Newsletter

MOUNT ROSKILL GRAMMAR SCHOOL

May 2019: Week 4, Term 2

From the Principal

Roskill Campas Fiafia

Week 3 was another full and vibrant week at Roskill.

The second of our three core values that we will be focussing on this term is **'Manaakitanga'**

Manaakitanga was visible throughout our school last week as we celebrated and affirmed that diversity is our strength. Our students, whānau, and wider Roskill community demonstrated their respect, empathy and support, and uplifted the mana of many of our students through this process.

On Wednesday night we hosted the Roskill Campus Fiafia night. It was an honour to have our Primary and Intermediate students and our passionate and supportive collective fanau join us in our school hall. Our Niuean, Tongan and Samoan Pasifika Polyfest groups each took to the stage alongside the Primary and Intermediate Pasifika groups to proudly showcase their cultures.

Each of these groups performed with intensity, passion, and depths of Roskill pride. Each of the students who took their place on the stage are a strong example of our students achieving proudly, and having their mana uplifted through support and celebration of our diversity.

Iftar Evening

This was followed on Thursday night when we hosted our community in the school hall for our annual Ramadan Iftar night. Our ME.A.R student leadership team demonstrated their responsibility, hospitality, generosity and care for others by organising and inviting our wider Roskill community to take part in their Iftar meal. Those who came and sat side by side with their peers demonstrated their empathy and support and again the mana of each person was uplifted through this celebration of our Roskill diversity.

Both of these events are an example of the whakatauki "Whiria te tangata - weaving the people together" and an example that at Roskill we affirm that diversity is our strength. Our value of Manaakitanga enables us to celebrate our diversity and weave together each individual who is part of our Roskill community. That is our Roskill Way.

At Mount Roskill Grammar School, we take pride in performing in a way that brings credit to our school, our community and ourselves.
• **Manaakitanga -** demonstrating respect and responsibility by uplifting the mana of each person, through empathy, tolerance and celebration of diversity

Ngā manaakitanga,

Janine Tupaea
Acting Principal

MRGS Board of Trustees

A broad range of events have occurred for MRGS in the past fortnight; the Community of Learning annual presentation, the Campus Fiafia evening, the Ramadan Iftar evening, Advanced Mediator training and Auckland Chess Championships in addition to the weekly sports events to name a few – all showing MRGS diversity at its best.

One thing that stands out for me is the inclusivity of these events. The Community of Learning presentation saw our Across School and Within School leaders from Mt Roskill Grammar, Mt Roskill Intermediate, Mt Roskill Primary, Three Kings Primary, Dominion Rd School and Hillsborough Primary demonstrating how, as a true community of learning, we are working together to not only support our students' learning but to do so in innovative ways. We are all part of a wider community, embracing each student and working together to ensure that as they transition through their school life we are all on the same page for their learning journey.

I thank our teaching and local community for their support of our students. Last Friday was International Support Staff day, and I would like to extend the gratitude of the BOT to our support staff for the fantastic contribution they also make to our school.

Marjet Pot, BOT chairperson
marjetpot@gmail.com

Board of Trustees Triennial Elections

Nominations are invited for the election of **five (5) parent representatives** to the Board of Trustees.

A nomination form and a notice calling for nominations will be posted to all eligible voters. Additional nomination forms can be obtained from the school office.

Nominations close at noon on Friday 7 June 2019 and may be accompanied by a signed candidates' statements.

The voting roll is open for inspection at the school and can be viewed during normal school hours. There will also be a list of candidates' names, as they come to hand, for inspection at the school.

An evening for prospective candidates to speak to voters will be on **Thursday 13 June 2019 at 7.30pm** at the school in the Hodge Learning Commons.

Voting closes at noon on Friday 21 June 2019.

Calling for Board of Trustee nominations by Friday 24 May 2019
Nominations close Friday 7 June 2019
Voting papers sent by Wednesday 12 June 2019
Voting day by Friday 21 June 2019
Count votes Thursday 27 June 2019
New Board takes office Friday 28 June 2019

Year 9 Health Presentation

Year 9 Health Presentation by Life Education Trust Tuesday 21 May. Through creative education this presentation equips young people with the information, awareness and confidence to make responsible choices around alcohol in the future. It reinforces positive messaging already provided by the school about making informed decisions in the face of peer pressure.

Dates for your diary

23 May	Team photos (week 4)
24 May	Cultural group photos (week)
29 May	Proposed Teacher Strike Day
3 June	Queen's Birthday Holiday
4 June	Open Day
12 June	Campus Matariki
19 June	Mentoring Conference

Proposed Teacher Strike Day

Teacher Strike Day – Wednesday, 29 May:

Secondary school teachers and primary school teachers will be holding a joint strike action on Wednesday 29th of May. This is because the PPTA has voted to reject the Government's latest collective agreement offer because it does not address the issues that have resulted in a crisis of recruitment and retention of quality teachers in New Zealand schools.

Our school will not be providing normal teaching services during the strike on that date. If this is difficult for families, a small number of non-union staff will be available to supervise students if required. Please contact the office to indicate if your child needs to attend school on that day. While we regret the inconvenience we know this will cause, we need to send a clear message to the Government that we are standing strong for our students.

We appreciate your continued support on this important issue.

Auckland Writers' Festival

Close to 100 MRGS students attended this festival and returned excited about what they had heard and how they could take their own writing to the next level!

Markus Zusak – author of *The Book Thief*

Spirit of Adventure

None of us on the ship knew one another on the first day, providing us with the chance to reinvent ourselves. Every day was a challenge. Whether or not it was climbing to the top of the rigging, working with a team, or doing an activity in front of our peers, each of us had to step out of our comfort zone. On this voyage I was reminded of my personal strengths and that my past does not have to be my future. I highly recommend the Spirit of Adventure. Thanks to Mrs. Bennett and the Rotary Club for enabling me to have this opportunity. As the quote said on a certificate given to me at the end of the voyage, "Reach for the stars, if you must bow your head let it only be to the tallest mountain." Don't be afraid to explore who you are, because as I learned on the trip, only you have the right to decide who that is.

Amber Meiklejohn

Auckland Chess Competition

Mount Roskill Grammar School finished third in the Auckland Chess Competition which was held last week in our Library.

Year 13 Catering and Hospitality

13CHS3 are working on a unit on Baking. This photo shows students making Sponge Roll with Lemon Curd and Cream. They are working towards their summative assessment at MIT later this term.

Upcoming Events

Alumni News

Yolunda Hickman [2005]

Yolunda, a gifted artist, has won Young Artist awards and been nominated for other prestigious awards. Her sculptures are currently being prepared for a Wellington waterfront installation in 2020.

https://www.stuff.co.nz/dominion-post/capital-life/capital-day/112580708/tangled-art-series-set-to-take-over-the-from-the-globes-on-wellingtons-waterfront

Gretchen Albrecht [1955] has had her successful career as an abstract artist featured in a new book published this year. It tells of how in her first year at Mount Roskill Grammar School she was brave enough to meet the Principal and change the Prescribed French Language subject to extra Art study.

https://www.nzherald.co.nz/canvas-magazine/news/article.cfm?c_id=532&objectid=12218057

Uniform

As the weather gets colder a reminder that students are expected to wear school jackets or jumpers to and from school. If you need to fundraise to buy a jacket or jumper you can see Mr McGirr in admin.

Student Safety

Please ensure that when you collect your child from school that you are always parked safely and aware of all students. We have students from our school and students from the primary and intermediate who may not be as easy to see. Stopping on yellow lines is not legal or safe.

Roskill Stories

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