

MOUNT ROSKILL GRAMMAR SCHOOL

# Newsletter

## MARCH 2011



**Principal:** G Watson, MSc (Hons), MEd.Admin (Hons)

**Phone:** 621-0050

**Website:** [www.mrgs.school.nz](http://www.mrgs.school.nz)

Frost Rd

Mount Roskill

Auckland 1041

## In this Issue:

Another year of outstanding results

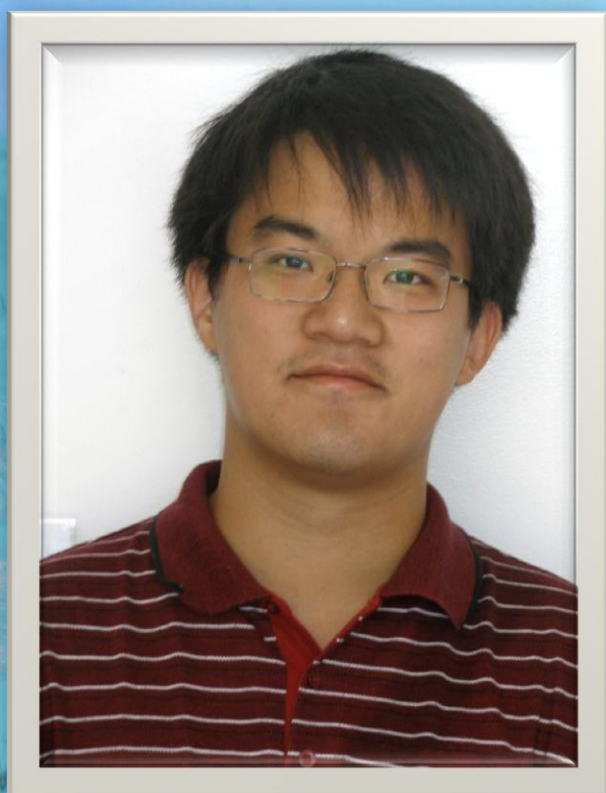
Principal's Report

Prefects announced

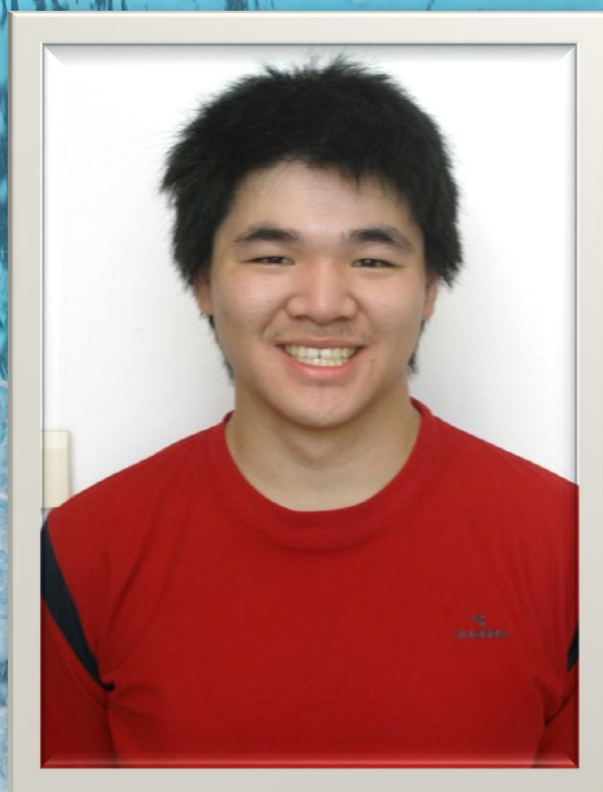
Peer Support

Sport

## OUR PREMIER SCHOLARS



*Jordan Zi*



*William Quach*

Nga mihi nui ki a koutou

We have all been shocked by the tragic earthquake in Christchurch and the devastation that it has caused for so many. Our links with Christchurch are strong and everyone seems to know someone special who has been directly affected. Our students are planning ways that we can offer support.

We welcome all families who have just commenced their association with Mount Roskill Grammar School. It was a pleasure to meet parents and caregivers at the recent new student evening and we looking forward to meeting many more of you during the year.

