

Recently our Student Council ran a school mufti day to raise funds for the Blue Dragon Children's Foundation Vietnam. It was an extremely successful day with about \$2,100 raised. Congratulations to the Student Council for their excellent organisation and to everyone who participated with such good spirit. This week the election for the student representative on the Board of Trustees is being held. Five candidates have spoken at the school assembly and voting is in progress. Special thanks to Bethany Windsor who has worked hard in the role this year, making excellent contributions to the work of the Board of Trustees.



The term 3 break is an important time for our senior students. Achieving balance between rest and relaxation, having fun, and getting organised for the coming external examinations requires good management, courage and resilience. This week the seniors receive reports showing their achievements in the recent trial examinations. Areas of concern are also indicated. These reports should let students and their families plan use of time in the term break wisely. The aim should be to return to school refreshed and organised with respect to their learning. Families could ask senior students to tell them the areas that they have decided need more work in each subject.

Quality achievement is important. When considering students for positions beyond school, tertiary institutions and employers are interested in the quality of achievement as shown by the grades gained, as well as the number of credits gained. Students can gain their NCEA endorsed with Merit or with Excellence if 50 credits are gained at the particular grade level. Families could ask students how many credits at each grade level their son or daughter has already, and what is still needed to gain a Merit or Excellence endorsement.

You will have seen the concerns raised in the media by school principals about the adequacy of operational funding for schools. At MRGS we share this concern. Thank you to the families who have made their parental contribution. These are not easy times financially and your donations are appreciated and carefully used.

In the next few weeks we will be recognising achievements of our students at the Awards Dinner and at the Senior Prizegiving. I look forward to seeing many of you there.

G B Watson
PRINCIPAL

PEACE WEEK: 1000 PAPER CRANE PROGRAMME

On the 1st day of International Peace Week, Monday 4th of August 2008, Year 9, Year 10 and Year 13 students in Japanese classes began folding paper cranes towards our aim of 1000. During lunchtime, many other students came to help us.



We folded these paper cranes in memory of the young girl called Sadako who died a few years after the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima. She was one of the victims. Sadako was suffering from a devastating disease, a form of blood cancer, leukaemia. Sadako's mother told her that if she folded 1000 paper cranes and made a wish it would come true. Sadako immediately began folding the cranes. Her family and friends helped her fold cranes as well. Unfortunately they did not reach 1000 cranes, and Sadako passed away.

After finishing folding 1000 paper cranes, the senior students then helped thread them together. We have mailed these 1000 paper cranes to Hiroshima.

Through this programme, we were reminded of a message from an assembly. The mediators told us how we could treat each other in a better way so that we can make peace everywhere.

Ewen Wong (Year 9)

2008 ALLIANCE FRANCAISE FRENCH SPEAKING COMPETITION

Results for Auckland & Northland regions:

MRGS results were excellent with 3 students being recalled as finalists. They were: **Jordan Zi**, **Pranav Chandnani** and **Cornelia Mu**. The competition is between students of French in all Auckland Secondary Schools.

The final results were as follows:

- Year 11: 2nd in Auckland Region – **Pranav Chandnani**
 “Très Bien” – **Jordan Zi, Namita Rao, Madhurima Sen**
- Year 12: 2nd in Auckland Region – **Cornelia Mu**
 “Bien” – **Keegan Lopez, Nandita Fernandes, Cara Rebello**
- Year 13 : « Très Bien » - **Matthew Gibson, Caleb Saunders**
 « Bien » - **Jennifer Kirby**
 « Assez Bien » - **Tina Pan**

GYM SPORTS

On the 6th and 7th of September Mt Roskill Grammar had a team competing at the NZ Secondary Schools Gym Sport Competition. We had a successful year –and our first time competing in this event for a number of years. Congratulations to **Hayden Ng** who finished 2nd in a closely fought competition in the Mens B grade.



Our Boys team of **Jordan Aislabie**, **Joshua Sprague** and **Brandon Wong-Plank** won the silver medal also in the C Grade Artistic Mens Competition.

