



MOUNT ROSKILL GRAMMAR SCHOOL

**FEBRUARY
2014**

NEWSLETTER

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Nga mihi nui ki a koutou

It has been an enjoyable and focused start to the 2014 school year at Mount Roskill Grammar School. Our students have settled quickly to their learning and there is a purposeful rhythm to daily life in the school.

Thank you to families who have come along to the various evenings – for Year 9 students, NCEA information and Year 11 mentoring. It has been great to meet together and focus on the learning and achievement of students.

Examination results for 2013 were again excellent. Congratulations to:

Hannah Yang who is the top New Zealand scholar in Accounting.

Sohail Abdulla who is the top New Zealand Scholar in Technology.

Hannah and Sohail will receive awards at the Governor General's Ceremony in Wellington in May.

NCEA results were also pleasing with best ever pass rate in NCEA Level 1 and Level 1 literacy and best ever excellence endorsement rates at Level 1 and Level 3. The percentage of students leaving school with NCEA Level 2 and with UE remains above national averages. Detailed results are given later in the newsletter.

The co-curricular programme is well underway and summer sports are in full swing. We encourage each student to take up at least one activity in addition to classroom learning. Involvement in co-curricular teams or groups allows students to interact with a wider range of their peers, contributes to development of personal qualities such as persistence and responsibility to others and most importantly is a lot of fun.

I'm looking forward to a year in which each student commits to challenges, does their best and has an attitude of learning and improving.

Sursum!

Greg Watson, **PRINCIPAL**



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Phone: 621-0050
Website: www.mrgs.school.nz

Frost Road
Mount Roskill
Auckland 1041



FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Talofa Lava,

On behalf of the Board of Trustees I would like to welcome all parents, caregivers, students and staff back to the school year for 2014.

To be entirely honest with you I wasn't too sure what on earth I would write in the first newsletter of the year. Another board member suggested I tell you all a little bit about what the board does and how it functions. I am new to the trustee role and am still figuring out *exactly* what it is the board does—so the lawyer in me decided there was no better way to explain our function than by way of legislative definition.

The Board is responsible for the management of the school and this is enshrined in section 75 of the Education Act 1989. To drill it down to a conceptual level, we are responsible for the governance of the school whereas the Principal and the Senior Leadership Team are responsible for the management of the school.

The Board has now had its first meeting of the year and we are looking forward to a busy and challenging year. At the same time, we are also anticipating hearing about school-wide success and are focusing on how we as a Board can encourage the school to do better, and be better. The Board is also looking forward to implementing the school's strategic vision, assisting in materialisation of our property vision and ensuring the school continues to live up to its maxim of "*to the heights*" in every sense of the phrase.

I would like to remind parents and caregivers that the Board welcomes you to all meetings, and these times and dates can be found on the school's website. Contact details for Board members are also listed on the school's website, and I encourage parents to get in touch with members of the Board whether it be to celebrate success, or relay concerns. We are here to represent you, so please don't hesitate to get in touch with any one of us.

To assist you in getting to know us a bit better you can expect to hear from us in every newsletter. To kick off this "getting to know the board" process, we will be profiling a Board member in each newsletter. Our first trustee being featured is Vijay Parulkar. I hope you enjoy getting to know him a bit more.

Yours sincerely, **Kima Tuialii**, Trustee

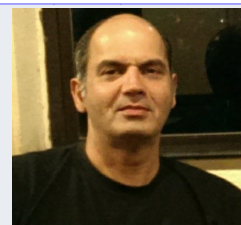
Board Member Profile - Name: Vijay Parulkar

For a living I...stare at the computer most of my day analysing information that can be mundane or highly sensitive, no two days are alike at Customs.....but come evening I am a busy family man, an occasional chef (a put together not a creator type), and a long distance runner...

I wanted to be on the Board because...I prefer to get stuck in rather than be a bystander in shaping the future of our children and the community.....I believe next to the home environment the school influences and determines how the child will stand up to the rigors in the real world...Having two children (one current student) go through our school has reinforced the drive to be involved...

What you can expect from me...An upfront analytical approach to ensure the best outcomes at all times...

One of the things I love the most about Mount Roskill is...Mainly the dynamic community but also the sights, the sounds and the smells (aromas from the diverse cuisines)...





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		Mrs S. Singh
Years 11 and 12	Mrs M. Brightmore Mrs S Singh		
Your child's relationships with students and staff— Pastoral welfare			
House Deans — (Head of Deans = Mr D. Williams)			
Blue House	Mrs S. Cave Mr. G Taunga	Orange House	Ms F. Leigh Mr. D Garraway
Red House	Mrs M. Cranch Mr A Ferguson	Yellow House	Ms. V Earl Mr. R Subramaniyan
Green House	Mr D. Williams Mr D Mc Gerty		
Your child's attendance			
Attendance Officer	Mrs E. Hyland		
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	Deputy Principals		
Blue House	Mr K. Hall		
Red House	Mrs. J Small		
Green House	Mrs. K. Collins		
Orange House	Mr. A Gipps		
Yellow House	Ms. K. Thomas		

PARENTAL CONTRIBUTION

Thank you to families who have paid their donation. Your support really makes a big difference!

We are using the money given to purchase learning technology equipment for students. If you are able to make a contribution for this year it would be greatly appreciated. Parental contributions can be made by contacting our Accounts department on **621 0050 extension 755**.

Direct credit facilities area available. Parental donations are tax deductible.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

TERM DATES

Term Dates 2014

Term	First Day of term	Last Day of term
Term 1	Tuesday 28th January	Thursday 17th April
Term 2	Monday 5th May	Friday 4th July
Term 3	Monday 21st July	Friday 26th September
Term 4	Monday 13th October	Tuesday 9th December

TERM 1— EVENTS

TERM ONE			
March 5th	Junior Swimming Carnival	March 27	Junior Report Evening
March 11-14	Inter-House Hockey Competition	March 28	Blood Donation Day
March 12—15	ASB Polyfest	April 7	Senior Progress Reports Issued
March 17	School Holiday	April 10	Senior Report Evening
March 20	Excellence Awards Evening	April 17	End of Term One
March 21	Junior Progress Reports Issued	April 18	Good Friday

DETAILS OF COMING EVENTS..

Junior Swimming Carnival - Wednesday March 5th—Years 9 and 10 will be involved in a house competition in the swimming pool. It's a fun afternoon of physical activity in the water—swimming, wading, piggy-backing—to win house points.

ASB Polyfest - Wednesday 12th to Saturday 15th March—The annual celebratory competition for Cultural groups held at the Manukau Velodrome—our groups Tongan, Samoan and Maori are practising with their usual vigour and we expect a great four days of celebration.

