

August 2020: Week 5, Term 3

From the Principal

Kia ora kotou,

May you have a strong foundation. When the winds of changes shift.

- Bob Dylan

MRGS is a community that supports students in building resilience, buffering them from the effects of Covid 19. Every event, every group that connects people is important. We haven't been able to run everything as expected. However our sports teams, cultural, performance, and student led groups have excelled in organising events and enabling others to participate when possible. It has been fantastic to see so many families out supporting teams, and feeling the strength of our community.

Focusing on what students and families can control is important in beating the impact of Covid too. Adjusting expectations, managing sleep routines, eating, exercise and maintaining good social connections. All of those things help. Doing what works, and keeping it simple whether school is happening or not.

Prior to the current Covid outbreak we arranged term days to maximise time in school for senior students. This included moving a teacher only day to later in the term to provide assessment time for teachers, and holding senior practice exams during lesson time so that senior students can remain on site much more than usual.

Key dates are:

Friday 28 August	School Holiday
Friday 11 September	Study day for all senior students. Year 9 and 10 only attend
Monday 14 September	Senior external practice assessments begin, completed in classes
Friday 18 September	Teacher Only Day

We are looking forward to resuming on-site schooling. As soon possible we will provide information about any revised schedules as the result of the current Alert Level 3 interruption.



Ngā manaakitanga
Greg Watson
PRINCIPAL

Board of Trustees

Kia ora koutou

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 the 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. I encourage you to think about the strengths your student representative has and how they can contribute at meetings. Your chosen representative will be given some training to help them in their role on the Board.

It is a unique opportunity to take on a leadership role within the school and to participate at a high level at the school. To the candidates, thank you for putting your name forward and the Board looks forward to working with the successful candidate.



Ngā mihi nui
Marjet Pot
BoT Chairperson

Dates for your diary

Fri 28 August	School Holiday
Wed 2 September	2021 Out of Zone Enrolment Deadline: enrol online or drop into office
Fri 11 September	Senior Study Leave: Year 9 and 10 ONLY attend
Mon 14 September	Senior External Practice Assessments begin (completed in class)
Fri 18 September	Teacher Only Day
Fri 25 September	End of Term 3

University of Auckland Open Day

The University of Auckland's Open Day is now online.

<https://www.opendayonline.ac.nz/Register?S=WAUG&C=OPENDAY>

If you are considering applying to another institution, including outside of Auckland, be proactive and check their websites for similar opportunities.

Distance Learning

Students have done a great job in transitioning quickly into our second lockdown. It is highly recommended that students are making an effort to engage with all subjects. There is a temptation to prioritise certain subjects and forget about others. Anything you can complete now during distance learning is a positive step towards achieving your learning goals for 2020. Every bit of progress counts!

If you need any support, please contact your teachers if you have questions, preferably via google classroom.

Mentoring

Your student should have received a minimum of one phone call from their Mentor or a member of our staff in past week. These phone calls enable students to remain connected to school and have any questions they may have answered. This week, students or whānau will receive an email from their mentor to check in with them and ensure they are continuing to engage with their learning.

Debating

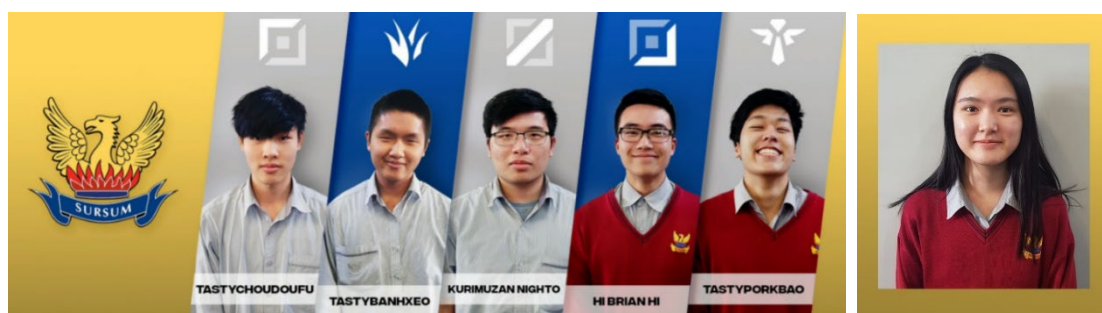
Two of our debating teams competed in the Auckland Schools Debating Octo-finals (top 16 teams) on Tuesday 18th of August. Our Advanced Open team (Sonam Bagwe, Ansh Angurala and Layba Zubair) went up against first-ranked Lynfield in a very spirited debate. MRGS was negating the moot 'This house would replace the 5% threshold for MMP with no minimum threshold.'

Our Senior Open team (Shravya Srihari, Tisha Wadhwa and Rishi Navaneethan) debated against first-ranked Ormiston Senior College and lost in a very close and passionate debate, with the moot being 'This house would pay teachers according to their performance'. It was both teams first year debating and although they weren't able to advance both teams can be justifiably proud of being in the top 16 teams in Auckland for the season. We congratulate our two teams for making it this far. Thanks to Mr Singh and Miss Brown for their guidance.

League of Legends

MRGS faced Rangitoto College in the League of Legends national grand final last weekend, with the winner going on to represent New Zealand in an Oceania competition. The benefit of an online game, our team was able to play from home!

Drawing level at 1-1 part way through the game, Rangitoto ultimately took the game at 3-1. Congratulations to Brian Chau (Captain), Bingyang Ou, Chea Long Koy, Danh Do, Haoxian Chen and Ellie Zou – this team placed 2nd in New Zealand out of 92 teams! Thanks to Mr Benson for his energetic support.



Peace & Diversity Week

With our Covid environment, our 'Peace and Diversity' - 17th International - Peace Week has been even more important than ever before.

