



August 2019: Week 3, Term 3

From the Principal



In visiting lessons over the last couple of weeks, I've been impressed with the focus and learning capabilities shown by students. I've enjoyed seeing students referring often to the success criteria – what they need to show to achieve in the topic, working both together and individually as they grapple with new learning, and preparing at home by researching the basics so that lesson time can be used to shape higher level thinking. As these learning strategies become habits our students are demonstrating our school value of Tūmanakotanga.

We look forward to students being well prepared for the school exams, which begin in just over four weeks' time.

Ki ngā taumata

Greg Watson, Principal

Board of Trustees

One of the things I love about Mount Roskill Grammar is that there are co-curricular opportunities for all of our students regardless of interest. In addition to sports, music, arts and cultural activities we are fortunate to have our “social justice” groups leading the way, living the values of Manaakitanga and Whanaungatanga.

A clear example of the widespread influence of these groups can be seen in our Peace Week. With the focus of Peace Week this year being on “Peace & Technology” we are able to look not only at our own community interactions but also out to the world.

Ensuring that we all follow our values online, as well as in person, is invaluable as we learn to be global citizens.



Marjet Pot, BOT chairperson

Dates for your diary

Term 3	
Wednesday 14 August	Community of Learning Conference – school finishes at 12:30pm
Thursday 15 August	School Cross Country - compulsory for all year 9 and 10 students
Thursday 22 August	Report Evening – 4:00-7:30pm
Friday 30 August	School closed for all year levels
11-24 September	Senior subject entry examinations
Thursday 26 September	Sports Awards Dinner
Friday 27 September	End of Term 3

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 this term. The consultation consists of an online survey that will only take a few minutes of your time. We appreciate the time you take to complete this, as it helps develop and grow our Health Education as a subject at Mount Roskill Grammar. 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.

If you have any further questions regarding the Health programme at MRGS, please contact HOD Health, Maria Vince, 621 0050 ext 741, maria.vince@mrgs.school.nz.

LXTN Homework Centre



With internal exams around the corner, and then external exams not long after, the Learning Extension homework centre is available for anyone looking for extra support. It is held at learning extension every Wednesday after school from 3:20-5:30pm. There are plenty of resources available, including chromebooks, computers and text books, as well as teachers covering a range of subjects.

Peace Week: “Peace & Technology 2019”

The PEER MEDIATORS once again worked hard to help MRGS celebrate International Peace Week from the 5th – 9th August by providing a number of exciting activities: peace assembly presentation; random acts of kindness; peace quote competitions; face painting; peace badge making; peace rock painting; the wearing of white ribbons for peace; painted peace banners and t-shirts.



In Monday's assembly, the Mediators showed their own video on "The Digital Age" which talks about the importance of using technology to 'do good', and to speak up about online abuse. They also performed a powerful skit to demonstrate the detrimental effects of online abuse and how we should not put up with it. If anyone is being bullied or harassed online please contact NETSAFE. **NETSAFE is the NZ watchdog of online abuse: 0508 NETSAFE (0508 638 723) Text 'Netsafe' to 4282.**

Tuesday we had face painting, peace rock making and badge making in the quad.



Wednesday was "Embracing Diversity and Anti Violence Day" where the Hall was full of informational stalls from outside agencies like Rainbow Youth, SHINE, RPE, Youthlaw and Youthline.

We also had our student led stalls on 'Violence is not ok campaign'; NETSAFE, PSSP, Amnesty, Live4Tomorrow, BILS, SYNC, Skittles, MEAR and SADD. We had beautiful music and singing by our talented MRGS musicians.



On Thursday we had a sausage sizzle(including vegetarian and halal sausages) raising funds for the Auckland City Mission because how can we have peace when we have poverty?



On Friday, the Mediators and friends marched and chanted for peace around the Mt Roskill community.



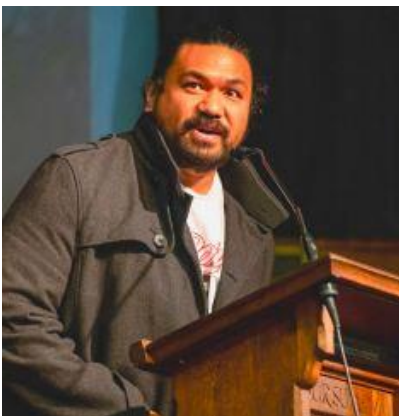
Peace week is a student driven and student owned campaign where all the Mediators collaborate together in a positive way to make a difference to our MRGS community. They are very active and vocal about the important values of peace, kindness, equality and respect for all. **A big thank you to Donna and all the wonderful Mediators!**

Cook Islands Language Week



Cook Island Language week being celebrated at the MacLean Centre.

