who has been an excellent student representative over the past year.

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As I write there are 15 school days left until senior prize giving. Students have just completed their 'in school practice' examinations and will be receiving feed-forward from their teachers. We are determined that everything that we can possibly do to support students in their endeavours to gain qualifications will be done. Part of our plan includes continuing to offer lessons during November to senior students who have not yet achieved their goals. I am grateful to all of our teachers who are committed to prioritising this work during term 4. We look forward to your support in our quest for success for each student.

Ki nga taumata

Greg Watson
Principal

A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR— MARJET POT

The end of the academic year is still some distance away and the recent subject entry examinations have directed the attention of many students even more sharply towards what next year holds for them.

With this in mind, I would like to share with you some of the National data on school leaver achievement and destination which was released by the Ministry of Education. This data looks at the MRGS data by gender and ethnicity and compares it to the national data for all schools and for schools of similar decile figures for the 2016 year. If you wish to look at this report in more detail you can find it on www.educationcounts.govt.nz



Some of the stand out achievements for MRGS are included below:

Mount Roskill Grammar students continue to stay in education.

92.4% of students remained at MRGS until age 17, which exceeds the national data (83.6%) for all students. The percentage of Maori and Pasifika students who stay until the age of 17 is also higher than the national average. We all know that being at school and staying at school is the key to achievement.

Mount Roskill Grammar students succeed academically.

The percentage of students leaving with Level 2 NCEA or above rose to 88.3 % compared to the national rate of 80.3%.

Maori and Pasifika success.

The percentage of Maori students leaving with Level 2 NCEA was 76.9% compared to the national average of 66.5% and the percentage of Pasifika students leaving with Level 2 NCEA or above was 75.4% again ahead of national figures of 74.7%.

Reaching the heights.

The percentage of students leaving MRGS with NCEA Level 3 rose again to 61.3% compared to 53.9 % nationally. The increase has been greatest for boys who trail girls by 7% at MRGS compared to 12.5 % nationally.

Congratulations to all the staff who lead or support learning. This is again an excellent result.

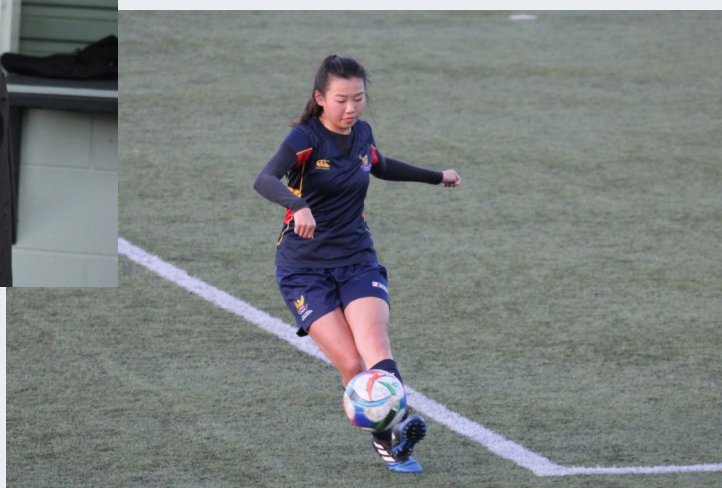
As term 3 draws to a close I would like to congratulate all our students on a fabulous year so far and encourage everyone to maintain their focus on either the upcoming Year 11-13 external examinations or the Year 9 and 10 end of year examinations. Good luck to everyone as they strive to get 'to the heights' in their own personal goals.

Marjet



APC PREMIER II CHAMPIONS - FIRST XI GIRLS FOOTBALL

Congratulations to our First XI Football Girls won The APC PREMIER 2 final last night against MacLeans, it wasn't an easy game with a 3-3 score line at the end of the game then straight into extra time with both teams scoring a goal each. They went into a goal shoot out and beating MacLeans 3-2. Also big congratulations to Breearna Johnson for receiving the Player of the Match and scoring all 3 goals.





MOUNT ROSKILL STUDENT ENJOYS JAPANESE SUCCESS

In April this year I was fortunate enough to experience a 10 day homestay programme in Japan as a result of winning the 2016 NZJS Haiku-Shōdo Contest.

