

June 2019: Week 10, Term 2

From the Principal

Term two has been an extremely busy term, and many of our students have demonstrated aspiration and resilience in their learning, and participation, leadership, and service through their involvement in the wider life of our school. Congratulations to all of our students for their many successes, which we have been proud to celebrate this term. It has been a pleasure to see so many students demonstrating The Roskill Way.

We would like to thank all of our community who participated and were involved in the 2019 School Trustee Triennial Election. We would especially like to thank all of our candidates who stood during these elections, for demonstrating their willingness to offer their time and their support for Mt Roskill Grammar School.

The elected candidates are:

Mr Andrew Steele
Mr Rob Mason
Ms Marjet Pot
Ms Lisa Kingi-Bon
Mr Anthony Russell

Staff Representative:

Mr John Haggie

Congratulations to all those who have been elected. The Board of Trustees now has the option of co-opting an additional four trustees to be part of this board.

Lastly it is a pleasure to welcome back our Principal Greg Watson who had been enjoying his very well deserved sabbatical break this term. Nau mai, hoki mai tā mātou tumuaki!

Ngā manaakitanga,



Janine Tupaea
Acting Principal

Dates for your diary

1-5 July	MRGS Arts Week
Tuesday 2 July	Course Information Evening in Hodge Learning Commons, 6.00-7.30pm
Friday 5 July	End of Term 2
Term 3	
Monday 22 July	Teacher Only Day
Tuesday 23 July	All students to attend, starting with Form time at 9.00am (10mins)
Friday 26 July	2020 Course selections close

NZQA Fee Changes – Payment Transfer/ Refund Process

In June the Government announced that it was removing the NZQA Fee for all domestic students effective immediately.

This means:

1. Any payments that have already been made for this year will be transferred to pay outstanding fees. Any remaining surplus will be allocated to the students account as a credit balance.
2. Alternatively, if a refund is requested instead of a transfer, a caregiver must make this request in person, via the school accounts office by Friday the 28th of June. The caregiver will be required to complete a refund form. Refund payments will only be made into a valid bank account, as there is no cash held on the premises.

Please note that the NZQA Fee changes and therefore payment transfers/ refunds do not apply to International students.

MRGS Revitalisation Survey

As part of our school's strategic vision we are wanting to identify areas where we can make a positive impact and impression to our school building and grounds. As part of the data collection process, it would be very much appreciated if you could complete an online survey by the end of **Friday 5th JULY**.

Please click link below to get to the survey, all responses will be anonymous.

Many thanks for taking the time to do this.

<https://forms.gle/31sjsxSC92aBQxWA9>

2020 Course Selection

To help students with their 2020 course selection, there is a course information evening on **Tuesday 2 July 2019**. All students must complete their 2020 course selection by **Friday 26 July 2019**.

Students will need to login to the parent/student portal.

Go to www.mrgs.school.nz and click on **PARENT PORTAL/KAMAR PORTAL** at the top of the page.

Login with your student ID and password.

- Select Course Selection
- Follow instructions at the top of the page

Subject details for can be found in the Academic Programme booklets on the website

<https://www.mrgs.school.nz/academic-programmes>

Barbershop

Last Friday the MRGS Barbershop group competed in the Auckland Regional Young Singers in Harmony Competition. After a lot of hard practice by the boys we were delighted to come away with a well-deserved win and now qualify for the nationals in Christchurch.



Peer Mentorship Training

On Sunday 16th June and Monday 27th June, 40 enthusiastic and dedicated Mediators were trained by **Julie McCracken** in peer mentorship skills. This engaging and interactive training included learning the life skills of goal setting, problem solving, rapport building, communication skills, and learning how to think outside the square.

A great time was had by all students and now these Peer Mentors are available to support younger students one-to-one. If any student would like some support or mentoring from an older student please contact us at Student Services. Confidentiality assured.

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



New Zealand Youth Awards 2019

Fahad Shehzad has received a New Zealand Youth award, only one of 14 awarded in New Zealand this year. He is the recipient of the Te Manukara - Outstanding Leadership Award for 2019 presented by the minister of Youth, the Hon. Peeni Henare in Wellington. In Fahad's own words...

"I am truly stoked and blessed to have been recognized and to have received such a prestigious award - on the National scale for something I take so much pride in, my leadership. I wished to share this success to you all because I think this is a win to MRGS too.

I also had the honour to be the recipient speaker on the night, where I presented a speech in Parliament, on 'honoring our heroes' where the speech was dedicated to Jacinda herself, for being my hero during the times of the Christchurch massacre. I received immense applaud and even a standing ovation from some of the crowd. I have been asked to send the speech to the PM herself, so exciting stuff!"



Fahad was nominated for the leadership and courage he showed after the Christchurch shootings in March, where he led the school's response, saying his mission was to ensure students of the school were well supported for and cared for during the time of grief. He also organized events such as fundraising for the event, having banners and cards sent to the families in Christchurch, and presenting an inspiring speech during his school's assembly to commemorate those who were lost during the events.

Spelling Bee Competition

Caroline Aleki has reached the Auckland semi-final of the New Zealand Spelling Bee competition. Caroline will represent the School with pride.



Mai FM Sorted in Schools Winners 906



Mai and Sorted in Schools had a competition for high schoolers. Sorted in Schools is on a mission to get you sorted...in school! “We know you want to be ‘money smart’... as in, have the know-how to make good money decisions to ensure you’re set for life after school wraps.” All you have to do is register your high school by telling them you are using the Sorted in School resources in their Financial Education Class with their teacher.