Sarah Deverell was our only trampolinist and finished 5th place in the B Grade. She had the highest difficulty possible in her individual routine which was extremely well executed.

Victoria Ng also competed in the Womens Artistic and completed all disciplines well recording several personal best scores.



Well done to all athletes and Mrs Bennett hopes to see everyone back competing at National level again in 2009.

GOLF CLUBS

Does anyone have old golf clubs or parts of golf sets taking up space in their garage? If you are doing a spring clean or know of someone who no longer has use for golf clubs the PE dept would love to have any donations of golf equipment in reasonable working condition. Please contact Mrs Bennett in the PE Dept 6210050 Ext 824.

HOLIDAY READING

The graphic novel genre covers the whole spectrum of story type and subject matter. In our school library we have graphic novels that tackle serious themes such as terrorism and war as well as light-hearted stories about huge dogs and scary neighbours. Autobiography, biography, history, science fiction, mystery and fantasy in graphic format are part of our collection.



You will also find Manga (play the Warriors Quest game online at www.warriorcats.com).

Come to the library and browse our new range of graphic books – you will find new hardcover volumes of the popular Tintin series, ancient Greek myths from Graphic Universe, the Blood Relatives series in Manga, the latest Dodgeball Chronicles, some chilling new tales from R.L.Stine and an all-new, full-colour Nancy Drew series.

The library is open every day from 8.00am until 4.00pm. Younger brothers and sisters are welcome in the library after school during term time.

SCHOOL SCIENCE FAIR 2008

60 students took part in our School Science Fair held on Tuesday and Wednesday last week. It was a very successful event featuring some outstanding work from our students. 16 projects have been selected to enter the Auckland Regional Science Fair to be held on 20 October. Well done to all the participants and congratulations to the following prize winners:

Junior Section

- | | | |
|---------------------------|-----|-------------------------------|
| 1. Zeba Moin | 901 | <i>'Colour Absorption'</i> |
| 2. Nikki Lumangtad | 901 | <i>'The colourful effect'</i> |
| 3. Marcus Sung | 902 | <i>'Water Rocket'</i> |

Senior Section

- | | | |
|-------------------------|------|--|
| 1. Kevin Huang | BRYL | <i>Fridge Alarm</i> |
| 2. Alisa Darling | GDVG | <i>Which wood would be optimal</i> |
| Andrea Iskandar | RDNG | |
| 3. Alwin Lim | MHRA | <i>Maximum air temperature for frost</i> |

DAFFODIL DAY

The Student Council organised an extremely successful Daffodil Day this year which was held on Friday August 29th. This year we did something a little different to raise more funds than just selling the daffodils. We wanted to acknowledge the many people in our own community who are suffering from cancer, either directly or indirectly. Assuming Mt Roskill is no different from the New Zealand average, 1 in 3 of us are affected by cancer. To symbolise this we bought a Tree of Hope and Remembrance. Students were able to give a gold coin donation to write a message of hope for someone they know with cancer, or remembrance for someone who died of cancer. These messages were then hung on the tree. The sheer volume of these messages was a grim reminder of how many people are affected. The tree will be planted in the school as a symbol of community support for people dealing with cancer.



As a further sign of support for our community, half of the money raised by MRGS students on Daffodil Day will go to 6 families associated with our school who are dealing with cancer.

This year we raised \$2600 which is 3 times the amount raised last year. I would personally like to thank all of the students at MRGS for their compassion and their generosity.

Mrs J. Turanga

MEDIEVAL FESTIVAL

Each year the Year 10 students participate in the Medieval Festival at Mt Roskill Grammar which is a full day event that will be held on Friday December 5th.

There are many events and activities scheduled for this full day which include live displays from local medieval societies, a fashion show and group learning workshops. The students will be able to experience life back in the 11th -13th centuries.



The cost for this event has been kept to a minimum of \$15.00 which covers the cost of specialist entertainment groups and craft supplies used throughout the day.