The year has begun purposefully with learning programmes well underway, sports carnivals completed, sports teams playing or training and the cultural groups in preparation for their performances in March. We encourage each student to take up at least one activity in addition to classroom learning. Involvement in co-curricular teams or groups allows students to interact with a wider range of their peers, contributes to the development of personal qualities such as persistence and teamwork and is a lot of fun.

The examination results for 2010 are very pleasing. Following on from previous winners Chuang Zheng in 2007, and Timothy Vogel in 2008, William Quach and Jordan Zi are New Zealand Premier Scholars in 2010, two of only nine awarded nationwide. Outstanding! Students who achieved extremely well are recognised later in the newsletter and a summary of school results is given. We do have areas in which to improve – this year we will be working on improving literacy results for NCEA Level 1.

We look forward to working with you and your child to reach the highest possible levels of educational excellence possible in 2011.

Sursum!

Greg Watson



## STAFF

We welcomed 10 new teachers for the start of 2011 year: Naomi Dekker (Music Department), Felicity Mayne & Nina Hood (Social Sciences Department), Emma Gillies (PFA Department), Louise Moore & Katrina Corrigan, (Maths Department), Tina Jerabek & David McGerty (English Department) and Emma Monigatti & Bridget Broughton (MacLean Centre).

## PREFECTS

The School Prefects appointed for 2011 are:

Head Prefects: **Joseph Windsor & Audrey Tay**

Deputy Head Prefects: **Warren Duncan & Manasi Deshpande**

The School Prefects are:

**Isaac Chen**

**Krishant Dharan**

**Jayden Hickman**

**Primo Huang**

**Sigmund Kaufusi**

**Aarun Li**

**Jeffrey Liang**

**Sufiyaan Mitha**

**Abhishek Pillai**

**Vincent Rhodes**

**Samuel Saunders**

**Zachary Tagomoa**

**Harry Thomson**

**Loketi Toutai**

**Ruth Auapaau**

**Samantha Collings**

**Gloria Fraser**

**Shreya Handa**

**Khadija Khan**

**Casablanca Kowk-Heon**

**Swatna Lal**

**Palu Malu**

**Leilani Marshall**

**Ye-Eun Nam**

**Priyali Patel**

**Tina Rahimi**

**Mattie Tuialii**

**Hannah Widjaja**

## PARENTAL DONATIONS

The invoices were sent out late February for the parental donation, sports and activity fees. The parental donation remains at \$150.00 per student or \$250.00 per family. Every effort is made to keep school costs to a minimum but to ensure that we offer quality educational opportunities we encourage payment of these costs. The parental donation assists in meeting the costs of providing classroom and sports equipment. If you have difficulty in paying the total cost at the beginning of the year, please contact the Accounts Office to make alternative arrangements.

## CAMPUS SCHOOLS GET-TOGETHER

On Monday 14 March the teachers, therapists and other staff from Mt Roskill Primary, Mt Roskill Intermediate and Mt Roskill Grammar will be meeting to review the exciting links and innovations we are developing on our Campus.

The three Campus schools have been working closely together for three years now and the development which has taken place is having a huge and positive impact on the learning of our students.

We are all learning together and this meeting on Monday 14 is an opportunity to review the successes we have had and to confirm our direction for the next three years.

The three schools will close at 2.30 on this day. Any child who cannot be picked up is able to wait at school and will be supervised in the normal manner.

## MRGS GAINS TWO PREMIER SCHOLARSHIPS

Mt Roskill Grammar School is very proud of two of its students who are among the nine winners of Premier Scholar Awards nationwide.

Students from the school gained 57 scholarships in a wide range of subjects of which 12 were at the outstanding level.

In 2010, 9,670 students participated in NZ Scholarship exams, with 2,264 students receiving a total of more than \$3.4 million over the next three years. Only nine of these students will receive a Premier Award worth \$30,000 to be paid over three years. These students will take part in the Top Scholar Awards ceremony in Wellington in April/May.

Jordan Zi, MRGS Dux in 2010, gained four scholarships, all at outstanding level. This was the pinnacle of a year of superb academic achievement in which he gained 116 Excellence credits in NCEA Level 3, was awarded a University of Auckland Jubilee Award as well as topping the school in French, Classical Studies, History and Geography and winning the Lacy Cup for Senior Literature.

