

A very full first term is almost complete. Our students have been busy balancing commitments to academic learning, their co-curricular activity and to family life.

We are very pleased with our 2007 Scholarship results. Mount Roskill Grammar School students gained 55 Scholarships including 10 outstanding scholarships. These results once more place the school in the top 10 Secondary Schools in New Zealand. Our 2007 Dux Chuan-Zheng Lee is one of only 8 Premier Scholars in New Zealand. He has gained a tertiary scholarship worth \$10,000 annually, and will have his achievements recognised by the Governor General in Wellington next month. Excellent teaching and a desire by our students to achieve with outstanding quality has produced these results.



Senior Exams begin on Thursday 22 May. An exam timetable is included in this newsletter for your reference. The exams include internal assessments for NCEA and practice for external standards that will be examined by NZQA at the end of the year. With the exams scheduled close to the beginning of Term 2 we recommend that students take time to study during the holidays.

We are extremely proud of the performance of our groups at Polyfest 2008. The Indian, Tongan and Samoan group worked with pride and discipline in preparing their performances. The competition results for our Tongan and Samoan groups are superb. I would like to thank the tutors and families for their generous support of our students as they prepared. We look forward to our involvement in the festival in 2009. Congratulations also to our Senior Boys and Senior Girls Waterpolo teams who both came runners up in their division at the North Island Waterpolo Championship.

I have recently returned from a brief trip to Beijing in China. I was invited to travel with the New Zealand delegation for the signing of the free trade agreement. Mount Roskill Grammar School hosts international students from China and it was a pleasure to strengthen relationships with government and education representatives.

With the weather finally looking a little more wintry we ask that only school jackets are worn to and from school. Sports jackets are only for use when on sports team duty. Please help your son or daughter ensure that shoes are dried daily! We do not expect students to come to school in non-uniform clothing. Thank you for your ongoing support in ensuring that our students have the appropriate uniform items.

We look forward to seeing well rested students return ready for learning in Term 2.

G B Watson
PRINCIPAL

EXCELLENT SCHOLARSHIP RESULTS IN 2007

Congratulations to our 36 students who achieved these superb results. Between them they gained 55 scholarships. 10 of these scholarships are at the outstanding level (marked (O) in the list). Chuan-Zheng's results earn him a place as one of the top scholars in New Zealand.

5 Scholarships

Chuan-Zheng Lee: Economics, English, Chemistry (O), Physics (O), Mathematics with Calculus (O)

4 Scholarships

Byul Han: Accounting, Classics, English, History

Kathleen Yin: Biology, Chemistry, Classics, English

3 Scholarships

Xiao Yang Li: Chemistry, Mathematics with Statistics, Mathematics with Calculus (O)

Yuhui Wang: Chemistry, Mathematics with Calculus, Chinese (O)

2 Scholarships

Chris Le Sueur: Chemistry, Physics (O)

Kanimoly Sukumaran: Physics, Chemistry (O)

Andy Liu: Chemistry, Physics

Wenyi Yi: Biology, Chemistry

Helen Zhu: Accounting, Biology

1 Scholarship

Timothy Vogel: Physics (O)

Bethany Windsor: Biology (O)

Timothy Chan: Geography

Madhu Chandra: Accounting

Yuhui Chen: Technology

Geena Chiu: Geography

Anna de Roo: Media

Medha Ghatikesh: Geography

Harry Hallett-Hook: English

Nathan Hickman: Accounting

Adelle Kristensen: Geography

Aurelie Martin: French

Alice McIntosh: Geography

David Mo:

Ankana Mukherjee:

Abhinav Prabhakaran:

Samantha Rodrigues:

Sophia Rodrigues:

Caleb Saunders:

Kima Tuialii:

Ming Wu:

Happy Xia:

Maggie Yan:

Sarah Yen:

Zhikai Zhao:

Mathematics with Statistics

Biology

Accounting

Biology

Biology

Chemistry

History

Chemistry

Mathematics with Calculus

Mathematics with Calculus

Geography

Biology

NEWS FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Mount Roskill Grammar continues to go from strength to strength. Last year's NCEA and scholarship results provide evidence of the high calibre of teachers and management who support students to achieve to their potential.