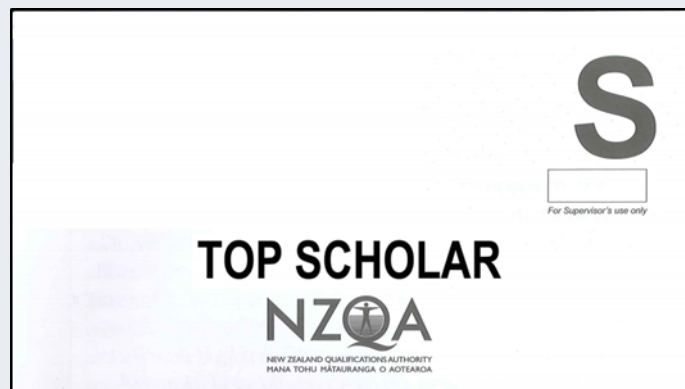
Excellence Awards —Thursday 20th March—our annual event showcasing NCEA success. Students who gained Excellence endorsements in last year's NCEA examinations will attend with their families and receive school badges and certificates honoring their fine academic achievement. Our guest presenter this year is Mr Bas Barriball recently retired Principal of Mount Roskill Intermediate.



NEW ZEALAND SCHOLARSHIP EXAMINATION SUCCESSES

The school's record of achievement in the premier national examination continued with two top scholar awards and 34 individual scholarships across 11 subject areas with 9 of the scholarships being at Outstanding level.

Hannah Yang was the top scholar in Accounting and Sohail Abdulla gained the top scholar award for Technology. Diana Ng also gained 5 scholarships two of them at outstanding level. These students have capped a successful final year at Roskill with these excellent results. Hannah was the Dux of the school in 2013 and Diana was Proxime Accessit. Sohail's result in the scholarship examination culminates a year in which he has received many accolades for his technological innovation and application.



Proxime Accessit Diana Ng and Dux Hannah Yang pictured at last year's Senior Prize giving



Sohail is congratulated by Technology teacher Mr Ferguson and Electronics teacher Mr Collis.

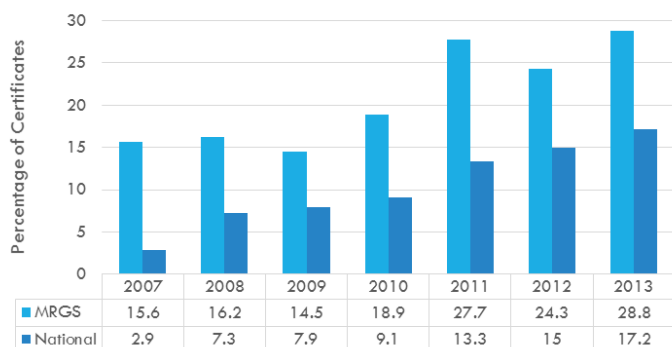
SCHOLARSHIP RESULTS (O-SCHOL = OUTSTANDING SCHOLARSHIP)

Asheer	Ahmad	SCHL - Chemistry	Savidurru	Mohan	SCHL - Chemistry
Akshat	Chugh	O-SCHL - English	Jackson	Chan	SCHL - Statistics
Alice	Ng	SCHL - Chemistry	Victor	Xie	SCHL - Chemistry
Ayesha	Nadat	SCHL - Classical Studies	Diana	Ng	O-SCHL - English
Cassandra	Khoo	O-SCHL - Accounting	Diana	Ng	SCHL - Biology
Cassandra	Khoo	SCHL - Design	Diana	Ng	SCHL - Chemistry
Cheuk	Chow	SCHL - Music	Diana	Ng	SCHL - Statistics
Janelle	Fernandes	SCHL - Classical Studies	Diana	Ng	O-SCHL - Accounting
Junning	Huang	SCHL - Design	Xin Yi	Ou	SCHL - Biology
Megumi	Takagi	SCHL - Japanese	Xin Yi	Ou	SCHL - Chemistry
Narasimha	Yellapantula	O-SCHL - Technology	Xin Yi	Ou	SCHL - Classical Studies
Peiling	Su	O-SCHL - Accounting	Geon-Hoo	Park	SCHL - Statistics
Peiqiong	Su	O-SCHL - Accounting	Yun Hua	Wang	SCHL - Statistics
Rohan	Modak	SCHL - Technology	Hannah	Yang	O-SCHL - Accounting
Sohail	Abdulla	O-SCHL - Technology	Mark	Yep	SCHL - Chemistry
Sunil	Penumarthy	SCHL - Biology	Ji Hyun	Kim	SCHL - Biology
Yin-Tuan	Pang	SCHL - Biology	Lerong	Cai	SCHL - Chinese



INCREASE IN MRGS EXCELLENCE ENDORSEMENTS FOR 2013 EXAMINATIONS

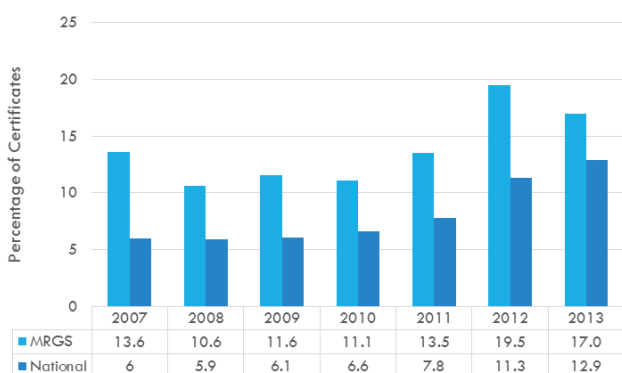
NCEA Level 1 Excellence Endorsements



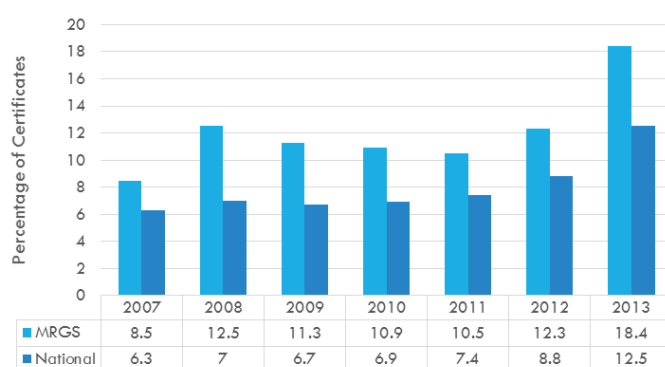
Once again the school achieved numbers of Excellence endorsements far above those nationally.

