



MOUNT ROSKILL GRAMMAR SCHOOL

MARCH/APRIL
2014

NEWSLETTER

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Nga mihi nui ki a koutou

It has been a full and purposeful term. One of the highlights has been meeting families at various events focused on supporting and celebrating our students' achievement. Thank you for taking the time to meet with us- be it at one of the Fiafia nights for the polyfest, the NCEA Awards Evening, a mentoring session or a report evening. The more families and teachers work together in supporting next steps in learning; the better the achievement.

Recently I received a letter from the Minister of Education the Hon Hekia Parata which underlines the importance of working together for learning success. She writes-

The NZQA results show that you have made a significant improvement in NCEA Level 1, Level 2 and Level 3 achievement for your Maori and Pasifika student over the last two years. These results are a testament to the hard work being done by the school, its teachers and Board, and your students, their families and whanau to achieve this success.....Mt Roskill Grammar School demonstrates the powerful contribution that quality schools and teachers make to lifting overall student achievement. Well done!

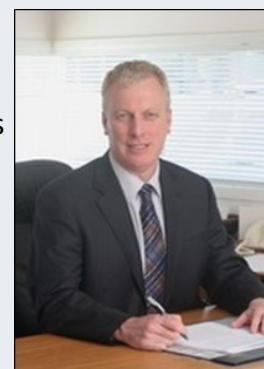
We also recently received a report from ERO who visited the school as part of a national study of successful schools.

An excerpt:

Staff at MRGS hold the belief that students can succeed and they will do so because the culture nurtures them to. MRGS has a central philosophy focusing on positive relationships through clear expectations of respect for others. The expectations are actively promoted, using a range of opportunities and practices in the classroom and across the school. Teachers and school leaders hold high expectations for the achievement of all students. These expectations extend to students' personal presentation and uniform is seen as being important in developing group identity and pride.

Thank you to our teachers, support staff, students and families who are working together to produce successful learners who are active citizens. Ki nga taumata

Greg Watson, **PRINCIPAL**



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FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

One of the things I love most about being on the Board is being able to come back to the place that set the foundation for my path in life and to see through different eyes, how much this school has to give to its students. It's hard to appreciate when you're in the thick of things, busy with internal assessments and all the angst that comes with being at school. But trust me, there's a lot you are able to appreciate when you come back one step removed.

I had the privilege of attending the Fiafia nights for the Tongan and Samoan groups recently and witnessed them in their final stages of preparation for the Polyfest. As I sat there watching countless students perform proudly I felt complete joy as I saw their hard work, pride, sacrifice and satisfaction literally seep out and fill the hall. I noticed tears silently rolling down my cheeks and said to myself quietly (so as not to look like a mad woman) in my head – "*this* is what this school about." I don't think I have ever had a similar moment where I can say I have felt that amount of pride in Mount Roskill Grammar being my alma mater.

So on behalf of the Board I would like to congratulate all the students, teachers and tutors that made the Polyfest possible. I am certain I am not the only person who was enlightened by your performances.

I would also like to extend congratulations to all the students who received Excellence awards at the ceremony last Thursday. Having suffered the pain of NCEA myself I know this is no easy feat. So well done to each and every one of you, the Board looks forward to seeing what you do next!

Staying true to my promise in the first newsletter, the Board member being profiled this month is Irshad Ali. Irshad is a Senior Lecturer in the Faculty of Business at AUT and he brings a great deal of perspective and expertise to the Board. I'm sure you will enjoy getting to know him just as much as I have.

On a separate note, I hope you all get some sort of break over Easter and come back ready to tackle term 2 head on. The Board will be meeting over the school holidays, so don't forget to come along if you want to know what's it's all about. I can't promise any Easter eggs but I can promise you riveting conversation. Until next time!