William Quach was Proxime Accessit (runner –up to Dux) at Mt Roskill Grammar in 2010. He gained seven (7) scholarships in the examinations at the end of the year, three of those at the outstanding level. He was awarded scholarship in Accounting, Geography, Mathematics with Calculus, and Physics and outstanding scholarship in chemistry, Statistics and Modelling and Technology. William earned 96 credits at Excellence Level in NCEA Level 3.

**2010 MRGS Scholarship Achievers:**

	Scholarships Achieved	Outstanding Scholarships	Total Scholarships
Quach	4	3	7
Leung	5	0	5
Zi	0	4	4
Gu	1	2	3
Widiaia	2	1	3
Deverell	3	0	3
Kim	3	0	3
Seshasavee	3	0	3
Li	1	1	2
Dvavadi	2	0	2
Liu W	0	1	1
Baptista	1	0	1
Chandnani	1	0	1
Deshpande	1	0	1
Dhingra	1	0	1
Ding	1	0	1
Guiral	1	0	1
Kaur	1	0	1
Liang	1	0	1
Lin	1	0	1
Liu J	1	0	1
Mittal	1	0	1
Mokashi	1	0	1
Navak	1	0	1
Ng	1	0	1
Pai	1	0	1
Rao	1	0	1
Semar Shahul	1	0	1
Sheth	1	0	1
Sun	1	0	1
Wu	1	0	1
Zeng	1	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>57</b>

**2010 MRGS Scholarship Achievers:**

	Scholarship Achieved	Outstanding Scholarship	Total:
Accounting	11	1	12
Statistics and Modelling	8	2	10
Technology	4	1	5
Chemistry	1	3	4
Economics	3	1	4
Chinese	4		4
Physics	4		4
English	2	1	3
Biology	3		3
Mathematics with Calculus	3		3
Geography	1	1	2
Classical Studies		1	1
History		1	1
Graphics	1		1
<b>All Subjects</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>57</b>

Congratulations to all of those students gaining scholarship and to all of our students who have done well in their studies in 2010. Thank you to all of the teachers who assisted our students with their examination preparation so expertly.

## 2010 MRGS ACADEMIC RESULTS AGAIN OUTSTANDING

Congratulations also to our top scholars at each level (scoring more than 50 excellence credits at or above their level):

### Top Scholars in Level 3 NCEA 2010

Level 3 NCEA (Yr 13 students)	Credits at Excellence (L3 Credits)
William Quach	132
Jordan Zi	117
Andy Leung	113
Pranav Chandnani	108
Timothy Widjaja	107
Yuming Ding	106
Aditya Sheth	89
Vijay Dyavadi	79
Ravina Pai	76
Caleb Deverell	75
Elia Kim	69
Yunsi Luoyu	68
Nandita Rao	66
Jackie Chun	64
Sumanth Seshasayee	63
Jacky Su	60
Amrita Kaur	59
Wilson Liu	59
Brinda Mamidi	58
Muhammad Vahora	58
William Ho	57
Mohamed Semar Shahul	56
Wentworth Sze	56
Zane Van Lieshout	56
Reuel Baptista	54
Raunaque Vazirani	51
Jimmy Lin	50

### Top Scholars in Level 2 NCEA 2010

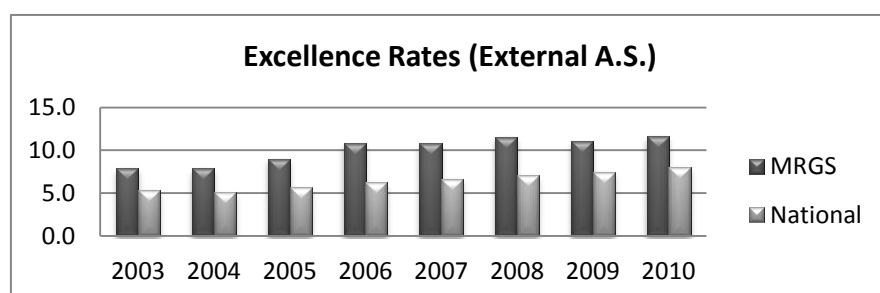
Level 2 NCEA (Yr 12 students)	Credits at Excellence (L2 or above)
Aarun Li	107
Gloria Fraser	83
Audrey Tay	83
Lei Yin	79
Joey Gu	72
Krithika Prahallad	72
Harry Thomson	72
Ashwin Rajamohan	71
Abhishek Pillai	68
Jayden Hickman	65
Krishant Dharan	63
Joseph Windsor	62
Shuting Chen	60
Shruti Iyengar	60
Don Li	58
Hannah Widjaja	58
Shreya Handa	57
Jiaxin Liang	57
Annalisa Li	55
Roza Ridwan	55
Jenny Zhang	53
Tasneef Hussain	52
Gaurav Kalra	52
Arjun Suyam Prakasam	52
Jessica Wei	50