PYL Year 12 Pasifika Assembly



On the 21st of June, the year 12 Pacific Young Leaders held their “Pasifika Empowerment” assembly for pacific students across the Mount Roskill Campus. This was a very fun event that was planned entirely by the year 12 group, with the much needed help of Peter Leilua and Ms Mackinlay.

The purpose behind this assembly was to empower the Pasifika youth of our campus, so they know that their culture is something to embrace in school and society.

In the assembly we had a guest speaker Lewis with a word of encouragement, a song performed by our own Lilyann, Izzy, Perise and Li'i, a performance from Peter Laiaga and his dance crew, many games involving the crowd and also a play touching on Polynesian stereotypes written and performed by the year 12 group.

We had a lot of fun putting in work and planning for this assembly and were happy we all accomplished it as a group, which engaged well with the crowd, helping them know they are Polynesians who can go far in the world.



MRGS Students at Outward Bound



Two Year 12 students, William Aleki and Anna Brown, attended a 21 day course at Anakiwa in the Marlborough Sounds over the Term 3 holidays. Outward Bound is a non-profit organisation whose goal is to help people of all backgrounds to contribute to their communities, learn new life skills, and develop their character and leadership skills in a challenging outdoor

setting. Some of the outdoor activities included sailing, rock climbing, tramping, on high ropes and coast steering.

Anna said she enjoyed the high ropes and coasteering. Coasteering involved jumping off cliffs and swimming through caves, which was a really big novelty as you can't really do it without an instructor around because it can get pretty dangerous in some conditions. The moments she found the hardest sailing near Cook Strait, and the half marathon.



William enjoyed the challenges physically and mentally. Running 3.2km every morning and jumping off the jetty into cold water was a challenge but it made him fitter and his mind set towards it changed. He said he learnt so many things but one thing that stood out for him was when his instructors said to "Live in the Moment." This means focusing on NOW, and not the latter. That helped him enjoy nature more while he were doing the activities and helped me take things slow. He aims to take these words and apply them in my everyday life.

If any year 11 students are interested in this opportunity for 2020 please see Mrs Bennett for details.

Dream Fonotaga Camp 2019

By Mateyiachs Ngavaine



"We're not the islands that we come from but the ocean that connects us."

During my time at DREAM camp, it has opened my eyes to the many valuable lessons like how we value and respect our cultural identity and the importance of hard work! I would recommend this to all our Pasifika students because of this experience and positive vibes!

MRGS Curling



Five of our year 13 boys, Youxiang Lei, Pranav Rao, Felix Dempsey, Daniel Torrey and Owen Xu (pictured below) won their semi-final game, 5-3 against Lynfield College in the Auckland Secondary Schools Curling Championships. This win has guaranteed our team a spot in the finals against Long Bay College, Thursday 29th August, 7PM at the Paradise Ice Skating Rink in Avondale. Our team will also be competing at

the North Island Secondary Schools Curling Championships during tournament week.

Debating Teams



Two of our debating teams competed in the Auckland Schools Debating Octo-finals (top 16 teams) on Tuesday 30 July at St Cuthbert's College.

Our Advanced Open team (Ano Chitando, Vinodhini Murali, Huthaifa Ibrahim) lost to St Dominic's in a very close and spirited debated. MRGS was negating the moot 'This house believes that social studies should focus on current affairs instead of history.'

Our Senior Open team (Hannah Armstrong, Nesil Satani and Simar Bains) debated against Mahurangi and successfully affirmed the moot "This house believes that female sports teams should strike to achieve equal pay to their male counterparts" and our Senior Open team is now through to the quarter finals.



On Saturday 27 July we had two junior teams competing at the Auckland School's Debating Junior Championship. The students represented us well!



Pictured are (left to right back row) Layba Zubair, Manya Goswami, Pranav Kumar, Lydias Yong, Karen Wang, (front row) Jastej Anand, Mahreen Dossa, Racey Ferris.