Parents and caregivers also play a vital role in supporting students to achieve. The school needs you to be involved in your children's education. You are welcome to assist with sports teams and cultural events and to be involved at Board level.

Being a Board member at Secondary school level is very rewarding and is not a big time commitment. Board members are involved in making governance decisions which will help students achieve the success they deserve.

The Board of Trustees is now into its second year of its three year term. There is a lot to learn about what happens on the Board and it generally takes at least a year before a new trustee is familiar with the role of the Board. The MRGS Board has had a long history of succession planning to ensure that there is continuity of Board members and school governance over the election period and into the first year of office. With this in mind the Board of Trustees is looking for parents/caregivers who are interested in being on the Board. We are looking to co-opt up to two new members in the next 6 months. If you are interested in being on the Board or want to find out more then please contact Marjet Pot.

You are also welcome to come to the next meeting which is on Monday 28 April at 5pm in the Conference Room.

NEW BOARD MEMBERS WANTED.

Contact Chairperson Marjet Pot on 09 638 8872 or 021 977201

CULTURAL GROUPS

TONGAN GROUP

At the ASB Secondary Schools' Maori and Pacific Island Festival our Tongan Group came first in both their items, the Lakalaka and the Fahaiula.

This once again confirmed their standing as one of New Zealand's best Tongan Performing Arts Groups at secondary school level.

Congratulations to Mr Malanga, the students and their families.

INDIAN GROUP

The Indian Group of Mount Roskill Grammar took part in Polyfest 2008. Our Indian Group was part of the non-competitive section on the Diversity Stage sponsored by the Ethnic Affairs Department. Over 25 schools participated representing a wide range of ethnic groups including Chinese, Sri Lankan, Fijian and Indian.

Our group comprising 19 students (males and females) performed an item that lasted 8 minutes and showed aspects of classical, modern and Bollywood-style of dancing. The item was elegantly presented and was judged by the Diversity Stage Managers as one of the top 10 performances of the day. I would like to thank the students and Mrs Naidu for their time and effort.

A smaller group of 4 boys and 4 girls are presently preparing to perform in a 16 school dance competition called the High School Rockerz. This will be held on 19 April at Beaumont Centre. Tickets cost \$20.00 and are available from Mr Dass at school. Your support would be greatly appreciated.



SAMOAN GROUP

This was the first time in 12 years the Samoan group entered the competitive section of the annual Polynesian Festival which was held at the Manukau ASB Stadium. The students prepared for this event right from the beginning of the year and were having practices every day after school and even a few practices in the weekends. The students held lunch time fundraisers such as sausage sizzles to help raise money for their uniforms and transport to and from the festival.

On the Thursday preceding the festival they held a performance for their family and friends. This performance was very good and was watched by a lot of people including Mr Greg Watson, the Principal, who came to support and afterwards congratulated the group for their hard work and efforts.

As a result from their performance at the festival the Samoan group were placed 7th out of 20 schools in the co-ed competition, so it was great to see them come in the top 10 especially after not being in the competition for 12 years.

The Samoan group put a lot of effort into their performance and were asked to show this in assembly which everyone enjoyed watching.

The Samoan group and the tutors warmly thank all the supporters and their families for supporting them this year and are looking forward to performing in the festival in 2009.



SENIOR EXAMINATIONS

These will be held from Thursday 22 May to Thursday 29th May. A copy of the timetable for the examinations is included in this newsletter (see the centre pages).

Please note:

- During the six days of the examinations Senior Students (Years 11-13) are only required at school when they have an examination, (for the rest of the time they have study leave).
- Students need to be aware of the time and date of their examinations.
- It is a student's responsibility to be aware of the examination rules and to be present.
- In case of illness student MUST have a medical certificate.
- Late comers will not be allowed into the examination if they arrive more than 15 minutes after the scheduled beginning of the examination.

Examinations start times:

Morning: 9.15am for 3 hour exams
 9.45am for 2½ hour exams
 10.15am for 2 hour exams
 10.45am for 1½ hour exams
 11.15am for 1 hour exam

(or at the time designated for some practical exam sessions shorter than 3 hours.)