### Top Scholars in Level 1 NCEA 2010

Level One NCEA (Yr 11 students)	Credits at Excellence (L1 or above)
Sharon Ngo	118
Shilpan Patel	117
Shiva Kalyanasundaram	109
Angela Ko	106
Wesley Yep	106
Ewen Wong	101
Tom Yang	85
Vanessa Wang	84
Karan Dasgupta	83
Jessica Liu	83
Anusha Malavalli	80
Nirusha George	79
Patrick Lee	79
Athurva Kulkarni	77
Veena Paul	76
Kevin Johnson	74
Smita Prasad	71
Sandane Samarakoon	71
Jenny Lee	70
Mei Mei Ho	69
Hafsa Iqbal	69
Winnie Chiu	67
Henry Yan	67
Daniel Christev	65
Iris Lin	65
Anka Yu	63
John Law	61
Akshat Malhotra	61
Edward Tan	61
Kirwin Tan	59
Shenali Lewke Bandara	58
Alisha Saiyed	58
Chang Kon Han	57
Shivali Kishun	56
Venkata Boppana	55
Annie Cheng	55
Roop Bhatt	53
Melissa Castelino	53
Bhargav Dave	53
Vivien Lei	53
Aishwarya Rahi	53
Marcus Sung	53
Melwin Mathew	52
Aimee Matthews	52
Pranav Kinger	51
Yifeng Su	51
Annvssia Gonsalves	50