This included participating in and experiencing a range of activities around the city of Fukuoka, which is located in the south-east Japanese island of Kyushu.

Fukuoka is the largest city in Kyushu, with a city population of 1.6 million, and is known for its strong cultural heritage, and has been Auckland's sister city since 1986. I spent three days sight-seeing with the International Relations



Department of the Fukuoka City Council, which included travelling to Dazaifu Shrine, making the famous Hakata (Tonkotsu) Ramen and wearing Kimono. A further 3 days were spent with my host family, who treated me with so much kindness and generosity. Through my host family I was able to dramatically improve my Japanese listening comprehension and learn a lot about how Japanese people live. However, the favourite part of my trip was attending Fukuoka Seiryō High School for three days. At this school, they start at 7:30, have seven 50 minute classes, one lunch break and intensive after school club activities. Different to Roskill? Definitely! I returned back to NZ on the 30th April with a suitcase of souvenirs, a mind full of the brightest memories and the deepest gratitude in my heart to everyone I met or helped me prepare to go. To anyone considering learning another language, you should! Being able to communicate in another language is a powerful thing that broadens your perspective on the world, and I wish that many of you get the chance to learn this first-hand!





PEACE SYMPOSIUM

On Friday 25th August 30 MRGS Mediators attended the 13th Secondary Schools Peace Symposium organised by the Peace Foundation. 100 students represented 8 schools, all of which presented information about their schools Peer Mediation Service and Peace week activities. The students' presentations were exciting and inspirational, with many creative ideas on how to bring peace to school communities. Other peace speakers included Councillor Cathy Casey, Peace Activist Dr Lyndon Burford, and **Giant Killa** (Songwriter/musician/ actor).



Our very own MRGS students did an inspiring presentation which included their originally created NUCLEAR FREE NZ VIDEO and they sung Dr Lyndon Burford's Nuclear Free Song. They received a standing ovation from the audience.

Well done to Natascha Bates, Kaitlyn Booth, Zane Chaudhry, Tafadzwa Chikomba, Lily Chu, Hana Galea, Jessica Gao, Paula Ilaua, Mele Kaufusi, Arusa Khalid, Adam King, Ash Kumar, Sammy-J Leuii, Annie Luteru, Haukinima Mafi, Eileen Makasini, Maria Makasini, Sherin Mohamed Bari, Tina Peau, Ellen Peng, Elizabeth Qian, Janna Rana, Sidrena Sapoi, Ojas Shukla, Varshma Sivagnanam, Halym Smith, Larissa Tavui, Melody Ting, Siosaia Tuitupou, and Tasnim Yassin Ismail. You did MRGS proud once more!

A big thank you to the Peace Foundation for giving our students such an amazing opportunity!





ROMEO AND JULIET

On August 31st, Year 11 Dance and Year 10 PFA went to see Romeo and Juliet by The Royal NZ Ballet Company at ASB Theatre in town. It was awesome to see the students attend the ballet - some for the first time ever - so they could see the physical strength that goes into professional dance. The performers were incredible and the students were very well behaved. We love going to see shows during the year and allowing our students the opportunity to see the best dance that New Zealand has to offer. Thanks to Miss Thompson and Ms Aitchison for their smooth running of the trip!



PIPA WORKSHOP

Thanks to PIPA (Pasifika Institute of Performing Arts) for visiting us to work with a bunch of selected PFA students to learn about how PIPA works, what their programmes are like and take us for a short workshop in both Dance and Drama. Cheers to Jono, Stacey and Lomina for their awesome workshop and for the cool opportunity to learn about how PIPA can be a great pathway for the future.



AFAKASI

The Performing Arts Department at MRGS continues to benefit from our amazing friends at The Basement Theatre who recently came to perform AFAKASI in our studio. Antonia Stehlin and Katie Burson were fantastic in their portrayal of Leilani and her family, showing the journey of one Afakasi (half-caste) woman into accepting her identity as both Palagi and Samoan. The piece really resonated with years 11-13 Drama classes who are a mix of many cultures - Afakasi was a story they could connect with, leaving many of the students in tears at the end of the show. Thanks again to The Basement for their continued support - we love the shows you bring to us!