Afternoon: 1.00pm for all examinations (apart from some practical examinations)

COUNSELLING NEWS

During this term, our School Counsellors have run two Anti-Harassment workshops with each Year 9 core class. In these sessions they have explained how we take harassment and bullying seriously at our school, and how we fight it. We have effective ways to counter harassment: a large Peer-Mediation service, 16 Harassment Contact Teachers, four Counsellors, Restorative Justice conferencing, and very accessible Senior Staff.

These classes also gave students the opportunity to meet two of our four Counsellors, which will hopefully make it easier for them to approach one of us if issues arise. Appointments can be made at the start of any day in Student Services. Please encourage your teen to contact a Counsellor if they witness or experience harassment, or they feel stressed, angry or sad and they'd like to talk it through.

Once again our school is pleased to be offering the TRAVELLERS programme to approximately one hundred of our Year 9 students. This innovative life skills programme is designed by Pauline Dickinson of The University of Auckland and six of our staff have been trained to facilitate it. We have surveyed all Year 9 students to determine who will most benefit from participating in this small group 16-hour programme. It is designed to support students through this major time of transition from intermediate to secondary school, and to teach life skills in dealing with change, loss and grief. If your son or daughter is invited to join TRAVELLERS, you will receive a pamphlet telling you more about the programme. Participation is voluntary.

Our four Counsellors are available to all students. MRGS warmly welcomes you to contact them if you have any concerns about your child. This service is confidential, and the Counsellors abide by the Code of Ethics of the New Zealand Association of Counsellors.

Margaret Hoogendoorn, HOD Guidance, ph 6210050, ext 825. E-mail: margareth@mrqs.school.nz

Donna Hourigan-Johnston, Peer-Mediation co-ordinator, ph. 6210050, ext 864. (not on Wednesday) E-Mail: dannah@mrqs.school.nz

Jeannie Grant, ph. 6210050, ext 813 E-mail: jeagra@mrqs.school.nz

Graeme Smith, ph. 6210050, ext 865 (not on Tuesday) E-mail: grasmi@mrqs.school.nz

TRIBUTE TO SIR EDMUND HILLARY

Last Saturday afternoon 11 students from Hillary House represented the school at the Summits to Sir Ed tribute in Cornwall Park. They received many compliments on their smart appearance.

Thank you to Mr Wright for organising this.

SPORTS RESULTS			
Volleyball Senior Boys	Placed 2 nd for the season		
Kilikiti	Senior Boys	One day Tournament	Placed 3 rd out of 12 Schools
	Senior Girls	One day Tournament	Placed 3 rd out of 12 Schools
Mountain Bike Champs	Nick Miller	Placed 3 rd	Best time 1:40:29 +0:07:31
Touch	Senior Boys	vs. Auckland Boys	Won 4 – 3
	Senior Girls	vs. Dio	Lost 5 – 1
	Senior Mixed	Played at Regional Tournament	Drew 1 Lost 1 Won 1
Kiwi Tag	One Day Tournament	vs James Cook	Lost 3 - 13
		vs Penrose	Drew 5 - 5
		vs Papatoetoe	Lost 8 - 11
Softball	Senior Boys	vs Onehunga	Won 6 – 4
Netball	Open A	vs Wykeham Collegiate S. African – School Exchange	Won 46-15
Hockey	1 st X1 Girls	vs Wykeham Collegiate S. African – School Exchange	Drew 3-3
Debating	Advanced Premier	vs St Peters College	Win
	Senior Open 1	vs Epsom Girls Grammar	Win
	Senior Open 2	vs Dilworth School	Win
Golf	Premier Div 1	Twilight Competition	3 rd =

SPORTS REPRESENTATIVES

Congratulations to the following students who have achieved well in their sports.

Swimming - Ben Tokley participated in the New Zealand National Age Group Championships in Christchurch finishing in the top 20 in the 100 and 200 metre backstroke events in the 15 year old section.