Yours sincerely,

Kima Tuialii. **Trustee**

Board Member Profile - Name: Irshad Ali

For a living I...work as a senior lecturer in the accounting department in the Faculty of Business and Law at AUT University

I wanted to be on the Board because...my wife literally forced me to put my hand up- just joking. There are several reasons why I wanted to be on the MRGS Board- my passion for community service, my desire to contribute towards education excellence, and to be a voice for the minority communities

What you can expect from me...is a strong commitment to contribute towards the efficient and transparent decision making process of the Board

One of the things I love the most about Mount Roskill is...the humbleness of the people who live in this suburb- down to earth and exceptionally friendly.





MOUNT ROSKILL CAMPUS SCHOOLS AND THE WIDER PUKETĀPAPA COMMUNITY MOURN THE PASSING OF A TREASURED KAUMĀTUA

Earlier this month the grammar school learned of the death of Tame Cassidy, past Kaumātua and Board of Trustees member. Tame served as a Board member from 1998 to 2007 and throughout that time was a tireless supporter of the school's values and the development of its whānau to encourage student achievement. He championed the progress of kapa haka at the school and was ever-present at school events to encourage students and the further accomplishments of the campus. Tame was a Roskill **Taonga**—a treasure to us all. In 2012 his service to the community was recognised by the Puketāpapa Local Board when he was presented with a Good Citizen Award.

Head of Māori at MRGS Lee Tawhai and the school's senior leadership paid tributes when he was laid to rest at the Mangere Lawn cemetery, and the grammar school's Kapa Haka group performed a haka at the graveside. At this term's Whānau hui the Campus Principals remembered Tame's contribution to our tamariki over many years. We share with Tame's family the sadness of his loss but are supported by the knowledge that his spirit, like the titōki tree we planted on his retirement as Kaumātua, will always rest as a guardian presence over our whare and the grammar school's continuing contribution to the education of our young men and women.

E Tame, tākoto mai i te poho o tō whānau,

tākoto mai, tākoto mai

Tame -May you rest in peace in the bosom of your family , rest in peace, rest in peace



Tame receives his Good Citizen award at a Puketāpapa Board ceremony in 2012





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		

CONTACT DETAILS

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

Emergency contact details should also be kept current so please update the school when either the person or their contact details change.

Please ensure that you have given the school a current email address which enables us to keep you up to date with information and newsletters.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

TERM DATES

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			
April 7	Senior Progress Reports Issued	April 10	Senior Report Evening
April 9	Mahurangi Sports Exchange	April 17	End of Term One
April 10	Paid Union Meeting—Early School Closure—12.10	April 18	Good Friday

TERM 2— EVENTS

TERM TWO			
May 5	Start of Term Two	June 11– 14	School Production
May 16	Fundraising Quiz Night	June 18	Campus Music Concert
May 22	Year 13 Photos	June 27	School Ball
May 23	Sports Photos	July 2	Campus Matariki Concert
June 2	Queens Birthday Holiday	July 4	End of Term Two
June 5	Parent Mentoring Conference		

DETAILS OF COMING EVENTS..

Mahurangi Sports Exchange- Wednesday April 9th

Our premier Winter Sports teams travel to Mahurangi to take part in the annual pre-season sports exchange. Always an exciting day of competition and a chance for the 2014 teams of each school to test their abilities.

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 are available. Parental donations are tax deductible.



EXCELLENCE AWARDS

A few weeks ago the school honoured those students who received Excellence Endorsements in last year's NCEA examinations. Over 125 of the 168 endorsed students were present at the ceremony accompanied by their families. Mr. Bas Barriball recently retired Principal of Mount Roskill Primary School was the guest presenter and he commented on the immense pride he felt in seeing these high achieving young men and women. It wasn't surprising that Mr Barriball recognized so many of the recipients and that he could remember many of them from their first steps of powerful learning at the Primary school. After an address by Mr Watson and a speech by Mr Barriball each of the award winners was presented on stage with the school's certificate of acknowledgement and gold badge in recognition of their fine accomplishments. At the close of the presentation all students and guests were invited to a supper and a chance to mix and mingle for chats and photographs.



