



MOUNT ROSKILL GRAMMAR SCHOOL

JULY 2017

NEWSLETTER

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Nga mihi nui ki a koutou

During Term 3 we will be focusing on what each student can do to make the best possible progress. There is still time to improve if achievement hasn't been up to expectations and, if focus strays, there is still time to compromise a good start. We are looking forward to junior and senior subject report evening during the term, along with the senior mentoring conference day to sharpen our partnerships around learning success.

I continue to be impressed, and proud, of how well our students succeed in academic and co-curricular activities. Thank you to the parents, student leaders and staff who made all of the co-curricular opportunities possible for our students during term 2.

At the end of term 2 we farewelled Keith Hall after 31 years at the school as he retires from the profession. Mr Hall began at Mount Roskill Grammar in 1986 as Head of Geography and carried out many roles including Dean of Year 13, Head of Social Sciences, and Deputy Principal since 2001. He is much loved by our community not only for his meticulous work but also because he epitomises what the school is about. He has been at the heart of Roskill since he first arrived and has been the 'go to man' for so many staff and students, helping people wherever he can. The Sursum Trust recognised this in naming its major scholarship in his honour.

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There were many farewell events. The school presented Mr Hall with a taonga in the shape of a fish hook - Hei Matau representing strength, determination and bringing peace, prosperity and good health. It also provides safe journey over water. It is made from rare whale tooth, though not as rare as our rangatira Mr Hall. The Mount Roskill community is deeply grateful to Mr Hall for the way he has always believed the best and relentlessly cared for us.

Look forward to learning and success with a smile in term 3.

Ki nga taumata

Greg Watson

Principal





A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD CHAIR— MARJET POT

Welcome back to term 3 at Mount Roskill Grammar School. I hope that the students and staff are well rested and ready to focus on the second half of the year.

The Board members have also had a couple of weeks off from the frequent meetings which they undertake. The Board of Trustees is comprised of parent representatives whose role is to govern the school. We set the policies and annual goals so that the school can enact these and continue to grow as a centre of learning and excellence. Our goals, and therefore our meetings, always focus on providing opportunities for all students to experience a high level of engagement in school life.



At the end of last term I had the honour of attending the annual school ball. I know the ball is a highlight of the senior school year and this year was again a great success. The students all looked fantastic in their James Bond themed, 007 attire. The venue was superbly decorated and the students danced the night away. I always feel proud to see the students enjoying themselves, ensuring everyone is welcomed and included and maintaining the high standards of behaviour and respect that is the ROSKILL WAY.

Term 3 is the last full term of teaching for our senior students as they prepare for their external examinations in term 4. As such all students need to maintain their focus and cement their learnings as they prepare for impending exams. It is also a time for students to take care of each other as the stress builds around exams while remaining focussed on their own achievement goals. There is a lot of support within the school for students who are feeling stress preparing for or taking exams or who need additional support in subject areas in the run up to the exam period. Parents can always contact the Deans or the Counselling Department or any staff member if they are concerned about their child's well being or want to provide additional support.

A great way to stay involved with the journey of senior students is through the mentoring conferences. The next round of conferences will be held on Wednesday 30th August

Marjet





LANGUAGE PERFECT WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS; MAY 2017

Mount Roskill Grammar School gained impressive results in this International Languages competition. MRGS pupils answered over 1.2 million questions, gaining 541,615 points, which represents 1,575 hours spent learning languages.



Special school achievements:

- **MRGS placed 3rd in New Zealand**
- **11th in the World (over 1,300 schools)**
- **1st in New Zealand for 250-500 languages students Category**
- **2nd in French in New Zealand (out of 225 schools)**
- **2nd in Chinese in New Zealand (out of 171 schools)**
- **7th in Japanese in New Zealand (out of 185 schools)**

Special student achievements:

- **Tessa Brown – TOP Elite Award & Badge pupil at MRGS with 20,423 points!**

* ELITE Award + Badge (10,000+ points) gained by 17 students: **Tessa Brown, Anna Brown, Huthaifa Ibrahim, Ellen Peng, Halym Smith, Amy Roscoe, Zainab Iqbal, Bhavya Jasti, Rebecca Ferguson, Persia Gharekhanian, Siva Sivaraman, Amisha Prasad, Zainab Aktar, Mariano Mackenzie, Euan McDougall, Leon Li, Benjamin Zhang**