GIRLS LACROSSE—AN INCREDIBLE SEASON

MRGS Lacrosse Girls teams have had an incredible season! The team demonstrated resilience and determination in pool play against some great teams (particularly against their foe, Mt Albert Grammar), the Premier team lost to Epsom Girls in the final for the season and AKSS Championship Tournament, coming second overall in Auckland. For the first time, this team was invited to Nationals. After beating MAGS and drawing against Te Awamutu in pool play, they lost to EGGS in the semi-final. They played St Peter's College in the 3rd/4th play off, and lost, meaning they came 4th overall in NZ. Kristine Canete was awarded MVP twice over the tournament. Our second team (Blue Team) had a rocky season, but won 3rd division at AKSS Championship, while our third team (Red Team) developed their skills and strategies giving every team they played a tough game. Thank you to our coaches Nigel Tan, Jessie Albri, JC Kaufusi and Romina Seylani, your enthusiasm and dedication is the foundation for our success.





PEACE WEEK 2017 “CELEBRATING 30 YEARS NUCLEAR FREE AOTEAROA”



The Mediators once again helped MRGS celebrate International Peace week during the 7th – 11th August by providing a number of exciting activities: peace assembly presentation; random acts of kindness; peace quote competitions; face painting; peace badge making; the wearing of white ribbons for peace; painted peace banners and t-shirts. In Monday's assembly, the Mediators showed their inspirational video on Nuclear Free NZ, and then sang Dr Lyndon Burford's original Nuclear free song. On Wednesday, it was “Embracing Diversity and Anti Violence Day” where the Hodge Commons was full of information stalls from outside agencies like

Manalive, SHINE, RPE, Youthlaw, in addition to student run stalls on 'Violence is not ok' campaign; PSSP, Amnesty, Live4Tomorrow, BILS, Skittles, Refugee awareness, crane making and Peace Badge making. There was also beautiful music and singing playing outside.

A sausage sizzle (including halal sausages) raised funds for the Auckland City Mission because how can we have peace when we have poverty?

On the Friday, the Mediators marched for peace around Mount Roskill community with the releasing of green balloons into the sky.

Peace week is a student driven and student owned campaign where all the Mediators collaborate together in a positive way to make a difference to our MRGS community. They are very active and vocal about the important values of peace, kindness, equality and respect for all.

A big thank you to all the wonderful Mediators!





UNBEATEN ALL SEASON—UNDER 15 GIRLS HOCKEY

The U15 Girls Hockey Team completed the perfect season by winning their grade final 5-0 against Baradene. The team scored an impressive 105 goals while only conceding 4 across 10 games. The girls were captained by Lalita Paopa who in particular performed to an outstanding level and has since been rewarded with selection for the Auckland U15 representative squad.



MAINZ CONCERT

MAINZ (Music and Audio Institute of New Zealand) has consistently produced outstanding musical talent over the years, and ex-students include Grammy award winner Joel Little (Producer for Lorde), members of The Naked and Famous, The Mint Chicks, Gin Wigmore, LarzRanda, Midnight Youth, Smashproof member Sid Diamond, Kids in Space, Kids of 88, Concord Dawn among many others.

Their lunchtime concert at MRGS showcased bands from the Certificate in Contemporary Music Performance programme, playing a repertoire of contemporary music. The tour gave our students hands-on experience in other aspects of the music industry including event management (Diploma in Music and Event Management) and production (Certificate in Live Sound and Event Production).





INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AT MRGS

In July and August we hosted two short-term groups from Japan and China. The groups were here for 10 nights and enjoyed studying at Mt Roskill Grammar School as well as seeing the sights around Auckland. Thank you to our host families and Junior Ambassadors for taking such good care of the students.

Mt Roskill Grammar School hosts around six International groups per year. If any families are interested in hosting our short-term groups in November 2017 and March/April 2018, please contact Fia Clarke at fia.clarke@mrgs.school.nz



CELEBRATING OUR ICAS SUCCESS

ICAS is an independent, skills-based assessment program which recognises and rewards student achievement. ICAS is unique, being the most comprehensive generally available suite of academic assessments for primary and secondary school students.

For more than 30 years, Educational Assessment Australia (EAA) has continuously improved and enhanced ICAS. Today, this experience means ICAS is a 21st century quality assessment that keeps pace with classroom learning.