CHEMISTRY OLYMPIAD AWARDS

Senior students Savidurru Mohan, Victor Xie and Mark Yep will be attending the Chemistry Olympiad training camp taking place in the first week of the upcoming holidays. The team of four to represent New Zealand in the international Olympiad will be selected from the 40+ secondary students attending. We hope that our students will continue the long MRGS tradition of representation in the New Zealand team.

We will have a definite presence at the International event in Vietnam as a member of the Chemistry Dept, Dr Stephen McCracken will be an Observer there to prepare him for the possibility of taking on a role as mentor at a future International Olympiad.



POLYFEST 2014

Once again our cultural groups performed with commitment and skill at the annual Polyfest. Kapa Haka, Tongan, Samoan and Indian groups had practised hard from the beginning of the year to perfect their performances. A number of the groups had been involved in sleep-over week-ends which enabled the fellowship that is so much a part of these shared endeavours. The preparation work and the polyfest actual days owe so much to the support and expertise of tutors, staff, parents and community members—who give their time and goodwill to encourage our students. Each group gave their best on performance days and made the school proud by their bearing and athleticism exhibited in the routines. Amid a range of marvellous performances the Tongan group had particular success. They were awarded first place in the Mako—the fast paced dance performed by the young men of the student group. In the Lakalaka—the longest and hardest of the Faiva (dance) they were awarded a 4th place. These results are a fitting reward for everyone's effort over the term.



PACIFIC LANGUAGE WEEK LINE UP ANNOUNCED FOR 2014

The sights and sounds of the Pacific will be on display as the Samoa, Tonga, Cook Islands, Tuvalu, Fiji, Niue and Tokelau language weeks are celebrated at MRGS in 2014.

The first of these will be in term 2 — Samoa Language Week: 25-31 May



BIOLOGY STUDENTS ATTEND TELEVISED DEBATE WITH LORD ROBERT WINSTON

Early in March 16 MRGS biology students were selected to participate in the studio audience of Professor Lord Robert Winston's NZ debate on the Ethics of Reproductive Technologies. This was in recognition of the close ties between the MRGS Bio dept and the University of Auckland. The event was live-streamed to schools around the country and to schools overseas with an audience of around 4,000. A senior MRGS student Theo Loretz, was further privileged to be invited to have lunch with Lord Winston and sit on stage as a member of the panel of 'experts' discussing the ethics of reproductive technologies and Theo carried out this role with enthusiasm.



Theo's comments—*Being on the panel with Lord Robert Winston is something I will never forget. Talking on the pressing issue of the ethics of reproductive technologies such as In Vitro Fertilisation and Pre-implantation Genetic Diagnosis was something that at was a little scary, as these procedures are against my religious views. However, my views were respected and appreciated by both the audience and Lord Robert Winston himself. The talk was essential to young people today as it addresses the complexity around these issues and invites us to think, debate and find where we stand on ethical issues in science.*

[Lord Winston is patron of Gravida and a Professor of Science and Society and Emeritus Professor of Fertility Studies at Imperial College, London. Lord Winston is a noted science commentator and advocate, presenting shows such as 'Child of our Time' and 'The Human Body'.]



HEAD PREFECTS MEET DISTINGUISHED AUCKLAND UNIVERSITY ALUMNI



Head Prefects—Hayden Couper and Mildred Wong recently attended the 3rd annual 'Auckland Live!' event at Auckland University. This event brings together six distinguished graduates of the university—all recipients of the 2014 Distinguished Alumni awards: Bruce Aitken—ex-CEO of Vancouver based Methanex Corporation; Gareth Farr ONZM— a leading composer; Dr. Julie Maxton—Executive Director of the Royal Society; Dr. William Tan—neuro scientist and paralympian,; Hon Dr. 'Ana Maui Taufe'ulungaki—Minister for Education and Training in the Kingdom of Tonga and Roseanne Liang—Young Alumna of the Year, film director and writer. Broadcaster Finlay MacDonald interviewed the achievers in a panel chat evening and they each afforded inspirational role models and clear insights into the benefits of further tertiary learning after school.



