

Last week I was fortunate enough to attend the New Zealand Top Scholars ceremony at Parliament Buildings. It was a real pleasure to see Timothy Vogel receive his Premier Scholars medal from the Governor General and for Jessie Xing to be recognised for coming top in New Zealand in a subject. Earlier this week the Honourable Phil Goff MP for Mt Roskill and Leader of the Opposition presented awards to all of our students who gained an excellence endorsement in NCEA last year. This requires the accumulation of at least 50 credits at that level – something that only 3 or 4% of candidates nationwide accomplish. Excellence criteria are demanding and the students were recognised for consistently demonstrating higher level skills including advanced critical thinking with the ability to integrate, and synthesise, while also applying knowledge, skills, understanding and ideas. The list of students gaining the gold excellence badge and those receiving the silver merit badge will be included in the next newsletter.



Our Internal Exams for the senior school start this Friday. These early controlled assessments are an excellent opportunity for students to gauge their preparedness to sit final examinations later in the year. There is much advice that can be given about exam preparation and at a recent assembly shared with students the following ‘first steps to success’:

- Know when your exams are. Build a study programme around this.
- Be clear about what you need to learn. (Which standard is being assessed?) Know exactly what you need to do to show success. (What are the criteria?)
- In achievement standards we expect you to be attempting to achieve at merit and excellence. In NCEA it's not only about how many credits can be gained but about the quality of the credits gained. Make sure you know exactly what it takes to get Merit and Excellence grades. Think about what makes the difference between getting an Achieved grade or a Merit grade. If you can explain what it takes you are much more likely to be able to do it.

On June 25 along with many Auckland schools we are holding a teacher only day for curriculum development. This is a government mandated teacher release day. Our teachers will be continuing their work towards the 2010 implementation of the revised New Zealand Curriculum.

Our senior girls' water polo team completed an excellent season last week by winning the final of the Auckland Championship B Grade Competition in extra time against St Kentigern College. The support the team receives from families and friends is wonderful and makes a huge difference to the team. As the winter season builds momentum we hope that you will find time to support your sons and daughters from the sideline.

EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Over 150 students who sat the 2008 NCEA assessments are eligible to receive gold Certificates for Scholarship. These will be given out by the Leader of the Opposition, the Honourable Phil Goff at a ceremony on Wednesday 20 May to be held in the Dowdle Library.

To receive an excellence endorsement at any level a student must achieve at least 50 excellence credits in the standards they attempt.

We are very proud of our top scholars and it is exciting to see the number of students who achieve excellent and merit endorsements for their certificates. Nationally 2.6% of students at Level 3 receive excellence endorsements whereas 4.9% of Mount Roskill students qualify. The figures for Level 2 and Level 1 are similar.

	Percentage of students qualifying	
Level	Nationally	Mt Roskill Grammar
2	3.1	8.5
1	4.5	10.3

The same criteria apply at the Merit level. The figures are:

	Percentage of students qualifying	
Level	Nationally	Mt Roskill Grammar
3	11.2	15.5
2	16.5	25.0
1	17.0	25.0

These students will also receive certificates in their House Assemblies over the next few weeks. All students will also receive a badge to wear as an ongoing reminder to themselves and others of their success.

MUSIC

Term Two in the MRGS Music Dept began with students busking on the new motorway Open Day as well as the Jazz Combo performing at the official opening on 15 May. In the next few weeks, five chamber groups will be performing at the Hillsborough Heights retirement village (5 June) then competing in the Regionals of the Chamber Competitions. All chamber groups will attend a rehearsal on Tuesday 2 June between 1 – 4 pm to prepare for this.

Our busy term in music continues with a Pacifica Beats band being mentored by Mr Tama Waipara through NZ Music Commission funding as they prepare for their competition. The Jazz Combo is building its repertoire aiming to compete in the Jazz Competitions, while the Rockquest bands are also underway.

We are fortunate to have among our new Itinerant tutor staffing some busy working musicians who play in bands such as the Rodger Fox big band:- Mr Scholes – trumpet tutor, who takes the stage band and Mr Atkinson – saxophone tutor who takes the Concert Band.

A few singer-songwriter students are submitting songs to the Play it Strange Songwriting competition and one student, Oliver Xu has entered an orchestral composition in the 2009 NZSO Young Composer Award.