* GOLD Award (3,000+ points) gained by 26 students: **Ellie Zou, Lisanke Gowsigan, Eurodias Yong, Jasper Villanueva, Shirley Chan, Emily Bayldon, Jiahui Huang, Kate Bonnici, Rejishal Sen, Sabrina Von, Sarah McKenzie, Ian Busby, Max Chen, Emily Huang, Lillian Huo, Taisei Hayashi, Neigalo Lavea, Kenny Yu, Karen Huang, Olivia Chessum, Sheng-Ya Wang, Raeesah Mustahib, Keerat Marwah, Ano Chitando, Shivasha Kishun, Lojanan Sivanantharuban**

* SILVER Award (2,000+ points) = 25 students

* BRONZE Award (1,000+ points) = 66 students

* CREDIT Award (500+ points) = 55 students

SPELLING BEE SUCCESS

Huthaifa Ibrahim from Year 10 also qualified for the semi-finals of the National Spelling Bee. This means he has placed in the top 200 nationwide. Good luck to Huthaifa in the semi-final which will be held in Auckland on August 12.



CHINESE SPEECH COMPETITION

Ayesha Hafeez from Year 10 Chinese entered the 2017 Auckland Chinese Speech Competition and won 3rd place for Mount Roskill Grammar School. Ayesha was excellent throughout, presenting her speech with accurate tone and excellent fluency. She also presented Chinese Fan Dance for the Talent Show Section wearing a beautiful traditional Chinese costume.



of

STUDENT REFLECTIONS FROM 'YOU DANCE'

Imagine two evenings of professional dance where students are able to perform on a beautiful stage and receive feedback on their performances by professional dancers, highly regarded in the industry. That event is YouDance - a prestigious festival of Dance which is entrance by invite-only and showcases the best and brightest of secondary school dance in Auckland. MRGS performed on night 2 and showed 3 dances - two student-choreographed works 'Power' and 'Maui' as well as Caitie Thompson's choreography of 'Ellipsis'. All three pieces were very well received and initiated multiple congratulations and commendations on the students' performances and choreography. We look forward to next year where we hope to continue to show what MRGS performing arts is capable of.





(FIRST EVER) NATIONAL E-SPORTS CHAMPIONS

Massey High School faced off against Mount Roskill Grammar in the first ever secondary schools gaming championship in May, with the schools competing in the popular computer game, League of Legends. League of Legends is one of the world's most popular video games with more than 100 million active players each month.

The game is no different to a sports game; you've got your two teams, referees and the object of the game is to get across the enemy line and like any athlete these guys train hard.

"I play around seven hours on week days because I have school," newly crowned champion and Mount Roskill Grammar Captain, Vinson Feng said.

Vinson is about to go pro - he's off to a gaming house in Sydney where he'll be paid handsomely to play in front of thousands online in a professional-run competition. He'll be joining 15 other Kiwis gaming professionally and Vinson is carrying good form into his new pro career after he snatched Mount Roskill a national title.

Mount Roskill Grammar School Team:

- **Vinson Feng** (Captain)
- **Liam Liang**
- **Patrick Chung**
- **Alan Xu**
- **Andy Mo**



JUNIOR HEALTH CURRICULUM COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Every two years, Mount Roskill Grammar School conducts a community consultation on our Health Curriculum. Health is compulsory in the NZ Curriculum for Years 9 and 10 students and can be chosen as an NCEA subject in Year 11, 12 and 13. Health has an important role in the New Zealand Curriculum, teaching our students life long skills and knowledge.

The MRGS Community Health Consultation will take place in Term 3. The consultation consists of an online survey that will only take a few minutes for parents to complete. An email will be sent to all parents and caregivers on our email database with a link to the survey. A link will also be available on the school website and paper copies available from the school office. We value your input and look forward to receiving your feedback.

A copy of the MRGS Junior Health Curriculum outline is available on the school website. If you have any further questions regarding the Health programme at MRGS, please contact Kim Thomas or Maria Vince, 621 0050 ext 741, kim.thomas@mrgrs.school.nz, maria.vince@mrgrs.school.nz



CONSENT AWARENESS WEEK

At Mount Roskill Grammar School, BodySafe (the Education wing of Rape Prevention Education) has run consent education sessions with Year 10 Health classes for over a decade now. Each year 10 core class has four high-quality workshops on sexual consent and the NZ law.

In week 7 last term, we celebrated the student initiated "Consent Awareness Week" for a third time. Students from the Peer Sexuality Support Team ran assembly items, quizzes and an expo on sexual consent to reinforce the BodySafe messages. Students learned that consent is a free agreement between people, and it involves an enthusiastic "yes". You need to be at least 16 to give consent, and not affected by drugs or alcohol. You cannot coerce someone into having sex.



BASKETBALLER OF THE FUTURE?