THE SCHOOL WELCOMES NEW HOCKEY MANAGER — JAMES GRANT

The school has secured sponsorship to employ Mr James Grant as its Hockey manager. James is extensively involved in hockey coaching as coach for the New Zealand Men's Development team; the Auckland Men's team and Auckland Hockey High performance. He was also a successful coach of the Auckland Fury team. He brings to Roskill a wealth of experience and strengthens our focus on excellence in sport. His role at MRGS involves coaching our teams as well as enabling our feeder primary and intermediate schools to have access to his coaching abilities. Throughout this term students have been enjoying the high performance culture Mr Grant is developing. Earlier this term he spoke to an assembly and stressed his commitment to hockey development and the engagement of players at the highest level.

FOOTBALL ACADEMY NEWS

This year promises to be an exciting one both on and off the field for the Boys' Football 1st 11 and Academy.

On the field, the 1st 11 enter the season as favourites to win the A2 League. They have been training hard over summer, including dune sprints at Bethells Beach. Y12 players form the core of the squad, having been together and training 4 times a week (like youth professionals overseas) since 2012 when they were in the Academy team. This core Y12 group is supported by Y13 players, including captain Santosh Singh, Fijian U17 International Raaes Rafiq, and Auckland U17 Representative Sam Christensen. The team's Head Coach is ex-MRGS student Maksim Manko, who has played professionally in Costa Rica and Argentina. Mr. Christopher is the Assistant Coach for the 1st 11, and Head Coach for the Y9/10 Academy. Mr. Christopher's role is to direct the vision for football at the school both on and off the field. Central to this is running coaching at local intermediate schools in order to get more talented youngsters attending MRGS for football, as well as planning ways to improve the football boys' academic outcomes - attendance, punctuality and skills in the core subjects of Maths, Science and English.



The 1st 11 Boys Football team, and the Y9/10 Academy football team, are involved in a number of initiatives this year to improve their educational outcomes. Every Tuesday lunchtime, the teams now meet to review attendance and punctuality for the previous week. The boys' Term 1, 2, 3 and 4 subject reports are also monitored, and interventions are made if necessary. A further important educational initiative is the new *Being Roskill Tutoring Programme*. Monday and Tuesday after-school, a team of dedicated Y12 and Y13 students volunteer their time to tutor the boys in Maths and Science.

The two squads are also involved in filming for *Being Roskill: Season 3*. This was largely shot in Brazil during the summer, but this will be mixed with footage shot around the Mt Roskill community. With the 2014 Fifa World Cup being held in Brazil this year, the Brazilian focus is highly relevant and will look to shine a light on Brazil's football culture and other aspects of its society.



YEAR 12 JAPANESE RESTAURANT TRIP

On Friday 14th March, a group of 8 students who study Japanese along with Kojima Sensei had an outing to the Japanese Restaurant Nishiki. There they ate a mouth watering set meal of authentic Japanese food consisting of Miso Soup, Sushi, Tempura (Fried Shrimp), Edamame (Boiled Soy Beans), Yakitori (Fried Chicken), Tataki (Lightly Grilled Beef) and a wide range of ice cream where the Green Tea and Sesame flavoured ice cream were the most popular. The food was praised with boat loads of comments such as ii desuyo (It's good! In Japanese) and totemo oishii (very delicious in Japanese). It was a great experience. Thank you Kojima Sensei for taking us there!

Rachel Fan (12 GFIO)



DRAGONBOATING 2014

MRGS competed in the Auckland Secondary School Dragon Boating Championships on Sunday March 24th. It was a fantastic day with warm weather and minimal wind which was perfect for racing. MRGS started off strongly posting a respectable first up time of 2mins 53secs over the 500m course which was good enough to finish 4th in the heat. Two more heats also returned 4th place results and this qualified the team for the Girls Novice Final. The final was a hard fought affair with MRGS narrowly being beaten into 3rd place. Had the race been a further 50m the girls would have caught the 2nd place team as they were fading fast while the Roskill were



powering home. It was another great season where the girls trained hard, enjoyed themselves and represented the school with pride and enthusiasm.





