

Our vision for our students to become successful, powerful learners who are active and responsible citizens is exemplified by the MARJ team who at the time of writing are planning an educational expo at the school focussing on teenage drinking. Project leaders Manasi Deshpandi, Ajay Ravindran, Ryan Puertollano and Jason Walls won the P3 foundation social enterprise competition for their innovative plan to host the expo. The MARJ group are to be congratulated for searching out the leadership opportunity and for their enterprise in advancing the learning of our community. The full text of a recent newspaper article is included later in the newsletter.



Congratulations to the year 9 and 10 students Dianca Mitchell, Victor Xie, Kartik Yellapantula, Ken Hendricks and Mildred Wong who have gained outstanding results at the Auckland Science Fair. Five first places is an excellent result and a credit to teachers Mr Mander and Mr Hithersay who made participation in the fair possible. Congratulations also to our Languages students for their excellent results in the Alliance Française French speaking competition and the International Languages Olympics, and to our Music groups for their great performances at the Stand Up Stand Out Talent Quest.

Students will be receiving a short progress report at the end of term. For senior students this report will give further feedback following their recent trial examinations. It is important that students use these results in planning their next steps in preparation for the final examinations rather than as an end in themselves. Families could ask senior students to tell them the areas they have decided need development in each subject. Achieving excellence needs to be the target. It is the quality of achievement rather than just the number of credits that will count when applying for positions in tertiary education or for employment.

We encourage students to make the best use of the coming holidays by scheduling a programme of study along with taking some time out. Senior students have just five school weeks remaining before final NCEA exams begin, and need to use this time purposefully and constructively.

G B Watson
PRINCIPAL

BOT PROFILES

Meet the Board of Trustees:

Dora Alefosio is a Social Worker with ATWC, Family Start, Auckland Central. She lives in the Three Kings/Mt Roskill area. She previously worked for Child Youth and Family (CYF), children's department, Community Approach and Mt Roskill Police Projects for a number of years. She and her family attend the Three Kings Congregational Church where Dora is in the leadership team and is a youth group leader. She is passionate about working with families with children who struggle to find positive outcomes.

Peter Gray is an elected parent representative to the board. He first served as a co-opted board member from May 2008 until the recent elections. A chartered accountant in public practice with the firm Hayes Knight, Peter has had an involvement with many financial aspects of schools including a role as board member and treasurer of Three Kings Primary School for a number of years.

Anne Horne has served on the MRGS Board of Trustees for the past 5 years and has enjoyed the opportunity of working with other trustees who have a similar vision for the school and seek to support staff to provide a quality education for the students. She is currently working in Clinical Research into Osteoporosis and Gout for the University of Auckland. Although her three children have graduated from the school she still has a passion for the school and proud of the achievements of our staff and students.

Ella Kumar is married with 3 children attending the Mt Roskill Campus schools. She has a passion to help our communities live healthier lifestyles and loves working with people and assisting the community. Ella is a Justice of Peace of NZ, a Marriage Celebrant, and is on the Mt Roskill Grammar and Primary School Board of Trustees. She takes a lot of interest in children's activities to help those who are our leaders of tomorrow.

Ewe Leong Lim is a senior partner of the Auckland office of Anthony Harper, Lawyers. He specialises in corporate and commercial law. Ewe Leong has been an elected trustee of the school since 2007.

Sue Mulrennan is the mother of two Year 9 students and two graduates of MRGS. Previously she has served on the Board of Trustees of a local Primary School and is currently a Mt Roskill Community Board member (not seeking re-election because of work commitments). Sue is an Educational Consultant, working in secondary schools from Auckland to Taupo.

Marjet Pot has been on the BoT for 6 years and enjoys working with the committed Board members to lead the school. She wants to ensure that Mt Roskill Grammar offers a wide range of educational, sporting and social opportunities to enable all students to realise their dreams and potential and to become valued citizens in the community.

Helen (Tumau) Oge is a proud Samoan Kiwi. Both her parents migrated to New Zealand in the early 70s, married and started a family who have all been students at Mt Roskill Grammar School. After completing her degree and working for the University of Auckland, Helen went on to work for the Manukau Institute of Technology where she is currently in the Schools and Community department as the Pasifika Liaison working primarily with the secondary school community. She serves with the New Nation Church Manukau, particularly within ministries for hospitality, youth, camps and performing arts. Helen feels honoured and is excited to continue her family's connection with the school.