## External Examinations

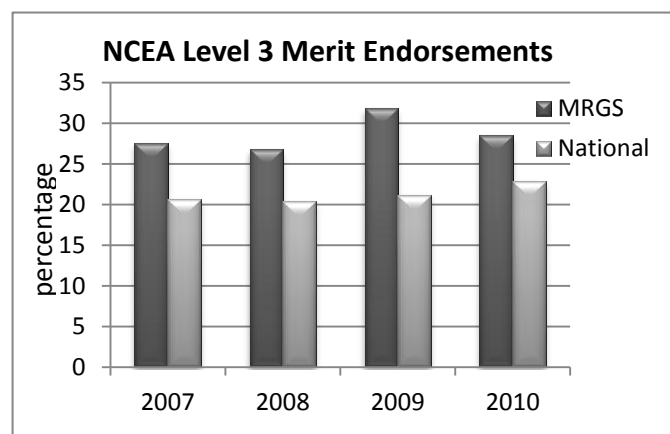
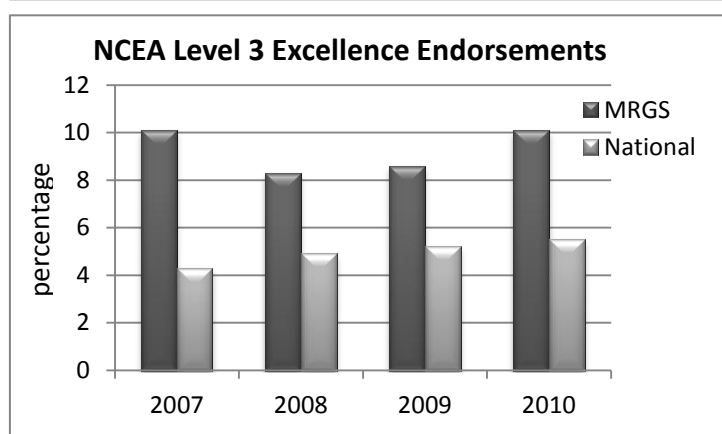
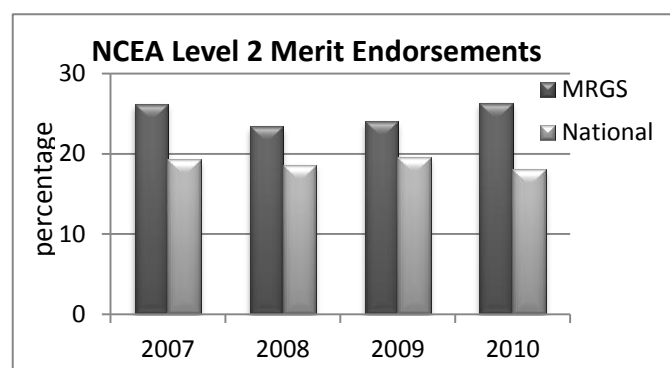
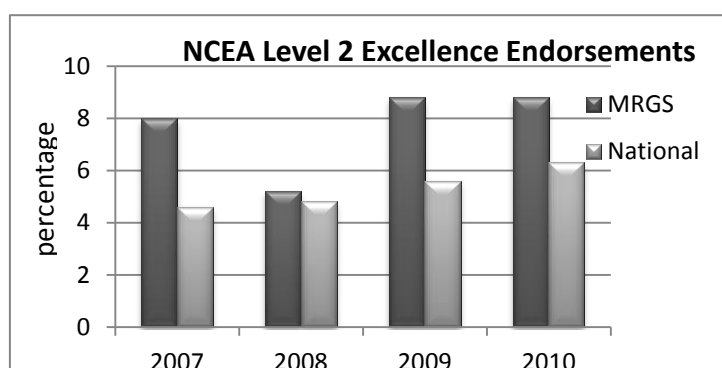
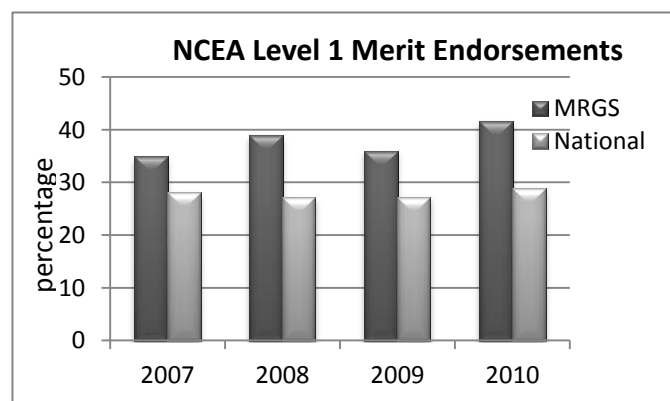
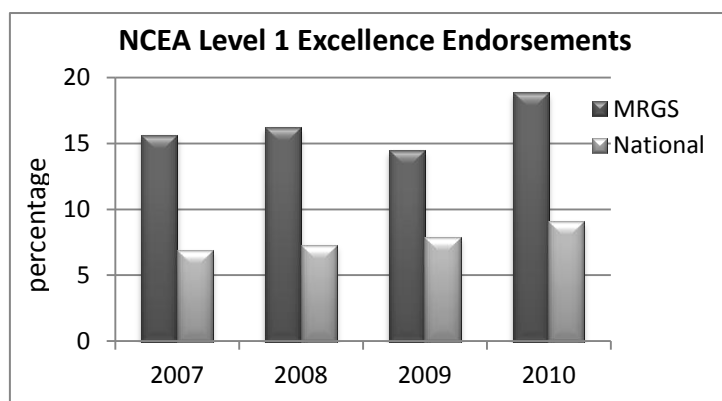
Our pass rates in the external examinations were outstanding and at all three levels of NCEA and well exceeded national levels in 2010.



## Pass Rates (External A.S.)

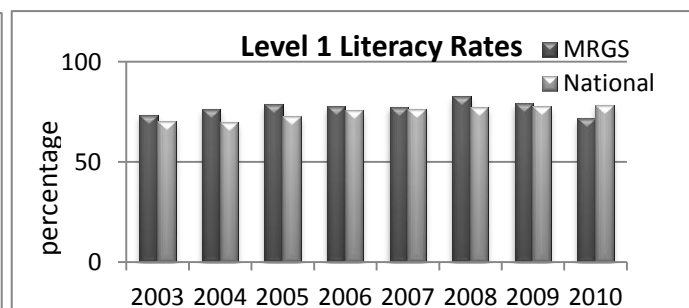
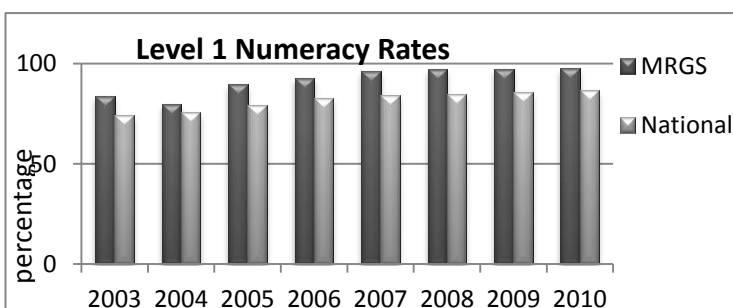
## **Excellence and Merit Endorsements in 2010 NCEA**