Levic Kerr from year 10 spent most of the break in Dunedin at the Under 15 basketball championships. Despite being relatively new to the sport his height, work ethic and skill caught the eye of many spectators and that of the newshub team. To see more about Levic and to view the report follow the link below.

<http://www.newshub.co.nz/home/sport/2017/07/new-zealand-s-next-potential-basketball-superstar-making-big-impression-at-under-age-tournament.html>





YEAR 13 PRODUCTION

On Thursday 15th and Friday 16th of May, the Year 13 Drama class performed the highly challenging feminist text, *The Collective* by Jean Betts. The work focuses on the fictional German playwright Bertolt Brecht who was a pioneer of modern theatre principles and excommunicated from Berlin during World War 2 for his communist plays and ideals. He was also known to be a compulsive philanderer, and often manipulated these women into writing his plays for



him with little to no compensation. Thanks to the Year 13 Drama whanau, Maia Brewster, Victoria Polima and Yusuf Guessous for their help with makeup/hair and Front of House; thanks to Reon Bell and Ella Mavaega for their Sound and Lighting Design; and to Josephine Mavaega for her songwriting and performance with Rocky Parsons. The Year 13 class has really bonded over the experience of putting on this show and we have had some great results in this assessment opportunity. Thanks to our lovely audiences for being so responsive to this modern work.



KORORAREKA TRIP — SENIOR DRAMA

On Wednesday the 14th of June, all the senior Drama students went to Q Theatre in a double decker bus to see Red Leap Theatre Company's new work '*Kororareka: The Ballad of Maggie Flynn*'. The work explored a story of Maggie, an Irish ship captain who migrated to New Zealand in her husband's boat. Maggie lands in Kororareka (Russell) at the pivotal era before the treaty signing, and becomes a 'mokai' - a slave or pet of the local Maori. The piece was performed by five of the leading and most influential women in Auckland theatre today, and explored themes and ideas that the students felt impacted by and are excited to discuss in their end of year examinations. In the examinations students analyse a piece of drama they have seen that year.



DANCE SHOWCASE—TERM 2

What a huge year for Performing Arts - again made evident by the Dance showcase of Term 2 which highlighted the wonderful work done by Miss Caitie Thompson and her students in Year 11-13 Dance. Their work was engaging, polished and very professional. The crowd of over 200 people enjoyed the work which ranged from student-choreographed pieces to professionally choreographed work taught by Miss Thompson to the students. Some of the performances were whole class dances. The Year 11 class performed a contemporary piece created by a professional choreographer inspired by the movement in the Samoan Sasa which was a great start to the evening. Year 12 students performed a piece they choreographed with Miss Thompson to 'Just what I needed' by The Cars, and the Year 13 students performed a professionally choreographed piece named 'Now Reveal Me' about individuality and expression of self. We were so proud of our students for their hard work and professional approach to the stag and would like to thank Patrice O'Brien, Mark Thompson, Rohan Shetty, Ella Mavaega and Carmela Hughes for their backstage assistance.



JUNIOR HIP HOP CREW PERFORMS AT INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

In Arts Week, the Junior Hip Hop crew 'Hot Chips' performed three of their five sets at Mount Roskill Intermediate School at their Arts Week assembly. The fourteen year 9 and 10 students were immaculately behaved and led by their brilliant senior leaders, Siraanika Govindu and 'Isope 'Akau'ola.

The feedback from the staff and students was very positive and they enjoyed seeing many MRI ex-pupils on stage sharing such enthusiasm and talent. The Junior Hip Hop crew is looking forward to performing at Stand Up Stand Out in August and has been rehearsing hard, as have the Senior Crew 'Diversifire'.





SPECIAL OLYMPICS SOCCER

On Monday 26 June students from the MacLean Centre took part in the Special Olympics Soccer Tournament held at Macleans College, Bucklands Beach. Mount Roskill Grammar School entered a team in the 1st Division and 3rd Division.

Competition was fierce but everybody played very well. Both teams were placed 3rd in their Division and were a credit to the school showing great sportsmanship and participation.

1st Division team players:

Aaron Fernandes, Mandela Takaa, Hyung Tag Lee, Viliami Kaihau, Tonga Tupou, Semisi Tonga and Issac Tutakitoa.

3rd Division players:

Sebastian O'Sullivan, Michael Hsu, Jaimee Henshaw, Krystal Hinks-Allen, Nitro Hansen and Daniel Zhu.



2017 YOUNG SPEECH MAKERS COMPETITION

Ding Gao and Ojas Shukla competed against 12 other students from around Auckland. They presented speeches on diversity and drug prohibition respectively and each delivered an impromptu speech on technology in 20 years time. They spoke persuasively and made a lasting impact on their audience.