A new ICAS test is developed annually for each subject in each year level by our team of subject matter experts. All ICAS tests are reviewed by experienced teachers to ensure that they accurately assess students' skills and are relevant to what they are learning at school. Some schools use ICAS as a psychometric test to better understand what students can and can't do at a point in time and track learning as students' progress from year to year. Other schools use ICAS results as a component of a student's overall academic achievement for the year and, still others use ICAS as a placement test. Each test is sat at the student's school and is invigilated by teachers under normal examination conditions.

The students pictured are our top achievers in ICAS 2017.

Arnav Kumar and Angela Yee both obtained Distinction Grades that has placed them in top 8% of entrants from New Zealand and the Pacific Island.





SPRING SHOWCASE—TERM 3

The Performing Arts Department put on three showcases this year and the Term three Spring showcase was definitely the most impressive of all. This showcase explored the idea of change, growth and development – inspired by the coming season of Spring. Years 11-13 Dance and Drama students led the September showcase with performances such as Devised Drama, Hip hop, Melodrama, Contemporary choreography, Brechtian theatre and cultural dance. The performance showcased the students talent, as almost all performances were student-created. Miss Aitchison, Miss Thompson and Miss Gillies were proud of the quality of the performances and the wonderful feedback they received from the audience. We'd like to thank our large and supportive audience – especially ex-students and whanau that returned to support our actors and dancers. We'd also like to thank Mr Thompson on the lights, Ella Mavaega on Sound, and the numerous other incredible people who work so hard to let our tamariki shine bright onstage. Well done to every student involved, it really was such a moving and important performance evening. As a department we are so proud of every single one of you and will think of the Spring Showcase as one of our definite highlights of 2017. Congratulations.





GAGAN A SAMOA 2017

Tālofa lava! This year Gagana Sāmoa was offered to our students as part of a Language Option for Juniors and there has been a great number of Junior students that took interest in Gagana Sāmoa with the Year nine class having 24 students and the Year ten class having 19 students at the start of the school year. In Term two both the Year nine and Year ten classes had the opportunity to experience what life is like for children their age living in Sāmoa. This experience was in the form of preparing food; we have nicknamed 'The Three Stations'. The Three Stations consisted of simple Sāmoan food preparations which were: *fofo'e fa'i*, *valu talo* and *valu popo e fai ai le pe'epe'e* (the peeling of green bananas, scraping taro and scraping coconut to make coconut cream). As background knowledge, it is very common for children living in Sāmoa to be exposed to the preparation of food at a young age as cooking is part of everyday life. This is what I wanted the students of the Gagana Sāmoa classes to enjoy as the majority have never, up until this point, been exposed to cultural food preparation within their own home lives. The Three Stations was a hands on project that I enjoyed witnessing students participate in. It was fun and an authentic way to incorporate Culture and Language that was engaging and encouraged students to use prior knowledge and new knowledge to adapt preparing traditional Sāmoan food within a New Zealand setting.





JAPANESE SUSHI EXPERIENCE

On the 24th of August, one of our Year nine Japanese classes made sushi. We started off with just the rice and even that was very yummy. Next was the filling of egg, cucumber and crab stick. There was even some left over, so we ate that too. It was a fun experience where we learnt with our peers how to make sushi by ourselves. By the end of the lesson we had a sushi roll for us to eat or share with our friends. Cleaning up was even fun! Special thanks to Corrin, Pauline and Krich for helping out with washing and drying the dishes. The other fun part of our lesson was that we were able to connect with our teacher, Sensei, as she taught us about her culture. There was left-over rice, so we were given it in the form of a brick as a gift to eat. If I had a chance, I would go back in time and do it all again. Thank you Sensei.



YEAR 9 FRENCH BREAKFAST—LE PETIT DEJEUNER



We knew we had to be at school early on a Wednesday, by 8.15am! There were some pupils there even earlier. We saw the croissants and pain au chocolat arrive. Some Year ten French pupils were setting things up and we knew that we had to order IN FRENCH for these students to get our breakfast. We went to A2 or A3 and ordered our breakfast, and we also got un chocolat chaud. The pastries were huge. It took us a while to eat the delicious breakfast. After a while, we could order another hot drink. At about 8.45, we discovered that we could win prizes as well. The teachers pulled names of pupils at random out of a box. Some of us won Eiffel Tower key rings. It was a great way to start the day. MERCI BEAUCOUP. C'est formidable, extra, cool.