Our orchestra and Concert Band are on track to compete in the KBB festival. Our Junior Concert Band (pictured), - (a beginner band of 25 students) is well underway being ably led by Miss Steedman. They are looking forward to their first performance later in the term.

The Boys' Choir is being taken this year by the renowned Mr Terence Maskell who conducts the internationally known Graduate choir, and we will start a Girls' Choir in the second half of this term.

WORLD VISION 40 HOUR FAMINE

This year fundraising for World Vision has kicked off with a blast. The theme is malnutrition and we are raising money to target the issue in developing countries; especially for children living in Bangladesh, India and Tanzania. Our 40 hour famine leaders have set a target of \$20,000 which we hope to raise through several events as well as through individual student efforts by getting sponsors. Term I was successful with "Dancing with the Staff" happening where we raised well over \$1,000. Two of our top music students, Eric and David, also busked on Queen Street to raise further money. Apart from bake sales and sausage sizzles, we hope to bring in local artists to perform and hope this Term will be just as successful as the last. Thank you to all the students who are taking part in their own famines to raise money. The official weekend is 22-25 May and money is due in June. Until then keep up the good work supporting this worthy cause and let's raise the stakes.



MOTORWAY

The official opening of the Mount Roskill section of State Highway 20 took place on Friday 15 May. The ceremony took place at the Dominion Rd interchange and guests were taken by bus for a tour and then entertained by groups from the Campus Schools, Mount Roskill Grammar's Jazz Combo; **David Cao, Jeremy Cooper, Jordan Lapwood, Michael Murray (Estall) & Liam Rafferty** played under the direction of Mr Phil Darragh and were warmly received. The ukulele band and choir of the Mount Roskill Primary School played and there was a performance by the Samoan Group from the Mount Roskill Intermediate School.

We hope that the new access to Onehunga and Penrose from Owairaka will ease some of the traffic congestion around Somerset, Frost and Carr Roads in the mornings and afternoons. This should also make it safer for students coming to and leaving from school.

SENIOR EXAMINATIONS

These will be held from Friday 22 May to Friday 29 May. A copy of the timetable for the examinations is included on pages the pages 5 & 6 (overleaf).

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 students 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. Any latecomers must see Mrs Barker at Admin upon arrival.

Examinations start times:

Morning: 9.15am for 3 hour exams

10.15am for 2 hour exams

At the time designated where the exam is shorter than 2 hours or a practical assessment with more than one sitting

Afternoon: 1.00pm for all examinations

**JUNIOR STUDENTS PLEASE NOTE: SCHOOL WILL START
AT 8.40AM ON WEDNESDAY 27 MAY**

NZQA EXAMINATION FEES:

These fees are now overdue and should be paid as soon as possible to the Accounts Office.

Fees are \$75 for New Zealand resident students and \$375 for non-resident students. The fees are set by the Qualifications Authority and collected by the School on the Authority's behalf. The fee for NZ residents covers all Achievement and Unit standards assessed both internally and externally and also covers entry into 3 Scholarship subjects. Non-resident students should check with Mrs Harding if they wish to enter Scholarship. There is financial assistance available for those families who are on a benefit or qualify for a Community Services Card. Forms for Financial Assistance are available from Mrs Wills in the Administration Office.

SENIOR EXAM TIMETABLE

AM	Friday 22nd	Monday 25th	Tuesday 26th
YEAR 13	13Physics Practical 13Tourism 13Photography 13Catering & Hospitality	13Geography 13Coaching & Recreation	13Statistics (1) 13Business Practice 13Food & Hospitality (1) 13Tech Alternative(DAV) 13History of England
YEAR 12	12English Alternative 1 12English Alternative 2 12English A 12English B	12Mathematics A 12Mathematics B 12Food & Hospitality(1)	12Physics Practical 12Maori 12Tech Alternative(DAV)
YEAR 11	11Mathematics A 11Mathematics B	11Sports Science 11Sports Science 6 11Computing 11Computing 6	11Computing Beg 11Economics 11Economics 6 11Graphics & Design 11Graphics & Design 6
EXAM ROOM			
PM	Friday 22nd	Monday 25th	Tuesday 26th
YEAR 13	13Computing Web Design 13Sports Science 13French 13English Literacy 13Printing/Painting 13Sculpting	13Accounting 13Accounting B 13Design	13Statistics (2) 13Maori 13Tech Multi-materials 13Performance Music 2
YEAR 12	12Chemistry 12English Literacy 12Accounting 5	12Media Studies 12Performing Arts 12Graphic & Design 12Food & Hospitality (2) 12Tech Alternative(FGA)	12Classical Studies 12Computing 12Tech Multi-materials 12Performance Music 2
YEAR 11	11Accounting 6 11Accounting 12Accounting 5 11Maori 11Performing Arts 11English 2nd Language	11Science 6 } 11Science A } Practical 1001 } 11Tech Alternative (FGA)	11Tech Fabrics 11Japanese 11History