The high quality of academic achievement at MRGS dominates the statistics. An impressive 19% of all Year 11 students gaining Level 1, received an “Excellence Endorsement” for achieving more than 50 credits at excellence level. At level 2, 9% and at Level 3, 10% of students gaining an NCEA certificate received excellence endorsements. These figures are well ahead of national averages and the highest the school has ever achieved. In addition, merit endorsements were gained at rates well above the national levels.



## **Numeracy and Literacy**

The MRGS numeracy pass rate was also higher than ever at 97.4%. While Literacy Levels were down in 2010, Literacy remains a large focus for future improvements.



## PEER SUPPORT 2011

They trudged through warily, eyes cast to the shiny, squeaky soles of school-regulation new shoes – glancing fleetingly at anything but me. The bell tolled, reminding me once again that this was the first session of Peer Support –nerve-wracking for the Year Nines but less-so for me.

Before this day I was democratically elected as leader for every one of these sessions –a voting I was not made aware of until the training manual had been thrust into my grasp and my team members had dispersed. Wonderful. Still, I came prepared. An opening ritual was cello-taped to the whiteboard behind my standing figure whilst the new Oranges ogled at it expecting the worse. They were half-right.

“Welcome to your first Peer Support Session Year Nines,” I began and they watched me as if I was about to hand them their death sentence. “I’ve created the unofficial Orange House Chant!” Yep, they weren’t going to like me immediately but still I ventured on and chanted out the words with an overly delighted face, which surprisingly some bought then giggled at my forwardness and so weren’t humiliated to shout it along with me. Plus a Mexican wave at the end was executed enthusiastically. That was Day One.



## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical Education is a compulsory subject at Mt Roskill Grammar from year 9 – 12 where all students have two periods per week. All students are expected to wear correct PE uniform for all lessons. Please ensure your son/daughter has their uniform clearly named in full. They may wear a combination of the new or old PE uniform but not uniforms reserved for sport teams.

WE all know the benefits of exercise and eating properly, we have read it, most of us have acted on it, yet we still get many parents signing letters to get their child excused from PE. Please think about what you are doing before signing – there are many things in life we do not feel like doing but most often, once we have done them we are glad we did.

If your child is well enough to be at school then they can still take part in some of the PE lesson. The Physical Education curriculum area is often referred to as having the most valuable skills you can learn for life – teamwork, sportsmanship, peer friendships, cooperation, leadership, self esteem, self confidence, personal identity and self worth. Even though students may be fully involved in sport outside of school they can still benefit in these areas during PE.

Interpersonal skills: (Respect for diversity and cultures, care and concern for others, social justice, communication skills, tolerance):- These are many interpersonal skills and qualities we want to instil in our students as well as the idea of being physically active.

Most of these benefits are not measurable but clearly lead to a more productive and healthy life style.

We hope as parents you can help us to help you instil these skills in your child while they attend Mt Roskill Grammar. So please next time your son/daughter asks for a note to be excused from Physical Education, think twice before giving it. Physical Education is no different to any other subject – you wouldn't think of asking your child to be excused from Maths or English, why PE?

Are your child's medical records with the school up to date, has their PE teacher been informed of any medical issues that might need to be recognised in a PE class? When you enrolled you gave us good information about your child's health. Please keep it up to date.

Please contact Mrs Bennett HOD Physical Education ext 824 if you have any areas in the Physical Education curriculum you would like to discuss.

## **NEW STUDENTS WELCOMED**

On Friday 4 February we welcomed all our 450 plus new students. They were called into the Hall, challenged and greeted by our Kapa Haka Group, Mr Watson and senior students. Mr Hays replied on their behalf. Students were then sent off to meet with their House leaders and the Year 13 students in their House. They were taken on a tour round the school and shown how to read their timetables before going off to lunch and their first Peer Support session in the afternoon.