40 HOUR FAMINE

Thank you to all students and staff who participated this year. MRGS raised more than **\$2600** for Syrian refugees.

If you still have any outstanding booklets and donation collection, please return them to Miss Yang in R11

A huge thank-you to all who took part from 40 Hour Famine committee and Miss Yang.

More information on this very worthy cause can be found at: <https://www.worldvision.org.nz/40-hour-famine>

MAKING ART— STUDENT REFLECTIONS

In year 10 Art last term we made a painting inspired by Mount Roskill Grammar School and the Mount Roskill area. We drew inspiration from our art classes and places around the school and Puketapapa, the Mount Roskill Mountain. The painting process took three weeks. Our group began by making individual plans and then tried to merge our ideas together. Then we started creating our painting by preparing the pieces of wood and painting the base colour of our painting. Then we painted the Mount Roskill mountain, and the boxes around it and filled them with colour and pattern designs that we'd created earlier. Lastly we painted the sunset sky with the cross in the middle. We arranged to work together by getting small groups to work on particular areas of the painting, ensuring that every part of the painting was done effectively and on time. We learnt that team work can help you create something faster. We also learnt helpful painting techniques like blending, creating colours and painting realistic structures.





ASS GYMSPORTS RESULTS

ASS GYMSPORTS was held at Bruce Pulman Park in Papakura on 29th June .

Mount Roskill Grammar School had its biggest team ever represent the school with a total of 28 athletes competing. Thank you to the student coaches India Horgan, Rachel Bickerton and Morgan Watson.

Results were as follows:

Gymnastics LEVEL 1

Alyshia Harper 2nd

Anna Greaves 3rd

Team Places 2nd place

Anna Greaves

Chelsea Ellis

Kaitlyn Booth

3rd Place

Wai Yen Relph

Dhavni Patel

Mollie Coldham

Rebecca Zhou



Trampoline 3rd in A grade Men's - Shivesh Lal

1st in B Grade Women's - Chelsea Ellis

3rd in C Grade Women's - Mollie Coldham

1st C Grade Men's - Brooklyn O'Malley

1st Level C team

Mollie Coldham

Aylshia Harper

Melanie Spence

Nidhi Vijayanarasimhan





ARCHERY NOW AT MOUNT ROSKILL GRAMMAR

This year we have established an Archery group. It started because Ally King, one of our year 13 students and an avid archer herself, saw that there were many students not involved in any other sport that would be keen to start archery.

So we asked for teachers and students to train to be coaches and after our whole day training in term 4, 2016 we ended up with 7 dedicated and fully trained student and staff archery coaches. We are very fortunate to have a top archer parent coach Steven King to make sure we are all doing it right. Following health and safety approval, by the end of term 2, we had a strong, skilled and keen team of about 30 archers. We train every Friday morning, before school, and afternoon, after school, in our specially kitted out, archery safe, Gym 3.

Shooting started at about 7 metres from the target, but we all got better at shooting and more accurate over the weeks. After a term of practise we are now shooting from the 18 metre mark and have some awesome archers. Unfortunately we have to wait until term one 2018 until we can compete in the inter schools competitions, but we should have some successful competitors in these competitions. In the meantime we are looking to expand our numbers and started a new beginners group over the term 2 holidays, so they will be ready for term 3 weekly practices. We are also looking into having a within school competition later in the year.

If you are interested in joining see Ms Cranch in C11 or one of our dedicated and skilled student coaches:

Johnson Zhaung , Ally King, Felix Yang, Lucky Chen and Kendrel Cher





ARTS WEEK

Week 9 was ARTS WEEK at Mount Roskill Grammar School – a week to learn, live and love the Arts and all that encompasses them. The Art Department hosted banner painting for peace and workshops by guest tutors, the Music Department hosted live performances by MRGS students, and the PFA committee (Dance and Drama students in leadership roles) facilitated professional guest tutors and workshops in Dance and Drama, and we also hosted an Arts Expo with representatives from many Auckland institutions and universities. It was a week to celebrate the opportunities the arts afford us, and the importance of the Arts to a fully rounded education or lifestyle. Thanks to the students who performed or led activities – we are so proud of their hard work and passion for the Arts.





UNDER 15 RUGBY

Our Under 15 rugby team have played 7 games and won 6 in the U15B competition. We are looking good to make the semi-finals. The team is well led by Captain Jesse Pikaahu. The team is well known for their outstanding fitness and commitment to training four times a week.

With two games to end the round, we may well go "To the Heights".