The activities on the day will include:

1. Shield and Catapult making
2. Medieval Dancing
3. Stagecraft - Students will receive training in this workshop which will be conducted by trained members of a local medieval society called The Argent Lords using props provided by them for this activity.
4. Fashion show
5. Demonstrations by the Argent Lords
6. A jousting display by The Company of the Lance.



A letter and permission slip will be sent out with more information next term. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Social Sciences Department.

KENDO DEMONSTRATION

On Wednesday 17th September a delegation from Shinagawa in Japan came to Mt Roskill to demonstrate to our students the art of Kendo. Mt Roskill students were dressed in the Kendo outfits and taught skills by the Japanese students. Mt Roskill students learnt very quickly different techniques which included full contact to the armour and a loud yell on contact.....



MUSIC DEPARTMENT EVENTS

Changes of teacher and instrumental tutors

This year the Music Dept welcomes the following new tutors who are becoming established in their roles here:

Mr T Scholes – Trumpet tutor and Big Band Director – he's a recent uni jazz graduate who is performing in many bands around Auckland

Mr T Atkinson – Saxophone tutor, Junior Concert Band Director. – is also a recent jazz graduate who is a regular performer on the jazz circuit.

Mr T Waipara – Clarinet tutor – is a versatile performer with a career also as a soul singer and he's a Masters Graduate in Clarinet performance from New York.

Ms Edgar's reliever Mrs Vaz recently moved on to another teaching position much closer to home and we welcome multi-instrumentalist and B. Mus Ed. graduate Ms E Steedman to our class teaching staff.

Term three is full of many events and competitions for our music students.

Mr G's Jazz Combo on 27 July, performed to a high standard in the Jazz Combo Competition hosted at Broadway Café, on 13 Aug did a gig for a Rotary Dinner and on 15 Aug competed in "Stand Up Stand Out" Manukau City Schools' Talent Quest.

Mr G's Boys' Chorus were placed 2nd in the Auckland Regionals of YSIH and competed in the National Competition held in Wellington on 20 Aug.

The Orchestra held a very successful camp last term and competed in the KBB Orchestra Festival on 28 Aug

The newly formed **Mr G's Big Band** have made impressive progress and are also going to compete in the KBB Band festival on 27 Aug.

We put two groups **Sustain** and **Cheerio** into the Pacifica Beats competition and **Cheerio** made it into the Auckland Regionals held at the end of term two. Both groups also compete in "Stand Up Stand Out"

The Music Dept intends to showcase some of the talent mentioned above in an evening concert late in Term 3. See dates for your diary.

SEIRINKAN JAPANESE EXCHANGE SCHEME

We are now accepting applications from students who would like to live and study at Seirinkan High School, Nagoya from April next year. Students learning Japanese who will be in Year 11 or 12 next year will be considered providing they have good academic and behavioural attributes. The costs involved are airfare of approximately \$1,600 plus medical insurance and families are asked to either host a Seirinkan student in exchange or if unable to host a Japanese student; pay homestay for a student to stay with another family. Homestay costs \$220 a week, so if your child goes to Japan for three months, we ask that you either host for that time or contribute \$2,640 (12 weeks x \$220 a week) towards the Japanese student's costs. Shorter or longer trips are also possible. Please contact Ms Harding on 621 0050 extension 756 for more information.

TOURNAMENT RESULTS

Boys Hockey

Finished 4th out of 15 at Woolaston Trophy in Whakatane. **Haman Ganda** was named our MVP of the tournament.

Results

Pool Play

Won 1-0 vs. Otorohanga College

Lost 3-0 vs. Birkenhead College

Won 1-0 vs. Katikati College

Quarter Final

Won 2-0 vs. St Peters

Semi Final

Lost 4-2 to Gisborne Boys High (eventual winners)

3rd/4th

Lost 2-1 to Rotorua Lakes High

Netball Open A

The beginning of September saw the Open A Netball girls compete in the Upper North Island Tournament held not far from home in Papakura. The week long competition was made up of 90 secondary schools that were all competing for either the top four placings that would see them play in Nationals or equally as important move up in their graded seedings. The girls played against some formidable opponents, one gifted player as such towering over our GK with her amazing 6 ft 7 height!! There was no doubt, however, that our Roskill girls also brought a great deal of speed, skill and determination to the court which saw them successfully move up the seedings from their former 23rd placing to 18th.