David Williams (Staff Representative) grew up in Christchurch and came to MRGS after studying at Otago University before working and travelling through Europe. He has been a Physical Education and Health Teacher at MRGS for 7 years and has enjoyed the challenge of working within such a multicultural school with such a dedicated staff. In his "spare" time he enjoys either keeping active mostly through cycling and running or supporting and watching a range of sports.

UNIFORM SHOP HOURS

The Uniform Shop will be open Thursday 7 October during the term break from 10.30 to 12.30pm.

An MRGS school cap may be worn in Term 4. No other caps or beanies may be worn. In 2011, every year level is expected to wear the new uniform (Elizabeth Michael label). Blazers and red vests will be available (not compulsory) for Year 12 and 13 students for 2011, however, blazers must be ordered by the end of Term 4 2010. The full list of uniform requirements for juniors and seniors is available on the school website. If you have any queries about uniform please contact Mrs Barker, Deputy Principal.

MRGS GAINS TOP RESULTS IN 2010 INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGE OLYMPICS



For 2 weeks in September our students participated in the International Language Olympics Competition run by Language Perfect (www.languageperfect.co.nz). Over 400 schools took part involving over 80,000 language pupils, who answered over 22 million questions. This is the first time Mt Roskill Grammar School has been involved and we are thrilled at the effort and success of our pupils.

And...the final results:

Mount Roskill Grammar is:

- * 1st Top School in French
- * 2nd Maori
- * 3rd Japanese
- * 3rd School Overall

Students gained Gold Medals, Silver Medals, Bronze Medals or Credit Certificates depending on how many questions they answered.

Top MRGS Gold Medal winners were:

Adil Bhayani, Matthew Davidson, Alastair Fernandes, Natasha Fonseca, Gladie Hanipale, Tracey Ho, Nigaah Khan, Cassie Khoo, Angela Ko, Yashveendra Krishna, Wendy Li, Ayesha Nadat, Victoria Ng, Padmini Nunna, Shilpan Patel, Alisi Puloka, Soo Ling Tran, Grace Wang, Katie Winny, Luke Winny, Jordan Zi.

Top 10 winners were:

Salote Makasini	3 rd Maori,
Jordan Zi	5 th French,
Padmini Nunna	7 th French

SCIENCE FAIR 2010



Congratulations to these students who received a 1st place in their chosen categories:

Dianca Mitchell	1 st Project Title: <i>"Handy Personality"</i>
Victor Xie	1 st Project Title: <i>"The Power of Flight"</i>
Kartik Yellapantula	1 st Project Title: <i>"mPower"</i>
Mildred Wong	1 st Project Title: <i>"Words + Images = Memory?"</i>
Ken Hendricks	Winner of University of Auckland Physics Department Award

The students whose projects were Highly Commended this year are:

Sunil Penumarthy, Kitty Wang, Hanna Davidson, Edwin Chow, Sowmya Kolli, Lucy Yan.

2010 ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE FRENCH SPEAKING COMPETITION RESULTS

MRGS pupils gained outstanding results in the 2010 competition. 12 pupils took part in the competition:

Year 11: **Matthew Davidson, Richelle Fernandes, Shilpan Patel, Shiva Kalyanasundaram, Taina Puloka**
 Year 12: **Krithika Prahallad, Roza Ridwan, Jessica Wei**
 Year 13: **Pranav Chandnani, Gladie Hanipale, Alisi Puloka, Jordan Zi**

Not only did all the pupils perform extremely well, gaining certificates, but three pupils were recalled for the Regional Finals on the 3rd September.

Results for the **Auckland Region Finals** were:

Year 13: **Jordan Zi - 1st / Pranav Chandnani – 7th**
 Year 11 **Taina Puloka – 2nd**

Jordan Zi will receive a special Prize for winning the Auckland Region French Competition and we await his result for the **National Finals**. The winners of the National Finals receive a trip to France in January.



MUSIC

The Music Dept had a busy August, hosting the Campus Concert then on to preparing groups in various competitions. See the school website for pictures of that event.