1ST XI BOYS FOOTBALL

The 1st XI Boys Football team has had a difficult start to the season. With a new generation of players, the young team - the majority of which are Year 9, Year 10 and Year 11 - have struggled to match the heights set last season, when the team managed 3rd place in their first season back in the U19 Auckland Premier League. In between some disappointing losses there have been two good performances against Auckland Grammar and St Peters College, which earned the team 1-1 and 2-2 draws, respectively. The recent game against St Peters saw a great performance from the team and showed they can compete in this grade. Meanwhile, the 1st XI Development team - made up of mainly Year 9 with a few Year 10 students - have been playing a good style of football and developing technically and tactically. There is much promise in the young ranks on the back of good identification and development in the intermediate school age bracket.

SENIOR BOYS BASKETBALL

With a young core this year, the Senior Boys Basketball team have set themselves the lofty goal of playing Premier Basketball in 2018. In order to achieve this the team must win both their Open A grade and the subsequent Greater Auckland Championship (held in mid-August). The team have started well with 6 wins from 7 and require two more victories against Lynfield and Rutherford to secure 1st place in the grade. The boys are to be commended for their commitment to both their studies and basketball. We look forward to the challenges that lie ahead next term.

PAST STUDENTS EXPERIENCING INTERNATIONAL RUGBY SUCCESS

Brothers Daniel Faleafa (1st XV Capt 2006) and Michael Faleafa (1st XV 2006/07) were named in the Tongan Ikale side for internationals against Samoa and Wales in May.

Daniel is currently contracted to Brive RFC France and Michael contracted to Northland.



WORKING IN THE COMMUNITY

Ronald McDonald House is a home for families of sick children who are receiving treatment at Starship Hospital.

Late in term 2, 13FHS23 prepared, cooked and served dinner for the families staying there. We served dinner at 6pm with the help of Kiwanis (an International service group who focus on children). We organised and prepared the dinner – Kiwanis fund it and help with the service.

The families enjoyed the meals and expressed their gratitude.

We had a great time and enjoyed helping others.



ROCKERZ DANCE SUCCESS

On Saturday 27th May group of 10 passionate students performed at Logan Campbell Centre in a High School Bollywood Dance Competition. The group had put in many hours of hard work and rehearsals after school. The group has worked diligently from giving interviews at the Humm FM radio station, promoting the event and designing their own costumes. Roskill students definitely made the community proud by winning 2nd Runner up prize. Sara Shah Yr13 also got noticed for her excellence performance and was awarded best female dancer out of 11 schools. Well done to the following students for their determination and for the community in supporting them on the night. Dancers were Kiran Bora, Sachun Dutt, Ishita Dwivedi, Mitchell Gosling, Saakslu Hedge, Delicia Saldanha, Khushi Shajpal, Seth Prashanti, Sara Shah and Nidhi Vijayanarasimhan.





SENIOR GIRLS' LACROSSE TEAM

Lacrosse continues to be a growing and successful sport at MRGS. Our premiere team, are currently second overall in Auckland this season after recently beating MAGS 12-9. This team are likely to be invited to Nationals for the first time next term if they continue their success. Breearna Johnson, Anna Greaves and Lauren van Laarhoven-Hargreaves represented NZ at the Lacrosse Festival World Cup in the UK, travelling first to the US over the school holidays.

SENIOR GIRLS BASKETBALL

The Premier Girls Basketball team have had a mixed season so far with multiple injuries that have tested the depth of the team. Our team trains afterschool on Monday and Wednesdays with games from 6pm most Fridays and the occasional Monday. The girls have shown incredible resilience and team work, working hard on their fitness and shooting skills. We have a number of young girls in years 10 and 11, and a couple who are new to basketball all of whom have shown incredible promise for the future. We look forward to developing our team further as the season progresses.



1ST XI GIRLS' FOOTBALL

The 1st XI girls have competed well in the higher grade (A1) that they were promoted to last year. To date they have five wins two draws and three loses and have scored 21 goals for and had 14 scored against.

The team is currently in 5th place out of twelve teams. This years team is very young, with 10 of the girls coming from year nine and year ten, despite their lack of age and experience they are already competing well and the future looks very bright.



WORKSHOP FOR JUNIORS LED BY SENIORS (SAMOAN DANCE, HIP HOP AND TAP)

Week 2, 3 and 4 saw the opportunity for Junior students to try out new styles of dance which were offered by Senior dance students in the PFA room. The styles included Hip Hop, Tap and Samoan Dance. It was wonderful to see the capabilities of our senior students in leading these groups and to watch the talent emerge from our younger learners. We even managed to find a few new students with mega talent to join our Junior Hip Hop Crew 'Hot Chips' also led by Senior Dance students. The PFA Dept would like to thank Josephine Mavaega and Etita Tamiano (Samoan Dance), Victoria Medina Villapol (Hip Hop) and Chelsea Ellis and Steffanie Kobayashi-Cox (Tap) for the time and effort they put in to prepare their sets and teach, and to the junior students for their enthusiasm and for trying something new.

