

August 2019: Week 5, Term 3

From the Principal

We are delighted to announce the appointment of two Associate Principals who are taking up senior leadership roles in Term 4.



Karen Collins began her teaching at Mount Roskill Grammar School in 1998 and has been a Deputy Principal at our school since 2013. She has held a wide range of curriculum and pastoral leadership roles and is understanding of the increasing pressures on students in a modern education context and the vital need to support them to become successful learners.

Karen says:

I see MRGS as a community of past and present staff and students, and as a family. A love of learning is why I became a teacher and a belief in the Roskill Way is why I applied to be Associate Principal within this family. I will continue to lead using the following quote from Maya Angelou as my compass "I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."

I know that I can continue to make our students, staff and families feel supported.

Meagan Gaitau is currently the Deputy Principal responsible for teaching and learning at Massey High School, where she has also been a Dean and Sports Academy Teacher. She aims to provide students with a consistently high level of teaching in the classroom that ensures educational achievement in the pathway of their choice.



Meagan says:

'I am truly grateful to be given the opportunity to become part of the Mount Roskill Grammar whanau. When I first arrived at school, I instantly felt a warm and welcoming feeling, which is testament to all the amazing and positive things I have heard about MRGS. I am really excited to be beginning with you all in Term 4, and look forward to working alongside you all to continue to grow with and learn from an outstanding whanau'.



Our current Associate Principal Janine Tupaea takes up her role as Principal at Solway College next term.

Next week is tournament week and we look forward to supporting our teams in competitions being played at venues from Invercargill to Whangarei.

Ki ngā taumata

Greg Watson, Principal

Board of Trustees



It is exciting to know that we are at a time of the year when the student representative on the Board of Trustees is nominated and that you, as a student body, are able to have a say in who you would like to represent you on that board. When election time comes make sure that you vote – each of you have the right to vote and choose who you want to be your voice helping to govern our school.

Another way in which our school runs smoothly is thanks to the many tireless hours put in by coaches, managers, caregivers and teachers over the winter sports season. My thanks to each of you for your support of our students, providing them with opportunities to connect and excel. It was great to recently receive feedback from other schools about the sportsmanship of our students, something I see as an essential part of representing the Roskill Way. Thank you for representing us well.

Marjet Pot, BOT chairperson

Dates for your diary

Term 3	
Friday 30 August	School Holiday - School is closed for the day for all year levels
2-6 September	Tournament week
11-24 September	Senior subject entry examinations - Year 11-13 students only need to attend when they have a timetabled examination or revision tutorial. Normal school for all year 9's and 10's.
Thursday 26 September	Sports Awards Dinner
Friday 27 September	End of Term 3

MRGS Student Excellence

Brian Khomkomphut recently enjoyed success in PAK'nSAVE's "Checker of the Year" competition. , Michael van Brink (Joint Operator/Store Manager at PAK'nSAVE Royal Oak) took time to let us know about Brian's accomplishment, coming 4th in the competition in front of a crowd of over a thousand spectators. He was measured on service, communication, change counting and speed.

This is a big competition, on stage with the best 50 checkout operators in the central Auckland region - that's around 15 supermarket across PAK'nSAVE, New World and Four Square competing.

Congratulations Brian!

Auckland Measles Alert

The Auckland Regional Health Service have been in contact to remind us of the importance of preventing measles by getting immunised. Currently more than 20 schools in Auckland have had one or more cases of measles and we are reminding families that if a case of measles does occur we will inform all of those who have potentially been in contact with the student identified and will be asking that those children not immunised stay home for up to 10 days.

Measles is a highly infectious airborne virus which affects both children and adults. If you think you have measles, it's important to call before visiting your doctor to avoid you spreading the virus in the waiting room. If you're feeling sick, you should stay away from work, school or public places, to help prevent putting other people at risk.

This also applies if you or a family member aren't fully immunised and may have been in contact with someone with measles. By isolating yourself you will help protect vulnerable members of our community including babies, pregnant women, cancer patients and others who are unable to be immunised and for whom the impact of the disease can be devastating. You are contagious 5 days before to 5 days after rash onset, counting the day of rash onset as day 1.

International Day of Silence at MRGS

Friday 16 August was the International Day of Silence and over 90 schools in Aotearoa participated. The Roskill way is respect for all, no matter what our nationality, our culture, our religion, our gender or sexual identity, we treat each other with dignity and respect. We are all one.

The Day of Silence was an opportunity to stand up against homophobic, transphobic and biphobic harassment using silence as a weapon. It was an opportunity to support the rainbow community and take a stand for social justice. We are proud of our student leaders using silence as a tool to take a stand for social justice and standing up against homophobia. Manaakitanga ... respect and dignity for all.



KBB Music Competition

Well done MRGS Jazz Band who won the Bronze Medal at the 2019 KBB Music Festival and to the other music groups who represented us well.



MRGS Cross Country

We held our annual Cross Country run on the 15th August. This involved Year 9 and 10 students as well as any senior students who wanted to run competitively.







A Message from the Principal of Mt. Roskill Intermediate



Dear Parents and Caregivers. I wanted to thank you for your support of the Puketapapa Kāhui Ako on Wednesday, August 14th. The teachers from all six schools in the Kāhui Ako were able to come together for the afternoon at MRGS. We are able to share the progress we are making and to hear from an inspirational keynote speaker in Khylee Quince, Associate Professor of Law at AUT. Teachers then attended workshops put on by some of their colleagues in our six schools and outside agencies that were informative, interesting and at times challenging.