OFF TO FRANCE!

The **New Zealand Institute of International Understanding** (NZIIU) is a non-profit organisation which "promotes international understanding through programmes that encourage educational and cultural exchange overseas."

Every year, NZIIU offers scholarships for student exchanges. They are very prestigious awards.

To be eligible to apply for this scholarship, you need to get a Gold Elite award in the Language Perfect Competition, and be successful in both the application and interview process.

Ellen Peng of Year 12, has been announced as one of the scholarship winners. She will start her three-month adventure in France at the beginning of next year.





ALUMNI SUCCESS

No doubt some of you will remember our lovely ex-student Sam Low who was with us until 2010.

After leaving MRGS Sam went to Sky City with an apprenticeship in the food preparation area. He eventually moved to Coffee and ended up travelling around the world competing at international levels for both Barista and Latte Arts events.

He is now back on the scene in NZ and if you want to watch his latest project on TV, please log on to Threenow.co.nz and look for Both Worlds: season 6, episode 6



SENIOR FRENCH DINNER

On the 7th August, the Year 11 and Year 12 French students made our way to 'Le Garde Manger', a fantastic French restaurant in the heart of Auckland city. This was a great way to celebrate how far we had come learning French with our peers and teachers.

Friendly smiles from the waiters and waitresses greeted us as we stepped through the doorway, the chequered tablecloths and warm lighting adding to the homely atmosphere.

We were able to choose what we wanted to eat for the entrée, main, and dessert. It was a hard decision for some but when the food arrived no one regretted their decision. Plates of authentic French food were piled onto the table, including snails, onion soup, beef bourguignon, and chocolate mousse. You could almost imagine you were sitting in the French countryside, with the sun setting, and the smell of dinner wafting up the chimneys.

There was also a prize draw, where Mr McAlpine generously shared with us the gifts that he bought from France, such as key rings, pens, books, and CDs.

Discovering French cuisine is one of the best ways to experience French culture, and I'm sure everyone enjoyed the delightful dinner.

Ellen Peng





TRAVELWISE ROAD SAFETY EXPO.

I'm proud to say that Mt Roskill Grammar School's first ever Travelwise Road Safety Expo was a success. As a member of the new Travelwise Committee, we were nervous to see what staff and students would think about the expo. On Thursday 7 September, organisations from all around Auckland arrived to showcase the many different aspects of road safety. These included the booze bus, speed laser guns, mocktail testing, driver licensing, a fatal vision confidence course, police dogs and more. Everyone was willing to explain or answer questions about their stall. It was an enjoyable event and I hope as a committee we can plan something even bigger and even better for next year.





HEAD PREFECT PROJECT

On Friday the 25th of August as part of the Head Prefect project, our school hosted the first ever Prefect Lunch between our neighbouring schools of Lynfield and Onehunga High School. We had six prefects including head prefects come from each school and ten of us ready and keen to meet the our counterparts. The main purpose of the event was to create a bond between our schools by engaging with each other and having fun as prefects from our community. We played group bonding activities, had quizzes with some good old Raro, pizza and, of course, lollies. It was a really enjoyable afternoon with lots of smiles and laughs. At the end a lot of people commented how much they had enjoyed meeting new people who have the same responsibilities in a forum where we could relate to one another and share a meal together. The positive feedback made all our efforts even more worthwhile. It was a fantastic lunch with great company. We look forward to seeing and hearing our three schools come together again in the near future.





SENIOR HIP-HOP CREW

In Term three, our Senior Hip Hop Group, Diversifire, performed a dance using varying styles of Hip Hop to a large crowd at the Vodafone Events Centre for the Stand Up Stand Out Finals. The students performed amazingly, and although we didn't place this year, we are so proud of every student for their continued dedication to the group. The commitment and enthusiasm for the crew was awesome. Thanks again to Victoria for her constant belief in the group and fabulous leadership skills, and to the teachers involved for their hard work in managing the group with such success, we can't wait for next year.