DRAMA SHOWCASE TERM 2 YEAR 12

On the 9th of June the Year 12 Drama Class performed their second showcase of the year, excerpts from Macbeth and Romeo and Juliet. At the beginning when we got to choose our roles I found it very challenging to perform this,. Previously I had performed in A Midsummer Night's Dream as Peter Quince and in Romeo and Juliet as Tybalt, but for both of those we had modernized them and we didn't have to worry about the Elizabethan style theatre - with audience on three sides and on multiple levels in front of me. Because for this assessment we had to act it out like how they would have performed it in Elizabethan times and it was more difficult than I would have imagined. At the end of the day I enjoyed myself because it not only pushed me out of my comfort zone but my classmates too and we all got to experience something new. This is my first year of taking proper Drama and I regret not taking it in Year 11 because I really do truly enjoy acting and it makes it worthwhile when you are doing it with a classroom full of people who love it too.

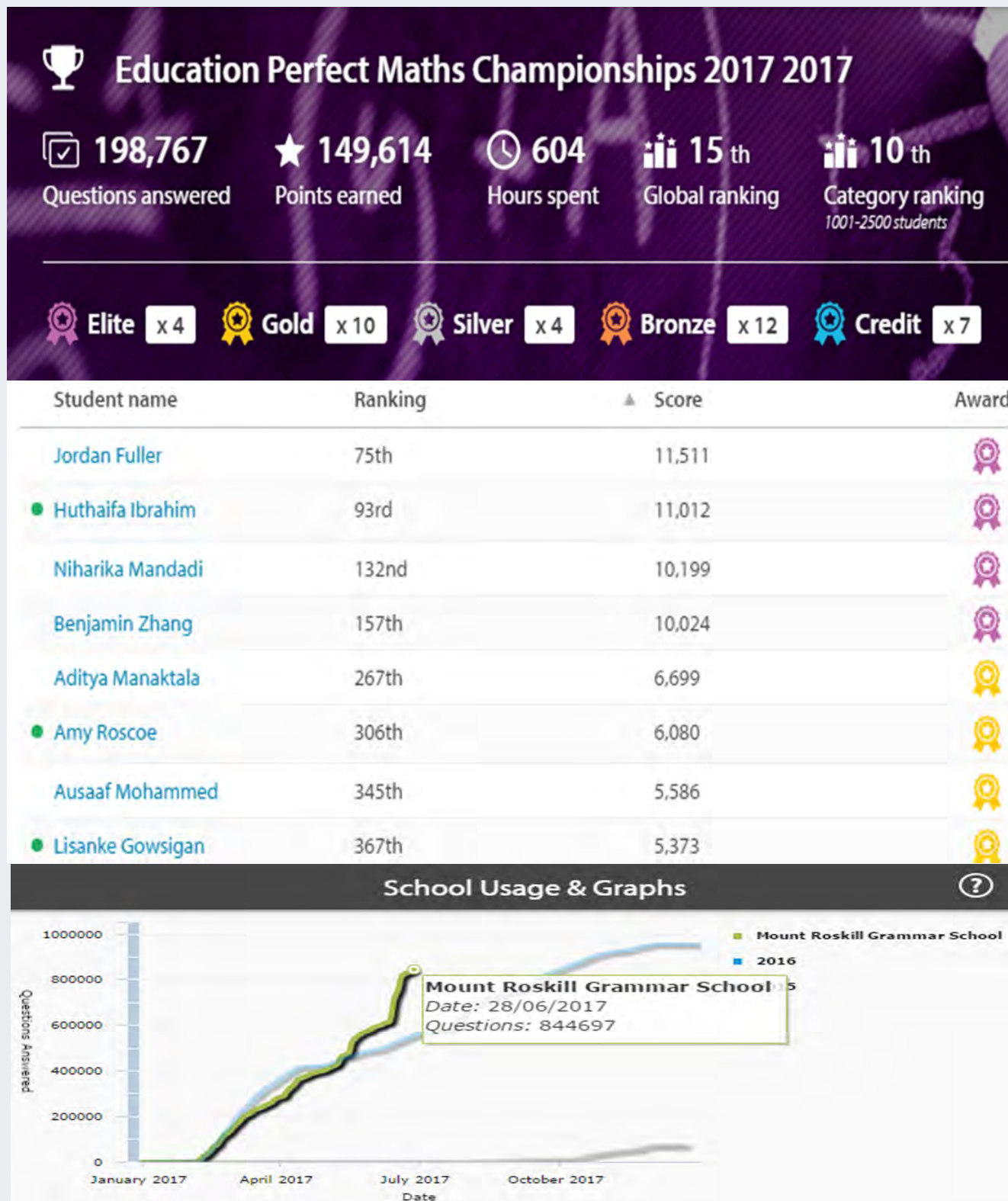
(Written by student Tafadzwa Chikomba)