11SPS STEINLAGER 2 SAILING TRIP

Last year when the Americas Cup Yacht Races were on, some students at MRGS said they would love to go on boats like those racing but doubted they would ever experience that in their lifetimes. So the challenge was laid down and the PE Department has made this possible for 11SPS in 2014.

All the 11SPS students had a once in a life time opportunity to sail for 2 days and sleep overnight on Steinlager 2; once skippered by the inspirational Sir Peter Blake when he won the 1989/1990 Whitbread Around the World Race in the impressive



boat. Many skills were learnt by the students in only 48 hours; a new experience for all stepping out of their comfort zones, working with others and discovering how to communicate, sail, tie knots, navigate, analyse weather – winds and currents, read maps, how to log boat entries, navigate and tramp on islands in the Hauraki gulf and even construct rafts! At the same time they were assessed in Achievement Standards for Self-Management and Safety in the Outdoors. What better way to put theory into practice!

The Trip one Adventure included sailing to Tiri Tiri Matangi, tramping around the island and then sailing to Kawau Island to stay overnight at Mansion House bay.

Trip two the following week sailed to Motutapu Island and tramped around there before staying overnight on Ponui Island. This was followed the next morning by a 7:30am swim, then by raft building at Garden Cove on Waiheke Island.

[A generous donation to the NZ Sailing Trust from Richie McCaw's charity foundation "[For EveryOne](#)" made this trip possible for MRGS students. See next article]

STUDENTS MEET ALL BLACKS CAPTAIN

On Friday the 21st of March 2014, four students were selected to go and meet famous All Blacks captain Richie McCaw. The lucky students were Aubrey Lasi, William Tupou, Krisney Akemio and Hayley Gosling who each felt honoured and privileged to have this opportunity.

'All four of us were lost for words when coming face to face to the icon. We were lucky enough to ask him some questions;



we discovered that if Richie hadn't become a top rugby player, his other dream was to become a farmer down south.'

Richie's inspiration of how hard-work beats talent is something that will stick with all four of us, through our future endeavours. It was a privilege to be involved in this once in a life time meet and greet, and if it wasn't for Mrs Bennett we wouldn't have had this opportunity. So we would like to thank her on behalf of us all.

' (Written by Hayley and Krisney)





PASIFIKA EVENTS

We have enjoyed the Polyfest events with our students over the past 6 weeks. Some of you will have been able to watch their performances and so would have been impressed with their efforts, their sharpness and their determination to do their very best. At the practices, we saw students who wanted to strive for excellence—one of our school values.

Congratulations to all of our students who performed at Polyfest. Thank you to all of our staff, tutors and parents who also supported our students.

An NCEA evening was held on the 10th March and we wanted to thank all those parents who attended. Ensuring that parents and their son's/daughter's work closely with our school is so important for the achievement of successful learning outcomes.



NEW HOUSE NAMES — A CHANCE TO HAVE YOUR SAY IN MRGS HISTORY...

Our current house names are Blue, Green, Orange, Red and Yellow.

We are seeking submissions from a range of members of the community as well as students and staff past and present to **change** our house names (retaining the colours).

"We hope to connect and inspire the people of each house by giving it a stronger identity based around their new name."

Name suggestions should meet the following criteria:

- Be appropriate

- Be timeless

- Be relevant to MRGS

- Be relevant to NZ

- Have letter differentiation (no two houses can start with the same letter)

SUBMISSIONS may include:

- A theme

- Names

- A combination of theme/names (Just an example: native birds: pukeko, takahe, kereru, weka, māātātā)

To have your say...