Stand Up Stand Out Manukau City Talent Quest.

We entered 4 soloists, 1 vocal group and 6 bands and had 5 items recalled to the Finals held on 27 August.

The Finalists were:

Solo Vocal **Michael Murray**,

Group Vocal, The Brittetts, comprising **Brittany Conlon-Stephanicic, Brittany Roxburgh, Linette Mathew**,

Bands: Emensis comprising **Michael Murray, Nicholas McIntosh, Kaveendrah Krishna and Gershon Cadelis**,
Sweet Sounds comprising **David Cao, Michael Murray and Warren Duncan**,

and Brothers and Sisters comprising **Storm Smith, Julie Fa'alogo, Esther Koonwaiyou, Sigmund Kaufusi, Peti Lau'ese, Metia Lisati and Fred Manoa**.

All performed very well and Emensis came second in the Band section. *Emensis* had so impressed the judges during the heats that the Otara Music and Arts Centre has offered to record their song during the Term Three holidays.

Michael Murray was a stand out performer that evening, performing with conviction and with great skill in three of the items.



KBB BAND AND ORCHESTRA FESTIVAL

The Valentines String Orchestra gained a Bronze Award, quite an achievement considering that the ensemble has a mix of players of such varying backgrounds and the group has re-formed as a string only orchestra this year.

The Concert Band took part in the KBB Fringe Festival this year (non-competitive) and there has been a pleasing increase in new, young players this year so that the group is well placed to prepare for the competitive section in 2011.

TOURNAMENT WEEK 2010

Hockey 1st 11 Boys participated in the Olympic Stick tournament in Whakatane and came 5th out of the 16 teams with a record of 3 wins, 1 draw and 2 losses. The 2 losses came against the 2 teams that played in the final.

Hockey 1st 11 Girls tournament was held in Taupo. Once again the girls played really well throughout the tournament. Unfortunately we were beaten in the Semi finals on penalty strokes to the eventual winners. Final placing 3rd = out of 32 teams.

Football 1st 11 Girls participated in the Grant Jarvis Tournament in Taupo. It was an enjoyable week where the girls competed well against all teams. Unfortunately this did not result in winning any games, finishing the tournament in 30th place.

Netball Open A the squad continued to show determination and passion at the upper North Island Netball Tournament held in Auckland. This saw the girls finish 12th out of 32 teams in the B grade, a 10 place improvement from 2009.

AWARDS DINNER

The Annual Awards Dinner will be on **Wednesday 27th of October** from 6.00pm to 9.00pm in the Butler Hall MRGS. This event is to celebrate the success of our sports teams and other co-curricular activities. Tickets cost \$25 and go on sale as of today. To purchase please pay at the Accounts office then take your receipt to Ms Te Whiu in Gym 3 to collect tickets. The school, Sports Co-ordinator Ms Te Whiu and Director of Sports Mr Buckley would like to acknowledge all the parents who supported teams by attending games and provided transport. See you in 2011.

SCHOOL FUNDRAISING

To celebrate the opening of Mt Roskill New World, New World is donating \$50,000 to local organisations. Mt Roskill Grammar is one of these. To help secure funds please mention to family and friends that when paying for groceries mention the number 9911 or Mt Roskill Grammar.

WIDER EDUCATION FOR YEARS 9 & 10 - 6 – 8 DECEMBER

Wider Education is an opportunity for students to be involved in valuable learning experiences that are based outside of the classroom. A handout has been given to all students to show them the wide range of activities that are available. By now students should have made their choice of activity and paid a deposit to secure their place. Final payment is due by 29 October. If you have any queries please contact the Wider Education Co-ordinator, Mr Ferguson.

CHANGES IN THE YEAR 11 SCIENCE PROGRAMME

As a result of the standards alignment process there will be some changes to the year 11 Science courses next year at Mt Roskill Grammar.

Year 11 Science courses will be made up of 20 credits.

Group A: will complete 12 credits at the end of the year as an external examination in the following three topics:

Biology (genetic variation)	4 credits
Chemistry (acids/bases)	4 credits
Physics (Mechanics)	4 credits

As well as completing two out of three internal standards chosen from the following.