PAUL WILLIS WORKSHOP

Actor/tutor extraordinaire Paul Willis graced us with his presence this term to deliver a workshop to the Year ten Performing Arts classes in Commedia dell'Arte - a theatre style from 17th century Italy! Paul came to us from recently working at The Pop Up Globe Theatre and has an extensive history in mime, clowning and many other physical theatre styles. The classes are currently making masks as Commedia characters and will be creating performances for in-class assessments. We loved the physical practical nature of Commedia and the students reactions to the world of the characters and can't wait to see their masks and performances come to life!





TOP MUSICIANS RECOGNISED

The KBBMF Honours Orchestra is an elite group that students are able to apply to join. This year Ellen Bingham (french horn) and Rocky Parsons (percussion) were selected to join musicians from over 20 different schools. They came together on the final day of the KBB music festival to rehearse and perform under the directorship of conductor Jeffrey Boekman from the University of Hawaii



The NZSO National Youth Orchestra is composed of secondary school students through to postgraduate University students from all over New Zealand. Students audition for a place and this year Ellen Bingham was appointed principal French horn. She flew to Wellington in the term two holidays for a week of rehearsals, culminating in performances at the Michael Fowler Centre, Wellington and the Auckland Town Hall. The programme featured premieres of works by young New Zealand composers Reuben Jelleyman and Celeste Oram, a piece by the conductor Sir James MacMillan and the timeless classic Benjamin Britten's 'Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra'. We are extremely proud of Ellen Bingham for being appointed section leader of such a prestigious orchestra amidst tough competition.



KBB Music Festival

The KBB Music Festival has been showcasing the best in secondary school orchestras, concert bands and jazz bands in Auckland since 1983. The standard is extremely high and each group is marked on their technical skills, accuracy, musicianship and presentation by local and international judges.

Our Concert Band and String Orchestra worked very hard this year to prepare for the festival, displaying commitment and teamwork. The String Orchestra, rehearsed by Mr Snelling, gained a bronze award and were commended by the judges for among other things, their ability to play without a conductor. They were led by year 13 violinist Jay Huang and were one of very few groups to perform without a conductor. The Concert Band, conducted by Ms Dekker, gained a silver award and were complimented by the judges for their sound, ensemble playing and for performing a challenging programme.



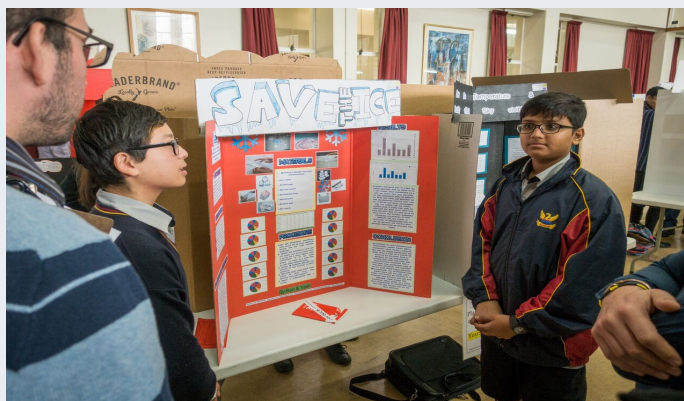


TOP SCIENCE FAIR AWARDS

Arnav Kumar won First Place in the Physical World Category with his project “The faster you stop the bigger the mess” and was also awarded an Excellence in Physics prize.

Yash Savani And Benjamin Zhang won first place in the Planet Earth category with their project “Save the Ice”. Pankti Prevedi was awarded a special prize for her project “For the Crater Good”; a cash prize and four book

Highly commended awards were given to Ashna Siddiqui and Angel Kumar for their project “Volume and Temperature”, Methu Mohanathas for his project “How do magnetic fields affect the flow of water” and Karmella Reedy for “Minty Cool”.