At Levels 1 and 3 we surpassed our 2012 results and continued the outstanding achievement across a range of subjects that the endorsements represent.

NCEA Level 2 Excellence Endorsements



NCEA Level 3 Excellence Endorsements



STUDENTS WITH EXCELLENCE ENDORSEMENT AT LEVEL 1

Heidi Taruki	Judd Gunawardana	Vilia Neil	Li Soriano	Zi Yuan Azarm	Tee Yadgari	Ishani Korine	Oza Rosario
Xiao Cheng	Zhang	Bryan	Busby	Kaaj	Pala	Karen	Ho
Hasnain	Cheena	Amanda	Galea	Timothy	Van der Leoff	Shweta	Sharma
Abin	Thomas	Rainal	Shandil	Benny	Chun	Iqra	Khan
Chloe	Haigh	Amal	Chandra	Srishaa	Iyer	Shurui	Li
Nathan	McDougall	Venkata	Mallela	Prashanthi	Balakeyan	Mike	Qiu
Raymond	Wang	Raymond	Tong	Phillip	Quach	Yvette	Raju
Joyce	Wong	Xinlin	Zhu	Parneet	Kohli	Ziyan	Liu
Ziwei	Zhuang	Jenny	Lee	Dhairya	Trivedi	Tiana	Tuialii
Wencong	Zhou	Stephen	Njoto	Juhaina	Mascarenhas	Cheuk	Chow
Joel	Raichur	Ethan	Bell	Ankur	Dakwale	Jairaj	Modak
Minrui	Yang	Uwin	Lewke Bandara	Dweep	Kapadia	Pia	Puertollano
Gandhar	Paranjape	Salina	Dhungel	Pebble	Varela	Abhay	Vaidya
Pooja	Patel	Sumiya	Nadat	Ka Wing	Law	Yunshi	Wu
Huan Zhou	Wang	Akshata	Rao	Thanushan	Thanababu	Liam	Ellis
Shreshta	Dyavadi	Lusi	Yu	Zoe	Brown	Austin	Lonie
Shaizan	Virani	Tania	Grover	Rayner	Rebello	Reuben	Alfred
Arun	Ravindran	Keren	Smith	Yug	Trivedi	Zi Xuan	Huang
Gowthami	Sreedharanath	Lianne	Chacko	Kashyap	Choudhary	Rachael	Simon
Aman	Dwivedi	Archit	Chopra	Tamana	Zamani		
Hugh	Huang	Jia Yi	Liu	Ritika	Fernandes		



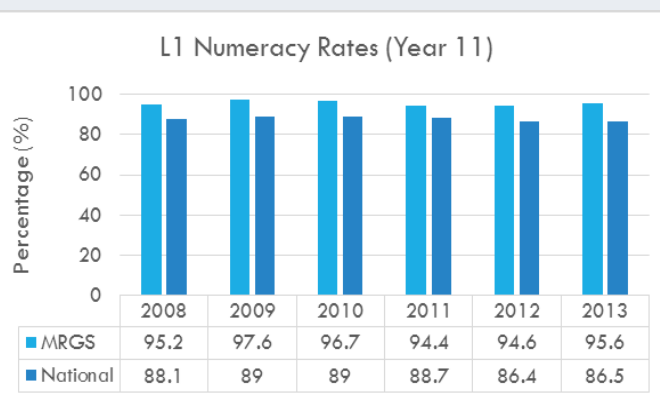
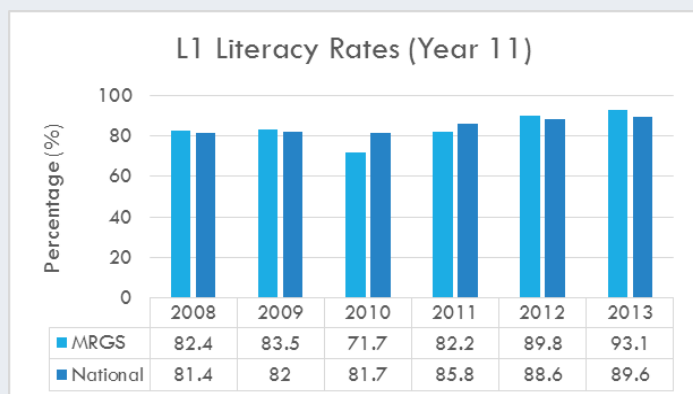
STUDENTS WITH EXCELLENCE ENDORSEMENT AT LEVEL 2

Mildred Katherine	Wong Sung	Jack Celine	Dai Fung	Kavita Romina	Sharma Seylani	Sindhu Sara	Singamneni Li
Alice Victor	Ng Xie	Neha Diana	Kolhe Qiu	Elanor Solomon	Mulrennan Penny	Peiwen Venkat	Du Prakash
Lucy Jiantao	Yan Shen	Mark Benjamin	Yep Varkey	Jonathan Nirovana	Yeoh Satkunarajah	Victoria Mary-Jane	Mulrennan Hyder
Lizanne Prayas	Gomes Bhutani	Praveen Sandra	Krishna Mathew	Jamish Adil	Kant Bhayani	Ken Juri	Hendricks Han
Savidurru Puja	Mohan Sharma	Kushal Theodore	Prakash Loretz	Kelly Priyam	Kwan Varma	Shaam	Prakash

STUDENTS WITH EXCELLENCE ENDORSEMENT AT LEVEL 3

Hannah Zhan	Yang Xiong	Jessica Akshat	Allan Chugh	Xiao Wei Sophie	Luo Galea	Sushmitha Jackson	Deshpande Chan
Diana Meghna	Ng Shelke	Kamshika Malhar	Umasuthan Shah	Lerong Xin Yi	Cai Ou	Priti Jiahui	Chand Lao
Cassandra Akshay	Khoo Jagmohan	Kayne Yun-Hua	Deng Wang	Sheril Carmen	James Ng	Sukhkriti Nikhil	Mehta Gupta
Asheer Yu-Hsuan	Ahmad Hung	Adriene Simran	Grafia Sandhu	Peiqiong Archana	Su Ravichandran	Braidon Theresa	Walsh Carbines
Yuting Narasimha	Zhao Yellapantula	Geon-Hoo Neha	Park Mamidi	Ayesha Daisy	Nadat Hsu	Jay Zihao	Pandya Guan
Peiling	Su	Brendan	Lim	Rui	Huang		