1. Students will be given a submission form through their form class in week 11 of term 1. Staff will also be consulted.

2. Other community groups will be consulted in the following weeks.

3. Family/caregivers are welcome to submit their suggestions to Karen.Collins@mr.gs.school.nz

...and leave a lasting legacy.



MRGS FUNDRAISING EVENTS—HOCKEY TURF APPEAL



MRGS Fundraising Quiz Night

Friday 16th May 7.00 pm

In School Staffroom

\$20/ticket

Teams of 5-6. Adults only. Cheese and Nibbles on each Table. Cash Bar, Raffle & Auction.

Prize for Best Themed Table.

We can put you in a team or you can book a table.

All money raised will go towards upgrading our hockey turf to a water based pitch, and building a sports pavilion that will service all sports using our fields



Tickets will be on sale at Mt Roskill Grammar School Accounts from May 5th or Phone 621 0050 (Joanne) to purchase tickets using VISA and collect on the night

Tickets Limited so Get in Early

Revival of Workathon Tradition

At the 60th Jubilee last year we heard many stories of how facilities that we value at Mt Roskill Grammar were built through the efforts of the students, parents and the local community. This year we are reviving the old fashioned Workathon to help raise funds for the upgrade of our hockey turf to a water based pitch and to build a sports pavilion that will service all sports using our fields.

Students are being asked to raise funds for the school by doing Workathon jobs, outside school time, that involve community service or helping others. You can:

- Either get sponsorship from friends and family for doing a job in the community e.g. at your church, a rest home where a family member lives, or helping out an elderly relative or friend of the family. More than one person could sponsor you to do the same job.
- Or your friends and relatives may have jobs they will pay you to do e.g. cleaning windows, mowing lawns or gardening.

Please do not approach businesses or people not known to your family for work or sponsorship.

The work can be done from Saturday May 31st – Sunday June 8th .

Please start thinking about what work you could do for the Workathon.

Workathon Sponsorship forms will be given to all students in the last week of May.

Prizes: *Westfield St Lukes Gift Cards for the Eight Students who Raise the Most Money.*

i.e. Top 3 Students Overall, and then One Student for Each Year Level

Top Form Class will receive a Pizza Lunch

Everyone that participates will be entered in the draw for Spot Prizes



MESSAGE FROM THE COUNSELLORS FOR PARENTS/CAREGIVERS OF YEAR 9 STUDENTS

This term each Year 9 Core Class will participate in two "Anti-Harassment" workshops, co-facilitated by two counsellors.

We will explore the psychology of mocking, harassment and bullying, and the harm it causes. We discuss the "Roskill Way" of stopping harassment: telling a teacher, dean or counsellor. The identity of the teller can stay confidential. We have a range of ways of stopping harassment, and the teller has a voice in how we address it.

Manaakitanga is an important part of "the Roskill way": keeping the dignity, the mana of others intact at all times, and maintaining an environment of respect and affirming diversity. We hold a firm view that harassment is harmful and unacceptable, even when it's meant as a "joke". We do not see it as a "normal" part of growing up, and we take it seriously.

Please discuss the workshop with your child, and support the view that reaching out for support, rather than ignoring it, is the right way to stop bullying. We also welcome expressions of concern from parents. The contact details of the counsellors are on the school website.

"TRAVELLERS"

We are proud to run the innovative "Travellers" programme at MRGS, a successful resiliency-building programme for Year 9 students affected by change, loss, grief, anxiety or low mood. It was designed by Dr. Pauline Dickinson from the University of Auckland, and we have run the programme for over a decade now. About 80 students will take part, and groups consist of a maximum of 9 students.

To identify Year 9's most likely to benefit from this 16-hour programme, students will be asked to fill out an on-line questionnaire in a computer lab. Results are confidential to counsellors only. For more information, please check the Counselling page under Student Services on the school's website.