Kāhui Ako or Communities of Learning are where schools work together to create a more cohesive and informed pathway for students as they move from Early Childhood centres, through our primary sector and onto secondary school. It is also a great opportunity to work together to overcome common challenges.

Regards, Mike O'Reilly
Principal, Mt. Roskill Intermediate

Fika Fun Maths Success

On Thursday 15th August, four of our Year 10 Fika Fun Maths and Mathex students travelled to Mangere College to compete in the South Auckland Maths Challenge. They gained first place in the Year 10 category and were presented prizes from Casio. Congratulations to Shekinah Herewini, Lopeti Lomu, Nisha Manthramoorthy and Grace Xu - and their teachers Ms Neomai Maka and Ms Hwasung Yang.

Fika Fun Maths Polynesian Club meets on Wednesday afternoons and is open to any interested students. See Ms Maka for more details. See more about the South Auckland Maths Challenge on <https://www.facebook.com/SAMCNZ2019/>



Event 4 - 15th August

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South Auckland Mathematics Challenge

Results generated by The University of Auckland 2019 Dept Initiative Fund 2019

TEAM	SCORE	TEAM	SCORE
AORERE 10A	15	AORERE 10B	50
DE LA SALLE 10A	40	DE LA SALLE 10B	10
MANGERE 10A	35	MANGERE 10B	30
McAULEY 10A	60	McAULEY 10B	55
MT ROSKILL 10A	65	OTAHUHU 10B	40
OTAHUHU 10A	25		
PAPATOETOE 10A	60		

MRGS Students at the Tempo Dance Festival 2019

Congratulations to the three Mt Roskill Grammar students who made it through the audition process to earn a spot performing with Parris Goebel and the Royal Family in GIRL at the Tempo Dance Festival 2019 later this year.

Parris Goebel and Sisters United are in the midst of creating a show that delves into the journey of young females discovering their inner power. For the cast, Goebel auditioned many young women from high schools around Auckland – many had never attended an audition before, and our own Karmella Reedy, Corrin Ansin and Keila Kaipo-Unuwai were selected.

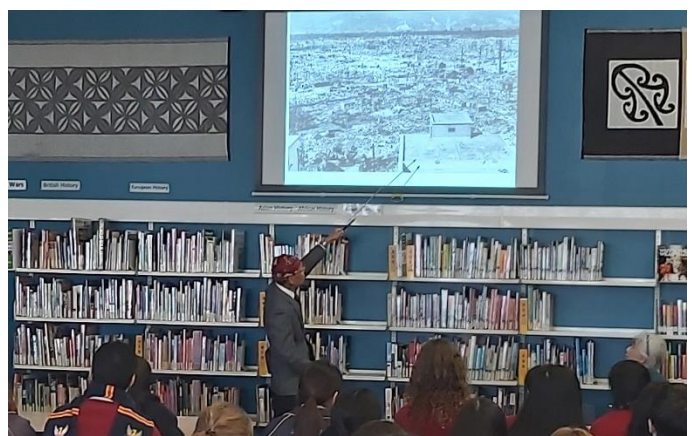
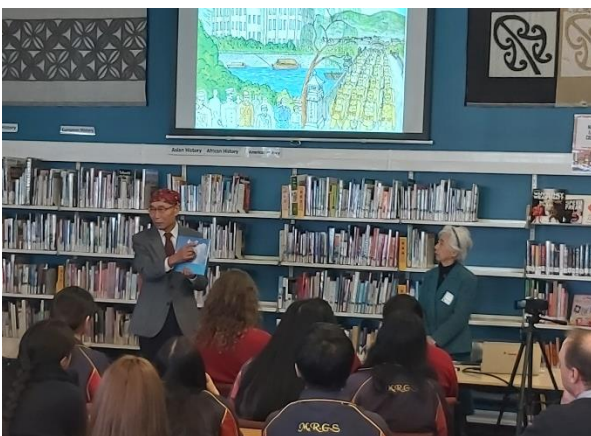
Hiroshima Talk

By Amy Yang & Zoey Liu

On August 16th 2019, the Y10 Japanese class and a Y13 History class went to the library and had guest speakers, Mrs Takako Kuroda and Mr Aki Kuroda. They came and talked about their survival story of the Hiroshima bombing on August 6th 1945. Aki was 2 and half years old and Takako was still in her mother's womb. The bomb dropped on the centre of Hiroshima City and had a devastation radius of 3km.



Due to the radiation, Aki lost red and white blood cells and Takako developed anaemia. Her hair turned white in her 20s and her siblings were all born with disabilities due to the radiation that their mother was exposed to. They all unfortunately passed away and only Takako survived. Many people who survived the bombing had terrible radiation burns called Keloid. Aki shared the story of when he saw a lady being bullied by naughty boys and even after 60 years later he regrets not saying anything and not being able to do anything to help her. We felt very sad that the people of Hiroshima had to go through these awful experiences.



When listening to their experiences, we felt that the production of nuclear power plants should be abolished all around the world as New Zealand did in 1987. They explained that we, young people, should tell more people about the dangers of nuclear power because we will also spread the word as every change starts with just one person. We admire how brave they were to be able to share their story and help raise awareness.

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.

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.

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



Hannah Yang [2013]

Supreme Court of New Zealand Clerk

Following the completion of her law degree, Hannah has started as a clerk for the Supreme Court of New Zealand. She is one of only four law graduates nationwide selected this year for this role.

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, and to Gilmours for supporting students who are fundraising for the 2020 Europe trip.