Biology (Life processes and Environment factors)	4 credits
Chemistry (Selected chemical reactions)	4 credits
Physics (Practical that leads to linear relationship)	4 credits

Students from group A will be allowed to go on to study year 12 Biology, Chemistry or Physics at level 2 if they pass the respective external standard and have a total of 12 credits at level 1

Group B will consist of students who find Science challenging. For this group we will offer the following 4 internal standards:

Heat in everyday life, Metal properties, Humans and micro organisms and Effect on Planet Earth of astronomical cycles.

This group of students, usually, will not go on to study Year 12 Biology, Chemistry or Physics. For further clarification and enquiries please contact the Head of Science.

CRANES FOR PEACE

As part of the “Cranes for Peace” project groups of enthusiastic students got together to make 1000 paper cranes to commemorate the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Miss Kojima’s Year 9 and 10 Japanese classes made a significant contribution to the overall number. The cranes have now been sent to the mayor of Hiroshima for display in the Peace Park.



‘MARJ GROUP LEADS THE WAY’

A group of enterprising teenagers has come up with an award-winning solution to curb alcohol abuse.

Mt Roskill Grammar School pupils Ajay Ravindran, Jason Walls, Manasi Deshpande and Ryan Puertollano are gearing up to host an expo to highlight the dangers of alcohol abuse for young people.

The group won the first P3 Foundation social enterprise competition for its proposal and received \$1500 as well as mentoring and support for the event at Mt Roskill Grammar next Wednesday.

Ajay says they decided to host an expo after identifying a lack of information as the main barrier to changing the binge drinking culture.

Sixteen-year-old Manasi says a survey on what their peers know about alcohol showed plenty of room for improvement.

"Our survey showed that teens scored an average of 57.5 percent in terms of general alcohol knowledge," she says.

"We aim to raise that to 75 percent after the expo."

"People don't know the basics about standard drinks," Ryan says.

"Teenagers are picking up any bottle without necessarily knowing what it's about and what it can do to them," he says.

"We hope the expo's visual impact may trigger something people relate to on a personal level."

The event will include a damaged liver specimen and a car crash installation.

Organisations such as Students Against Driving Drunk, the Alcohol Advisory Council, fire, police and ambulance services will also be distributing facts on alcohol consumption.

Jason says the expo aims to encourage informed decisions and will include plenty of prizes as well as demonstrations on how to make non-alcoholic mocktails.

"It's knowing about alcohol and being responsible.

"We can't tell you not to drink, but we can help you make better choices," Jason says.

"We're grateful for the opportunity and excited to give back to Mt Roskill."

P3 Foundation founder and Young New Zealander of the Year Divya Dhar says she was impressed with the quality of solutions students produced during the competition.

"All teams really honed in on their first-hand experience to come up with innovative, effective strategies," she says.

"I think the most effective policies to tackle youth binge drinking will use the ideas of young people to kick-start a culture change."

P3 stands for peace, prosperity and progress and was started this year by a group of young professionals.

It works to improve the lives of those living in poverty worldwide.

The social enterprise competition is set to become an annual challenge focusing on a different issue each year.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

TERM 3		
September	Friday 24	Junior & Senior Reports Issued
END OF TERM 3		
TERM 4		
Week 1	October 11	Start of Term 4
Week 3	October 25	Labour Day
	October 27	Awards Dinner
Week 4	November 4	Senior Prizegiving
	November 5	Seniors Leave
Week 5	November 11	NZQA Scholarship Examinations begin
Week 6	November 15	NZQA Examinations begin
	November 17 – November 19	Junior End of Year Exams
Week 8	December 1	NZQA Examinations finish
Week 9	December 6 – December 8	Wider Education
	December 10	Junior Prizegiving
END OF TERM 4		

Calendar for 2011: Term Dates

Term 1:	Start of Term 1	Tuesday 1 February
	Last day of Term 1	Friday 15 April
Term 2:	Start of Term 2	Monday 2 May
	Last day of Term 2	Friday 15 July
Term 3:	Start of Term 3	Monday 1 August
	Last day of Term 3	Friday 7 October
Term 4:	Start of Term 4	Tuesday 25 October
	Last day of Term 4	Friday 9 December

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