

February 2020: Week 5, Term 1

From the Principal



The NCEA Excellence Awards held last week were a fantastic community celebration of academic success. It was a pleasure to recognise 176 students who gained the excellence endorsement for their NCEA qualification in 2019, the winners of 53 New Zealand scholarships and the top scholars in New Zealand in Dance ('Isope 'Akau'ola) and in Accounting (Daniel Torrey). During the evening, performances from past students 'Isope 'Akau'ola, Mele Taumoeanga and Josephine Mavaega, Jasper Yang, and the jazz band, underlined the wide range of fields in which the school value of Tūmanakotanga is demonstrated.

Our guest presenter was 2009 Head Girl Sruthi Vijayakumar. Most recently Sruthi has been appointed as the inaugural future director on Education New Zealand's Board, following working as an international consultant and gaining an MBA from Oxford University with distinction. She gave an excellent speech encouraging students to make courageous decisions in their learning journeys, combining pursuing their passions with aspiring to excellence. Thank you to families and friends who made the evening such a warm celebration of each student's success.

This week we look forward to meeting families and senior students to discuss and shape learning and achievement goals for the year. Mentors will be able to give an overview of the NCEA qualification requirements and students will be able to talk through their goals for the year. There is also an NCEA information evening for everyone who would like more information about the qualification and assessment practices.



Ki ngā taumata

Greg Watson
PRINCIPAL

Board of Trustees

As part of our school commitment to upgrading facilities we are excited that the new cricket nets are up and premium lockers are throughout the school.

We have also received positive feedback from students about our recently opened gender neutral toilets in E block. Each of the 12 cubicles have a toilet, tap, basin, mirror and hand dryer.



We look forward to sharing our future upgrades with you.

Ngā mihi nui
Marjet Pot, BoT Chairperson

Novel Coronavirus Alert

In response to the recent confirmed case of Covid19 Coronavirus, we are managing risk through hygiene awareness as per the recommendation from the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education to continue to observe basic health safety. Practising good hand and sneeze/cough hygiene is the best defence:

- wash your hands often with soap and water before and after eating as well as after attending the toilet
- cover coughs and sneezes with clean tissues or your elbow
- put used tissues in the bin.

If you are unwell please stay home. Teachers are able to communicate class work through google classroom or email as needed.

If you are concerned that someone is showing symptoms of fever, cough or shortness of breath, encourage them to first ring **Healthline (0800 358 5453)** or contact their GP by phoning ahead of their visit to explain symptoms and travel history.

Please take care of yourself, your whanau and our Roskill community through these measures.

Dates for your diary

Term 1	
4 March	Mentoring Conferences for Y11, 12 & 13 – 2:30-7:30pm (early school finish)
5 March	Sports Carnival – NO face paint or bandanas, but <i>House Colours = House Points</i>
12 March	Tongan Fiafia Night, 6:00pm in School Hall
18 March	Samoan Po Siva Night, 6:00pm in School Hall
18-20 March	Polyfest 2020
CANCELLED	Puketapapa 2020 Lantern Festival has been cancelled

MRGS Celebrating the Arts



The English department took 23 students to the season's final performance of "Much Ado About Nothing" at the Pop-up Globe. It was a fun show in a packed theatre with lots of interaction between the cast and the audience. We're really looking forward now to the Writers Festival in May. Thanks to Ms Holliday and Mrs Johanson for helping out.

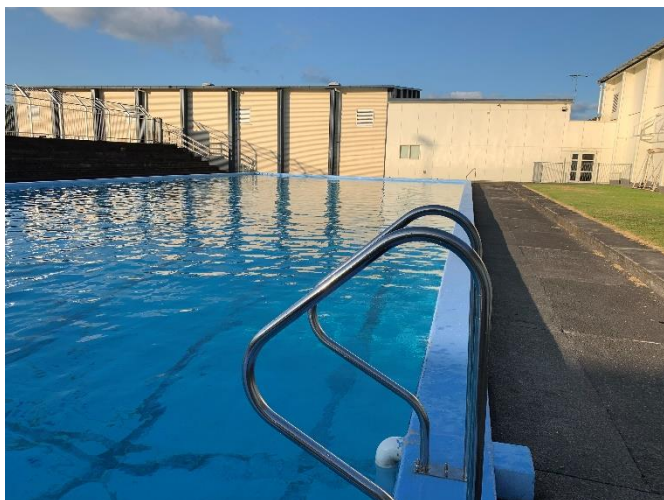


MRGS Uniform

Students are expected to wear correct school uniform throughout the day. School shoes are black leather, closed-in. They can be lace-up or plain. NO sandals. This shoe policy is for safety reasons.