Speech Competition

Congratulations to our year 9 speech finalists, and especially to the overall winner – Rome Keung.



MRGS Girls Chess



At the National Secondary School Girls Championship held on Thursday 8 August, MRGS came 2nd on 4th level tie break scores. The team pictured left are Celia Chanwong, Kirushni Suthakaran, Sylvia McDougall, Aushadhi Dharanikota and Crystan Chanwong.

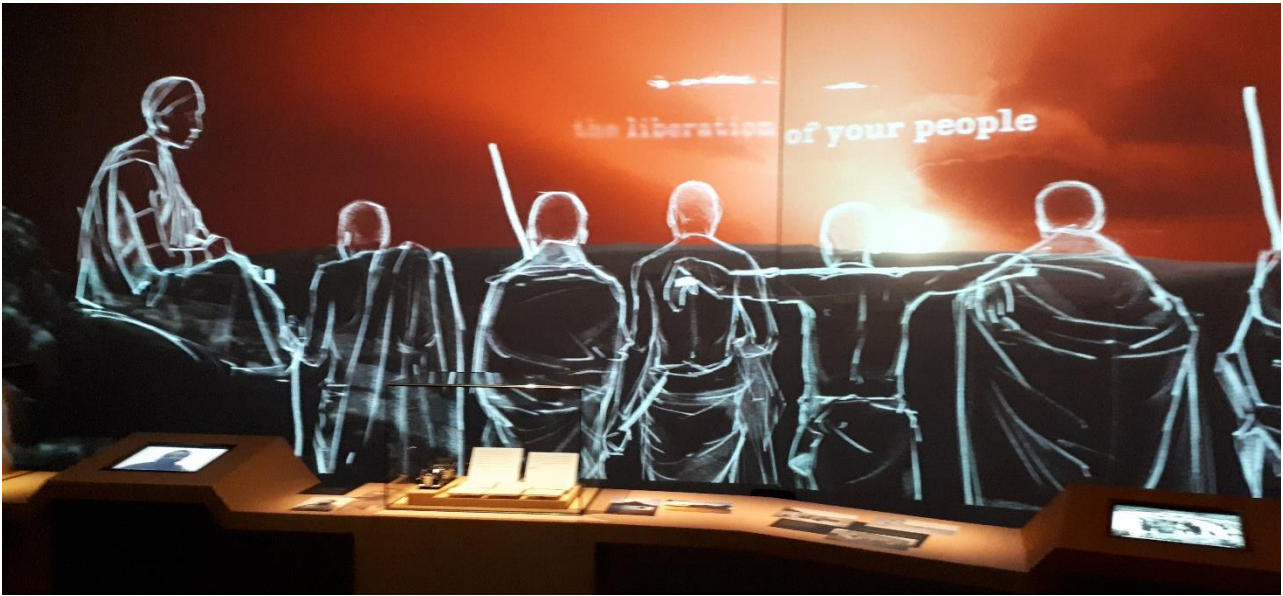
The MRGS team gained a silver medal and Sylvia, Kirushni and Crystal all received gold medals as top players in their team positions.

A Midsummer Night's Dream



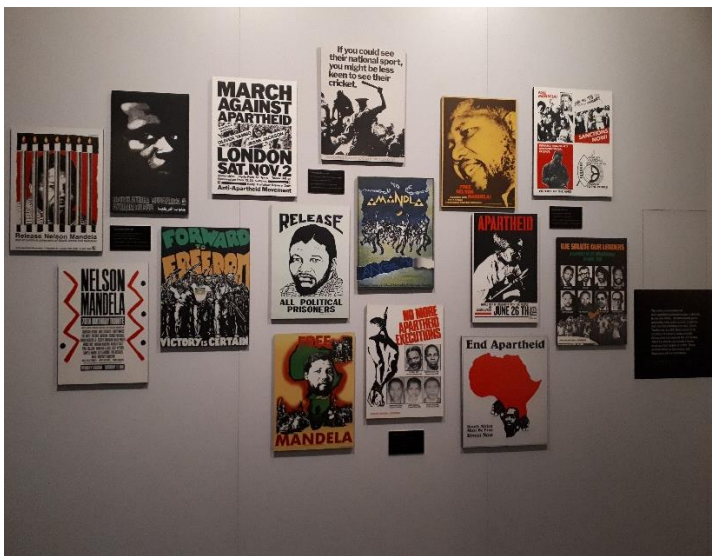
On July 27, twenty students from years 11-13 went to the Pop-up Globe performance of “A Midsummer Night's Dream.” The show is part of the Globe’s inaugural winter season. The performance was in English and Te Reo and we all had lots of fun. We'd like to make this an annual event so be sure to attend the next production at the Globe.