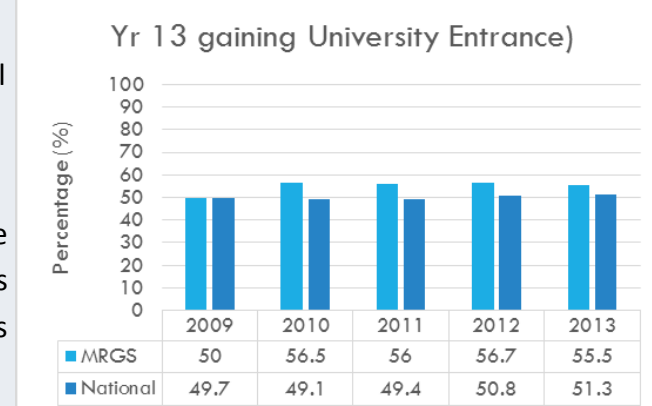
LITERACY AND NUMERACY RESULTS AT LEVEL 1



There was continued success with increasing rates of Year 11 students gaining Literacy and Numeracy— well above the national average in both areas

Y13 UNIVERSITY ENTRANCE

Year 13 students gaining University Entrance have continued to be above national average. UE rates have been maintained in spite of changes made to its requirements.





2014 STUDENT LEADERSHIP—PREFECTS

It was with great pleasure at the start of the term that Mr Watson announced the appointment of our Head Prefects for 2014. **Hayden Couper** has taken the post of Head Boy and **Mildred Wong** is Head Girl. Deputy Head Girl is **Hanna Davidson** and Deputy Head Boy **Praveen Krishna**. These four able young people have earned the respect of staff and students throughout their years at Roskill and will ably lead the Prefects of 2014 in addition to representing the values of the school. On behalf of our community we wish to thank them for accepting these important roles and wish them the very best for the year.



Mildred, Praveen, Hayden and Hanna with Mr Watson



Our Head Prefects lead a 40 strong team of committed students who have already developed a strong working relationship at their Camp in December. They will take a leading role in the student community, assisting with school events, their own major fund raising project and generally embodying in their practice our vision for active responsible citizens.

MRGS PREFECTS—2014

Alysha	Ali	Pearl	Handa	Eleanor	Mulrennan	Jiantao	Shen
Lorraine	Brown	Ken	Hendricks	Victoria	Mulrennan	Ji Hoon	Shin
Samuel	Christensen	Livai	Holani	Solomon	Penny	Katherine	Sung
Timothy	Coldham	Nicholas	Jacques	Kushal	Prakash	Daniel	Walls
Hayden	Couper	Junior	Kasiano	Shaam	Prakash	Emily	Watt
Hanna	Davidson	Lina	Kavaliku	Venkat	Prakash	Mildred	Wong
Matthew	Deverell	Neha	Kolhe	Diana	Qiu	Victor	Xie
Nuobelle	Fong	Praveen	Krishna	Riddhima	Rao	Lucy	Yan
Lizanne	Gomes	Theo	Loretz	Romina	Seylani	Mark	Yep
Juliet	Han	Ilaisaane	Mafi	Ishank	Sharma	Angela	Zhao



OUR MENTORING AND TRACKING PROGRAMME



This year we are working to strengthen our work in mentoring students and developing processes to track student progress and achievement more closely during the course of the year. Last year our Year 11 NCEA results improved significantly and the mentoring programme contributed to lifting the results.

Our key focus for Mentoring is placed with our Year 11 students as they are entering the New Zealand Qualification system.

Our mentors (staff) support mentees (students) by having regular conversations with them about their learning, when their assessments are, how to prepare for these assessments and then a next step learning goal is written. The mentor will have at least THREE conversations with their mentee each term to find out how mentees are progressing towards their goal and what support is needed.

One of the important parts of mentoring which contributes to overall student success is the face-to-face conversation between parents, the mentor and the mentee. We want to be sure you are aware how your son/daughter is progressing each term.

Thank you to those parents who came into school on the 18th February for the first Parent Conference. The dates for the next conferences are: Thursday, 5th June 2014 and Tuesday 12 August 2014. The conferences run from 4pm -6.20pm.

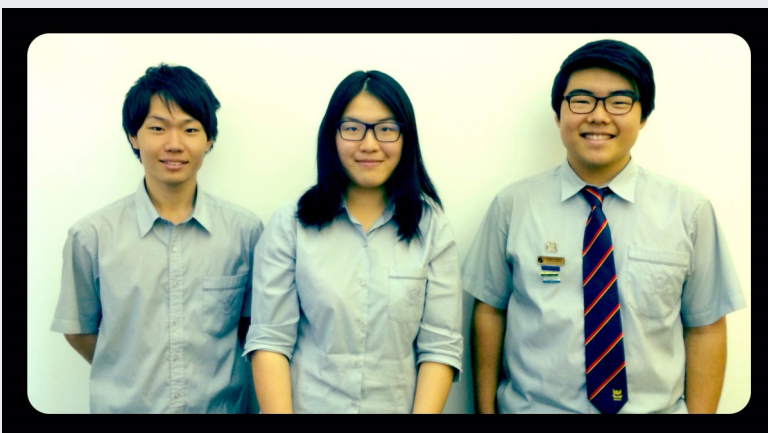
If you are not sure who is mentoring your YEAR 11 child please ring the school office.

We look forward to working alongside you as we work together to help your son/daughter achieve their very best this year.

Julie Small

Deputy Principal

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT LEADERS FOR 2014



The school's international student leaders for 2014 are Ting Yi Liao , Hiroki Hoshino and Ji Hoon Shin.

Ting Yi is the Chinese International Leader; Hiroki the Japanese International Leader and Ji Hoon will be leading the Korean International students.

These students assist new International students to settle into NZ school life and assist with language translation and mentoring.



MRGS SPORTS NEWS

Athletics Championship

Our top athletes took part in the Athletics Championship on Wednesday 19th February with the aim of being school champions and also qualifying for Central Zone. Overall we had 93 students enter to take part.

JUNIOR BOYS	JUNIOR GIRLS	INTERMEDIATE BOYS	INTERMEDIATE GIRLS
1 st Easley Brown	1 st Sadaf Faghriyar	1 st = Joshua Simmons	1 st Tabitha Kilisimasi
2 nd Malu Howard	2 nd Leilani Fuikefu	1 st = Jacob Ata	2 nd Angie Vakalahi
3 rd Connor Pule	3 rd Esther Ayoade	3 rd Nathan McDougall	3 rd Karishma Kumar
SENIOR BOYS	SENIOR GIRLS		
1 st Chrisanto Carvalho	1 st Mandie Galea		
2 nd Aloisio Lui	2 nd Juhaina Mascarenhas		
	3 rd Nightingale Sapoi		

Swimming Championship

The Swimming Championships took place on Thursday 20th February. Well done to all students who took part and those that went to Central Zone the week after. The results from Central Zone will be in the next newsletter.