MOUNT ROSKILL GRAMMAR MATHS STUDENTS AMONGST THE BEST IN THE WORLD

In the recent Education Perfect Maths Championships, Mount Roskill Grammar again showed why it is one of the top schools not just in New Zealand but globally placing 15th out of 1089 schools. For the mathematicians out there that is in the **top 1.4%**.





BADMINTON ON THE RISE

Badminton Teams at Mount Roskill increase in team number and National Representation.

In Term 2, 18 Mount Roskill teams have been playing in the Auckland Competition. Another 9 teams will compete in Term 3. Last year there was 25 teams.

The Term 2 teams have been involved in an Auckland competition involving 229 School teams divided into grades based at different locations.

Each team has 4 to 6 players, and each match against another school involves 6 games. A number of Mount Roskill teams are first or second in their grades.

Our **top team** is in the A grade Reserve and with one round to go, have had 4 wins, 1 draw and 3 losses. The wins have been against Lynfield's top team, Auckland Grammar's third and fourth team and ACG's second team. Our top player, John Seo 13NCHA, has only lost one out of eight singles matches this season. Our second player Ian Busby 9SMLG has been selected for the Auckland Number one Under 15 team and the New Zealand under 15 team, which recently beat Australia in a test match in Sydney.



PEER MENTORSHIP TRAINING 2017

On Sunday 18th June and Monday 19th June, 36 Mediators were trained by **Julie McCracken** in Peer Mentorship skills. This engaging and interactive training included goal setting, problem solving, rapport building, communication skills, and learning how to think outside the square. Students learned valuable life skills that will help them in the future and highly recommending the course to other students. One student says: *"I genuinely feel like a different person coming out of this course so thank you very much"*.

Another student says: *"It is honestly the most important and efficient course you will ever take"*.

Peer Life Mentors are available to support younger students one-to-one. So if any student would like some support or mentoring from an older student please contact Student Services.

A big thank you to **Julie McCracken** for this invaluable training and to **Louise Fisher** and **Peter Maher** for their generous donation to cover costs.





INTERNATIONAL PEACE WEEK 7-11 AUGUST 2017

International Peace Week is coming up in August and this year's theme is celebrating 30 years of Aotearoa's Anti- Nuclear law.

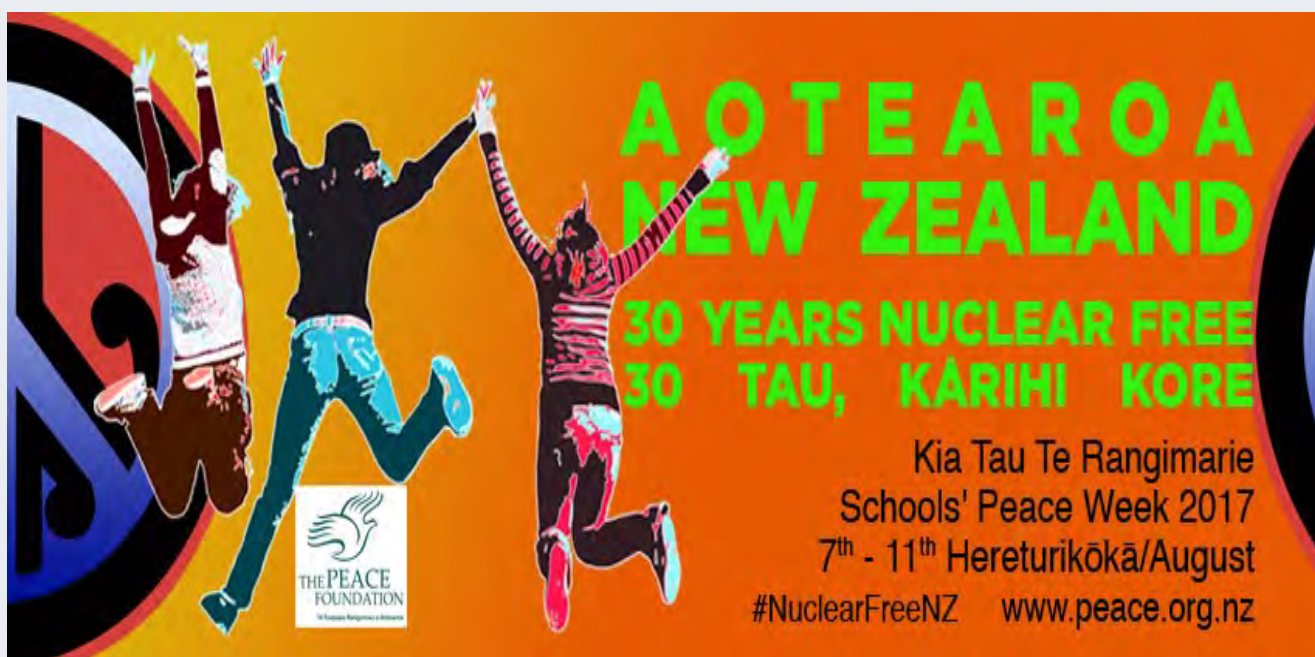
Our wonderful Peer Mediators are already organising many exciting peace activities for MRGS. These include assembly presentations, peace t-shirts, peace banners, a peace march, an anti-violence and embracing diversity stall day, peace badge making, random acts of kindness, face painting and the wearing of white ribbons.