PE Uniforms uniforms are now available in the Uniform Shop.

MRGS at Central Eastern Zone Swimming Champs



Mount Roskill Grammar School entered one of its biggest swim teams in recent memory at the Central Eastern Zone Swimming Champs, held on 27th February, 2020. The students seemed to all enjoy the zone swimming and represented the school with honour. Overall, the team managed to get three top 10 finishes:

- Ben Hew - 8th Junior Boys Breaststroke
- Andre Chan - 9th Junior Boys Butterfly
- Alex Winn - 9th Junior Girls Backstroke

For the first time in a very long time it was pleasing to have Junior Boys and Senior Girls relay teams competing.

Full Results:

- Andre Chan - Junior Boys 9th Butterfly, 12th Backstroke, 15th Breaststroke, 17th Freestyle
- Joshua Chen - Junior Boys 28th Freestyle
- Ben Hew - Junior Boys 9th Butterfly, 11th Backstroke, 8th Breaststroke, 12th Freestyle
- Jinitha Hewa - Junior Boys 15th Butterfly, 23rd Backstroke, 23rd Breaststroke, 26th Freestyle
- Juan Micutuan - Junior Boys 20th Breaststroke
- Alex Winn - Junior Girls 15th Butterfly, 9th Backstroke, 17th Breaststroke, 13th Freestyle

- Saniru Hewa - Intermediate Boys 17th Butterfly, 17th Backstroke, 18th Breaststroke, 21st Freestyle
- Astrid Kyle - Intermediate Girls 21st Backstroke, 23rd Breaststroke, 25th Freestyle

- Darlene Hotwani-Myer - Senior Girls 16th Backstroke, 14th Breaststroke, 17th Freestyle
- Oscar MacKenzie - Senior Boys 12th Backstroke, 21st Freestyle
- Josie Noller - Senior Girls 18th Freestyle

We thank Ms Cindy Good for all her efforts with the swim programme at the school this year.

Junior Health Curriculum at MRGS

Health is a compulsory subject for Year 9 and 10 students. Year 9 students study Health four times per week for one term, and Year 10 have 1 period per week for the whole year. The MRGS Health curriculum is approved by The Board of Trustees and we revise our programme regularly to ensure we are meeting our students and community needs. Sexuality Education is an essential aspect of Health Education in the New Zealand Curriculum and the lessons taught are planned to ensure students are informed about necessary life skills in a safe and respectful environment.

The school is legally required to inform parents and caregivers of the teaching of Sexuality Education. Letters regarding this have been sent out to families of junior students earlier this term. Should you wish to withdraw your child from all or parts of these lessons, please follow the instructions in the letter. More information on the specific content of our Sexuality Education programme and our other learning areas within the MRGS Health programme can be found on the school website (under the Academic heading, Physical Education and Health). A Curriculum Overview is also available to view at the school reception.

Catch Up with Learning Extension

Is your child having difficulty with any of their subjects? Support them to come and get support at “Catch-Up”. This is a chance for all students to get the support they need to reach their goals.

Everybody is invited and it takes place every **Thursday afterschool from 3.20pm-5.30pm in Learning Extension**. We provide teachers from different subject areas to ensure your child is given the help they need. We also have Chromebooks available and to ensure their brains are fully functioning, there are also some snacks. We want your child to reach the heights, so encourage them to get the support they deserve.

Homework Centres

Tongan Homework Centre



The Homework centre will open tomorrow Wednesday - 19 February 2020 and every Wednesday after that in Term One.