AM	Wednesday 27th	Thursday 28th	Friday 29th
YEAR 13	13English 13English Alternative 1 13Technology Fabrics	13Chemistry 13Art History 13Graphics & Design 13Economics 13Economics Beg 13Food & Hospitality(2)	13Physics Theory 13Japanese
YEAR 12	12Economics 12Technology Fabrics 12Photography 12History	12Accounting 12Computing Beg(1) 12Coaching & Recreation	12Biology 12Business Practice
YEAR 11	11Science 6 } 11Science A } Theory 11Science } 1001 }	11English 6 11English A 11English B 11English Alternative 1 11English Alternative 2	11Art 11Art 6 11Food & Hospitality(1) 11Info & Comm Tech 11Info & Comm Tech 6
EXAM ROOM			
PM	Wednesday 27th	Thursday 28th	Friday 29th
YEAR 13	13Biology 13Computing	13Classical Studies 13Music 13Performing Arts **	13Maths with Calculus 13Media Studies
YEAR 12	12Tourism 12Physics Theory	12Japanese 12Computing Beg(2) 12Art 12Design 12Music	12Geography 12English 2nd Language 12French
YEAR 11	11Geography 11Geography 6 11French	11Music 11Physical Studies 11Tech Multi-materials 11Tech Multi-materials 6	11Performance Music 1 11Tech Electronics(WLR) 11Food & Hospitality (2)

****13PFA 2.15-4.15**

SPORT

The winter sports programme has just begun with MRGS well represented with a number of teams in each of the main winter codes. These teams will be hoping to continue on with the successful start to the year that our summer sports teams provided.

Highlights from Term One

The **1st 11 Boys Cricket Team** are currently joint leaders at the halfway stage of their competition.

The **Senior Golf Team** has had another successful start to the year going through unbeaten in the Auckland Premier Golf competition. Unfortunately a narrow loss to Kristin in the Cross Harbour semi finals finished their season.

The **Senior Mixed Touch Team** has had a very successful season qualifying for National Champs later in the year for just the second time in our schools history.

Both **Senior Waterpolo Teams** have had a very good year to date. The Boys team finished 3rd in the Division 2 North Island Championships and 7th in the Division 2 National Championships, while the Girls finished 2nd in the Division 2 North Island Championships and 6th in the Division 2 National Championships. MRGS Girls finished 1st in the Auckland Championship B Grade and the Boys will play their final matches this weekend in the A Competition.

Mahurangi Exchange

This year's annual exchange took place here at Mount Roskill Grammar school. The students from both schools enjoyed the day. Unfortunately the results did not go our way this year Mahurangi winning the exchange 7 games to 4.



Results for the Exchange

Rugby 1 st 15 Girls	15 – 10 win	Touch Mixed	2 – 5 loss
Netball Open A	34 – 40 loss	Netball Senior 1	29 – 19 win
Football 1 st 11 Boys	6 – 0 win	Football 1 st 11 Girls	0 – 2 loss
Hockey 1 st 11 Boys	2 – 1 win	Hockey 1 st 11 Girls	2 – 4 loss
Basketball U19Boys	44 – 60 loss	Basketball U19 Girls	6 – 40 loss
Basketball U17 Boys	23 – 28 loss		

SPORTS FEES

These fees are now overdue for all sport codes. It is vital to the development of sport within the school that all students pay their fees. Sports fees help the school pay for sports entry fees, transport costs, hireage of facilities and upgrading of uniforms and equipment. There is financial assistance available but students need to be proactive. For financial assistance please ask the team coach or see Mr Buckley.