MENTOR TRAINING FOR MRGS STUDENTS WITH ADULT LEADR MEDIATOR PROFESSIONALS

Friday last week was a special day for 44 student advanced peer mediators at Mount Roskill Grammar School as they were trained in the Advanced LtPM (Leadership through Peer Mediation) program created by the Peace Foundation. Twelve adult LEADR trained mediators volunteered a day to assist students with the coaching of their mediation role plays. These guests of The Peace Foundation ranged from lawyers, barristers, Real Estate agents and building consultants. These professionals are all trained in the skills of mediation through LEADR and kindly gave up a day of work to assist students in their advanced peer mediator training thus giving back to their community in a pro-active way. A further 115 new student mediators were trained on Wednesday and Thursday. This is MRGS's 20th anniversary of our Peer Mediation Service which we will celebrate during August's Peace Week.



Pictured here from left to right are: William Hurst (house building consultant), Anna Quinn (LEADR trainer), Daniel Pegado (Drug and Alcohol Counsellor and ex-pupil/mediator from MRGS), Dale Keegan (real estate agent), Janine Edge (Director of TalkingWorks in the U.K) and MRGS student advanced mediators Tangiia Enjoy and Sandra Mathew."



CLASS ACT

On the 11th March students from MRGS were given the chance to experience professional theatre performance first hand when a trio from Class Comedians gave a free stand-up comedy show during the lunch hour. Interested senior students were then invited to join an after school workshop where they were led by Ben Hurley of 7 Days fame. The results were outstanding! From a group of handpicked students offered further development, Ruby Allen-McKee has confirmed her place in the continuation workshops and will be joining Class Comedians this year. As well learning to write and perform a stand up set, she will meet local and international stand ups and performers, industry experts and will also be introduced to various other media options. We wish Ruby the best of luck and for anyone interested in seeing the final performance - the live show is Saturday May 10th, 4PM at Rangatira @ Q Theatre.

ROSKILL MUSICIAN TO JOIN NEW ZEALAND SECONDARY SCHOOLS' ORCHESTRA

We were delighted to hear this week that senior student Mark Bingham has been selected for the NZSSSO. (The New Zealand Secondary Schools' Symphony Orchestra) Mark is a talented trombonist and his selection recognises the high standard of his instrumental skills. Entry to the NZSSSO is by audition and over 150 students applied for consideration.



Mark's selection gives him the opportunity to represent the school in a full size orchestra and taking part in the symphony orchestra course is regarded as a significant training ground for membership later of the New Zealand Youth Orchestra, and ultimately for many to a career as a professional musician.

The orchestra members will take part in an intensive six day orchestral course in Christchurch in the coming school holidays—and this will culminate in two public performances at St Margaret's College. The programme for the concert will have pieces by NZ composer Gareth Farr in addition to international pieces by Sibelius, Dvorak and Gershwin. We are sure that Mark's expertise will make a strong contribution to the performance evenings.

CONTINUING SUCCESS FOR CHESS TEAMS

Recently our A chess team won the West Auckland Zone competition, qualifying us for the ChessPower National Finals in Nelson in December. Our B Team placed 2nd in the same competition.

Individually, Kashyap Choudhary received a silver medal for 2nd place, Sarah Yan a bronze medal for 3rd place, and Sarah also received a gold medal as the top girl in the tournament.

On Friday 14th March we hosted the central zone tournament and again we placed first and second with our two teams. Sarah Yan also earned a bronze medal for being the 3rd best girl at the tournament, with 6 wins out of a possible 7.



SOME REMINDERS TO STUDENTS AND FAMILIES OF SCHOOL EXPECTATIONS

MRGS UNIFORM

SHOES: Black leather, flat-heeled, full-foot (for reasons of safety), school shoes with backs. The shoes must be able to be polished.

High heeled, patent leather, canvas, suede leather, high-soled (platform), ballet-type, backless shoes, boots (including high-tops), sandals, scuffs, jandals, slippers, track shoes or casual street brand shoes such as Nike, Chuck Taylors or Vans may NOT be worn.