Time: 6-8 pm

Venue: D11

One to one tutoring available for all subjects.

Any inquiries to:

Mrs Tonga - CI or Social Science Dept.

Mrs Puafolau – Learning Extension

Ms Uata – T4 or English Dept.


Need help with English?

ENGLISH HOMEWORK CENTRE

Tuesdays in H6, 3.15pm - 4.30pm



Nominating MRGS with ASB Home Loans



Supporting success in your school.
If you're a parent, staff member or member of the school community and you take out a new ASB home loan of \$250,000 or more, ASB will donate \$500 to your chosen participating school.



ASB's lending criteria and terms apply. Fees may apply. Eligibility criteria - Documentation of the facility agreement must be done by 30 June 2020. For this promotion to apply, you must make mention of it during the home loan application. Only applies to loans which are secured by residential owner-occupied property with a minimum of 20% equity. The offer is limited to one donation per new home loan. The donation will be made to the chosen school on complete draw-down of the home loan. Excludes lending through brokers. Full eligibility criteria, exclusions, terms and conditions are available at asb.co.nz/promotions/supporting-success-in-your-school.html

If you are applying for a home loan with the ASB, and it meets the criteria outlined below, you can support Mt Roskill Grammar by nominating the school and ASB will donate \$500. ASB's lending criteria and terms apply.

ASB Bank Limited 04 380 16 816 0919

Alumni News



Sruthi Vijayakumar [2009]

Sruthi Vijayakumar has most recently been appointed as the inaugural future director on Education New Zealand's Board, following working as an international consultant and gaining an MBA from Oxford University with distinction. She has also been named by the World Economic Forum as a Global Shaper.

MRGS School App



Keep up to date with the MRGS App.

1. From your device go to the App Store/Play Store.
2. Search for "School Stream" and tap the install button.
3. You will be prompted to accept push notifications - select OK.
4. Type Mount Roskill Grammar School into the search bar then select it.

The App will give you access to daily notices and newsletters as well as allowing you to update personal details and notify the school about absences.

Roskill Stories

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

Mount Roskill Early Childhood Centre

Located on the Mount Roskill School Campus, the Mt Roskill Early Childhood Centre has had 27 years of supporting our tamariki take their first steps in their Roskill learning journey. Low child-teacher ratios and a home away from home environment is a rare find in Auckland. Spaces are available now.

Check out our website www.mountroskillearlychildhood.co.nz and contact Nerys on (09) 629 0732 with any queries.



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.





Puketāpapa Community Forum 2020

Meet your local board members

Join us each month and discuss local issues from 6.30pm-8pm at the following locations:

13 February	Wesley Community Centre
5 March	YMCA at Lynfield Youth & Leisure Centre
2 April	Wesley Community Centre
7 May	YMCA at Lynfield Youth & Leisure Centre
4 Jun	Wesley Community Centre
2 July	YMCA at Lynfield Youth & Leisure Centre
6 August	Wesley Community Centre
3 September	YMCA at Lynfield Youth & Leisure Centre
1 October	Wesley Community Centre
5 November	YMCA at Lynfield Youth & Leisure Centre
3 December	Wesley Community Centre

For more information email puketapapalocalboard@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz.

Find out more:
www.facebook.com/puketapapa



Local Board Plan 2020

Help us develop our local priorities for the next three years

Join us at one of these events, speak directly to your local board members and give us feedback on what **you** would like us to prioritise for Puketāpapa over the next three years. Your voice is important to us!

Date/Time	Event	Location
Thursday, 13 February 6.30pm-8pm	Community Forum	Wesley Community Centre
Thursday, 5 March 6.30pm-8pm	Community Forum	YMCA at Lynfield Youth & Leisure Centre
Saturday, 14 March 11am-2pm	Drop in @ Library	Mt Roskill Library
Tuesday, 17 March 10am-12pm	Drop in @ Library	Mt Roskill Library
Thursday, 2 April 6.30pm-8pm	Community Forum	Wesley Community Centre

For more information email puketapapalocalboard@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz or visit www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/haveyoursay.

