

March 2019: Term 1 Week 9

“Each kind act is a thread in a strong rope.”



Last week our nation, supported by peoples across the world, grieved for the deaths of 50 prayerful people in Christchurch. The people of New Zealand showed their strength, embracing each other and ensuring that our nation’s values of acceptance, care and never giving up led our actions.

At school we took a stand against the actions of the assailant by showing our values of manaakitanga and whanaungatanga in action. Thank you to each student who in the smallest ways made a difference with a kind word, an offer to help, a word of reassurance. Each kind act is a thread in a strong rope.

Thank you to each and every student who in the smallest ways made a difference by following our usual routines and working as hard as you could on your learning showing that while we are sad and will never forget, our spirit, our way of doing things is not broken, rather we will grieve together and live happily and purposefully together.

Thank you to everyone who wrote a card signed a banner, gave a donation, took part in the chalk art, tried on a hijab, or visited a mosque. Thank you to our kapa haka who at short notice represented our school at the Masjid Umar mosque in Stoddard Road as the Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern and

the Mayor Phil Goff visited. Thank you to families who sent messages of support and talked through what has happened with their children.

Thank you to our Muslim students, families and community leaders who in your grief have been open hearted, welcoming and kind towards others. By the Mercy of Allah, you have dealt with this tragedy gently. While you were entitled to be severe and harsh-hearted, you have reached out with an open heart. You have the respect of our school, our support, and our thanks.

Thank you to our Tongan students who have been gracious after their competition day was cancelled at Polyfest. I'm sure your performance would have won the day after the excellent preparatory performance at the Fiafia night. Congratulations also to our Samoan, Niuean, Indian and kapa haka groups for your powerful performances at Polyfest.

As time goes on grieving continues at different levels for each person. It is normal for the shock and disbelief we first feel to move into feelings of anger or feeling withdrawn. Over the coming weeks we will all continue to help, whatever the need.

Aue te mamae mo tenei aitua

Greg Watson, Principal



The Roskill Way is diversity



We are all deeply shocked and affected by the terrible events in Christchurch on Friday 15th March and we are all struggling to find the words to verbalise our feelings and thoughts.

Our Prime Minister has expressed what many of us feel when she said; "we represent diversity, kindness, compassion. A home for those who share our values. Refuge for those who need it. And those values will not and cannot be shaken by this attack."

"We are a proud nation of more than 200 ethnicities, 160 languages. And amongst that diversity we share common values. And the one that we place the currency on right now is our compassion and support for the community of those directly affected by this tragedy." Diversity is very much represented at MRGS.

At MRGS there has been an enormous outpouring of kindness, love, support and leadership. The staff and student leadership through this traumatic time was very evident with the making of the green ribbons, card, banners, assemblies and just being available to students. From this terrible tragedy, it has been humbling to see how much we all care for each and how much support we have all given each other and how much togetherness there is.

Words cannot describe how proud the BoT is of the high calibre professional staff we have at MRGS. Thank you, you are awesome. Thank you to those of you who have been providing support for the families of Canterbury, for our students and for each other.

The Roskill Way is diversity. The Roskill Way is aroha.
The Roskill Way is not you or me, it is us.

Arohanui,



Marjet Pot, BOT chairperson

Polyfest

Congratulations to all of our Polyfest groups. We were proud to have you representing us!



MRGS kapa haka: [Māori Television Mt Roskill Grammar Full Bracket](#)

MRGS Samoan group: <https://www.facebook.com/RadioSamoa/videos/1296364223866222/>

Junior Report Evening

Our Junior Report Evening for Years 9 and 10 will be on Tuesday 9th April from 4:00pm to 7:00pm. To make bookings please go to the website <http://www.schoolinterviews.co.nz>

At the top of the page click on the **Make a Booking** tab

Enter the event code: **qd87e**

Follow the instructions on the site

NOTE: It is useful to have the student's report with you when you make the bookings so that you know the names of his teachers and courses when booking interviews. To assist you with this, reports will be distributed by Wednesday 3rd April.

Bookings will open at 9.00am on Wednesday 27th March and close at 10:00am Tuesday 9th April.

Representative Sport

Over the weekend of 16th -17th of March, three of our talented lacrosse boys represented AUCKLAND Blue at the New Zealand Lacrosse Nationals held in Cambridge. They were the only college boys to represent their province. Over the two day tournament they played five very physical matches.

The AUCKLAND Blue team went unbeaten in the pool round and made finals where they came up against their very own team mates the AUCKLAND White team. Final score 9-6 to Blue.



Congratulations to Joshua Lyon, Isaac Bayldon and Joshua Ford, who played alongside MRGS alumni!



(photo credit NZ Herald)

Naima Ali [2008]

Naima is one of our many alumni who have come home to Roskill to support the community where she was a student.

As well as being the MRGS refugee co-ordinator, she recently gained a Masters in Human Rights and is a published poet.

Roskill stories

If you have Roskill stories about the success of current or past pupils, please share to alumni@mrgs.school.nz or message Mrs Collins on the MRGS Facebook page.