JUNIOR BOYS	JUNIOR GIRLS	INTERMEDIATE BOYS	INTERMEDIATE GIRLS
1 st Daniel Jose	1 st Anna Greaves	1 st Thorneton Taufelila	1 st Ellen Bingham
2 nd Sam Cartwright	2 nd Madison Poingdestre	2 nd Connor Gibson	2 nd Mabel Li
3 rd = Stephen Brooks	3 rd Thea Dickson	3 rd Zach Reardon	3 rd Lauren Mould
3 rd = Jamie Gibson			
SENIOR BOYS	SENIOR GIRLS		
1 st Kevin Chow	1 st Victoria Mulrennan		
2 nd Solomon Penny	2 nd Diana Qiu		
3 rd Nicholas Jacques	3 rd Eleanor Mulrennan		

Cricket

The 1st XI Boys have had a mixed start to the season. After losing six Year 13 students at the end of 2013 the team has been rebuilt with many new faces. In their normal season games they have lost 3 games and won 1. In the Gillette Cup (a mid-week knockout competition) they have excelled and are currently up to the semi final stage. Outstanding batting from Oyishik Chakraboorty and Balu Mallela as well as cameo innings from others has meant the team has progressed well in this competition.



MRGS SPORTS NEWS — CONTINUED

Summer Sports

Summer sports are beginning to get underway and we have teams competing in Athletics, Cricket, Dragon Boating, Orienteering, Softball, Swimming, Tennis, Touch, Volleyball and Waterpolo. We encourage all of our students to take part in some sort of sport or recreation activity as a way of gaining the necessary exercise needed to be healthy, playing in hard but always fair competition with other schools, and socialising with friends. Our top sports teams and academies are always aiming for first place in their grades, however, we still encourage all students to take part in other teams as both participation and competition are important.

Thank you very much to the teachers, support staff, parents and caregivers for their involvement as coaches and managers with these teams. We are always willing to have parental, ex-students and community member involvement in all sports. If you would like to assist in some way please contact Ben Horne (Director of Sport) on 621 0050 ext 891 or ben.horne@mrqs.school.nz. If you want to keep up to date with a teams progress then all results and draws are on the College Sport website.

Winter Sports

These are beginning to start their pre-season training and some have already trialled. The sport and recreation activities available in winter are Badminton, Basketball, Cross Country Running, Duke of Edinburgh, Football, Gymnastics, Hockey, Lacrosse, Netball, Rock Climbing, Rugby, Rugby League, Snow Sport, Special Olympics, Squash, Table Tennis, Trampolining and Waterpolo. Your son/daughter should keep an eye out on the student notices read out in form class every morning (except Wednesday) for meeting and trial dates.

NCEA INFORMATION EVENING

The school recently held its annual NCEA Information Evening at which Ms Thomas Deputy Principal responsible for assessment and Mr Parratt, the school's NZQA Principal's Nominee outlined the system of NCEA, NZQA registration and our school's assessment procedures. The evening was well attended and gave an opportunity for parents to ask questions about assessment. The powerpoint shown at the evening is available to view at [NCEA Evening Presentation](#). If you have any concerns about assessment—please contact Ms K. Thomas at the school by ringing 621-0050 or e-mailing to

admin@mrqs.school.nz with 'Ms Thomas—assessment' in the subject line.

The school's assessment information handbook containing full information on contacts, systems and procedures can be consulted on this link [Assessment MRGS 2014](#).

PARENTS OF NEW STUDENTS EVENING

It was a pleasure to welcome the parents and caregivers of students new to MRGS at a recent evening meeting. Mr Watson and other members of the Senior Leadership team outlined aspects of the school systems and gave an introduction to elements of our academic and pastoral support. At the close of the evening parents were able to meet with the House Deans of their child and chat over tea and biscuits. Details of various school contacts mentioned at the evening can be found on [Page 3](#) of this newsletter





SHARED HISTORIES PROJECT

This year marks 100 years since the beginning of the First World War. To commemorate the involvement of New Zealand in Northern France, Mr Simpson and a team of students from MRGS will be collaborating with our sister school, Lycée Jean XXIII in Normandy, as part of the Shared Histories Project. In November 2013 we were privileged to host French Minister M. Kader Arif, Ambassador M. Laurent Contini and other dignitaries at MRGS to launch this project.



Young Ambassador—Theo Loretz



Above: Theo Loretz with Ambassador Laurent Contini

Our congratulations to Year 13 student Theo Loretz who has been accepted as a Young Ambassador to France. This July he will travel to North Eastern France to participate in WW1 commemoration events, visit historical and cultural sites and make contact with the people of this region. Theo and other students from around the world who have been selected as Young Ambassadors will also have the honour of representing their country during the official parade down the Champs-Élysées in Paris to open the commemorations on Bastille Day.

SCHOOL ATHLETICS CARNIVAL

On Thursday 13th February we held our annual Athletics Carnival. All Year 9-12 students took part in the various activities that were supervised by some of our Year 13 leaders. The Carnival went excellently with all houses competing well to win the first competition of the year. The lead changed hands various times throughout the afternoon, however the eventual winners were Green House. Orange were 2nd, Blue and Red 3rd equal and Yellow in 5th place.





DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD PREPARATION

In the summer holidays two groups of year 13 students tramped around Lake Waikaremoana as a practice hike toward the Gold Duke of Edinburgh Hillary Award. Over 4 days the students walked over 46 km, climbed almost 600 metres up to Panekiri Bluff, and practised their map reading skills while carrying heavy packs (the record was 23 kg!) A highlight was the extra hour's walk to the 22 metre high Korokoro Falls.

The following students displayed resilience, persistence, team spirit and good humour: Mildred Wong, Hanna Davidson, Praveen Krishna, Mark



Yep, Shivay Singh, Savi Mohan, Diana Qiu, Dianca Mitchell, Romina Seylani, Juliet Han, Sara Li, Jenny Kim, Nuobelle Fong, Lizanne Gomes, Nicholas Jacques, Venkat Prakash, Theo Loretz and Priyam Varma. Miss Dekker—the Roskill staff member who led the party was very proud of the way the students interacted with members of the public, and a number of fellow trampers complimented the groups on their organisation and hut etiquette.

POWHIRI FOR NEW STUDENTS

The school formally welcomed the 2014 year 9 and other new students on the first day of school in January. The ceremony marked the start of their journey of learning and citizenship in our educational community.