“A chance for one lucky student to win an iPad, the whole class will receive a bag of goodies and the nominated FED teacher’s name who is inspiring them to use the financial tools by sorted.co.nz in their FED class, where the teacher will receive a surprise gift!”

Eric Li’s entry was the winning entry. Mr R Kumar and 906 FED class are all amazed to have taken part in this competition and having won the prize.

We are still in the competition where one lucky high school will get a concert with the Mai Street Team and Swidt!



Debating

For the first time in over six years a Mount Roskill Grammar School Debating team will be competing in the Auckland Schools Debating Octo-finals. Team MRGS 1 has qualified for the finals after going a perfect 4-0 in the Advanced Open grade. They have defeated teams from St Cuthberts, Sacred Heart College, Macleans and Kings College.



(From left to right) Congratulations to *Huthaifa Ibrahim*, *Rinesh Rattan*, *Ano Chitando* and *Vinodhini Murali*.

Girls Lacrosse

The MRGS girls' Lacrosse team have reached the playoff for third place in their competition



Gymsports Auckland Secondary Schools

Auckland Secondary Schools Gymsports was held at Bruce Pulman on Thursday 27th June. We had students competing in Trampoline, Artistic Gymnastics and tumbling events.

Congratulations to *Kaitlyn Booth* (Artistic Gymnastics) and *Jireh Still* (Trampolining) who won Individual GOLD medals in their events.

We also took out 1st and 2nd place in the teams event for Artistic gymnastics.

Team 1: *Kaitlyn Booth*, *Renee Christian*, *Rebecca Zhao* (2nd place individual), and *Nidhi Vijayanarasimhan* (3rd place individual)

Team 2: *Jennifer Christian*, *Diya Mistry*, *Charlotte Lai* and *Lillian Huo*.

The Trampoline team of *Melanie Sands*, *Jireh Still* and *Renee Christian* also won 1st Team. Well done to all the team and student coaches *Kate Bonnici* and *Vivian Chew*.

All these athletes are now training for the NZ Secondary Schools event which takes place 24 and 25th August this year.



Peace Symposium & Peace Week



On Wednesday 26th June, 28 MRGS Mediators attended the 15th Secondary Schools Peace Symposium organised by the Peace Foundation. This gathering of inspiring speakers, 13 schools and the Peace Foundation met at AUT to talk about the important issue of **'Peace & Technology'**. Professor Ajit Narayanan of AUT spoke about: "Teaching intelligent autonomous machines to be ethical for the purpose of peace and non- harm to humans".

A big thank you to our Mediators who did us proud once again at the Symposium: *William Aleki, Afzeer Ali, Uday Bhatia, Destene Campbell Davis, Michelle Chand, Ano Chitando, Li'i Cowley- Lupo, Ajit Franklin, Skye Gaslevich, Ayesha Hafeez, Joel Hawthorne, Huthaifa Ibrahim, Michelle Ibram, Joel Ioelu-Siemu, Aaliyah Ishrar, Brian Khomkomphut, Pranayam Lal, Helen Lee, Mackenzie Mariano, Sedona Milich, Matthew Mitra, Vayeshali Nandini, Mateyiachs Ngavaine, Mohamed Ihsanullah PA, Fahad Shehzad, Rishi Shukla, Diane Tuakalau, and Carlton Varela.*

A big thank you to the Peace Foundation for giving our students such an amazing opportunity and to Donna Hourigan-Johnston for her leadership.

INTERNATIONAL PEACE WEEK coming up!

August 5th- 9th August: "PEACE & TECHNOLOGY" Inviting everyone at MRGS to be involved in this very important week at MRGS.

Poetry in Action

The Australian performance group Poetry in Action performed their show “Words that Changed the World” to a large group on Thursday 20 June. The show drew upon a range of famous speeches and poems to highlight the techniques that great orators use to persuade their audiences.

New Zealand author Brian Falkner spoke to several English classes on Friday and offered them some great advice on how to hook audiences with their writing. Falkner has written a large number of novels for young adults, including *Shooting Stars* (2016), which is currently being taught at MRGS. He was here as part of the New Zealand Book Council’s Writers in Schools programme.

POETRY ACTION



Chess

The Auckland Central chess championships were held on 16th May and we lost only to Auckland Grammar school. Congratulations to *Euan McDougall*, *Joe Wang*, *Neil Mario* and *Parthi Navaratan* for receiving Bronze Medals in this event.

On the 20th of June the ChessPower Auckland championships was hosted in our library. Our biggest rivals were Rangitoto College who took an early lead. By the final round we could not afford to lose even one game. And by team work we achieved that through exceptional victories by *Parthi Navaratan*, *Euan McDougall*, *Zack Aljas*, *Neil Mario* and *Joe Wang* who all received certificates of distinction. *Joe Wang* then held Rangitoto's top player to a draw, which was crucial to give us the lead by one point, after our team had played 70 matches. All players contributed to this victory, which means we will send a team of eight to Christchurch to compete for the National Championship in mid-October and MRGS won the ChessPower Auckland championships.



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.

NEW - Official school scarf now in stock - \$30.



Alumni News



Ramsey Tomokino [1988]

Current Manusina Samoa Coach Ramsey Tomokino.
A talented leader who also played 7s for Samoa himself.

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.

MRGS Sponsors

Thank you to New World Mt Roskill for their continued support of sport at MRGS.



Thank you to Gilmours for supporting students who are fundraising for the 2020 Europe trip.