Ex Mount Roskill Grammar and Peer Mediator Ady Verma who was very involved in past Peace weeks talks to the Auckland Humanity Project about the effect being a Mediator has had on him at MRGS:

"One thing I'm actually really passionate about is the way my school raised us, and that's from our counselling services are really phenomenal and the support students get there. Peer mediation or peer support was really good, and if we could have something that's Auckland-wide and not just in school that would be really good for people who just need to talk...."

"In Year 11 I became a mediator and I followed until Year 13 to becoming a senior mediator. You learn how to talk to people; helps you become a better person as well, because when you're trying to help people, a lot of the time you end up helping yourself because you realise, oh I should be doing these things and you're more aware of your actions that can affect other people".

For more information see <http://aucklandhumanityproject.co.nz/ady/>





TOUGH GUY AND TOUGH GAL CHALLENGE

On Friday 30th June, our Year 13 Physical Education students competed in the Auckland Secondary Schools' Tough Guy Tough Gal Challenge. We had a great turn out, and the students had lots of fun running a 6km cross country up and down the Helensville countryside, climbing over fences, under barbed wire, through tunnels and electric shock obstacles, wading through freezing rivers and waist deep mud. Special mention goes to Breearna Johnson who was the 5th fastest female and Tadele Wakjira who was 20th overall out of 651 competitors.



LIVE FOR TOMORROW

In Term 2, Live for Tomorrow have continued their work promoting Mental Health by running an Encouragement Letter event, and also by performing in Assembly. Sending encouragement Letters was a new idea this year but was quickly and enthusiastically taken up by students who produced beautiful, creative and uplifting messages to send to their friends. Live for Tomorrow leaders then delivered well over a hundred letters to form classes in the following days. The letter writers told me, "this is a great way to express your feelings, it is easier to put it in a letter than to say it out loud", and, "it's fun doing this, it makes me feel happy and full of energy".

A drama piece performed by Zane Chaudhry and Vyshni Ishwaran addressed some of the stigma around having mental health issues. They amused the audience by showing how silly it would look if we treated all of our health issues with that sort of stigma. Go and see someone for help with a sore ankle? No, what would the neighbours say?!? We don't have ankle issues in our family!!! Hmmm...





FAREWELL TO SOME OF OUR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

The International Department hosted a farewell for a group of students leaving this term. In these photos are students from Brazil, Japan, Mexico, Austria, Germany, and Italy who have studied here from 1–4 terms and are now returning to their home country richer for the experience and appreciating the warm welcome of families and students.



MEDIA DEPARTMENT HAPPENINGS

In May the 13 Media class and selected 12 Media students went to the Doc Edge Film Festival at Q Theatre to watch a selection of local and international documentaries. We entered a competition and ended up being the lucky winners of an awesome 4K Panasonic video camera. Jane Cotty from Docs For Schools presented the 12 Media class with the camera. We're looking forward to Media students winning more prizes in future for their own awesome filmmaking endeavours.





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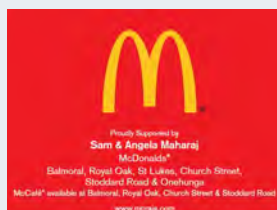
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Mount Roskill Grammar School also would like to thank Pak' n Save Royal Oak for their sponsorship of the Girls 1st XI Football Team this year.



Any business or organisation wishing to offer sponsorship to the school—please contact Mr Kyle Rika, Director of Sports at Kyle.Rika@mrgs.school.nz