The new students assembled on the main field and were then called into the hall where the Kapa Haka group and the year 13s performed a haka powhiri. They were then koreroed by our Kaumatua Ted Ratana who reminded them of the proud educational and social whakapapa of Mount Roskill Grammar School.

The Principal, Mr Watson then spoke to the students welcoming them also to our whanau. After speeches and a reply from the Y9 Manuhiri represented by the Academic Dean Mr Hays, they were directed to their first house assemblies of the year where they met their form teachers and House Deans. Together with the Y13s in their form class the new students then spent the rest of the day becoming acquainted with school systems, buildings and teachers.





GATEWAY PROGRAMME 2014

Applications are now open for our 2014 Gateway programme.

GATEWAY is open to Year 13 students to progress from school to the workplace. It provides students with structured workplace learning, across a wide range of industries and businesses, while they continue to study at school.

We have work placements available including banking, hospitality, nursing, retail, sport and recreation, tourism, engineering, police, education, childcare etc.

GATEWAY is funded by the Tertiary Education Commission (TEC) so it is FREE to students!

Is GATEWAY for you?

- Are you a Year 13 Student at Mt Roskill Grammar School?
- Do you have a good attendance record?
- Are you ready to enter the working world but want some experience first?
- Can you keep up to date with academic studies while on placement?
- Do you have a desire to explore a particular career path?
- Do you have the approval and support from parents?



For more information on GATEWAY check out our website <http://www.mrgs.school.nz/ourschool/gateway.aspx>

Application forms are available from the MRGS website, Facebook, Mrs Payne (Room H4), outside the Deans Centre and Mrs Matthews-Ward in the Computing department. Applications close on **Friday 14th March 2014**.

For more information on Gateway please see Mrs Payne in H5A, Ms Matthews-Ward in the Computing department or email gateway@mrgs.school.nz

NEW STAFF JOINING THE SCHOOL

At Roskill the heart of our achievement is the quality of our teachers and it has been pleasing to welcome new staff who have joined us this year. They bring a range of experience and the commitment to teaching and learning of the highest level.

Mr C. Chellew	Physical Education	Mr S Mohenoa	English
Mrs D. Dunchie-Coley	English Second Language	Mrs K Orr	Mathematics
Ms. Sarah Krieg	English	Mr R. Ringwood	HOD Technology
Sister. F. Lemisio	Languages	Miss J Ruri	Maori
Ms K Ma	Mathematics	Mrs R Rylands	Guidance
Mr. Suli Moa	Performing Arts	Mr M Windsor	Social Sciences



PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical Education is a compulsory subject at Mt Roskill Grammar from year 9 – 12 where all students have two periods per week. All students are expected to wear correct PE uniform for all lessons. Please ensure your son/daughter has their uniform clearly named in full. No school sports uniforms are to be worn for PE.

We all know the benefits of exercise and eating properly, we have read it, most of us have acted on it, yet we still get many parents signing letters to get their child excused from PE. Please think about what you are doing before signing – there are many things in life we do not feel like doing but most often, once we have done them we are glad we did.

If your child is well enough to be at school then they can still take part in some of the PE lesson. The Physical Education curriculum area is often referred to as having the most valuable skills you can learn for life – by learning; teamwork, sportsmanship, peer friendships, cooperation, leadership, self esteem, self confidence, personal identity and self worth and even though students maybe fully involved in sport outside of school they can still benefit in these areas during PE.



Interpersonal skills: Respect for diversity and cultures, care and concern for others, social justice, communication skills, tolerance. These are some of qualities we want to install in our students as well as being physically active.

Most of these benefits are not measurable but clearly lead to a more production and healthy life style.

As parents we hope you can help us to help you install these skills in your child while they attend Mt Roskill Grammar so please next time your son/daughter asks for a note to be excused from Physical Education you may think twice Physical Education is no different to any other subject – you wouldn't think of asking your child to be excused from Maths or English, why PE?

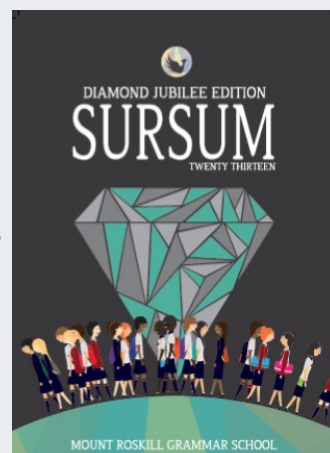
Are you child's medical records with the school up to date, has their PE teacher been informed of any medical issues that might need to be recognised in a PE class?

After trialing a new initiative last year we are asking all students in Health and Physical Education to enrol on our class learning sites on Edmodo. Students have been given all the information needed to enrol in this, and we look forward to sharing parental access in the future.

Please contact **Mrs Bennett HOD Physical Education ext 824** if you have any areas in the Physical Education curriculum you would like to discuss.

ARA LODGE ANNUAL ART AWARDS EVENING

Last month Cassandra Khoo received an Ara Lodge scholars arts award at the ninth annual ceremony. Her award worth \$1250 was presented at a marvelous evening in the Auckland City lodge building. This award is one of the 25 each year presented to the top arts students in Auckland city schools. Each student's portfolio was on display at the function and Cassandra's design expertise was represented by her concept process as principal designer for this last year's 60th Jubilee edition of 'Sursum'. Cassandra is now studying Graphic Design at tertiary level.





GENERAL INFORMATION AND REMINDERS FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS

UNIFORM

MRGS regulation uniform is the only school uniform that may be worn and the uniform requirements are available on our school website. If you have any concerns or queries, please contact Mrs Collins on 621 0050. For security purposes please ensure your child's uniform is clearly named.

SECOND HAND UNIFORM

Year 11 going in to year 12? Outgrown your uniform? If you have second hand uniform to sell, collect a card from the Deans' Centre and it will be posted in the Deans' Centre window for three weeks. Transactions are conducted between buyer and seller, not through the school.

UNIFORM SHOP HOURS

The MRGS uniform shop is open Mondays and Thursdays from 8.00 am to 9.00am and 3.00pm to 4.00pm.

ATTENDANCE

Teachers mark their roll on the computer every period. This allows us to monitor attendance statistics for both individual and groups of students more frequently and closely. If you have any concerns about attendance or want to report an absence, please phone Mrs Hyland, Attendance Officer, on 621 0069 or email attendance@mrqs.school.nz Please phone on the morning of your child's first day of absence. Students are expected to be in every class on time in order to be successful powerful learners. Parents/caregivers awaiting their password to access the **parent portal** in order to view attendance this will be posted to you shortly.