Auckland Representative Hockey Teams for 2008

Auckland Under 18 Men's Development Team: Haman Ganda

Auckland Under 18 Women's Development Team: Aleisha Keshaw

Auckland Under 16 Boys Development B Team: Jaiman Patel

Auckland Under 16 Girl's Development C Team: Emily McIntosh, Alana Miller

PERFORMING ARTS

This year's show is all go. 'Fame' is about the Performing Arts Academy of New York.

Rehearsals for the 200+ people needed to stage this production are well underway. Musicians, singers, dancers, actors, painters, directors, stagehands, make-up-artists, costumes, lighting and sound engineers are all essential to the success of such a show.

Showtime is 7.00pm from Monday 12 to Thursday 15 May. Tickets are now available: adults \$12.50, school students \$10.00

NCEA ENTRIES, FEES, EXAMS

A candidate information sheet from NZQA has just been distributed to all senior students. All Year 11, 12, 13 students will be involved in NCEA qualifications this year. Entries are made electronically. Fees (\$75 for most students) are due to be paid early in Term 2. \$75 is payable by students who are New Zealand residents and covers all internal and external standards as well as up to three scholarship entries. Financial assistance is available. Application forms for this assistance will be distributed early in May.

Exams will be held 15 November to 3 December. Please note that if you are thinking of travelling overseas the exam timetable is displayed around the school and no changes of dates or individual arrangements are possible.

PAST PUPIL SUCCESS

Congratulations to Kesha Robertson who was awarded the top graduate of Television for 2007 when completing her Bachelor of Communication Studies at AUT.

HOMework CENTRES

The **Homework Centre for all students** is open on Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday from 3.10pm – 5.00pm in L3.

The **Maori & Pacific Island Homework Centre** is open Monday & Wednesday from 3.10pm – 4.00pm in L1.

The **Tongan Homework Centre** will be starting later in the year. In the past it has started at 7.00pm.

The **ESL Homework Centre** is open on Wednesday from 3.20pm – 4.30pm in D9.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

APRIL SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAMME:

Weekdays 21 April – 2 May 2008 (excludes Anzac Day)

Our popular daily recreational programmes: **Five Up** and **Rock On** for 5 -14 year olds will include a great variety of new activities and fun trips. Two challenging, special interest programmes for 9-14 year olds are scheduled over this period: **Advanced Robotics** and our new **Business for Kids**. There will be no bored children these holidays!

Please enrol early to avoid disappointment as places are limited. Families may be able to apply for a WINZ subsidy. Contact us at Parnell Trust on 379 2095 x9724 or email pfc@parnell.org.nz or visit our website www.parnell.org.nz.

PARENTING RESOURCE CENTRE:

The Parenting Place is now open in Auckland, providing a wide selection of valuable workshops and seminars for parents (all workshops \$10), access to helpful and practical resources, caring people to help with any parenting challenge, and a place to stop and take time out over a great coffee. Located at 300 Great South Rd, Greenlane, all information can also be accessed on line at www.theparentingplace.org.nz. For further information call 09 524 0025 or just drop in Monday – Friday 9am-5pm.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

TERM 1		
April	Friday 18	END OF TERM 1 - Closing time 3.10pm
TERM 2		
May	Monday 5	BEGINNING OF TERM 2
	Tuesday 6	Mahurangi Exchange at Mahurangi College, Warkworth
	Monday 12 – Thursday 15	School Production
	Thursday 22 – Thursday 29	Senior Exams
	Friday 30	School Holiday
June	Monday 2	School Holiday - Queen's Birthday
	Tuesday 10	Pukekohe High School Exchange at MRGS
July	Thursday 3	Senior Report Evening
	Friday 4	END OF TERM 2 - Closing time 3.10pm
TERM 3		
July	Tuesday 22 (Monday 21 Teacher only day)	BEGINNING OF TERM 3
TERM DATES 2008		
Term 1	Monday 4 February	Friday 18 April
Term 2	Monday 5 May	Friday 4 July
Term 3	Tuesday 22 July (Monday 21 – Teacher only day)	Friday 26 September
Term 4	Monday 13 October	Friday 12 December