SPORTS & EXTRA-CURRICULAR

Winter Season has come to an end. Sports at Mount Roskill Grammar School have come a long way and it has been a great achievement in many areas. Tournament week saw many of our sport teams competed with a lot of flair and spirit. Thank you to all staff, coaches, managers and parents who have helped make this year a great sporting year.

AWARDS DINNER

The annual Awards Dinner for Sports and Cultural activities will be held in the Hall on **Wednesday 29 October at 6.00pm.**

All students who have been in cultural teams or first grades sports teams are encouraged to attend. Parents can also purchase tickets from the school.

The guest speaker will be Barbara Kendall, four times World Champion and Olympic Gold, Silver and Bronze Windsurfer and the evening is an opportunity to thank all of the coaches and managers who have supported our teams this year.

The school and Sports Co-ordinator, Ms Te Whiu would like to acknowledge all the parents who supported all the teams by attending different games and for providing transport. See you in 2009.

UNIFORM FOR YEAR NINE STUDENTS 2009

Thank you for your positive feedback about our new Year 9 uniform for 2009. Students at other levels will continue to wear the present uniform in 2009.



WIDER EDUCATION YEARS 9 & 10

Wider Education this year runs from 9 - 11 December and it is an opportunity for all to be involved in activities that are outside of the classroom. 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 students might not normally be involved with but are fun and designed to challenge young people. Activities offered include:

Girls Zone
Going Bush
Hit & Splash
Summer Slickers
Let's Go To the Snow
Art Escape

Fun In The Sun
Girls Just Want To Have Fun
School Sport
Extreme Edge Rock Climbing
Horse Riding
Golf



Year 10

As a Year 10 student your son/daughter will be expected 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.

The main camp takes place at the Motutapu Outdoor Education Camp (on Motutapu Island) and because we cannot accommodate all Year 10 students there, other camps are held at Raglan (surfing) and Waiuku (Art).

Deposit due before: 17 October \$25 day trips \$50 Camps

Final Payment before: 17 November

A Ferguson
Wider Ed Coordinator

COMMUNITY NOTICES

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR FUNDRAISING

Go to www.yourfastshop.co.nz and browse over 85 online stores. All shopping helps raise funds when you select MRGS. Save money and time by shopping online. You can shop for groceries, DVDs, clothes, ipods, books, toys and lots more.

2008 NCEA EXAM TIMETABLE – available from Student Services

This is designed to be folded up to a credit size card and easy to carry around.

For more information log onto www.inotes.co.nz

MI-BUDDY (YOUTH PROJECT)

To help recently migrated teens with problems regarding school, relationships and relating to Kiwi culture. For more information please see Mr Lett.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

TERM 3

Friday 26 September

END OF TERM 3 – Closing time 3.10pm

TERM 4

Term 4	Monday 13 October	Term 4 Begins
	Monday 27 October	LABOUR DAY
	Wednesday 29 October	Awards Dinner
	Tuesday November 11	Senior Prizegiving
	Saturday 15 November	NZQA Scholarship Exams start
	Monday 17 November	Junior Exams start
	Monday 8 – Wednesday 10 December	Wider Education
	Friday 12 December	Junior Prizegiving

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- ➡ Prepare for our final exams (all subjects)
- ➡ Write good essays
- ➡ Study effectively
- ➡ Attend Holiday programmes

Enquiries & Bookings Contact:

Kip McGrath – Three Kings

75 Carr Rd

Phone: 09 620 1277 or 021 917 379

Or email: renee-kmce@xtra.co.nz