SOCKS:

Boys: MRGS regulations knee high socks worn with shorts, black dress socks with trousers.

Girls: White MRGS regulation anklet socks or black pantyhose.

ATTENDANCE

Why focus on attendance?

Successful powerful learners >> Active responsible citizens

Key competency of managing self >> the School goal of responsibility

If your child is **late** to school they miss important information and their attendance statistics are negatively affected.

If your child is **late** to class they miss important information, their attendance statistics are negatively affected and they lose learning time

Learning the importance of time management is a life-long skill. Please assist us by discussing the importance of being on time to every lesson. In the “real” world being late can have serious employment consequences.



JUNIOR CURRICULUM

Over the past 18 months we have been reviewing our junior learning and curriculum. We have emailed a survey to gain parent feedback from students in Years 9 and 10. We hope that you will be able to complete this and return your feedback and comments to us.

MENTORING

Each year 11 student should now have had their second mentoring meeting with their mentor. Please check with you son/daughter to find out what their next goal is and ask them what they talked about with their mentor.

NZQA FEES COLLECTION 2014

All senior students and 1001 students must pay their NZQA Fees (compulsory) to the accounts office between Wednesday 14th May and Friday 16th May. These fees must be paid so that any credits a student achieves through either Unit or Achievement Standard assessments will be recorded on a student's record of learning. If not paid, the credits will not be released to the student.

The Fee for the majority of students will be \$76.70. However financial assistance is available to students whose parents/guardians receive a Work and Income Benefit or have a Community Services Card. Financial assistance forms can be collected from the front office, accounts office or from Mr Parratt in the Commerce Department next to H6



ROAD SAFETY REMINDERS

Our school campus is joining with Auckland Transport to support their campaign of Safety at the School Gate—which encourages road users to be responsible

and reinforces this with transport warden patrols outside the school gates.



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.

Make our school and our roads a safer place. Too many cars are a danger to all our students.

The Campus schools thank families for their co-operation.

Park safely outside schools

Before and after school is a busy time for everyone. Parking rules help protect our children and keep them safe. Drivers who park illegally put our kids at risk.

This term parking officers will be on patrol outside your school to issue tickets to those who are illegally parked.

Fines for illegal parking include:

• Parked on the footpath or grass verge/ berm	\$40
• Parked across or within 1m of a vehicle entrance	\$40
• Parked within 6m either side of an unmarked bus stop	\$40
• Parked within a marked bus stop	\$60
• Parked within 0.5m of a fire hydrant with no one in the car legally capable of moving it	\$60
• Parked within a designated bus lane, transit or cycle lane	\$60
• Parked on a clearway	\$60
• Double parked	\$60
• Inconsiderate parking to other road users, including pedestrians	\$60
• Parked on or within 6m of an intersection	\$60
• Parked on a pedestrian crossing	\$60
• Parked on a broken yellow line	\$60

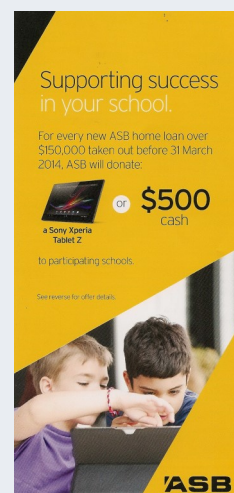


ASB HOME LOAN SCHOOL DONATION SCHEME

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 ;

Libelle and Barfoot & Thompson – Mt Roskill

Proudly Supported by

Barfoot & Thompson
COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE

Mt Roskill, 09 621 0912



NEW SPONSOR FOR 1ST XI GIRLS HOCKEY TEAM

We are pleased to announce that **Kip McGrath Mount Roskill** are sponsoring the uniforms of our Premier girls hockey team this coming season. We are grateful for the support to assist our development of excellence in the sport.



Kip McGrath Education Centre

First Floor,

8 Carr Road, Mt Roskill

Tel 09 6250229