JUNIOR HEALTH CURRICULUM COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Every two years, Mount Roskill Grammar School conducts a community consultation on our Health Curriculum. Health is compulsory in the NZ Curriculum for Year nine and ten students and can 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 is taking place now and will be open until the start of Term 4. The consultation consists of an online survey that will only take a few minutes of your time. An email has been sent to all parents and caregivers on our email database with a link to the survey. A link is also 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 or Maria Vince, 621 0050 ext 741, kim.thomas@mrgs.school.nz, maria.vince@mrgs.school.nz



NEW ZEALAND SECONDARY SCHOOLS GYMSPORTS

Over the weekend of 9th and 10th of September we had our most successful results ever at New Zealand Secondary Schools Gymsports and the largest team who qualified to attend. The athletes represented the school with pride and built their resilience performing their routines in front of large crowds, which is not an easy task.

Day 1 : Artistic Gymnastics and Day 2: Tumbling and Trampoline teams.

Level 1 Artistic Gymnastics 2017 results

Medals to

2nd Anna Greaves

3rd Kaitlyn Booth

1st team : Anna Greaves, Kaitlyn Booth, Chantal Deverell and Chelsea Ellis

2nd Team Alyshia Harper, WaiYan Relph , Rebecca Zhao, Dhavni Patel.

Level 2 Artistic Gymnastics

4th Kate Bonnici

3rd Team MRGS Kate Bonnici, Zara, Deverell, Vivian Cai Yun Chew

TUMBLING

B Grade Womens

6th Kaitlyn Booth

3rd team : Kate Bonnici, Kaitlyn Booth, Zara Deverell

B Grade Mens

2nd Abhishek Ravichandran

3rd Shivesh Lal

C Grade Womens

2nd Alyshia Harper

3rd = Chelsea Ellis

1st team : Alyshia Harper, Chelsea Ellis, Vivian Cai Yun Chew

TRAMPOLINE

3rd B grade Mens Abhishek Ravichandran

4th B grade Womens Chelsea Ellis

2nd B GRADE Womens team Chelsea Ellis, Kaitlin Booth, Eva Mason

1st C GRADE Womens team Alyshia Harper, Mollie Coldham, Nidhi Vijayanarasimhan





BASKETBALL U15A BOYS - AUCKLAND PREMIER CHAMPIONS 2017

For the first time in five years, MRGS entered an U15 Boys' Basketball team into the U15 Premier Grade. The Boys had an excellent year in terms of results and player development, finishing the season with 13 wins from 14 games. The Boys won both the Auckland Central West Competition and the Greater Auckland Competition. These result meant that we could proudly call ourselves *the best U15 Basketball team in Auckland*.



BASKETBALL U17B BOYS - AUCKLAND CENTRAL WEST CHAMPIONS 2017

The U17B Team went through their season undefeated winning all 10 games. The final was played against MAGS, with MRGS coming out on top in a close game.

BASKETBALL U19A BOYS - AUCKLAND CENTRAL WEST CHAMPIONS 2017

The U19A Boys Team competed in the Auckland Central West Open grade competition. The Boys won this grade and progressed onto the Auckland Champs, where the top 8 teams from the wider Auckland area competed. The boys unfortunately came up one game short, losing by 2 in the final and finishing runners up to Birkenhead College. This team is looking strong for next year, with the majority of the side returning.



NATIONAL DAY OF SILENCE

18 August saw the “National Day of Silence”.

Over 50 student leaders chose to wear black duct tape on their mouths and maintained silence throughout the school day.

This day draws attention to the devastating impact of homophobic bullying and harassment.

With our overarching school values of manaakitanga and whanaungatanga and our strong commitment to prevent youth suicide as a school community, this is an important event in our calendar.

We are proud to offer an environment at Mount Roskill Grammar School where diversity is affirmed, respects is given to all students irrespective of sexual and gender identity, and all forms of prejudice and discrimination are actively opposed.