Mandela Trip



906, 903 and 910 Social Studies enjoyed a trip to Eden Park on Tuesday to see the Mandela My Life: Exhibition.

These junior classes are beginning their unit on Leadership and were exposed to an extraordinary display of unique artefacts such as a precious 5 second footage of Mandela wearing his tribal cloak before going into his trial. Footage of him wearing this was banned from public viewing as the racist government believed it would incite riots if the people saw him in traditional dress.



There were many letters, journals, recordings of interviews to hear as well as the famous shirts he was well known for all on display, showcasing the famous milestones in Mandela's life as leader of South Africa and the anti-apartheid movement. A truly special experience and a great way to begin the inspirational Leadership unit for our junior students.

Japanese Class Culinary Skills

TAKOYAKI by Fabian Li, 11HSBV



This year, the Year 11 Japanese class alongside Kojima Sensei decided to experience another part of Japanese cuisine – takoyaki, a Japanese street food made out of spring onions, flour, ginger, egg and squid. It is a highly recommended food to try whether you decide to take Japanese or not, and if you do take Japanese, there are plenty more opportunities for these kinds of experiences.

OKONOMIYAKI by Zoey & Amy



The Year 10 Japanese class attempted to make Okonomiyaki, a Japanese-style savoury pancake. We ate it and it tastes much better with sauces on.

Want to be a Host Family?



If anyone would like to be a host family for our international students, please contact **Fia Clark**: fia.clark@mrgs.school.nz or ring the school office and ask for **Fia**. Please note that there is a 21-day police vetting process for anyone who has not been vetted. This will be organised by the school.

Year 10 French Café Trip

By Vidhi Patel & Cynaika D'costa



On the 24th of June, the two Year 10 French classes went to *Eiffel en Eden* café. We were able to make our order in French. It was really fun to be able to use our French knowledge in a fun and casual environment. There was so much delicious food like “une religieuse” and “un millefeuille” even though it was pretty hard to pronounce.

Uniform



With the cooler temperatures continuing, this is 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.

Free PACE Seminar for Parents of Teens



Parents and caregivers of secondary school students (Years 9-13) are invited to a free *'Parents as Career Educators'* seminar on 28 August. The seminar will provide parents with tips and advice to guide their teenagers through the various career and study options available to them in the modern world. This free seminar will cover:

- The world of work: looking forward
- How to make informed career decisions now and in the future
- How parents can assist
- Career development resource.

Presented by a career consultant from the University of Canterbury | Te Whare Wānanga o Waitaha (UC), the seminar will assist parents to help their teens consider ALL their options, such as work, university, polytechnic, an apprenticeship, private providers or other possibilities (please note that this event is NOT about study options at UC.)

The seminar will be held from 7:00pm-8:30pm on Wednesday 28 August 2019 at: **Fickling Convention Centre - 546 Mount Albert Road, Three Kings, Auckland**

Register online at: www.canterbury.ac.nz/events

Alumni News



Sam Cowley-Lupo [2002]

Fashion Stylist / New Zealand Fashion Week Ambassador

Alumni fashion talent justifiably recognised. Ambassador and voice of what NZ Fashion Week represents today, **"Sammy Salsa"**: "My first ever experience at fashion week I was 18 working as a waiter as part of a youth work experience group for Pacific & Maori students. Fast forward to my career in the fashion industry, I've been lucky enough to witness NZ fashion greats on & off the runway, rub shoulders with some of my industry heroes who I now value as friends. This year I'm honoured to have been handpicked as an ambassador and most importantly the voice of what NZ Fashion Week represents today. Diversity & inclusivity

has always been at the forefront of my work as a stylist, all whilst championing my own culture & community ... and this year we only getting louder. Malo Lava New Zealand Fashion Week."

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.

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.



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.