Bringing people together as human beings fighting against a deadly virus, uniting together ... no matter what culture, race, sexual orientation, gender, disability or any other difference, we need to work together, challenging inequity, racism, prejudice, division, shame or blame.



At Roskill we believe in the important values of manaakitanga and whanaungatanga, demonstrating and standing for equality, equity, kindness, inclusion, respect and peace for all. We continue to 'walk the talk' and that's exactly what the Mediators and MRGS did during Peace Week!

The Mediators organised a number of exciting activities throughout the week: random acts of kindness; peace quote competitions; face painting; peace badge making; peace rock painting and the wearing of white ribbons for peace.

Our banners highlighting the importance of embracing "Diversity" and standing for "Black Lives Matter" were particularly amazing this year. As well as our gorgeous Diversity t-shirts designed by Mr Carter.



On Monday we had Peace Foundation's Youth Peace Ambassador Tamkeen Saeid run a workshop on "Hope for the Future".



On Tuesday we had face painting, rock painting and badge making in the Quad.



On Wednesday was “Embracing Diversity and Anti-Violence Day” where the Library was full of informational stalls from agencies like Rainbow Fale, Fonua Ola, RPE, Youthlaw and the Puketapapa Youth Council. We also had our amazing student led stalls on ‘Violence is not OK’ campaign, SHINE, NETSAFE, PSSP, Amnesty, Live4Tomorrow, BILS, SYNC, Skittles and our peace crane makers.



On Thursday we had a sausage sizzle (including vegetarian and halal sausages) raising funds for our Roskill families affected by Covid. We raised \$780 from the sales of our sausages and t-shirts. Our heartfelt thanks and gratitude goes to Nick Tuali’i and his team who have been providing food hampers and other necessities to our Mt Roskill families since before the first Lockdown.





On Friday, we had our joyous Peace march around the Roskill community chanting for peace and social action.



We cannot thank the Mediators enough for their social justice leadership, respectful collaboration, creativity and determination in working for rangimarie and aroha at MRGS. Mention must also be made of the driving force and aroha of Donna Hourigan-Johnston.



Kia tau tō rangimārie
Ki runga i ngā iwi o te ao
*Let our peace reign
On all the people of the world*

Young Enterprise: BP Business Challenge

At the start of August Young Enterprise hosted a three-day business challenge at MRGS. 70 Year 10 students were enrolled and worked with two external consultants. The BP Business Challenge is a unique three-day experiential learning programme that develops skills, understandings and attitudes about how a successful business operates and connects the students with their local business community. On the final day five external judges, gave students feedback on their work.



Our thanks to the judges: Paul Cottingham (KPMG - Head of Markets), Michael Wood (Local MP), Jeet Raval (Professional Cricketer), Giri (local travel agency business owner) and Bruce Gulley (Occupational Consultant).

At the end of an intense three days the results were:

- Power Rangoo won the challenge with a brilliant idea of **Solar Powered Power Bank** to charge our devices when we are not around a power source for long periods of time, for example on a hike.
- Two other ideas which were highly appreciated – a **Drone Referee** for sports games to pick on all small and big errors and a **Diversity Phone App** which teaches the young generation about practices and norms of different cultures.

The plan is to take these teams along with other students who are interested to national innovation championships next year to compete with thousands of teams around the country. A huge thank you to Mr Chopra for his organisation and energy and to the Commerce Department for their support.



College Sport Individual Swimming Championships

The College Sport Individual Swimming Championships were held on Sunday 9th August at the Westwave Pool in Henderson. We had a team of eight swimmers competing: Saniru Hewa, Ben Hew, Jinitha Hewa, Andre Chan, Oscar Mackenzie, Astrid Kyle, Josie Noller and Alex Winn (pictured below, L-R).



The highlight of the event was a silver medal to Josie Noller in the Girls 16 & Over 200m Freestyle and a bronze medal to Andre Chan in the Boys 13 & Under 200m Individual Medley (pictured below).

There were also a number of other Top 10 results including:

- Josie Noller
 - 4th in the Girls 16 & Over 100m Freestyle
- Andre Chan
 - 4th in the Boys 13 & Under 100m Butterfly
- Alex Winn
 - 4th in the Girls 13 & Under 200m Freestyle
 - 6th in the Girls 13 & Under 200m Backstroke
- Saniru Hewa
 - 7th in the Boys 14-15 200m Freestyle
 - 9th in the Boys 14-15 100m Freestyle
 - 10th in the Boys 14-15 50m Freestyle
- Ben Hew
 - 8th in the Boys 13 & Under 200m Individual Medley
 - 10th in the Boys 13 & Under 100m Breaststroke
- Astrid Kyle
 - 10th in the Girls 14-15 100m Breaststroke.



A fantastic effort was made by all the team. Thanks to Ms Good for her organization.

Alumni



Gareth Berry (1995)

Gareth is the CEO of Unleashed, a software company. His company was presented the Best of the Best Supreme Award Winner, Westpac Supreme Software Business Winner award and Employer of the Year in the prestigious Westpac Business Awards 2019. Mr Berry said while they were thrilled to be recognised with the top award, being named Employer of the Year was "the single most important award for us as it aligns with our values perfectly". Gareth has said that his time at MRGS, including the leadership of Mr Colin Prentice (past principal) left him with the legacy that "people matter most".

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.

Nominating MRGS with ASB Home Loans

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.



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

ASB Bank Limited 58380 16814 0919

Lunch Orders Eat Smart Menu – for when we return to school

**Lunch
Orders**

**HEALTHY, NUTRITIOUS & AFFORDABLE
SCHOOL LUNCHES ORDERED ONLINE**

WWW.LUNCHORDERS.CO.NZ