## **NEW CLASSROOM BLOCK IN USE**

Last year the building of a thirteen classroom block to replace the ageing single-storey building was completed and over the vacation the external works such as steps, seating and pathways were finished. Teachers in Social Sciences and Media Studies Departments prepared their rooms for the new year and students are enjoying the clean, bright, modern environment.



## SPORT

We have had a busy start to the year with most of our senior summer sports teams up and running, our Swimming Carnival, Athletics and Swimming Championships completed and the trials for all 3 of our Junior Sports Academies in progress. This year we have introduced 2 more Sports Academies to go along with the recent introduction of the Hockey Academy. These new academies will be targeting year 9 and 10 Football and Netball players. This is an exciting opportunity for students attending MRGS.

## Athletics Championships

This event gives our more able athletes a chance to compete at a higher level and to qualify for the zone competitions later in the term. Congratulations to this year's Athletics Champions and well done to all other competitors.

Athletics Champions for 2011 are:

### Junior Boys

1st **Armani Rex-Hipa**  
2nd **Ken Hendricks**  
3rd **Ahmad Cader**

### Junior Girls

1st **Emalata Sapoi**  
2nd **Amy Chen**  
3rd **Semilisi Funaki**

### Intermediate Boys

1st **Eshan Taio**  
2nd **De Maio Bury Vilela**  
3rd **Khan Rogers**

### Intermediate Girls

1st **Shriya Naidu**  
2nd **Amelia Cooper**  
3rd **Oshan Malifa**

### Senior Boys

1st **Warren Duncan**  
2nd **Naweed Faghiryar**  
3rd **Daniel Yep**

### Senior Girls

1st **Siobhan O'Connor**  
2nd **Ye-Eun Nam**  
3rd **Lisa Zhong**

## Swimming Championships

The swimmers competed very well with some of the races have tight finishes. Congratulations to this year's Swimming Champions.

Swimming Champions for 2011 are:

### Junior Boys

### Junior Girls

1<sup>st</sup> **Henry Greeves**  
 2<sup>nd</sup> **Andy Zhu**  
 3<sup>rd</sup> **Solomon Penny**

1<sup>st</sup> **Jacinta Weaver**  
 2<sup>nd</sup> **Amy Harris**  
 3<sup>rd</sup> **Tiana Tuiali**

#### Intermediate Boys

1<sup>st</sup> **Kevin Chow**  
 2<sup>nd</sup> **Timothy Coldham**  
 3<sup>rd</sup> **Joseph Kafusi**

#### Intermediate Girls

1<sup>st</sup> **Annika Knippelberg**  
 2<sup>nd</sup> **Shriya Naidu**  
 3<sup>rd</sup> **Ashley Varma**

#### Senior Boys

1<sup>st</sup> **Meihana Jolliffe**  
 2<sup>nd</sup> **Samuel Saunders**  
 3<sup>rd</sup> **Oskar Simmons Carlson**

#### Senior Girls

1<sup>st</sup> **Mattie Tuialii**  
 2<sup>nd</sup> **Eva Penny**

## Swimming Carnival 2011

The students ran, swam and piggy backed each other across the pool whilst their House Deans and House Captains enthusiastically encouraged each and every one to have a great time. The swimming carnival is an opportunity for the school to have a good time and come together for a bit of friendly rivalry to start the year off in a positive manner. This year Green House prevailed and managed to take out the honours.



## **Coaching opportunities and Parental Support for Sport**

To improve sport within the school it is important that we see an increase in the involvement of parents, and ex-pupils of MRGS. If you have a passion for sport, a child who is involved or would like to give something back to the school please do not hesitate to contact Mr Buckley (Director of Sport) on 6210050 ext 891. You may want to coach, manage, transport or simply attend games.

## **Sports Fees**

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 coach or see Mr Buckley.

## **Sponsorship Opportunities**

There are countless opportunities for business to sponsor school sports teams at MRGS. If you would like to be involved in Sponsoring a Sports Code or team please contact the school. Any assistance to the sports program would be much appreciated.