1ST XV RUGBY: EARLY SEASON SUCCESS

The season has started very well for the team. They had 5 pre-season games winning well against One Tree Hill College, Immanuel from Australia and the Old Boys, with losses to Lynfield and Onehunga High School (0 – 30). However in the first round of the competition they had an historic 7-3 win against the number one seed, Onehunga. This was a big turnaround from the pre-season warm up. **Kaleli Hopoi** scored a very good try barging off 3 would-be tacklers before scoring near the posts. **Patrick Tiatia** converted to make it 7 – 0 at half time. Onehunga High School made several attacks at our line in the second half but failed to cross it. **Wasa Laufoli** was player of the day for his great defence and for getting to the break downs fast.

In the second game against Southern Cross both teams attacked the lines numerous times but we managed two tries to Southern Cross' one. **Kaleli Hopoi** and **Andrew Tuala** scored tries with **Patrick Tiatia** converting both, as well as kicking two penalties. Final score 20-5 with **Carl Maskell** being named player of the day for his great line out takes, his tackling and his tireless energy.

A big thanks must go to **Etena Vaiouga** our new coach, a past pupil who is inspiring the boys, and to Nick Tualii and Malakai Kolomatangi who have taken pre-season training since February.

SURF LIFESAVING

During term 4 of last year and 1 of this year, the new MRGS Surf Lifesaving team in partnership with the United Northern Piha Surf Lifesaving Club met and began training towards the Surf Lifesaving New Zealand Surf Lifeguard Award, the first qualification needed to work professionally as a lifeguard here in NZ and overseas. The team was very committed and trained 2 week nights a week for swim training and first aid theory. This was followed with all day sessions on Sundays, hitting the surf at Piha.

The lifeguard exams were finally run in March and by this time the tough schedule meant that only 4 of the original 12 members of the group were ready to try for their exams; **Briar Elliston, Holly Elliston, Catie Mulrennan** and **Kathryn Frankcom-Burgess**. The girls met for 'Lifeguard Finishing School' at Muriwai on 28 March. In challenging 3 to 4 ft surf with strong rips running and numerous surfers in the line up the girls ran through a number of surf skills, practice rescues and scenarios. By the end of the day they were tired and aware that the real exam at Piha the following weekend would be very challenging.

On Saturday 4 April the girls met the rest of the candidates from Surf Lifesaving Northern Region for the real exam at North Piha and once again the west coast served up very testing conditions. The majority of the exam was run in an area with a particularly powerful rip that the girls had to work against to successfully complete the exercises, practicing skills that will serve them well in their future lifeguarding. To their great credit they all completed the day successfully and achieved the Surf Lifeguard award. A special prizegiving was held on Saturday 16 May at the Marine Rescue Centre in the city, where the girls received their certification. They deserve great credit for their dedication and commitment. Congratulations girls!

The group will meet again in Term 4 and new members are very welcome. To qualify you must be reasonably fit, and with training over the two terms and summer able to complete a 400 metre timed swim in less than 9 minutes without stopping. You will also need to be able to commit twice a week to training, including Sundays through the summer to hang out at Piha and work on your skills.

YEAR 12 HISTORY TRIP

For 3 days from Wednesday March 25th to 27th, 20 students and 2 teachers went to the central North Island to learn about the impact of war on the New Zealand Identity, which meant visiting the Kippenberger Museum at Waiouru. The trip down included a stop for the fattest cream cakes in the North Island, and a visit to the Otorohanga Kiwi and Native Bird Park, where we all got up close to a Brown Kiwi, lots of other native birds and some tuatara. The day at the Museum featured a guided tour, a chance for some original research and a 2 hour presentation on Weapons through the Ages, which was incredible. Mr Hall enabled us to mix History and Geography when we visited Tangiwai, the site of New Zealand's greatest rail disaster. The trip back went smoothly as we avoided rush hour, and arrived back at school safe and sound. Thank you to Miss Hartstonge, our History teacher, who organised everything and made the trip so interesting.



NZ JUNIOR HOSPITALITY CHALLENGE



On Wednesday 8 April the following Year 13 Hospitality students competed in the NZ Junior Hospitality Challenge organised by HSI and held at MIT, with the following results:

Brian Chan: Silver medal for preparation & presentation of a pasta dish; **Sam Low** – Bronze medal for preparation & presentation of a salmon dish; **Natania Farrell** – Bronze medal for preparation & presentation of pork mince dish. Many schools competed and the standard was extremely high. Congratulations to our students for their great results.