BULLYING

At MRGS we have zero tolerance for bullying.

We use restorative practices to ensure that victims have a voice. We aim to heal the harm while endeavouring to change the wrongdoer's behaviour. In some cases the senior leadership team will need to extend our response beyond a restorative approach.

We also have a range of staff able to assist students if they have any concerns...

Students should not hesitate to contact their house dean in the Deans' Centre.

Alternatively they are welcome to make an appointment with one of our counsellors (counsellor appointments can be made before school or at break times through Mrs Pace at student services or via facebook). For details of counsellors and Deans see [Page 3](#) of this newsletter.

CONTACT DETAILS

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



ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENTS

NEW YEAR'S HONOURS AWARDS FOR THREE FORMER ROSKILL STUDENTS

Our community began 2014 with some excellent news when the New Year's Honours announcements listed three Queen's Service Medal (QSM) awards to ex- Roskill students.



Manoj Daji

Mervyn Ah Chee was given his award for services to hospitality and the community. Mervyn is also a strong supporter of the Sursum Foundation and married to Quieta also a past pupil of our school.

Manoj Daji received his for services to sport and education. Manoj is a former Headboy ,1st X1 Captain and assists the Sursum Foundation whenever he is able.

Mark Christopher Grantham gained his honour for services to the community. He was an inspiration as a student and has continued that into adulthood. He is a notable presence on Newmarket's Broadway selling chocolate for his many sponsored World Vision children.

BARISTA COFFEE ART CHAMPION GAINS FURTHER AWARDS

At the end of his Y13 course in Catering and Hospitality Sam Low was admitted to do an apprenticeship through Sky City and after that he went on specializing as a 'Barista' .

Sam took part in many competitions, the first of which was in 2009 while he was still at school, at MIT he gained our first Gold Medal for our school during the 'Barista Training Competition'. He was involved in further Barista competitions and in 2013 his achievements were:

The Meadowfresh NZ latte art competition, 1st place as NZ Latte Art Champion 2013

The 'International Latte Art Competition' held in Nice in 2013, where he achieved the 6th place in the world.

Sam has continued up-skilling himself and working in some of the most sought after Cafes in Auckland. He has also judged a number of competitions and returned to the school in recent years to assist the Food Technology Department by kindly volunteering his time in demonstrating his skills to Hospitality students when they are preparing for the MIT 'Barista Training Competitions'



This year Sam has opened his own 'little' café in Newmarket called 'Bump'. This tiny café is located in Kent St- behind the front building, nestled inside a newly renovated walkway.



KIWI COACHES SCHOOL BUS SERVICE FROM PAPATOETOE

Kiwi Coaches has started the school bus from Papatoetoe to both Mt Roskill Grammar and Intermediate —

Details from the company below:

Bus starts from Papatoetoe (Old) bus stop on Station Rd opposite the railway station 7.20am

Along Station Rd to Portage Rd and into Bucklands Rd

To Robertson Rd , Favona Rd, Miller Rd

Wallace Rd around Mangere Mountain to Muir Ave,

Yorkton Rise, Kiwi Esplanade, Church Rd and onto M/way . Off at Hillsborough

They can get off at Queenstown Rd and double back to Royal Oak if required and along Mt Albert Rd

They use the bus stop on Carr Rd just before the roundabout

They start from this bus stop for the afternoon run and do the run opposite to the above.



MRGS FUNDRAISING

In 2014 we have a number of fundraising projects and events planned.

If we want that Hockey turf and sports pavilion we need to fundraise.

So this year we have already had a BBQ at Bunnings. Thank you to those people who assisted with that event.

These are some of the events that we have planned:

- Guest speakers for parents with a wine and cheese evening
- Quiz nights
- Workathon
- Diwali night,
- Cross country fundraising



[Photo courtesy of the Central Leader]

As with all fundraising we need your assistance so please contact me if you wish to help.

We also need assistance with bigger fundraising events to bring in those \$20,000 in one event. If you have ideas on how to do this please contact