## **UNIFORM**

MRGS regulation uniform is the only school uniform that may be worn. The complete regulation uniform requirements are available on our school website. If you are purchasing second hand uniform from past pupils please ensure it has an Elizabeth Michael label. If you have any concerns or queries about uniform, please contact Mrs Barker on 621 0050.

## **UNIFORM SHOP**

The MRGS uniform shop is open Mondays and Thursdays from 8am to 9am and 3pm to 4pm. Note the change to a Monday compared to previous years.

## **ATTENDANCE**

Teachers mark their roll on the computer every period. This allows us to monitor attendance statistics for both individual and groups of students more frequently and closely. Students are expected to bring a note explaining their absences on the day they return to school. If you have any concerns about attendance or want to report an absence, please phone Mrs Hyland, Attendance Officer, on 621 0069. Lateness to school is always a concern and we would value your support to help us address this when it is brought to your attention. It is our experience that left unaddressed, lateness can become truancy.

## **ARTSIGHT AFTER SCHOOL ART PROGRAMME TERM 1**

Artsight offers inspiring After School Art classes for ages 5-12 years. All classes are taught by registered Visual Arts teachers. Locations-Orakei Community Centre and Browns Bay Community Centre. Classes begin week of 14th February, bookings essential. For more information and to book check out our website: [www.artsight.co.nz](http://www.artsight.co.nz) or contact Fiona Sullivan 021786629, email [fiona@artsight.co.nz](mailto:fiona@artsight.co.nz)

## **JAPAN TOUR**

We are planning to do a homestay tour to Japan during the Term 3 break for two weeks. If you are interested in the trip, please see Mrs Cave in A2 or Miss Kojima in R3.

## NZQA FEES COLLECTION 2011

All senior students and 1001 students must pay their NZQA Fees (compulsory) to the accounts office between Wednesday 11th May and Friday 13th May. These fees must be paid so that any credits a student achieves through either Unit or Achievement Standard assessments will be recorded on a student's record of learning. If not paid, the credits will not be released to the student.

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

## RUTHERFORD COLLEGE 50TH REUNION

We warmly invite ex-pupils, teachers, friends and whanau to the REUNION to be held on MARCH 25/26, 2011. Don't miss out on catching up with all your old friends and teachers. TO REGISTER VISIT THE WEBSITE: <http://www.rutherfordcollege.school.nz>

## CHAOS AT THE SCHOOL GATE

Mt Roskill campus is participating in the Auckland Transport's Chaos at the School Gate programme. It involves placing parking officers on patrol outside schools to observe non-compliant behaviours and issue tickets to those illegally parked.

The Chaos at the School Gate programme has been very successful and is helping to reduce the danger to children as well as improve traffic flow around schools.

## IMPORTANT DATES DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

TERM 1		
<b>February</b>	Monday 28 – Friday 4 March	Year 13 Camp
<b>March</b>	Monday 14	Campus Teachers Meeting – MRPS (school closes at 2.30pm)
	Wednesday 16 – Saturday 19	POLYFEST
	Monday 21	School Holiday
	Tuesday 22	Junior Reports issued to students
	Thursday 24	Junior Parent Report Evening 4-7pm
<b>April</b>	Monday 4	Senior Reports issued to students
	Wednesday 6	Senior Parent Report Evening 4-7pm
	Friday 15	<b>END OF TERM 1</b> Closing time 3.10pm
<b>May</b>	Monday 2	<b>BEGINNING OF TERM 2</b>
TERM DATES 2011		
<b>Term 1</b>	Tuesday 1 February	Friday 15 April
<b>Term 2</b>	Monday 2 May	Friday 15 July
<b>Term 3</b>	Monday 1 August	Friday 7 October
<b>Term 4</b>	Tuesday 25 October	Friday 9 December

## SCHOOL FUNDRAISER: FAMILY OR CHILDRENS PORTRAIT PHOTOS

Saturday 2 April. For \$10 you get a 10" x 13" (235 x 330mm) photo and the chance to purchase more portraits. These are only 50 sittings so if you are interested please cut off the following request and send it to Mr Hall (DP) or the Office, with your \$10.

✂-----

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### Portrait Photo Booking

Student or Family Name:

\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone No: \_\_\_\_\_

Year Level & Form Class e.g. 12OTRC: \_\_\_\_\_

Tick Preferred Time: Morning: ☐ Afternoon: ☐

I have included my \$10 Sitting Fee. (chqs to MRGS) ☐