TOURNAMENT WEEK RESULTS

Under 15 boys Basketball - 13th Upper North Island Secondary School tournament

Senior Girls Netball - 16th Upper North Island Secondary School tournament

1st XI Girls Hockey – 13th Upper North Island Secondary School tournament

Senior Girls Basketball – 12th Zone 1 national qualifying tournament

1st XI boy's hockey – 8th Upper North Island Secondary School tournament

1st XI Girls football team - 7th Upper North Island Secondary School tournament



KIDS VOTING PROGRAMME

The 906 class took on the political world in Social Studies by participating in the nationwide Kids Voting programme and hosting an exclusive Q&A with Puketepapa Local Board Member and ex-MRGS student, Shail Kaushal. The Kids Voting took place on Tuesday 12th September in the library where every member of the class had a role and the entire process involved authentic participation that replicated the real elections. Each student was enrolled on the Kids Electoral Roll and ticked off as they entered the polling area, they were then given authentic voting papers that showed every MP running for the Mount Roskill electorate as well as the full list of parties of the 2017 NZ election so students could give their 2 ticks. Once they had completed their vote in the privacy of the carefully made voting booths students put their voting paper in the ballot box and received a sticker to say they had voted. The votes were confidentially counted, double-checked, and then announced very dramatically by Yuv Chandra. The 906 election resulted in a Labour and Michael Wood win and we are eagerly awaiting to see where we place with the rest of the Kids Voting in NZ. On her involvement in the Kids Voting, Areeba said, "It was a different experience because as the younger generation we aren't entitled to give our opinions to the world" and Tina also commented "Overall, this election was a big success and allowed us to get a taste of how our parents vote".

To follow up on our Kids Voting, we also invited Shail Kaushal, Local Board Member for Mt. Roskill to speak with our class. Shail was a Mt Roskill student himself ten years ago and was thrilled to come back and share his experiences and knowledge of how his role as a Board Member has helped shape the Roskill community. Students were excited to hear that light-rail train and double-decker buses are planned to pass through the Dominion Road Mt. Roskill shops making it easier and faster to commute to the city and airport. The students had some unique questions that Shail admitted were a first for him and enjoyed answering, such as "What does success mean to you?" and "How would you define your leadership style". Students loved hearing about his journey and inspiration going into local politics as well as taking selfies with the very charismatic Puketepapa Board Member.





SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY

Dominion Road School hosted a successful and entertaining School Production of Annie last week. Eric Alex, Arnab Kumar, and Rohan Shetty shared their expertise in sound and lighting. We congratulate the boys for their dedication in carrying out their duties so well to help our community.



BIOSECURITY DAY

On Wednesday 23rd August MRGS had a visit from three officers working for the **Ministry for Primary Industries** who presented to our Biology Year 13 and 12 classes as part of understanding Biosecurity in New Zealand with reference to the biological curriculum content and linking to careers in the future.

The M.P.I. officers were in school for a whole day. Each class period had two parts – (1) Biosecurity presentation with some interesting hands on specimens and (2) MPI Detector dog programme demonstration.





YEAR 12 DRAMA CAMP

In Week four, the Year 12 Drama class embarked on a first ever mission to Devising Camp. A weekend away with Drama students of Hobsonville Pt Secondary School to create Drama in the wilderness! The weekend was loads of fun and students learned about elements of conventions of Drama, as well as Brechtian and Physical theatre. They engaged in early morning dance calisthenics and cooked/cleaned for each other the whole weekend. The students both schools became fast friends and enjoyed evenings of karaoke and a camp show with skits and a talent quest. The students were a credit to the school, their teamwork and enthusiasm for their learning was infectious. We can't wait to return to Karanga Campsite again, and look forward to the future collaborations with Hobsonville Pt School so that we can continue to make great Drama together.



EXCEL PERFORMANCE

EXCEL School of Performing Arts performed at MRGS on Friday the 4th of August to a large crowd in the school hall. Excel has been passing through the country visiting schools to show the work they create and promote their courses. We were very happy to have them back again this year for their latest show 'Real Talk' which was a great mix of dance, vocals, music and drama which highlighted the idea of being honest and true to yourself. It was a really positive and uplifting atmosphere and we'd like to thank EXCEL for coming to MRGS to show our learners about the variety pathways in the performing arts.



EXCEL STUDENTS IN YEAR 12/13 DRAMA CLASS

In August three students from Excel School of Performing Arts spent time with the Year 12 and 13 Drama classes helping them with their latest internal - devising. Devising is the process of making drama using conventions, elements and the other components of drama. Having the girls in the class to help with the devising process was really helpful, we did a lot of spoken word, convention work, as well as asking them for their advice. It was great to have their input and their feedback was really helpful in making our pieces better before going in front of an audience.



SCHOOL SPONSORSHIP

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

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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 Desmond Pemerika at Desmond.Pemerika@mrgs.school.nz