Marjet Pot on 021977201 or Judith Bingham 6259285

Marjet Pot

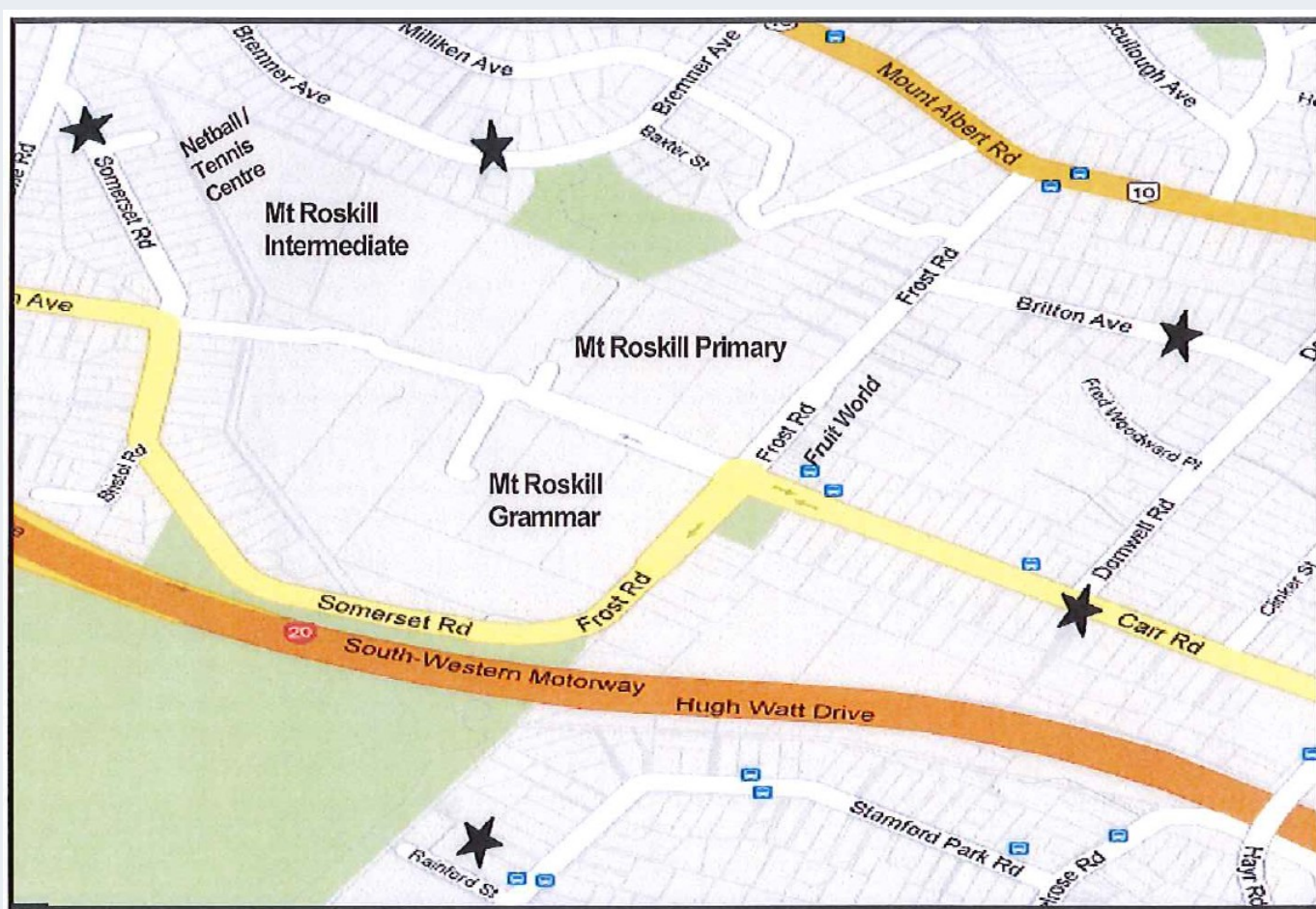


PICK UP AND DROP OFF INFORMATION FOR CAMPUS SCHOOLS

In the interests of student safety on the roads around the school we have printed below the details of suggested safe pickup and drop off places that the three campus schools are encouraging families to use.

Rainford Street	Carr Road	Britton Avenue	Somerset Road	Bremner Avenue
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- Please use pick up and drop off points away from the school gate.
- Let our students walk to and from these pickup—drop off points.
- Do not use Fruit World or other commercial parking places.
- Do not enter the school drive way for pick up or drop off.





MT ROSKILL GRAMMAR SCHOOL

ADULT COMMUNITY EDUCATION - 2014

Frost Road, Mt Roskill, Auckland 1041 www.mrgs.school.nz (click on "Community Education")

Phone (09) 621 0051 Email: jennifer.carson@mrgs.school.nz Fax: (09) 620 9467

Office Hours: 9am-3pm Monday to Friday.

These Term 1 classes will be starting soon:

Class	Start Date	Time	Duration	Fee
Cloud Storage for Small Business	Tuesday 4 March	7-8.30pm	1 week	\$25
Italian Cooking and Lunch	Saturday 22 March	9.30am- 12.30pm	1 week	\$45 (includes ingredients)
MYOB – Computerised Accounting	Saturday 15 March	9am-4.30pm	2 weeks	\$135
South American Cooking	Monday 17 March	7-9pm	4 weeks	\$58 + \$36 ingredients
Stencil Art and Screen Printing	Saturday 15 March	9am-3pm	1 week	\$95 (includes ink and materials – students bring own fabric)
Sushi	Saturday 15 March	9.30am- 12.30pm	1 week	\$35 + \$20 ingredients

Coming up in Term 2 (starting from 12 May):

Aerobics Pump, Badminton, Ballroom Dancing, Bootcamp, Cake Decorating, Car Maintenance, Chinese Mandarin, Chinese Yum Cha, Computer Maintenance and Repairs, Dressmaking, English as a Second Language, Guitar, House Renovations, Floristry, French Language, Indian Cooking, Indoor Soccer, Mediterranean Cooking, Moroccan Cooking, Painting with Oils, Picture Framing, Pilates, Sign Language, Sorted Money Management, Spanish Language, Toastmasters Speechcraft, Woodwork, Yoga

For more information or to enrol for any of our Term 1 and 2 classes, see the website or contact Jennifer in the Community Education Office.

Please note: You must be a minimum of 16 years to join these classes.

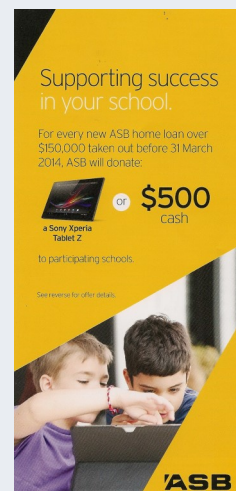


ASB HOME LOAN SCHOOL DONATION SCHEME

For every new ASB home loan over \$150,000 taken out before 31 March 2014 ASB will donate—a Sony Xperia Tablet Z or \$500 Cash to a participating school.

How to claim this offer

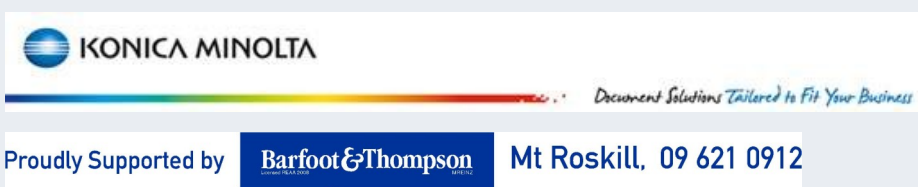
Visit asb.co.nz/sonyforschool to download the voucher. Take it into your local ASB branch when applying for your new home loan. When the loan is drawn down, the school will be able to choose either a tablet or \$500 cash. It's that easy.



SCHOOL SPONSORSHIP

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

Konica Minolta, Libelle and Barfoot & Thompson – Mt Roskill



STUDENT CONCESSIONARY TRAVEL CARD RENEWALS

Secondary student travel concessions on AT HOP cards must be renewed by 31st March this year.

This applies to all students over 15 years of age. For information go to ATHOP.co.nz/studentconcessions

Or phone

— 09366 4467

AT HOP is your one smart card for travel on trains and ferries, and is now rolling out on buses.

To load a secondary student concession and save money when using your AT HOP card, follow these three easy steps:

1. Ensure you have proof of eligibility.

Remember to bring along your current AT Student ID card to prove eligibility when you visit to renew your concession



2. Register your AT HOP card online.

Ensure you have created an account at ATHOP.co.nz/studentconcessions and registered your card.

If you are returning as a student and already have an account, you will need to update it.

This step is mandatory and needs to be completed before applying for or renewing a concession.

3. Load the concession on your AT HOP card.

Visit the special, temporary kiosk for student concession renewals and applications at Aotea Square in the CBD from 24th February 2014 or your nearest AT Customer Service Centres at AUT City Campus (WA Building), Britomart, Newmarket, New Lynn and Papakura Train stations, Smales Farm, Albany and Constellation bus stations, Manukau (Auckland Council Service Centre Building), and Botany Town Centre.