INNOVATIVE UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND RESEARCH STUDY COMING TO MRGS FOR STUDENTS – IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

The University of Auckland is working in partnership with Mt Roskill Grammar School to deliver an innovative programme that will help young people feel good about their lives and deal with everyday issues. The programme is delivered completely over their mobile phones (outside of school hours). Researchers will also be meeting with interested participants at four time points throughout the following year. Parents of Year 12 students will be receiving a letter from the University of Auckland with details outlining the study before it is set to begin on June 4th 2009.

If you would prefer your child did not take part in this research you can advise the research staff on 0800 ASK MEMO or email infor@memo.org.nz

CONGRATULATIONS:

Our congratulations go to **Joseph Bensley** who has been named as one of the 15 young men selected to represent New Zealand at the **WORLD JUNIOR MENS WATERPOLO CHAMPIONSHIPS** in Croatia. The team will prepare and play against other teams in Sydney and Hungary before these Championships take place. Joe was a keen waterpolo player while at school and now plays for the Waitakere Club as well as coaching our Girls Team with **Eleanor Natrass**.

MEDIATION MENTORSHIP SERVICE

Mediators are invited to apply for the 2 day Mentorship training being held on Sunday 14 June & Monday 15 June 9.30am-3.30pm at school. This is an awesome opportunity to extend your people helping skills. There are 30 positions available to MRGS students. Application forms are available from Students Services and close on 29 May. Any queries please see Donna Hourigan-Johnston.

WIDER EDUCATION YEARS 9 & 10

Wider education this year runs from 2 - 4 December and it is an opportunity for all to be involved in valuable learning activities that are based outside of the classroom. Students will be challenged via a range of media, tasks and learning intentions designed to develop problem solving and social skills. Students will get the opportunity to make new friends, see new places and interact with other students, all while having fun completing a wide range of activities.

Year 9

Year 9 wider education comprises day trips that are based around the Auckland area. The trips that are running are designed to be activities that you might not normally be involved with but are fun and designed to challenge students.

Year 10

As a Year 10 student your son/daughter will be required to attend a camp as a part of Mount Roskill Grammar School's Wider Education Programme. This programme has been developed to enable all students at Year 10 to participate in a learning experience that takes them away from their familiar home comforts. Students will have the opportunity to develop their life and social interaction skills through learning activities based outside the classroom. Most camps are based outside of the Auckland area and students will be travelling to these destinations by bus or mini bus. Risk appraisal and management plans will be completed for each camp to ensure your child's safety. This year the camps cover a wide range of activities and venues, and although there is a cost associated with each camp we have endeavoured to keep these to a minimum.

Queries to:

A Ferguson

Wider Ed Coordinator



STUDENTS LEAVING SCHOOL DURING THE DAY

If a student needs to leave school during the day for a doctor, dentist, or other appointments, permission to leave must be obtained by presenting a written request from parents or an appointment card, to any Deputy Principal, before school or during roll check once their presence has been noted. A pass will then be issued for the student to leave at the appropriate time. This saves parents/caregivers time waiting in reception while the student is located.

UNIFORMS

Our school uniform shop is On Somerset Rd (behind the hockey turf) and is open on Tuesday and Thursday before and after school or orders can be placed with Mrs Parkinson in B1.

Now it is winter please ensure your student has the right warm clothing to wear. Our uniform shop has a good stock of jerseys and jackets for sale and the Senior jersey will be available in about 4 weeks time. Only MRGS jerseys and jackets may be worn during the school day.

Non uniform items are not permitted during the school day. Any requests for uniform passes must be accompanied by a letter written and signed by a parent. DPs will issue uniform passes before Period 1 and only for valid reasons.

Caps and other hats are not part of our winter uniform and must not be worn.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

TERM 2		
May	Friday 22 – Friday 29	Senior Exams
June	Monday 1	Queen's Birthday Holiday
	Tuesday 2	School Holiday
	Tuesday 9	Pukekohe Exchange @ Pukekohe
	Thursday 25	PPTA Curriculum Teacher Only Day NO STUDENTS AT SCHOOL
	Friday 26	Senior Reports Posted
July	Wednesday 1	Senior Report Evening
	Friday 3	END OF TERM 2 Closing time 3.10pm
	Saturday 4	School Ball
TERM DATES 2009		
Term 2	Monday 27 April	Friday 3 July
Term 3	Tuesday 21 July	Friday 25 September
Term 4	Monday 12 October	Tuesday 8 December